

THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

Chicago, IL 60608 Since 1999, More News, More of Your Issues, and More of Your Community Voices and Faces.

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

PUBLISHER: STRATEGIC HUMAN SERVICES

VOLUME NO. 13 - ISSUE NO. 44 ISSN 1548-6087

December 8 - December 14, 2011

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

The 35th Annual National Black Caucus of State Legislators **Meet in Chicago**



Tony Sculfield from WGCI 107.5 Radio personality and comedian, Representative Will Davis (IL), Chair, Illinois Black Legislative Caucus, Inc, Representative Joe Armstrong (TN), President-Elect, NBCSL, Representative Barbara W. Ballard (KS), President, NBCSL, Dwayne Bryant, Motivational Speaker, Inner Vision International, Inc.Rep. Joe Armstrong, and Dwayne Armstrong hold press conference to kick off National Black Caucus of State Legislatiors

policy meetings taking place more than 350 members of the Washington, across an array of policy areas. The D.C.-based National Black Caucus theme of this year's 35th Annual of State Legislators (NBCSL) Legislative Conference is "Seeing are meeting in Chicago, Illinois, Beyond - State Leadership, National

With four days of conference December 7-11, 2011, to learn about the nation's best models and practices

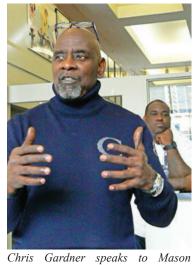
Progress." Organizers said NBCSL members would leave the conference armed with legislative ideas they can take to their respective Capitols during the upcoming legislative



State Rep. Art Turner Jr (IL) (9th District) making the rules clear to youth in when it comes to the Bullying ordinance

NBCSL President, Rep. Barbara W. Ballard, said state lawmakers have to be "warriors" on behalf of the people they serve, ensuring that critically important issues for African Americans are a part of the national dialogue. "We are on the frontlines in the battle to bring jobs and a better quality of life to our constituents,

Chris Gardner Advises Youth to "Get Smart Quick"



High School students who visited Gardner's downtown office, as his son, Chris Gardner Jr., look on. The elder Gardner told the students if they want to be successful in life then they need to "get smart quick!"

In the hit movie Pursuit of Happyness, actor Will Smith immortalized the life story of Chris Gardner who overcame homelessness to become a highpowered stockbroker.

In real life, Gardner advised a group of high school students visiting his downtown office against his career track. He said the money is good but the shrewdness of the business "will break your heart."

"It's a tough business. It ain't for everybody unless you really, really love it and you get smart quick," said Gardner, owner of Gardner Rich, a financial



Chris Gardner shakes hands with Shaun Norwood who caught the stockbroker's attention by saying he plans to enlist in the Navy.

investment firm.

Gardner took time away from is portable. brokering high-powered deals to talk with students from Mason High School, 1839 S. Keeler. The students lunched with Gardner who told them that the key to pursuing their own happiness is education.

"You can never be too smart," Gardner told the students. "You can never have too much education, and the people you are competing for jobs with are all around the

When he asked the students how many are going to college, he expressed disappointment that not all the students' raised their hands. He encouraged students to stay in school because knowledge

Every opportunity that you get to learn something; to expand your knowledge that is like expanding your bank account," he said. "That's like creating the future you want to have. Get smart quick."

The students were curious as to why Gardner wore two watches: one set to U.S time and the other to time in Africa. The watches are a reminder of a time when Gardner lost "a ton of money" when he was late meeting a potential investor.

"The guy explained to me that if I can't expect you to be on time, I can't expect you to do timely things with my money," he said. "That was 24 years ago. I ain't never late. I'm known to be aggressively early."

While the Pursuit of Happyness was a box office hit, Gardner admitted he didn't vision his life story on the silver screen nor Will Smith portraying him.

"I wasn't feeling it at all," Gardner said. "When you think about Will you think about big blockbusters out of space. This story is about inner space, not outer

His daughter convinced him otherwise based on Smith's role in the biopic *Muhammad Ali*. Gardner lauded the movie, but he said it didn't reflect the whole story as told in his book of the same name.

The movie, he explained, represented a year in his life, but there were choices and decisions he made throughout his life that got him where he is today.

"The book is more important than the movie," said Gardner who at 28 started his company.

Gardner's son, Chris, also spoke to students. He encouraged the students to become entrepreneurs. The younger Gardner operates a music production company and owns a clothing line, a far cry from his father's occupation. However, he followed his dreams.

You can spend the rest of your life making somebody else a whole lot of money or you can go out and make your own," said the younger Gardner, who grew up on Madison and Kedzie and attended Michael

See Youth page 7

Ballard said. "The issues we deal with are life and death, and this conference will provide a framework for national progress." See page 7 for more photos

NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS PAGE - 3 **LIVING**

MULTIPLE **SCLEROSIS**



THE FLICKS PAGE - 4

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 that includes all of the sub-objectives that help to reach that 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 December 15, 2011

Free Training in Community Journalism!

Everyone Interested in Writing is Welcome! For More Information Call 312-492-9090

The North Lawndale 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.

Board of Directors
Frank Bass, Chairman
Marlo Kemp, Treasurer
Carolyn Lewis, Secretary
Vivian Lewis, Director
Betty Mason, Director

Dennis Deer, Director Creative Scott, Director Marlone Finley, Director Norman Baldwin, Director Dr. Betty J. Allen Green, Director

Former Founding Board of Director: Larry Leonard Advisory Board:

Cong. Danny K. Davis, Rev. Randall Harris, Fred Mitchell, Laura Washington, Susan Munro, Marta Foster, Margaret Davis, Larry Leonard

Consulting Editors and Writers:

Nicholas Short, Travles Lane, Tali Bakhit, Valerie Leonard, Wilbert Cook, Dr. Shemuel Israel, David Schultz, Mary Moran, David Tenario, Guillermo Martinez

Founding CEO & Publisher: Isaac Lewis, Jr.
Production/Layout Coordinator: Marquita Ware
IT (Information Technology) Manager: Ronnie Allen
Staff Accountant: Kelly Florian

Communications Manager:
Resource Project Director: John Moore
Marketing Consultant: Dr. Shemuel Israel

Advertising Manager: Advertising Consultant: Technical Assistant:

Website Consultant: Lamont Simmons Photography: Community members and writers Strategic Door to Door Distribution (Weekly) Community Youth

Circulation: 15,000 copies

Drop Site Distribution: Phillip Lewis, John Ray Lewis, Gregory Patterson, 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: \$25.00 for 3 months. \$45.00 for 6 months \$75.00 for 1 year \$125 for 2 years

For Advertisement Rates and all other inquiries contact us at: North Lawndale Community News 1211 South Western Avenue, Suite 203 Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: 312/492-9090 Fax: 312/492-7162

Website: www.nlcn.org

The North Lawndale Community News is funded by the dedicated work and support of the community, and was made possible with grants from The Steans Family Foundation, The John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, Harris Bank Foundation The Leo S. Guthman Family Fund (Lynne C. Rosenthal), The Soderquist Family Foundation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), J-Lab Institute, AfterSchool Matters , SBC (now AT&T), The Illinois State Board of Education (State Senator Rickey Hendon), State of Illinois Depart of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. DCEO through Sate Rep. Art Turner, The McCormick Tribune Foundation, the National Black Caucus of States Institute, Advocate Bethany Fund, and contributions from our community, advertisers, and readers. The North Lawndale Community News was started with a grant from the North Lawndale Small Grants Initiative now known as the Small Grants Human Development Corporation, and the Steans Family Foundation.

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Circulation Verification Council is a third party agency that audits and verifies our circulation which is currently at 15,000 issues per publication.

Looking for life insurance?



Eric J Lindsay Agency 3708 W Roosevelt Rd Chicago, IL 60624-4228 (773) 638-1700 elindsay@amfam.com



American Family Life Insurance Company Home Office – Madison, WI 53783





773-533-0147 773-533-0148

773-533-0172 773-533-9528

YOUR AD GOES HERE CALL 312 492-9090

Black & White Prints - 10 cents each

> Black & White Copies - 10 cents Each

> > Color Prints 35 cents each

Color Copies
35 cents Each copy

Bulk Rate Discounts Available

CALL 312 492-9090

1211 S. Western Ave, Ste 203

The 35th Annual National Black Caucus of State Legislators

from front page





Oluwakema Oshimokun receives an award from the National Black Caucus of State legislators.



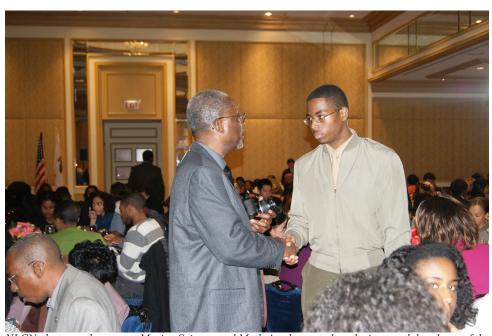
NLCN CEO Isaac Lewis Jr.&Art Turner Jr.9th and students from Marine Math&Science Academy located 145 S. Campbell, Darlene, Alvarez and Zini.



Ricardo P. Luis from CVS High School receives Award from the National Black Caucus.



State Rep. Camille Y. Lilly & students from Lincoln Park High School.



NLCN photographer greets Marine Science and Math Academy student during youth luncheon of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators



Danielle Rupert of Kenwood High School gives her cause and effect of a Longer school day.pdf



Students in the House discuss which way the Curfew Ordinace should be modified.pdf

A geographic cross section of Chicago Public School students, took part in the 35th Annual Legislative Conference, held in Chicago Dec. 7-11, 2011, at the Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel. There was a "MOCK SENATE SESSION" held with topics like A longer School Day-How would it effect

you Personally? There was also a HOUSE SESSION held with the topic of "What can we Legislate to combat the Bullying Problem in Public Schools? You should have been there, the students had plenty TO *SAY!!!!!*

See More Photos page 5

Lawndale Amachi Mentoring Program (LAMP) Has Great Success



'As a result of the creative opportunities and synergism, the Lawndale Amachi Mentoring Program has had a fruitful and fulfilling experience with the mentees this year," Executive Director, Dr. Betty Allen-Green, humbly exclaims. She credits much of the activity to the opportunities afforded by the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative Grant (NRI) received via the Better Boys Foundation. "In addition to the mandatory one-on-one mentoring, some of our youth received 10 hours of mentoring weekly, as a result of the funds from NRI," Dr. Green gratefully acknowledges.

Page 4

"Thanks to BBF's consideration, our mentees between the ages of 15 and 21 earned \$8.50 an hour for various engagements of civic responsibility in the North Lawndale community," continued Dr. Green. give our young people additional academic instruction, LAMP collaborated with the Chicago School of Professional Psychology Forensic Department to provide weekly forums in which structured character building, awareness, and college-bound workshops were conducted. The Chicago School of Professional Psychology Forensic Department created an environment of interactive discussion on the relationship between education and work, as well as the difference between a job and a

The mentees were required to perform outreach activities in which they passed out fliers promoting unity, coupled with communicating the message of nonviolence to their peers. That activity is reinforced by a campaign to attend all of the churches in North Lawndale to give presentations about their mission of promoting nonviolent strategies. Their presentation was enthusiastically received by the First Baptist Church at 18th and Keeler, Pastored by Reverend Brasfield," added Dr. Green.

*The mentees were invited by Gov. Quinn to accompany him in the historic Bud Billikin Parade. It was a great, life-time experience for our mentees, which further reinforced their interest in self-improvement and goal setting'

*LAMP partners with the University of Illinois -Chicago -CAGI Program to provide intensive mentoring to some of the students

within the North Lawndale Area. Students from Chalmers, Crown, Dvorak, Gregory, Herzl, and Kipp Elementary Schools are assigned mentors who spend five hours weekly involving them in enrichment activities designed to develop leadership skills, improve their school attendance, improve their school achievement and develop community pride. Attorney Askia Abdullah volunteers every Wednesday to involve these youths in workshops entitled "Nurture Your Dreams." He introduces twenty-five young men to professionals from all different careers designed to teach them how to develop and nurture their dreams.

The development of community pride is one of our primary planks in LAMP'S platform. LAMP'S youth have aggressively engaged in community service projects designed to address blighted area and beautify the community. They adopted the vacant lot on Homan and Harrison and cleaned up the "dirtiest" spot in North Lawndale at 1559 S. Kedzie Ave. That effort was documented and can be seen on YOUTUBE at SPIKE175 WAR ON FILTH AND FEAR smaller project, but nonetheless equally important,

involved the mentees responding to a request from Alderman Chandler's office to clean up a yard of a senior citizen in the 1300 block of Avers. The second annual WHACK THE BOULEVARD project, which was headed Mr. Dunlap, a board member, resulted in weeds being cut to drastically change the aesthetic appearance of North Lawndale's major thoroughfare. That effort was complimented by Mr. Maurice Gray and his team at SAVE OUR YOUTH LANDSCAPE.

The mentees received some very special personal attention from the Precious Johnson, Beverly Johnson and Sedrick Turner of Pivot Point Academy, who came to the office and spent all day styling the girl's hair and cutting and trimming the boy's hair. Living up to the creed of Pivot Point Academy, the volunteers worked diligently to improve the outward appearance as a means of impacting the inner person.

The plans for next year are underway to equally compliment our students with life enriching activities to keep the mentees on track. Mentors are needed. Become a part of our mission and join the LAMP team.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR







Le Fleur De Lis 301 E. 43rd December 10, 2011 Starting at 7pm

Anthony Beckham Brenda Cooke Jennifer Romero Jarvis Houston Isaac Lewis

Gerard Moorer Antonio Robinson De Andre Allen Etienne Nelson Zainab Adio-Saka

Silver \$25 Gold \$50 Platinum \$100 And Others

For additional Information please contact Gerard Moorer at 773-597-5951 0r via email at gerardmoorer@gmail.com



Photo taken of street pothole around Melody Elementary School located at 412 S. Keeler photo taken on wednesday December 7, 2011



Photo taken of repaired street pothole Melody School located at 412 S. Keeler photo taken on wednesday December 7, 2011. Although some potholes were repaired others were not.

We need help in the 24th Ward with our potholes. After years of attempts to get new streets laid around the school at 412 S. Keeler we have gotten nothing. Alderman Chandler put a new alley in behind his new office and a new street in on Keeler on the South side of the bridge but we can't get new streets around Melody School.

We have one hole big enough to drop a kid in it and all we got after numerous complaints was a couple of horses and a cone on the 31st of October. I continued to complain and then today, December 6, 2011, I was told that 45 holes were filled on Keeler in front of the school supposedly on November 30, 2011 which was another lie.



Photo taken of street pothole around Melody Elementary School located at 412 S. Keeler photo taken on wednesday December 7, 2011



School located at 412 S. Keeler photo taken on wednesday December 7, 2011. Although some potholes were repaired others were not.

Our school has extended hours and when the children are dismissed it is usually dark and they are at risk of breaking a leg or arm in a fall because the streets are so bad or the constituents having to get front end alignments continuously or new tires because the streets are in such bad condition.

We need your help in showing our Alderman that our children safety should be a priority over his new alley or his personal issues without even thinking about it. I have also contacted the Mayors office on several occasions and our Streets and Sanitation Supt. of the 24th Ward about the same issues and hopefully with your help we can get something done, please help us in this fight.

"LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS"

Nakaé Gresham a 21yr old from the Southside of Chicago. Everyday was the same old thing for me, I would sleep all day until it was time for me to go to work if I had to b at work at 5pm I would wake up at 2pm I would leave out the house and walk less then three blocks to the bus stop.

Once I made it to the bus stop I would be exhausted and ready to go back to sleep. once I got to work I thought most of the time I would be okay since I wasn't working that many hours anymore. Then I found out I was wrong when I got to work I would work for as long as I could then I would take frequent breaks.

The first time I really knew I was sick was when it was almost time for me to get off work and I had went over to the women's department to talk to two of my co-workers and one of my co-worker Kandace said to me "Nikki are you okay"? Then I looked at her and said "yeah, why you ask me that"? Then she said "you're rocking like you're about to pass-out".

As I looked at her my head dropped and I blanked out for a minute, and I started sweating, but I kept saying "I'm okay".

The next thing I knew Kandace had went in my pocket grabbed my phone and was calling my mother to tell her what had happened, about ten minutes later my mom and aunt was at my job asking me "did I want to go to the hospital or wait to the morning"? I told them I didn't want to go until the morning, but I just kept thinking how they got to my job that fast; and they couldn't have been that far.

So I went home and got up at and got dress only to get to Cook County as early as possible I thought but I got there to late because I was there from 9:00am-12:00am the next day. They finally admitted me in the hospital and I stayed there for a week but once I got admitted the treatment was okay because they made sure I took my entire medical services 3220 and was on time for

When I was told I had MS the day I was being release from the hospital it was hard and very frustrating because I didn't know what MS was but then my doctor came in and gave me basic information on MS, once I came home and actually read the information I just looked at the papers and got upset because it still wasn't clear to me what MS was.

After, a couple of days I had went into a depressing stage because I was upset that I had to quit my job, and I couldn't really do anything because I was barely walking from my balance being off, so I couldn't really move around like I wanted or like I used to.

The doctor's appointment after doctors appointment I thought it would bother me but when I think about it I have always had a lot of doctors appointment since 2005 but the doctors never knew exactly what was wrong with me, and every time I when to the emergency room the doctors kept telling me that it was a slipped disk and I would have to have surgery.

The next thing I know I was being rushed back to the emergency room because I was dragging my leg, and could barely walk. I was admitted in Cook County Hospital 3 times since August because every time I stop my medicine I have another relapse or flare-up, and the reason I think I have relapse back to back is because the doctors were never able to see the holes and my brain, and spinal cords on the MRI's or CT's that I had took.

It gets harder and harder everyday knowing that I have MS because unfortunately I have a bad case of MS so there is always a new symptom for me sometimes everyday, every week, or every month. A lot of times when I get new symptom I hate going to the County so I just deal with the pain until either it go away or it gets to a point where I can't stand it anymore so I have no choice but to go to the ER.

If I had one wish I know it would be to get better so I could go back to work, even though retail might not be the best job for a person with my medical history I still loved my job at Burlington Coat Factory on 87th Dan Ryan because it was better then being in the house all day, that gets real depressing at times.

Devin T. lives on the Southside of Chicago. When I first found out I had MS I was shock and I just kept thinking how it was going to affect my job performances, I also kept thinking how was I going to tell my children. Knowing that I have Multiple Sclerosis takes the stress off a little because now I know what's wrong with me, and why every time I get hot I start to get sick.

A lot of times I feel pretty normal but there are some days when I don't feel like getting out of bed, or my hands might be

Strategic Human Services

1211 S Western ste 203

Chicago, IL 60608

312-492-9090

numb. I think that "my life has changed but in some ways I know its changed for the better, and me hearing a lot about the disease I actually feel like I'm one of the lucky ones because I don't have all of the symptoms and plus some people get new symptom almost every month so I feel kind of lucky, but I don't know for how long because I can have a flare up or relapse at anytime and things could get worse".

National MS Society Rep: Are vision is a world free of MS, and are mission statement: We mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. We are a driving force of MS research and treatment to stop disease progression, restore function, and end MS forever. We develop, deliver and leverage resources to enhance care for people with MS and quality of life for those affected by the disease. We are also the leaders in the worldwide MS movement, mobilizing millions of people to do something about MS now. We are activists; wedevelop and align human, business and finical resources to achieve breakthrough results. To learn more about what we encourage people to visit our website at www.nationalMSsociety. org, or call us at 1-800-FIGHT-MS (1-800-344-4867).

> Helping People. Changing Lives. A Celebration of Families and Individuals Achieving Self-

Home Energy **Assistance Programs**

This winter heating season, LIHEAP-eligible applicants will have an option to decide which of the 2 affordable energy programs is best for you.

LIHEAP Direct Vendor Payment

LIHEAP DVP is designed to assist income-eligible households with winter energy services, in the form of a one-time benefit payment to the utility companies that are applied directly to the household's energy bills. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, and fuel type.

LIHEAP Percent of Income Payment Plan

LIHEAP PIPP provides a monthly benefit payment to the utilities based on household utility usage and monthly income. Customers are required to pay a reduced amount on their utility bills each month to get the benefit payments. PIPP participants who make their utility payments on time will receive credits toward their outstanding balance. Disconnected households not eligible.

LIHEAP ENROLLMENT DATES:

Seniors and Disabled Individuals September 1, 2011

Emergency Furnace, Reconnection Assistance and Households with Children under 5 years old October 1, 2011

General Enrollment November 1, 2011

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period to the application date.
- Copy of most recent heat and electric bills (if you pay for your home energy directly)
- Proof of Social Security Numbers of all household members
- If a member of your household receives TANF, you must bring their Medical Eligibility Card
- Applicants that have their utilities included in the rent must bring proof of rental agreement stating monthly rental amount, that utilities are included, and landlord contact information. (Rent costs must be greater than 30% of household gross income for 30 days prior to application).

INCOME GUIDELINES (EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2011) *Gross Income for 30 Days Prior to Family Size Application Date \$1,361 \$1,839 2 3 \$2,316 4 \$2,794

*For each additional person, add \$477.50

5

6

Expect Longer Wait Times in September and November. Programs end when funds are exhausted.

\$3,271

\$3,749

More Photos from page 3



NLCN/CEO Isaac Lewis Jr. and State Rep (9th District) Arthur Turner Jr. meet with students from the Marine Math and Science Academy at the 35th Annual Legislative Conference.



Kayron Spraggins, a student from Lincln Park High School, receives Award from National black Caucus of State legislators.

AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



YOUNG ADULT (***) "Young Adult" is the title that refers to the type of popular teen novels that have been ghost written by Mavis Gray (Charlize Theron), a recently widowed small town Minnesota woman who managed to escape to live in comfortably in a big metro city lifestyle; who finds herself drawn back to her hometown to reclaim something from her past.

Facing writer's block and a deadline with her publishing boss on the latest and last manuscript in the Waverly Prep book series; The film opens with Mavis looking out over her condo balcony; seemingly feeling unfulfilled by her modest form of success and life living in a hi rise condo apartment in Minneapolis.

She suddenly receives an internet announcement on the birth of the first child to her ex-boyfriend, now happily married Buddy Slade (Patrick Wilson).

In an odd impulsive bedroom scene, Mavis awakens ahead of some undisclosed guy in her bed. She decides to pock a suitcase and her toy sized dog to travel back to her hometown of Mercury,

Considered the town's one-time, most popular girl in school and now a successful writer, Mavis checks into a morel with the intention of winning back Buddy Slade, the one mistake she regrets leaving behind to help fill in the love missing in her life.

At the same time, Mavis is able to unblock and begin to write her overdue manuscript that bears some striking resemblance to her current experiences and encounters of trying to get Buddy back with a character named Ryan that is a clear reference to Buddy during her hometown visit.

Still the problem is with Mavis who has become quite delusional about Buddy Slade convincing herself that he was unhappy in his marriage. A clear indication how she has never truly moved on with

her life like everyone else has.

Yet Mavis ventures near their old hangout, Woody's. Where she phones Buddy to meet her there. But instead, Buddy informs he can't tonight but will hook-up tomorrow.

Still after the phone call, Mavis ventures into the pub where she is recognized by Matt Freehauf (Patton Oswalt), a former school mate and self proclaimed "fat geek" that represented the kind of guy usually the popular girls in school didn't hang out with

Then Mavis recognizes Mat now walking with a crutch for his crippled leg as the "Hate crime Guy" that was beaten with a crowbar by prejudice school jocks who thought he was a homosexual. When their small town was a little more racially intolerant during their youth.

The next morning, when Mavis meets up with Buddy at Champion O'Malley, an upscale eatery tavern where Matt happens to work and tries to throw out some hints during their conversation. It's the beginning of many attempt made by Mavis to get Buddy attention that he seems oblivious to notice. While Mavis still looks down upon Matt. He becomes Mavis' go-to guy and drinking buddy that she confides in. She confesses her inner thoughts and discusses the day's events as it relates to making her move to reclaim Buddy.

Matt becomes the voice of reason for Mavis who fantasizes over the previous encounters she had with Buddy at his house with his wife, Beth (Elizabeth Reaser) and their newborn baby.

The kind of delusional behavior displayed in Mavis normally would take on the cliché and violent edge ala "Fatal Attraction" and other movies of this genre. But since this film was written and partially based on the life of Chi-born writer Diablo Cody who gave us "Juno""

"Young Adult' wisely avoids those obvious notions that also would have made this film closer in nature to her scripted dark comedy horror thriller, "Jennifer's Body".

Matt tries to help Mavis understand that no good can could from what's she's trying to achieve. But Mavis can't accept this and goes as far as redoing her nails hair and outward outfits to impress Buddy to no avail. When Mavis is invited to the house for a social gathering to name their baby.

Where Mavis eventually goes too far trying to flirt with Bobby during a private chat in the couple's kitchen. When in her drunken condition, confesses the feelings she believed was mutual in

Buddy asks Mavis to leave his house. Instead, outside in the yard with their guests. Mavis over compensates by revealing to the crowd her school day memoirs of she and Buddy did together. While Buddy is off into the garage preparing to unveil his special gift to his wife, Beth.

But Mavis ruins the moment that leaves to Buddy confessing that he wasn't the one that originally invited her to the baby naming party... it was his wife who did so out of pity toward Mavis; current state in her life.

This shatters Mavis who only wanted to have the love and happiness against her loneliness. And again afterwards, Mavis seeks out Matt for sanctuary and comfort. She again over compensates in her shame by asking Matt to wear the T-shirt Matt is wearing that ultimately leads to her having sex with him.

Afterwards, Mavis receives personal comments from Matt's sister who admits to the townspeople's jealousy toward her toward her

As the person who managed to get away

from the confining small town life and became successful as a writer. Those words help reestablish Mavis to the real world to finish the manuscript, and to realize what she has had and should have known all the time.

The difference for this movie truly is over what it could have predictably been belongs in the tangible, complex and compelling performance of Charlize Theron that is almost as brilliant as her Oscar winning role in "Monster" who shows us a less than obvious side of evil through her delusional character who doesn't really know what's she's got and how to live with it.

Equally impressive and not entirely surprising is the fine performance from comic Patton Oswalt in another example of his sensitive, dramatic side that he's shown in such indie films as "Big Fan". Still there are some faults here that can not be overcome by director Jason Reitman whose instincts and insights stumbles a bit here compared to his previous films like "Thank You for Not Smoking", 'Up in the Air" and of course, "Juno". However in his defense, Jason Reitman doesn't make movies that usually fit the normal mold of conventional thinking. And this is what is so intriguing about watching "Young Adult" as a familiar film given a more human and different twist.

A film that is a curiosity item on the human condition towards one's self and the discovery made with a person that she had more in common with that the one she pursuit and couldn't have. While Theron's hell bent character is a good example on impractical women who insists on having their fairy tale endings against the tapestry of the real world. R; 94min. A Paramount Pictures Release

- Presented at selected theaters

NEW YEAR'S EVE (**) A few nice and amusing moments along with some cliché and unintentional humor doesn't make a movie complete. But director Garry Marshall's latest holiday themed, all star ensemble interwoven into a cluster of stories for this romantic comedy does have a little more spirit than his misfire with cupid's arrow last year with "Valentine's Day".

But it goes without saying that "New Year's Eve" is over bloated as much with its cast as much as its

See Flicks page 7

We Support Our Troops **ARE YOU A VETERAN?**

DO YOU NEED EMPLOYMENT?

CHECK OUT THE VETERAN'S

MULTI-PURPOSE EMPLOYMENT CENTER 1211 S. WESTERN - CHICAGO, IL 60608

(312) 492-9090

Veteran's Focus Group Meetings - Friday's at 2p.m.

WE ALSO OFFER CLASSES IN THE FOLLOWING:

Administrative Assistant/Accounting Clerk,

Website Design/Development (Basic, Intermediate & Advance), Export/Import & Microsoft Office

(Financial aid available to those who qualify)

FREE:

- * Benefit Guide Book
- PTSD Assessment and Counseling support
- Referrals to VA Agencies
- * Referral to other supportive service agencies
- * Assistance with GI bill
- * Retreving your DD214 and other benefits you earned

- * Access to computers
 - *Referrals
- Internet * Fax Machine, Laser Printer and Phone * Periodicals
- * Career Training Information
- " Job Postings from Chicago Area Employers

Sponsored by Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Strategic Human Services, Steans Family Foundation, Advocate Bethany Foundation and Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

Business Cards

Quantity	Black & White	Spot Color	Full Color
250	\$20	\$30	\$50
500	\$30	\$40	\$70
1000	\$40	\$55	\$85

You Need Them, We Make Them!!*

The North Lawndale Community News 1211 S. Western Suite 203 - Chicago, IL. 60608

(*Bring in your old card or we will design you a new one for free.)

You can call at: 312/492-9090

You can Fax us at: 312/492-7162

COME IN AND TALK TO SOMEONE IN PERSON.

THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

Do You Have Something to Buy, Sell, Trade, Rent or Announce? Are you Looking for Employment or Looking to Hire? You Can Do it Here In the North Lawndale Community News Call 312/492-9090 To Place Your Classified Ad!

FOR RENT

NORTH LANWDALE ARE. APTS **FOR RENT**, Beautiful vnitage greystone building, newly renovated 2 and 4 bdrm apts, hrdwd floors, ceiling fans and jacuzzi. Completely remodeled kitchen cabinets, counter tops, and ceramic flrs. 1 mnth rent and sec. required. Section 8 wel. Call Mr James at 773-257-0900 or 312-965-6911.

APT FOR RENT Coach House, 4 bdrm, 2ba, kit inclds appl, security system, fully renovated, conveniently located near transportation and shopping area. Tenant pays own untils, security required. Rent \$1150 Call

APARTMENTS FOR RENT Perfect for seniors, Well kept, Gorgeous, Quite, Secu re, Avail. Now Two Bd. Incl. Appl, Heat, Hot Water, Lndry & Strg.Rm, Hrdwd Flrs, Beautiful Bck Yrd, 950 N. Kildare, Newly Renovated, Large, very nice, Three Bd. Quite, Secure. Incl. Appl,hot water,Strg. Rm 1650 S. St. Louis. 773-838-8471

APT FOR RENT 7 Rm 3 bdrm. Recently decorated, huge backyard. \$1000/mo plus 1 month sec. 5007 blk of West Washington Blvd.. Close to schools and transportation. For more information please contact 773/576-

BEAUTIFUL APT FOR RENT If you are looking for a beautiful, spacious, clean, newly rehabbed 3 or 4 bedroom unit, this is it! They have ADT security system installed and are gated in the front and back. These units are in a beautiful brick 2 unit building and we are looking to rent them quickly. They are newly rehabbed with beautiful, roomy kitchens and spacious living rooms with attached dining rooms. The bedrooms and bathrooms are also very spacious. They boast brand new rear porches for your enjoyment. These apartments won't last long so call me now at 773-934-3706! They are available immediately and are located on Flournoy near Sacramento Blvd. They are very close to i290, blue and pink lines, police station, great elementary and high schools and shopping malls. They are also very close to the medical district and UIC. For more details call me today at 773-934-3706 before they are all gone.

OFFICE SPACE

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT 3708 W. Roosevelt Rd. 1-\$250 2-\$350 1-\$500. Contact Eric at 312-296-6551

Flicks from page 6



interloping multi-character mini plays.

The action starts with Hilary Swank portraying the newly appointed vice president of the Times Square Alliance in charge of the crystal ball dropping event occurring without a hitch. Of course, when the ball malfunctions during a test run; Swank's character has to rehire a recently fired maintenance man. Kominsky (Hector Elizondo) who seems to be the only one in the entire state of New York that can find and splice the correct lines together. Seth Meyer and Til Schweiger plays respective husband with their pregnant wives in a ridiculous premise competing against each other to have the first baby born in the New Year to win \$25G's.

Zac Efron plays a courier messenger who gets involved with checking off a resolution "bucket list" from Michelle Pfeiffer, as the secretary to Ahern Records' boss John Lithgow (in a one scene cameo) whose company's top recording rock artist Jensen (Jon Bon Jovi) performing at the Times Square celebration; who also trying to win back after backing out of as marriage proposal to Laura (Katherine Heigl). chef and caterer to the record label's hot ticket after party reception.

Ashton Kutcher plays an illustrator not in the holiday spirit who gets struck in a freight elevator with

a new tenant (Lea Michelle) who happens to be a background singer in Jensen's group hoping to be added to his upcoming concert tour

Josh Duhamel plays the son to the late founder of the record label who wrecks his car on route to the party to make some speech. The auto repair man (Larry Miller) who arranges a relative and his common family in their trailer home to drive in time to N.Y.

But during the course, he reveals a promissory note he kept in his wallet for a year from a woman in a chance meeting during last year's New Year 's Eve wanting to meet with him again at the same location

Sarah Jessica Parker plays a costume designer and single parent expecting to ring in the new year at home with her teen daughter, Haley (Abigail Breslin)who sneaks out of the house to hang with her friends and a certain boy that the mother chases after and into Times Square.

While Halle Berry plays a sympathetic hospital nurse to give half her evening to keep a terminal patient (Robert DeNiro) who seems to be alone who wants to live long enough to reconcile with his daughter and to see the new year ball drop from the hospital

As familiar faces continue to pop

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO THE URBAN ART RETREAT ON DEC. 24. There will be large gift boxes for families who have registered with UAR in advance. They can register by calling 773-542-9126 and leaving a message on the answering machine about their family and how to reach them. They can also send email to contact@urbanartretreat.com with their name, ages, contact info. Then, they will receive confirmation, and they can come between 1-4 p.m. on Dec. 24 for their large gift box of warm clothing, candy, baked goods, gifts for kids, and so much more! The URBAN ART RETREAT is located 1957 S. Spaulding Ave. Chicago, Il. 60623.

up like roaches running across a counter when you turn on the kitchen light. Much of the drama and encounters plays like a game of connect the star to their reconciliation, their resolution, love mates, etc.

While certain situations that occur during the proceedings tend to lack creditability that this movie tries to gloss over. But that is sort of the fantasy element in director Marshall's films to

However even though brief, the film does have its moments such as Berry's character getting all dressed up to sneak off into a private hospital room to click a computer to view her soldierhusband (Common). It's a timely scene ands one of a couple of potential teary eyed moments.

For all its faults and efforts, Director Garry Marshall manages to redeem himself through "New Years' Eve" by not being an embarrassment as "Valentine's Day" was. Even though, this movie is too much and not enough of a good time. PG; 118min. A New Line Cinema Picture Released through Warner Bros. Pictures Presented at selected theaters

THE SITTER (*1/2) Some where in between "Knocked Up" and "The Hangover" (not its sequel this year!); when raunchy comedies were at their peak a few years ago. There should have been a movie like "The Sitter".

Clearly, a Jonah Hill vehicle that follows after too many years pass but characterized in the juvenile range of "Superbad". "The Sitter" is a ripe and disposable raunchy action comedy that brings the suburbanites into the urban "gangsta" acting, drug dealing inner

The film makes its attitude boldly clear from the opening scene that offers Marisa (Ari Gaynor) moaning in ecstasy from Hill's slacker, college expelled character Noah Griffith going down on her with some self described "mouth love" in her "unmentionable area".

But naturally when Noah asks Marisa to exchange places she doesn't feel well. (And the level of humor you're stuck with watching here!)

Noah lives at home with his divorced mother whom he dodges any form of responsibility The mother is preparing herself for a blind date arranged by her next door neighbor couple who are suddenly in need of a babysitter for their children to attend a social function.

A dedicated couch potato, Noah initially refuses but realizes this would keep his mother home with him. So

Youth from front page

Faraday Elementary School.

He stressed the importance of staying focused. He said many of the kids he grew up with "are dead and in the ground," because they got sidetracked.

'I wasn't in the best of neighborhoods by no means," Chris Gardner Jr. said. "You can see all kinds of stuff that can deter you."

Salvador Guerrero, a public funds marketer with Gardner Rich, agreed. Guerrero, 36, grew up in Pilsen and was exposed to gangs and drugs. Getting an internship with Gardner's company was a game changer.

"It is possible for you to come from nothing and make something of your life," said Guerrero, who started here as a 16-year-old intern getting Gardner's coffee and breakfast.

He told the students not to let negative influences force them to leave school or make bad decisions that could affect their lives forever.

"The next four or five years isn't your entire life. The next four or five years determines who

you are going to be," he said, noting that getting into drugs or getting pregnant "just made your work so much harder."

As part of their visit, students were treated to a tour of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Group's trading floor. The students got a chance to see real trades in action.

Mason students gleaned a lot from their meeting with Gardner. Toiya Ellis, 16, a second year student at Mason, learned about perseverance in the face of

"No matter what you're going through or how hard it is in life, you can be whatever you want to be," Ellis said.

Shaun Norwood, 17, a third year Mason student, shared something in common with Gardner. Norwood hopes to join the Navy where Gardner also

"It was kind of great meeting somebody who came from nothing and became something and all the obstacles he's been through didn't stop him from getting to where he wanted to be," Norwood said.

he agrees and as to be expected, the unprepared Noah soon finds out that he is overmatched to handle a mostly white trio version of "Bebe's Kids"; a moody 13 yr old Slater Imax Records) with " issues", an over dressed and makeup wearing 7 yr old Blithe (Landry Bender) whose trying to hard to be a celebrity or a grown up to gain friends and the adopted and bitter Hispanic boy. Rodrigo (Kevin Hernandez) who uses

When Noah finds himself being promised some actual "intercourse" sex when male user Marisa at a party needs him to purchase some heroin from her drug dealer friend, Karl (Sam Rockwell) who operates a body building joint as

cherry bombs to blow up public toilets.

Using the kids' parents' mini- van and unable to leave them "home alone": Noah takes the seemingly undiscplined children on a field trip that turns into the

Soon after when Noah takes too long in making the transaction with Karl. Rodrigo manages to enter and interrupt the proceedings. When Rodrigo asks to use the bathroom and returns with Noah who completes his business with Karl and drives off in the van.

Noah discover that Rodrigo stole a dino egg full of heroin that Noah tussles over until the egg gets broken and white powder spill onto Noah's face. Then Noah gets the cell phone cell from Karl who either wants \$10g's or he'll kill Noah.

So now Noah has to find a way to [ay back the money for the broken egg, get back to the party with the drugs for Marisa and return home with the kids before their parents' return. Of course, nothing goes right in this endeavor for Noah with the kids in toe adding their

own mischief through the proceedings.

When Noah sets out to rip-off an upscale bar mitzvah birthday party where he meets former schoolmate. Roxanne (Kylie Bunbury) who becomes this film's interracial love interest for Noah.

The minivan gets stolen from Noah and the kids from a mean spirited former schoolmate that remembers how Noah ruined her party

Noah tries to get some financial help bail out fro his natural father who refused. So Noah retaliates by stalling his car and breaking into his diamond store stealing some diamonds with some cash that he gets swindled by a pair of crooked cops.

Then Noah gets a chance to show how black he is to regain the stolen and gain some respect from a black gang who comes in handy to save Noel from being killed by Karl.

And in betw Noah has moments to help each kid's personal issue with a life lesson that naturally turns them onto his side. While Noah makes his own self discovery on getting his act together over the advice giving adults that shouldn't speak since they each have their women on the side that included his father who disown him for exposing for what he was/

But there is so much wrong that doesn't come off and justify enough to make this movie right. "The Sitter" breaks a few barriers that isn't witty or cleverly funny, just gross out and stupid. It's a movie like this that makes me long for the days of John Hughes teen movies that had the wit and intelligence this movie could have used. R: 81min. A 20th Century Fox Picture Release -Presented at selected theaters



STRATEGIC HUMAN SERVICES **COMPUTER CLASS SCHEDULE** AUG. 3, 2011— JUN. 22, 2012

CLASSES WEEKDAYS 6-8 PM, SATURDAYS 2-4 PM, OPEN COMPUTER LAB MON-FRI 9-5 PM

Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

2012

FRI JAN. 6

FRI FEB. 3 FRI MAR. 2

SAT MAR. 3

FRI APR. 6

FRI MAY 4

FRI JUN. 1

SAT JUN 2

Human			
MICROSOFT '	WORD LEVEL I		
2011	2012		
WED AUG. 3	WED JAN. 4		
SAT AUG. 6	SAT FEB. 4		
WED SEPT. 7	WED FEB. 8		
WED OCT. 5	WED MAR. 7		
SAT NOV. 5	WED APR. 4		
WED NOV. 9	WED MAY 2		
WED DEC. 7	WED JUN. 6		
MICROSOFT	WORD LEVE L I		
2011	2012		
SAT AUG. 13	WED JAN. 18		
WED AUG. 17	SAT FEB. 11		
WED SEPT. 21	WED FEB. 22		
WED OCT. 19	WED MAR. 21		
SAT NOV. 12	WED APR. 18		

SAT MAY 12

WED MAY. 16

ACCESS LEVEL I

WED DEC. 21

2011

FRI AUG. 26

FRI SEPT. 23

FRI OCT. 28

FRI NOV. 25

FRI DEC. 23

MICROSOFT	EXCEL LEVEL
2011	2012
FRI AUG. 19	FRI JAN. 20
SAT SEPT. 10	FRI FEB. 17
FRI SEPT. 16	FRI MAR. 16
FRI OCT. 21	FRI APR. 20
FRI NOV. 4	FRI MAY. 18
FRI NOV. 18	FRI MAY 2
SAT DEC. 10	FRI JUN. 9
FRI DEC. 17	FRI JUN. 15

MICROSOFT EXCEL LEVEL

2011

FRI AUG. 5

FRI SEPT. 2

SAT SEPT. 3 FRI OCT. 7

FRI NOV. 4

FRI NOV. 25

SAT NOV. 26

2012	WEB DESI	WEB DESIGN LEVEL I		
SAT JAN. 14				
FRI JAN. 27	2011	2012		
FRI FEB. 24	SAT AUG. 20	SAT JAN. 21		
FRI MAR. 23	SAT SEPT. 17	SAT FEB. 18		
SAT APR. 14	SAT OCT. 22	SAT MAR. 17		
FRI APR. 27	SAT NOV. 19	SAT APR. 21		
FRI MAY. 25	SAT DEC. 17	SAT MAY. 19		
FRI JUN. 22		SAT JUN. 16		

CALL 312 492-9090 FOR ADVANCED COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES

	illilerce and Econom	. о оррогии	
	MICROSOFT POV	VERPOINT LEVEL I	
	2011	2012	
	WED AUG. 10	WED JAN. 11	
	WED SEPT. 14	WED FEB. 15	
	SAT OCT. 1	WED MAR. 14	
	WED OCT. 12	SAT MAR. 31	
	WED NOV. 16	WED APR. 11	
	WED DEC. 14	WED MAY 9	
	SAT DEC. 31	WED JUN. 13	
	MICROSOFT POWERPOINT LEVEL II		
	2011	2012	
	WED AUG. 24	SAT JAN. 7	
	WED SEPT. 28	WED JAN. 25	
	SAT OCT. 8	WED FEB. 29	
	WED OCT. 26	WED MAR. 28	
	WED NOV. 30	SAT APR. 7	
	WED DEC. 28	WED APR. 25	
		WED MAY 23	
	MICROSOFT WEE	B DESIGN LEVEL II	
	2011	2012	
	SAT AUG. 27	SAT JAN. 28	
	SAT SEPT. 24	SAT FEB. 25	
	SAT OCT. 29	SAT MAR. 24	
_	SAT NOV. 19	SAT APR. 28	
,	SAT DEC. 24	SAT MAY. 26	
		SAT JUN. 23	

INTERSIAI Muffler & Automotive Repair 2158 South Pulaski (corner of Cermak & Pulaski) Chicago 773-522-0122 OIL CHANGE, Diagnostic Radiator FILTER, TOP OF Testing THE FLUIDS & Flush ENGINE FLUSH \$**59**.99 Pink Antifreeze Struts Mufflers Converter Front or Rear INSTALLED Installed system for leaks. Labor Extra. MOST CARS & MOST CARS & MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS LIGHT TRUCKS LIGHT TRUCKS Full Tune-Up Front or Rear Service Brakes Service 6cyl. 4 cyl. \$59.99 5189.00 \$169.00 Front or Rear Scyl. \$209.00 Includes installation of front pads, inspect inspect rotors, ncludes plugs, wires, fuel filter, air wheelbearing, calipers, filter, P.C.V. valve cap, rotor, oil rydraulic system and road test. change and filter. Pads and shoes extra. MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS

LAWNDALE CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTER IS EXPANDING!

BASIC COMPUTER LITERACY

EVERY 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

We are building a new wellness center to better serve our community.

3700 West Ogden Avenue (between S. Hamlin & S. Ridgeway)

- + Prenatal Care
- + Dental Services for Children
- + Pediatric Care
- + Expanded Fitness Center
- + Community Café
- + Conference Center





We have new phone numbers!

To make an appointment, please contact one of our four health centers using the following numbers:

Ogden 872.588.3401 Homan 872.588.3510 Farragut 872.588.3540 Archer 872.588.3560 Fitness 872.588.3200 Main 872.588.3000 For job opportunities please visit our website, www.lawndale.org and click on "Work With Us."





www.lawndale.org | info@lawndale.org