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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

## STOPPING FORECLOSURES

Priscilla Lucas



Paul Stewart at foreclosure meeting

Paul M. Stewart, Sr., Account Executive/Renovation Specialist from Community Mortgage Corp., started the series with a list of "Eight Options to Avoid Foreclosure". The list gives the homeowners a fighting chance in keeping their homes.

Stewart pointed out that many residents that are struggling to keep their properties fail to contact their lenders to discuss solutions to their dilemma.

According to statistics from the Home Ownership Preservation Project, nearly "50% of owners do not contact their lenders during this [foreclosure] process and this must be stopped," said Stewart.

"People are so much in a hole like a mole and they don't talk to the lenders," he said encouraging

anyone who may be going through this crisis to open the lines of communication.

Stewart shared with the crowd the Eight Options to Avoid Foreclosure:

1. Reinstatement – This occurs when the loan is brought current by paying the total past due. You have an absolute right to fully reinstate your loan within 90 days of being served with a Complaint to Foreclosure Mortgage.

2. Repayment Plan – This is designed to reinstate the loan. It is an agreement to bring the mortgage current over time.

3. Redemption – This is the act of paying off the delinquent loan in full. You have the right to payoff

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Hunter's Realty, Inc., hosted an informative series of workshops to help residents of Chicago's

Westside overcome the backlash of sub-prime loans and stopping foreclosures on their homes.

## COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OPENS SATELLITE OFFICE

Zaki A. Muhammad

"This office is here to serve the community," stated Commissioner Robert Steele as he talked about his unwavering desire and loyalty to serve the Westside at the opening of his administrative center satellite office at 3936 W. Roosevelt. The office includes a conference center for community use intended for meetings, a copy center to produce material used by the office and used for community needs.

An area for Teleconferencing that will enable contacts that exist outside of the neighborhood and over the world be accessed with ease. Space is also available for Training of community residents in future programs that are in the planning stages. It is located on the ground floor and the Commissioner said, "This will allow seniors and people

with disabilities the opportunity to enter with not much difficulty." Continuing he said, "I want it to have a community filled with a downtown look."

About the overall need and presence in the neighborhood he commented, "It will be a meeting place that the entire community can use to gather at and have resources" Of particular interest will be "Youth" with emphasis on helping them to locate jobs before summer arrives. Speaking to the seriousness of young people preparing for the future he talked about his most recent trip abroad on behalf of the Lawndale Business & Local Development Corporation as its Executive Director he said, "We must get our young people to think globally. They are competing with people in

See Steele page 7



Commissioner Robert Steele and Former Cook County Board President Bobbie Steele

## "Sex In The City" in the Church

Jasmine Stuart



Brenda Matthews, poet as known as "Mamma Brenda", hosts AIDS awareness event at Christian Valley Church located at 1237 S. Homan, where Steve Greer is the pastor. Mamma Brenda, (white top with microphone), along with event staff.

"Sex In The City" took place at Christian Valley Church, located at 1237 S. Homan on Thursday, February 21 at 6 pm. The atmosphere was filled with mostly youth who were accompanied by a few adults. Parents were not exempt from this event and Mama Brenda had a few things that she also wanted to share with them.

"I'm kind of disappointed with parents because parents don't have any trust in their children," said "Mama Brenda" Mathews, a local award winning poet who is championing AIDS awareness among youth. "It's like a dictatorship and you just can't tell young people 'no.' Sex is bigger than 'no.' Learning about sexuality got to start at home. Parents have to talk to their children."

Parents please do not be offended by the words of Mama Brenda, for she

is a straight forward women who only speaks from the heart.

"I'm not talking about every parent, but only to those who aren't doing their jobs," she said.

This event was hosted by Brenda "Mama Brenda" Matthews. She has been performing since the age of twelve. Thirty years later, Mama Brenda is still striving to reach the hearts and souls of as many youth and adults as she possibly can.

"My cousin got shot and killed many years ago and after he got killed I wanted to do something different," said Mama Brenda. "I wanted to get the word out. I wanted to do something that could benefit the community and get into the minds and hearts of young people."

Today's society is sadly

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**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.

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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Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203  
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 Free Training in Community Journalism!  
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Guest Speaker: Photo Journalist and Professor at Columbia College, Billy Montgomery, will be speaking on topics in Photo Journalism!

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## HOW TO GET AN EXPUNGEMENT

In 2008 the Wiley Resource Center, NFP began a free program in Lawndale that helps people with criminal record expungement on a consistent basis. We decided to host the program on nights and weekends so that residents would have yet another chance to access services, during times that most legal aid offices are often closed, but residents still need help. Since the time the ESP Initiative began, there have been a number of questions that residents always seem to ask; hopefully we can provide some basic answers here:

### What is expungement?

Expungement means that criminal records are erased and destroyed; the local criminal justice system pretty much treats these offenses as if they never existed; keep in mind that by law, expungement is an option limited to people that do not have any convictions on their records—the law looks at a person's record as a whole. Still, even when people do not qualify for an expungement, there are other alternatives (sealing and clemency). Sealing means that criminal records are closed to the public so that they cannot access sealed records; sealed records are only accessible to law enforcement and the courts.

Executive Clemencies are pardons; ex-offenders are forgiven for past offenses; here the prison review board will want to see 5-10 years since completion of the last sentence as well as letters of recommendation and witnesses that can attest that this person has turned their life around. Attorneys look to see if you are eligible for expungement or sealing before seeking a clemency/pardon.

**Why should anyone seek criminal record expungement, sealing, or pardons?**

Clearing your criminal record will provide greater employment, housing, and educational opportunities. Employers and housing authorities cannot ask about, or hold expunged or sealed records against you, and you are no longer barred from receiving educational loans.

### How long does the process take?

It may take between 6 to 9 months to hear back from a Judge about expungements and sealings once you have filed your paperwork; even people who are denied have a right to ask the court to reconsider its decision. Remember that clemencies/pardons go through a different process before the prison review board and it may take up to 3 years to get a decision; even those denied here have a right to petition the board again after a year. The reality is that each case is considered based on its own facts and circumstances and so you cannot predict what would happen to you based upon what has happened to other people in their situations.

### How much does the process cost?

Chicago arrest records are \$16 at Chicago Police Headquarters; you would need to contact other departments if you were arrested elsewhere. Legal assistance is free through our program for Lawndale residents; other residents will be referred to appropriate agencies who offer services for free or at a very limited expense.

The Clerk of the Cook County court charges a \$60 fee in connection with filing expungement and sealing paperwork and an additional \$9 per case filed (you may ask the court to waive your fees if you are unemployed or have very limited funds). The Illinois State Police charges \$60 to process forms as well.

### How can I get help to begin the process?

You must first get your arrest record from Chicago Police Headquarters at 35<sup>th</sup> Street and Michigan Ave. Residents may then meet our legal staff at ST Pilgrimage M.B. Church: 4339 W. Cermak Road Chicago, IL 60623. We meet monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays—5:30p.m. & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays—1:30p.m. (this month's meetings will be held on March 3 and March 15).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### What the Hell are We Fighting For?

Joe Ann Bradley

There appears to be a lot of confusion about the Lawndale Alliance and what we as a fairly new organization stand for. Unfortunately, even after all the meetings and dissemination of paperwork to the contrary, as recently as February 19, Alderman Dixon accused the Alliance of putting out 'misleading information' at the Community Development Commission (CDC) Public Hearing on the proposed Ogden/Pulaski TIF.

I found this accusation to be very troublesome as I for one do not appreciate being accused of lying. To the contrary, the Lawndale Alliance has been very straightforward about everything we have done regarding this business with the Ogden/Pulaski TIF. We are very concerned to the point that many members have made a number of financial and personal sacrifices to help get the word out even though they are not on any lists connected with this TIF. . . . . yet. Which is one reason why we fight.

We wanted to make our voices heard at the CDC Public Hearing so we contacted Alliance members and asked them to attend. They understood the importance of being at the meeting

and voluntarily took time off to attend. We had about 40 members come on the bus we rented and many met up with us downtown. We began our protest with a press conference outside Mayor Daley's office and later went downstairs to wait for the public hearing to begin. We noticed that Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC) arrived with a bus load of people as well. Mark Carter noticed that many were from LCDC's Hope House and even questioned them as to why they were at the hearing. What Mark learned was that they were told to be at the hearing to support LCDC's position as being in favor of the TIF as is. They told Mark if they did not show up they could possibly be put out of the shelter.

One BIG concern we still have with this TIF, (even though it was passed by the Community Development Commission) is the fact that it still has powers of Eminent Domain. Now let's talk about *misleading information*. The city and Alderman Dixon keep insisting they won't take your property. If this is true then why have the Eminent Domain clause in the redevelopment at all? Why not make it completely voluntarily so people, especially our seniors, won't have to worry

about their property being taken. This very concept of voluntary Eminent Domain, was recently adopted for Lincoln Square by their alderman. And once the city accepts a policy for one ward, it can be applied to all wards, but the *alderman* has to be woman enough to push for it which is another reason why we fight.

We have published the lists of Housing Potentially Subject to Displacement via the local papers, flyers and the internet. This list still has 41 units of housing on it. We took pictures to prove that some of the homes have been completely rehabbed and should not be on the list. Alderman Dixon should have insisted the city remove those homes from the list. At the CDC hearing on February 19, several people, mostly seniors asked that their property be removed from the list, but to no avail. The Lawndale Alliance's position is that ALL the Housing Potentially Subject to Displacement should be removed from the list. It was due to the efforts of Lawndale Alliance and its members that the first list was reduced from 135 buildings down to 41.

See Alliance page 7

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## HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY FORUM

David Tenorio

While the medical community has made great strides in the treatment of HIV and AIDS world wide, minorities as a rule have been underrepresented when it comes to being included in clinical trials or preventive research conducted by pharmaceutical companies in recent years. This revelation was one of the several topics brought out during a special Community Forum held last Saturday at the Wesley United Methodist Church as Chicago kicked off its National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day.

A consortium of several social/medical organizations banded to present the Community Advocacy Forum including the Chicago Department of Public Health, physicians from several local area hospitals, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, National Association of People with AIDS, Cook County of Health Services, and Men & Women in Prison Ministries, and The Association of Clinical Trials Services (TACTS). The featured guest speaker at the community forum was renowned journalist/author, Harriet Washington, who discussed her book, "Medical Apartheid," during the community meeting.

In her talk, Ms. Washington stressed that minorities, in particular the African American population, have not been represented well in

clinical trials and research when it comes to HIV/AIDS in this country. However, Ms. Washington stated that this practice in the medical field has been consistent with the treatment of minorities in this country over several decades.

In her book, Ms. Washington detailed how the medical community has, for years, excluded African Americans, in particular, when it comes to research and treatment for HIV/AIDS. "We have steadily ignored African Americans in this country when it comes to clinical trials and research for preventive medicines that affect them in particular," Ms. Washington said. "African Americans have the highest percentage of victims associated with HIV/AIDS, but when clinical trials are conducted or new research is done, it usually involves more Caucasian participants than those who truly represent the population being affected the most by these diseases."

However Ms. Washington feels this has been consistent with the treatment of African Americans and other minorities by the medical community in this country over the years. In her book Ms. Washington points out how the medical community started experimenting with African Americans years ago, most of the time without their knowledge or consent.

Unfortunately what has materialized in this country over the years is that most clinical trials, even those aimed toward alleviating medical ailments in minorities, have been conducted predominantly with Caucasian participants. As a result, because of the physical differences between Whites and Blacks, the clinical trials do not fairly represent treatment or preventive results for those who are severely affected by the various diseases. In order to achieve some sort of balance in the clinical trials, TACTS was founded by Yaa Simpson, a community epidemiologist who works full time for the City of Chicago Department of Public Health.

"We started TACTS to make sure that clinical trials addressed the concerns of all patients, not just a certain group," Ms. Simpson said. "Through an ongoing basis TACTS monitors current clinical trials to make sure that they address whom they are suppose to address, in particular, those with HIV/AIDS disease. Overwhelmingly the population afflicted with HIV/AIDS the most is the African American community and overwhelmingly the people participating in the clinical trials are not, and this is something that needs to be corrected in the future."

See Forum page 7

# CHILDCARE SERVICES



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## Church from front page

corrupted with negativity. The media has brainwashed the youth and adults into thinking that life is all about sex, money, cars, and clothes. Life is about much more and education is the youth and adults way out of this tainted society. Being inspired, having hopes and dreams, is a big step to a successful career that may possibly have an impact on many people lives.

"How we know that we are making an impact is we have testers and you can know your status today by going to get tested, said Brenda "Mama Brenda" Matthews. "Judging by the things that young people come back and say to us, we know that we are making a difference in their lives."

Though only Sex In The City took place on that evening, Mama Brenda has two other programs that she has for young men and women.

"I have Sex in the City which is being done tonight and it's when young men and young women come together and we talk about this disease," said Mama Brenda. We have a person that lives with this disease. We have a health

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Carl Paulsen from Lawndale Christian Development Corporation speaks to youth on myths and facts about AIDS.

educator and we talk about the ABC's of this disease. "

Based on how the youth were behaving, they have a long way before they will be able to take on the "real world." The youth laughed whenever Mama Brenda mentioned anything involving sex. Sex is not a joke. It is difficult to distinguish if they were laughing because they understood what she was saying or if they were laughing because they are young and do not know any better. Whatever the case may be, there is not an excuse. The only activity that evening that seemed to catch their attention was the foot working contest.

Over the course of the evening, there were many things taking place. Mama Brenda had poets who came and performed. A woman who had been diagnosed with HIV gave her testimony. Two ladies came to give those who were willing an HIV test and, as an incentive, the participants were entered into a raffle to win a Toshiba laptop or a \$25 gift card to Wal Mart.

The other two programs are Girls Nite Out and From Boys To Men. Both programs involve the same notion as the Sex In The City.

"I have what's called Girls Nite Out," said Mama Brenda. Girls Nite Out is when we bring



Youth listened, played memory games about AIDS and were given prizes for what they learned or already knew about AIDS, at Christian Valley Church.

all the girls together and we get gender-specific. We talk about stuff that affects us as African-American women. We talk about relationship; we talk about young women coming together and trusting each other and communicating and that a man should not be their all and all."

"I also have what is called boys night out where we can, again, get gender-specific and deal with relationships, with education, and the street," said Mama Brenda.

Mama Brenda stated that all three are powerful and life changing! "We have been successful in our approach and well received by those who have participated."

Remember that "it takes a village to raise a child." Today's society has to come together to better the youth. They cannot raise themselves. The youth are the next generation and they are waiting for their role models to pave the paths.

"I believe youth are the future. They are the new leaders and world changers," said Mama Brenda

Jasmine Stuart is an 18 year old senior at North Lawndale College Prep high school. Jasmine is an intern for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic

**CITY OF MEN (\*\*\*)** It has been apparent in previous foreign movie dramas depicting the struggles within an impoverished third-world country with a ghetto lifestyle of street gangs offers a different, more character driven observation than our stateside, hip-hop flavored inner city dramatizations.

This Brazilian import, "City of Men" is from the same filmmaker and writer who teamed for the 2003 Oscar nominee for best foreign film, "City of God". Apart from these films' similar settings, "City of Men" bares no resemblance to their aforementioned film.

"City of Men" is a movie about transition in life between two teenage male best friends set within the street gangster environment amidst the slums and hills of Rio de Janeiro. On a hot, humid sunny day, a small group of gang members and their girlfriends are hanging out on the mountainous terrain known as "Dead End Hill".

Some one recommends a bold move, to head to the local beach to cool off. Gang leader, "Midnight" goes against the concern of his lieutenant, "Fasto" (Eduardo BR) who begins to feel neglected and under-appreciated that later gives way to his own ambition and abrupt departure to form his own gang to oppose his boss in a rival gang war.

But this movie is less about the drugs, money, sex or even the turf war that does evolve in the film. This movie is more about a friendship that is put to the test. "Ace" (Douglas Silva) is a married, young man trying to get-it-together Even though his tendencies are more of a boy trying to be man;

This means being responsible to his long suffering wife Cris while learning to be a father to his baby son, Clayton that Cris drops off in his care while she goes to work. His best friend and running mate is, "Wallace" rides a scooter around town and still lives at home with his mother.

"City of Men" is a descent and interesting film that becomes a little too neat and clean with its ending that also remove more edge and grit off this import compared to other films that occasionally softens this film's impact and purpose considering its gruff setting. R; 100min. A Miramax Films Release - Presented at AMC Pipers Alley 4 and Cinemark Evanston Cine Arts 6 selected theaters

**VANTAGE POINT (\*\*1/2)** "Vantage Point" is an intentionally repetitive movie that alternates the varied viewpoints from the participants involved in a Presidential assassination attempt that almost puts one over its viewer,, but not exactly!

It's a descent thrill ride full of rapidly pace action and excitement for this singular thriller given its multi-gimmick "Rashomon"-style premise.

However regardless of the clues revealed from each playback, the movie still has the same end result for who is really behind it all. Naturally done as a surprise twist on one key character that really isn't

Filmed in Mexico City doubling for Spain, world leaders are gathering for a summit meeting to sign a landmark terrorism treaty, being led by U.S. President Ashton (William Hurt) arriving by motorcade to an outdoor platform behind a massive cathedral building.

Sigourney Weaver plays the TV producer, Rex Brooks with her mobile news crew to capture this news event who happens to notice Dennis Quaid as secret service agent Thomas Barnes being part of the president's security entourage.

Barnes's participation offers concern from other agents who felt he might have been activated too soon after taking a bullet in an earlier assassination attempt on Ashton. So Barnes is teamed with a hot shot rookie agent, Kent Taylor (Matthew Fox)

As the assassination attempt occurs from



Forest Whitaker in Vantage Point

a sniper's bullets hitting the president at the podium. Barnes tackles a man running on to the stage who claims to be part of the Mayor's security detail

Soon after a bomb explodes from under the platform in front of a crowded town square, this includes a tourist, Howard Lewis (Forest Whitaker) who happens to film the proceedings on his camcorder.. And he happens to capture more from his single camera than all the multi cameramen filming and transmitting different angles from the TV news mobile unit truck

Lewis's camera captures a man in a window from a decoy window chosen by Barnes, who views the tape and radios for backup assistance to sweep that building for the shooter. His partner, Taylor goes after the sniper.

"Vantage Point" reminds me of those recent TV magic specials that reveal how the tricks were done, to maintain the illusion in the finale. It makes for a cleverly conceived movie that is not slick enough to trick its audience. PG-13; 90min. A 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters

**CHICAGO 10 (\*\*\*)** This year marks the

40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1968 Chicago Democratic convention that possibly was one of the ugliest moments in the city's history. This rather energized documentary from filmmaker Brett Morgen that premiered at the Chicago International Film Festival, last October.

Morgen's day-glow documentary re-accounts through an extensive archive (some rarely seen) actual footage featuring

the comments, the participants, the events that led into an anti- (Vietnam)war protest rally downtown that turned into a brutal clash between the police and protestors during the convention.

And the jailed architects for the rally known as the "Chicago 10" led by Jerry Rubin, Abby Hoffman, Lee Weiner and the incense and restrained Bobby Seales among them who were brought to a controversial courtroom trial proceedings done in 3D animation with such notable actors as the late Roy Scheider as the bias Chicago Judge Julius Hoffman, Jeffrey Wright as Seales, and Nick Nolte, Hank Azaria, Mark Ruffalo, all voicing their roles from the actual courtroom transcripts.

The actual footage seems to do more than the computer animation that feels robotic than fluid in their movements and facial expression. The animation doesn't seem to add much beyond the unseen actors doing their lines from the transcripts.

But for minority moviegoers that take the time to check out this interesting and historic documentary. They will find a lot of the attitudes and manipulation that goes on in the Illinois judicial system between judges that

See Flicks page 7

# Theater Review- *Beneath A Dark Sky*

Mike Cook



Willamena and Paw Paw

tragic funeral. Their bitterness towards one another runs deep as their failures are mirror images; abandonment of family, women and children left to cope as best they can without male influence, guidance or protection. Gratefully, there is a saving grace. Paw Paw's story is one of working on an oil rig and refinery. An explosion kills many workers, but Paw Paw survives and sees an opportunity. No one knows that he lived, so his survivors collect the insurance money.

He's supposed to be dead so he can only sneak into town every five years or so. But the insurance money paid for the house and he pledges to send Willamena to college. William is left to sell moonshine, gamble, and exploit women. The playwright asks: was there ever a golden age, or is this tale of Southeast Texas more like it, or is it something in between?

Stilwell infuses the complex role of Rebecca with a spark of both optimism and resignation. Sanders as Willamena and Harmon as Paw Paw invest their peculiar bond with heart and nuance. Word's role is underdeveloped but he manages to cut quite a figure as a modern day Stagger Lee. Kim Crutcher's direction manages these doings with a fine touch for the rhythms and twists of the script. MPAACT Theatre Company scores with another fine production.

*Beneath a Dark Sky* runs through March 11<sup>th</sup> at Victory Gardens Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Avenue; 8:30 PM Thursday and Friday; 8 PM Saturday and 3:30 Sunday; reduced ticket price for groups, seniors and students. Contacts: 773/871-3000; [www.impact.org](http://www.impact.org).

Mike Cook is a North Lawndale resident and NLCN's theatre critic. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

Shepsu Aakhu's play is a bold tapestry, weaving in realities and dynamics that are threatening and usually consigned to cliché and fantasy. One often hears and reads that once there was a golden age for African-Americans; the family was intact, the community was cohesive and mutually supportive (any adult could discipline anyone's child in this community), the leaders acted without self-interest. His play takes a very knowing eye to myth and denial

Rebecca (Carla Stilwell) lives in a house not knowing how her dwelling came to be. Her daughter, Willamena (Symphony Sanders), is subjected to all of her mother's thoughts about men and relationships. Rebecca's father, Paw Paw (Arch Harmon), is even more distant and elusive, although he strives to maintain a relationship with his granddaughter using their ritual of fishing to teach her faith, confidence, and patience. Rebecca's husband, William (Sati Word), a dashing, superfly type known to maintain relationships with women across southeast Texas, is missing for years at a time. He and Paw Paw despise one another and manage never to be in the same place at the same time.

But they come together after twenty years, when Paw Paw appears and William arrives to make excuses for missing his teenage son's

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# SPORTS ROUNDUP

Todd Thomas

The Chicago Public League 2007/08 basketball championship tournament is in the books and the Marshall Commandos have defeated the Farragut Admirals 55-51 for the Public League championship.

The Marshall boys defeated North Lawndale and Englewood to advance to the title game against rival Farragut, whom they had beaten twice already this season. The Commandos (25-4) were led by Darius Smith (16 points) and Davaris Davis (15 points). Farragut (19-6) was led by McDonald's All-American Mike Dunigan (12 points, 12 rebounds) and Marvin Thigpen who finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

The Marshall victory capped a tumultuous season that started with the firing of head coach Lamont Bryant. The team threatened to boycott the entire season but eventually accepted the new head coach Courtney Hargrays, who coincidentally, was on the 1991 Marshall team that won the city championship as a player. After the tough beginning, when Marshall players take to the streets marching with protest signs in support of Lamont Bryant, what better way to begin a new era, under a new coach, than with a city championship.

But no rest for the weary is the rule and the Illinois state championship tournament begins this week. Marshall ranked No. 2 in the area, is a favorite to win the Class 3A title, and No. 4 Farragut will compete for the 4A class title. North Lawndale (25-4) is still playing well and defeated Provence-St. Mel 101-38 and Holy Trinity 87-46 in the early rounds of the class 2A tournament. The Phoenix's next opponent is Walther Lutheran in the opening round of the Luther North Sectional. North Lawndale is the No. 1 seed in the sectional and many are anticipating a scintillating match up against No. 10 Englewood. If it materializes, the game will

be on Friday, March 29 at Luther North.

It goes without saying that this year was a great one for high school basketball on the West Side. Several teams will compete for state trophies and several individual players have earned spots on the all-area team including first-teamers Mike Dunigan of Farragut and Marshall's Ryan Hare. Dion Dixon of Crane, Darius Smith of Marshall, and Isaiah Williams of Farragut made the second team. North Lawndale's sensational rebounder Jonathan Mills made the third team, and fourth-team honors went to the Commando's Ardarius Simmons. Special Mention honors went to Davarius Davis of Marshall, Darius Stowers and Marvin Thigpen of Farragut, and North Lawndale's Jonathan Taylor.

Not to be overlooked is the Marshall girl's basketball team, who also won the city championship this year. Congratulations Lady Commandos!

The basketball season has been a lot bleaker on the professional side and the Chicago Bulls have made some big changes before the NBA's trading deadline passed. Seeking a change in fortunes, the 22-33 franchise dealt center, Ben Wallace, to the Cleveland Cavaliers for several players including forward Dwight Gooden and forward Larry Hughes. Also included in the trade was Bulls forward Joe Smith, one of the few Bulls to show signs of life in this lethargic season. Wallace (Big Ben) was supposed to be a stalwart defender and team leader for the Bulls, but he never rose to the challenge and the fearsome presence he exuded for the Detroit Pistons never took form while he was in a Bulls uniform. Good luck to the new Bulls – they'll need it.

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



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### Foreclosure from front page

the loan during the redemption period. Redemption usually occurs through a sale or a refinance of the property.

4. Home Sale/Short Payoff – You can sell your home anytime before the foreclosure is finished. A short payoff occurs when you owe more on the loan than the house is worth.

5. Refinance – You may possibly refinance the loan if you have enough equity in your home. However, you will pay a high interest rate plus expensive loan charges.

6. Loan Modification – A loan modification refers to changing the terms of the delinquent mortgage. These changes may include extending the term of the mortgage, adding the delinquency to the mortgage amount or a reduction in the interest rate.

7. Bankruptcy – Filing bankruptcy will stop the foreclosure case. A Chapter 13 bankruptcy is a type of forced repayment plan. A bankruptcy can be filed anytime before a foreclosure sale. For most people, this should be the last option, not the first!

8. Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure – a deed in lieu of foreclosure is a voluntary transfer of the property to the lender in full satisfaction of the amount owed. By accepting the deed, the lender releases you from personal liability on the loan. Lenders will not accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure if there are other liens on the property.

Losing your home is a traumatic experience, but with plans currently being reviewed by Congressman Danny Davis, foreclosures can be thwarted. Stewart and others elaborated on the importance of communicating with lenders to get back on track with your mortgage payments.

“You have all of the tools available to you to avoid foreclosure,” said Stewart.

Priscilla Lucas is a North Lawndale resident and a journalism graduate from Columbia College. Priscilla is a general assignment reporter for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at www.nlcn.org.

### Feb 28 Black Facts



\* On this date in 1990, Philip Emeagwali (pictured above) was awarded the Gordon Bell Prize (computer science’s Nobel Prize) for solving one of the twenty most difficult problems in the computer science field.

\* On this date in 1859, the Arkansas legislature required free Blacks to choose between exile and enslavement.

\* On this date in 1778, the Rhode Island General Assembly in a precedent-breaking act authorized the enlistment of slaves to fight in the American revolution.

\* On this date in 1879, Southern Blacks fled political and economic exploitation in “Exodus of 1879.” Exodus continued for several years. One of the major leaders of the Exodus movement was a former slave, Benjamin (“Pap”) Singleton.

\* On this date in 1932, Richard Spikes invented the automatic gear shift.

\* On this date in 1943, Porgy and Bess opened on Broadway with Anne Brown and Todd Duncan in starring roles.

\* On this date in 1984, Musician and entertainer Michael Jackson wins eight Grammy Awards. His album, “Thriller” broke all sales records to-date, and remains one of the top-grossing albums of all time.

## Obama vs. Clinton Headed For The Stretch Run

James Glover

The round of 2008 Primary elections is almost to a close as Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton battle for the Democratic nomination. Obama now leads in the all important delegate count and he has also been cutting into Clinton’s main base of women and low income supporters.

There’s one week to go before the voters speak in Texas, Ohio, Vermont and Rhode Island — and a lot can happen in one week. The undecided Democratic voters still have plenty of time to study the candidates and the issues before making up their minds. And those who have made up their minds are certainly capable of changing their opinions. This is certain to make for an interested race and fun for all the analyst out there.

“This is the most charged I’ve seen people for a Presidential Election since I’ve been covering politics and that’s been for over 25 years. The country has been involved in so much turmoil over the last eight years from the 9/11 tragedy to the ongoing war on terrorism that people are so anxious, so ecstatic about the promise of new leadership, new direction that people are coming out of the woodwork,” said Wolf Blitzer, CNN political Analyst. “It’s affecting more than just this presidential race also. I’ve been at numerous high schools recently and the wave of political activity and it’s historical significance is creating not just history in the present but creating a new wave of political hopefuls for the future. Honestly, it’s a fantastic time to be in the political arena.”

One thing that has been noticed over these past several weeks by the general public and surely the Republican Party is that Democrats across the country are truly energized by this campaign. They are turning out to vote in huge numbers and this is suspected to be the case in the four

upcoming states.

Clinton’s supporters are passionate but so are Barack Obama’s supporters. These Democrats are also itching to start the general campaign, presumably against John McCain. Right now, Barack Obama is leading in just about every considerable poll on can think of, while also gaining momentum with Latino voters, which will certainly help when it comes to the voting in the Texas primary with their big Latino population.

“Many people believe that Latinos won’t vote for Barack Obama due to the underlying battle between Hispanics and African-Americans. That simply is not the case, as Latino voters, just like any other American voter will vote for what makes the most sense and the candidate that they feel best represents them and this land as a whole,” said Michael Laraso, Political Analyst and News Radio Talk Show Host for WOAI AM in San Antonio. “The fact that Obama is gaining serious ground amongst Latino voters is a testament to his commitment to universal change, which everyone of every race is eager to see.” Obama leads in the delegate count 1,360 to Clinton’s 1269 with Obama’s leads in polls climbing by the day. Tuesday debate (which ended too late for NLCN to comment on but will be covered along with primary results in next’s weeks edition) will go a long way in finally determining a Democratic nominee.

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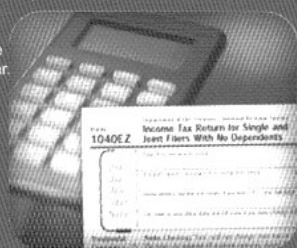
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#### Tax Tip

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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**AJ'S FIRST LADIES WALK:** The 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Lamon, 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

## Flicks from page 4

don't challenge the laws to make them better for the sake of their re-election and petition, and the prosecutors' deceptive use of word games and theatrics to gain their convictions by extremes still exist today

From a then to now" perception, some lessons might have been learned, but "all" the lessons from the vantage of the courtroom demeanor have not been learned or corrected. Therefore, this documentary help reaffirms the belief that the lessons taught aren't always "all" the lessons that should have been learned in certain factions of our society. R; 110min. A Roadshow Attractions Pictures Release - Presented at Landmark's Century Centre, Cinemark Cine Arts 6 and selected theaters

**THE COUNTERFEITERS (\*\*\*\*)**  
Based on a true story, Salomon "Sally" Sorowitsch was considered the best counterfeiter who's captured led to a high ranking position for a Nazi officer who imprisons him at Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Salomon's artistic talent begins to take notice as a portrait sketcher for the officers to war propaganda wall murals.

Living at first in a separate barrack from the other known as the retouch department, where he eventually meets other POW's brought from other camps that consist of ex-bankers, professional printers and everyday craftsmen

With the end of the war approaching, the authorities decide to assemble the inmates for Salomon to lead in manufacturing bogus currency. Known as "Operation Bernhard", the Nazi intend to flood and ruin the Berlin's economy during WWII.

Through the scenes of Holocaust-type abuse and prejudice distributed onto the inmates by the Nazis. Some Nazis have reservations about their actions that seem to reflect the new wave of German filmmakers who rather deliver the history along with the shame with honesty and understated emotion.

As this year's well deserved Oscar winner for Best Foreign film from Austria; "The Counterfeiters" is one of those movie experiences that sticks with a viewer long after the viewing. This is a remarkable and powerful movie that deserves your time and attention. R; 99min. A Sony Pictures Classics Release - Presented at the Music Box Theater, Cinemark Evanston Cine Arts 6 and other 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.

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## Alliance from page 3

Alderman Dixon said nothing. Her property at 1630 South Central Park was on the first list of Housing Potentially Subject to Displacement and thanks to the Lawndale Alliance making her aware of this fact, she made sure her property was removed, but she could not lift her voice and defend the seniors whose housing is still on the list, which is another reason why we fight.

Alderman Dixon seems to think it is okay that a number of people in her ward (24) face losing their property. Alderman Munoz isn't worried because none of his people face losing their property. Of the 41 units still on the Housing Potentially Subject to Displacement only one (one) is located in Munoz's ward.

Alderman Dixon seems to think it is okay to wait on putting in place a TIF Advisory Council before the TIF is approved. Alderman Munoz isn't worried because most of the people on the Advisory Council will come from the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward. Passing the TIF as is means fewer decisions to be made by the council.

## Flicks from page 4

India China and elsewhere and must develop themselves more along technological lines."

There is an office for the Commissioner. In addition, there is an office for his administrative assistant. The building also has a second floor that houses Deer Rehabilitation Services. There are programs that allow juveniles to participate in activities that can keep them from being a statistic in the correctional system by offering alternative training and classes that are court approved Commissioner Steele visited the Middle East and was impressed with their level of sophistication in modernizing and building up the area where they live. This same commitment to North Lawndale is what he spoke about next by saying, "We are family, and we should be able to work together."

Officer Ervin who said he was not a resident of the Westside at this present moment but still

## Forum from page 3

Among groups also not addressed by the medical clinical trials are those young people between the ages of 12 to 25. Dr. Lisa Henry-Reid, a pediatrician at Stroger Hospital said more attention and focus about the HIV/AIDS disease needs to be directed toward people in this age group. "Our county does not do a good job in explaining or publicizing the dangers of HIV/AIDS awareness for the young people in the 12-25 year old group," Dr. Reid stated. "Unfortunately most clinical trials are aimed at patients 18 and older and those 18 and younger are completely ignored. The sad part about this is that the incidence of HIV/AIDS is rising faster in this age group than any other and we are doing nothing about it."

Dr. Oluwatoyin Adeyemi, assistant professor of medicine at Rush Hospital, also emphasized that more of the public needs to be involved when it comes to HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. "About 70 percent of our patients are male, but we

Alderman Dixon seems to think it is okay that the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward does not have any language in the proposed Ogden/Pulaski TIF for building up businesses for Blacks. Alderman Munoz isn't worried because he has businesses along 26<sup>th</sup> Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and looking to expand along Kedzie and Ogden.

Alderman Dixon seems to think it is okay for LCDC to bring supporters for the TIF from Hope House (a shelter) rather than listening to the long-time home owners in the community. The homeowners have everything to lose, LCDC has everything to gain from the passage of the Ogden/Pulaski TIF. For these and other reasons, we fight and we will continue to fight for the rights of North Lawndale residents.

The fact of the matter is neither myself, Valerie, Sam, Mark, Paul, Mrs. Goldsmith, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Woodson, or Mrs. Bowling and other Lawndale Alliance members have any property threatened to be taken and our property is not on any of the redevelopment plan lists. We do what we do because we care. We are not getting paid by any funder for our efforts. The money for all the work

had ties because his mother resides near the office, he stated, "It will be a beautiful thing for the Westside." He added I think Commissioner Steele is a good man and he cares a lot about the people." Visible in the opening of the office was the way the Commissioner himself worked tirelessly to bring about a success. He worked as a sound technician by plugging in wires for the sound and as a tour guide to show off the space that in his words, "North Lawndale is my home. The second district is a large territory, but my roots are here" he said and one guest to the event agreed. Officer Ervin a Chicago Police Department Employee who attended the opening remarked that Although he did not reside in the neighborhood and was visiting his mother said, "Commissioner Steele is a good person and the office is a beautiful thing for the Westside."

know that there are female patients out there with HIV/AIDS whom we never see or treat," Dr. Adeyemi said. "We have recently started a program in which we have asked our female patients to invite any female friends of theirs who have AIDS, to our meetings so they can become knowledgeable on what is out there to fight these diseases".

In addition to the Community Forum last Saturday, the CAEAR Coalition (Communities Advocating Emergency Aids Relief) will hold an HIV community input forum on Friday, February 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State Street, while the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is gathering support for a trip to Springfield on April 1-2 to lobby for HIV/AIDS awareness from out state legislators.

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we have done thus far has come out of our pockets and through the generosity of people giving when we take up a collection at our meetings. For me, I work a full time and a part time job and still take time out to fight for changes in this TIF and other members of the Alliance have made and continue to make similar sacrifices.

To put it bluntly for the hundredth time, THE LAWDALE ALLIANCE IS NOT AGAINST THE OGDEN/PULASKI TIF!!! We are against taking money that will be generated by homeowners and using it to move us out of our community. Now, who is really misleading the public? My advice is find out for yourself because the truth will not only set you free it also stands on its own and will be the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The Lawndale Alliance puts the truth out there because we too want the truth in return. We also believe in justice for all, not the privileged few and for holding on to the American dream. That's why we fight and we will continue to fight.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** should be no more than 300 words. Longer submissions may not be considered. All letters should have the person's name, address and contact phone number (for verification, not print). Anonymous letters may or may not be considered. The North Lawndale Community News reserves the right not to publish certain letters submitted. ALL ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. You can send your submissions to the North Lawndale Community News by mail to: Attn: Editor, The North Lawndale Community News-1211 S. Western Ave. Suite 203-Chicago, IL 60608, Or by email to: nlcen1@yahoo.com (email is post preferable), Or by fax to: 312/492-7162 Letters submitted will be checked for author verification

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## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

What up loyal readers glad to be back!

Yes, it official. Chris Brown and Rhianna are a couple. He threw her a big birthday party in her native Barbados for her 20<sup>th</sup> b-day. After that, they flew off to Jamaica for a vacation. I hope this couple is the next Jay and Beyonce. Keep all their business out of the media (except for me, keep me informed) so no rumors get started.

Rapper Jamal "Shyne" Barrow (now going by the name Moses Michael Levy) is expected to be out on good behavior this year. He's currently serving a 10-year sentence at Woodbourne Correctional Facility in New York for a 1999 incident where Shyne opened fire after a man confronted his former mentor Sean "Diddy" Combs in a nightclub. His early release will come the same year that his father, Dean Barrow, was elected as the first Black prime minister of their native Belize.

Jay-Z is being sued along with developer Bruce Ratner and Barclays bank for \$5 billion in slave reparations. Brooklyn activist Clive Campbell has filed a claim against saying, "they profited from the African Slave Trade and continue to profit from these gains, through a conspiracy dating back hundreds of years and continue to date to oppress Black people, enslave them, unlawfully deport them to all corners of the Earth." Right now, its just an allegation that the bank is linked to slave trade. Jay-Z who is part owner of the Ney York Nets, along with Ratner and Barclays bank is working together to build a basketball arena and 6,000 apartments in Brooklyn. I'll keep you posted on the outcome of this movement.

### QUICKIES:

Every since the Tank arrest more singers have been on the wrong side of the law. J. Holiday was taken into custody for possession of marijuana, after he was pulled over in



Rhianna and Chris having fun in the pool in Jamaica

Maryland and Ne-Yo was caught speeding at 100 mph and driving without a license in the state of Atlanta. Ne-Yo was released the same day on a \$1300 bond and is due back in court March 25<sup>th</sup>. Holiday was also released no word on his bond amount or next court date.

Ciara is holding open auditions for backup dancers to support her third album. The dancer are to be unsigned and I guess have skills like CiCi. She is not holding any auditions here in Chicago, but if you think you got what it takes auditions are held in Miami (Mar. 2), New York (Mar. 9) and Los Angeles (Mar. 16). For more information, visit YouTube.com/CiaraTV.

106 & Park "Freestyle Friday" Hall of Fame champion Jin has created a video for his "Open Letter to Obama." He first dropped the single in April of last year and the song has since had over 3 million plays on his Myspace site (Myspace.com/TheRealJin). The video can be seen on HipHop4Obama.net. Talib Kweli also recently penned an open letter to the presidential candidate, however his comes in a more traditional form without a beat or video. Good for these two getting all involved in politics.

Sources: www.concreteloop.com www.allhiphop.com The New York Observer

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

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

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