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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Hear My Story: 3 of 19 in The Battle For The Seat Of The 24th Ward Aldermanic Seat

Tali Bahkit



Melissa Williams

The Aldermanic seat in the 24th Ward seems to be a position which is in high demand. Out of the 23 people who had initially sought the position, currently 19 are still running the race and it is certainly a very competitive battle as each candidate has a very unique and interesting background which of course they have much to contribute to the 24th Ward. But



Vetress Boyce

who can complete the job? Who will include everyone? Who is willing to repair what has been so maliciously turn down? As we sit back and watch the race, each candidate would like you to know what they have to offer, as only one person will be chosen for this position based on the vote of the people. Just recently, I interviewed three of the 19 candidates and this



Wilbert Cook

is what they had to say:

My name is **Melissa Williams**, and I am a 32 year old Attorney---my interests are focused on public service and my community. I am a part of "Operation 24," and 24 comes first. Although, I love my city, as a piece of the puzzle I have to get "24" together. I have been at work trying to uplift my

See Battle page 4

FRANK BASS: A Man Of The Community, Pushing To Serve The Community Crystal X Hale



Frank Bass

North Lawndale Community Newspaper's own board chairman, Frank Bass has recently expressed that he is running for Chicago's 24th ward city Alderman, on February 22, 2011. Frank Bass is a 42 year old lobbyist who has lived in the 24th ward all his life. Mr. Bass expressed that although the thought of city Alderman has occupied his

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ROGER L. WASHINGTON Declared A Write In Candidate For 24th Ward Aldermanic Election



Roger Washington

Roger L. Washington, a Chicago Police Officer, Ordained Minister, Assistant Pastor, member of Kappa Alpha Psi Incorporated and now - Write In Candidate for The 24th Ward Aldermanic Race.

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BMOA SUMMIT TEACHES DR. KING'S MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

Nicholas short



Students attend and participate in the Summit

Nonviolence, Equality, love, and Education were just a few of the principles that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for, and the Black McDonald's Operators Association (BMOA) of Chicago have been introducing his values to young people with its Dr. King Summit. On Dr. King's birthday, January 15, BMOA of Chicago continued its 16-year tradition at the DuSable Museum and helped ensure that his vision does not die with him.

It began when the late Cirilo A. McSween, who was president of the BMOA of Chicago, created the Dr. King Summit in honor of the legendary civil rights leader. Sixteen years later, over 400 elementary school students in Chicago—students from Beasley Academics, Edmund Burke, Lionel

Hampton, Evers Elementary and Barnard Elementary—went to the museum to learn about King's dream and why it is still immensely relevant to their lives. The event, which was hosted by "V-103"/WVAZ-FM radio air personality Ramonski Luv, featured words of inspiration from co-hosts Sidney Green, who played for the Chicago Bulls, and former Chicago Bears running back Adrian N. Peterson.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., the event began with a performance by the Westside High School Choir. Singing such songs as "I Open My Mouth unto the Lord," the acappella choir was determined to entertain and inspire the crowd. Their performance included a solo by Andre Thomas, who sang "Every Time I Feel the Spirit." Deja K. Taylor, an artist



who has appeared on the HBO series Brave New Voices and has shared stages with hip hop artists such as Common, Will.I.am and The Roots, also performed for the audience with her blend of singing, poetry, and positivity.

Ramonski Luv spoke to the students as well, showing them the right way to handle problems and inspiring them to follow King's path. He interacted with the audience through his words and made sure that they were paying attention to what he was saying. One way he attempted to reach the audience was by doing an exercise with them: some of the people in the audience had a sheet of paper with words on them. Those who had a paper under their seat discussed with him about the word they received and what it meant.

Some of the words were negative words, such as "gang violence" and "discrimination," and others were positive words such as "education" and "family and friends." While talking about one of the negative words ("dropout"), he spoke against dropping out of school, saying that dropping out is the same as giving up one's life. He said, "You cannot...give...up! I don't care how bad it gets, ladies and gentlemen. Do not...give...up!"

The BMOA of Chicago, a membership organization comprised of 15 Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana-area McDonald's restaurant owners, take much pride in its summit, which sets out to inspire the youth and help them adopt such values as

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

NLCN

2010 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.

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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.

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ALD. DIXON FOUND INNOCENT OF ALL CHARGES FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST POLICE

Statement By 24th Ward Alderman Sharon Denise Dixon

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 - Most of **you** may have forgotten that I was arrested and humiliated with false charges by Chicago police officers – but I haven't.



In the early morning of January 21, 2009, I was falsely arrested by Chicago police officers and charged with three counts: (1) of attempting to circumvent a police roadblock at the scene of a tragic fire; (2) of driving without proper car insurance; and (3) of driving while intoxicated. I was taken to jail and indignantly handcuffed to a wall for 7 hours. When released from jail, police authorities on duty – after talking with someone downtown – forced me to wait until all of the press had arrived and then made me walk out of the front door where the press was waiting.

I was not born in the best of circumstances, but I have worked hard all of my life to develop a good character and establish a good reputation. In the morning of January 21, 2009, that reputation was seriously damaged, if not destroyed, in a matter of minutes and hours by several Chicago Police officers. All that I had worked for and accomplished in 47 years of living and striving was shattered and ruined in an instant. I'm a person who has worked hard against great odds, a person who has played by the rules, a person who has ask nothing more than to play on a level playing field, but none of that mattered or made a difference in the early morning hours of January 21, 2009.

I was paraded before Chicagoans, through the media, as an elected official who was trying to throw her political weight around. Nothing could have been further from the truth. I didn't even mention that I was an Alderman until the situation had gone on for some time, and then not in a manner that was trying to claim a "special privilege." The police roadblock was not clear – their car was backed against the curb; their headlights were off; their blue lights were not on; cars were coming in the other direction; and there was a lane-and-a-half open going in my direction that was not blocked. As I approached the intersection, my attention was focused on the flashing lights of the fire trucks about a block in the distance. As I slowed, suddenly a police car pulled out in front of me. I swerved leftward and turned down a street. I turned around and returned to Sheridan Road. As I did, I saw that the police in the car were agitated and yelling at me. I pulled over close to them, stopped, rolled down my window and tried to talk to them. I was trying to tell them that what they were doing was confusing and dangerous – car against the curb, no headlights on, no blue lights – and they resented it. When they resisted my input, were indignant over my suggestions and disrespectful of my personhood, I stood up to them. I stood up for my dignity and my rights and **I ask them for their badge numbers.** That – not trying to go around a police roadblock, not diving without proper insurance, not driving drunk – **that, asking them for their badge numbers, is what triggered my arrest!** That's what I described at my press conference on the afternoon of January 21 as a "big misunderstanding."

I said in that press conference, I did not try to run through a police roadblock; I was not driving without car insurance – I had accidentally given them an outdated insurance card instead of a current one and they never asked me if I had an up-to-date card, which I had in my car; I was not driving intoxicated; and I said I would prove what I was saying was true in a court of law. I said I was sorry and I apologized to the people of Chicago and to the City Council for bringing any embarrassment to them. In the end, however, I said they would find out that the whole thing was just a big misunderstanding.

All of what I said **then** has proven to be true **today.** In a 4-hour hearing before a judge to get my driver's license back – and after the testimonies of myself and the Chicago police officers involved in my arrest had been heard in a court of law – the judge said I was "inappropriately arrested for DUI by the Chicago police" and she returned my driver's license. While at first the Police and the City were anxious to try my case in the **media, after nine court delays by the City and**

State a second judge finally dismissed the DUI case because **THE CITY HAD NO CASE.**

The Chicago police threw dirt all over my clean dress, and while two judges and the courts did their best to take my dress to the cleaners and clean it up, it has not removed the **stain.** The humiliation and emotional distress remain with me because in the eyes of many Chicagoans and others – based on what they saw on TV and read in the newspapers at the time - the stain remains!

The police handcuffed me to a wall for 7 hours like I was a dangerous and common criminal. They forced me to go before the media so I would be humiliated in the public – and I was. I have suffered tremendously emotionally and psychologically because of these false accusations. The newspapers, the radio and the TV cameras – in the process of doing their job – splashed me all over the news in lead stories. But when the court gave me my license back only the *Chicago Tribune* was there to report that I had been inappropriately arrested – and it wasn't a front page story. And when the case was finally dismissed **for good,** NO press was present. Now that it has been shown that I was inappropriately arrested and a victim of injustice, I repeat, the overriding question for me remains – **how do I get my good name back?**

I'm a public elected official, the Alderman of the 24th Ward. And if this can happen to me, can you imagine what chance the average citizen has of overcoming such formidable odds? This has cost me a lot of money, time (nine court appearances), effort, inconvenience, prestige, public humiliation and

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Battle from front page

community ever since I was a little girl. When I was 16 years old Michael Chandler was the Alderman and he would always give meetings and I would always attend. I was very excited about the change that I knew would come to my community. As time went on, I saw my community get worst and this is what made me want to do something about it. So, I moved on and got my Bachelors degree in Political Science from Bradley University in Peoria, IL. I knew that I would be a lawyer since the age of 8, so my next

step was to attend John Marshal Law School and get my J. D., (Doctorate degree in Law). But this was not it. Because of my love for my community and my people I moved forward in helping my community by connecting with local politicians and teaming up with them and their organizations to help make change. I am a part of Senator Ricky Hendon's organization "The Fighting Fifth," Congressman Danny Davis's organization "7th Congregational District of Young Democrats," and Commissioner Steele's organization "Greater West Side Community Coalition."

I believe that in order to be a legislator you must know the law. And this is something that I do know. I want my constituents to know that I am the only person that Senator Ricky Hendon has endorsed, and the reason why is because he knows that I can get the job done. I have had the ability to work as an Associate Director with Heartland Alliance (CHA's CabriniWorks Program) where I helped people in the process of being displaced--to not be displaced. I helped them to stand up for their rights and find

housing. I have also helped with an expungement program through the Cook County Government to help cleanup criminal records.

I have done many things for my community and still I am doing much for my community, not just because I want to become Alderman but because I want to make my community better. When I become Alderman, I will fight for the education of the youth and make sure that the Restorative Justice Circle method is used in order to make things better. I will make sure that the youth are apart of the political process and set up a parent, educator, student council. I want to be the voice for my people and give them a voice as well, and my ability to build true relationships will allow me to do this. I am a very respectful and resourceful person and for this reason, I can do nothing but give away my resources to the people.

If you have questions for Melissa contact her at chgo.op24@gmail.com or 773-960-9269

Hi, I'm **Vetress Boyce**, and yes I am a Boyce, we are all over the city of Chicago. I want to become Alderman of the 24th Ward because I believe an Alderman must be business-minded and this is what I am. An Alderman should know the technicalities of a business and how it operates. I am not just local, or national in my doings but I am international and have a 23 year background in foreign exchange and know what the people of the 24th Ward need. They need a person who is business-minded, someone that could bring money into the community and clean it up. Without money, we can't do a thing and this is where I stand sure, because I know how to get the money into our community and do the right thing with it. I want to do what the people need to be done. I'm 46 years old and although I don't have a college degree I have a spiritual connecting, business mindset and the

heart to change my community. I have always been a person that gets the job done. I don't talk to the middle man when it comes to taking care of business, I talk to the decision makers, and this is what I will do for the people of the 24th Ward. Yes, I'll be contacting President Obama, Pat Quinn, the Mayor, and anyone else that I need to contact for the 24th Ward. An Alderman to me is a navigator for the people, a voice for the people without having your own agenda. I want to give the power back to the people.

I know how to bring the people together and this is what I do. An Alderman has to build boards and commissions--community development boards, senior boards, youth boards, infrastructure boards, real estate construction boards, housing boards, etc. and make sure that everyone from every precinct serves on each board and they are to become the voice, and the decision making should be done by the people. You have to know how to market your community and this is what I will do. My job is to put homeless shelters out of business and to make sure that people are not in dire need of homeless shelters but they are to be educated on how to have shelter for themselves. I believe that when we have a strong family structure, we have a strong community, and this is one of the key issues. The families in this community are broken.

When you have a strong family structure, you have a strong community and when you have a strong community, it is then that we can secure the education and the future of the youth. I know the skills that are needed to compete based on life experience and I know what the children need to compete in this world and I will give it to them. I will not only help the youth and the education system I will also help the recidivism rate by bringing jobs into the community. My goals are for the people. It seems like I've waited all of my life to do what it is that I have always wanted to do, this position is just right for me to serve the people.

If you have any questions for Vetress contact her at vetressboyce24thward@yahoo.com or 773-257-7354

I'm **Wilbert Cook**, and I have been serving my community for many years. I am responsible for a 50% increase of employment in my community, the start up of "A Hand Up," recovery home, and helping people to save tax dollars in my community. I am a start to finish type of person and when I start something, you best believe the job will get done. I want to be Alderman of the 24th Ward because I know the needs of the people. My mission is to change lives and save families. I know that I am the best candidate for this position because I have the most diverse background, and I already have a great relationship with the politicians here in Illinois. I plan to request a moratorium on closing the public schools in my community until there is a complete evaluation done on each school so that children are not forced out of their neighborhood schools. I will also set up more recovery programs for my community and grow grass-root programs.

I will offer people who have suffered from substance abuse and recovered, the ability to start their own programs to help the people in the community who are still suffering. I feel one of the number one problems is that their are so many agencies that come into our community that come from different places but will not hire the people from the community, this has to stop. My goal is to start a culture of recovery in our community, and make it an economic engine. I will bring investors into the community in order to help with the education system. As an Alderman, I will be a modern teacher who wears many hats.

I can't just be the legislator, but I am willing to go the full mile. I feel that I am the only candidate that has a proven track record--I am willing to work with the homeless and those who are secure home owners. I have developed the most relationships with government officials to improve the life of the people and I will continue to build relationships for the 24th Ward. Another issue that I would like to solve is the issue of abandoned buildings in my community. I would like to have an ordinance passed that will prohibit property owners from abandoning their buildings in our community. If a property owner has not re-developed their property within an 18 month time span it will be turned over to the community for positive change. These are only some of the positive goals that I have in mind for the people of the 24th Ward. I have a people agenda, not a personal agenda and this is why I know I am the perfect fit for the 24th Ward's Alderman.

If you have any questions for Wilbert contact him at electwilbertcookill@gmail.com or 773-799-7126

With the diversity, skill, passion and the ability to serve--each candidate seem to have something to offer the 24th Ward. But who will be the best candidate, who has the complete package/strategy to clean up such a mess? According to Rickey Brown a veteran of the community, the 24th ward has been in a horrifying condition since 1968 after the riots when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. But the question from the community is why has it taken so long for someone to step up to the plate? And why hasn't anyone done anything since? Does it take a political office in order to repair the community or just the cooperation of the people? What ever the case may be, the Alderman's seat is a position that will allow one to be the mediator for the people and this time, it must be done right. So, who do you choose, who will be the best candidate to serve the people of the 24th Ward--do your research and receive your answer. Look for the next issue of NLCN for more candidate profiles.

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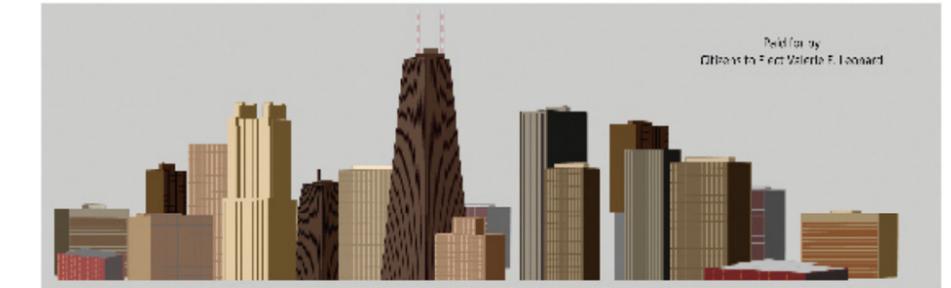
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Call in to talk about the issues you care most about For further information, call Willie Cole at 312-675-0240



Dixon from page 3

embarrassment. The ordinary citizen doesn't usually have a lot of money and time, or often the internal strength to go up against police authority, the law, the City, the State, deal with the media and overcome the humiliation and embarrassment of such an episode.

I'm still wrestling with a lot of questions, "How do I get my good name back? How do I restore my emotional equilibrium? How do I help others avoid being the victim of similar injustices?" That is the task that continues before me.

Finally, even as I struggle with those questions, there's another task that I have assigned to Attorney Lawrence Jackowiak and that's to file a lawsuit against the Chicago police officers who falsely arrested and humiliated me.

AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic

THE COMPANY MEN (*)** There isn't a movie that is as timely and topical while dramatizing today's social condition, personal consciousness and total relevance represented in "The Company Men" from veteran TV writer-producer John Wells who gave us "E.R." and "The West Wing" among others who wrote and makes his theatrical directorial debut here.

To explain the storyline is like duplicating the current news headlines and human condition of millions upon millions of Americans struggling to live and survive the massive job cutbacks and corporate layoffs and firings in the current employment climate these days.

"The Company Men" revolves around the lives of three men at varied corporate positions at the stain glass office building of GTX systems in Boston with each trying to come to terms. While searching for gainful employment while attempting to re-invent one's self and values.

As the one out of the three main male character that this film wants us to identify with the most emotion and apathy for.

When suddenly fired, Bobby Walker (Ben Affleck), a 37 yr old married golf playing marketing executive who continues to live a lifestyle that he can't afford. While his practical minded wife makes concession in her life. Bobby tries to retain a false appearance that only burdens the couple in debt. At the

same time, Bobby continues to strike out with his contact related to his s and leads to his field

Ultimately, his self-esteem crumbles resulting to accept help from his wife's brother, Jim Dolan (Kevin Costner) who owns and works in his independent construction and restoration business that hires Bobby who clearly is out of his element, trying to work as a carpenter's assistant.

Yet, this work and experience allows Bobby to better understand how wrong he was and finds new respect for Jim who's forced to make sacrifices to keep his crew working during those slow winter months.

The corporate co-founder who struggles to maintain the workers against the cost cutting methods that he argues against until he's a casualty at the hands of his best friend and boss, James Salinger (Craig T. Nelson) who eventually becomes richer from his stocks selling to a bigger conglomeration in a buyout.

Clearly, the film's most unstable employee, (and doomed character) Phil Woodward (Chris Cooper), a veteran worker at 60 who awaits for the inevitable While being forced by his uncompromising wife maintain her lifestyle. By forcing her husband into faking his employment following his dismissal to maintain her social status. When his wife advises him not to return home until dinner time.

When Bobby Walker has been struggling to find work through phone solicitation while sharing a cubical and being befriended by a black,

Washington from front page

Roger L. Washington has been a Chicago Police Officer for 11 years and an ordained minister for 11 years as well. Currently he serves as Assistant Pastor of Neighborhood United Methodist Church (Maywood, IL). With many years on the "front lines", his Bachelors in Sociology and his future Master's Degree in Public Safety, Washington will use his knowledge and experience to collaborate with the 24th Ward residents to improve and maintain a better community. "Collaborating with the community can ensure we, as one, can maintain the highest standards for what we value...Our Community. It's all about taking care of our children, our families and our community", stated Washington.

Washington lives by these 3 P's - Prioritizing, Persistence and Principles. Although it may be challenging to stay on track, the 3 P's help keep him grounded. Washington ran for 24th Ward Alderman in 2008 and although Sharon Dixon won the seat, his drive to become Alderman has only accelerated. Again, obstacles were threatening his candidacy but he was able to remain in the race as a "Write In Candidate".

The same 3 P's Washington lives by will be the same 3 P's he will use as 24th Ward Alderman. His passion, creativity and innovation outweighs his experience, but Washington vows not to do "Business As Usual" but develop strategies, that work, to reinvent the 24th Ward and make citizens proud to live there, businesses to prosper there and children to develop there.

Media Inquiries/Interviews: Kristi Dawson, 312.607.5662, Kristi.dawson@creativeimpactpr.com

blue collar job seeker, Danny (Eamonn Walker) who's later given the opportunity by Bobby to work with him on his brother-in-law's job site

It's interesting to see how this film evolves from the viewpoint of the upper class while big business gets bigger and smaller at the same time. While ignoring, until Gene is asked about his stock options by Salinger. The question ultimately leads to what "big business" has forsaken that built this country. Therefore Gene McClary does decides to go back to his job "roots" to establish a small business venture from those that built the previous company that big business has forsaken that. But what this film shows us only hopeful optimism that shows the rich getting richer. The unemployed only option is a do-over. As hopeful as "The Company Men" tries to be; writer-director John Wells still only dramatizes the plight of the human conditions from these circumstances.

John Wells' "The Company Men" is a cinematic reflection on current events wrapped in a domestic drama. Wells' auspicious directorial debut here delivers the kind of movie that could have been made for TV as a mini-series with lesser star power and greater depth into its script and characters beyond what becomes obvious

There still remains a bigger question. When art imitates life so close and universal. One might

Housing the 24th Ward Town Hall Meeting With Valerie F. Leonard



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Advisory Committee: Gatanya Arnic, Edgar Berry, Willie Mae Bowling, Rev. Eric Brown, Willie Cole, Annie Cooper, Margaret Davis, John Ellis, Millie Goldsmith, Daniel R. Gunn, Jesse Green, Rev. Walter Harris, Brenetta Howell Barrett, Luster and Olavenia Jackson, Denise Kimble, Curtis Leonard, Theodis and Essie Leonard, Theodis Leonard, Jr., Fred Mitchell, Don Samuelson, Zina Simmons, Aaron Taylor, Kyshia Thompson, Renee Turner, Sharif Walker, Michelle Winding.

Valerie has been endorsed by IVI-IPO and the Chicago Chapter-Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

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Cinemark Century Evanston 12
BARNEY'S VERSION (*/1/2)** There are two sides to every story. The same can almost be said for perception one person might view over another person. Compare to how the other person
See Flicks page 6

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Bass from front page

thoughts on numerous occasions, it wasn't until October of 2010 that he decided to put sure action behind those thoughts.

"I've been praying on it for a while... I sat down one day and I looked at myself. A lot of times people get out here and they think they can do it because everyone else has been telling them they can do, it. I had to look at myself. I want to be that person where they (24th ward residents) look at my background—my skill set...I'm the best person for the job. So hire me not because you like me, even though that would be nice, but hire me because you feel in your heart that this person with that background can bring what's needed to make this ward a better place. It's about improving the quality of life in this ward." Frank Bass has over 20 years of experience working in government. His background includes, but not limited to working as a law clerk in the Cook County States Attorney's office under Cecil Partee, Administrative assistance to the then vice mayor, Loraine Dixon, working with the Chicago Park District, work in the Cook County Health Bureau, and he even served as a Legislative Liason in the Cook County Board president's office.

When asked about the needs of the 24th ward and what he plans to work on as Alderman, Frank expressed the need for a revamping of the educational system which has far less teachers than the average Chicago public school student population demands; the need to create small businesses and subsequently jobs in addition to aiding the expansion of small businesses; also the need for better treatment of ex-offenders that involves an integration program when re-introduced back into the community. "We'll have a true integration program where we

integrate these residents back to their respective neighborhood, where there are job opportunities, where there are job training opportunities, where they'll have the tools that they need to come back and be productive members of society. Today, we don't have that. Today, what happens when they get out of prison is, they are on their own, and they haven't been given skills. They haven't been given anything where they can come back into the community and bring a positive force to it," according to Mr. Bass. In addition Frank Bass also stated the need for the Illinois Department of Corrections to have a job training program.

Frank conveys, although changes will not happen overnight, that he is the right man for the job...As 24th ward Alderman he would work towards a 20% job and job training increase amongst the 24th ward residents, in addition to making the streets clean from debris and free of car damaging potholes."I would like to see some business establishments where we can go in our own ward and sit down and have dinner, where we can sit down and watch the Bulls play on a big screen television...without having to go to Oak Park, or without having to go downtown. I want people to be able to go right here in our own ward, and drive up the street or even walk up the street on a nice sunny July day and watch the White Sox or the Cubs play...at the local restaurant down the street...I want streets to be smoother, so we won't spend hours at the body shop because our wheels have gotten out of alignment or we had a blow-out...because of hitting a pot hole. I would like it where when it snows the streets will be plowed and residents can get a text from the city asking if they could move their car--so people will not be out there trying to shovel snow," states Bass.

Flicks from page 5

sees himself. Based on Mordecai Richler's novel, "Barney's Version" is a tale done in retaliation to a friend's accusation.

In this case. Told from a confessional viewpoint, of Barney Panofsky (Paul Giamatti), a three time married hack TV soap producer who's a nebbish malcontent who initially seems to be an intellectual jerk causing some havoc with his ex-girl and her new beau. Until, Barney meets up at a bar with a former detective (Mark Addy) with his copy of his just published book about an unsolved murder that involved Barney and his best friend, Boogie (Scott Speedman). From this point, the film switches into a flashback mold that works its way to the present that spans forty years, that begins with Barney's marriage to his first wife that ended before it began through suicide.

Then Barney travels to Montreal where he's given the opportunity to become some kind of TV hustling producer dealing in fundraising. Before becoming the producer on a popular Canadian soap opera show Barney also set out to make his ex-cop father, Izzy (Dustin Hoffman) proud. When Barney marries a talky, but wealthy Jewish-American princess (Minnie Driver)

Even though, at the wedding reception, Barney honestly falls in love with a party guest, Miriam (Rosamund Pike) that he begins to aggressively pursue while still married to his second wife who grows into an obnoxious burden in her Jewish caricature.

So there is Barney being emotionally affected by love toward Miriam. After not getting a chance to fall in love with his first wife who committed suicide. And married the second wife to please his bias father. But ultimately, the second wife (Minnie Driver) feeling neglected seeks to betray her husband with his best friend, Boogie (Scott Speedman) that led to an accidental death on the pier after getting drunk together.

Eventually, Barney marries Miriam that causes a change in his demeanor that represents his true feelings that he never felt with his previous wives. But Barney does get a taste of his own medicine,

When Barney and his son are given some boating assistance from Blair (Bruce Greenwood) who works at a radio station. This rekindles



Miriam previous job experience that lands her a radio interview job at the station working alongside him.

Barney tries to resist his jealous rage. But Barney can't refuse the urge and briefly retaliates. When he encounter a former starlet from the soap that remembered him that led to a one night affair that Barney later regrets and becomes emotional distraught and ashamed in confessing to Miriam

Barney's love for Miriam allows him to find within himself an emotional plateau that he never felt before that near an obsession. As his one night fling led to Barney buying a joint burial plot that Barney mentioned to express his eternal love and commitment to Miriam.

"Barney's Version" is a movie that starts out as a comedy, but you learn a lot about emotions that takes us on through one man's growth, incredible events and self discovery that evolves into a heart wrenching love story that made a better person out of Barney near the end of his life due to dementia, compared to most of his life to those other persons he cared about.

With another exceptional performance by Paul Giamatti whose character is a person that lived by "extremes". Dustin Hoffman as Barney's boisterous father is wonderful who always seems to embarrass himself in public gathering. Yet, Hoffman retains a sense of human decency in his scenes with Giamatti that brings out a father and son relationship that is joy to watch. And that goes double for this movie, as well.

PG-13; 132min. A Sony Picture Classics Release – Presented exclusively at Landmark Century Centre



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BMOA from front page



Kevin Buckley

self-respect and peace. Melvin Buckley and Doris Boulreze, who are both owners and operators, spoke with the students about Dr. King. Buckley said, "There'd be no BMOA without Martin Luther King."

Paris Tyler, senior account executive for Flowers Communications, a company that works with the BMOA of Chicago, helped put the event together. "We pretty much planed it within about a couple of months," she said. She felt that the work that she, her company and the BMOA put into the event was essential because the event stresses the importance of education and nonviolence in the community. "It's important that we start early with those kids," she said. She believes that the event was a success. "I think that they definitely had a chance to walk away with something just of value about Dr. King, about his dream, about the legacy, and just about taking what they learned and applying it to their school and their community," she said.

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*By Darren Tillis
State Farm® agent*



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an important goal. Any gains you may experience within the policy are also free from federal income tax, providing yet another benefit. You should keep in mind that any policy loans will reduce the account value and death benefit of your policy and should only be done after careful consideration. However, there are no restrictions on how the proceeds are used. Permanent life insurance is designed to stay in force through your entire lifetime. The premiums are fixed and guaranteed so they will not increase as you age. And, if you apply and are approved for a policy early, you won't have to worry about being denied coverage later based on any health problems that may arise.

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