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THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

CHA Opens Wait List Lottery Citywide

Megan Sieberg



Lewis Jordan, CEO of the Chicago Housing Authority, speaks at press conference

It has been 10 years since the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) opened its Wait List for federal housing choice vouchers, also known as Section 8. On April 17, low and moderate-income Chicagoans were given access to applications for the lottery, from which 40,000 qualifying applications will be selected. According to Maricela Garcia, Executive Director of Latinos United in Chicago, the re-opening of Section 8 comes at a crucial time.

"This is a critical moment to open the Wait List because many working families in Chicago cannot make ends meet due to economic uncertainties that we are currently experiencing," she said at a press conference last Thursday.

Lewis Jordan, CEO of the

Chicago Housing Authority, also spoke at the press conference. He expressed his enthusiasm about helping individuals and families overcome the current housing crisis in the United States.

"When you look at the mortgage crisis in our country, when you look at the high levels of need, CHA is very, very pleased to be in the forefront of being able to address some of those needs," he said.

To qualify for a voucher, individuals must make no more than \$26,000 annually, and families must make no more than \$50,000 annually. The voucher reduces rent payments to no more than 30 percent to 40 percent of adjusted income. The remainder of the rent is paid directly to the landlord by

See CHA page 6

INFANT IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS WEEK

Zaki A. Muhammad



Ms. Lashawn Martin and son, Anonio Green

Data Coordinator Janice M. Hill of Mt. Sinai Hospital has worked tirelessly for 11 years to immunize infants. Armed most recently with State and City Proclamations her efforts have

established April 19th through the 26th as Infant Awareness Week. Beginning her crusade at 3200 W. Roosevelt she and her assistant Ms. Martha Williams Data Entry Specialist worked in conjunction

with the City of Chicago's Public Health Department who provided The Chicago Care Van along with cooperation of Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Illinois to accomplish her goal of immunizing children. "I enjoy working with parents, especially expectant mothers giving them preventive healthcare information" said Ms. Hill.

In addition, Ms. Laura Bahena of Sinai Community Institute of North Lawndale Immunization, Poison Control and All Kids Programs presented information about how to prevent household tragedies due to commonly held ingredients. In the course of the day, attendants at the medical van were given 4 shots. They were Hepatitis (B) and Hepatitis (A) that protect a child against Hepatitis that can cause liver damage. It is best when administered at birth then 1 to 4 months and finally 6 to 18 months. Hib protects against Haemophilus Influenzae (b) which causes brain infection and brain damage and is given in stages starting at 2 months, 4 months,

6 months, and completed by 12 to 15 months. DTap helps the body defend itself against Diphtheria, which is a breathing disorder that can lead to paralysis and heart failure, as well as Pertussis commonly known as (whooping cough) and Tetanus that causes painful muscle spasms and possibly lockjaw. It is given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years of age.

Polio (IPV) is a part of the immunization program to help prevent Polio and it is given in 4 doses beginning at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 4 to 6 years old. Ms. Hill noted that the world's best-known sufferer of Polio is the Pope who owing to the disease as a child and lack of immunization now walks with a limp.

MMR (Measles Mumps and Rubella) guard against measles and is given to children in two stages at 12 to 15 months and 4 to 6 years of age. They help to protect a child against the

See Awareness page 6

JOB FAIR AT HOMAN SQUARE PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES

James Glover

On Friday, April 18th the City of Chicago along with the offices of Congressman Danny K. Davis put on a job fair featuring more than 20 companies in an effort to improve the situation of many west side residents who have had trouble finding employment in recent downtrodden economic times.

"We understand that the economy has been in bad shape for everyone recently, and that finding gainful employment has become a serious problem in this country, but it has gotten especially worse in communities such as North Lawndale, where meaningful jobs are hard enough to find already when you're not provided the basic resources in the

first place," said Anita Winfield from City of Chicago Department of Economic Opportunity. "If we can bring these jobs and life opportunities to the public in a more accessible form, I think we can make a difference in the neighborhood by putting a lot of people to work as well as keeping people in the North Lawndale community employed by Lawndale businesses, just as other communities do."

The fair was hosted by the Homan Square Park District and participants of the job fair included Dominick's, Murray's Auto, AutoZone, Hollywood Video, Blockbuster, McDonald's, Payless Shoes, Foot Locker, Foot Action,

Family Dollar, Target, Wal-Mart, Simply Fashions and AJ Wright among other retailers. Also in attendance were the United States Army and United States Navy.

While talking about the US Navy, Lt. Joshua Cottonworth points to all the recent issues regarding the war and the negative reaction that has caused upon recruiters but points to a lot of the benefits of becoming a serviceman. "I can fully understand the concerns of young men and women and especially parents when you look at the news and see some of the unfortunate casualties we suffer. The point I would most stress no one likes war, but they happen. For those looking for challenges and a good

road to becoming a better person, with finances for school and pretty good financial stability, to at least see what we can offer to the individual."

Close to 100 people attended the job fair to take advantage of job opportunities that many feel are far and few in between here in North Lawndale. "I am glad some people took the time to get together and make things happen for us, especially the youth who have such a hard time getting jobs and therefore keeping us out of trouble spots," said Alicia Griffin, who managed to attend the job fair and walk away with employment from Payless.

Her older brother Blake, who signed on to talk more about the

Navy, agreed. "These are good opportunities for us here in the minority community, where a lot of chances are brought directly to our attention. I hope that more and more people walk through the doors here at the fair and take advantage, because more people with steady incomes keeps more teens and young adults off the streets. The less violence the better, hopefully this job fair is a step in the right direction."

James Glover is a North Lawndale resident, an nlcn staff writer. He is also involved in non profit work and community organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at www.nlc.org.

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Visit us on our website at www.nlc.org for more articles, photos, information and more

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 2008 Focus

Spirituality & Financial Literacy

The primary focus for Strategic Human Services and the North Lawndale Community News during 2008 will be Church, Financial Literacy and Technology. There are many problems that face North Lawndale and its neighboring communities. All are the most important to any individual when it is his, her, or their biggest battle.

Many people believe in God. Churches, Synagogues, or Temples are good places, albeit not the only places, to develop a connection. There are many churches on the Westside and in Chicago, with the Faith based Initiatives, they have developed more outreach into the communities with programs and advocacy. We want more people to know that church is a great resource that helps improve the lifestyle of individuals and families.

There is still a great economic inequality. Being financially, unwise and uneducated, has created an uncountable loss for many in our coverage area.

The National Black Caucus of States Institute.(NBCSI) recognizes that while personal finance is important to everyone—lack of personal financial knowledge, increased debt and access to financial services has had a negatively disproportional impact on families—particularly African American families with limited resources.

Data indicate the overwhelming gap of economic resources as African Americans lag in home and business ownership, lack of savings accounts and lower credit scores.

There are alarming statistics that help frame these concerns:

- According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development 60% of African American families have zero or negative net financial assets.

- The average Black household has 54 cents of income and 12 cents of wealth for every dollar earned and held by whites.

- In the United States, 10% of the families control 90 % of financial wealth.

- A consumer with a low credit score of 560 compared to a consumer with a high credit score of 720 will pay approximately \$400 a month more or \$4,800 more a year—if they qualify for a loan.

- A disproportionate number of low credit scores are found in predominantly African American communities.

If there is going to be long-term improvement in this situation, NBCSI believes that it will begin with economic Education. From the Economic Empower Forums of the National Black Caucus of States Institute website. www.nbcsi.org.

SHS believes becoming financially literate can help solve the challenges above, and others, while also helping to create a better community for all.

We also will continue using technology to help educate, connect you to these resources. Throughout the year, we will connect you with resources and residents working in these areas. Check out our website and links such as the Lawndale Beehive. 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 a God connected, financially wise people, knowing, loving and caring about each other more, we can more participate and benefit in making our communities model neighborhoods. We hope by reading this community newspaper, you will become or remain inspired to keep moving forward to a better life wisely, overcoming 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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THE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM

This program seeks to promote resident participation and leadership through neighborhood-based projects. In order to encourage and support the work of resident-based groups the NGP continues to award grants to projects that address neighborhood concerns; demonstrate strong neighborhood support and collaboration among residents whose mission is to improve the quality of life in North Lawndale.



Program Guidelines:

- Mission of the project must be a charitable purpose that addresses neighborhood concerns
- All projects must be resident-led (collaborations with community-based orgs are permissible)
- Must focus within North Lawndale community boundaries (Eisenhower to Cermak; Cicero to Western)
- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status is not required
- Organizational income/revenue must not exceed \$50,000
- Current applicants and prior year recipients of regular Steans Family Foundation funding may not apply

An information session will be held at Homan Square* on April 28; 6-8pm and applications are due on May 15 by 7pm. Applications may be submitted in person on May 15 from 12-7pm at Homan Square* where qualified staff will be on hand to answer questions. Applications also may be submitted directly to Goodcity at 5049 W. Harrison St., Chicago, 60644 (312-322-3000)

**The Homan Square location is at 3333 W. Arthington; 2nd Floor Room C.*

- All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of community stakeholders
- Grant awards will range from \$250-\$2,500
- Grantees must adhere to strict grant reporting requirements

**To download an application , please visit our website
www.goodcitychicago.org/NGP or call 312-322-3000**

This Program is generously funded by:
The Steans Family Foundation

AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, Film critic

88 MINUTES (*1/2) If this film were done in real time, then this might have heightened the suspense and creditability. Instead, "88 Minutes" starts off like one of those horror stalker movies before it weaves into a cat and mouse mind-game of torment and body counts that eventually reveals itself as an implausible, cheap thriller.

As career choices goes, this isn't a good one for Al Pacino who hasn't made a movie this lame since "Revolution" and "Bobby Deerfield". While Pacino seems to be suffering from a bad hair day in his portrayal of forensic doctor-professor Jack Gramm who provides testimony that convicts a potential serial killer, Jon Forster (Neil McDonough) who tortured two Asian twin girls in their apartment.

But during the attack, when the twin's house cat distracts the killer, one of the twins manages to scream for help to scare off the sadistic attacker who killed her sister. Forster was with only the eyewitness account of the surviving twin and Dr. Gramm's damaging testimony that "Forster would kill again if released."

While Forster is convicted and sentenced to

death row, Dr. Gramm begins to receive an electronically altered voice on his cell phone that begins to countdown "death threat" warning that he's got "88 minutes to live". From this point on the whole film becomes a contrast of contradictions.

Case in point, Gramm flashes back to the tavern celebration with a group of women over Forster's appeal denial. All the women revolving around Gramm's life are hot sexy babes.

While Gramm is mentioned as a heavy drinking womanizer who could bed down with any of them, one by one in his swank, ultra security bungalow while driving around in a hot Porsche. (What college professor lives like that?)

With a certain amount of self-assured arrogance in his character's demeanor Jack Gramm (Al



Al Pacino and Benjamin McKenzie in 88 Minutes.

Pacino) is steadfast in his belief in Forster's guilt and being a serial killer (already labeled the "Seattle Slayer") who should never be released from prison.

From the outset, the film tries to mislead us, as it does initially to Pacino's character who believes the

execution-bound Forster has a "male accomplice" doing his bidding from the death threat phone calls to the copy cat murders

As the FBI and Gramm's cop associate, Frank Parks (William Forsythe) begin to suspect the doctor for the murder of one of his students who celebrated together at a tavern the night before, the news of Forster's appellate denial.

There are many diversions along the way

that leads us to a ridiculous conclusion with a female killer being revealed as the one who takes on a cult-like devotion to Forster and gives up her legal career to help fulfill his prophesy on Dr. Gramm. How inane does this "fatal attraction" sound? If this movie were reworked as aforementioned earlier in this review: fleshing out the characters' background beyond a few dialogue mentions and providing some clever suspense.

The filmmakers might have salvaged this shabby thriller instead of a masquerade of the genre in this swallow attempt that is nowhere near worthy of Pacino's talents and ability. R; 107min. A Tri-Star Picture Released through Columbia Pictures – Presented at selected theaters

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

Paying Your Bills Electronically

K L Gillespie

Electronic bill payment is an easy and convenient way to manage your bills. Not only can it save you time from writing checks each month, but it can also help you save money on stamps and possible late fees. With an average of 20 bills and financial statements each month, a single household can save up to \$100 on postage each year and another \$50 per year on the cost of checks and late charges, according to NACHA, the Electronic Payments Association.

So how does this process work? Electronic bill payment allows a company, to whom you owe money, to automatically deduct a payment from your personal checking or savings account on a specified day each month. Most companies will require you to fill out an authorization form which gives them the right to collect the payment and some require a voided check to verify your account information. In the event you wish to stop an automatic transaction, you can do so by contacting your bank and also sending a written request to the bank and company, notifying them of your intent.

Many types of payments qualify for electronic bill pay, but the process works best for those that are recurring (the same amount each month). For example, mortgage, insurance, or car loans, are good candidates for automatic bill pay because these bills must be paid each month and the amounts have already been established and agreed upon by yourself and the company. Bills, however, that may vary in amount from month to month or that may be subject to error, such as a phone or light bills, should probably continue to be paid by you once you've confirmed the amount is correct.

One of the greatest benefits of electronic bill pay is that payments are guaranteed to arrive on time. "You don't have to be in town to pay your bills, everything's setup in advance. So if you're on vacation or out of town, that's not something you have to worry about," says Diane Freeman of the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta. Also, electronic payments are safer than paper payments. According to a study by Javelin Research & Strategy (2006), almost 85% of identity theft cases are due to "offline" transactions such as lost checkbooks and stolen paper bills, statements and check payments. With Direct Payment, fewer people see your personal information.

Although electronic bill pay is relatively safe, it's still important to trust the company you're allowing to initiate transactions from your account. Also, because you're not manually making payments, it can be easy to forget to balance your account monthly. Mistakes can be made, so reviewing the transactions reported on your monthly statement for accuracy puts you in a better position to quickly dispute any payments that you did not authorize. And, if you know of incoming debits, you can properly ensure that the funds are in your account to cover the payment. This can help prevent unnecessary overdraft fees and help you better maintain control over your finances.

Katherine Gillespie is NLCN's Financial Columnist. She is a North Lawndale resident and she has an MBA from the Illinois Institute of Technology. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

2008 North Lawndale Spirit of Youth Development Awards

We are excited to announce the winners who have done outstanding work in the North Lawndale community. Each person nominated deserves praise for being a community leader who continues to make an important impact in the community. Nominees included people who live or work in North

Lawndale and are dedicated to the development and empowerment of youth in the community. Candidates also have a broad range of activities and interests in North Lawndale. The Spirit of Youth Development Award recognizes people who have contributed to the overall health and well-being of North Lawndale youth. Recipients of the award reflect the broad spectrum of work in the community,

Contributions to North Lawndale youth do not go unnoticed by local stakeholders and residents which is why Harris Bank supports the community by thanking everyday heroes.

HARRIS FOUNDATION

The Harris Bank Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Harris Bank was established in 1953 to make grants to educational, cultural and community based organizations. In 2001, the Foundation

Board made a strategic decision to focus their philanthropic efforts in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood. The Harris Bank Foundation currently focuses grant making in the areas of education, community development and financial literacy in the North Lawndale community.

STEANS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Steans Family Foundation concentrates its grant making and programs in North Lawndale, a revitalizing neighborhood on Chicago's West side. By dedicating time, money, and skills, this small family foundation works in partnership with local residents and institutions to build and enhance the North Lawndale Community. The Foundation's work supports the idea that effective revitalization can occur within the embedded social and economic networks that create and sustain communities.

Learn more about the Foundation at www.steansfamilyfoundation.org.

NOMINEES:

Willie Bobbitt * Rebecca Boncher * Timeka Cooley

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Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for Chicago's STEELERS

Zaki A. Muhammad



Steelers performing live

"Steelers" one of Chicago's premiere historical vocal groups merits induction in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for over 35 years of musical genius and community service. It all began like so many other legendary groups, singing on the street corner. In 1954, they were teens singing at the "Precious Blood" Church that provided solace to the Community's youth by providing a recreation place for social activities.

Long before the days immortalized by "Cooley High" these artists were living and hone their craft. Before the blue light in the basement, these young men were creating solid soulful songs.

At first, it was three brothers and two friends. Alonzo Wells aka "Kool" singing Baritone, Bass Frank Allen, George Wells 2nd Tenor and lead with Leonard Truss 1st Tenor, and Wes Wells singing lead. Lorenzo "Go Go" Johnson later joined singing Tenor. Today, only Kool, Wes, and Go Go remain as Steelers. Nevertheless, the soulful sound is still there.

Chi town was at one time, where there were so many record companies competing for black talent.

"The group was formed on the West Side in 1965, and not long afterward made its first record with veteran producer Al Smith on the glow Star label, "Crying Bitter Tears." The song featured excellent soul harmonies and used highly effective switch-off leads with falsetto the primary lead. "The Flame Remains," from 1966, was almost an equally appealing record, but neither sold much.

According to Dee Duncan in the book, *Chicago Soul*, "The Steelers only scored a national hit after they left Crash. The 1969 song, "Get it from the Bottom," written by Wes Wells and Al Smith, produced by Smith and Calvin Carter was apparently impressive enough for Columbia to pick it up and release it on its Date subsidiary. The zesty up-tempo number, reminiscent of the Esquires sound, made it on Cash box's R & B chart for three weeks. The Steelers never had

another national hit, but they never called it quits. In the late 1980's they were still performing on the West Side and still coming out with records."

The Steelers did not disappear. They continued with their harmonious vocalizing and recording by creating hits such as "Ain't no Joke When it Comes to Dope" in 1990 and "Delicious" in 1999. Some of the forgotten history of this group that is now being written is this fact. While many artists were only concerned with their career, these men had a conscience. These men worked inside of the city as "Ambassadors" for peace by performing for the first Mayor Daley and keeping the attention of the youngsters on good sounds and trying to keep violence from spreading throughout the city by taking to the streets on the "Soul Mobile." "Soul Mobile" went from one part of the black community to the other to in their words "Help Keep a Cool Summer." Their co-star was the Duke of Earl better known as Gene Chandler. They also talked about the Late Great Sam Cooke and how he had wanted to get them to record with the label he was developing shortly before his untimely death. And unfortunately how they did not act decisively and take him up on his offer.

As far as legends go, they have performed with artists like The Immortal Brook Benton, Gene Chandler, Mel & Tim, Tyrone Davis, Jerry "The Ice-Man" Butler, Rufus "Funky Chicken" Thomas and daughter Carla "Gee Whizz" Thomas, Little Milton, Otis Clay, Stevie Wonder, The Chi-Lites, The Dells, The Eldorados, The Magnificents, The Impressions, Gladys Knight & the Pips, The O'Jay's, Earth Wind & Fire, Ohio Express, Bloodstone, Enchantment, Blackstreet, Crucial Conflict, Casper, Da Brat (Shawntae Harris), Rock super groups like "the Who," Jefferson Airplane, and Black Oak Arkansas.

As the Presidential Race began, Alonzo "Kool" Wells had a dream about the current Democratic hopeful Sen. Barack Obama that inspired him to write a song that depicts what he would like to see happen during this race.

Lead singer Wes Wells in looking back over their long career in entertainment said the most memorable thing he could not forget was "They used to paint a mustache on me so that I could get onstage. I wasn't really supposed to be there but the fake mustache allowed me to get onstage and perform." he stated as he laughed thinking about the early days of their stage performances. He continued by saying on a serious note, "When prayer was taken out of schools, it was a mistake.

It helped to make a lot of bad things happen."

Alonzo "Kool" Wells said that "I would welcome the opportunity to speak with young people today about how it was in those days. Not from the stage but going from class to class and talking with them about how to improve themselves. Education has always been the key to getting ahead and really nothing has changed."

Lorenzo "Go Go" Johnson started as he said basically being the valet of the group. In that day there was not the term gopher, but due to his desire to be in and around the group his life was changed. With the passing of the other members and by being with the group he was able to add his ability to croon. He said, "Today is a different time. It is so easy to download material and to sell it electronically. A lot of our music is being played, but we are not receiving royalties."

Radio and the entire music business has changed quite a lot over the past years since these artists began their career. But they still sound good and are not going to stop.

Chicago Music Awards gave the Steelers some of their due in the industry by awarding them a Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to the music scene for over 35 years at their 27th annual awards ceremony this past January.

Saturday April 26, at 8am, they will perform their hit "Leave Those Guns Behind" to address the violence that has plagued the city at Rainbow Push Headquarters. In addition, the newly created "Obama's Gonna Do It" will be unveiled. We are also waiting for the release of "Here We Go Again" on Farish Street Records that is about to drop.

With all the time and contributions they have given to the city and to the business in front of the public and behind the scenes to make Chicago a better place to live for everyone they



The Steelers, Kool, Wes, and Go Go

should be drafted into the Rock & Roll Hall of fame.

To make it happen, contact the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on line at www.rock&rollhalloffame.com. For bookings call 773/216-0354 or Marsha Thomas at 708/259-6996.

Zaki A. Muhammad is a West Side resident and writer. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.



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Scammers Con West Side Homeowner

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Ms. Lee (pseudonym) said she was desperate to save her home from foreclosure and went into a land contract thinking she was getting help from a reputable mortgage company. Within the year, she discovered her name had been removed from the title of a home that had been in her family for 38 years.

Ms. Lee said she had fallen behind on her mortgage payments due to the loss of two monthly incomes of relatives who had passed. Two men approached her from United Mortgage and offered her a way to save her property from foreclosure.

They told her they could help her with her mortgage payments if she went into a land contract with them. They would sign onto the deed with her, help her pay the mortgage, and within a year remove their name from the deed. But instead, she lost her property to people who were not with United Mortgage.

"The next thing I knew, we're getting court papers to come into an eviction court," Lee said. She ended up having to pay rent to live in her own home.

Ofelia Navarro of the Spanish Coalition for Housing said there are a lot of situations like this happening to homeowners and it is called rescue fraud. "They approach people and they paint a pretty picture saying they will purchase the property and make the mortgage payments for a year, and when you're in a more stable position after a year you'll be able to buy the property back," she said. "People are desperate and they sign over the title."

In the past, she said if there was equity in the

property, the scammer would take out another mortgage on the property and the homeowner would continue to get foreclosure letters.

"Now because so many do not have the equity, they do these insurance scams where they burn down the property and collect the insurance."

That is what happened to Ms. Lee. Although, she said, there was equity in her home, the culprits collected money from a fire that suddenly happened while she was tenant paying rent. She is now living in an apartment.

Navarro said it is extremely important for people needing help avoiding foreclosure to contact their lender directly or go to a HUD certified counseling agency.

"By connecting with 311 or going to www.ida.gov they will be able to connect with a reputable counseling agency that can guide them through the process of reestablishing their mortgage and trying to save their home."

Ms. Lee said she wants her story told so that it won't happen to anybody else. "It's easy for them to find you," she said. "They see who's on a list of foreclosure and hunt you down."

"It sounded good. That's why I went for it. But crooks are out here and people have worked to hard to get their properties to let these crooks come and steal it."

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

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POLICE ROUNDUP

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

Violent weekend leaves 7 dead, dozens wounded

The most violence-plagued weekend in 2008 left a total of 7 dead and 36 wounded citywide.

Monique Bond, a Chicago police department spokesperson, said proactive measures are being taken to prevent this type of weekend in the very near future. She said police Supt. Jody Weiss will deploy SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactical) teams throughout the various hot spots in the city. These officers will be deployed in battle gear, she said.

“We haven’t done this in a while,” Bond said. “It’s an aggressive message that law enforcement is taking this very seriously.

“At this point, we have to take necessary measures to demonstrate that violence will not be tolerated. Sometimes a visible presence sends a louder message,” she said.

Of the 36 shootings that occurred between Friday and Sunday, 14 are believed to be gang-related. Of those shot, seven were juveniles including five who were outdoors beyond the curfew limits.

Most of the shootings occurred on the city’s South Side, including one in which a businessman lost his life, apparently at the hands of one of his employees. That victim was identified as 36-year-old Marcus Hendricks, who owned a plumbing business in the 700 block of West 115th Place.

Police alleged in a complaint that Hendricks was shot to death by 39-year-old Bennie Teague of the 6200 block of South Sacramento.

Teague was ordered held without bond in connection with Hendricks’ death. Police reports also indicate that Teague was engaged in a shootout with them, using an AK-47 assault weapon. The weapon was recovered.

Teague was once charged in the shooting death of another man in 2001, but was acquitted of those charges.

Others fatally wounded during the weekend were 18-year-old Melvin Thomas of Harvey, IL; 18-year-old Rhonell Savala of the 9700 block of South Hoxie; 65-year-old Ricardo Sanchez of the 8400 block of South Exchange; 26-year-old Michael Giles of the 300 block of North Avers; and 28-year-old Raul Lemus of the 4600 block of South Talman.

Meanwhile, a 25-year-old man was shot and killed early Monday in the 800 block of South Karlov. That victim was identified as Edward Black.

Police reports indicate Black was with friends just after 12:30 a.m. when a gunman approached and fired several shots striking Black in the chest and immediately fleeing the area. Black, who resided in the 3200 block of West Fulton, was pronounced dead on the scene just after 1:00 a.m.

The unidentified friends that were with Black at the time of the shooting were not injured and investigators were without an arrest or motive.

Man shot dead

Area 4 Homicide investigators were without an arrest in connection with the shooting death of a 26-year-old man and the wounding of two others in the 2800 block of West 21st Street late Sunday evening.

The unidentified dead man was pronounced dead on the scene with multiple gunshot wounds to the torso. An unidentified 26-year-old man was listed in stable condition at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center with a gunshot wound to the left arm. A third man, who was unidentified, was also listed in stable condition at Mt. Sinai.

Police say the victims were standing on the corner when the unknown occupants of a passing vehicle opened fire on them just after 10:00 p.m.

In an unrelated shooting in the 1300 block of South Tripp Avenue, a 31-year-old man was listed in critical condition at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center while being treated for multiple gunshot wounds to his body. A 32-year-old woman was listed in fair condition at the same hospital while being treated for multiple gunshot wounds to her abdomen and right arm.

Police say the two were seated in a vehicle when two unknown gunmen approached and opened fire. The gunmen immediately fled.

Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in that shooting that occurred just before 11:00 p.m. Sunday night.

Teens, 2 men shot leaving party

A freshman at Hugh Manley High School sustained a non-life threatening injury when he

was shot while leaving a party in the 5300 block of West Madison Street. He was just one of four victims involved in that shooting accident.

The Manley student was identified as 16-year-old Maurice Sanders. He sustained a single gunshot wound to the left foot. The other victims, including two 22-year-old men, were not identified and not believed to have sustained serious injuries.

Area 5 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in that shooting.

Drive-by wounds man

A 21-year-old man was listed in good condition at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center late Sunday after sustaining a single gunshot wound to his right leg.

The unidentified victim told police he was standing on the street in the 4400 block of West Adams street just after 2:00 a.m. Saturday morning when the occupants of a passing vehicle fired several shots before fleeing. Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in that shooting.

Man shot on Laramie

A 43-year-old shooting victim was listed in good condition at Loretto Hospital late Monday after sustaining a single gunshot wound to the right hand. Area 5 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in that shooting.

Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXFM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News. You can reach Ferman Beckless at beckless@yahoo.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcen.org.

Awareness from front page

dreaded “German Measles”. Varicella (Var) is the shot for “Chicken Pox” and is one dose preferably at 12 to 18 months. PCV is given to cut down on respiratory and ear infections and pneumonia in 4 doses beginning at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 12 to 15 months.

Ms. Lashawn Martin of the Alba homes took her 6-year-old son, Antonio Green, to the Chicago Care Van where he received the injections and Ms. Martin said he did not cry. Aboard the Van, Jan’Nita



Martha Williams and Janice Hill (seated) explain immunization process to North Lawndale residents.

See page 7

ON VIDEO

David H. Schultz



Michael Stahl-David and Jessica Lucas in Cloverfield

CLOVERFIELD (*)** A mini-blockbuster for the dot com generation, “Cloverfield” is a modern day Godzilla-type movie terrorizing New York that the aftermath is seen through the camcorder lens ala “The Blair Witch Project” by slacker (T.J. Miller) who was chronicling the bon voyage party for best friend, Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David) whose been promoted to Japan, and whose departure has greatly upset his relationship with Beth (Odette Yostman) at the loft gathering.

Then a thunderous earthquake –like sound is felt and then everybody is running for their lives while the military battles the creature through the city.

Quite a compact yet effective little monster movie given its authenticity and made convincing and exciting through its no-name cast who brings out a natural feel throughout this terrifying “popcorn” movie from TV’s “Lost” creator and this film’s

executive producer, J.J. Abrams. PG-13; 84min. Paramount Home Video

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (***/1/2)

Daniel Day Lewis earns this year’s best actor Oscar for his illuminating performance in director Paul Thomas Anderson’s sweeping epic drama based on Upton Sinclair’s 1927 novel, Oil” about the pioneering oil scandals of the Harding administration.

Lewis stars as an independent Texas prospector who builds his own empire from one gusher. Sort of an oil claim jumper who purchases potential land sites from unsuspecting, poor farmers; who is visited by a young teenager (Paul Dano) with a Billy Sunday-type of spiritual sensibility who wants \$500.advance to reveal the location of untapped oil on his family’s land to begins his own ministry.

This sets part of the film between these two adversaries with different intentions that eventually drifts into each other’s ways through the course of this lengthy yet powerful movie. R; 158min. Paramount Vantage Home video

JIMMY CARTER: MAN FROM PLAINS

(***) “Silence of the Lambs” director Jonathan Demme keeps his filmmaking skills sharpen between projects. By returning to his documentary roots through this intimate portrait of the former 39th U.S. President who is tanked and reviled during a cross country promotional tour in support of his controversial book, “Palestine: Peace not Apartheid”.

Carter clearly comes off as profoundly religious through his “habitant for humanity” project that spotlight his concern for proper housing and living conditions to point up the poverty and the homelessness in this country.

Still what eludes Carter most is his quest



Daniel Day-Lewis in There Will Be Blood

for peace and understanding for Israel Yet, Demme cinematic diary catches the dual personality of the 82-year-old statesman who at rest seems fragile and alone. Until he’s made by his schedule feeling re-energized for a man half his age.

Whether he speaks in and/out of his element, Demme captures Carter on a personal crusade that also offers some probing moments that are quite revealing and informative. PG: 126min. Sony Pictures Classics Home Video

STEEP ()** For the avid extreme sports fan or novice, this documentary goes from the exhilarating to the insane through the perilous glides down scenic and snowy mountain terrain. “Steep” chronicles the death defying participants of extreme skiing who are willing to risk it all with their blind egos.

Even though the “why” to doing this extreme sports is blindly ignored for the thrill and scope of intentionally skiing off the most dangerous ,scenic, breath-taking, inaccessible, sharply angled and unstable snowy mountain surfaces in the world.

At least, this is a visual adrenaline rush for the extreme sports fanatics who fantasized through those self absorbed daredevils for the safety of their couch. PG; 92min. Sony Pictures Classics Home Video

CHA from front page

the federal government.

40,000 names will be chosen by lottery to be placed on a new list. Currently, the CHA administers approximately 35,000 vouchers across the city, in every community. Jordan projects that another 3,500 families will benefit from the re-opened program.

The CHA lottery has been chipping away at its original list over the course of a decade. According to Jordan, there is no new federal funding for the program, but thousands of individuals and families have dropped off of the list since its inception, making it possible for additional, eligible applicants to join.

“There is no more new money, but as we lose families through attrition and other things we see that there’s opportunities available.”

Individuals and families can register for the lottery at more than 300 sites throughout the city, including 250 Park District Field Houses, all City College Student Service Centers, all Chicago Department of Human Services Centers, and all Chicago Public Libraries, until May 15. Applications can also be obtained online and are available in Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Polish.

“There is no need to stand in line,” said Jordan.

Representatives from the South, West and North sides of the city were present at the event, as well as representatives from African-American, white, Latino and Chinese communities. Both Jordan and Garcia emphasized that everyone is encouraged to apply, even those who do not have legal documentation.

“We strongly believe that working together as one family in Chicago, all communities working for the well being of the city, we can strengthen our families, but also strengthen our communities,” said Garcia.

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

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JAZZ AND BLUES: ALIVE AND WELL; YET UNPOPULAR AMONGST TODAY'S BLACK YOUTH

Veronica Harrison

Chicago: a city of lights, 24-7 excitement and corner to corner sounds of music. Sitting in downtown Chicago traffic may entail the loud sounds of hip hop, reggae and classical music. And you...well you are nodding your head to the latest rap song and you happened to be the car that's boxed in by such separate genres. Next to you is a man grooving to his favorite song, "Down Home Blues", a blend of soulful lyrics and guitar by the legendary BB King. Next to him is a woman blasting the late, great Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit." Yes, jazz and blues music still do exist. However, neither of these genres is popular in today's society in comparison to other music genres.

Jazz and blues are not particularly popular among modern day, black youth. In today's society, most youngsters are all about self expression in a rebellious style. This behavior is most reflected through hip hop, rhythm and blues and rap music. Since jazz and blues correlates with black historical occurrences, most black youth have trouble understanding its art form and appreciating what jazz and blues music stands for.

"I would call it more sophisticated and challenging," said Teri Hinte, publicist of jazz musician Sonny Rollins. "There is a spiritual and intellectual aspect of jazz."

Jazz is American music that was originated in the late 19th and early twentieth century from African rhythms and slave chants. New Orleans, Louisiana is the birth home of jazz and the genre has spread to a worldwide audience. In an effort to discover better lives, African Americans migrated north in the 1920s to Chicago and New York. Jazz traveled via the Illinois Central Railroad and rested at Chicago's 12th Street station. Jazz musicians traveled north due to failing crops and discrimination in the South.

As time progressed in the 1930s, it evolved with swing bands and even more in the 1940s as be bop became popularized. Jazz, offering its audience many forms, is an art form that continually changes and grows. Labels such as contemporary jazz, smooth jazz, Latin jazz and mainstream jazz, to name a few, have added to the mystification of jazz music.

So, what needs to be done in order to spread the love of jazz and blues music to younger age groups? According to Hinte, the appreciation and understanding of jazz "has to start early and has to be in a child's home and environment."

Jazz school founder and director, Susan Muscarella says that young people need to realize that jazz music is similar to life itself.

"Unless you are in the moment, you are not fully experiencing what's happening around you," she said. "When jazz musicians improvise, they're in a place where there is nothing else but that moment, playing one note and then the next note and the next. That's the highest point, when there is nothing else but you and the music you're creating."

Muscarella had a vision to achieve what many think is the impossible. She had a vision to teach young people the beauty of jazz music. Her goal was to let youngsters know that though there is absolutely nothing wrong with their choice of music, jazz is a special kind of art form that must not be ignored.

"Although some popular music may be very good, jazz satisfies those who are searching for music that challenges the mind and nourishes the spirit," she said.

Veronica Harrison is a contributing writer for NLCN and a journalism student at Columbia College. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcen.org.

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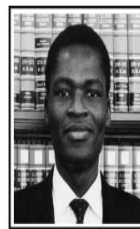
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Awareness from page 6

immunization, Ms. Hill gives gift cards for use at Target. She also distributes a book on healthcare chocked full of information for new mothers. She gives small gifts for the children such as: infant clothes, drinking cups, a grab bag with information on the shots they have received a coloring book, and crayons that a child may use to understand why and what immunizations mean to them. Besides the efforts of Ms. Hill and Mt. Sinai's staff or the Care Van Staff, the "Star" of the day was "The Man" who needs no introduction to any child in this universe.

Ronald Mc Donald visited the location of the immunization project and graciously took pictures with parents and children. Though funny to the children with quips and gags said seriously, "Immunization is a very important part of growing up strong and healthy. Being strong and healthy, a child will not miss many days of school. Remember readers are leaders and the more you know, the farther you go" were his comments. Ronald Mc Donald also reminded everyone about his foundation and his commitment to children through the Ronald Mc Donald's House. Manager Ms. Latonya Reynolds summed up the event by saying, "It was a great turn out and is something that is good for the community. I'm personally glad that we could help and it's a good idea."

For more information on having the staff of Mt. SINAI conduct immunization at your location contact them at Sinai Community Institute 2653 West Ogden Chicago, IL 60608 online try www.sinai.org or 1-888-at-SINAI 1-888-287-4624 and remember to bring your child's immunization record. "Immunize! It's your child's best shot."



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QUAD CITY URBAN LEAGUE AWARDS DINNER

David Tenorio

"America needs to re-focus, re-generate and re-invest its national priorities if we are to continue to build a strong future for our nation". Such was the message put forth by Marc Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, who was the keynote speaker at the Quad County Urban League's annual Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner held recently in Lombard.

Speaking before a crowd of several hundred, Morial, current national president of the Urban League, said, "America needs to re-value its priorities, especially with regard to which direction this country is to take in the future". Morial continued by asking, "I believe the present priorities of this country are focused on the wrong issues. Currently we have a projected financial commitment in military expenses in both Iraq and Afghanistan of three trillion dollars; it has also been projected that more than 2.2 million Americans will lose their homes to foreclosure in the near future; and within the last 90 days over 230,000 jobs have been lost or out sourced to other countries".

Morial added, "currently America is facing a serious economic crisis, the worst financial crisis in this nation since the great depression of the 20's and the recession in recent years and we cannot afford to continue like this. I call on this government, on this country to re-evaluate its priorities and begin to move on these priorities," Morial said.

Morial said, "We need to re-invest in our children and ensure that an affordable education is available to them. Currently a number of major cities in America have high school drop out rates of 50% and more which, in turn, affects their capability for future employment." He added, "If we want our young children to value work, we must provide them with the opportunity to work."

At the same time he also said that our government needs to make sure funds are available for re-training those who have lost their jobs, and to develop and enhance their skills for other areas of employment. "Our current government provides about one-third the funding it use to offer in the 1970's for job training and re-training programs."

Morial also stated that the system of home ownership in this country needs to be re-evaluated and that programs



Marc Morial, National Urban League President.

designed to help owners keep their home need to be put in place while eliminating the "23rd century loan sharking" process that currently exists.

Although sounding somewhat like a political candidate at times, Morial stated that neither he nor the Urban League have any intention of endorsing any of the presidential candidates presently seeking office. "We do not endorse candidates," Morial said, rather we will tell them what the agenda of the Urban League is and ask them to endorse our agenda. And a portion of the Urban League's agenda is to promote economic self-sufficiency and

independence".

Morial's remarks were well received by the 300-plus audience who attended the dinner to celebrate the annual Quad County Urban League's Annual Equal Opportunity Awards to outstanding groups who have made a difference in the community.

The dinner was hosted by Theodia Gillespie, executive director of the Quad County Urban League and also featured author Clarence Jones who accepted his award and then spoke briefly on his most recently published book, "What Would Martin Say?" Former legal counsel and speechwriter for Dr. King, Jones' book focuses in on what America has/has not achieved in civil rights, among other topics, and his personal relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Although the Quad County Urban League excludes Cook County (Will, DuPage, Kendall and Kane), the QCUL recognized the efforts of a Chicago organization by awarding the Tate Brothers Foundation an Outstanding Community Service Award in recognition of the effort, the Tate Foundation has put into fighting sickle cell disease among young children.

The Tate Brothers Foundation, led by brothers Laron, Lahmard, and notably actor Larenz Tate, was formed six years ago as a full-fledge non-profit organization to raise monies to help children stricken with Sickle Cell disease. The Tate Brothers Foundation, which has received financial support and backing from State Representative Danny Davis (D-IL), holds a special Labor Day fund raising event in Chicago annually to raise monies for their goal.

David Tenorio is a West Side resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcen.org.

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LAWDALE CHRISTIAN
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What is the LSYP?

The Lawndale Summer Youth Project (LSYP) is a six-week program sponsored by Lawndale Christian Health Center offering job training and valuable exposure to the fields of medicine and public health, as well as other related fields. Students will participate in various projects within the health center and its community.

Who should apply?

High school students who are between the ages of 16 and 18 (by June 30) and considering medically-related fields are strongly encouraged to apply. Students with a sense of community responsibility, strong involvement with their church/community and high motivation will fit well on our team. LSYP will provide students the opportunity to interact with medical professionals and broaden their career horizons.

When is it?

June 30 – August 8, 2008

What hours will I work?

M-F 8:30am-6:00pm. Two half-day Saturdays and some evenings are also required.

Is this a paid internship?

Yes! Students can earn up to a \$1,680 stipend throughout the project period.

What skills do I need?

- A sense of community responsibility
- Strong involvement with your church
- A high level of motivation

How do I sign up?

Interested students should:

- Complete the application with their parent or guardian.
- Secure a letter of recommendation from their pastor, youth pastor/leader, high school teacher or counselor
- Return all materials by May 2.

The interview process will begin the third week in May, and final candidates will be notified by June 1.

When are applications due?

The deadline for all applications and supplemental materials is May 2 by 5:00pm.