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THE NORTH LAWNDAL 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

Walking with an Attitude Fashion Show Better Life For Youth



Couple styling in lime green and gold with attitude in Better Life For Youth Fashion Show at St. Malachy 2252 W. Washington.



Dazzling in red model stops to strike a pose with attitude as audience applauds her on her way up to the stage. Story and more photos on page 7.

HOWARD B. BROOKINS VOWS TO FIGHT GANGS, CRIME AT PRESS CONFERENCE

David Tenorio

Gang bangers take heed, there may be a new sheriff in town come election day and if Howard Brookins Jr., becomes the new Cook County State's Attorney, one of his first items on his agenda will be to rid Chicago of its street gangs.

Brookins warning to Cook County's criminal element was delivered during a special press conference held Sunday, January 20 at a West Side restaurant where he was joined by Congressman Danny K. Davis and Alderman Isaac Carothers, both of whom formerly announced their official support for Brookins' candidacy for Cook County State's Attorney.

In announcing his support for Brookins, Congressman Davis stated, "We have in Alderman Brookins an experienced elected official who knows how to be accountable to the public and one whom I believe will bring fairness and equity across the board when he becomes our new

Cook County State's Attorney."

Davis added, "It is in the best interests of Cook County to elect Alderman Brookins because he is experienced, he knows the legal system, we believe that he will not be involved in selective prosecutions and that his office will make every effort to see that all citizens will be protected from the criminal element in this County."

Among the top priorities on Brookins' agenda, if elected as Cook County State's Attorney, he intends to protect juveniles and those "vulnerable" residents from criminals, in particular street gangs.

"One of the very first things I intend to do when elected as the new State's Attorney of Cook County is to re-organize the emphasis of prosecution on those who prey on the elderly residents as well as those gangs who try to recruit our juveniles into a life of crime," Brookins said. "I truly believe that there needs to be stronger

penalties for those gangs who try to recruit our young children as well as the criminal element who not only push selling illegal drugs, but for those who commit crimes with the use of illegally obtained weapons."

Brookins continued, "At the same time I also intend to do an overall re-organization of the office to bring it into the 21st century by installing new computer systems that will aid in bringing criminals to justice."

He added, "Unfortunately the State's Attorney's office has been operating the same way for the last 30-40 years by the same elected public officials who have their own agendas and in some cases, have certain people in their pockets. My plan is to make the operations of the state's attorney's office more effective by going after the criminal element and making our neighborhoods safer for families and children".

In addition to Congressman Davis, Brookins also has the support of many



Howard Brookins

other local politicians including: State Rep. Annazette Collins, State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford, State Rep. Kenneth Dunkin, State Rep. Arthur Turner, Cook County Commissioner

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Protesters Rally Against Gun Violence in Humbolt Park

Megan Sieberg



Protesters rally against gun violence in Humbolt Park

West Side residents and community leaders from Ceasefire and the Brady Campaign gathered on the 4000 block of W. Division Tuesday to protest the shooting of a 6-year-old boy that occurred there last week.

"We're out here because we're tired of senseless gun violence," said Willie Williams Jr., Executive Director of the Willie Williams, III Youth Program, a program he founded after the shooting death of his son on April 1, 2006.

"We're losing our babies," he said.

Williams noted the only politician who came out in support of the rally was candidate Eddie Winters who is running for State Representative of the 10th District.

Williams was adamant that he does not believe local politicians are doing enough to stop gun violence.

"They say they're out here trying to help us, and they're not out here helping us. We've got some good candidates out there right now that's really gonna make a difference in Springfield. Eddie Winters is a very very serious guy."

Jennifer Bishop of the Brady Campaign was present at the event, and she agreed more needs to be done politically to decrease gun distribution.

"I'm a victim of gun violence. Three people in my family were shot and killed. I'm tired of those killings. I want to make sure that our leaders stand up and vote for

See Protest page 15

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

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

~~~~~  
**North Lawndale Community News**  
**Winner of the**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2004**  
**Education Champion Award**

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

## NLCN 2008 Focus

### Spirituality & Financial Literacy

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

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

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

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

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

There are alarming statistics that help frame these concerns:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Exterminator Wanted

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**and know the city**  
**Will Train**  
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**Call (773) 742-8462 Cell**

## THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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**Writers' Meetings!!**  
**THE NORTH LAWDALE**  
**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
**Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203**  
**Time: 6:00 p.m.**  
**Date: January 17, 2008**  
**Free Training in Community Journalism!**  
**Everyone is Welcome!**

**Guest Speaker:** Photo Journalist and Professor at Columbia College, Billy Montgomery, will be speaking on topics in Photo Journalism!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL 312.492.9090**



# Democratic State Representative Arthur Turner

believes that when  
it comes to better  
health care, we're  
all in this together.



## Expanding Health Care Coverage for Working Families

Rep. Turner worked to create the All Kids program, making Illinois the first state to guarantee health insurance for all children. He's also worked to expand eligibility for FamilyCare. With affordable co-pays, the program helps parents who are uninsured or underinsured see a doctor before it becomes an emergency.

## Preventing Cervical Cancer

Most forms of cervical cancer are caused by the HPV virus, which can be prevented by a recently-developed vaccine. Rep. Turner passed legislation to require the Illinois Department of Public Health to develop a program to provide free HPV vaccines to women who cannot afford them. He also supports legislation to mandate that insurance companies pay for the cost of such vaccines.

## Fighting Breast and Ovarian Cancer

When it comes to breast and ovarian cancer, early detection is critical to saving lives. That's why Rep. Turner fought to require insurance companies to cover lifesaving breast cancer screenings for women age 18 and over, and to provide additional testing and monitoring for women with a family history of ovarian cancer.



## Arthur Turner: An Experienced Leader for the New 9th District

# Remember To Vote on February 5, 2008

Chicago Voters may use these sites for Early Voting, which will be offered January 14-31, 2008,  
for the February 5, 2008 Primary Election.

Remember: Bring a government photo ID, you don't need an excuse or reason to vote early, use any Early Voting site no matter where you live, all sites are open Mon.-Sat. 9am - 5pm including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and all Early Voting Sites in Chicago are fully accessible.

## Early Voting Sites & Hours - 2008 Primary Election

### WARD

2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
12<sup>th</sup> Ward  
22<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
24<sup>th</sup> Ward  
25<sup>th</sup> Ward  
27<sup>th</sup> Ward  
28<sup>th</sup> Ward  
42<sup>nd</sup> Ward

### LOCATION

Manning Library  
Back of the Yards Library  
Piotrowski Park  
Douglass Library  
Chinatown Library  
Union Park  
West Side Learning Center  
Access Living

### ADDRESS

6 S. Hoyne Ave.  
4650 S. Damen Ave.  
4247 W. 31st St.  
3353 W. 13th St.  
2353 S. Wentworth Ave.  
1501 W. Randolph St.  
4624 W. Madison St.  
115 W. Chicago Ave. Floor 2



# DODGE ELEMENTARY STUDENT HITS THE SMALL SCREEN

Megan Sieberg



Lillian and her mom Joy

Lillian Nwigwe is no ordinary child. A fifth grader at Dodge Elementary School, Lillian recently won first place in a Young Authors Contest, and had her story selected by WCIU "The U!" to be featured in a new, locally produced children's series called *Green Screen Adventures*.

*Green Screen Adventures* takes stories, poems and illustrations done by Chicago Public School students and translates them into television productions, acted out by a cast of

characters who perform them in an energetic and creative way. The goal, according to producer Gail Sikevitz, is to encourage children to write by showing them their work is appreciated outside of the classroom.

"My goal was to create a program that would allow children to see the value in their work that extended beyond the walls of the school," she said. "When they see their work on television it says 'I have value.'"

A passionate writer, Lillian proved to be the

perfect candidate for the show. Although *Green Screen Adventures* chooses pieces done by children of all ages and skill levels, Lillian's story, "Play Ball," was selected because it was detailed and well written, according to Sikevitz.

"She's a really precise writer," said Sikevitz. "The book itself was so beautifully written. Her language, her use of her voice, is so clear."

The story is about a little girl who wants to play baseball, but her family is poor and cannot afford the fee. The coach allows her to tryout and, after seeing how talented she is, offers to pay the fee for her.

Sikevitz was impressed with the message behind the story, saying, "she (Lillian) wanted to encourage people, in a creative way, to persevere."

Although she has never played baseball, Lillian said she used the sport as a context in which a girl could be unique and overcome obstacles. "I was thinking this book could be a lesson to others like 'never give up on your dreams,'" she said.

"Play Ball" is not the first book Lillian has written. She has written four others along with several short stories. According to her, writing is a fun activity because it allows her to be creative.

"I like how everything is blank," she said, "and I have to write the story and everything can come out of my own head."

Lillian's mom, Joy, suggested this creativity stems from Lillian's inquisitive nature.

"Lillian is a very curious child," she said. "She likes to investigate things."

Lillian's creativity is also influenced by her love of books. According to her mom, she regularly reads well into the night. Once, she checked out 72 books from the library and finished them all within two weeks. She especially loves to read reality, mystery and fantasy, but made it clear her interests extend

beyond that.

Besides reading and writing, Lillian also enjoys dance. Currently, she is enrolled in the Joffrey's Ballet, where she is learning "hip hop ballet." She also loves to draw, and her illustrations are described by Sikevitz as being "magnificent."

Lillian was the first student ever to be invited onto the set of *Green Screen Adventures* during filming. When asked what she thought of the experience she proclaimed, "It was awesome! It felt exciting and I felt happy that my book got on T.V."

Joy agreed it was exciting, describing the staff at WCIU as "welcoming."

"The *Green Screen Adventure* was such a wonderful experience," she said. "I haven't been treated like that in a while."

*Green Screen Adventures* is currently accepting submissions. Sikevitz encourages teachers and parents to submit creative works by students because she believes children relate to television, and in seeing their creations on T.V. will be motivated them to hone skills they will need throughout their lives.

"Ultimately, everyone needs to be able to read and write in order to have opportunities open to them," she said. "Without a love of writing and a love of reading its extremely difficult, as you can imagine, to make it through the whole process."

"Play Ball" will air on WCIU, Channel 26, and Me-TV Channel 23, on Saturday, January 30 at 7 a.m.

To submit a piece of writing or an illustration to *Green Screen Adventures* email [greenscreen@wciu.com](mailto:greenscreen@wciu.com)

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.

## Home of Life Community Development Corporation



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- Local college tours
- Mentoring

#### Summer Success Program

- Math, Science and Spanish classes
- Local college tours
- Cultural events
- Mentor outings



### Upward Bound

(taking 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade applicants)

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- Bi-monthly enrichment classes
- Academic advising
- Financial aid planning
- Local college tours and out-of-state summer college tours
- Cultural events
- Mentoring
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- Opportunity to earn college credits at local comm. college

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## Application Deadline March 14, 2008

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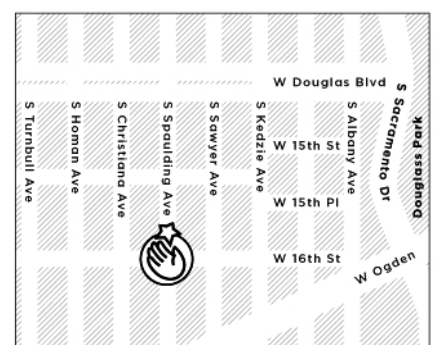
2:00-3:00 pm Friday, Jan. 25th  
K-8th grade



Austin  
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(773) 854.1633

#### Howland Campus

2:00-3:00 pm Friday, Feb. 1st  
K-7th grade



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For applications and more information, contact Sharon Morgan,  
Community Outreach Coordinator at (773) 726.1691.

[www.catalystschools.org](http://www.catalystschools.org)



# Walking with an Attitude Fashion Show

## Better Life For Youth



Audience watches as the young with attitude face



Candidate Diane Jones for Water Reclamation Commissioner, guest, candidate Dottie Walter for State Rep 9th district enjoy fashion show.



Dashing with attitude young men show off their style on stage.



Young ladies of fashion show attitude through style on stage

St. Malachy was filled with family, friends and VIPs as youth sported silk, satin, cotton and other materials during Better Life for Youth's Walking with an Attitude Fashion Show. The show started around 5:00 pm.

Raising funds to help 30 to 40 youth along with adult chaperones to go on a college tour trip during the spring break is what the fashion show is about.

Better Life for you has been sponsoring college trips for youth to be able to see what college life is like and to better help, inspire, and prepare them for a college education.

Johnnie Davis introduced Renee Wysinger. After the welcome, and a musical selection by Shenae Coffee, Karen Bannister blessed the food, models came out with casual wear and pajamas

Eugene Wolf, Executive Director of Better Life for Youth, introduced sponsors. just before Tonnet Coffee, Jasmine Pugh, Robin Mitchell & Shenae Coffe performed a praise dance.

Now It was time for the third of four modeling scenes. The third scene was career wear which is very important in youth getting a job. The last modeling scene #4 was evening wear, showing the best of the best.

Sponsors for the show included J & D. Fashion 3230 W. Roosevelt, State Senator Rickey Hendon 5th District, State Senator Mattie Hunter 3rd District, State Rep. Annazette Collins 10th District, Sate Rep Lashawn Ford 8th District, State Rep. Esther Golar 6th District, Commissioner Patricia Horton, Attorney Pul Williams, Chicago Area Project, Dr. Earnest Thomas Dr. George Smith St. Malachy School, and Metropolitan M. B. Church

### THE REAL OFFICAL DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

**LARRY G. NELSON**  
COMMITTEEMAN  
24<sup>TH</sup> WARD REGULAR  
DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

#### ENDORSEMENTS

**PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**  
(1) *Barack Obama*

**STATE SENATOR**  
(35) *Rickey R. Hendon*

**REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
(39) *Arthur Turner*

**WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSIONERS**  
(Vote for all three)  
(45) *Maryana T. Spyropoulos*  
(51) *Diane Jones*  
(55) *Derrick David Stinson*

**STATES ATTORNEY**  
(58) *Howard B. Brookins Jr.*

**RECORDER OF DEEDS**  
(63) *Eugene "Gene" Moore*

**JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT**  
(72) *Sharon Johnson Coleman*

**CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**  
(82) *Terry McCarthy*

**JUDGE, 7<sup>TH</sup> SUBCIRCUIT**  
(108) *Melanie Rose Nuby*

**COMMITTEEMAN 24<sup>TH</sup> WARD**  
(121) *Larry G. Nelson*

TAKE THIS OFFICAL BALLOT INTO THE POLLING PLACE WITH YOU.

24<sup>TH</sup> WARD REGULAR  
DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

## 24TH WARD DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS

"Giving Power Back To The People"



NELSON - OBAMA

**Vote For**  
**U.S. President**

**Mark 1** **Barack Obama**

**WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSIONERS**

**Mark 55** **Derrick D. Stinson**

**Democratic Ward Committeeman**

**Mark 121** **Larry G. Nelson**

"Giving power back to the people"





*Saint Anthony Hospital proudly recognizes our physicians' many years of service*

Saint Anthony Hospital continues its commitment to “Caring for the Community”. Although we had help from many physicians throughout the year, we are giving special recognition to our physicians with 25 or more years of service to Saint Anthony Hospital.

“We are proud that you chose to work with us when you could practice anywhere in the City. Thank you for your commitment to us as well as maintaining your private practices in the community.” *Peter Fazio, Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Saint Anthony Hospital is a community hospital and that is how we intend to stay. You are a reflection of our diverse community and with your help we can continue to serve the needs of the ENTIRE community. Thank you for making us your hospital of choice, which gave us the opportunity to invest in more state-of-the-art diagnostic and imaging equipment like the 64-slice CT and MRI, as well as upgrades to the exterior façade of the building and expansion and renovation of our Emergency Room.

“Let’s not get it confused, we would not be able to succeed without the support of our physicians.” *Guy Medaglia, President & Chief Executive Officer*

We look forward to working with you for many years to come.  
Sincerely,

Saint Anthony Hospital Administration and Staff

THANK YOU



Dr. Agne



Over 40 Years

Samuel Schimel, MD  
Claudio Agne, MD

Over 35 Years

Enrique Redondo, MD  
Mohammad Mirza, MD  
Henry Carag, MD  
Antonio Bautista, MD

Over 30 Years

Sripathy Rao, MD  
Felismeno Kintanar, MD  
Rolando Lara, MD  
Adolfo Gonzales, MD  
Vilas Khandeparker, MD  
Wagih-Ezzat Nessim, MD  
Prisco Olaya, MD  
Raghu Vollala, MD  
Earl Smith, MD  
Ravindranath Sansguiri, MD

Over 25 Years

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Aziz Ahmed, MD  
Narendra Karmali, MD  
Ariel Chavez, MD  
Lillian Magana, MD  
Robert Richardson, MD  
Dhruva Tilwalli, MD  
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Dr. Schimel





# Where is the Dream: North Lawndale Residents Reflect on Community Changes Since King's Death

Priscilla (Perci) Lucas

On January 26, 1966, the greatest civil rights leader ever, arrived in the North Lawndale community as a resident.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. moved his family into a two-bedroom apartment at 1550 S. Hamlin and on that moving day he spoke to a group of reporters saying, "You can't really get close to the poor without living and being here with them."

Working with Albert Raby, then a teacher at Hess Upper Grade Center and whose efforts on behalf of housing and school desegregation played a key role in leading Martin Luther King, Jr. to shift the fight for civil rights from the South.

Together they and others took on the task of cleaning an unheated rat-infested building at 1321 S. Homan that housed R.V. Townes, his wife Rosie and their seven children.

This event was to pressure the administration of the late mayor Richard J. Daley to take the necessary steps in cleaning up buildings that the poor people had to live in.

"The more things change the more they stay the same," a saying that many elders have repeated to the young now more than ever.

Fred Mitchell, 78, a businessman in the community reflected about the community then and now. Although he had no close dealings with Dr. King he remembers the unscrupulous real estate practices that are closely similar to the re-gentrification that's going on today in North Lawndale.

Mitchell like many who lived and understood the powerful messages that their parents taught to them is puzzled about the plight of young people of the community who has lost their sense of what is right, and what is wrong.

"Martin Luther King I think was trying to say to people get an education so you can become something and it was working for a while, but somebody dropped the ball because we (Blacks) are going backwards the kids of this generation don't know nothing," said Mitchell.

Looking back at North Lawndale many seniors remember when there was a different set of values, a different way of thinking and ethics taught at home from the parents, usually by the mother who was in the home in charge of teaching her young ones.

Then Mitchell reflected on a time when there were two parents in the household and the children were expected to be respectful and useful, not just at home, but outside of it as well.

"My parents raised us to work hard; save your money and have something of your own as the results of that we all of my sisters and brothers have their own homes," Mitchell said. "This was from hard-working and good work ethics... We worked from sun up to sun down to have something with mama in the house who was always teaching and telling us to work and get an education and have something on your own and we went to church

every Sunday."

That was then it is not the same scenario you see in North Lawndale today. Now the community has been overcome with drugs, murders and a lack of respect for self and others.

When King was here everybody had the spirit of wanting to become something to have their own businesses and have things and then they dropped the ball with the influx of drugs and having good times and everybody stop going to church," Mitchell says. "They start dropping out of schools; they start having babies out of wedlock...I have no ideal of how this has happened we say that we have been set free and being allowed to do things that we couldn't do before and go places where we couldn't go before and they just went wild and lost sight of what the fight was all about," he said.

Many young people today are only aware of his speeches and don't have a clear cut understanding of what King's true vision was all about.

Donisha Ellis, 16, a high school student at Proviso East understands the King's dream has opened doors for her and others to have basic human rights that were once denied to African-Americans.

"I plan on going to college to work in the

medical field because I want to help others," said Ellis.

At a young age she points out that the violence of police brutality and black on black crime has to be stopped.

Andrew Young, civil rights activist and the first African-American ambassador to the United Nations who spent many nights with Dr. King at the Hamlin apartment was asked on a popular radio program, "What was the scariest time in your life during the civil rights movement?"

His reply was "My scariest time was in Chicago ... the thing that upset me was we were living on 16<sup>th</sup> and Hamlin in the Westside, and we had a four floor walk up and I said - I didn't mind getting killed in the South, but I didn't want a junkie to stick a knife in me for twenty dollars, and I had to go into that walk up apartment every night and it was cold and that's the only time that I was afraid... That was worst than any jail."

The more things change the more they stay the same.

*Priscilla Lucas is a North Lawndale resident and a journalism graduate from Columbia College. Priscilla is a general assignment reporter for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

**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: [nlcn1@yahoo.com](mailto:nlcn1@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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## REMEMBERING MRS. ANNIE LOTT

*She had life, love, and a legacy*

Family, Friends, and neighbors joined in celebrating the life of Ms. Annie Laura Spencer at Carey Tercentenary A.M.E. Church 1448 S. Homan Ave. The homegoing celebration began with a breakfast from 9-10 am. The wake was from 10 to 11:00am and the funeral was from 11:00 am until. Ms. Lott had touched many lives as was testified during the home-going service. In the lower level of the church there was an area

set up as a memorial with photos, news articles and awards that were accumulated because of her dedicated life for doing the good thing.

Her daughter Alta was very passionate about what her mother had taught her. She was stated a time when Ms. Lott's sister was sick and her mother had to go over there. This was during the 1967 snow storm and this strength of courage was engraved in young Alta's mind as she

remembered that her mother walked through the high snow to get to her sister. State Rep Art Turner stated, after she would solicit him for scholarship donations, "every year she would come into my office tell me about the students who got a \$100 dollar check, who got a \$200.00 dollar check, who got a \$50.00 check and how it made a difference in their lives, as part of the Women for Social Change Scholarship Organization.

Ms. Lott was a strong advocate in her church and on her block as members from both testified during acknowledgements. Wilber Cook, a recently appointed minister at Carey Tercentenary, spoke of how she maintained hope for him through a wayward time in his life.

Ms. Lott lived a long life of 97 years, leaves to continue her legacy: her devoted

daughter Alta Lott-Flowers and son-in-law Shelton; brother Holsey Spencer and Bertha of Chicago, IL; grandchildren, Lanneus Lott of Downers Grove, IL; Chevelle Lott of Georgia, Stania Flowers of Chicago, IL; great grandson Keante Hopkins of Georgia, Sister Roberta Rosenhall of Carrollton, Ms; A special son, James Lott and Alice of Southfield, Mi; one brother-in-law Jimmie Lott of Alabama, two sister-in-laws, Sadie Alexander of Richmond, Ca. and Martha McBride of Carrollton, MS; Special grandchildren and great grandchildren of Detroit, MI, Longtime dear friend, Mrs. Safronia Thomas and numerous other nieces and nephews, cousins and friends to contribute and carry on the construction of the "New Highway" of life.



V O T E F O R

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# REMEMBERING STROGER AND SAWYER

James Glover



John Stroger Jr.

The City of Chicago lost two prominent African-American figures this past week when former Cook County Board President John Stroger Jr. and Former Mayor and Harold Washington's successor Eugene Sawyer passed away.

"Every Democratic official elected in the last 40 years throughout the state owed President Stroger because he could deliver," said William Beavers, a longtime friend politically, and current County Board member when asked about Stroger impact on Illinois.

In 1968, Stroger was elected 8th Ward Committeeman. After his election to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 1970, Stroger went on to chair every major board committee including finance, health, building and zoning. As Commissioner, Stroger sponsored legislation aimed at assisting minority and female-owned businesses.

Stroger completed much of what he set out to do as board president including balancing

the county's \$2.9 billion budget. He also instituted a Juvenile Drug Court, appointed a Commission on Women's Issues and opened a new AIDS treatment and research facility. Stroger served on the Chicago Metropolitan Healthcare Council and the board of South Shore Hospital. The new Cook County Hospital was renamed the John H. Stroger, Jr. Cook County Hospital after Stroger while he was serving as County Board President. Stroger is the past president of the National Association of Counties and was appointed by former President Bill Clinton as a member of the Advisory Committee On Intergovernmental Relations.

Stroger Jr., father of current Cook County Board President Todd Stroger, had been known to be in poor health as early as 2006, when there was controversy during the primary race between him and his opponent, Forrest Claypool. Many claimed that Stroger's health was hidden in order to keep people from having reservations about voting for him. However, he did go on, in fact, to win the primary election, only to be taken off the ballot shortly thereafter and replaced by his son Todd. Eugene Sawyer, an Alderman in Chicago's 6th Ward since 1971, was elected Mayor in 1987 after the sudden passing of Incumbent Mayor Harold Washington. He was elected by the Chicago City Council, despite many angry minorities protesting his possible election. The consensus was that he had "sold out" to the white political scene, an accusation he always denied. Because of the backlash from many African-Americans, he was forced to be inaugurated in the parking lot of a closed restaurant.

While in office, Sawyer managed to pass several major initiatives begun by Washington, including placing lights in Wrigley Field, an Ethics Ordinance to prevent corruption, and one of the first human rights ordinances that protected gays and lesbians from discrimination. However, he lost a special election in 1989 to Richard Daley

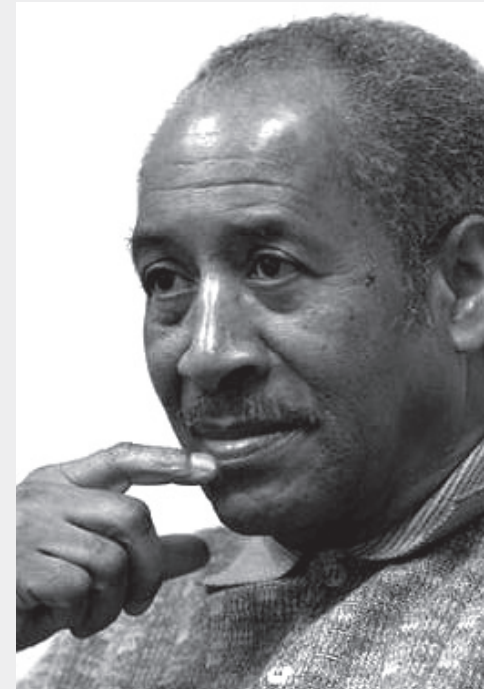
Jr., who still presides as Mayor of Chicago today. He then effectively retired from politics and ventured back into his businessman roots.

"He was the most gentlemanly elected official I've ever known," said U.S. Rep. Danny Davis (D-Ill.). "Often, you don't get to be an elected official by being gentlemanly, but Gene did."

"I don't think anybody else could have come in and done the job he did," added Ald. Richard Mell (33rd), who was on the council at the time. "It was a turbulent time in Chicago's history, but he calmed the waters down."

Both Sawyer and Stroger have much in common, including migrating from the south, (Sawyer born in Greensboro, Alabama and Stroger in Helena, Arkansas) and both being members of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans. Both also originated in Chicago Politics from the South Side of Chicago, with Stroger using his business administration skills to help organize for the Democratic Party before becoming personnel director for the Cook County Jail and Sawyer becoming president of the 6th Ward Young Democrats.

Hillary Monroe, a Chicago South Side resident who did work for both Stroger and Sawyer as far back as 1975 said, "It's truly sad that we have lost two great men, who did more than just talk but who were dedicated in the action



Eugene Sawyer

it took to make Chicago better for anyone, or any race. Who used peaceful and calm tactics to accomplish positive things amongst troubled and hostile Chicago. Their strength, dedication and loyalty will certainly be missed.

## Lawndale Christian Development Corporation



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**MARCH - Saturday (4 hr. session) - 03/08/08**

**APRIL - Saturday (4 hr. session) - 04/12/08**

**MAY 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>**

**JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**AUGUST - Saturday (4 hr. session) - 08/09/08**

**SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**

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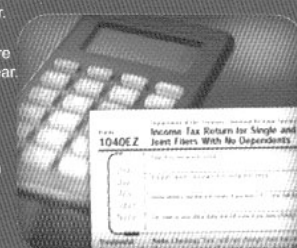
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### Tax Tip

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# Chicago Cares Host King Holiday Celebration

Mary Moran



Nearly 100 Chicago Target employees transformed Christopher School in the city's Gage neighborhood with new paint and bookshelves for the annual Chicago Cares Celebration of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is the city's largest day of service to honor of Dr. King and drew more than 3,500 volunteers. In addition to the Celebration of Service, Chicago Cares offers 170 volunteer projects every month across the city, allowing Chicagoans the chance to give back in an issue area they are passionate about when their schedule allows. Photo Credit: Aynsley Floyd/Chicago Cares.

Thousands of volunteers, including over 1,900 from Target, 900 students from the Chicago Public Schools, and many major Chicago corporations joined together January 19<sup>th</sup> at the United Center to live out Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. vision of peace, equality and freedom.

Target's executive Mary-Farrell Tarbox; and other civic and corporate leaders joined the volunteers for the annual Chicago Cares celebration of service. The event is the largest service event of its kind in Chicago to honor the civil rights leader.

Chicago Cares mission is to respond to the critical human service, educational and environmental needs of Chicago by creating, managing and leading effective and innovative volunteer service programs which foster the ethic of volunteerism, promote a sense of community and support our partnerships with community organizations.

The ceremonies begin with the elaborate voices of the Kenwood Academy Concert choir doing three selections. Chris Dubose, one of the Chicago Cares boards of directors

let the volunteers know that they were going to be making a difference in the community at one of 58 project sites across the city that focus on understanding and appreciating diversity, creating cultural harmony, and building community.

"Dr. King's dream inspired all of us to give back," Dubose said.

"We hope that you'll find great meaning in your service today and everyday."

The Keynote speaker for the event was Rev. Walter Fauntroy, civil rights activist and Dr. King's personal representative to President John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Fauntroy is also a frequent speaker across the country on humanitarian and civil rights issues.

Fauntroy spoke on the friendship he had with Dr. King and the reasons why people as far as the Middle East and Europe find reasons to celebrate the life of Dr. King.

"I came here to tell you that Martin Luther King was a spiritual and political genius." He went on to tell the audience that King used

the ethics of spirituality to love your enemies, the tactics of Mahatma Gandhi to use non-violence and the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson and the founding fathers to enforce the constitutional rights of all men.

Fauntroy ended his speech by letting everyone know that Dr. King knew that there were five things that man needs in order to survive, income, housing, health, education and justice. Fauntroy also let the volunteers know that they were doing on their watch in the present what Dr. King had vision

Afterwards all the volunteers boarded buses to their destinations. They were to volunteer at places such as schools; youth centers, YMCA's and senior citizen centers.

At Casa Central 70 volunteers and 100 children were going to participate in a multicultural fair and work together to appreciate each other cultural differences. The focus on this fair was to help children learn about tolerance, equality and Dr. King's vision for peace and harmony.

Volunteers who were sent to Christopher School were going to beautify the school by painting several murals promoting education and Dr. King's messages as well as organize the disability equipment and physical therapy room at the Southwest side school where 65 percent of the students who attend there participate in the special-needs program.

Over 75 volunteers and 150 clients were going to build a community atmosphere during social activities including a Hawaiian-themed luau at the Ada S. McKinley center for people with disabilities. The project's goal is to help clients and volunteers learn more about each other and share stories.

Tarbox described the day as "inspirational and invigorating."

"We honor Dr. King's legacy by volunteering," she said

Chicago Cares, founded in 1991 is the city's largest hands-on-volunteer organization and develops more than 170 hands-on-, group volunteer projects each month. These projects serve children, adults, seniors, the environment, the hungry and homeless and



New murals will brighten the hallways of Armour Elementary School in the city's Bridgeport neighborhood. The painting project was part of the Chicago Cares Celebration of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The city's largest day of service to honor Dr. King drew more than 3,500 volunteers who completed volunteer projects at 58 sites all across the city. In addition to the Celebration of Service, Chicago Cares offers 170 volunteer projects every month across the city, allowing Chicagoans the chance to give back in an issue area they are passionate about when their schedule allows. Photo Credit: Aynsley Floyd/Chicago Cares.

much more. Their format gives people the opportunity to volunteer at Chicago Cares projects on a flexible basis and has attracted thousands of active volunteers. They currently partner with more than 180 organizations.

To learn more about Chicago Cares visit their website at [www.chicagocares.org](http://www.chicagocares.org) or call 312/780-0800.

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

## Violence from front page

Robert Steele, Alderman Emma Mitts and Alderman Sharon Denise Dixon. South Cook County elected officials also endorsing Brookins include: State Rep. William Davis, Alderman Pat Dowell, Congressman Bobby L. Rush, Senator Jacqueline Collins, Senator Kwame Raoul, Senator Donne Trotter, Representative Marlow Colvin, Rep. Monique Davis, Rep. Esther Golar, Rep. Constance Howard, Rep. Elga Jeffries, Alderman Carrie Austin, Alderman Willie Cochran, Alderman Leslie Hairston, Alderman Michelle Harris, Alderman Lona Lane, Alderman Freddrenna Lyle, Alderman Latasha Thomas, Alderman Joann Thompson, Cook County William Beavers and Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli.

Brookins brings a long and distinguished legal career in his bid for the State Attorney's office. In his second term as Alderman of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward, Brookins was born and raised in Chicago's southside (93<sup>rd</sup> and Ashland) and was exposed at an early age to the legal profession by his father, the former Illinois State Senator Howard B. Brookins, Sr. A graduate of Mendel Catholic High School, Brookins obtained his undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and earned his law degree from Northern Illinois University. Over the last twenty years Brookins has worked both sides of the court room including service as an Assistant Public Defender, Assistant State's Attorney, and Special Assistant Attorney General. He is also a founding partner of the law firm of Brookins & Wilson.

Despite his determination to modernize and re-organize the State Attorney's office to become more efficient, Brookins does not foresee having to increase the budget or ask for additional funds to accomplish this task.

"We don't have to increase the present budget

to have the State Attorney's office become more efficient and effective in its operation," Brookins said.

"If we can devise a program that will help redirect first time offenders to at the bail hearing, if we can utilize the State Attorney lawyers in the court room more effectively and if we can assure that we prosecute only those that are guilty, then the community as a whole will benefit". He added, "Of course also we need to help our many ex-offenders who are released from prison back into the community but who have no workable skills or training to help them become employable or become contributing members of our society."

Through use of a modernized computer system, one of Brookins goals is to track down the history of illegal weapons that are used by the criminal element in Cook County. "A modernized computer system will aid us in tracking the history of a weapon from the time of its manufacture to its sale and transfer from one person to another," Brookins said. "A modern technology oriented computer system will allow the State Attorney's office access to massive amounts of information in our fight against crime in Cook County."

Brookins deep concern for the residents of Cook County is consistent with not only his religious upbringing and present practices, but also with his involvement in many community related committees. Along with his wife Ebonie Taylor-Brookins, and children Howard B. Brookins III and Harihsen Bilal Brookins, the State Attorney's candidate is an active member of the Trinity United Church of Christ, Prince Hall Mason Eureka Lodge #64, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the 9100 South Union Block Club. He also serves on the board of directors of the Community Media Workshop and the Northern Illinois Alumni.

David Tenorio is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## WHAT IS A WARD COMMITTEEMAN AND WHAT DOES HE DO?

Fred Mitchell

What is a Ward Committeeman? Essentially the position is that of an unpaid political advocate. Committeeman can be a very powerful position. A committeeman can control the ward. The role carries with it both the glory of being an insider and the clout that comes with it if he is the alderman. In most cases the committeeman will have the privilege of doling out jobs, (if there are still patronage jobs available) favors, (using his political influence to help voters get favorable treatments with various city agencies) and services around the ward, and occasionally he will be able to put his people in other political positions outside of the ward.

I asked Ms. Frieda Saffold, a 24<sup>th</sup> Ward resident, if she knew the Ward Committeeman and she replied, "I wouldn't know the Ward Committeeman if he sat down beside me in church! Who is he and what is he supposed to do?" Answering her question I said, "The Ward Committeeman is a voting member of the Cook County Democratic Party. His political duties include organization activities such as voter registration within the ward, hosting community forums, providing election materials, and facilitating the smooth operation of primaries and elections. He also recruits Election Judges and Precinct Captains." She asked, "How do you know that?" "Because I was a Precinct Captain back in the day," I replied.

As a Precinct Captain, back in the day,

primaries were called, "Precinct Captain's Election" because the Precinct Captains of the ward were the people who got out the vote and elected the Ward Committeeman along with other party candidates on the ballot.

A Ward Committeeman is generally selected from the rank and file of ward Precinct Captains. The Ward Committeeman is anointed by the Precinct Captains because he is the top vote getter in the ward and carries his precinct all the time. Once anointed by the Precinct Captains as a candidate for Ward Committeeman, he would be slated for election by the party boss in the primary election. Being alderman already, the sign above the party office headquarters would read, for example like this, "Alderman Sharon Nelson, 24th Ward Committeeman."

On February 5, 2008, North Lawndale voters will go to the polls to elect the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Committeeman. Alderman Sharon D. Dixon and Larry Nelson are candidates for the position. As published in Alderman's Dixon's literature, the Ward Committeeman serves the interest of the Cook County Democratic Party. However, once elected the Ward Committeeman, she would have the power to fill vacant political jobs in the ward, make recommendations and appointments within the ward. Filling vacant political jobs in the ward would be especially beneficial to residents in the ward like,

**See Ward page 15**



## Sports &amp; Entertainment

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David H. Schultz

Joaquin Phoenix in *Reservation Road*

**RESERVATION ROAD (\*\*1/2)** “Hotel Rwanda” director Terry George tries to make a social statement out of this personal drama, in which one of every parent’s nightmares has different reactions from two fathers headed toward a moral collision. Joaquin Phoenix plays the tormented father scarred by witnessing, but is unable to see the car that kills his son in a hit-and-run accident. When the father makes a pit stop at a roadside gas station.

Mark Ruffalo plays the other driver traveling with his son after a ball game. Ruffalo’s character tries to hide his guilt and shame. An uneasy Phoenix wants justice for his son. Phoenix seeks help from a law firm that assigns the lawyer (Ruffalo) to his case.

As Ruffalo slowly begins to weaken from the shame. Phoenix’s suspicions begin to be aroused from certain tell-tale clues that helps Phoenix realizes, before Ruffalo confesses. Still, this film’s civilized approach that doesn’t quite make it in its resolution that only leaves both men damaged. R; 102min. Focus Features Home Video

**THE HUNTING PARTY (\*\*1/2) A**

seasoned TV journalist/ news reporter (Richard Gere) who always putting his cameraman (Terrence Howard) in harms’ way on their third world assignments; tries to redeem himself and his career after a meltdown from a personal tragedy during a TV report. A few years later, Gere pulls back his cameraman (Terence Howard) who together embarks on an adventure that might lead the two to find Osama Bin Laden. When Gere’s character claims to have a source he’s searching for.

Based on an Esquire article set in Bosnia and Sarajevo (where this movie is actually filmed) of the pits and perils of TV news journalism on foreign soil. Even though director Richard Shepard captures the authenticity with a wry sense of humor. But he goes off its mark, in suggesting the strategy of “less is more” that might have yield Bin Laden’s capture by now. Still this is a movie with some interesting and provocative moments. R; 103min. Weinstein Company Home Video

**DADDY DAY CAMP (\*)** This sequel should initially been a direct-to-video release, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Paul Rae replace original stars Eddie Murphy and Jeff Garlin who were wise to be M.I.A for this unfunny slap dash effort from former “Wonder Years” child star and Chicagoan Fred Savage making his directorial debut as the two baby sitters move their business to the “great outdoors” with the unusual results.

**Coming Soon:** Jodie Foster goes vigilante while cop Terrence Howard grows suspicious in “The Brave One”, due out Feb 5.

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

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT  
COMING TO NORTH LAWDALE

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Frances Simmons, exclusive director of *A Better Tomorrow for Today's Teens (ABT)*

In a community experiencing gentrification Frances Simmons, exclusive director of *A Better Tomorrow for Today's Teens (ABT)* is hoping to revive the old Central Park Theatre at 3535 W. Roosevelt and bring some old-school entertainment to the neighborhood. ABT is currently holding auditions Mon-Sat from 4-7pm for people 9-24 to perform for Gong Show Nite. The shows will be on Friday and Saturday nights and will begin the last week in February.

Simmons said there won’t be an actual gong in the beginning. Instead, the audience will judge the performances in a similar way as that of the Showtime at the Apollo audiences. So ABT is looking for talented individuals with well-rehearsed acts. “We want to see people who are trying to further themselves to another level,” said Simmons. “We will coach them and help them out in anyway we can. Whatever gifts they may have we will enhance for stage presentation.” There is a registration fee so that ABT can keep

the shows going because ABT doesn’t have any sponsors yet.

The 9-24 year old performers will sign up under one of three age groups: 9-13, 14-18 or 18-24. People 18 years old can sign up in either the 14-18 or 18-24 groups. Anyone under 17 would have to have a parent or guardian sign them up. The performances can include such acts as dancing, singing, poetry, rap, comedy, modeling, acting, etc. and can be one individual or a group. Absolutely no profanity is allowed. ABT hopes to have anywhere from 15-20 acts a night. Auditions are also being held for actors 30-45 to be in a play titled, *He’s Not Yours*, written by Simmons. “We’re going to be casting from 7-9pm Tuesday and Thursday nights. Rehearsal will begin Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

“The play is a very mature play about which one would you choose: lust, loyalty or love,” said Simmons. It is based on her belief that women need to understand that giving their bodies up does not necessarily make a man off limits to their circle of friends. There will be 14 characters in the play including four cameo appearances.

Simmons said she has directed stage performances since 1993. She is a professional sculpture braider (wrap braiding). Her clients encouraged her to start modeling shows to show off her talent for braiding. That developed into what she’s doing now, taking the performances to a new level. For more information call 773-507-9000 or email Simmons at [Fsimmonsabt@aol.com](mailto:Fsimmonsabt@aol.com).

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

## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic

Charles S. Dutton in *Honeydripper*

weary and concern for the negative influences corrupting her young, impressionable daughter, China Doll (Yaya DaCosta),

Tyrone (Danny Glover) is in debt and on the verge of losing the club if he doesn’t pay up \$200. But Tyrone has a scheme up his sleeve to save the club and clear his debts. He intends to turn things around with the booking a new blues sensation from New Orleans,

Guitar Sam next Saturday night.

Meanwhile, a young black drifter, Sonny Blake (newcomer Gary Clark Jr.) with a guitar case who been drifting through town since the film’s beginning at the train station, arrives looking for assistance. On Tyrone’s order to offer the wanderer a meal, China Doll serves and chat with Sonny who seem attracted to each other.

Amidst a packed house, the growing concern on Tyrone to pull off the charade. A volatile situation brews between cotton field workers who have been itching to fight each other, comes to boiling point in the club. That could disrupt the proceedings and profit margin Tyrone needs to achieve to clear himself with his creditors and retain the club.

Writer-director Sayles does a creditable job resolving each situation and characters’ concern with a certain amount of hope that is accented by the off-on screen presence of a street performer (Keb Mo) who occasionally appears like an angel of mercy between Glover and Clark’s characters to warn against impending dangers and missteps that should be avoided that adds a mild distinction through the course of this film.

Still as admirably and engaging as this film is, John Sayles’ “Honeydripper” can’t fully escape some visual and characteristic similarities to HBO’s made for cable Emmy winning,

“Lackawanna Blues”, regardless for its differences.

But the similarities do end there as Sayles’ “Honeydripper” offers a different scenario through the character, with a magical touch that is a bit idealistic through its conclusive ending, compared to the climate and woes experienced during those prejudice times in its conclusive ending.

Regardless, the aspects of the era and the attitudes, the story and these characters provide a likeable and hopeful shade of social tolerance within this film’s dramatic, semi-musical and situational co-text that makes “Honeydripper” as a human drama that gives us one Saturday night where everything could go wrong. But luckily doesn’t.

PG-13; 122min. A Samuel Goldwyn Films Release

– Presented at the ICE Chatham Cinemas (87<sup>th</sup> and Dan Ryan), Music Box Theatre (2828 No. Southport); Marcus Addison Cinemas 20 (1555 West Lake St.) and other selected theaters

**CLOVERFIELD (\*\*\*)** “Cloverfield” is the mini-blockbuster for the dot-com generation. Mainly design as disposable entertainment that puts through the theory of the film’s executive producer J.J. Abrams, the force behind TV’s “Lost” to essentially make a modern day Godzilla movie terrorizing New York City that is entirely viewed through the camcorder lens of a convalescent videotape by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The movie begins with a classified number and governmental references and starts from ‘a day in the life’ of a young couple that the camcorder operator / slacker, Hud (T.J. Miller) accidentally and partially films over to document the preparation that leads into the bon voyage party for best friend, Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David) whose being promoted to a V.P. post in Japan.

Hud becomes the unofficial narrator who

Lizzy Caplan and Matt Reeves in *Cloverfield*

always tends to do or say one sentence and/or response too much. He films everything and everyone at the loft party arranged by his brother, Jason (Mike Vogel) and friend, Marlena (Lizzy Caplan).

While asking for farewell remarks for the video from the guests, Hud captures the guest of honor being upset with Marlena for allowing one uninvited guest to attend.

Soon after Hud begins to videotape an emotional response from Beth (Odette Yustman) who turns out to be more upset over Rob’s departure since it’s revealed they’ve been romantically involved for a few weeks prior.

Then a thunderous sound like a bombing or earthquake is heard and felt. We don’t see what’s behind the commotion for almost the first third of the movie. When she gets glimpses behind the chaos and the people panicking in New York’s Lower Manhattan, “Cloverfield” seems to intentionally appear as a 9/11 tragedy set to a monster movie.

With Hud still filming in that jerky, real-time

See Flicks page 15



# George Washington Carver Exhibit at the Field Museum

Dr. Shemuel Israel

*We are the architects of our own fortune and the hewers out of our own destiny. George Washington Carver*

What makes a man a legend? In the case of George Washington Carver it wasn't just peanuts. It was his ability to become one of America's most versatile scientists under great odds. It was his thirst for knowledge, a thirst that led him to leave home at the age of thirteen to seek an education.

It was his desire to "help the man farthest down." It was his vision of self-sustainability and conservation of resources, a vision that came from his belief that "nature produces no waste and his belief that "we can learn to synthesize materials for every human need from the things that grow."

"The most important gift Carver gave to people wasn't any particular product," said Michael Dillon, chair of the Botany Department at The Field Museum and one of the curators for the Carver exhibition. "It was the gift of self-worth." Carver presented this gift by teaching his students to be creative. "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."

According to Carver, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong, because someday in your life you will have been all of these."

From February 1 to July 6, 2008, you can discover the life and work of an extraordinary man at the Field Museum in Chicago. Learn how Carver used his gifts to become a groundbreaking scientist, educator, and humanitarian with a lifelong mission: to bring practical knowledge to those in need.



*Carver Reading. George Washington Carver's contribution to the world is endless, as was his desire to always discover more. © Tuskegee University Archives/Museum*

The Field Museum will take visitors through Carver's journey from a remote frontier town to success as a teacher and researcher at the famed Tuskegee Institute. The exhibit brings together more than one hundred artifacts from Carver's personal life and work. The display includes animated and live videos, interactive displays, a diorama of Carver's childhood farm, and a recreation of the Jesup wagon.

It also includes a life-sized reproduction of the horse-driven wagon, a kind of moveable school that Carver designed to bring his ideas to farmers in their fields and homemakers in their homes. It's stocked with the kinds of plants and products, from seeds and soil samples to recipes, sewing supplies, and simple farm equipment,

which Carver used in his demonstrations.

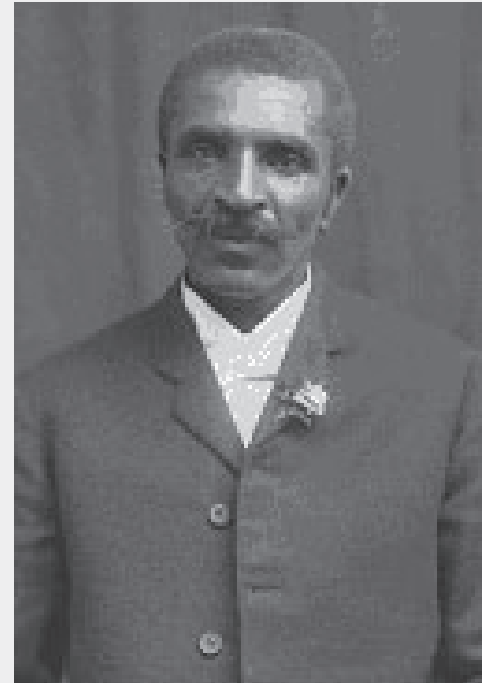
Visitors will discover the roots of Carver's "mighty vision." A vision of barren fields turning green with crops, whitewashed farmhouses gleaming in the sun, gardens sprouting with vegetables and flowers and they'll see the laboratory bench and instruments he used to make that vision real. They'll also see how he laid the groundwork for organic farming and today's research on plant-based fuels, medicines, and everyday products.

Finally, visitors will hear oral histories from people whose lives were touched by Carver, and meet some "modern-day Carvers" working to develop the potential of plants in modern medicine and space exploration.

George Washington Carver was born into slavery in 1864 near Diamond Grove, Missouri on the farm of Moses and Susan Carver. Moses Carver found and reclaimed George after George and his mother were kidnapped by Confederate night raiders during the Civil war. George fell in love with nature on the Carver farm and soon earned the nickname, "the Plant Doctor."

Admission to the Field Museum and to the George Washington Carver exhibit is totally free during the month of February. After African American History Month, admission to George Washington Carver is free with general admission to The Field Museum (\$12 for adults, \$7 for children 4-11, seniors, and students with ID). Discounts are available for Chicago residents. Visit "<http://www.fieldmuseum.org>" or call 312-922-9410 for details.

The Field Museum, located at 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, is accessible on CTA bus lines #6, #12, and #146, and it is close to other routes as well as the Metra electric and South Shore lines. An indoor parking garage is located just steps from the main entrance. For more travel information, call the Illinois Department of



*George Washington Carver. A portrait of George Washington Carver. Visitors can explore the life of this visionary scientist at The Field Museum's exhibition, George Washington Carver. © Tuskegee University Archives/Museum*

Transportation, 312/368-4636, or the RTA Travel Center Hotline, 312/836-7000.

The George Washington Carver exhibition was organized by the Field Museum in collaboration with Tuskegee University and the National Park Service.

*Dr. Shemuel Israel practices chiropractic in North Lawndale. He is a certified wellness home consultant and is president of the Center for Health Promotion and Enhancement. His email address is drsbisrael@ameritech.net. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

## State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford Hosts First Annual Health Challenge

Sophia Karalexis



*Representative LaShawn K. Ford and kids*

On January 21, State Representative LaShawn K. Ford, from the 8th District, hosted the First Annual Health Challenge at Michele Clark Magnet High School. The hallways and gymnasium were packed with energetic children having fun while at the same time learning about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

"This event was held to honor Dr. King and at the same time to promote health and wellness. Hopefully everyone can learn how to eat right and work hard. Everyone should eat healthy because it saves lives," said Rep. Ford. He was extremely pleased with the event's obvious success. The projected number of attendants was 250, but by the end of the day they had reached 330. Besides the health education, a presentation about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was given so the children understood the significance of a day off from school and a day of fun activities. Olympian

Becky Brand was also in attendance.

Events for kindergarten through fourth grade students included hula hoop games, jump rope, food art and food juggle. Events for the fifth through eighth grade students were three on three basketball, jump rope, guess the food and calorie in and calorie out, which was more challenging. The children burned calories all day long, while learning about the importance of nutritional foods in a fun and creative manner. Mothers in attendance were hoping that their children would hear from others what they have been telling them in order to get through to them even more.

The gymnasium was packed with parents watching their children play three on three basketball. Large groups of children anxiously awaited their turn to go and grace the court. There were many volunteers who made the entire day of events possible and this definitely included basketball. Every child in attendance participated

and had such a great time they were oblivious to onlookers such as parents and journalists!

"The event is going good a lot of the kids are interested. It was the most popular one at the assembly when they started and everyone was cheering. I think it's really picked up during the day, the teams are in and they are having a lot of fun," said Anna Dannhausen, assistant coach at the Illinois Institute of Technology on the South Side. She brought her women's basketball team along to assist the basketball tournaments in the packed gym.

The most creative event was the calorie in and calories out relay race event ran by Jacob Nelson, who expressed his belief that every child was a winner. The children got into groups of five or eight and one at a time ran to one end of the gym to pick a cardboard cut-out of a food item. When they brought it back to the group they determined the foods calorie content and how much exercise was needed in order to burn off that specific food. In order for the next person to go retrieve a food the entire team had to do the exercises.

"If they chose a piece of pizza they would have to do five laps, five sit-ups, five push-ups, five jumping jacks, you know a lot of work, and their whole team has to do that before the next person on the team can go choose another food item. So quickly they learned to choose lettuce and grapes over pizza and butter because the healthier food choice they make the less exercise they have to do to burn it off," said Nelson.

Dieticians from the University of Illinois-Chicago were teaching families about balanced diets and gave tutorials on how to make healthy eating decisions. Charts were passed out explaining portions and the parents and relatives of students asked important questions about their health and diets.

"What the goal is for everyone to understand is that they need to eat the colors of the rainbow everyday and that whatever calories we put in, through nutrition, we need to exercise out

through movement and activity, especially the station calories in, calories out kind of tells it all of what they need to do. We want everyone to understand that exercise can be fun, enjoyable and it's necessary for us to feel well and do well. Health is something that we do. It's not something that we learn about, read about, take a test on and forget. It's something that we do everyday and we really need to look at what we put in our bodies and how we burn it off," said Sandy Noel, coordinator of activities for the event and the Illinois and Midwest physical education teacher of the year.

Celebrating Dr. King's accomplishments through this fun event pleased many members of the community. "I hope they would take some knowledge, not only about their health and being physically fit, but some knowledge about black history. The event is a very cultural event, not only for black Americans, but for all races and anybody who would miss it would be missing a treat, because this isn't only a treat for children, but for adults as well and I think they should do this every year," said Rochanda Osbey, a mother from Austin who brought along four children, ages 18, 17, nine and six.

The event was a huge success and they plan on doing this annually on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. If you missed it this year be sure to pencil it in on your calendar for next year. They are planning more events for adults and even more activities to educate the children. The day ended with the passing out of medals, a free lunch and haircuts! But, most importantly, "We should definitely remember all the accomplishments that Dr. King made, that's why we're here also to honor him and everything he has done to make all our lives better," said Rep. Ford.

*Sophia Karalexis is a graduate in English from DePaul University. Sophia also earned a minor in Journalism. Sophia is a general assignment reporter and an editor for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*



# NLCP Team Manager Jeramey Winfield

Todd Thomas



Team Manager Jeramey Winfield right along with assistant coach Kelly Martin and head coach Lewis Thorpe

North Lawndale College Prep boy’s basketball team is having a breakthrough year in their relatively short history. The Phoenix sit atop the highly competitive Red-Northwest Conference with a 17-2 record and over the past week they defeated three teams, all ranked in the top 25.

To achieve this success the ballplayers and coaches have put in long hours and hard work, and so has team manager Jeramey Winfield. Winfield, a junior, has been with the team since his freshman year and he is responsible for many of the things that help

prepare the Phoenix for success come game time.

NLCN: How did you get your start as team manager?

Winfield: Growing up my brothers and some of my friends used to go to the court on Lake St. and play ball. Then, after a while I realized that me playing ball wasn’t going to work. But I like the game of basketball so much that I wanted to get into something close to the game. So I decided that since I have good organizational skills and leadership skills, I thought I could take on the position of manager

See Winfield page 15

# What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

What Up?

Heath Ledger has passed away. He was one of the men who starred in the movie Brokeback Mountain. He has a history of drug abuse so that might have been the cause. The police say they found a rolled up \$20 bill and it was tested and came back clean of drug residue. They found pill bottles that they say were nearly full. The pills were anti-anxiety medications Alprazolam (Xanax), Diazepam (Valium) and Lorazepam (Ativan) and sleeping medication Zopiclone (Lunesta) and the sedative Temazepam (Restoril) — which is used by people with “debilitating insomnia” was also found. The pills were all prescribed to Ledger. The exact cause of Heath’s death will be determined when the toxicology results come in — sometime in the next two weeks. He has a two year old daughter with Michelle Williams who was a co-star in the movie Broback Mountain and also played on Dawson’s Creek.

Now I don’t have enough info to really say this is true, but Rhianna and Chris Brown are dating. I thought she was dating this white guy. She was spotted at the airport with one of his hoodies and and the two have matching tattoos. I have to ig deep for this info, I’ll keep you posted.

Nate Dogg is paralyzed on the left side of his body. He suffered a stroke over the holidays and was confined to a hospital bed for eight days. Thursday his manager said that he was still suffering from a mild stroke but is expected to make a full recovery. He is currently in an occupational recovery facility. I hope he will make a full recovery because I love Nate Dogg.

**QUICKIES:**  
How rude was it for Bill Clinton to fall asleep

See Biz page 15

# Jan 23 Black Facts



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams

\* On this date in 1891, African-American surgeon Dr Daniel Hale Williams founded Provident Hospital in Chicago. At the same time, he founded Provident Hospital School of Nursing because African-American applicant Emma Reynolds was denied admission to every school of nursing in Chicago.

\* On this in 1964, the 24th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It abolished poll tax that was used as a means of preventing African-Americans from voting.

\* On this date in 1837, Amanda Berry Smith, born into slavery, becomes an independent missionary and travels the U.S. and three other continents.

\* On this date in 1945, The National Association of Colored Nursing Graduates pressures the Army Nurse Corps to drop its color bar and admit nurses without regard to race.

\* On this date in 1993, Rev. Thomas A. Dorsey, founder of gospel music died in Chicago. He was a prolific composer, performer and recording artist. His signature songs “Take my Hand Precious Lord” and “Peace in the Valley” has become gospel music “traditionals” that have been recorded by many artists. He wrote “Take my Hand Precious Lord” after the unexpected death of his wife and newborn child.

# DR. KING LEFT A HISTORIC TRAIL IN COOK COUNTY

Wendell Hutson

The Cook County Board of Commissioners recently approved a resolution that would recognize and honor the many different sites where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited while traveling throughout the Chicago area.

The full board approved the resolution and its members are: William Beavers, Jerry Butler, Forrest Claypool, Earlean Collins, John P. Daley, Gregg Goslin, Roberto Maldonado, Joseph M. Moreno, Joan P. Murphy, Anthony J. Peraica, Mike Quigley, Timothy O. Schneider, Peter N. Silvestri, Deborah Sims, Robert B Steele, and Larry Suffredin.

According to Chinta Strausberg, assistant to Todd Stroger, a need to establish an advisory committee of local historians, community leaders and elected officials to make recommendations regarding the designation of significant locations to be included in the Dr. King Trail, as well as private funding for establishment and promotion of the Dr. King Trail, was not only approved by the county board, but supported by Stroger as well.

To mark these visits, Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger said the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Cook County Historical Trail should be established to memorialize the work of Dr. King here in Cook County, as well as to provide visitors to our County with a deeper understanding of the impact Dr. King had on the residents of Cook County.

“This is an opportunity for our nation to honor Dr. King, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and a national hero whose birthday has been declared a national holiday by his nation’s government to be a day of peace, love and understanding,” said Stroger.

Some of the places Dr. King visited in Cook County included: a July 1965 appearance at the Palmer House Hotel, a July 1966 rally at Soldier Field, a July 1965

nonviolent protest of 50,000 from Buckingham Fountain to City Hall, a July 1966 appearance at Quinn A.M.E. Church at 2401 S. Wabash Ave, appearances at several public housing projects including the Altgeld Gardens, the former Robert Taylor Homes and Stateway Gardens, and Sahara Inn (now the Ramada Inn), located at 3939 Mannheim Road in suburban Schiller Park.

Having such a historical tour of places will also attract more tourists to Cook County, who undoubtedly would spend money while in town, said Matthew DeLeon, secretary to the Board of Commissioners for Cook County.

“President Stroger’s advisory committee on the Dr. King Trail will help identify the most historically significant locations which were visited by Dr. King, and will assist in identifying the resources to promote the King Trail across the country,” DeLeon adds.

In January 26, 1966 Dr. King also rented a four room apartment at 1550 S. Hamlin Ave. and conducted a July 1966 march on Marquette Park and Gage Park to protest unfair housing practices in Chicago.

Realtor and author Dempsey Travis, whose bestselling book “An Autobiography of Black Politics,” speaks extensively about Dr. King’s work in Chicago.

County Commissioner Jerry Butler said the MLK Trail is a great thing and will be an asset to the next generation.

“I think it is a wonderful idea because I think it is time we recognize that Dr. King was not only a national, but an international figure. This is good for young people to visibly see and walked and talked will be a good thing,” he said. “Dempsey is one of the greatest realtors and authors in Chicago. He is an icon.”

Wendell Hutson is a Chicago-based freelance writer. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

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### Flicks from page 12

style and look that is reminiscent of another low budget horror film, "The Blair Witch Project". The party goes and city residents emerge running through the street, dodging a hurled object that turns out to be the severed head of the statue of liberty.

While this towering creature damaging skyscrapers in its path. While battling the military forces, massive dust balls rolling through the streets and the rumble thereafter to continue the imagery of 9/11 until the movie shifts into a full fledged monster movie

Every one goes through their paces on an emotional level that doesn't allow much acting inasmuch as they react than act through this movie. But it's still rather odd to see New York, which is such a multi-racial melting pot that the only assembly of Blacks are seen in the military battling the monster and its mutant spider offsprings while trying to evacuate the residents.

Given its "as you are there" documentary account of the event, "Cloverfield" is not without its shortcomings, even though totally focus on its visual objective as a cinematic thrill ride of in-your-face suspense and excitement.

At times, the movie feels longer than it truly is. Moral statements could have been made, but weren't

"Cloverfield" is one of those "for what it is" "kind of movies that goes through the motions without much substance or depth. And yet, this quickie movie is made convincingly for the experience and the excitement

PG-13; 84min. A Paramount 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).

### 9090 To PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD!

### Biz from page 14

during the Martin Luther King Jr. speech on MLK Day? Stop doing all of Hilary's work and you can stay asleep. See it on YouTube.

My man Jamie Foxx, will be hosting Charm School 2. He will be dealing with 15 rowdy men from the past two seasons of I Love New York. It will be the same as the first with Monique and yes Chance and Tango will definitely be a contestant.

Wednesday, Lil Wayne had a \$10,000 bond and is being charged with possession of cocaine, possession of ecstasy and possession of drug paraphernalia. He and two others on his bus were arrested after they stopped at a Border Patrol checkpoint. Police say they found 105 grams of marijuana, 29 grams of cocaine and 41 grams of ecstasy pills, \$22,000 in cash and a 40-caliber pistol. Wayne, does have a permit to carry a concealed weapon in the state of Florida and they are checking to see if that carries over to Arizona. He'll be out.

February 10<sup>th</sup> is the Grammy's. I hope you will be watching cause I'm gonna have a post about it. I heard that Beyonce is suppose to be doing a duet with Tina Turner. That should be very interesting. Also performing is my girl Rhianna. I hope she upstages Beyonce. Ha Ha.

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

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

### Protest from front page

some civil policies to prevent them."

Candidate Eddie Winters subtly made his appearance as protesters chanted "Ceasefire!" in the background. According to his campaign manager, Winters was not there to "politicize the situation," but was merely supporting Ceasefire, an organization he supported before running for State Representative.

Winters did, however, suggest that if he were in office he would fight for tougher gun policy.

"My goal, number one, is to create safer communities," he said, "and number two, to strengthen all our gun laws, you know, to add something with a little more substance to it."

Despite the cold, protesters continued chanting into the afternoon, carrying with them a message of peace. Leading the battle against gun violence, Willie Williams Jr. made it clear his actions are not just symbolic, but are meant to catalyze change.

"We need to stop this," he said. "We need to stop it now."

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.

### Winfield from page 14

for a basketball team. Especially a team that my brother was playing for. (Jermaine Winfield, Jeramey's younger brother is a sophomore forward on the team).

NLCN: Explain how Coach Thorpe approached you about managing the Phoenix?

Winfield: It was kind of ironic because I had Coach Thorpe as a teacher in a class called college prep. He would give us an assignment and I would always type it up and turn it in all fancy so he knew I could use computers and I was organized. He also knew my brother played ball, so eventually he asked me to be the team manager.

NLCN: What are some of the things you do as manager?

Winfield: A lot of the time I do things like type up the roster and type up the plays. I also made the booklet that people get at the home games that describes the players and the coaches. So I get to use my computer skills, especially on Microsoft Word. I also help keep the uniforms clean, but I get help with that a lot of the time. I also help start practice with running and conditioning drills, and I watch practice and the games closely to get more knowledge.

NLCN: That's a lot of responsibility for a teenager, do you agree?

Winfield: I believe that I have a good maturity level for my age, and that allows me to help run practices. I think it will help me help the team make it to the next level, and to be there when Coach Thorpe needs me to be.

NLCN: The Phoenix have played a lot of games on the road and you've beat both Lincoln Park and Whitney Young on their home courts. Do you guys thrive in hostile environments?

Winfield: I believe that wherever we go we're gonna do our best and give it our all. It's not the crowd that makes us – it's ourselves. It's how hard we go out there and work, or whether

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### Ward from page 11

doctors, lawyers, educators, community advocates, and other politicians. Very rarely is a Ward Committeeman's different from the alderman. Electing a different person as Ward Committeeman would usurp the power of the alderman.

Very few residents in North Lawndale know the Ward Committeeman or the Precinct Captain. Maybe our newly elected alderman will remedy the situation and the next time you visit your alderman, you might just be visiting your Ward Committeeman too. The positions are almost always synonymous.

Fred Mitchell is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).



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or not we put our heart on the line to have success. But we are honored and blessed to have our crowd come along with us on the road for extra support.

NLCN: You seem to really enjoy being a part of this basketball team and your position as team manager. Do you like it that much?

Winfield: I love this until I can't love it any more. This is where I'm at the majority of the time. Inside the school with the team or with coach Thorpe. I love this job.

NLCN: Have you given any thought about your future career. Will it be in sports?

Winfield: Over the summer I went to Ithaca College in New York and took three weeks of classes in sports management. North Lawndale paid for everything and it was a good experience. Sports management is what I'm probably going to get into as far as a career.

NLCN: North Lawndale is starting to win so much that it seems they are destined to succeed. And they almost make it look easy at times?

Winfield: It's never easy - it's tough. The Whitney Young game was tough, and the Lincoln Park game was tough. We just discovered that we just have to go out and give it all we've got. We've got to work hard and stick to our system – and that's it.

Come out to see the Phoenix play Whitney Young at Homan Square Gym on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 6:00pm.

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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