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THE NORTH LAWNSDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

City Aldermen Help Constituents in Purchasing of City Vehicle Stickers

James Glover

On June Tuesday 19, the offices of 24th Ward Alderman Sharon Dixon participated in the City of Chicago's month long efforts to make getting city stickers more accessible. Since June 1, the City Clerk of Chicago office has been setting up satellite sites for people to purchase their city sticker without the hassle of getting

around downtown and dealing with long City Hall Lines and downtown parking.

"This was the first time that I didn't wait until the last day of the month to get my city sticker," said Bernard Jennings, Director for Lawndale Business & Local Corp.

Should residents be unable to make it to their Alderman's

office on the scheduled day where City Stickers are available for purchase, they can also go to City Clerk's two satellite sites, located on 5430 W. Gale Street on the North Side and 5301 S. Cicero Avenue - Ste. 104 on the South Side of town. They can also be purchase d at 2006 E. 95th Street 8 a.m.-5

p.m., Mon.; 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Tu-F; 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sat. These programs allow for people to avoid the hassle of dealing with such things as downtown parking, traffic, long lines and other reasons that many people give for delaying getting a city sticker. By reaching into communities, such problems are alleviated, thus cutting down on available excuses for people to not have their city sticker.

"You never want to wait until the last minute to get this (getting the city sticker) done because late fees and the hassle is something that you don't need" said Miguel Rios, employee of the City Clerk's office.

Rios also wants to inform people that the cost of getting a city sticker late has risen \$40 dollars as opposed to the \$20 it had been in past years. That makes the opportunity to visit your local Alderman's office even more useful.

"I'm glad that the city is offering such services" said Raphael Winston, who attended Alderman Daniel Solis' similar event earlier this month. I mean, getting a sticker seems like such an easy task but with all the stuff going on in and around downtown, the chance to sidestep it all and just show up,



Community resident purchasing a city sticker in current Aldermanic Office of 24th ward Alderman Sharon Dixon from City Clerks Office representatives.

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KIDNEY MOBILE VISITS NORTH LAWNSDALE

Julius Goodman

On Tuesday, the Kidney Mobile visited the McDonalds located at Kedzie and Roosevelt. McDonalds Corporation in partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health have launched a community-focused effort to control hypertension by going into different neighborhoods throughout the city and giving free blood pressure tests to community residents.

High Blood Pressure is the first warning that a person could develop diabetes, which could ultimately result in kidney disease.

The two primary causes of chronic kidney disease are untreated hypertension and diabetes. Together, they represent approximately 70 percent of new chronic kidney disease cases every year. "Our greatest obstacle in fighting kidney disease is making people aware of the issue and its

primary causes. I know from my own experience that most people don't connect the issues of diabetes and high blood pressure with kidney disease," said Nancy Lepain, a nurse practitioner, with the National Kidney Foundation and resident nurse on the Kidney Mobile.

Mr. Jordan, a community resident took the blood pressure test and was advised that his blood pressure was high. "My blood pressure is a little high today and the nurse told me to take my medicine. I have been a diabetic for two years and I have to take six different kinds of medicine."

Mr. Jordan has been a diabetic for about two years. He became a

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Alexander Cox, Miss Harris, Nancy LePain and Robert Harris pose in front of Kidney Mobile

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

North Lawndale Community News
Winner of the
7th Congressional District 2004
Education Champion Award

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

NLCN 2007 Focus
People and Education

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

Acquiring a greater knowledge of each other through wisdom and a genuine feeling of caring for each other in our micro-local community areas and homes will improve the connection we should have between each other. Using our God given resources which are himself and each other will create an environment that will provide a climate of positive growth. Confidence in each other and assuming this responsibility will overcome our fear in valuing this vulnerable process because loving and caring about others does open us up to 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 foward 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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Stroger Nominee Approved by Board as County Highway Superintendent

The Cook County Board approved President Todd H. Stroger's proposed appointment of Rupert F. Graham Jr. as the new Cook County Highway Superintendent, making him the first appointed African-American Highway Superintendent, a role he has held as interim Superintendent since the previous appointee, Wally Kos, retired late last year.



Rupert Graham

"Rupert Graham's formidable technical skills and grasp of new technology make him the perfect fit in our efforts to modernize policies and procedures in the highway department" said President Stroger. "He comes with outstanding academic and professional credentials, and the ability to recognize the Highway Department's strengths and inspire staff to sharpen their effectiveness in key areas."

Graham has over thirty years of professional experience, including over twenty years of service with municipal, county and state infrastructure projects, primarily while he was in the consulting engineering arena. His background includes experience with several civil engineering firms, including two African-American owned companies. F.E. Associates and Jackson and Tull & Graham, Inc, the latter in which he served as principal partner in the Chicago office. In addition he also worked for Lucent Technologies and the Chicago Department of Water Management. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1973 from the University of Illinois Chicago at Urbana Champaign and a Master's Degree in structural engineering from the same institution.

Since he joined the Highway Department in 2006, Graham has worked to improve communications and working relationships between the department's Equipment and Road Maintenance Divisions, created a system of computerized equipment work order request that help track the status of equipment, implemented a computerized system for configuring Road Maintenance Snow Patrol's for each Maintenance District

and created document procedures to allow a more uniformed approach for snow removal.

Graham has also promoted a more aggressive computer training program for the Maintenance Bureau, and has overseen the rebuilding of a pilot road building program that utilizes recycled tires in repaving projects, a multi-agency effort that is expected to take thousands of tires-and the environmental challenges they pose-out of the waste system.

Graham will oversee one of the largest road building and infrastructure maintenance operations in the region. In the past five years Cook County has designed and awarded \$375 million in highway construction contracts. That includes \$80 million in projects scheduled for the 2007 season and \$330 million in projects for the four year period between and 2006 and 2010, including the Dan Ryan Reconstruction Project.

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RÉSUMÉ OF AN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson



La'Rie and Flora Suttle

put her in acting classes.

La'Rie has performed at four different events this year, including a retirement party, a fundraiser event for alderwoman Darcel Beavers, and a rally for the re-election of Mayor Daley. She receives a fee for her performances.

"One thing I would like people to know," said La'Rie, "is that what I'm doing now is a part of what I want to do in the future because when I grow up I want to become an actress. So what I'm doing right now is helping me to become one."

Suttle said the Saturday outreach classes that La'Rie takes at UIC have a very diverse group of students, and that is helping her to grow to respect people of different ethnicities. "You have children from all nationalities: Asian, Indian, African, Spanish, and African-American. Because the world is diverse, you have to learn at a very early age to respect each other's cultures."

La'Rie's book, titled, *I Have Asthma*, earned her state-level recognition in the Young Authors' Competition in Bloomington, IL while she was still in second grade.

"I knew she was going to be smart when I first saw her," said Suttle. "I put her in ballet and tap when she was three years old. A few years after that she decided she wanted to be a swimmer. I had put her in the water when she was a year old," said Suttle. She said she doesn't worry that it's too much on her because La'Rie is competitive by nature and that La'Rie will let her know when she's tired.

The two of them take bike rides together on the lakefront. "I'm a firm believer that when you raise children, you're with them and teaching them.

"But I'm old school when it comes to raising a child. I'm a mother. I'm a mentor. I wouldn't say we're friends because that takes away from the authority figure.

"She confides in me. I listen. We have a relationship where she can come to me about anything, but I remain the final authority figure in my household."

La'Rie said she likes performing because it's fun to do and when she recite

See Exceptional page 14

Eleven year-old La'Rie Suttle is a phenomenal orator, attends Saturday College at UIC, and can swim a 25-yard pool in 15 seconds. She became an author while she was in 2nd grade, and has been on the honor roll at Beasley Academic Center at 53rd and State for the last five years. And last but certainly not least, she aspires and is working hard to be an actress.

Just last month La'Rie stunned an audience during senior graduation when she performed a 5-minute dramatization of Langston Hughes' *The Negro Mother*, and received a standing ovation for it. Her grandmother and guardian, Flora Suttle, said La'Rie has been reciting well since 1st grade.

"Each year the students had to learn a poem a week and had to have one to compete in an oratory contest," said Suttle, "La'Rie would always get upset because she would constantly come in second."

La'Rie worked diligently on her deliverance and her presentations, and by the time she was in 4th grade her teacher saw promise in her and recommended Suttle

BLACKS GOING TO PRISON FASTER THAN ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP

Wendell Hutson

Bruce Miller, 52, has lived in the North Lawndale neighborhood since age 13, but today is serving a life sentence after being convicted of killing his wife in 1997.

"If I could do it all over, I would kill her again," he angrily said in a telephone interview. "She was cheating on me and would disrespect me in front of my kids and I was not going to play that stuff."

Miller fits the perfect example of incarcerated black men who leaves behind children for society to raise, said Kathy Patterson, a clinical psychologist at the University of Illinois-Chicago. "It's just too bad he doesn't know the pain he has caused and how it will ultimately affect his son," Patterson said. "People like Miller you have to pray for and hope God gets to them before they are released."

A recent report by the U.S. Department of Justice states that on December 31, 2006, there were over 2.1 million people in U.S. prisons and jails and that the United States incarcerates a greater share of its population, 737 per 100,000 residents, than any other country.

But judicial advocates have said the more alarming part is prison statistics, which shows incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment. For example,

U.S. incarceration rates by race, as of January 2007:

- **Whites:** 393 per 100,000
- **Latinos:** 957 per 100,000
- **Blacks:** 2,531 per 100,000

Gender is an important entity when it comes to who goes to prison:

- **Females:** 129 per 100,000
- **Males:** 1,371 per 100,000

Advocates add that doubters should look at just the males by race and it will point out that the incarceration rates become even more frightening (January 2007):

- **White males:** 709 per 100,000
- **Latino males:** 1,856 per 100,000
- **Black males:** 4,682 per 100,000

If you look at males aged 25 to 29 and by race, you can see the difference of equality:

- **For White males ages 25-29:** 1,682 per 100,000.
- **For Latino males ages 25-29:** 3,884 per 100,000.
- **For Black males ages 25-29:** 11,955 per 100,000. (That's 11.9 percent of Black men in their late 20s.)

Among the institute's other findings in 17 states including Illinois:

*Dollar for dollar, state and local spending on corrections increased more than twice as much as spending on education or health between 1977 and 2005.

*The average cost of keeping a person in prison for a year was \$32,650 in 2006, while the average annual cost of undergraduate

tuition at a public university in 2006 was \$4,800 and \$14,000 at a private college.

*Nearly 7 million people in the United States are in prison or jail, or are on probation or parole; that's more people than in the eight least-populated states combined.

*There is a dubious connection between increases in incarceration and decreases in crime.

*Nearly 2 million adults in the 17 states are ineligible to vote because of felony disenfranchisement laws in those states. Nationally, about 4.7 million Americans can't vote because they have a felony conviction.

*Black men make up 30 percent of disenfranchised voters, but only 6.1 percent of the U.S. population.

But the report does not stop there. It also shows the impact incarcerated black men have on families, especially children.

The growth of the prison system has dramatically impacted the lives of millions of children, said Omar Cheeks, a criminal justice professor at Loyola University. In 2006, U.S. prisons held the parents of over 2.5 million children, an increase of over 500,000 since 2001, according to the report.

"Prisons have become big business and they are no longer being built for the sole purpose of locking criminals up but to make money from the labor of inmates," Cheeks adds. "Basically, inmates work as slaves

because they are not even paid minimal wage while working inside prisons."

But black men are not the only ones soaking up the prison population these days. Many mothers are also part of the system that separate children from the parents, said Wayne Stetson, a retired captain with the Illinois State Police.

An estimated 80,000 incarcerated mothers are parents to approximately 200,000 children under age 18. Black children (7 percent) were nearly nine times more likely to have an incarcerated parent in prison than white children (0.8 percent). Similarly, Latino children (2.6 percent) were three times as likely as white children to have a parent in prison.

For example, in California, 195,000 children have a parent in state prison and another 97,000 children have parents in county jail. The parents of 564,000 other children were on parole and probation, bringing the total number of California children with parents involved in the adult criminal justice system to 856,000.

Studies also show that about one-quarter of children remain with their fathers when the mother goes to prison, but nearly 9 out of 10 children remain with their mothers when the father is incarcerated.

Wendell Hutson is a Chicago-based freelance writer. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.n.cn.org.

COMMENTARY: YOUTH VIOLENCE IS SENSELESS AND TRAGIC

James Glover

The recent death of 14 year old Laserick Webster marked the 33rd Chicago Public School student to be killed within the past year. This is somewhat of a personal tragedy to me because I knew the young boy for some three and a half years. A youthful boy with an engaging personality, his death leaves me very angry and bitter about the continuing destructive path we find ourselves on as a society.

I refuse to limit this to any particular race, side of town or any other of the "reasons" that are usually thrown out by media in regards to senseless death. The fact that children are being murdered at a rate of one every two weeks is a tragedy that spans any time, location, gender or race. Let's run that statistic one more time. Murdered every two weeks. We aren't talking car crashes, household accidents or anything like that. Those are a part of life and while sad, are far easier to deal with than the fact a child lost their lives via someone else's hand.

"There are a lot of people my age who find themselves not caring what they do," said 15 year old Austin resident, Charlie Foster. "They just go about their life as if they don't expect to see tomorrow."

That statement within itself should trouble you. Living life as if they don't expect to see tomorrow? Since when SHOULDNT a child be worried about seeing tomorrow. The immense of death shouldn't be on the forefront of a child's mind.

The manner of these deaths are also sickening. Early this year, two Inglewood girls were killed a week apart by stray bullets. One

while waiting on a friend to get her for school, another at her own birthday party. A young Latino male who was about graduate high school when he was killed by a group of teenagers who apparently wanted to rob him. This past three week three young kids from the suburbs were found shot to death along with their mother on the side of the highway.

This is inexcusable. It's gotten so bad that kids are dying and being injured on CTA buses! The fact that Laserick was the victim of a burning death was absolutely the final straw in my opinion.

Let's also take a second to realize that these are children who are on the other end of these two way tragedies. The loss of life is terrible but the fact that we now have children who possess the nerves necessary to commit murder is horrific in its own right.

Exactly what are we doing? For all the 'Children are the Future' campaigns advertised, I don't see the outrage that we as a people should be expressing. If children are indeed are future then at this rate we aren't going to have one. No matter how many marches we have, no matter how many speeches Jesse Jackson gives and no matter how many rant driven articles I write the point is that we need to change the mindset of the

children themselves.

I don't know about anyone else but when I was 13, death, neither my own or the ability to be responsible for someone else's was the furthest thing from my mind. Now we have children out in these streets who know more about the mechanics of a gun than I do.

There are a few easy targets out there for us to attack. Rap music, violent video games and over the top television shows to name a few. However, after careful thought I realized that listening to Notorious B.I.G. as a teenager never once drove me to sell drugs, playing

Grand Theft Auto never gave me the instinct to shoot up a block with a automatic riffle and never has a television show gave me or anyone else I know the inspiration for blowing up anything and I know a lot of people.

As my boss tells me a lot of time, let's stop hampering on problems and start focusing on solutions. There are only so many after school programs and mentoring partnerships we can put together. Good as they are, they won't reach everyone. Instead, let's engage in something as simple as positive conversations. Next time you see a child outside about to do something wrong. Step

in. Stop thinking that's it's un cool or lame to make a difference. Let's watch and help them improve as opposed to them having to cons

"Let's make sure we're watching over our children so they don't have to look over their shoulder constantly," said LaVonte Roache, recent high school graduate and soon to be college student. "Let's prevent them from even being in situations where they can be harmed and let's step up so they will have better models to look up to."

I couldn't have phased that any better myself. We do need to be better examples so that gangbanging doesn't appear as the "in" thing to do.

Angry as I am writing this, in the end I am more sorry than anything. I am sorry that this Saturday as I attend Laserick's funeral I will have to bear the scene of his mother standing over his casket, as well as with the thought that someone could actually do this to a child. Something has to be done so that more parents can be standing in the crowds of more basketball games, spring recitals and award ceremonies, and not standing in graveyards.

I end this article by Rest In Peace Laserick Webster, Blair Holt, Damita Walker, Cassandra Vaughn and every other child that was lost to this senseless violence. Let's improve the situation and hope to save lives so that the ones we've lost aren't in vain.

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.nlcn.org.

"There are a lot of people my age who find themselves not caring what they do," said 15 year old Austin resident, Charlie Foster. "They just go about their life as if they don't expect to see tomorrow."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Midwest and Roosevelt-Homan Tax Increment Finance Neighborhood Improvement Programs (TIF-NIP)

The City of Chicago Department of Housing, 24th Ward Alderman Sharon Dixon, 28th Ward Alderman Ed Smith and 2nd Ward Alderman Robert Fioretti is pleased to announce a public information meeting regarding both Midwest and Roosevelt-Homan Tax Increment Finance Neighborhood Improvement Programs (TIF-NIP).

What is TIF-NIP? TIF-NIP provides grants for home repairs to eligible owner-occupants of one- to four-unit residential properties located within Midwest and Roosevelt-Homan TIF districts.

What is TIF-NIP? TIF-NIP provides grants for home repairs on single and multifamily residential properties. The single family program is open to eligible owner-occupants of one- to four-unit residential properties located within the Midwest and Roosevelt-Homan TIF district. The multifamily program is a matching grant program for owners of rental properties of five units or more located within the Midwest and Roosevelt-Homan TIF district.

The community meeting will allow you to ask questions as well provide information about:

- 1) Grant Amounts
- 2) Program Eligibility Requirements
- 3) Eligible Home Repairs
- 4) Program Administration

TIF-NIP Community Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2007
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: John Marshall Metropolitan High School Auditorium
3250 West Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60624

For further information contact Alderman Dixon Office (773)522-2430, Alderman Smith Office (773)533-0900, Alderman Fioretti Office (312) 263-9273 or Dionne Baux at the City of Chicago Department of Housing (312) 742-1096.

The City's Department of Revenue must verify that your water bill and any parking tickets have been paid in order for you to receive a grant.



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor
Department of Housing
John G. Markowski
Commissioner

TIF Dwellers Take Education Process to the Next Level

For 5 weeks, North Lawndale residents have been participating in a series of workshops, *TIF Dwellers: Living and Doing Business in Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIF's)*.

The series, run entirely by volunteers, was developed to educate North Lawndale stakeholders on the process of creating TIF districts and to explore the potential impact upon local homeowners and small businesses. Event sponsors include the Lawndale Business and Local Development Corporation (LBLDC), Community Action Group (CAG), and Valerie F. Leonard, a community development consultant and North Lawndale resident.

The group convened a broad cross section of North Lawndale residents and stakeholders in discussions around the City of Chicago's proposed plan to establish a tax increment financing district with approximate boundaries of Grenshaw to the north; Albany to the east; 24th Street to the South and Kenneth to the west.

The series drew upon expertise of North Lawndale residents, elected officials and lessons learned from other communities to begin to explore ways in which community stakeholders, community development organizations, elected officials and Chicago Department of Planning representatives may work together to create a shared vision for sustainable development in the community. The series also served as a kick-off for the soon-to-be-created Lawndale Chamber of Commerce.

There were a number of issues that resonated strongly with meeting participants, including employment and job training;

creation of community benefits agreements with developers who do major projects in the 24th Ward; high incidences of foreclosures in the community; home repair and beautification; education and technology; and a desire to form a resident-led advisory council to work with the Alderman to review major development projects throughout the 24th Ward.

Participants have voiced an interest in utilizing the series as a springboard for community action. A couple residents have volunteered to identify North Lawndale residents who belong to construction-related trade unions in anticipation of construction jobs that could be created as a result of new development. Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele enlisted a group of volunteers to research the potential for re-activating the North Lawndale Community Conservation Council.

The North Lawndale Community Conservation Council is charged with the implementation of the North Lawndale Conservation Plan, and covers a number of quality of life sectors, including education, culture, community and economic development, parks, etc.

The boundaries of the Conservation Area include Western Avenue to the east; Cermak Road to the south; City Limits to the west and the Eisenhower Expressway to the north. According to Commissioner Steele, the North Lawndale Community Conservation Council, which has a 40 year life, has about 4 years left. Other alternative strategies for resident participation include the creation of a TIF Advisory Council or creating a redevelopment area with local resident

advisors.

Given the amount of work to be done, meeting participants have requested another meeting for action planning around issues raised in the workshops. This meeting will be held on Monday, June 25, 2007, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., at the 10th District Police Station, located at 3315 West Ogden. The agenda is as follows:

- I. Opening Prayer (member of the audience)
- II. Community Action Group Report (Joe Ann Bradley):
 - a. Community Planning Process Overview
 - b. North Lawndale-Based Construction Jobs (With Samuel Muhammad)
- III. Report of Survey Results (Valerie F. Leonard)
- IV. Report on Status of North Lawndale Community Council-Commissioner Robert Steele
- V. Facilitated Discussion (Eric Strickland)
 - a. Identification of Key Issues
 - b. Identification of Alternatives to Address Issues
 - c. Creation of Workgroups/Committees
- VI. Adjournment

Questions concerning the meeting series may be directed to Valerie F. Leonard, Community Development Consultant, at valeriefleonard@msn.com or 773-521-3137. Meeting notes from the first three workshops have been posted at www.nlc.org. The notes from the fourth and fifth workshops will be posted by Friday, June 29, 2007.

The TIF Dwellers series is made possible

and/or supported by the following: Joe Ann Bradley of the Community Action Group; Cook County Board of Review; Congressman Danny K. Davis and his Housing Task Force; Margaret Davis of the Chicago Chapter-National Black Nurses' Association; Sgt. Gabriel Flores of the 10th District Police Station; Members of In the Loop Listserv; John Paul Jones, Community Activist; Latrice Harris of the 4200 Block of Cermak Road; Bernita Johnson Gabriel of the Quad Communities Development Corporation; Jacqueline Leavy, formerly of Neighborhood Capital Budget Group; Valerie F. Leonard, Community Development Consultant; Isaac Lewis of the North Lawndale Community News; Otis Monroe of the Monroe Foundation; Shirley Newsome of the Kenwood-Oakland Community Conservation Council; North Lawndale Online; Wanda Perry of Lawndale Business and Local Development Corporation; Pastor David Pope of Brotherly Love MB Church; Nicole and Cedric Pope of Build Today Lead Tomorrow; Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley; James Shannon of Streetwise; Mahaley Sommerville of ACORN; Former Cook County Board President Bobbie Steele; Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele; Eric Strickland of the Lawndale Business and Local Development Corporation; Zina Simmons of the 4000 West 21st Street Block Club; State Representative Arthur L. Turner; Gladys Woodson of the 4200 West 21st Place Block Club; WNLO Radio; Thomas Worthy of Citizens for a Better 24th Ward.

A list of participating organizations and a summary of survey results will be included in an upcoming story.

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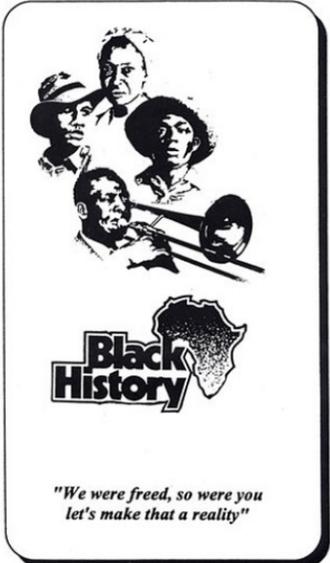
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Juneteenth

Todd Thomas



The celebration of Juneteenth means a lot to some people and very little to others. Commonly known as the day when Texas' slaves found out that they were free, it just doesn't resonate throughout the black community the way it could. These are a few of the facts about Juneteenth that might shed some light on this interesting holiday.

Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when slaves in the state of Texas were belatedly informed that they were, in fact free, and had been legally so for over two years. The hard part to understand is how it could have possibly taken so long for the news about freedom to spread. These are some of the theories.

- The messenger was murdered on his way to Texas with the news.
- Federal troops waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before informing them.
- The news was withheld by the slave owners to maintain the slave labor force on the plantations.

No theory has been confirmed as fact, but the concept of Juneteenth remains firm and several states acknowledge it as a holiday including: New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Alaska, and California, as well as Texas.

These are the words of Major General, Gordon Granger, who was the person who formally informed those in Galveston about the news of their freedom. He read this in 1865:

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Interesting language, but it's hard to miss the message which basically means that slavery is legally over but you still work for me - and don't look for handouts. The failed policy of reconstruction after slavery is testament to the fact that life remained extremely difficult for Africans in America even after emancipation, so difficult that it might only be right to acknowledge the people who lived through that painful period with a celebration today.

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

EDUCATION & TRAINING

CPS Kicks off Summer School with a Host of Programs

Mayor Richard M. Daley helped kick off summer school 2007 today for more than 100,000 Chicago Public Schools students who are expected to participate in academic, cultural enrichment and recreational programs over the next three months.

"Summer school really is a great opportunity for kids, and I'd like to see even more of them taking advantage of it," Daley said at Crane Technical High School, 2245 W. Jackson Blvd. "It keeps them learning, keeps them busy and keeps them safe."

"We would love to provide summer school programming to all of our students, but budget constraints tie our hands," said Arne Duncan, CEO of Chicago Public Schools. "So we have to concentrate our efforts on programs that provide the best opportunities for success to students who need them the most over the summer months."

In its second year, the mayor's Keep Kids Learning initiative for elementary and high

school students will go from serving about 1,000 students in 11 schools as a pilot program last year, to serving about 3,500 students in 22 schools, in neighborhoods on the West and South sides of Chicago.

Keep Kids Learning, which is an academic and enrichment program for students who are not required to go to summer school, runs six hours a day, Monday through Thursday, from June 18 to July 26.

Among the 22 Keep Kids Learning schools, 20 are elementary schools and two are high schools - Crane Technical Prep and Harper High School.

High school participants will work in an advanced robotics engineering program during the morning sessions and assist elementary students in the afternoon in enrichment classes, which include robotics, drama, music, drum line corps, library study, nutrition/health classes and arts and crafts. High school students additionally will get

paid - a \$6.50 per hour stipend for their work.

In the elementary schools, students will participate in reading and math sessions in the morning and enrichment activities in the afternoon.

Also at the high school level, two summer school programs are aimed at addressing specific needs of CPS high school students. Step Up to High School will help students in making the jump from elementary school to high school, while Summer Quest is designed to help students visualize and experience first-hand getting a college education.

Step Up to High School is a program that reaches out to eighth-grade graduates whose test scores indicate that they might struggle as high school freshman, and it works to ensure that these eighth-graders transition to high school as seamlessly as possible. Step Up to High School starts July 2, and runs five days a week through July 27.

Each Step Up school day includes

reading, math and counseling inside the students' future high school. The program is aimed at introducing students to their new teachers, principals and counselors, and increasing their comfort level.

Summer Quest places students in grades 9 through 11 on college campuses with pre-established summer educational or leadership programs all around the country, offering students the chance to feel what it is like to live and study on a college campus. The program began in 2004 with 70 students and has grown to 165 participating students this year.

A complete list of CPS summer programs is attached.

The Chicago Public Schools is the nation's third-largest school system. It includes more than 600 schools and serves about 415,000 students.

AN EXPUNGEMENT EARNED IS AN EX-OFFENDER SAVED

Demetrius Aaron Porter

The liberty of obtaining gainful employment is priceless to some because life sometimes can deal you a bad hand and having a record is like having a handicap for those of us that have committed some kind of social ill that society has deemed to be anti-social.

At this year's annual Expungement Summit that took place on Saturday, June 9 at Chicago Vocational Career Academy on Chicago's south side, Dorothy Brown, and other's like Richard Devine, State's Attorney of Cook County, held an event that everyone in Chicago and North Lawndale Community (NLC) that has committed a (social ill) crime and are seriously looking for a job or a home should know about.

"Therefore, some of us are in need to get a 'second chance' said Dorothy Brown, Clerk of The Circuit Court of Cook County. "A second chance to go out into the real world and be able to positively contribute to society is what these people need, but, how could one attempt to change their life if their past continues to dictate their future by prohibiting them from getting a decent job and having the bare necessities of life such as food, water and shelter?"

Because in NLC, one of Chicago's 77 communities, a 2001 report by the Justice Policy Center (JPC) reported that of the 97 percent of Illinois prisoners released 34 percent reentered communities like NLC, Humboldt Park, and other neighboring communities.

This is why knowing and understanding the benefits of expungement is so crucial to so-called ex-cons who face hurdles trying to

get a job. The summit was organized for that reason to help adults and juveniles that have committed a crime in Cook County to overcome hurdles by having their criminal record cleared of past offenses like cleaning up your bad credit.

The reason for expungement is because it is a good chance that when you are seeking employment and the question on an application comes up asking have you been convicted of a felony and/or crime or been arrested and you answer yes, but with the explanation that your offense(s) were resolved.

"Of course, you're thinking that you're in the clear because you're thinking you've served your time or you never did time after being arrested when something pops up on your record to the disapproval of a potential employer. Meaning, even if did not do time for a crime, but you still 'got arrested it still maybe on your record," said Brown.

But, there's always a caught right? Okay, understand this NLC you must take the initiative and go to the police headquarters on 35th and Michigan, year around, and pay for your rap sheet and then take it to an attorney who specializes in that field, so that they could look over your record, for a fee, for any discrepancies and then petition the proper court to have them expunge or seal those discrepancies that are keeping you from obtaining employment because after a certain amount of years past offenses should be off your record. For example, if your probation has been terminated, you've been acquitted, you've completed a sentence, your supervision has been terminated, etc. If

you've paid your debt to society or been arrested do not let your past record determine your current state!

That is what made the summit so critical because you as a so-called criminal could network with attorney's, for free, and other's who were there to offer answers to the above-mentioned question by looking over your rap sheet to see what needs to be expunged or sealed.

Now you may asked what's expugnable or sealable and why are they so important? Well depending on your age, rather your offense(s) was a felony or a misdemeanor, or you got arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) you might not know until you physically go to an attorney that could answer those questions.

The summit was free and attorney's volunteered to answer those questions and possibly take your case. So, if you're serious about finding a job or trying to get a home and need help with clearing your record of offenses that should not be there year around you could call

(312) 603-5200 or (312) 603-4719 or visit www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

Demetrius A. Porter is a North Lawndale resident. He is a journalism student at Roosevelt University. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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SPIRITUAL LIFE

WORD UP: Whose Yo Baby's Daddy?

Calvin C. Crayton

Because this is Word-Up I have to acknowledge the fact that this Fathers Day holiday crap is another form of paganism which totally against God's Word and since Jesus did say call no man father since there is only one Father (but I forgot most Christians don't have to read The Book) then that would make every day Father's Day . Let's Word Up.

With the nigger, Negro, colored, African-American or Black man right behind the dodo bird on the extinct list I suggest we brothers ask ourselves are we the kind of man we would want our daughters to marry? If the answer is no, I suggest we repent of whatever it is that is keeping us from being all that God created us to be and get busy.

Deutoromy 28: verse 37 states: Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

And having in a readiness to avenge all

disobedience. When your obedience is fulfilled. 2nd Corinthians 10 verse 5-6.

I realize that most of the problems we have is due to disobedience to God's Word and notice that the scripture says you avenge disobedience thru obedience and it starts with the thoughts remember as a man thinketh.

Have you ever noticed that man is in the middle of commandments ? The same way Ford has rules or commandments to keep a car running at peak efficiency. God has rules or instructions or commandments to keep us operating at peak efficiency and just like when we don't obey Ford's rules the car breaks down when we don't obey God's rules we break down. What amazes me is that we take our cars back to Ford but instead of us returning back to God and his word we turn to Oprah and Phil and Ricky, and Jerry, and Obama and Hilary and Bush and Pastor who tells us we don't have to follow God's instructions unless they fit what we want to do that is just like taking your car to another

car to repair it rather than taking it to the person who made the car.

If we continue to disregard the instructions that came with the car eventually it will cease to be a car and become junk and if we continue to disregard the instructions given by God we also will cease to be a man and become worthless .Thank God for his mercy and grace that even while we are on the junk pile if we repent and return he will restore us to full manhood.

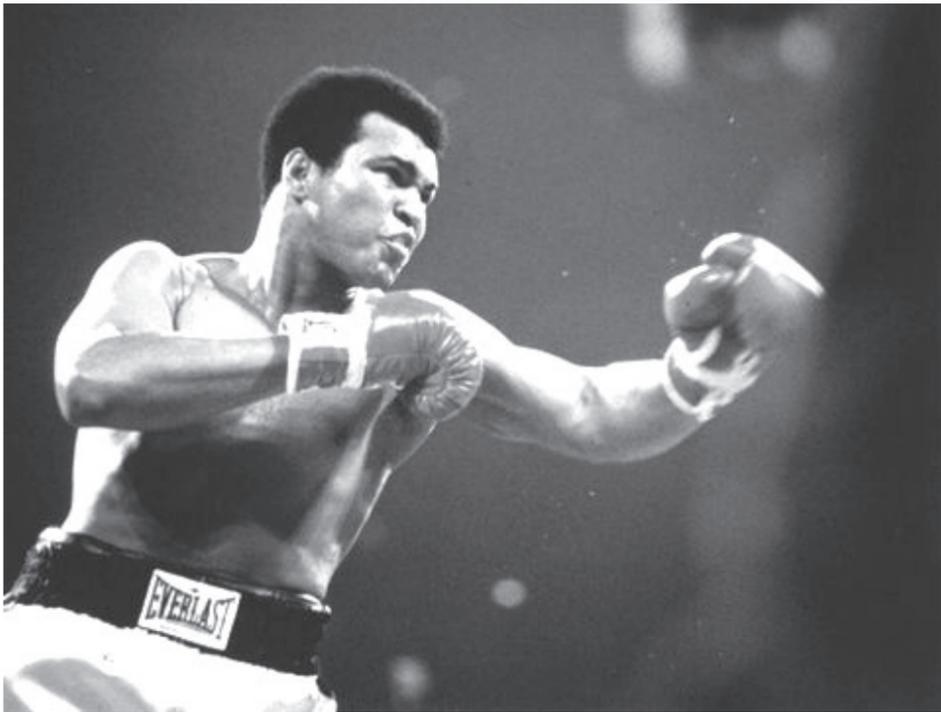
A man must first handle the enemy within himself. Often we complain about someone doing us wrong and yet we continue to mistreat our own selves, I know if someone treated me the way I treat myself I would kill them. Any thing we do that does not glorify

God destroys us. I am the vine ye are the branches he that abideth in me and I in him bringeth forth much fruit for without me you can do nothing. John 15 verse 5)

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge The Greatest Dad I have ever known I can still see him reading the Bible and always there when I stumbled. Happy Daddy's Day Roosevelt Crayton and to all the daddy's out there and to The Father let us who are your children remember who we represent. Forgive us our trespasses. Remember if you don't read the book You Lose The Lesson. Word Up!!

Calvin Crayton is community resident and writer on spiritual matters. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

June 20 Black Facts



Muhammad Ali

* On this date in 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in federal court for violating the Selective Service Act. Ali refused induction to the armed services and fight in the Vietnam War.

* On this date in 1960, singer Harry Belafonte became the first African-American to win an Emmy for his variety special "Tonight with Harry Belafonte."

* On this date in 1909, the NAACP was incorporated in New York City. The NAACP was co-founded by scholar and civil rights leader W.E.B. Dubois

* On this date in 1993, tennis legend Arthur Ashe became the first African-American selected to coach the U.S. Davis Cup Team.

* On this date in 1943. The National Congress of Racial Equality was organized.

Vehicle from front page

get your sticker and be done with it is a great thing to have."

While the dates for these events in some wards have passed, there are some that are still coming up. The following are dates and times that specify where the service will be provided:

- Wed, June 20th, Ald. Rey Suarez (31st), [4502 W. Fullerton Ave.](#), 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sat., June 23rd Ald. Walter Burnett (27th), [1463 W. Chicago Ave.](#), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Friday, July 6th Ald. Emma Mitts (37th) [5346 W. North Avenue](#) 10 a.m.-3 p.m
- Mon, July 9th Ald. Manuel Flores (1st) [2058 N. Western](#) 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Blanco Popular Bank in the Little Village area also has City Stickers for sale as do other Blanco Popular though out the city.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 312-742-9200 or go online at: <http://www.chicityclerk.com/licenses/citystickers.html>.

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.nlcn.org.

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The I-H Syndrome, A Behavior Disease: One Person's Fight To Live Free

Julius Goodman

In this series we focus on one chapter of the book: Recognize your Enemy. Who is the enemy? Is it spiritual or is it physical. How do we fight? How do we eliminate this disease?

In part 1 (NLCN May 30-June 5) we went into the community and discovered that some of our children and adults are out of control. They don't care about anybody. When we apply reason to this idea we find that these same people have forgotten how to care about themselves. The behavior behind not caring about yourself forces a person to inflict hurt, harm and danger to others in their attempt to destroy themselves. Here is part two of One Person's Fight to Be Free.

"Hi, my name is Cynthia Adams and I am telling about an incident in my life that happened to me when I was 26 years old.

I was staying in my own apartment. The landlord sold the building without my knowledge so I had to move. I moved in with my brother's girlfriend. My brother's girlfriend was also going with this other guy his name was Terr, he was a gang banger. He was a Four Corner Hustler. Back then when they gangbang, you was not supposed to get high. They found out that Terr was getting high and they wanted to violate him, so the other Four Corner Hustlers chased him up to the house one day and he knocked on the door and he was crying and he told Jackie to give him the pistol.

I was on my way out the door to get my kids some food. Jackie gave Terr the pistol. When I got downstairs to the first floor and was on my way out of the building, I heard somebody running down the stairs behind me, so as I stepped out the building; Terr stepped up behind me and pulled the pistol on one of the boys.

Terr and Jackie were part of their click so by me not being from around there or down

there they lied and told these gang bangers that I gave Terr the pistol to shoot at them.

So about a week later the head guy Angelo sent the rest of the guys after me. I was in the house alone with my four kids my daughter was six months old at the time and I had my three sons.

This boy, Des knocks on the door he said Jackie told him to come upstairs to get something but I know this boy had never been up to this house before so I did not open the door. I told him to go get her. At this time after he knocked, I never left the door.

I peeked out of the peep hole when he came back to the door. I was peeking out of the peep hole and he had Jackie around the neck and she was saying open the door and I told her no. So they let her go and the guy Des came back to the door and he had the key they had took the door key from Jackie.

By this time I had put the chain lock on the door. Des put the key in the lock and turned the key and tried to open the door and I closed it back shut and locked the lock back. We did that for about an hour. After an hour or so went past I stood at the door and I could hear this people hollering my name out the window.

I went to the window and looked and it was some more of these guys that they sent after me. Des still had the key and he was still unlocking the door and trying to get in. The last time he put the key in the lock trying to get in; he put the barrel of a pistol in the door and just as he did that my son ran in front of the pistol that was in the crack of the door."

Part three of this story continues next week. In part four at the end of the story a behavior analysis pertaining to the I-H Syndrome will be featured. If you would like more information or to comment please visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

COMMUNITY PEOPLE

Congratulations RAJAH'S MOBILE LOCK & KEY SERVICE June Business of the Month



Rajah's employee Carl Bosby and owner Rajah Latimore

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor Rajah's Mobile Lock and Key Service, located at 1240 South Kedzie Avenue as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for June.

In 1979, Rajah Latimore's strong desire for entrepreneurship inspired him to improve services for missing automobile keys in a time when consumers were at the mercy of car dealerships.

His previous work experiences as a locksmith along with current updates on the new trends and technology for cars and motorcycles has kept him competitive and profitable in this line of service.

"He's like a walking encyclopedia when it comes to cars," said Regina Powell, Latimore's secretary/partner.

Specializing in all kinds of locks for the home,

office and both foreign and American automobiles, Rajah's also services motorcycles, installed security systems, and operates a shoe repair at this location.

Rajah's longevity in this business can also be credited to his willingness to travel to his customers who find themselves in dire straits. He and his employee of 10 years Carl Bosby work together and is available for emergencies.

"Mobile services are crucial in this type of business," Powell said. "Generally locksmiths will have you tow your car to them," she adds.

As car manufacturers create new models of cars with transponder key codes and memory chips some, which are nearly impossible to duplicate, many locksmiths find themselves at odds with the car manufacturers.

24th Ward Alderman Sharon Denise Dixon Warming Up to New Job



24th ward Alderman Sharon Denise Dixon doing Aldermanic paperwork on recently acquired South African conference table.

Alderman Sharon Denise Dixon has been meeting with constituents on every Thursday from 11am to 7 pm, since, May 31. While she is looking for a permanent office space she has converted the basement of the building she owns into a very inviting office space. Before her election the space was used as a campaign office. The temporary space is comfortable for small group meetings. She also has two staff people helping her.

Upon entering her office for this interview, Ald. Dixon was having a meeting with the nonprofit group, Breaking Ground. Some of her previous meetings were with Michael Outley, former candidate in the 2003, 24th ward election, Rev. Hunter, Gretta Rose, Maria Williams, Pastor Virgil Means, Pastor Hunter, and Mike Avers.

Alderman Dixon has been assigned to five committees. She is on the special events, real estate, housing, education, and ethics committee. She asked for finance, housing, zoning, buildings, and education. She received two of the five she requested.

She plans to put together a group of people about 125, two per precinct, to tour the ward in

two buses to identify the worse areas together in terms of sidewalks and paving streets and having streetlights identified and wattage increased. She would like to have a back to school event on Douglas boulevard. But she doesn't know if she will have time to put that together this year.

Sharon stated that she has been talking with other seasoned Alderman for best practices. Only being in office two weeks, she stated she is in training. One of the remarks that Ald. Dixon said is that city workers in one of the city departments downtown said to her that we see you all the time. We never saw the former Alderman. Alderman Dixon wants to make herself completely available to her constituents.

NLCN stated to Alderman Dixon that most of the community is worried about the development that goes on in the community and the of lack of jobs for the community. What I want upfront is to talk to the developers about is, first of all, quality work and securing worksites. . . On the front end, establishing, that they are willing to work with and hire people from the community. That is going to be the front end. I feel that is my role as the alderman. If you are going to allow

Breaking Ground's APL



Participants in a program at the APL Teaching Factory

Yolanda Harris has been with Breaking Ground for five years. She is the Program Coordinator for the APL Teaching Factory. APL stands for "A Planting of the Lord", said. It is a half day program that offers remedial education around math, reading, writing, and basic computer skills that runs from 8:00 to 11:30 am. The program runs for six weeks. The program also helps the men and women gain employment through job readiness training and job placement. The job readiness training includes resume development, mock interviewing, and confidence building. The job placement includes construction trade jobs, Fish Windows Cleaning, and other employers.

Said Yolanda, "we try to find employers that are serious about hiring our

See APL Page 10

See Warm page 10

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Many Veterans Face Homelessness, Unemployment Despite Service to Nation

James Glover

Many men have gone overseas to fight for this country. Often times they have been separated from their families to do a dangerous and thankless task. However, more and more these days are veterans returning to find out that situations have changed and they may possibly be homeless.

"Homelessness amongst veterans is an increasing problem," said Vanessa Redford, spokesperson for the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans. "There are different reasons behind each individual case but regardless the point is people are returning from doing a great national service and being left out in the cold."

Young, alienated and often living on their own for the first time, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans increasingly are coming home to find that they don't have one. Already, nearly 200,000 veterans—many from the Vietnam War—sleep on the streets every night, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. But young warriors just back from the Middle East—estimated around 500 to

1,000—are beginning to struggle with homelessness too. Drinking or using drugs to cope with PTSD, they can lose their job and the support of family and friends, and start a downward spiral to the streets. Their tough military mentality can make them less likely to seek help. Advocates say it can take five to eight years for a veteran to exhaust their financial resources and housing options, so they expect the number to rise exponentially in a few years.

"Rather than wait for the tsunami, we should be doing something now," said Cheryl Beversdorf, president of New Directions, a center for returning veterans in need a housing and mental rehabilitation.

The problem is mainly a lack of resources, advocates say. There are only about 15,000 beds available in VA-funded shelters or hospitals nationwide, and nearly every one is taken. In some smaller cities there simply aren't many places for a homeless veteran to go. And as affordable housing units shrink nationwide, veterans living on a disability

check of, say, \$700 a month, (which means a 50-percent disability rating from the VA), are hard-pressed to find a place to live.

Most shelters require veterans to participate in a rehabilitation program, but a "fair amount" of veterans just go back to the streets once they leave. "Rehabilitation is fine but effectively useless if there is no productive follow up," says Ed Quill, director of external affairs at Volunteers of America, the nonprofit housing group for veterans that help tens of thousands a year.

Virgil Mathis, a Vietnam veteran and former homeless veteran said "I don't believe that there is enough being done to improve the situations of guys out there who have returned to nothing. There should be more being done to educate the public on the situations of homeless veterans and more programs created to alleviate the problem."

Jonathan Wilcox, spokesperson for the United States Department of Veteran Affairs said "We feel that we're doing all we can. There are only enough resources that can be

allocated to any one given cause. In order for us to help the problem to the extent that many people are clamoring for, the public needs to be more involved."

David Thompson, a homeless veteran who returned from Iraq just last year agrees with Wilcox to a extent but still believes more can be done by the government itself to ease the concerns of veterans back from overseas and without a home. "There is truth to the statement that the public needs to take more of a stance on helping the veterans who are not in a position at the moment to really help themselves. But even with that being said, it is on behalf of the United States Government that we go out and risk our lives on a daily basis. There is no reason we should come back and have to suffer like this. Just another example of shady politics."

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.nlcn.org.

County Board President Undergoes Prostate Surgery

Cook County Board president Todd Stroger underwent surgery on Monday, June 18th to remove his prostate, according to Stroger press secretary Ibis Antongiorgi.

President Stroger learned of the stage one cancer after a routine screening. On Monday, Stroger's spokesperson reported that he was on medical leave, without going into detail about the surgery, because the family had asked that his medical condition not be disclosed on the day of the surgery out of respect for their medical privacy.

Stroger is expected to make his first public statement about the surgery and the need to be tested later this week.

Stroger was diagnosed with stage one cancer of the prostate, which has a very high cure rate. The surgery was successful. President Stroger will be in bed for a couple of days, and his full recovery is expected to take up to about three weeks.

"His family wanted to go through this experience in private," said Antongiorgi. "We respected their right to medical privacy. We also ask for your prayers and well wishes for his speedy recovery."

Stroger's doctors have described his condition as non-life threatening.



Todd Stroger

According to the National Cancer Institute, prostate cancer is the most common cancer, excluding skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer related death in men in the United States. African American men have had higher incidence and at least double the mortality rates compared to men of other racial and ethnic groups, according to the NCI.

More information is available on the National Cancer Institute's prostate cancer website at www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/prostate

APL from page 8

population. Trying to see what their needs are bringing it back and incorporate it into our curriculum... so that they (the training participants) can be prepared. Last year, 80% of our graduates got jobs."

Tanya Vargas is the instructor for the Remedial Education. "We take students from 18 to 80", said Ms Vargas. Ms Vargas came from a corporate/business background. What she does now is something that she did on the side and didn't get paid to do before. Occasionally she stills helps folks even now. At one point when the number of people on the street had got to the point it started multiplying it became overwhelming. Helping them get housing and get clean and get in school and get GED's and tutored. "All of these things became overwhelming ... Right as I was throwing my hands up because I didn't really have what it took, they me called here," stated Tanya. When she came in and sat in front of an organized classroom, she felt encouraged that she was able to teach and other people were able to help with the housing, drug treatment and other needs.

Tanya currently teaches class of about 17 participants. She is determined in her teaching approach, drawing attention and focus to the curriculum. Tanya is use to a crowd. Her teaching method uses teamwork and a family atmosphere where students are encouraged to help each other.



Yolanda Harris



Tanya Vargas

APL has strict policy when it comes to attendance as part of their job training. Even a couple of times tardy equal an absence. Part of their training in job readiness concerns their policy, where from the beginning, they know that attendance is very important. "I have six topics one four each week that helps them out of all of the mess and the drama that explodes in their life. Their living in a reactive state and this kind of sets them in a more proactive state, Goal setting, reaching goals, and enjoying that process, so they want to be here. For more information contact Breaking Ground at 773-265-1370. They are located at 3501 W. Fillmore.

Warm from page 8

someone to come work in your community you should also be able to have a say in the people that get jobs in the community. So that will be established on the front end of the contract. When a developer comes to the table and talks about land and building, which is a good thing, every community needs it, development and growth. I say to them we need people that live here to be working on these jobs, those that are qualified because we want quality housing

She has also talked them about establishing a training facility, where people can be trained for the jobs. My goal is to ensure that those people in this community that want to work are working. I want to establish a pool and identify these individual laborers that have the specialty, the painters, the carpenters, the plumbers, the electricians, I want to be able to identify them and establish a relationship with the union so that they can go and get certified. So they can have the opportunity to bid on some of these jobs right here.

We have a beautiful community here with gorgeous greystones. Some of the house that are being built should be respectful of the history that we have here. That is something that I want

to make a concern here," said Dixon. She thinks people are being rushed into home ownership too early. She stated that coops are a viable option to home ownership. Where owners get to build equity and this serves many other purposes and they can pull their equity out and go into single standing home ownership. So coop is something else that I think we have a market for here in Lawndale. You can buy a two bedroom coop that is on the line of a condo for \$65,000-75,000. A market that is viable here in Lawndale.

I just finished talking to Breaking Ground. They are now getting ready to build some single family homes for \$119,000. They reported that people qualified but their were so many that didn't qualify because of the amount. Cut that in half and you can get a two bedroom coop for \$65,000-75,000. You can get a three bedroom coop for \$85,000. Coops work there are some successful programs over in Hyde Park. There are some along Lake Shore Drive. It's a matter of educating and providing some oversight to make sure they have grasped the concept.

For more information contact the 24th ward office at 773 522-2430.

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Economic Development

Trump Tower Puts Pressure on Hotel Industry

Wendell Hutson

Even as Donald Trump prepares to open one of his lavish hotels in Downtown Chicago, the economy continues to grow and so does the number of developers seeking financing to build more hotels.

But when you build tall buildings the risk of losing money also increases, which is why a lot of real estate lenders are now steering away from seeking hotel financing because of the risks that come with it.

"While there are always risks involved in real estate, hotel financing is probably one of the biggest," said William Sims, president of United Diversified Resources, a Culver City, California-based company that secures bank financing for developers.

The risk is the unpredictability in the income stream.

"Hotels lease their rooms by the day not knowing when and if a customer will return unlike an apartment complex that leases an apartment for a year. A year of income sounds a lot better than a one day," said Bill Avery, Chicago regional manager for Midland Loan Services.

However, it is not that hotel financing cannot get done. Industry experts said

management and location are two important factors developers should look at before seeking financing.

"You can have a great hotel in a good area but if the management is bad and the area goes down, then there goes your average customer," said Sims. "It's easier to rent an apartment out for a year with bad management than it is to lease a room for a day and expect the customer to return again," said Avery.

Typical lenders like to see other managed properties to get an idea of how the hotel may be managed. "If you're just starting up and don't have a managed property track record, it's almost certain you won't get a loan," said John Tagtmeir, manager of the Illinois Mortgage Association in Glenview.

Another barrier is the type of hotel a developer wants to build.

"If the hotel is apart of a franchise like the Sheraton or Marriott, lenders are more inclined to finance the deal," said Michael Pompizzi, executive vice president and chief financial officer for Jupiter Realty Corp. Near O'Hare International Airport Jupiter is developing the luxury, 450-room Omni Rosemont Hotel in Rosemont.

"However, if it's an independent hotel you're trying to build, chances are lenders will either pass on the proposal or require 25 percent to 30 percent equity invested up front before agreeing to any such loan," Pompizzi added.

Industry experts said GMAC is probably the top hotel lender and Michael Lipson, senior vice president of the Hospitality Group, agreed.

"GMAC believes in the hospitality industry which includes hotels and believes the industry is in good shape."

Top lender

Last year GMAC committed \$500 million to hotel deals and \$2.5 billion over the last four years.

Lipson said 2006 was a good year for hotels but the market has since slowed down and that has many lenders wary.

"There's no question that occupancy is down right now but we have confidence that it will improve," he said.

When considering a proposal, Lipson says name recognition, management, appearance and location are very important. "We consider these things critical when evaluating a deal," he added.

Stuart Greenberg, senior vice president and assistant branch manager for GMAC (in Illinois), said GMAC recently financed a Holiday Inn in Naperville and may soon finance a hotel in the Chicago area. While Greenberg did not disclose the name of the hotel being considered, he did say it will be located near O'Hare airport. "People are still traveling for business and need a hotel to stay at. Hotels and conference centers near busy airports like O'Hare is usually worth

considering," Greenberg added.

Neil Freeman, president of Aries Capital, Chicago, said one reason it's difficult to get financing is because of the economy.

"If the economy should take a dive, lenders fear that there would be too many empty hotel rooms. Besides, if the economy hits turbulence, how many people would be willing to stay at a hotel when they can barely afford to pay their mortgage?"

Avery says Midland favors the use of commercial-backed securities over real estates investment trusts (REITs) for financing.

"Although the economy is doing well and REITs are paying a very good dividend, how long will that last?" he said.

Wall Street analysts said REITs have been struggling to find cash, pay off debt and finance deals, which may explain why more joint ventures between real estate managers and real estate trusts are on the rise.

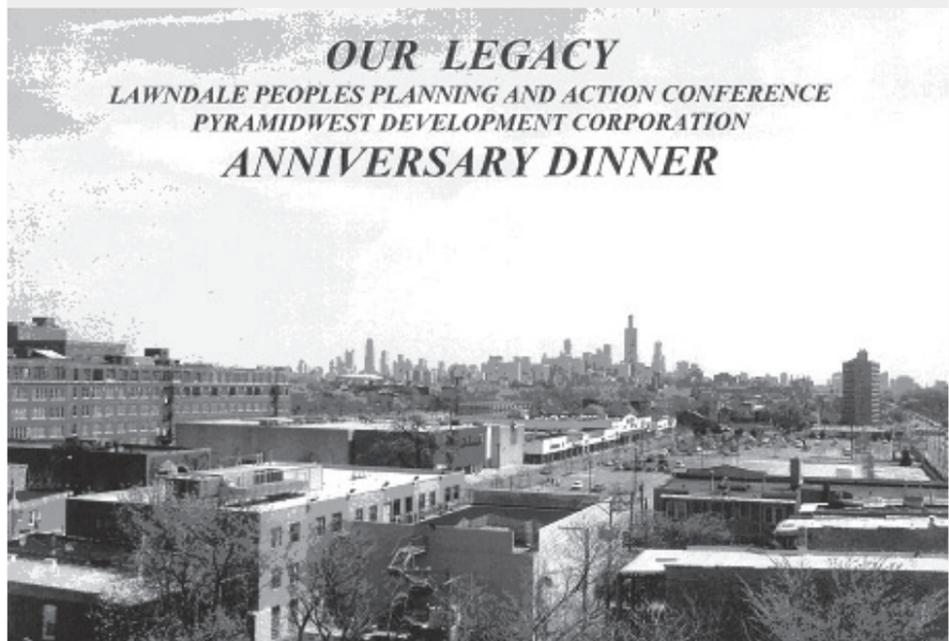
However, Avery downplays the idea that Robinson failed because he was in the wrong city. "Chicago, New York and Los Angeles are very good cities to build a hotel these days. The market is healthy and one should take full advantage," he added.

"If the hotel is a part of a franchise like the Sheraton or Marriott, lenders are more inclined to finance the deal. However, if it's an independent hotel you're trying to build, chances are lenders will either pass on the proposal or require 25 percent to 30 percent equity invested up front before agreeing to any such loan."

Wendell Hutson is a Chicago-based freelance writer. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

The Lawndale Peoples Planning And Action Conference 40th Anniversary And Awards Dinner

John Moore



On May 11, The Lawndale Peoples Planning and Action Conference held its 40th year anniversary and awards dinner. The dinner highlighted the organizations years of success in the North Lawndale community and to give special recognition to some of the community leaders that deserve mentioning.

Forty Years of Community Service

Forty years ago (1967) four organizations merged to form what is now known as Lawndale Planning and Action Conference (LPPAC). The original objectives of LPPAC were to create and operate social service, community development and employment programs and to establish and promote -based social programs and institutions. Initially concentrating on social services, LPPAC established and ran an alcoholism outpatient a job recruitment, screening and referral program, neighborhood rehabilitation training and employment programs, tenant counseling and education, a food buying cooperative, and the Black Truth and Lawndale Drum newspapers.

The Lawndale Peoples Planning and Action Conferences has many outstanding achievements in the development of North Lawndale community. Among these

achievements are two Senior citizens apartment buildings, the lawndale terrace apartments at Roosevelt Road and Kedzie Ave., The Roosevelt Towers Senior citizens apartment building at Roosevelt rd. and St. Louis Ave.

One of the more recent community achievements is THE LAWDALE PLAZA Shopping Center entity. Located on West Roosevelt rd. Between Kedzie and Homan.

THE LAWDALE PLAZA now host some big name stores that includes:

Dominick's fresh store, Starbucks, National City bank, Subway, Mount Sinai medical group medical clinic, and FootAction just to name a few.

FORTIETH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER PROGRAM

Master of Ceremony and Invocation of the 40th anniversary awards dinner celebration was Michael Scott, past President of LPPAC and community advocate, was the Master of Ceremony for the awards portion of the anniversary dinner celebration Invocation A product of the Lawndale Community of Chicago's Westside and the Chicago Public Schools system.

See Anniversary page 14

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Sports & Entertainment

AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz. Film critic



Angelina Jolie in A Mighty Heart

A MIGHTY HEART (*)** "A Mighty Heart" is a widow's personal and tragic account and the search by others into the kidnapping and brutal murder of slain Wall Street Journal reporter, Daniel Pearl in Pakistan.

Given the media attention and relationship to the aftermath following the 9/11 tragedy In his first studio- back project, director Michael Winterbottom delivers a terse and oddly restrained film that has the look but not enough

emotional drive to warrant our attention to this true story. But it also seems to fit the nature of this chameleon, low key British film director

To Winterbottom's credit and Angelina Jolie's commitment, in what could be considered her best performance to date, "A Mighty Heart" offers another glance at Americans caught in the middle of a war torn third world country. Still, The film also serves to better remind us of similar themed films with more anger and passion like Jack Lemmon's painful search for his missing son in director Costa Gavras' 1982's "Missing" or in recent years, Sally Field's motherly fight to get her daughter back from her religious committed third world doctor-husband in "Not With My Daughter".

Angelina Jolie's media savvy to draw enough attention to her celebrity status along with her social concerns to tap a performance out of another topical movie portraying real life, sharp and prickly wife Marianne Pearl, also a journalist who was into her sixth month of pregnancy while with her husband, Daniel (played by Dan

Futterman who also wrote "Capote") covering the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan following the Sept 11 attacks.

The couple was working in Karachi, Pakistan. Where Daniel promised to do one last interview before they returned stateside for the birth of his son, Adam. Daniel was a chasing a story about foiled shoe bomber, Richard Reid.

"A Mighty Heart" is a descent film considering its sad subject matter that still somehow keeps its distance with its audience who might be interested but not engaged enough. With the only real, emotional impact felt only from Jolie's mournful cry when the truth is learned. R; 103min. A Paramount Vantage Picture release - presented at selected theaters

EAGLE VS. SHARK ()** An offbeat, forgettable romantic comedy import from New Zealand, "Eagle Vs. Shark" is a tired and unfulfilling human exercise that creeps along in a non-theatrical, mundane pace from New Zealand comic turned writer-director Taika Waititi.

The film centers around a lonely and laid-off fast food counter waitress, Lily

(Loren Horsley) who finds herself desperately attracted to an even dorkier, video store clerk, Jerrod (Jemaine Clement). So infatuated, Lily invites herself to his costumed birthday party.

Hench, the film's title because she arrives in a shark costume, while Jerrod is dressed as an eagle.

The highlight for this lame party is a video game challenge, in which Lily beats every opponent at the party; in order to purposely lose to Jerrod.

But "Eagle vs. Shark" is a movie that doesn't display enough depth with its character until almost its last reel. But its appears to be too little, too late to spark some energy and substance in this low key and sporadically amusing movie. An offbeat comedy for ordinary, underachieving people who seem trapped inside their bodies trying to find anything or anybody to feel whole. R; 87min. A Miramax Films Release - Presented at Landmark Century Cinema and Evanston for

See Flicks page 14

THINK BEFORE YOU LET IT GO

Jasmine Q. Stuart

Sex is an extremely controversial issue that needs to be properly addressed. The fact of the matter is not only are the children as young as ten discussing sex, many of the teens in the North Lawndale Community are spending a tremendous amount of time blabbing about sex. It's awful to see and hear about the misconception that today's youth have about sex. They don't realize how much of an impact it has on their generation.

"I think sex has a huge impact [on today's younger generation's lives] because it's negatively portrayed in the music videos," said Myleson Collins. "There's a lack of activities for them [which] causes the youth to focus on the wrong things."

Though youth engage in sexual activities, that does not make it appropriate. Sex is an act that has its advantages and disadvantages. Sex is designed for responsible married couples who have the desire to have children, complete their family and start a new generation. Men and women should be financially stable to take care of children. As for those who aren't married (nine times out of ten teenagers aren't), by having sex they are at a high risk of contracting AIDS or STDS. The only way to prevent from contracting either is practice

abstinence and or celibate. Condoms and birth control can only do so much. Use your common sense. The body is a temple.

"Hold on to your innocence," said Lyfe. These are just a few lyrics from Lyfe Jennings song "S.E.X." Don't just give it to anyone. If you have, learn from your mistakes. The music videos are only half of the problem as far as teens hearing about sex. The remainder of the problem is the teens are hearing myth from the friends. The parents aren't doing their job.

"Once it's gone, you'll never get it back," said Lyfe. "Think before you let it go."

"They should be doing their best to make sure their children are informed as well as answering questions without apprehension," James Glover. Parents need to explain to their children girls getting pregnant is not the worst consequence. Being contracted with AIDS and STDS not to mention dying are the worst consequences of having unprotected sex.

"I believe parents should share their personal experience with their kids," said Robin Acre. As a result hopefully they will make wiser decisions.

Jasmine Q. Stuart is an intern for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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West Side Track Teams Need a Place to Call Home

Todd Thomas



North Park College's Track Has the Qualities That the coaches are Seeking



The Track at Douglas Park is in Need of Repairs

Several high schools on the West Side have been patiently building quality track and field teams over the past few years, and they're starting to gain some recognition after strong performances at this spring's state finals. The sky is the limit for the student/athletes but the lack of quality training facilities may hinder their progress.

Currently, there are no top-notch track facilities in the area and most West Side track teams have to travel to compete and to practice at decent tracks. Marshall and North Lawndale College Prep often make the long drive to Eckersall Stadium on the South Side just to practice, or they take the shorter route and work out at Douglas Park's running track, which is used by the entire community and is in disrepair.

"It's falling apart," said North Lawndale coach, Craig Collins. "It's really hard and it's tough on your legs. It's just not one of your better tracks to participate on."

Traveling is also discouraging, says North Lawndale College Prep coach Art Murnan, who is retiring after 20 years of coaching.

"Anytime you start to travel long distances you start to lose kids. When it takes an extra effort to get to where you're going to train they start to drop off," he said.

Track teams without their own facilities have to make do with what they have and they have come up with creative, but difficult ways to train. NLCP trains in hallways and the gymnasium, often sharing the areas with the other schools in the building. Long jumpers and triple jumpers use the high jump mat for landings instead of the required sand pit, and sprinters simply don't have enough space. Hurdling is impossible and it all sets them back when it comes time to compete, but the athletes take it in stride.

"They don't complain," Murnan said. "They just accept it as the reality."

The reality may be a little brighter soon as

Marshall is slated to get a new track and football field within the year. Up to this point they've had to practice in the back of the school on concrete, but they still managed to perform well and had a good showing at the state meet. They should be an even tougher opponent next year according to track coach Reggie Mosby.

"Look what I'm doing with nothing. Just imagine if my team actually had a track to go practice on," Mosby said.

It's unlikely that each school will ever have its own track, so some cooperation will be required between schools to decide what is best overall. Since the Douglas Park track already exists it seems like a logical location for new track says NLCP's Murnan.

"The more realistic thing is for a bunch of schools to get together with Douglas Park and local aldermen, and take the existing track facility and turn it into a true facility," he said.

Marshall's coach Mosby is already thinking cooperatively and he plans on

making the new track something that the whole community can enjoy. He plans on having special events that bring out track stars like Jackie Joyner Kersey and Mike Conley, as well as hosting invitationals and dual meets. Mosby's inspiration for track is starting to be more commonplace these days as track & field tries to make a comeback on the West Side. This is a unique time in track & field for Chicago Public Schools and the opportunity to make a commitment to excellence is there.

"Now there's a whole new young breed of coaches coming into the Chicago Public Schools who I believe are dedicated, committed, and competent," Merman said. "And that's why you're seeing a resurgence of track and field at these schools."

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

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TO COMMENT ON THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES FROM OUR NEWSPAPER

WHAT IT IZ IN THE BIZ

Marquita Ware

*If you let em' they will!
Happy Birthday to my daughter Reginelle, she made 6 today!*

A federal judge ruled that Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson will not have to testify against Denver Nuggets basketball player Allen Iverson when he goes to trial on assault charges later this month. The charges come from a 2005 fight that took place between members of Iverson's security team and customers at a bar in downtown Washington, D.C. Two of the customers filed a lawsuit against Iverson, accusing him of striking one of them with a bottle 50 Cent was not at the bar when the fight broke out, but lawyers for the two victims discovered that 50 knew several members the security team and wanted him to testify about their behavior. "They worked together on previous occasions," attorney Gregory L. Lattimer told *The Associated Press*. Lawyers for 50 argued that since he was not involved in the fight and was not named in the lawsuit, he should not be forced to travel from his Connecticut home to testify at the trial, scheduled to begin June 27. The judge agreed, ruling that she had no jurisdiction over the matter because 50 lived more than 100 miles from the court. The



plaintiffs are asking for more than \$5 million from Iverson and his security guards.

Well if sex ain't the next best thing to getting' money, then why are all the stars getting their freak on. Out of all the people in

the world Tyra Banks is alleged to have a sex tape wandering the streets. Someone is set to release the tape of her and an Italian man who may be Italian basketball player Giancarlo Marcaccini. Not enough info on this matter was given to me so, I will keep you posted.

Robin Givens will play Wendy Williams in the story about her life. Wendy Williams story will be about her rags to riches life and how she made her claim to fame. Dubbed as the Queen of Radio, she has a radio show called The Wendy Williams Experience on 107.5 WBLS in New York City.

QUICKIES:

In October of 2006, Fabolous was shot in front of Diddy's restaurant Justin's and on the way to the hospital the police did a search on the vehicle he was riding in and found two loaded handguns. He was being charged but a judge dismissed the weapons charges against the rapper.

Kelly Rowland was issued a statement saying Beyonce was robbed of her Oscar for her role in *Dreamgirls*. This is what she said, "I'll tell you what, though, Beyonce was robbed of the *Dreamgirls* Oscar. She did a great job. Mind you, that won't be her last opportunity. She'll have plenty of Oscars in

the future." I still can't understand if you have a new album coming out, why are you talking about someone else that is doing much better than you are. And, for the record Beyonce did not deserve an Oscar, she can't act. Have you forgotten about Gold Member, Pink Panther, Carmen, etc. Only reason she really got the part is because she can sing. I don't know why everyone in the music industry think that they can turn into actors. Making videos and making movies are two different things.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T FORGET TO WATCH THE BET AWARDS TUESDAY!!!

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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.nlcn.org. You can post questions for me, other writers and anything/anyone else you want to talk about.

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

Flicks from page 12

CineArts
YOU KILL ME (*)** Being an alcoholic can ruin any guy's career. Especially if that guy happens to be a hit man for the mob. As already noted from HBO's "The Sopranos" and movies like "Analyze This" that firmly established mobsters are human beings that suffer from the same social ills and domestic foibles that was depicted through mob bosses in therapy.

Now we have "You Kill Me", director John Dahl's delightfully dark comedy that gives us a grumpy veteran hit man, Frank Falenczyk (Ben Kingsley) who is forced into going to Alcoholic Anonymous meetings in San Francisco. When his drinking begins to affect his job performance.

When Frank is hired by his uncle, Ramon (Phillip Baker Hall), an Irish-polish mob boss to whack a rival mobster, O'Leary (Dennis Farina) to prevent his New York meeting with the Chinese mob who are willing to provide financial backing that would enable O'Leary to take over all of Ramon's Buffalo territory.

But instead, Frank literally drinks himself to sleep in his car and misses his assignment that was departing from the airport. Once reliable to the only job he was good at; Frank is sent by Ramon's son, Stef (Marcus Thomas) to meet up with Dave (Bill Pullman), a realtor who sets Frank up with an apartment and a side job working at a funeral home.

It's made clear that Frank must attend his AA meetings as Dave will report to Stef on his progress in the program. While Ramon and his associates try to diplomatically handle O'Leary who begins to break down their empire.

Director John Dahl's approach successful creates a separate yet familiar world through these distinctive characters. Dahl has a wonderful knack for making little big movies that are made into cinematic gems like "You Kill Me" that still comes off interesting and engaging enough to hit its target to our amusement and satisfaction.

R; 92min. An IFC Films Release
 - Presented at AMC River East, Landmark Century Cinema and Evanston CineArts

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER ()** Lately, most superheroes are in some kind of therapeutic, moral crisis; while they battle against Earth-threatening super-foes. The trouble with "Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer" doesn't have enough stress to match up to the comic book action.

Out of all the comic book superheroes brought to the big screen, The Fantastic Four don't seem to be too much in turmoil or over burden by their heroic obligations since their 2005 screen introduction.

For part of this sequel, the concerns seem to be around the impending wedding ceremony in New York between scientist Reed Richards aka "Mr. Fantastic" (Ioan Gruffudd) and the Invisible Woman, Susan Storm (Jessica Alba) in a promise

See page 15

Anniversary from page 11



Scott graduated from Fordham University earning a B.A. in Urban Planning. Scott launched his career working with Pyramid West Development Corporation, where he was vice-president.

While there, he was instrumental in many North Lawndale ventures such as the rehabilitation of 1,500 housing units, building a 250 unit senior citizen center, a nursing home, and the establishment of the Community Bank of Lawndale.

Scott hand out the prestigis awards to seven person desinated as those that have given there time talent and energy to making the North Lawndale a better community to live.

Below is a list of the awardees.

The special thing about the awards that were given ot is that each was named after another individual from the Lawndale community that has in past years given thier time, talent and energy to the community.

The Distinguished National Service Award given to: Jacquelyn Heard, Press Secretary, Mayor Richard M. Daley, City of Chicago

The Rozell R. Neshitt Community Education Award given to: Ulyetta Miles Our Lady of Westside School, The Geneva Bey Community Service Award given to: Blanche Suggs North Lawndale Small Grants Human Development Corporation, The Rev. Shelvin J. Hall Community Religion Award given to: Elder Steve Nelson, Pastor, Christian Love M.B. Church

The Ann M. Joyner Community Health Award given to: Dr. Cynthia Thomas, Imam Health Care

The Lawndale Terrace Tenant Of The Year Award given to: Juanita Hudson

And finally

The Roosevelt Towers -1 Tenant Of The Year Award given to: Rosa Hardiman

All awardee's gave a wonderful acceptance speech

In retrospect, in a candidate interview I had with Mr. Jesse Miller a former Alderman of the 24th ward from 1991 to 1995, and past president of the LPPAC, we learned a great deal about the forty-year history of The Lawndale peoples planning and action committee.

According to Mr. Jesse Miller the LPPAC is a forty-year involvement with the community starting in 1965 and 1966 with an organization called the West side organization by the end of 1966 Dr. Martin Luther King came to Chicago's Lawndale community and the Lawndale freedom movement was begun. This laity to the organization of a group called the

See page 15

ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David H. Schultz



Samuel L. Jackson in Black Snake Moan

BLACK SNAKE MOAN (*)** Samuel L. Jackson stars as a God-fearing southern musician who literally feels the blues he usually sings about.

Christina Ricci in her most provocative role plays the town's notorious nymphomaniac "white trash", stemming from a childhood abuse incident her store clerk mom never prevented.

Ricci's character goes back to her "old" ways after caring for her boyfriend (Justin Timberlake) who leaves for military duty. Soon after she is found sexually assaulted and battered on a dirt road by Jackson who decides to chain her up to cure her and learn to have better regard for herself as a woman.

Timberlake's character is sent back home for his anxiety attacks and thinks the wrong thing when he's told about his girl being with Jackson. By this time, Ricci's character has progressed enough to marry Timberlake in order to give the same support and care in their marriage she did before.

I guess this kind of human progress is called "baby steps". As "Hustle and Flow" writer-director Craig Brewer's second character-driven, screen opus is interesting, even though there is a fair amount of contradiction through its story.

But at least, seeing a black man chain down a rambunctious white woman in the deep, sweaty South tries to conjure up the notion that perhaps slavery has gone full circle from this initial appearance in this intriguing film. R; 115min. Paramount Vantage Home Video; Available: June 26

SHOOTER (1/2)** A routine action keeps this conspiracy thriller moving from "Training Day" director Antoine Fuqua who

manages some thought behind the cliché moments. Following his Oscar nominated role in "The Departed", Mark Wahlberg gets to be intense, physical and a little smart as a highly trained Marine Corp scout sniper who quit after being misled during a mission in Ethiopia that killed his best friend.

But the marksman is naturally equally misled back into service for a mysterious Colonel (Danny Glover) who claims to need his expertise to prevent a Presidential assassination in Philadelphia. But the intended target turns out to be the Archbishop of Ethiopia with Wahlberg's character becoming a fugitive when blackmailed for the crime. Michael Pena plays the rookie street cop who thinks Wahlberg might be innocent and joins him on his quest. Ned Beatty is wasted as the crooked politician aligns with Glover to profit off of Ethiopia's wealth.

Director Antoine Fuqua is skillful enough to keep the movie tight through its action that moves and dialogue that relatively smart through Wahlberg's "MacGuyver"- type resourcefulness. R; 128min. Paramount Home Video; Available: June 26

Also: "The Many Adventures of Winnie The Pooh: The Friendship Edition" (Walt Disney Home Video) provides a collection of animated shorts based on the A.A. Milne stories and characters that includes the making of the theatrical featurette... "Miss Potter" (The Weinstein Company) is Renee Zellweger as this turn of the country independent woman who authored those "Peter Rabbit" stories

David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Send Your LETTER TO THE EDITOR to 1211 S. Western, Suite 203, Chicago, IL 60608 or email to Wilbertb@nlcn.org

MOVIE NEWS

David Schultz

This year's best actor Oscar winner **Forest Whitaker** has joined another recent Oscar winner **Denzel Washington** in "The Great Debaters", a fact based drama that Washington is currently directing for The Weinstein Company in Louisiana.

Washington who has long developed this project as a directing vehicle, decided recently to play the key supporting role as the volatile coach who molds a group of students from a small college in East Texas into an elite debate team that challenges Harvard's championship squad.

Whitaker plays the father to one of the students, who finds himself competing with the debate coach for the loyalties of his son. **Oprah Winfrey** and **Kate Forte** are producing the film through Harpo Films with **Joe Roth** and **Todd Black**. **Washington** recently completed "American Gangster" with **Russell Crowe** for director **Ridley Scott** via Universal / Imagine. **Whitaker** completed a independent film, **Winged Creatures** for director **Rowan Woods** and

joins **Keanu Reeves** in "The Night Watchman" for Fox Searchlight and New Regency.

Currently directing Warner Bros. Pictures' big screen version of "Kung Fu", **Allen and Albert Hughes**, best known for directing "Menace II Society" and last helm "From Hell" with **Johnny Depp** in 2001 has now been assigned by the same studio to direct the post-apocalyptic drama, "Book of Eli" for producers **Joel Silver**, **Susan Downey** and **Erik Olsen**. Once casting is confirmed "Eli" could begin filming later this year.

After years of turning down film projects, the **Hughes** brothers have gotten busy on the development front. The brothers are also attached to direct "The Ice Man", a fact based drama about **Richard Kuklinski**, a serial killer who found his calling as a Mafia hit man

David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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Anniversary from page 14

Lawndale union to in slums in 1996. Mr. Jessie Miller in this interview said he applauds the forty-year effort in the achievements of the LPPAC and wishes them luck in their future endeavors. But pointed out that the LPPAC may need to go back to some basics and face some of the issues that are plaguing the North Lawndale community at this time.

At a time when it seems there are no community leaders coming forth and I mean grass-roots community leaders such as Jesse Miller himself. It is good to know that there are still people in the North Lawndale community that know the history and fought the fight for so many years and this case he wanted to say good luck LPPAC for another forty-year run.

Congress Danny K Davis Spoke and gave high praise for The Lawndale Peoples Planning and Action Conferences outstanding achievements in the north Lawndale community. Congressman Davis also stated that any community organization that has managed to keep its doors open for 40 years must know what they're doing.

After a good full course dinner complements of Lawndale Peoples Planning and Action Conferences great awards presentation and great acceptance speech's, Rev. Shelvin J. Hall gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

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Flicks from page 13

a normal life that becomes postponed.

And there's the comedic banter between the overly confident and playful Human Torch, Johnny Storm (Chris Evans) always jesting in insults and wise cracks on co-member, the boulder hulky The Thing, Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis) is kept grounded by the inspirational words from his interracial love affair with Alisa (Kerry Washington).

The Foursome encounters intergalactic warrior, The Silver Surfer (voiced by Laurence Fishburne who falls a bit short of the James Earl Jones' imposing and deep vocal resonance that made Star Wars' Darth Vader's omnibus presence so distinctive and memorable).

And there is your paradox of a dilemma for our heroes to battle against two foes with different agendas in mind for planet Earth. Sounds like the villains could use a little therapy session. While the moviegoer might tolerate less being more, if not enough from this popcorn movie.

PG; 91min. A 20th Century Fox Pictures Release

David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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Mobil from front page

diabetic primarily because of eating a lot of greasy foods. Mr. Jordan said, "I use to get up every morning and eat fried food at the restaurant and over a period of time, after eating a lot of fried foods I developed diabetes. The medicine is stabilizing the disease."

This year alone, thousands of people across Illinois have been diagnosed with kidney failure because they did not receive early screening and prevention services. The Kidney Mobile will travel across the state, providing screenings, prevention programs and educational materials to communities in the greatest need, targeting African-American and Latino communities.

Mr. Alexander Cox, age 78, visited the Kidney Mobile to have his blood pressure checked. "I've never drank and never smoked. I might have some bad eating habits and I still check my blood pressure twice a day with a machine I have at home. I have been married over 40 years," Mr. Cox said.

The procedure included completing an evaluation form called the Universal Hypertension Form. I also filled out the form. It asks questions like your race, gender, age, weight, and potassium (salt) intake. Next we proceeded to take a test to check your blood pressure. When the test is completed, the information is then taken back to the Dept of public health and entered into a

data base to keep track of people with hypertension.

The main reason why people get kidney disease is uncontrolled high blood pressure, accompanied by diabetics. If it has been determined that a person has high blood pressure the Mobile unit refers them to their doctor, so they can get the appropriate treatment. My blood pressure was a little higher than normal, but the immediate cause is dot to the hot whether and not enough water intake.

Normal blood pressure is below 120/80. High blood pressure could be hereditary or could result from your diet or and stress. If you have constant high blood pressure, see a doctor.

Robert Hearn, driver and medical assistant for the Kidney Mobile said; "You take the test to save your life. People should exercise 2 to 3 times a week and keep their weight down."

Your Kidneys are the primary organ that eliminates waste from your body. If you loose the function of your kidneys, you will need dialysis treatment to stay alive. So drink plenty of water, stay away from fried foods, get plenty of exercise, and have your blood pressure checked regularly.

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

Exceptional from page 3

the poetry she's not La'Rie, she's portraying another person. It takes her 2 to 3 weeks to memorize a poem depending on the length of it. Her advice for anyone who wants to memorize poetry: "If you start out with a poem you really don't know, don't rush. Take your time. You won't be able to memorize it all at once. It takes time. This is for adults and kids."

She said if you are on stage and you mess up a line, just keep going. "I just figure, sometimes people won't know you messed up the line."

Her advice for grownups: If you want your child to do something they don't want to do, don't push them. Let them do something they like to do and help them. But don't push them to do something that they don't want to do." This summer La'Rie plans to work on her math, and take a Disney cruise.

If you would like to commission La'Rie Suttle for a performance call Ms. Flora Suttle at 773-808-9485.

Other poems that La'Rie recites are Maya Angelou's poems; Ain't That Bad, and Phenomenal Woman. She also recites Delta Woman by Lisa Biggs, and State of Mind by an unknown author. She's open to learn new poems to perform on request.

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

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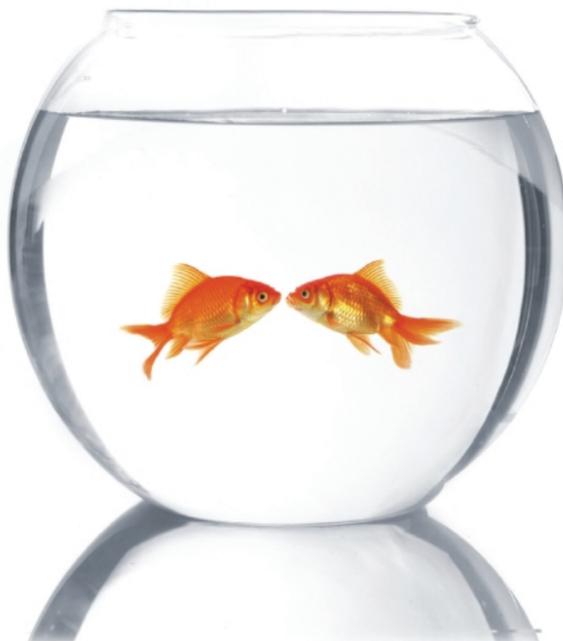
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