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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

## RESIDENTS CRY OUT AT TIF PUBLIC HEARING

Megan Sieberg



Valerie Leonard and Lawndale Alliance protest TIF at City Hall

Since its inception, the proposed Ogden-Pulaski TIF has stirred commotion among residents in North Lawndale.

Those who support the plan argue it provides a much needed strategy for catalyzing development in the community. Those who oppose the plan argue the community has not had a voice in its creation. Although the consensus appears to be that community development is needed in North Lawndale, many believe the current proposal is not sufficient and requires more resident input before implementation.

Last Tuesday, a public hearing was held at City Hall in front of members of the Community Development Commission. There, community members were given the

opportunity to voice their support or concerns publicly before the TIF is passed into law.

Two hours prior to the hearing, members of the Lawndale Alliance, led by Valerie Leonard and Joe Ann Bradley, gathered in opposition outside Mayor Daley's office in City Hall. Among them was the Green family, who's house is in danger of being displaced under the proposed TIF. They don't believe local government officials are impacting the community in any positive way.

"They haven't given anything to the community but humiliation," said Mario Green, who spoke on behalf of his father. "We've put a lot of years of hard work and time into loving this house and making it our home. This

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## HARRIS BANK HONORS 106 YEAR OLD, MR. THURMAN PERRY *African American History Alive and Well Month*

African American History can be heard through a unique living voice and the experience of Mr. Thurman Perry, a man who has lived over ten decades, at 106 years old, in America as an African American. Head deacon at Holy Sanctuary Church, 1516 S. Kedzie, Mr. Perry does not appear as someone who is 106 years old. He physically looks more like someone who is 66 years old. When NLCN asked what was the secret to his long life, he responded, "it ain't no secret, I ain't trying to hide it. This response sparked laughs from those in attendance.

Mr. Perry born on January 1, 1902 in Sun Valley California, was adopted by Mamie Greenberg, a Jewish woman who moved him to

the west side of Chicago to the West Lawndale Area. He was married for 75 years to Olivia Perry and from that union he had twelve kids (7 girls and 5 boys) of which he outlived all of them. "Only thing I can figure out is God kept me here for something. He has his reasons. I don't question him," said Mr. Perry. Mr. Perry, also has a twin brother who is still alive and living in Sicily, Italy. Yes, Sicily. Mr. Perry is also a nurse by trade and spent six years over in Sicily nursing his grandmother back to health.

After Mr. Perry told Branch Assistant Manager, William Davis he had a birthday and made 106, Davis contacted Karen McGee in Harris Bank's marketing department and told her about Mr.

See Perry page 7



(Standing l-r) William A. Davis(assistant branch manager), Rosa Alston(customer service rep.), Romanetha Holmes(senior service rep.) and Jerome Daniels(branch manager and assistant vice president). (Sitting l-r) Thurman Perry and Vanessa Shields(service manager).

## Angel Wings Day Care, Day and Night

Megan Sieberg



Angel Wings Day Care located 5365 W. North Avenue

Lisa Wilkins got her first job at the age of 15. Growing up, she helped her mom raise her three younger siblings, two of whom were living with disabilities. Today, she owns and runs a 24 hour childcare center here on the West Side, tending to over 60 children from sun up to sun down. Living such a busy life, it's a wonder she has the stamina to do it everyday, let alone do it with a smile.

After getting a masters degree from National-Louis University, Wilkins worked at Bank One for ten years before she convinced her husband, Ryan, to help her open Angel Wings Day Care, located at 5365 W. North Ave. Why? Simply because she loves children.

"I love children. If I didn't love

them, I wouldn't be doing this," she said. "A lot of times you can't just say 'I do it for the money,' you have to do it to give back."

Angel Wings is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and accepts all ages. According to Wilkins, this is important because a lot of parents on the West Side work nights.

"A lot of these daycares close at 6 o'clock, but what about parents who get off of work at 6 o'clock? What do they do?"

Angel Wings also works with a grant program called Action for Children, which provides need-based financial assistance to parents who cannot afford the \$125 a week fee. This service allows working

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Visit us on our website at [www.nlc.org](http://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**  
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## 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](http://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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## COMMON GROUND FOUNDATION AND NFTE HELP EMPOWER YOUTH

*North Lawndale students benefit from entrepreneurship program*

Cinque Muhammad

Since 1987, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) has reached over 180,000 students worldwide, providing entrepreneurship programs to youth from low-income communities. Recently, several teen business owners trained by NFTE were honored to showcase their skills and discuss their ideas with Grammy Award-winning recording artist Common during the Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> "Dare To Dream" benefit concert and silent auction at House of Blues Chicago.

Hosted by Platform One Entertainment, the event joined NFTE with the rapper/actor's Common Ground Foundation (CGF) in an effort to harness the power of music to raise money and awareness for youth education programs in Chicago.

"What we really loved about NFTE and Common Ground [is that] they really work in the system and activate the system, and we felt like they were the perfect partners in this," said Platform One Ent. President Jeff Sodikoff.

Prior to the show, a group of NFTE students gave Common a warm reception and presented him with a gift bag. Upon meeting them and hearing their concepts, he was awed by their business acumen and self-determination.

"These kids I met, they're entrepreneurs with their own businesses that they've cooked up. That's impressive!" said Common.

His foundation is committed to providing urban youth the life skills they will need to achieve their dreams.

"These are teenagers, and for them to believe and know and understand what it is; that's powerful to me. So I'm glad to be in support of that, too," he added.

One of those students, Jaleesa Smith runs Neck-It, her own custom-made clothing line.

She says that her NFTE training has given

her a learning curve that will help her stay ahead as she furthers her education.

"I've learned how to do business communications such as proposals, business plans and memos. So when I get to college I'll already have a background on what my professors will be teaching," said Smith.

She plans on attending Columbia College or University of Illinois at Chicago.

The night was capped off with an exclusive Common concert for all ages. He highlighted his performance with a stirring, spoken word-inspired rendition of the hit single "Testify", delivering each verse acapella, under a single spotlight. Proceeds of the concert sales and silent auction totaled \$13,000, all of which benefited NFTE Chicago. Also during the concert, Chicago's Lincoln Dealers made a \$30,000 donation, which was split by Common Ground and NFTE.

On hand that evening also was NFTE Chicago Executive Director Christine Poorman, who spoke highly of the NFTE program at North Lawndale College Preparatory - Charter High School under the instruction of Mr. John Henry.

"He's phenomenal, one of our best teachers. We're nominating him for teacher of the year," Poorman beamed proudly. "He's doing amazing things with the students."

Mr. Henry, who worked over 30 years as a business manager for DuPont, has been teaching for the past five years, parlaying his business experience into a welcome resource at North Lawndale College Prep. He teaches the NFTE course as part of a male leadership curriculum to empower young men to build personal wealth as well as sustainable wealth in their communities.

"Too often in our African-American communities, we lose the wealth potential

**See NFTE page 7**

## ADHD- THE PERSONALITY DISORDER SO EASY TO MISS

Brandi Walker

A man is habitually late for work despite being warned by his boss of his continuing tardiness. A woman is behind on a lot of debt in her credit cards and has been procrastinating in settling this matter. A young person keeps losing his keys to his house every chance he gets a new pair. Surely, these people all have bad habits that should be broken quickly, but what other things do they have in common? Well, due to their forgetfulness, they all could have a personality disorder called Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

According to [www.about.com](http://www.about.com), ADHD is a biological, brain-based condition brought on by a poor attention span and a hyperactive, impulsive behavior. Another form of this condition, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), is a behavioral problem dealing with primarily a short attention span and being easily distracted.

This disorder is mainly a hereditary condition. According to an article on [msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com), "*Many Grown-Ups With Attention Deficit Disorder Don't Realize It*," Health Editor Jane Weaver writes that "if a child is diagnosed there is a 40 percent chance one parent has it."

This disorder could cause people like the abovementioned to under perform at work, school or any other social activities. Nowadays, it is prevalent in children and adults. However, according to the same article on [msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com), Weaver writes that "it was long thought to be a child's disorder that someone eventually grows out of."

Mark Stein, Principal Investigator for University of Chicago Research, says that this change does occur for some youths.

"I would say 1/3 of youth grow out of it

when they're older. However, there are some that don't. It is not clear why some children grow out of it, although as a person gets older, their brain and central nervous system should mature and develop."

While forgetfulness, not doing well at school or work and being socially self-conscious are common symptoms, there are other good signs that a person displays having this disorder. According to Weaver, "failure to follow through on instructions or finish tasks, difficulty organizing and inability to be detail-oriented are some other symptoms to look out for. In fact, adults with ADHD are often workaholics."

Carol Gignoux, a Boston-based executive coach who specializes in working with people with ADHD, indicates another obvious sign in the article.

"One of the tell-tale signs is when someone has a hard time staying in the conversation with you without interrupting," she says.

In regards to how this disorder measures up among girls and boys, Weaver writes in the article that hyperactivity strikes boys three to 10 times more than girls, but adult ADHD affects men and women equally, studies indicate. However, doctors are not yet sure why.

Dr. Ron Kessler, professor of health care policy at Harvard Medical School, explains that doctors are indeed investigating about men and women with this disorder and treatment options.

"We're doing studies now to know whether more women are more likely to get treatment than men," he says.

Stein, who, as mentioned earlier, is the

**See ADHD page 7**



*Being a winner in Life, takes more than Luck*

During Black History Month, and throughout the year, the Illinois Lottery salutes the many courageous individuals who gave so much to help so many win the ultimate prize, freedom.





## CHILDCARE SERVICES



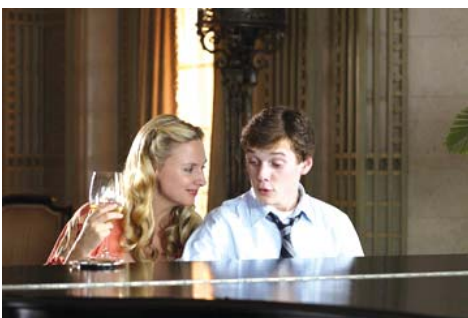
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## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



Hope Davis and Anton Yelchin in *Charlie Bartlett*

**CHARLIE BARTLETT** (\*\*\*) "*Charlie Bartlett*" is an offbeat yet insightful movie; a comedy with concerns and consciousness. Sort of a cross between Ferris Bueller meets Dr. Phil, well played by Anton Yelchin as this rich kid whose been kicked out of every private posh school for his own set of personal issues; disguised by his unique, enterprising spirit done to make himself popular. He's not the usual screen character smart ass who makes adults look foolish or dumb in an anti-establishment kind of way that coming-of-age movies usually do.

Instead, Charlie is a normal teenager trying to cope with an abnormal lifestyle with an unflappable mother, Marilyn (Hope Davis) whose reaction to her son's latest school expulsion for making fake driver's ID's is: "You have to admit that they look very authentic". But in private, her only question to him is what is behind this behavior when he clearly doesn't need the money!

So Charlie's mother decides to put him into a regular high school, Western Summit High School. Where Charlie arrives wearing the same private school suit and tie that makes him stick out from everyone else.

Charlie catches the eye and interest of the

**See Flicks page 6**

## CCIL, LCDC AND ALDERMAN DIXON COME TOGETHER FOR CAREER FAIR

James Glover



Community residents gather employment information and other resources at the job fair

On Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> the Chicago Christian Industrial League, along with the offices of 24<sup>th</sup> Alderman Sharon Dixon and Lawndale Christian Development Corporation helped put on a career fair for the community residents who are looking to expand into employment world.

"I'm very appreciative of the fact that we were able to bring the community and those job opportunities along with educational opportunities together all in one room for the residents to take advantage of," said Kimberly Jackson, Executive Director of Lawndale Christian Development Corporation. "If we don't present opportunities like this regularly we fail the community and contribute to the negative atmosphere."

**See Career page 5**

## CPS OFFICIALS AND RESIDENTS BATTLE OVER THE TRUE STATE OF CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James Glover

The Chicago Public Schools has been a hot topic of discussion lately, especially when you consider the recent talk of CPS school closings. Also, the fact that the CPS budget has now been called into question as many people within CPS are curious as to where the money is going considering underperforming test scores and every present drop out rates in the city.

"There is absolutely too much going on behind then scenes that we as a community do not have a full grasp on, and instead we continue to hear about the improvement of our school system as opposed to seeing the improvement," said Wallace Mitchell, a member of several youth advocacy groups and Lawndale citizen. "The drop out rates are still high, community schools are still closing every time you turn around. Every time I walk out my door and down the street I see school aged children just posted up. Therefore, if our school system is improving as we're being led to believe, then why aren't these boys and girls in school."

With more than 600 schools and almost half a million students, Chicago Public Schools is the third largest school system in

America, but trails behind many smaller cities in terms of productivity, with only 3 out of 100 (yes, you read the correctly) African-American children expected to graduate with a high school diploma. That is a stat that angers many community parents.

"I honestly don't see what they are doing for the betterment of our children and our community inside those classrooms," said Leslie Stevens, parent of four CPS children, two in elementary and two in high school. "6 out of every 10 means that there are four children from that bunch who are being steered towards lives in drug and criminal activities. That means four future generations whose educational structure is going to severely less than what it should be due to lack of knowledge at the top. However, in the black community that seems to be acceptable. I personally feel we should be taking a closer look at the school system and be publicly outraged at the fact our children aren't being cared for educationally as well as they should be and compared to other communities."

However, many teachers feel as if there are taking too much blame for the failure of students, saying that it is a parents job to also

assist in the learning process, and to make sure that when their child is enrolled that they possess the basic knowledge needed to get off to a good start. "First of all it would be a great situation if all off the children who came to us in school were trained in the basics of education," said Trina Haye, educator and child care provider. "However, that is not the case and a lot of times we are dealing with children who are so far behind, which means we have to devote attention to areas which should already be taken care of and therefore the entire class suffers."

According to Arne Duncan and Mayor Daley however, there is absolutely no reason for people to be down on the school system as of right now. Mayor Daley points to the 10.3 million dollar Gates Foundation investment and partnership with The Academy for Urban School Leadership as one of the positive moves that's going to make Chicago Public Schools a national blueprint for public school success. "Since taking on the challenge of raising the performance of our schools, we definitely have seen progress across our city and been a model success for urban school reform." said the Mayor.

### Daycare from front page

parents to have a place to take their children any time of the day for a price they can afford.

Currently there are over 60 children enrolled in the childcare center, 85 percent of whom come from low-income families.

Their ages range from infant to 12 years. However, Wilkins made it clear that Angel Wings is not simply a place where children are supervised. It is also a place where they can learn.

There are 11 full-time employees who work at the center, all of whom are teacher certified. The building has three different rooms, set up like classrooms, containing a wide variety of educational material. During the day, the children are separated by age and engaged in various age-specific, educational activities, including a licensed head-start class.

Wilkins also believes it is important for the children to have fun while they learn. According to her, kids on the West Side don't often get the opportunity to get out of



Children participating in a fun, educational activity at Angel Wings Day Care

their immediate surroundings. For this reason, she takes it upon herself to expose them to the broader community by taking them on field trips.

"A lot of times I have kids come in here without having clothes to wear. They may not have money to go on a field trip. They may not have any food at home. But if there's a need, I supply it."

Lateefah Muhammod is an employee at Angel Wings Day Care. She has been

working there for over a year and says the center has become her "second home."

"I wouldn't go nowhere else," she said.

Ms. Muhammod described Wilkins as being "a very wonderful person to work for. She has a very kind heart. She's very generous and loves helping people."

Parents are allowed to drop their kids off at the center for any ten hours in a day. Wilkins says she is flexible because she recognizes the needs of the community and has learned since childhood to take care of what must be done.

When asked if running a 24 hour childcare center is exhausting, Wilkins explained that although she regularly works 12 to 14 hour days, she remains energized because she's used to working hard and she loves what she's doing.

"I'm in it for the children," she said.

To contact Angel Wings Daycare call 773/745-0262.

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.



# High School Sports

Todd Thomas



Phoenix Forward Jonathan Mills Defends Marshall's Davaris Davis

The Chicago area is brimming with high school basketball activity and the Public League playoffs will have reached the semifinal stage by the end of the week. Locally Farragut has advanced, but North Lawndale is out of the tournament after losing to Marshall 79-62 in the quarterfinals.

The Phoenix had defeated Steinmetz 72-58 in the opening-round of the city tournament, and then beat Senn High School 83-47 in the next round. The next opponent would be the Marshall Commandos – a team they had not defeated. In fact, North

Lawndale head coach Lewis Thorpe said that Marshall would be a tough draw.

"Marshall is one team that we just don't match up well against," Thorpe said, in the days leading up to the tournament.

Thorpe was right, and the Phoenix fire was snuffed out by the finely honed play of a Marshall team that went 21-4 in the regular season. The Phoenix fell behind the Commandos 20-5 at one point and never got closer than ten points the entire game eventually falling 79-62.

North Lawndale will now set their sights on a class 2A state title, which begins this week.

The west side does have a good chance of coming away with a city trophy with Farragut and Marshall in the hunt.

Farragut is playing well with Mike Dunigan, Darius Stowers and Isaiah Williams and defeated favored Whitney Young in the quarterfinals. Marshall has a team of studs led by Davaris Davis, Darius Smith, Ardarius Simmons, and Ryan Hare.

The IHSA is putting somewhat of a damper on the tournament for the press. They have recently implemented new rules concerning photographing IHSA sporting



Forward Jonathan Mills Goes up for Two Against Senn

events. The new guidelines stipulate that any photographer must sign a waiver indicating that they will not sell photographs commercially.

Most photographers have indicated that they will not sign the waivers and will consequently forfeit their right to press credentials for games. They can obtain tickets and take pictures along with other spectators, but will not have access to the fields or courts as before – severely limiting the quality of the photo and accompanying articles. The press is livid and will challenge the IHSA in court.

## Career from page 4



Also contributing to the success of the career were newly re-elected State Representative Art Turner and Congressman Danny K. Davis, LISC Chicago and Jobs for Youth.

"You want to make sure that youth know all the avenues they can take when it comes to employment at a young age," said Robert Barnett, Executive Director of Jobs for Youth. "You want to see what possibilities are out there so that they don't self-eliminate themselves right off the bat when it comes to potential career choices. Instead, we want to work alongside agencies such as CCIL to make sure that the information is reaching the community and that young people know that there is assistance out here."

Many youth attended the job fair in hopes of avoiding the falls of many of their fellow youth. According to 2006 research numbers, 70% of the unemployed youth in Chicago are African-American or Hispanic and 91% of

people incarcerated between the ages of 18 and 25 are also African American or Hispanic. "The chances of success in the North Lawndale have become increasingly low for us minorities and we have to learn how to take advantage of opportunities like this when they present themselves to us," said Brandon Hoya, recent GED Class graduate who is now looking into career choices. "Hard work is the new to where we as minorities would like to go with our lives and our contributions to the community and society."

Patrick Lawson was at the event on behalf of Mayor of Workforce Development and wanted to stress the importance of education as a pathway to employment and long lasting career goals. "We understand that the 4 year university isn't exactly for everyone but learning a trade, a valuable skill set that no one can take away from you can lead to some really exciting career goals and a lifelong position in a business such as welding or even something more high tech like graphic design. Here in Chicago, we make ways for people to get into good and sometimes great career fields while giving them the freedom to feel as comfortable as possible as they pursue whatever goals they have in mind."

With an estimated 200 people attending CCIL's career fair, the message seemed to get out and many who attended the job fair came away not only pleased and with a renewed scene of hope but also valuable educational and professional tips they can use in the future. "I learned today about proper dress code, interview techniques and resume skills," said Claire Carlton, North Lawndale Resident. "This is stuff that if I continued to not know, I would never have been given the best opportunity to be hired and stuck with whatever someone was willing to offer me as opposed to whatever I dreamed to achieve. I must say I am really happy with what I've come away with today."

## TIF from front page

is not a dilapidated property and we've never let it get to that point and we never will."

Other Alliance members voiced their concern about job creation under the plan by chanting "No jobs no TIF!" in the background.

The concerns voiced by the Alliance at the protest, along with support from some residents, were expressed at the public hearing that followed.

After role call, a representative of the Community Development Commission detailed the history of North Lawndale before explaining the criteria qualifying the community as a "conservation area."

The Eligibility Report found that of the 3, 873 buildings in the Project Area, 93 percent are 35 years of age or older, which is 43 percent more than the qualifying amount. The report also found that of the 13 factors set forth in the Act for conservation areas, 9 factors are found to be present in the Project Area. Of those 9 factors, five are considered to be reasonably distributed including: deterioration; structures below code; excessive vacancies; inadequate utilities; and a lack of community planning.

Both Alderman Sharon Dixon and Alderman Ricardo Munoz were given the opportunity to make a statement in support of the proposal.

Defending the attacks by the Lawndale Alliance that she and Ald. Munoz have not given the community enough of a voice throughout the TIF approval process, Dixon informed the Commission that 12 community meetings have been held over the past several months to inform residents of TIF proceedings and allow them a hand in the procedure. She stated her plan to create a TIF Advisory Committee to prove her willingness to listen to the community.

"Both Alderman Munoz and I support the Ogden-Pulaski TIF," she said. "Both Alderman Munoz and I support and will establish a 17 to 19 member advisory committee to help implement this TIF if it becomes law."

The alleged advisory committee has been a point of contention for several months. Valerie Leonard and the Lawndale alliance maintain Dixon promised to have the committee established and active by Nov. 30,



Mario Green exhibits his father's rehabbed house, which is in danger of being displaced

2007. They believe the committee needs to be established before the TIF is passed into law. Dixon, however, made it clear members will not be selected until after the approval process is complete.

Joe Anne Bradley, co-founder of the Lawndale Alliance, explained that she has two major concerns with the current proposal. The first is that residents are not given a choice as to whether or not they are removed from their homes. The second is that the community has not been included in the process. Pointing out letters of concern that have been written by residents to a slew of politicians, Bradley noted those concerns have still not been addressed.

"It said nothing about 'we don't want the TIF,'" she said. "It said we wanted to be involved in it. It said there are mistakes in it. And we are still standing here today at this very same time expressing those exact same concerns."

Valerie Leonard elaborated on one of those concerns, which is that the money made through the TIF is being left in the hands of non-tax-paying non-profits such as the Lawndale Christian Development Corporation, without representation from the community.

"Six organizations, non-profits, don't speak for 50,000 people," she said.

Through what she calls "representation without taxation," Leonard pointed out that the people who pay taxes in North Lawndale, the people who vote in the community, the people who know the community best are not included in a process that will affect each of their lives.

"Those people who pay the least taxes have the best representation in town," she said to Ald. Dixon. "Not in my face you don't."

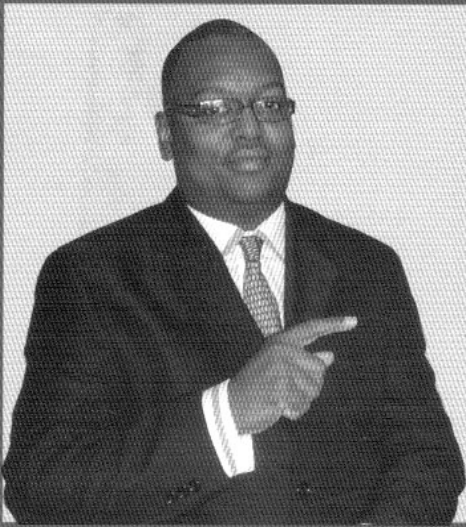
There were several North Lawndale

See page 7



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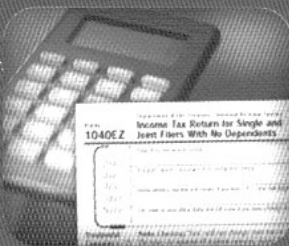
### Qualifying Child for the child Tax Credit

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2. **Relationship-** The child must be the taxpayer's child, stepchild, adopted child, foster, child, sibling, step sibling or a descendant of any these relatives.
3. **Residence-** The child must live with the taxpayer for more than half of the tax year.
4. **Support-** The child cannot provide more than half of his/her own support for the year.

### Tax Tip

Although there is basic uniform definition of child, independent requirements remain that must be considered separately for each child-related tax benefit. For example, the age limit for the Child Tax Credit is under age 17 and the age limit for Earned Income Tax Credit under age 19 (under 24 for a full-time students)

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## Flicks from page 4

school's most popular girl, Susan (Kat Dennings) who turns out to be the daughter of Principal Gardner (Robert Downey Jr.), a once revered history teacher turned repressed bureaucrat whose dislike for his job has made him an alcoholic who doesn't seem to be much help to his daughter and students.

After a hallucinating experience one night, Bartlett speed reads through books on drugs and psychiatry, as well as what he learned from sessions with his own doctor. Then Charlie uses Len to persuade Murphy to be his business partner to open up a therapy clinic for the waiting line of students outside of the washroom that is turning a profit while actually aiding students with helpful answers for everything.

Until one overly depressed student, Kip Crombwell (Mark Rendall) tries to commit suicide from an overdose that ends Charlie's drug distribution when Principal Gardner gives him a second chance. Charlie returns the favor by still giving free advice to the students, and encourages Kip to display his inner thoughts about teen angst in to a school play.

Through the humor, there is the pain and a cautionary view that we all should be more aware about in this drug driven society that doesn't allow much time for a kid to be a kid or a teenager to live fully as a teenager without the outside interference of what their parents, friends, etc. do around them.

But the film does offer some hope when the realization sets in on Charlie who ultimately enforces the students to stand and think for themselves during a protest against the security cameras and their invasion of privacy.

"Charlie Bartlett" is an interesting

comedy with dramatic undertones that emerge as a quirky film on a personal odyssey that film editor Jon Poll making his directorial debut bats around the moral lessons into something more potent than the usual coming-of-age teen escapade. This movie is a pleasant surprise with something to say to both teens and adults. R; 97min. A Metro-Goldwyn- Mayer Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters

**THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES** (\*\*\*) "The Spiderwick Chronicles" is a very entertaining movie that spins a briskly satisfying web of excitement and wonder. The movie is based on several short children books woven into one tight and uniformed tale of magical adventure and survival. In which a divorced single mother (Mary Louise Parker) and her three children try to make a fresh start from New York to a secluded old estate mansion owned by her late, eccentric great, great uncle, Arthur Spiderwick (David Strathairn) who mysteriously disappeared.

After he spent his life discovering and researching an alternative world and its magical inhabitants, to formulate a protective guide book for the magical creatures against an evil, transforming ogre (Nick Nolte) who is seeking the book for its secrets that could destroy the fairies, sprites and humans.

Freddy Highmore plays the dual role of the mother's twin brothers, Simon whose the more passive compared to the troublesome Jared who always being blamed while clearly upset over his parents' separation, but unaware the true facts behind his father's (Andrew McCarthy) departure.

Therefore, establishing friction between Jared who is at a crossroads with his disbelieving mother, his neutral twin brother and mini-mom-

## FOOD GIVEAWAY FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED IT

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Every first Saturday of the month volunteers from The Mission of Our Lady of the Angels have a food giveaway at 3808 W. Iowa as part of an outreach to the community, said Father Bob Lombardo, director of the mission. The giveaway starts at 10 a.m. in the lot next to the blue church building, and lasts until the food is all distributed, usually around 11:30 or 12. The food is pre-bagged and might contain canned goods, but always contains a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables such as potatoes, onions, or whole pineapples delivered that day from the Greater Food Depository.

The variety of fruit and vegetables change each giveaway Saturday, said Father Bob, so they never know what they will receive but it is always fresh. They also give away clothes when they have them. The mission started a year ago because "there's a great need out here to help people with food," said Father Bob. "Here in our neighborhood we're blessed with many people who have good jobs and don't need assistance, yet we also have many people who are really struggling to put food on the table. We want to make sure that we help those who don't have enough food, to receive the food they need."

During the food giveaway they get about

250 families and out of that number there are a variety of circumstances that qualify them to receive the food such as people on fixed incomes, people with disabilities, elderly people and people who have lost their jobs, he said.

Although the food is supposed to be for the people in or near the Garfield and Humboldt Park communities, Father Bob reaches out an invitation to anyone who needs it regardless to where they live. "If anyone who reads this article knows of people who are not able to put enough food on the table, we would be happy to try to help them out."

Because there is also a need for seniors to have more things to do during the day, the mission is also working on programs that would provide services such as an arts and crafts program and a lunch program. Father Bob said they are also working to start an after-school program for children within a year. For more information about the food drive and the other programs or to inquire about volunteering to help call out call 773/486-8431.

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

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like sister, Mallory (Sarah Bolger) that kids and adults can easily relate to the dysfunctional level within this family.

So its not surprising there is hardly any support for Jared. When he begins to hear strange sounds running through the walls, it leads to him discovering a hidden dumb waiter that leads him to a secret room when he discovers in a wooden foot locker, a secret book with a forbidden note not to read.

But the minute Jared opens and reads through the book strange things begin to happen that initially he can't convince his family members of their existence Until Jared is befriended by a little gnome called "house brownies", Thimbletack (voice by Martin Short), the protector of the book that must stay in the house. There is a wonderful spirit to this film conjures up some of the early Spielberg-like qualities from director Mark Waters who ambitiously stretches out from his usual frothy teen to young adult comedies like "Mean Girls" and "Just like Heaven".

Whereas The Golden Compass" was just too broad and ambitious to be absorbed; "The Spiderwick Chronicles" seems to satisfy more by taking a narrow approach that simplifies the proceedings with a brisk, inventive and energetic attitude. PG; 97min. A Paramount Pictures Release - presented at selected theaters

**JUMPER** (\*) "Jumper" is nothing more than child's play that has the visual effects and gimmick premise of "teleporting" across the country and through walls at will that fascinates our senses, but offers little substance from the movie's juvenile script.

This is movie that looks like more by providing less from where it's supposed to count



Samuel L. Jackson in Jumper

the most—in the story. Thus, becomes only marginally interesting when the action literally leaps from one location to another.

Setting up the movie better than their adult counterparts who must carry the rest of this thinly scripted movie; David Rice (Max Theriot) is an average, nerdy teenager living in Ann Arbor, Michigan who discovers his strange power during a freak accident falling into the icy water trying to retrieve a crystal ball gift meant for the school's most popular girl, Millie (AnnaSophia Robb) thrown onto the frozen pond by a school bully. Only David somehow manages to re-emerge soaking wet in his clothes in the school library.

Wanting to shred his "loser" image, his estranged father (Michael Rooker) left abandoned by his wife years earlier. David decides to use his new power to improve his life while becoming a high school dropout

And if that doesn't send an ill advised message by this movie, I don't know what else does! David spends eight years establishing his

See page 7



# THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS'

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**AJ'S FIRST LADIES WALK:** The 7th Year Celebration of Perfection Awards Ceremony and Dinner. When: Saturday, March 15 from 4pm to 9pm Where: Bethel Cultural Arts Center located at 1140 North Lamont, Chicago Illinois. There will be live entertainment and dinner will be served. For ticket information and sponsorship packages please call Ms. AJ at (312) 545-4448. This event is presented by Free Spirit Women Unlimited

### NFTE from page 3

because, a lot of the time, the young men are not able to step up. The purpose of our course here is to give them an experience in developing business capabilities and then use those," he said.

The NFTE program has been at North Lawndale College Prep for three years, and has garnered the support of local entrepreneurs who mentor the students and even provide scholarships for college and business development. Henry is most proud of the fact that this year has seen the launching of the first businesses by students in the program. The junior class students have been producing videos of poetry readings by local artists that they are selling, and will also produce a CD and other merchandise such as t-shirts. The basketball team is also working on a sports development camp in which they will contract out their athletic skills to run training camps throughout the community.

"I look forward to being able to set up permanent businesses, and let's teach people to use leadership skills in running a business," concluded Henry.

NFTE has partnered with 31 Chicago schools and has worked with 7,000 CPS students. For more information, visit [www.nfte.com](http://www.nfte.com).

Cinque Muhammad is a contributing writer to NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

### ADHD from page 3

Principal Investigator for UIC Research. Stein is doing a current study on medicines for children and adults with ADHD.

"With this evaluation, we hope to identify who is going to respond to which particular medicines we're investigating," he says.

Some of the medications being tested are Concerta and Stratera among others, for different age groups. If you would like more information regarding this study, you could reach Lauren Maul, Study Coordinator at (312)-355-3319 or go on the university's website, [www.uic.edu](http://www.uic.edu), and search their Research department.

Brandi Walker is a contributing writer for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

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### Feb 21 Black Facts



Malcolm X

\* On this day in 1965, Bro. El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X), American Black Nationalist, was assassinated in Audubon Ballroom at a rally of his organization, 11 months after his split from Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam. Three Blacks were later convicted of the crime and sentenced to life imprisonment.

\* On this day in 1917, Jazz musician, Thelonious Sphere Monk Jazz musician was born in Rocky Mount, N.C, but raised in New York.

\* On this day in 1936, Barbar Jordan, who will be the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives, is born.

\* On this day in 1987, African Americans in Tampa, Florida rebelled after an African American man was killed by a white police officer while in custody.

\* On this day in 1895, North Carolina Legislature, dominated by Black Republicans and white Populists, adjourned for the day to mark the death of Frederick Douglass.

\* On this day in 1992, Eva Jessye choral director for the first Broadway production of Porgy and Bess died in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

### TIF from page 5

residents who spoke in favor of the proposed TIF, including Kelly Smith, a young man who went away to school and returned to the same devastated environment he left. According to him, "from an economic standpoint, we need the tools to bring more resources to our neighborhood."

Sandrelle Scott also supports the current plan. She believes the crisis in North Lawndale is urgent, and requires immediate action.

"With no plan," she said, "what are we going to do?"

Many North Lawndale residents were given the opportunity to speak at the meeting,

### Perry from front page

Perry and she expanded on their original idea of a just getting him gift. "I've been in Banking and investment for 14 years and I have yet to run across a customer that age. There was no way that I wasn't going to do something for this man," said Davis. This brought Branch manager Jerome C. Daniels Vice President Branch in on the plans and they decided to have a birthday party at the branch for Mr. Perry.

He is alive, well and working Mr. Perry works at the desk where he lives as a member of the tenant patrol. "I was about thirty years old" said Mr. Perry about changing his life. "When I was young I did things just like other young people did go to night clubs, taverns and sit up and drank whiskey just like the rest of them. But what did the trick for me was visiting a friend who was in the bed sick and was coughing. When he coughed I picked up his spit cup and chunks of meat come out him this big. I went home and told my wife about it. She said, "maybe God is trying to tell you something. So I just quit alcohol and I quit smoking. That Sunday, I told my wife "I am going to walk to church and you take the car. I have been a member of that church ever since."

Mr. Perry worked 15 years at the Oh Henry Candy Company, 14 at Virginia Engineering Company, and 12 years on the Secret Police Force. For the last 15 years, he has worked as co-captain of Garfield Senior High Rise Tenant Patrol. He has one granddaughter, Maureen Price living on the North Side of Chicago and a host of friends and loved ones in Chicago and the Lawndale Community. Happy Birthday Mr. Perry and thanks for living a quality life.

and many issues were brought to the table. Despite some apparent community support for the proposal, The Lawndale Alliance, along with many community members, will continue fighting for community representation in order to modify what they believe to be a flawed plan. Otherwise, said Mark Carter, a North Lawndale Resident who vowed to establish a community voice or die trying "these are tools of gentrification not beautification."

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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### Flicks from page 4

better life; by robbing banks (leaving promissory notes that are never honored) and living in a ritzy condo apartment building in New York.

Until his exploits begin to be tracked by a relentless, white mini-afro cut Samuel L. Jackson in his usual attitude performance as Roland, a tracker who represents a religious fanatic group known as "paladins" that views "jumpers" as an "abomination", by doing "what is only meant for God to be at all places at all times". Roland sees no good coming from any "jumpers" who therefore must be track down and killed.

While David later seeks to find his remarried mother (Diane Lane in a cameo bit) with a daughter who knew of David's power before he did and allegedly leave her first family to protect. Even though it seems from photo viewed by Roland that the mother is somehow connected more to the evil paladins. And later David manages to leave Roland alone in the mountains to suggest the option of a movie sequel.

But if "Jumper" to be first a small movie to set up a biggest cinematic follow-up; Then the filmmakers didn't do us any favor leaving the viewer in a sense of disbelief in what transpires here in this incoherent script for this misguided movie. PG-13; 88min. A 20th Century Fox Pictures Release – presented at selected theaters

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

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## THE HONORABLE MRS. ROSALEE WELLS

Jasmine Q. Stuart



(L-r) Mrs. & Rev. Benjamin Turk (Pastor and first lady of Central Memorial) and Mrs. Rosalee Wells (Mother of Central Memorial).

Not long ago, on February 8, 1908 Mrs. Rosalee Wells was born in Fayette, Mississippi. Mrs. Wells craved for a better life and decided to move to Chicago where she met her late husband. She was also the owner of a cleaners.

Currently, Mrs. Wells attends Central Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located at 249 N Kedzie Ave where the pastor is Rev. Benjamin Turk. Mrs. Wells was an active member of Central Memorial. She used to be the treasure of the church.

"I am the mother of the church. The church was organized right here in my basement," said Mrs. Wells. The members respect me. They treat me very nice to me because I act like a lady around them."

Mrs. Rosalee Wells just recently had a celebration for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and here is what she had to say about it.

"It was nothing fancy. After you get a certain age you forget all of that fluffy stuff, but I did enjoy it."

Mrs. Rosalee is truly blessed. For she has lived to be 100 years old. Do not let her age fool you. Mrs. Wells is not

your ordinary elderly woman. In fact once she notified that a feature story was being produced about her, she had something that she wanted to share with her male readers.

"Tell them I am looking for a husband," said Mrs. Wells with a smile on her face that would brighten.

Mrs. Wells is a "breath of fresh air." Being that she is 100 years of age, many people would expect her not to be able to talk for herself. Indeed, conversing with her is certainly not a problem. She speaks very fluently with she has something to say and is not afraid to speak her mind.

"I love cracking jokes and having fun," said Mrs. Wells.

"People make me happy."

Mrs. Wells is an outgoing woman who desire to live life to the fullest. She enjoys the simple thing in life. Not only does Mrs. Wells love conversing with people, but in her spare time, she enjoys watching preachers deliver their sermon on television.

"I love Jeremiah Wright," said Mrs. Rosalee Wells. "I watch him whenever he's on television."

Considering the fact that Mrs. Wells has for a century, she witnessed unforgettable experience that will last for a lifetime. "I went overseas in the "Holy Land" and got baptized in River Jordan," said Mrs. Wells.

There is never a dull moment when conversing with Mrs. Wells. For she has a lot to say. When asked what advice would give to the younger generation she stated, "You got to demand respect to get respect."

Mrs. Wells is an independent woman who makes her own decisions. "If I'm accustomed to what you are doing I'm with you. If I'm not then I'm not with you." In other words, she is a leader and not a follower.

Mrs. Wells has not given up on life and if it be the Lord's will, she will be here for years to come.

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Diagnostic Testing</b><br><br><b>\$39.99</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>OIL CHANGE, FILTER, TOP OF THE FLUIDS &amp; ENGINE FLUSH</b><br><br><b>\$39.99</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Radiator Flush</b><br><br><b>\$59.99</b><br><small>Pink Antifreeze Extra</small>                            |
| <b>Struts</b><br><br><b>Front or Rear Installed</b><br><br><b>\$199.00</b><br><small>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</small>                                                                                                                                        | <b>Mufflers</b><br><br><b>\$19.99</b><br><small>Inspect exhaust system for leaks. Labor Extra. MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</small>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Converter</b><br><br><b>INSTALLED</b><br><br><b>\$129.99</b><br><small>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</small> |
| <b>Full Tune-Up Service</b><br><br><small>4 cyl. \$169.00 6cyl. \$189.00 8cyl. \$209.00</small><br><small>Includes plugs, wires, fuel filter, air filter, P.C.V. valve cap, rotor, oil change and filter.</small><br><small>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</small> | <b>Front or Rear Brakes Service</b><br><br><b>\$59.99</b><br><small>Front or Rear</small><br><small>Includes installation of front pads, inspect inspect rotors, wheelbearing, calipers, hydraulic system and road test. Pads and shoes extra.</small><br><small>MOST CARS &amp; LIGHT TRUCKS</small> |                                                                                                                |