

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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April 28 - May 3, 2011

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

What is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)?



Austin Bank of Chicago (ABC Bank) located at 5627 W. Cermak Rd. is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

Pan American Bank located at 2627 W. Cermak Rd. is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).



Second Federal Savings and Loan located at 3960 W. 26th St is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).



Covenant Bank located at 1111 S. Homan is a Community Development Financial Institution

On Friday April 22, 2011 NLCN was allowed to attend a high-powered meeting at the Rosemont Hyatt Regency at 7am in the morning. The faith-based leadership group New Genesis, African Ministers from the Chicago Metropolitan Area, Rich Warren, a D C lobbyist and retail broker, Randy Roth a grocery chain representative, Daryl Burton of Global Financial, Robert Klamp, President and CEO American of Bancorp Illinois, Attorney Seth Harrop and Lolita Sereleas Consultants LLC

The topic of discussion was

revitalizing our community with jobs, through economic stabilization. The mission of New Genesis is to empower, equip, edify, educate, & encouraging communities one brick at a time. Several dynamics were discussed such as senior housing development, along with an anchor chain store development of which the Save-A-Lot discount stores was

An interesting topic that NLCN is covering as a result of this meeting is CDFI's which are Community Development Financial Institutions. The

reason, attending the meeting was Robert Klamp, President and CEO of American Bancorp of Illinois, the holding company of Pan American Bank, a CDFI whose headquarters is located at 2627 W Cermak Rd. Robert Klamp was formerly Chairman and chief Executive officer of the Community Bank of Lawndale, also a CDFI. He holds that title with Pan American Bank.

So what are CDFI's and their importance to our communities? The CDFI Fund's mission is to expand the capacity of financial institutions to provide credit, capital, and financial services to underserved populations and communities in the United States.

According to the Woodstock Institute, CDFIs stimulate the local economy by creating jobs, building housing, and leveraging private resources for reinvestment. CDFIs include nonprofit loan funds, credit unions, community banks, small business lenders, and venture capital funds. Although, diverse in corporate structure, CDFIs share the common mission of providing affordable financing options that broaden access to

capital. CDFIs offer services with rates, terms, and products tailored to meet their clients' needs.

Illinois currently has 47 CDFIs, 27 are in Chicago, and in our local area there are 14, which include downtown and the westside communities. Covenant Bank, maybe more notable as Community Bank of Lawndale because of its history when the bank had financial problems as CBOL, the transfer of ownership to International Bank of Chicago, and its most recent change of ownership

See CDFI page 7

McDonalds' Offer Jobs in Chicago During National Hiring Day Nicholas Short



(L-r): John Challenger - Challenger, Gray and Christmas; Sammy Coker, McDonald's; Keith Allen, McDonald's Owner Operator

People who go to McDonald's 6560 S. Stony Island. Since 7 a.m., are usually hungry for hamburgers, but on April 19 people who went to McDonald's were hungry for McDonald's Corporation

hosted its National Hiring Day, offering various positions to anyone who was interested. Several McDonald's restaurants across the country held in-store hiring sessions where candidates filled in applications. Chicago was among the cities that participated in the event. During that day, crowds of Chicagoans attended their local McDonalds restaurants to apply for positions.

One of the Chicago restaurants that participated in the event was a McDonald's that was located on the restaurant was packed with people of various ages who were looking for work. People were either standing in line and waiting for their applications or sitting at a table and filling out applications.

De'Quan Thompson, one of the applicants, found out about the job from his grandmother, who found out about the event while watching the news. He said that McDonald's is a great way to keep him busy. "It's something to keep me occupied and keep me off the streets until football season starts back," he said. He feels that he is the right person for McDonald's because he is a hard worker and a quick learner who possesses a good attitude.



A crowd of applicatnts came in to take advantage of McDonald's national hiring day job opportunity.

Another candidate, Star Jordan, found out about the event on the news. She also learned about it from a representative from is perfect for a job at McDonald's because she is reliable and a hard worker. She also describes herself as a loyal, persistent, helpful leader who gets the job done.

To her, McDonald's is the perfect stepping stone to a better career. "I want to work at McDonalds because I feel like this would help me get ready for a real job in the future." She also wants to work at McDonald because she likes cooking.

The McDonald's restaurant on Stony Island is owned and operated by Keith Allen. A

member of the Black McDonald's Operators Association (BMOA) of Chicago, Allen started out as a crew member at the restaurant. McDonald's. She believes that she Today, he is the owner of five McDonald's restaurants. He has been the owner of the McDonald's on Stony Island since December 2008. Allen said that 3,000-5,000 job seekers showed up at three of his stores, which were excepting applications.

To Allen, there are many advantages to working at McDonald's. "McDonald's offers plenty of opportunities for career advancement not only in the restaurant aspects but also from the corporate side in different things like human resources, technology,

See Hiring page 3

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

North Lawndale Community News
Winner of the 7th Congressional District 2004
Education Champion Award
Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &
Residents of the 7th Congressional District

NLCN 2011 Focus

Health and Education

Ten Years has past since the New Millenium scare of the year 2000, a time of uncertainty. In 1999, we began by thanking God for making the newsletter possible. Much has happened since October of 1999 when we first published the North Lawndale Community News more than eleven years ago. Many have contributed, supported, volunteered, written, taken photos, done research, and/or completed our workshops. We have helped many and many have helped us. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness in an economy driven society.

In 2001, our focus targeted the "Revival of the Family". In 2002, we targeted "Wholistic Wellness". In 2003, we targeted "Education and Training". In 2004, the North Lawndale Community News focused on helping our community acquire a better quality of life through higher levels of reading and responsible wealth creation. In 2005, it was Technology, Business Development, and Employment. In 2006, the primary focus for SHS/ NCLN was Health, Education, and Welfare. In 2007, the primary focus for SHS/ NLCN was People and Education. In 2008, the primary focus for was the Church, Financial Literacy, and Technology. In 2009, the primary focus for SHS/NLCN was HEALTH & THE ECONOMY. In 2010, our primary focus was to live and reflect on our previous years of focus, as we progress to a better quality of life.

So many things remain a high priority in our life. As we struggle to enjoy life, many have neglected the necessary choices that preserve and extend a healthy and abundant, spirit, mind, and body. So along with health, there is education (knowing) and the need to have the resources to act upon the knowledge for a better quality of life.

The North Lawndale newspaper was and is created to help fulfill the mission of Strategic Human Services. That mission is to provide information on resources and events that improved the lifestyle of individuals and families. This is our primary objective under that are all of the sub-objectives that help to reach the primary objective. There is a saying that if your're not sure where your're going, your're liable to end up someplace else- and not even know it.

Even though tough times are among us setting positive objectives and staying committed to them will be the focus of our news for this 2011 year.

Writer's Meetings!!

The North Lawndale Community News Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203

Time 6:00pm

Date May 19, 2011
Free Training in Community Journalism!

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The North Lawndale Community News The North Lawndale Community News is now published

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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Community Youth

for 2 years

Circulation: 15,000 copies **Drop Site Distribution:** Phillip Lewis, Dennis Allen, and Caprice Ware, Mac Strong distributed weekly over 280 dropsites, and over 340,685 potential readers throughout North and South Lawndale, East and West Garfield, Humboldt Park, Austin, Pilsen and the Near West Communities. **Weekly Mail Subscription Rates:** \$20.00 for 3 months. \$35.00 for 6 months \$60.00 for 1 year \$110

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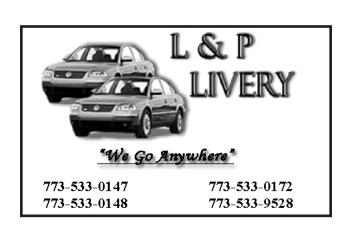


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All 3 programs end May 31, please call 312-492-9090 to see if you qualify for the first two program, the third you just call **877-803-3674.**

We are also doing the WEATHERIZATION program – work may include attic and wall installation, furnace repair or replacement, window and door repair or improvement.

All programs you will need PROOF of INCOME or a letter of who has been supporting you for the last 30 days – FOOD STAMPS is not proof of income, Current utility bill, Social Security Card of every one in house

TAKE ADVANTAGE WHILE FUNDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. Energy assistance is one of the programs that was included in the nation's budget cuts.

X'ernona Woods: Keeping Youth Economically Savvy, Understanding Money, Saving, and Investing

Tali Bakhit



X'ernona Woods, Jess White and the youth at the Jesse White/Marquette Bank Save Now vs. Pay Later event/workshop.

In the words of X'ernona Woods "Save that penny for a sunny day," in order to enjoy life. Young, innovative and economically savvy X'ernona Woods, is determined to help parents and especially the youth to understand the significance of money and building wealth by saving and investing.

According to X'ernona based on experience "It is only until one fully understands self that they are able to understand the importance of what they deserved," and X'ernona believes that she only deserves the best in life.

As money doesn't bring happiness but knowing thyself and incorporating the "I Am" wisdom of self, an awakening of self responsible begins to open up a completely different world----the world of self responsibility. And X'ernona feels that

money plays a major role in "The world," of self responsibility. X'ernona adds "The beginning of life starts with knowing yourself and from there you will begin to understand that you deserve to live life to the fullest."

At a very young age X'ernona was the heir of a very large estate and began her journey of economic education in order that she may understand the ins and outs of money. This was only the beginning of her journey, and X'ernona wants to share her experience with the world.

Currently, X'ernona is the owner of her own business called XWoods Enterprise and she focuses on sharing wealth building secrets with the youth and their parents by

See Youth page 7

Alderman Emma Mitts and Mayor Daley Celebrated in Farewell Ceremony Ashley Thomas



Alderman Emma Mitts and Mayor Daley

Alderman Emma Mitts (37th Ward) and Chicago's Mayor Richard M. Daley were both celebrated Wednesday night in a final farewell fundraiser and award ceremony hosted by the 37th Ward Pastor's Alliance. Special appreciation was given to Mitts and Daley for being responsible for the 1st Wal-Mart Store opening its doors in the City of Chicago in 2006.

"Throughout his years in office as Mayor of Chicago, Daley has consistently promoted the participation of African Americans and other disadvantaged groups in the economic and social fabric of neighborhoods across the city, and for that we honor him tonight," said Rev. Joseph Kyles, President of the 37th Ward Pastor's Alliance.

The fundraiser, "Building Bridges

In The 21st Century," took place at 6 p.m., bringing together more than 100 local businessman, community leaders, government officials and pastors. It was held at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL.

"I feel very humbled and appreciated," said Mitts after receiving her award. "It encourages and inspires me to work harder; it's my motivation, it's my energy, knowing my work is appreciated."

Still working to add more jobs to the community, Mitts is ready to cut the ribbon on their newest edition to the 37th Ward, a Forman Mills store, with 80% of its future employees being African American. "We've created 40 more jobs, this is a name brand

See Farewell page 7

Hiring from front page



More Applicants

real estate, construction, [and] all different departments. So when you look at McDonald's, it's not just the cooking of food and the serving of customers, but there's a bigger picture to that that far exceeds just a local restaurant," he said.

Allen said that, at McDonald's, there are "certain things that you can learn and nobody can take away from you." Among the things a person can learn while working at McDonald's are customer service skills, communication skills, cash-handling skills, people skills and management skills.

The positions that are available, according to Allen, are crew persons, maintenance personnel, and management personnel. He added that the perfect

candidates for these positions are people who have a history of being a dependable, loyal and honest. The perfect candidate also has to be dedicated and possess good people skills and communication skills.

He also said that the right person for a job at McDonald's could also be a person who has never worked before. "Sometimes the best applicant can be the sixteen-year-old that just turned sixteen that never had a job at all, like myself when I started at McDonalds," said Allen. He explained that a company can start fresh with sixteen-year-olds because they have no job experience and, therefore, have not developed any bad work habits.

Allen said that McDonald's will hold on to the applications they receive for the next six months.



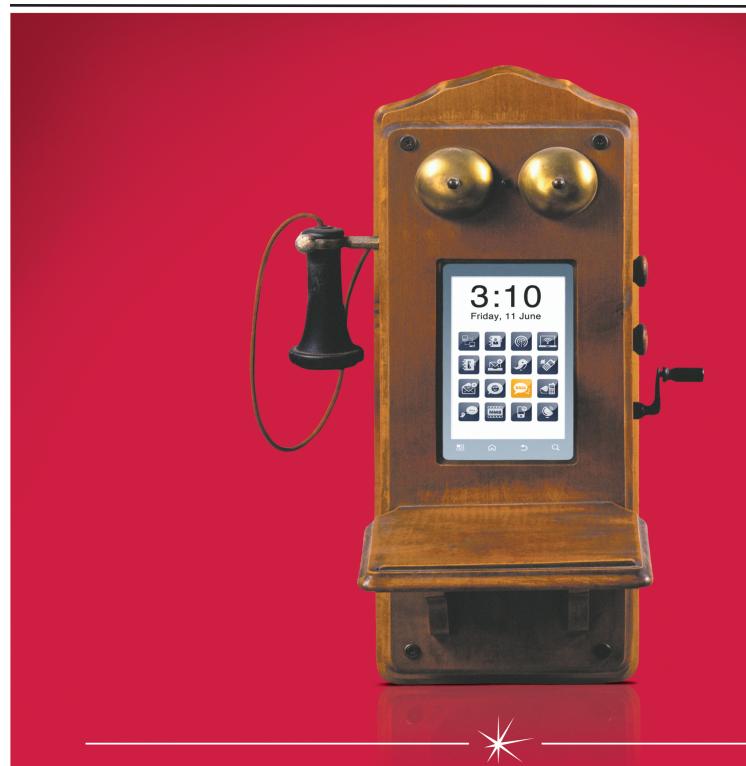
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LANE CHANGE: Great Recession Offers Blacks Chance to End Great Deception A Commentary by Travles R. Lane

Let me tell you something: It really chagrins me to no end each and every time I read a commentary online or hear it said on television and elsewhere about how the problems confronted by our nation today is somehow caused by the country "straying away from the values" of its founders. When actually nothing could be farther from the truth.

But while the birther and Tea Party crowds and others energized by a white-hot objection to President Obama, spout this kind of nonsense as their calling cards, they conveniently neglect historical fact in their oft-stated zeal to "return America to its former greatness." They wax nostalgic about a time of homogenized opportunity where stability, order and progress played accepted favorites overtly. They find advantage in advocating a return to those days.

Meanwhile, any truly objective review of American History readily reveals we are where we are today in the declining expectations of the United States of the 21st Century precisely because we have and continue to follow—to the letter—those 16th Century values of the founding fathers who made this mess. You cannot return

the country to a greatness it has never truly known.

Sure, we have been powerful, rich, dominant and the envy of many around the globe, but there is nothing great in any of those things in and of themselves. Especially when they are accompanied by the arrogance of hubris as

well as systematic and transparent hypocrisy and injustice

that continues to this day.

And contrary to current propaganda galvanizing all the extreme government opposition around the country with black folks in the White House, nothing about the nation's way of doing business has really changed. The artificial divisions, hatreds and fears that informed the framers in their work in 1787, finds us still steadfastly devoted to all that has ailed this union since its architects placed profit above principle at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia 234 years ago. The Civil War was fought to enforce that national imperative, and the election of Barack H. Obama has done little to change it.

Now, in the midst of the Great Recession, we are engaged in a great internecine cultural civil war between the powerful and the people of America, testing whether we are a nation that can stand to look in the mirror at itself, tell the truth about what it sees and make the changes necessary to stand the sight. And if Obama's blink to the birthers by the April 27 release of his "long form" birth certificate is any indication, black Americans can be assured whatever gets done for us after 2012, we will have to do for ourselves. That is, if bullets aren't flying by then. Because when you have a sitting American president having to go on national television with a "long" copy of his birth certificate just to prove he is a U.S. citizen, more than two years into his presidency, something just ain't right about the people he represents.

And it is about time the truth be told about America and our place in it.

Who better than black folk can truly recount the undersides of the history of the United States? Who better than we can testify to the injustices it fosters in our depressed communities today? Who better to challenge the notion that we at the bottom of economics in this country have the capacity to bail out those at the top?

Who better than black people all over this land is most qualified to tell all these mad white people out there to stick to the facts and look in the mirror as they try to pretend a black man is the cause of all the trouble in the land?

We know they have been telling that lie about black men ever since they brought us here. So it takes no big leap of imagination for them to blame us for their current anxieties and insecurities that accompany our symbolic rise to the top of the national order on the back of a symbolic black president. A black president who has done little to date to address black concerns. The concerns of those on the bottom—black, brown and white and poor.

The Great Deception of America has always existed upon its ability to ignore the awful truths that made it powerful without the moral compass to be great. Now as its power wanes with the value of its debt, endemic fissures of fear and stress are pronounced in the reactionary intolerance of its insecure white majority.

But as the Great Recession continues to threaten the real survival and dignity of our communities in Chicago and around the country more than any other, it is time black folk high and low start telling it like it is.

Truth be told, something in this country just ain't right.

JUST SAYING.



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AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



FAST FIVE (**1/2) This time around, it's not so much about the fast cars, as it is about the heist in this fifth installment of the "Fast and Furious" movie franchise. "Fast Five" is overblown, over the top, adrenaline driven popcorn movie that nearly falls off the assembly line.

Full of outlandish and destructive car stunts, hot wheels and hot bodies (I mean the women in their scantly clad bikinis!); fight sequences where bodies crashes through windows and walls like they were like "King Kong vs. Godzilla". And the thin thread of s story line that can't detour the clichés.

Picking up from the last F&F movie; where Dom Toretto is convicted in court and being transported by bus to prison. When ex-cop, Brian "Connor (Paul Walker) and Dom's sister, Mia (Jordana Brewster) who later reveals she's pregnant; user their speedy cars to stage a daring mishap that causes the prison bus to rollover multiple times. Miraculously the bus doesn't killed anyone, But does allow Dom to escape uncut with his "family" to relocate in Rio.

Where the trio are involved in a train robbery of a few already stolen cars that were headed to corrupt businessman, Reyes (Joaquim de Almeida) that leads to a shootout that gets the trio wrongly accused of killing three DEA agents.

Enter elite agent Luke Hobbs (played with the proper badass attitude by Dwayne Johnson) in hot pursuit with his crew. Even though, a rookie female cop believes in Dom's innocence after he saves her during a shootout chase sequence with the trio running from Reyes' killers and Hobbs strike team

Dom, Brian and Mia discover a computer chip in one of the cars that reveals Reyes delivery schedule and his entire drug network that includes the multiple hidden locations where the drug money is kept.

While Hobbs and his men get one of the stolen cars that they strip down for clues that only Hobbs stumble onto the conceived laptop and its missing computer chip. And still, Hobbs has a one track mind that is only after bring Dom

Meanwhile because of Mia's impending pregnancy with Brian's baby; Dom decides one last heist job from the money locations disclosed in the computer chip. Dom assembles the entire cast (except one) from all the other Fast and Furious films for a mega \$100 million heist.

By first, Dom and his team invade their drug house to make their presence and intent known by burning a large bushel of drug money there that is part of Dom's plan to make Reyes consolidate his money under one roof. It's just that the roof he chosen happens to be the main headquarter of the Brazilian police department.

Not being as smooth, intricate and intense as moist heist dramas are. "Fast Five" follows the same velocity as its fast cars that naturally play their lucrative part into the action. At first, Dom and his crew test through several cars to see which would be fast enough to beat being caught on the surveillance cameras.

But when the heist had to be moved up when

Hobbs and his strike force get cut down by Reyes' killers that naturally results in Dom saving an inured Hobbs during the melee.

This obviously forms an ally with Hobbs joining Dom and his team to avenge the death of his strike team in a wild chase sequence with Dom and Brian in their car pulling the large box safe through the Brazilian streets destructing everything in its path that climaxes on a highway bridge slapping pursuiting patrol cars all over the road.

At least, better than the forgettable "Tokyo Drift" but lacking any true wit or cleverness in its script. Along with some incidental moments don't make much a difference here. "Fast Five" is built for its ridiculous fun and action that is what this film delivers best on.

Because when the film shifts to acting and dialogue moments that take over. It sometimes brings the movie to a screeching halt or some unintentional humor.

And not to be a spoiler to the film, but there is a cheap surprise that you might want to watch for in between the end credits; that suggests this movie franchise might go one sequel too far and off its axle.

PG-13; 130min. A Universal Picture Release - Presented at selected theaters

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz

DEMENTIA 13 (**) An axe murders.

High Def in a Blue Ray and DVD six minutes off the original.

Home Video

Video: "The Roommate", a scary due out June 28. teenage variation remake of of

"Single White Female" arrives "oldie and a gory" horror film that May 17...Director Sergio Leone's is one of Francis Ford Coppola's Italian western epic, "Once Upon first directorial efforts for B movie A Time in the West" arrives for producer icon Roger Corman that the first time in Blue Ray, May is set in Ireland amidst a series of 31... The Coen Brothers' True Grit" with Jeff Bridges arrives in Sort of a curiosity item for a special Blue Ray/DVD combo film buffs interested in Coppola's pack, June 7... Adam Sandler and early cinematic skills that tries Jennifer Aniston in the romantic to make the most from Corman's comedy, "Just Go With It" due meager budget. Remastered in out June 7.....The latest directto-video release of "You've Got combo pack that trimmed about Served: Beat the World" arrives June 7...Vanessa Hudgens and NR (Not Rated); 75min. A Alex Pettyfer star in "Beastly" Film Chest HD Cinema Classic a teen remake of Beauty and the Beast due out June 28....Paul Coming Soon to Home Giammati in "Barney's Version"

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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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APT FOR RENT Two (2) Bedrooms, Living Room/Dining Room Newly Remodeled Kitchen and Bathroom Enclosed Backporch, Heat Included Location: Cermak and Keeler (1st FL), Chicago, IL Rental Fee: \$800.00 Plus one month security deposit For more information call \$15-577-0773

APARTMENTS FOR RENT - LAWNDALE AND AUSTIN AREAS 2 bedrooms \$775 - 2416 W. Roosevelt. 1 bedroom \$675.00 @ 320 N. Mason and Studio apts - \$585.00 @ 320 N. Mason. Immediately available. 1 month security Plus 1st month rent required. No Pets, Contact Ms. Kilgore (773) 447-7377 or 9712, Also Commercial space available @ 2416 W. Roosevelt.

ART PROGRAMS

Urban Art Retreat at 1957 S. Spaulding offers free programs onsite including-Women's Residence, Adult Art Studio, Group Discussions, Art Gallery receptions, Children's Program, volunteer opportunities; & subcontracts to provide Therapeutic Art Program for other organizations. UAR offers services for artists & non-artists. Visitors Day is Saturdays from 11-3 p.m. Currently compiling a list of adults and teens who want paid apprenticeships. Check out the website! www.urbanartretreat.com

Currently, X'ernona has taken on

the challenge of spreading the great news of economic savvy throughout the city and plans to be posted in every school throughout the city of Chicago in order to share her wealth of knowledge to shift the mentalities of the youth from dependent to independent young entrepreneurs. X'ernona says "I love the idea of working on a blank canvas and working with the youth allows me to do so, as I introduce this wisdom, I am awakening the youth to the thought process of deservability and this is important for our youth."

As X'ernona shares her wealth of knowledge by way of seminars, workshops, stage productions, and her website, there is also a wealth building kit that she offers anyone who is looking to gain knowledge about saving and investing.

If you would like to find out more information about building wealth in layman terms, so that it is easy to understand and helps you to "Save that penny for a sunny day," please contact X'ernona Woods at 1-800-514-3060 ext 1 or by emailing X'ernona at xernona@gmail.com or by simply logging on to her website at www. savethatpenny.net and you will be able to get all of the information that you need in order to begin your journey of building wealth by saving and investing.

X'ernona also reveals simple secrets in her wealthy building kit that can help change you and your

HOME WORKSHOP

Join Bethel New Life for our workshop: How to Buy and Finance Short Sale and Foreclosed Homes. Learn how to buy and finance a foreclosed or short sale property from a trusted, local nonprofit. Open to the public, this free class will include a tour of foreclosed property in the area. A bank lender, a realtor who specializes in short sales and foreclosures, and a federal housing administration consultant will be in attendance. Saturday, May 7th, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Bethel New Life, 4006 West Lake Street, Chicago. For more information or to RSVP, contact Allison Schuler at aschuler@ bethelnewlife.org or 773-826-8430 x

LEGAL NOTICE

A NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, 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. D11125918 on April 21, 2011 under the Assumed Name of Fair Shake Music with the business located 3141 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60612. The true name and residence address of the owner is Willie Barney 1326 S. Troy, Chicago, IL 60623.

child's life completely. X'ernona says that the kit is a priceless jewel for parents and the youth and one couldn't possible go wrong with purchasing the kit because it gives you everything that you need to know about building wealth by saving and investing.

X'ernona adds, "You can have the smartest child in the world who is skilled in their craft/career, and they will probably make alot of money if they are good at what they do---but if they don't know how to handle their money they will only blow it, with out knowing the true significance of it."

So if you would like to save your child the grief of unwanted debt, especially student loans contact X'ernona as soon as possible so that she could prepare you and your child for the future. X'ernona will provide you with the full knowledge that's needed in order that you may "Save that penny for a sunny day."

X'ernona Woods is currently working on a film titled "Cara's Last Word," which focuses on a young girl who turns her dreams into reality despite the odds that are stacked against her.

This film will inspire the youth and adults to be aligned with the thought process of deservability, accountability, and responsibility.

If you would like to donate to this educational film project please contact X'ernona Woods at 1-800-514-3060 ext 1.

CDFI from front page

to Covenant Bank. The other banks known are Austin Bank of Chicago, Pan American Bank, and Second Federal Savings.

There are other financial institutions such as nonprofit loan funds, like Chicago Community Loan Fund (CCLF), Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF), CEDA Community Development, Community Investment Corporation, Chicago Community Ventures, and the Greater North Pulaski Local Development. Surprising in our research was that there are no credit unions with a CDFI designation located on the Westside.

Another catalyst for the story is that interested parties posed the question is Pan American Bank forgetting the Community as a CDFI. NLCN interviewed Robert Klamp and Pan American Bank President and Chief Operations Officer, Frank Cerrone

to respond to the question above and for more information on CDFIs which will be published in following issues of NLCN.

In our initial search, Pan American Bank received a rating of outstanding from the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) for CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) evaluations according to the FDIC website that for September of 2006 and released in March of 2007. In July of last year, Crains Chicago Business ranked Pan American Bank 13th out of the 100 top performing Chicago banks.

NLCN is working with Bank President Frank Cerrone to interview customers and bank representatives about its CDFI certification and how it benefitted them and our community. Also look for more articles on other CDFIs in our area as to how this resource is good for our communities' development and how to access and benefit from the CDFI resource.

Farewell from page 3



Pastors that were honored

clothing store with prices lower than Wal-Mart," Mitts gladly stated

According to Mitts, ever since she and her colleagues saw the vision for the 1st Wal-Mart, they've been looking out for the best interest of the community and now have six or seven more Wal-Mart's on the books coming into the Chicago area. "No other company is trying to break down doors and come into the undeserved neighborhoods, they want to go into the high upscale ones," said Mitts. "If Wal-Mart wants to come in, we should be embracing them."

Mitts who created the 37th Ward Pastors Alliance in 2000, says it meets once a month and works to get current issues out to residents. "When were talking about recession in our community, were really talking depression. Now our job is to instill some hope in our community and show them there are opportunities."

Rev. Kyles says it was part of his mission from God to be

sent back into his community as an adult to be a blessing and the Pastors Alliance seemed like a natural fit. "This gives pastors the opportunity to be effective outside the walls of their church. We all do great work in our churches, but we need to come outside the building and do great work in our community."

A Lawndale community native and Pastor at Truth and Deliverence International Ministries, John Abercrombie, was one of many inspirational figures in attendance that came to show support and appreciation. " I commend them on the fight they did to get the Wal-Mart here in Chicago, they were the first to do that," he said. "They are creating jobs, one of the key components to help the community."

Over 10 other pastors and honorable members of the 37th Ward Alliance were also celebrated and awarded for their commitment to the community.

Youth from page 3



A ernona Woods was the presenter for Mayor Daley's Spring Book Conference giving information about her book "Save That Penny For A Sunny Day." You can find this book in your local library.

giving workshops and seminars in schools all across the city of Chicago. X'ernona has also produced the stage performance "Save That Penny For A Sunny Day," for the youth throughout the city, acting out money situations that people go through on the everyday basis and uses her knowledge in economics in order for the audience to understand how to solve their financial problems.

X'ernona's plan is to enrich the minds of the youth, by awakening their minds to a new thought process. X'ernona's very first pupil was her 11 year old son who X'ernona describes as "A Young Business Man." She sits back and watches the results as her young business man comes up with his own business plans and how to make and save money.

NORTH LAWNDALE RESIDENT SELECTED TO SERVE ON CMAP CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Valerie F. Leonard has been recently selected by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Board of Directors to serve on its 16-member Citizens Advisory Council She will represent the City of Chicago, including its West Side.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is authorized to establish a Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) to:

☐ Promote public awareness of CMAP plans and programs, and encourage participation by citizens and other interested parties.

 \square Assist on promotion and dissemination of public information and related materials.

☐ Provide continuous and balanced public representation in the development of regional plans and policies.

 $\hfill \Box$ Provide CMAP and the CMAP Board with guidance that conveys residents' perspectives.

☐ Ensure the effectiveness of CMAP outreach and engagement strategies by working with staff to serve as a "speaker's bureau" and a local voice to

spread awareness of the GO TO 2040 plan.

 $\hfill\Box$ Offer advice and assist as local advocates for CMAP and GO TO 2040.

 $\hfill \square$ Assist as implementation allies of GO TO 2040 throughout the region

As CMAP focuses on the implementation of GO TO 2040, the CAC will play an important role in providing feedback on how GO TO 2040 programs and policies are playing out on the local level.

CMAP is the official regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. CMAP developed and now guides the implementation of GO TO 2040, metropolitan Chicago's first comprehensive regional plan in more than 100 years. To address anticipated population growth of more than 2 million new residents, GO TO 2040 establishes coordinated strategies



that help the region's 284 communities address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues

Ms. Leonard is a community development consultant who works to strengthen the capacity of organizations through technical assistance, specialized workshops, resource and organizational development and project management. This includes strategic planning, policy analysis and advocacy, board development and financial management. Ms. Leonard is also the Co-Founder of the Lawndale Alliance and serves as a resident journalist, writing for the North Lawndale News.

Other members of the Citizens Advisory Council include:

Chicago-Wendy Walker Williams Executive Director of the Southeast Chicago Commission

Chicago-David Thigpen, Member, Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel's Transition Committee, Economic Development and Planning Division

Chicago-Kimberly Bares, Executive Director of the Rogers Park Business Alliance

Chicago-Saul Guzman, Vice President of Business Development, The Resurrection Project

Suburban Cook- Martin Eagen, President of the School Board District 401

Southwest Cook-Stephanie Presseller, Sustainability Manager,
Moraine Valley Community College

Moraine Valley Community College South Cook-Jennifer Artis, Director of Public Affairs for St.

James Hospital
West Cook-Thomas Jacobs Associate Principal with Krueck

and Sexton Architects
Northwest Cook-Ken Nelson, Mayor of Rolling Meadows
DuPage County – Vacant

Kane County-Lulu Blacksmith, Director of Governmental and Multicultural Affairs at Waubonsee Community College

Kendall County - Vacant

Lake County- Faye Sinnott, Founder of Solution Navigators, Inc. McHenry County- County-Kevin Ivers, Trustee of the McHenry County Conservation District

Will County-John Knoelk, Professional Home Builder



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*Prices listed are for individual plans. Savings apply to all plans. Call or stop by for more details.