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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Serving North Lawndale, East & West Garfield, Austin, Pilsen, Humboldt 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

Foreclosure Outreach Initiatives Meeting Sponsored by LCDC & Ald. Sharon Dixon provides Assistance for Renters - Part 1

Paul Stewart



Chicago Christian Industrial League where the meeting was held

The Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC) and the office of 24th Ward Alderman Sharon Denise Dixon brought together resources available to tenants whose landlords are experiencing foreclosure. The meeting, held at the Chicago Christian Industrial League on Saturday, June 27, 2009 gave tenants affected by the Foreclosure Crisis the opportunity to speak with attorneys, housing counselors, representatives from the Cook County Sheriff's Department, and various social service agencies who provide supportive services for tenants who find they face eviction through no fault of their own.

Frances D. Pratt, Foreclosure Outreach Advocate for LCDC, described a scenario, which magnifies the depth of destruction once removed from the public's eye due to the focus on the plight of individual owner-occupied homeowners. "There

are large numbers of multi-units in North Lawndale, so when one owner goes into foreclosure, 36-40 people can be displaced in just one building" Ms. Pratt reflected. The work of outreach advocates is significantly more challenging when the income source of many Lawndale tenants is dependent on SSI, which is \$674 a month according to Ms. Pratt. "The average person must make \$1800 to be considered for a studio at a 30% rental increment for subsidized rental housing of a studio" said Ms. Pratt. Ms. Pratt continued "This leaves the rent payment at \$600 and \$1200 is left for everything else." "Considering a significant number of renters practice "Hook-up" housing where one rental subsidized unit often has several extended family members or in some cases the authorized tenant may not live in the approved unit. Then when displacement occurs not only is the family larger

See Foreclosure page 5

CHICAGO'S VERY OWN HARRY LENNIX MC'S PANAMERICA PERFORMANCE WORKS EVENT



(Left to right) PPW Board Secretary Nilda Hernandez, Congressman Luis Gutierrez, PPW Board President Bill Natale, Alderman Ed Smith, and PPW V.P. Len Dominguez

Harry Lennix, one of Chicago's best renown actors appearing in movie blockbusters such as Star Wars, Ray, The Matrix, as well as TV shows, DOLLHOUSE, COMMANDER IN CHIEF and "24" spoke eloquently of why art makes a difference. "Art can bring out the best in our youth, their creativity, their drive, their need to express themselves and in some cases it can even save a life." It was a heartfelt expression that was met with nods of appreciation as Chicago's native son known to many as one of "The Five Heartbeats" served admirably as the MC for a festive event recognizing the contributions of Congressman Luis Gutierrez



Harry Lennix and Alderman Ed Smith

and Alderman Ed Smith on behalf of PanAmerica Performance Works (PPW) formerly known as Latino Chicago Theater Company.

Prior to Harry's opening remarks, the Sinai Institute Hall, courtesy of Mount Sinai CEO Alan Channing, was filled with the jazz sounds of guitarist Marco Garcia and the dance performances of TANGO 21 as Fuego Restaurant provided food and refreshment for a party of guests from all walks of life. In the

See Lennix page 5

Mary Crane Center Continues Century of Care for Children

TRAVLES R. LANE

Anchored by more than a century of tradition and continually striving to grow and improve, the Mary Crane Center at 316 N. Pulaski Road in Garfield Park recently celebrated its first year of operations as it looks forward to offering the highest in quality childcare and family services to the West Side for many more years to come.

The Center, which took over the location that housed the Bethel New Life childcare program July 1, 2008, is currently in the midst of a drive to double its enrollment and expand its staff there while adding to a legacy of service to low income families that began when Teddy Roosevelt resided in the White House. State-accredited pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs are also offered by Mary Crane, which has six locations serving communities in Austin, the Near Northwest and Rogers Park as well as Garfield Park.

"We are a very large agency, and we are hiring even in this climate of recession because the demand is always there," said Melissa Larson, the Garfield Park Site Manager. "We've been sorting through the takeover (from Bethel) during our first year here. But we are finally settling in and starting to see some growth."

"We are working extremely hard to let families in the community know that we are here, we have a very large organization and support network and



Mary Crane Center teacher Jennifer Franklin prepares breakfast for her pre-school class. Photo by Travles R. Lane

we are committed to continue providing them the best services in the industry."

Specializing in a Creative Curriculum, the Center tailors its programs to suit each child's individual likes, dislikes, strengths and weaknesses and focuses on involving the whole family in the learning process. Mary Crane emphasizes its 6:30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m. operating hours, a bilingual staff, assisting children with special needs, literacy activities and daily playtime that "inspires child-to-child interaction."

Students also enjoy daily structured outdoor play as well as instruction on healthy living, exposure to language tools and a culturally rich and diverse classroom, according to the Center's Website at www.marycrane.org.

The Garfield Park location, which enrolls 35 mostly African American kids between 16 months and five years old, employs a full-time staff of 12 people, including three bilingual instructors. Larson, who brings more than 20 years of experience and a Master's degree in

Early Childhood Education to her post, said she and Mary Crane Executive Director Laevetter Terry share a goal of further enhancing the Center's services and outreach through increased diversity and program expansion.

"We're about halfway where we want to be (in terms of enrollment) at this site," said Larson. "We have funding to expand to serve more toddlers and two-year olds, and we are exploring the option of providing school-age care in the near future."

"We currently are pushing a strong outreach to the Latino community and we are heavily recruiting in the Humboldt Park area. Because as gentrification forces many minority communities to move, we are finding that combining services (to accommodate diversity) is the model to build on for the future."

Established in 1907 as the Mary Crane Day Nursery by Jane Addams, the Mary Crane Center was originally formed to assist the children of poor immigrants on Chicago's near West Side before moving to the Lathrop Homes location in 1963. The organization pioneered a new way of thinking about early childhood education during its inception as one of the first experiments in nursery school education in the U.S. and has since served more than 14,000 children and families. Today, Mary

See Care Backpage

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Open Streets
Activity Station
Schedule
PAGE - 4



**METROPOLITAN
CHICAGO
BREAST
CANCER'S 1ST
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
MARIE GILLIAM
PAGE - 5**

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

North Lawndale Community News
Winner of the
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~~~~~  
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# NLCN

## 2009 FOCUS

### HEALTH & THE ECONOMY

One of the major issues of the recent presidential campaign was health care. Health care costs have become an escalating burden for employers and consumers alike. Research has shown that total health spending is reduced when consumers bear more responsibility for their health and the expenses related to it. One of the best ways to increase life expectancy while reducing disability is to encourage a culture of self-care practices.

Self care is personal health maintenance. It is the care taken by individuals towards their own health and well being. Self care includes the actions individuals take in their role as care givers for their children, their families, and others to stay fit and to maintain good physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Extreme self care means making choices and decisions that honor our soul in everyday living. It means feeding ourselves whole foods, moving our bodies every day, balancing silence with activity, and surrounding ourselves with supportive, like-minded people who are committed to improving or restoring health and uplifting the quality of their lives as well.

More than 75% of people surveyed in the United Kingdom said if they had guidance or support from a professional or peer they would feel far more confident about taking care of their own health. Research shows that supporting self care can improve health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction. Our intention is to support individuals, families, institutions, and communities in their efforts to practice extreme self care. During 2009, the North Lawndale Community News focuses on cost-effective ways you can improve your health by practicing self care.

The Economy has made itself the number one issue with gas prices reaching almost \$5.00 per gallon and having a domino effect on everything else sold, except housing stock which experienced a terrible decline with the high rate of foreclosures. The Chicago metropolitan area reported 5,821 new foreclosure filings in December, a foreclosure rate of one new foreclosure filing for every 499 households — more than twice the national average. That brought the area's fourth quarter foreclosure total to 16,949 and its 2006 foreclosure total to 57,706, according to Realty Trac.

Even transportation on the CTA went on the rise with one day passes increasing by seventy-five cents and monthly passes increased by \$10.00 from \$75.00 to \$85.00. Those are just a few of the increases.

The North Lawndale Community News this year is expanding on last years financial focus to give attention to its broader parent the economy. Saving and making smarter shopping decisions will help stop us losing through wasteful choices. Finding new ways to increase our income is a necessity for many in an area where gentrification is not going to stop.

One of the hardest things to change is behavior. Modifying behavior seems to be easy when it comes to pain. Social pain lack of money has to be extreme for many to change. 2009 should be different for many and of course many will continue toward economic mistakes and financial ruin.

But in today's information society there is no excuse for not making smart choices. Financial literacy alone is not enough. Look what happened to Lehman Brothers and what's happening to many other financial institutions let alone individuals, families, and small businesses.

Solutions come to the internet, books, economic experts, financial counselors and experts, the media and your economical neighbors.

The North Lawndale Community News will tap into resources and share them with you, our reader. So to help you improve your health and your economy keep reading The North Lawndale News. We say yours because some may not modify their behavior, except when the pain comes and still some won't change. Your input is also welcome. If you have some information that is beneficial please submit it. Let's make smarter health and economic moves for life in 2009.

## 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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open streets





# OPEN STREETS ACTIVITY STATION SCHEDULE

On Saturday August 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Open Streets will give North Lawndale residents the chance to enjoy the streets the way they want. This will be the biggest, most fun filled block- club party ever! When you consider all of the great activities that will be available at the Taste of North Lawndale, it will be a date you will long remember.

Open Streets' route will begin in Little Village, pass through North Lawndale, Garfield Park, Humboldt Park and end in Logan Square. Along North Lawndale's boulevards you'll find children's games, art activities, dance, jazz and hip hop music and much more! You'll have a chance to take advantage of the Farmers Market at Greater Galilee Baptist Church, find your inner artist by painting a mural at the Renaissance Apartments and learn to step at any one of our dance stations. Take a look at the list of the many activities that you can enjoy and be sure to come out and play!

| Open Streets Activity Station List |                                         |                                |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Activity                           | Organization                            | Route Location                 |
| Band                               | Celestial Ministries                    | Roosevelt & Ind.               |
| Clown/Entertainment                | Private Contractor                      | Independence & Lexington       |
| Balloon Activity                   | Private Contractor                      | Independence & Congress        |
| Art Work                           | Fire House Art...                       | Douglas & Central Pk           |
| Dance/Foot Work                    | Fire House Art...                       | Douglas & Homan/Christiana     |
| 3 on 3 BBALL                       | Blessed Sacrament...                    | Douglas & Christiana/Spaulding |
| Painting, Dancing etc.             | IAMABLE                                 | Douglas & St.Louis             |
| Breast Cancer Awareness            | Walk/Sinai Community Institute          | Independence & Polk            |
| Health Resource Chicago            | Department of Public Health             | Sacramento & 15th st           |
| HIV/AIDS                           | Beyond Care                             | Sacramento & 15th pl           |
| HIV/AIDS                           | Sinai Community Institute               | Sacramento & 15th pl           |
| Aerobics                           | Fowlers Fitness                         | Sacramento & Douglas           |
| Cheerleading                       | Kingdom Minds Youth Development         | Douglas & Ridgeway             |
| Health info                        | Sinai Childrens Hospital                |                                |
| Farmers Market                     | Greater Galilee Baptist Church          |                                |
| Salsa Dance                        | IAMABLE                                 |                                |
| Line Dance                         | Independent                             |                                |
| Tap Dancing                        | Better Boys Foundation                  |                                |
| Mime Dancing                       | Greater Rock Missionary                 |                                |
| African Dance                      | S.A.F.E                                 |                                |
| Water Balloon Race                 | Gateway Foundation                      |                                |
| Fix-a-Flat                         | Better Boys Foundation                  |                                |
| Jazz/Music                         | Stanley Stubbs                          |                                |
| Foreclosure Prevention             | Lawndale Christian Development Corp.    |                                |
| Open House                         | Lawndale Christian Residential Services |                                |
| Healthy Relationships              | Family Bridges                          |                                |
| Technology                         | Danny Davis Job Program                 |                                |
|                                    |                                         | Independence & 13th/14th       |
|                                    |                                         | Douglas & Ridgeway             |
|                                    |                                         | Douglas & Ridgeway             |
|                                    |                                         | Douglas & Ridgeway             |
|                                    |                                         | Douglas & Ridgeway             |
|                                    |                                         | Independence & Roos/13th       |
|                                    |                                         | Independence & Roos/13th       |
|                                    |                                         | Independence & Arthington      |
|                                    |                                         | Douglas & Ridgeway/Lawndale    |
|                                    |                                         | Douglas & Ridgeway/Lawndale    |
|                                    |                                         | Douglas & Independence         |
|                                    |                                         | TBA                            |



## FROM SISTER TO SISTA: "Dare To Imagine"

Do you remember when you were a child and the imagination was something that never took you into the realm of doubt? Literally, the gigantic mind in such a small body was endless. It was nothing that you could not imagine, all things seemed possible. As all things are possible. It wasn't until I fully got in tune with the Universe and myself that I could fully understand this concept. It is only the limited minds of those who have been broken with no ambition to fix or conquer that are left with the emptiness of "That's Impossible."

From Harriet Tubman, our beloved ancestor who fought on the road to freedom to Martin Luther King Jr. in his fight for a dream that is today being fulfilled we must all imagine in order to pave the road for change. On the way, there may be some bumps, hurts, and bruises but it is the broken pieces that we glue together in order to make the artistic beauty of the picture that allows us to continue and imagine "Dare To Imagine." We must Imagine our neighborhoods being in top notch condition with intelligent youth that will be the future leaders and build a better tomorrow. We must imagine a light of love resonating over our school systems that will resolve the hate that has taken so many lives away from our children. We must imagine unity, in order that we must work together, not for our own agendas, but to make a communities grow in love. We must imagine first in order to order to grow, because without the imagination, we can't see our future. In the words of Theologian Otis Moss III "Dare To Imagine." We must imagine in order to make change, positive change.

There are many references based on the outcome of the imagination. A highly recommended book that will help us all to get to and through the imagination state is called "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne. The Secret focuses on the Law of Attraction which basis is built on love. The love for self, others, and the universe in general will allow us all to manifest in life what is needed in our homes, communities, nation, and world. It is the light of love, a simple recipe to life.

According to Dr. Michael Bernard Beckwith founder of the Agape International Spiritual Center in Los Angeles California, in the book "The Secret" on page 19 he specifically states that "You attract to you the predominant thoughts that you're holding in your awareness, whether those thoughts are conscious or unconscious." So it is important that as individuals and as a community we begin to focus on the positive opposed to the negative. Have you ever come in contact with a Debbie Downer, or perhaps a Curious Catalena, who is always draw to negativity? Well the next time that you do, shift the mood and resonate by your way of thinking into a positive conversation opposed to the always negative conversation that one who has the personality of the two in order to help make change. You see, it is important that we do it together and try our best not to leave anyone out because the shift is for the community/city of Chicago at large. But the best place to start is with ourselves, and then our friends, and then our family, which branches out into our communities. It is important to understand that what ever thought has done to the lives of all, it could be fixed by a shift of our own awareness. So we must "Dare to Imagine" in order to clean our communities with the love of unity in order that we may all understand the concept of One. Yes we are all One. So "Dare To Imagine" and participate in the change, the positive change. **Let The Shift Begin!**

Peace & Light my Sisters, your Sista Tali.

**A simple exercise to help in our pursuit to the imagination of a cleaner, healthier, safer city:**

Every day close your eyes for a few seconds and see exactly what it is that you want for the future of Chicago. Your thoughts must be positive. Place within your thoughts your interaction as to what part you will play in this manifesto, and began to work towards what you have imagined and watch it unfold. Be sure to quiet your mind and meditate on this very project for you and your community at least 3 times a day. **"Dare To Imagine."**

Tali Bakhit is a visionary journalist, writer, entrepreneur, and owner of her own company Bon-chic Productions. Born and raised in the inner city of Philadelphia, she knows the struggles that young African American sisters go through on the everyday basis. As a writer for the the North Lawndale Community Newspaper, Tali has made a loyal commitment to give back to the Sisters and prove yes we can all get along and create a since of loyalty. Peace & Light My sisters.

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## METROPOLITAN CHICAGO BREAST CANCER TASK FORCE NAMES MARIE RULE GILLIAM AS ITS FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Gilliam leads citywide task force representing over 100 health care organizations dedicated to reducing breast cancer disparities*

CHICAGO, IL – The Board of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force, a city-wide task force representing over 100 health care organizations and more than 100 community stakeholders, advocates, faith leaders and health care professionals dedicated to reducing the black-white disparity in breast cancer mortality in Chicago, is pleased to announce Marie Rule Gilliam, MHSA, as its first Executive Director.

"Marie brings a rare combination of more than 15 years of health care management experience and a passion for advocacy and community activism to her new role at the Task Force," said Dr. David A. Ansell, Chair of the Task Force Board and Chief Medical Officer at Rush University Medical Center. "Both are necessary components in our ongoing efforts to reduce breast cancer mortality disparities in Chicago."

Gilliam is a versatile, senior-level health care executive with specific experience in community-based health initiatives, operations, partnerships, grant management and advocacy. Prior to joining the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force, Gilliam held positions with the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Chicago Hospitals, the Chicago Asthma Consortium and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

In the four years prior to joining the Task Force, Gilliam was with UIC's Division of Prevention and Public Health Sciences in the College of Dentistry as Assistant to the Dean. Other previous leadership positions include Executive Director of the Chicago Asthma Consortium and Project Coordinator for UIC's Research Framework for Public Health



Marie Gilliam

Performance Project in the School of Public Health, a project co-sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Association of Schools of Public Health.

"I am honored to have this opportunity to lead such a broad-reaching, dedicated and effective collaborative in the fight against disparities in breast cancer mortality, the most important public health issue facing our city," Gilliam said. "I am a passionate believer in the power of communities; and this project has not only received support and participation from our city's leading health

See Gilliam page 7

## Parade from front page

center of the room, directly behind the podium hung a huge rendering provided by architects Wallin & Gomez for what will eventually be the new home of PPW. Congressman Gutierrez and Alderman Ed Smith admired the beauty and vision of the new structure that will complement the construction of a new parking lot and shopping mall also being planned by Mount Sinai Hospital. But this evening of Monday June 22nd, was reserved for the acknowledgement of two self-less public servants and their history of helping Latino Chicago Theater, now known as PPW.

Congressman Gutierrez helped Chicago's first Hispanic theater troupe acquire an abandoned firehouse that was reclaimed and converted into "The Firehouse Theater." Ironically after showcasing works by playwright-in-residence Migdalia Cruz ("Fur," "Lolita de Lares," "Miriam's Flowers") and by Puerto Rican playwright Edwin Sanchez ("Dona Sol and Her Trained Dog") as well as probing plays such as "Bitter Homes and Gardens," "Prospect" and the incandescent "Lucy Loves Me," the theater burned down.

The equity from that structure served as the down payment for phase one of the

construction of a new theater/cultural center, known as the Mother Road Arts Center that will hopefully revitalize the North Lawndale/Douglas Park neighborhood. Alderman Ed Smith made it possible for PPW to acquire the eight city lots necessary to create the new complex that will include a 100 seat theater, an outdoor Greek theater for children's plays and a 250 seat theater for performing arts and independent cinema. PanAmerica has made a commitment to make the complex available for meetings and outreach programs vital to the community.

Harry Lennix along with PanAmerica's board members presented the Congressman and the Alderman with beautifully etched glass awards and framed renderings of the project. Both recipients applauded PPW's efforts to bridge the gap between Latinos and African-Americans by creating a center that provides residents of North Lawndale/Douglas Park the opportunity to celebrate the arts, be it music, performance or cinema.

If you're interested in contributing to the effort by PPW to construct the new cultural center, please send your contributions to PPW at 8500 S. Brandon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60617.

## Foreclosure from front page

than approved, but how can they live in a studio?" Ms. Pratt says.

LCDC normally works with the Lawndale office of Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), however in Ms. Pratt's Opinion NHS is "overwhelmed" in terms of capacity to serve, and LCDC has reached out to Agora Community Services Corporation to assist with the overload. Mary T. Jones, Executive Director and HUD Certified Housing Counselor for Agora, said "We really have had to integrate a wide variety of resources to assist displaced tenants." Ms. Jones stated Agora and LCDC are networking with Claretian Associates for the Rental Stabilization Component of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) from the Obama Administration (Phase 1 was aimed at stabilizing

rental housing), Metropolitan Tenants Organization on Tenant Rights, Lawyers Committee for Better Housing, John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic, Illinois State Treasurer's Office's Finally Home Program, New Age Services provides One-on-One Counseling, Covenant Bank, and the Cook County Sheriff's Department covers "What it means to be served. Ms. Jones further stated Agora is including in their grant requests funding for the homeowner side of the Foreclosure Crisis to do post-closing counseling for first-time buyers, outreach to Real Estate Agents to send all buyers to the free homeownership counseling seminars, and is going to incorporate green technology into the Budgeting component of the seminars. We discussed how one 75 watt compact fluorescent light bulb in typical usage in one lamp saves \$56 on electric

See page 7

## North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School

### Board Meeting Dates 2009 - 10

September 10, 2009

December 10, 2009

February 11, 2010

April 8, 2010

June 10, 2010

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# AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic

**THE ANSWER MAN (\*\*)** Nothing is as deep and profound as we think is part of the message in this lighthearted romantic comedy with a Scrooge-like performance from Jeff Daniels as a reclusive author of an immensely popular self-help spirituality book, "Me and God" that has entered its 20<sup>th</sup> year of popularity and notoriety.

Arlen Faber (Daniels) uses his misanthropic demeanor to maintain anonymous toward his neighbors and postman to avoid being besieged with their life questions.

Even on this auspicious occasion, A stressed out Arlen stays held up in his house, showing little interest or cooperation toward his agent, Terri (Olivia Thiribby) who seeks his approval over a new commemorative book cover. While Terri is unable to trick him into doing one interview when she's summoned by Faber whose back goes out, leaving him on the floor.

Once Arlen awakens the next day to find himself on his back; He manages to pull himself off the floor and literally crawls his way down the street to the recently opened healing center. Where Arlen becomes infatuated after his treatment done by a female masseur, Elizabeth (Lauren Graham), a single parent with a seven yr. old son that might help Arlen find the diversion in life.

Another more strained relationship that offers the same possibilities for Arlen is his relationship with Kris Lucas (Lou Taylor Pucci), a young book store owner just recently from rehab who struggles with his father (Tony Hale).

While Kris tries to get his business from under creditors caused by his assistant (Kat Dennings) when she loses the keys to the shop. Arlen becomes a persistent presence trying to make him accept the return of a 21

volume book set.

Eventually when the postman realizes the man whose been singing for Faber's mail is the man himself. The postman pops up with his family to sing at his door that leads to the author throwing water on the family.

And in retaliation, the postman reveals Faber's identity to Kris who arrives on Arlen's doorstep and agrees to terms to accept five books back for each question Kris seeks answers to, that relates to his life and troubles.

Until the questions leads to a relationship with Kris that Arlen seems identify and sympathize with when Kris' father suddenly dies. Along with Arlen spending time with Elizabeth and her child that helps fill some gaps in his life. While providing him with the courage to arrange a single autograph book singing event at Kris' shop that Arlen intends to use to clear up some public misconceptions and beliefs about his book.

Even as "The Answer Man" appears to try and moralize how we seek solutions to problems that in most cases we can do for ourselves. There is a price that is paid onto those we entrust over our own ability.

Fame can happen by chance for a guy who was just looking for the answers in his own life. But when those questions couldn't get some kind of response. Arlen decides to use himself to answer his own questions.

It was those answers that the public wanted to believe in, as if God used Arlen as his spokesman, This show how sometimes we put too much emphasis on things we can do for ourselves. "The Answer Man does do enough to show both sides.

After all, We sure know better by now and are less like sheep in our trials and tribulations. Its just that all of this seems to come through too little and late into this movie. PG-13; 95min. A Magnolia Picture

Release – Presented at selected theaters

**G-FORCE (\*\*)** After Disney went to the "dogs" with "Beverly Hills Chihuahua"; There's a bit of a rebound with guinea pigs as secret agents along with veteran action film producer Jerry Bruckheimer's usual slam bang theatrics.

In his first foray into 3D computer animation blending with live action; "G-Force" is a force to reckon with, on a "smaller" scale within this harmless yet generally entertaining, action comedy adventure.

"G Force" is a movie that sounds a bit redundant as a screen assignment for Bruckheimer who essentially has been making kid movies for adults out of most of his movies all along.

Movies based more on commercial appeal over creditable depth and artistic merit that serves that "boys with toys" macho mentality

Now with this movie; it's just more family friendly without being overly gratuitous. But kids are less discriminating than their adults (or are they?). So a film like "G-Force" already works for them, but only up to a point and in certain areas such as Bruckheimer's over-the-top action sequences set to 3D effect that provides the perfect "eye candy" here.

The film gets off to a fast start, explaining its initial story premise involving an elite group of highly trained and classified rodent commandoes who set out on their first mission by their animal rescuer and scientist Dr. Ben Randall (Zach Galifianakis, fresh from "The Hangover") to prove themselves and validate this special unit function and need before the



The G-Force

Feds shut them down..

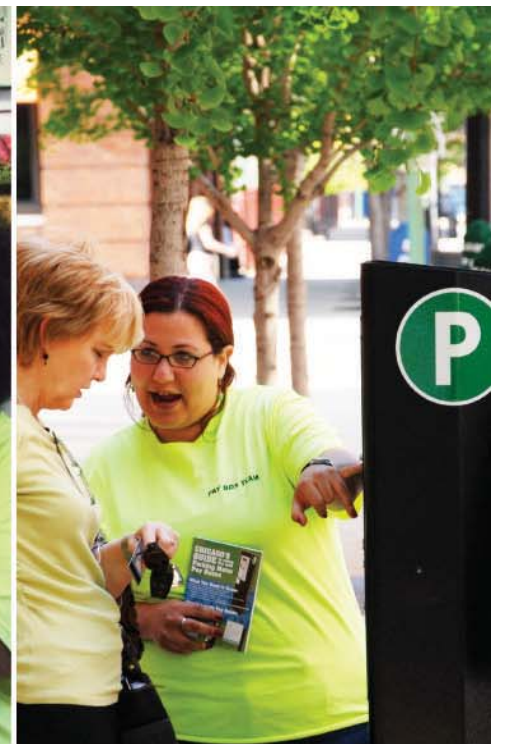
With each rodents given ethnic characteristics and human voiceovers, Darwin (Sam Rockwell), Blaster (Tracy Morgan), Juarez (Penelope Cruz), Speckles (a voice altered Nicolas Cage) the mole, and a gadget-filled housefly, Mooch infiltrate the lavish mansion of billionaire, Leonard Saber (Bill Nighy).

Saber is responsible for most of the home appliances in the world; whose hosting a cooperate party that suggests something sinister with the codename "Clusterstorm" set to go off in hours that is on a computer chip.

The rodent commandoes manage to steal but can't decode the chip in time to save their program from the hack FBI agent, Kip Killian (Will Arnett). In turn, Ben (Zach Galifianakis) manages to help the rodents escape with the FBI agents in hot pursuit.

See Flicks page 7

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### Flicks from page 6

The rodents end up in a pet shop for sanctuary where they are befriended by Hurley (Jon Favreau), a fat guinea pig along with his food smuggling buddy-hamster, Bucky (Steve Buscemi). During their breakout attempt, Speckles seems to sacrificed himself for the team in a diversion tactics with a garbage truck

As the rodents move in a race against time and being captured by the FBI before they can stop this plot against mankind that leads to appliances reuniting and merging into one giant killing machine that wanders close to "Transformers" territory The film offers the usual subplot mixture with moral undertones and comedic purpose that are like Arnett and Nighy's character seem under developed and exist by their facial demeanor.

Juarez misleads her furry comrade Darwin and Blaster on her romantic interest in order to have the joy of two male making advances for her. Naturally, Blaster is full of attitude and saying something hip. While Darwin has been misinformed of his origin that makes him overlook his abilities when Hurley thinks he might be a pet shop reject that's his long lost brother who joins the team to discover some self worth in the process.

There is only moderate pleasure from a movie where clarity isn't the writer's strong suit here. As the script's motives doesn't make enough sense to the action. With only a handful of paraphrase jokes derived from catch phrases other blockbuster movies from Bruckheimer's own "Top Gun" to "Die Hard" as a weak attempt at clever humor that fizzle more than pop.

"G Force" warrants the room for improvement, but is too preoccupied in its formulaic effort to please the eyes over the mind. PG; 87min. A Walt Disney Pictures Release – presented at selected theaters

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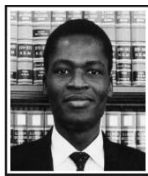
**ANOTICEISHEREBYGIVEN,** pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County under file no. D09118601 on July 21, 2009 under the Assumed Name of Beleza Natureza Beauty Consultant with the business located 9050 S. Dobson, Chicago, IL 60619. The true name and residence address of the owner is Edinette Nava-McCain, 9050 S. Dobson, Chicago, IL 60619.

### Foreclosure from page 5

bill each year. Multiply the savings times the number of light fixtures in a typical two-three bedroom apartment or the typical three bedroom starter home and the energy cost savings is significant to the monthly budget. "We all realize there needs to be a new approach to the education component for both renters and homeowners" said Ms. Jones. "We not only want to assist clients in acquiring rental housing and achieving homeownership, we want to provide the responsibility training to keep them in their rental unit or home" stated Ms. Jones.

There may be a "Brighter Day" for both the Landlord owners and their Rental Tenants. Mark Swartz, Attorney-at-Law, Lawyers Committee for Better Housing mentioned Chief Chancery Court Judge Dorothy Kinnard implemented in an April 1<sup>st</sup> order that Lenders must go to immediate mediation and start the process of Loan Modification or Loan Restructuring. Purportedly, Judge Kinnard ordered all pre-2009 cases to go in front of a judge again. This statement was confirmed in part by Ruthie Johnson, Counselor for Action Now for North Lawndale and other Mid-West Side Neighborhoods, who stated Action Now attorneys, are intervening in foreclosure cases at the Chancery Court level to assist in the initiation of the mediation process on behalf of the property owner. This writer mention this to both Ms. Pratt on voicemail and in person to Kim Jackson, Executive Director, LCDC while we were attending Illinois State Senator Art Turner's annual Fundraising Barbeque at his lovely home in North Lawndale, who stated she knew the Director of Action Now and would follow up. This development could become a major impact on stopping the damage of the Foreclosure Crisis in Cook County and could become a model for the nation. This could affect tens of thousands in Cook County experiencing the devastation of the Sub-prime caused Foreclosure Crisis and potentially millions nationwide. Imagine, one phone call from a tenant being served an eviction notice to a Foreclosure Outreach Advocate, such as Ms. Pratt, could initiate a coordinated, integrated effort to outreach to both the landlord, to network them to the mediation process through the Chancery Court, while keeping the tenants from displacement at the same time. Perhaps this intervention, would allow Landlords to feel more comfortable about being open with their difficulties with their tenants. The reality is landlords and tenants need to cooperate with each other because they are really in this together.

To this end, Ms. Pratt stated "The House and The Senate have passed and signed Bill S.896 Protecting Tenants in Foreclosure which provides tenants with bonafide leases of six months or more with 90 days after the service is rendered by the Sheriff, to relocate." The Bill is awaiting Governor Pat Quinn's signature. If Landlord's are receiving mediation on the mortgage and the Loan Modification or Re-Structuring is successful then the Landlord keeps the property, and the tenants would not have been served. These procedures could begin to put a real brake on the Foreclosure Crisis.



'Lanre O. Amu  
Attorney at Law

### LEGAL SERVICES

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- \* Insurance Claims

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### Gilliam from page 5

care institutions, researchers, legislators and grantmakers, but has gained momentum at the grassroots community level among breast cancer survivors, churches and community-based health providers."

Gilliam holds a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and science from the University of Illinois in Urbana. She was also a Stuart A. Wesbury Jr. postgraduate fellow (1993-1994) in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

In the role as Executive Director, Ms. Gilliam serves as a prominent leader in the Chicago health care community in an initiative that is gaining national recognition as a model for citywide collaboration to address racial health care disparities.

For more information on the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force, please go to [www.chicagobreastcancer.org](http://www.chicagobreastcancer.org).

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## Care from front page

Crane continues to pursue a mission dedicated "to the comprehensive early development of urban dwelling children and their families" and a goal "a quality education in a safe and diverse environment to strengthen the bonds between children and their families."

The Center began pre-kindergarten services in association with Chicago Public Schools in 1990, and added its Head Start program a year later. In 2000, toddler admissions began. The Lathrop Homes site is current the only center that serves infants.

In addition to the supporting resources of education coordinators, nutritional and health and mental health consultants employed to enhance and improve the quality of its services, the Mary Crane Center also relies heavily on parent volunteers and their classroom participation to facilitate a program that reaches out to families to provide them "the full range of family services." Parents also conduct thematic monthly meetings focusing on topics ranging from health, dental and fire safety as well as workshops in budget training disciplining and stress management.

The Bethel Education and Family Services organization also occupies the building and complements Mary Crane's efforts with its own.

Spearheading the Center's enrollment/recruitment efforts since

joining the staff in May, Traci Medina, who has two daughters attending Center, said the pace has picked up with the addition of about 10 families since June. She added she has been prospecting block parties, carnivals, fairs and other public family events all over the West Side this summer in the effort to build up the Mary Crane rolls.

Medina, a nine-year veteran of the childcare field, said many families were wary of enrollment because "they hear about all the budget cuts (in social services and child care) these days with the recession and all."

The Center's fees are subsidized on a sliding scale according to family income. however, Larson stressed that Mary Crane enjoys varied funding sources through the United Way, corporations and foundations in addition to its government subsidies. The Center also participates in partnership agreements with CPS and other agencies to assist each other in recruiting.

"We are eager to offer Mary Crane Center's quality services to the families of Garfield Park and the surrounding neighborhoods, and we look forward to becoming a vital part of the community for years to come," she said.

More information about the Center and its services can be obtained by calling (773) 265-5954 or by accessing the Website.

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**MORSE (Rogers Park)**, Morse & Ashland, **773.262.1390**

*We are funded by government contracts and private grants, and use a sliding fee scale to calculate parent's monthly co-payment.*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lawndale 5k Walk/Run

Saturday, September 26

Lawndale Christian Fitness Center  
 3860 W. Ogden Ave.  
 Chicago, IL 60623

8am Check-in

**9am Start of 5K Walk/Run**

10am Kids Dash (ages 3-12)

10:30am Awards Ceremony/Healthy Snacks

## AWARDS

Awards will be presented to the top three male and female runners in each of these age groups: 6-14, 15-17, 18-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+

Pre-register by September 19 at Lawndale Christian Fitness Center to ensure we have a t-shirt in your size on the day of the event, or register online at [www.lawndale.org](http://www.lawndale.org).

Walk your own pace or run hard. This is your opportunity to enjoy the boulevards of Lawndale as well as Douglas Park. Join us for a day of fitness while promoting health and wellness in Lawndale.

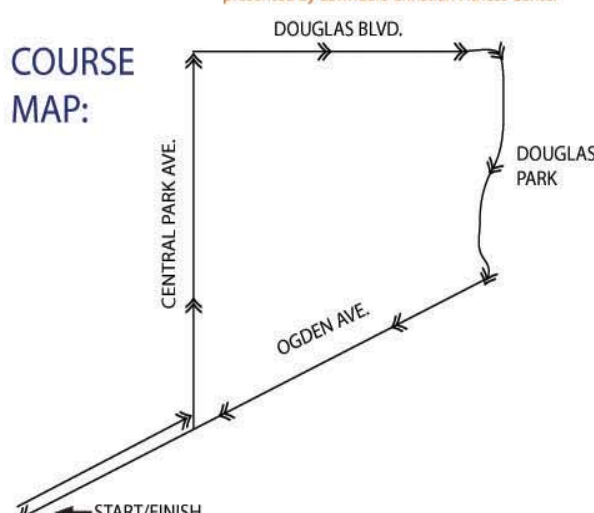
Questions? Call LCFC at 773.843.3219.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lawndale 5k Walk/Run



presented by Lawndale Christian Fitness Center

## COURSE MAP:



**COST:** 5K ADULTS  
 \$12 Pre-registration  
 \$15 After September 19

5K YOUTH (6-17)  
 \$8 Pre-registration  
 \$10 After September 19

\*Youth age 6-12 receive free Kids' Dash entry with 5K registration.

KIDS' DASH (ages 3-12)  
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