



1211 S. Western, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60608

THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE

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. 11

ISSN 1548-6087

March 31 - April 6, 2011

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

Sharon Dixon Has High Hopes for the 24th Ward

Nicholas Short

After serving for over three years, Sharon Dixon still wants to continue being alderman of the 24th Ward. A lot of good things have been accomplished according to her, and if elected, she plans to do more to help her ward. In an interview with the North Lawndale Community News, she talks about her achievements in the past, the present situation of the 24th Ward, and her plans for the future.

What progress have you made while you were in office?

I think we've made tremendous strides in the short three and a half years that I've been in office in the recession. Several businesses have expanded under my watch. We have several projects currently being constructed—affordable housing on Independence, there's a fire station, there's a library on Kedzie, [the] theatre's reopening, [and a] senior building is coming up on Gladys. So yes we have several projects in the pipeline, in the recession, in three years.

What are some things you would have done differently?

Of course there have been some mistakes made. I would've done several things differently. I think for the most part, in the short time I've been here, I think I've done the best that I can with the resources I had and that have been made available to me. We had a new administration, a new staff, a new alderman, and of course mistakes were made. But I think for the most part we put forth a pretty good effort.

We did our best to communicate. We sent out quarterly updates, monthly updates, had quarterly meetings, and made ourselves accessible. I think that the one thing I am hearing that I probably would've done differently is to have more contact with the residents.

Do you feel that it is sometimes difficult to get things accomplished when you are the alderman?



Alderman Sharon Dixon

Oh, of course. Bureaucracy is bureaucracy. It's difficult, it's challenging, especially when times are hard and we're in an economic recession. So it's challenging, but it hasn't been impossible. We've made some things happen in these hard times in the 24th Ward.

What is it like to be the alderman?

Challenging. Rewarding. Sometimes you go through a wide range of emotions. But for the most part I think it's a great job, and I think it's an honor and a privilege to be able to serve constituents in the 24th Ward specifically.

Describe the state that the city council is in.

Well, the city council is undergoing a change. We have a new mayor coming in. But I also think that these are exciting times. I think that change is change and sometimes change is good. So I think it's a new era and I think that people are excited and ready to work with the new mayor.

Do you think there are any problems within the city council?

Problems? I don't know if I would say problems. I think that government is government and all of the aldermen are trying to get what they can for their ward. We want resources. We want our ward to be the best ward in the city, so

we work together and we divide up what it is that the city has to offer to make sure that we're all covered.

Describe the state that the 24th Ward is in.

I think it's in a good place. I think it's moving in the right direction. I think we're changing things for the better and I think that most of the constituents here want to continue to move forward and not backward.

If elected, what are your plans for the future?

To bring jobs here. To continue to improve the ward as I have over the last three years. To provide a better school system and work very closely with CPS to make sure that our kids are getting a quality education. [To] make sure that the neighborhood is safe and the infrastructure continues to improve.

How do you respond to people who say that you have

See Dixon page 4

DANNY DAVIS HOST STATE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE CONFERENCE

Nicholas Short



(L-r) Knblai K.M. Toure, Tom Todd and Cong. Davis

Congressman Danny Davis and a team of African American professionals banded together to inspire Black men and women during the State of the African American Male Conference. On March 25 and March 26, attendees of the conference listened to speakers, watched presentations and spoke their minds during panel discussions in an effort learn valuable lessons about African American men in America.

Sponsored by Davis and Sankofa Safe Child Initiative, the conference was designed to teach participants about the situation the African American men are in and introduce solutions to the problems

that African American men are facing. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.—on both days of the conference—attendees participated in several activities that were created to make them stronger, wiser, and more confident.

On Friday, March 25, the conference featured presentations that taught various lessons that help participants survive and prosper in society. One presentation, entitled Don't Drop Out-Drop In "Refuse to Lose," featured Bernard Clay, the executive director for Introspect Youth Services and included Reverend Rod Taylor from Westside Pastor for Safe Passage; Tim King, founder and CEO of



Cong. Davis and student Corey Williams

Urban Prep Academies; Principal Colette Unger-Teasley from Frazier International School; and Dr. Paul Adams, President of Providence St. Mel. The presentation stressed the importance of education and encouraged Black youth not to drop out of school.

The day also included a few inspirational words from keynote speaker, Rev. John T. Porter, the author of the Autobiography of Black Male Violence: A Personal Critique of Episodic Male Violence in America.

On Saturday, March 26, the conference consisted of panel



Useni Eugene Perkins

discussions on serious topics, such as Juvenile Justice. The panel discussion on Juvenile Justice featured words from Arthur Bishop, Director of Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice; 5th District State Senator Annazette Collins; Barbara Bates from Citizens Against Unjust Sentencing (CAUS); Kublai K.M. Toure, executive director of The Amer-I-Can Illinois, Inc.; and Deidra Wilson from Sankofa Safe Child Initiative. During the discussion, the panelists and the audience discussed unfair sentencing towards minors and the rehabilitation of youth who have been incarcerated.

The day ended with Tom Todd from the Karnak Wellness Institute, who spoke to attendees about teaching children about the value of education. Todd moved his audience with his loud words as he told them that knowledge is a valuable tool. "We must teach our children to value education," he said as the crowd cheered.

See State page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LANE CHANGE:
THE RIGHT TO
GUNS IS SIMPLY
A RIGHT TO THE
MEANS TO KILL

PAGE - 3

LAWNDALE
ALLIANCE WEIGHS
IN ON STATE'S
REDISTRICTING
PROCESS

PAGE - 6

DIVERSITY
EMPLOYMENT
JOB FAIR HELD AT
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
BACKPAGE

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

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

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.

Writer's Meetings!!
The North Lawndale Community News
Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203
Time 6:00pm
Date March 17, 2010
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, Tamiko Bowie, David Schultz, Reggie Lewis, Mary Moran, Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson, Priscilla Lucas, Todd Thomas, David Tenario, Smalley Mike Cook,

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: Andre Stokes
Advertising Consultant: Jim Allen
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, Dennis Allen, and Caprice Ware, Mac Strong distributed weekly over 280 dropsites, and over 340,685 potential readers throughout North and South Lawndale, East and West Garfield, Humboldt Park, Austin, Pilsen and the Near West Communities.
Weekly Mail Subscription Rates: \$20.00 for 3 months. \$35.00 for 6 months \$60.00 for 1 year \$110 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 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 Department 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 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

ROD OUTS

Sewerlines and Plumbing Repair
WATER GOING DOWN SLOW!

Sinks * Toilets * Bathtubs * Catchbasins
Grease Traps * Sewerlines * Faucets
Hot Water Tanks * Drains * Ejector
Sump Pump * Low Water Pressure
Heating * Air Conditioning * Refrigeration
Installation & Repair Work
For More Information Call:
TRAVIS (773) 491-1967 or 68

L & P LIVERY

"We Go Anywhere"

773-533-0147 773-533-0172
773-533-0148 773-533-9528

Attention ALL Renters...SECTION 8 WELCOME
EQUITY INVESTORS, LLC
Single Family & Flats Available...RIGHT NOW!

- Investor Property Available throughout Chicagoland area
- "Opportunity Areas"
- 3-4 Bedrooms

Call Sandy with Real People Realty today: 630-297-8039
Attract landlords, be the 1st choice, we will SHOW YOU HOW!

Business Cards

Quantity	Black & White	Spot Color	Full Color
250	\$15	\$25	\$40
500	\$25	\$35	\$60
1000	\$35	\$50	\$75

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.

LANE CHANGE: The Right to Guns is Simply A Right to the Means to Kill

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane

Let's get something straight before we get into this conversation: The primary motivator behind the American obsession with the right to own and carry guns in this country has almost nothing to do with protection and nearly everything to do with the simple ability to kill someone if circumstance or the gun possessor's own sense of security requires it—as decided by the gun possessor.

Therefore, the solution to the volatile and seeming intractable conundrum revolving around gun control in Illinois and elsewhere, has little to do with whether or not we will be permitted to return to a Wild West culture of everybody packing heat and everything to do with why so many of our citizenry are frothing at the mouth for a right to the ability to kill somebody with no more effort or thought than it takes to squeeze a trigger. And until we consider the issue for what it truly is—a right to the means to kill, ideologues and idiots on either side of the issue will continue to exploit meaningless slogans and traditions simply to justify their positions while neither side has any hope of persuading the other in a genuine effort at finding an agreeable solution to the true source of their contention.

In other words, the battle over the Second Amendment waged between allies of the NRA and gun control advocates is merely a fight for the right to kill—with a tool/weapon that makes the act more effective, efficient and likely to occur.

Thus, in a week in which we will commemorate the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. (Apr. 4) along with the day John Hinckley Jr. shot President Reagan (Mar. 30), perhaps we should at last honestly debate the gun issue on its true merits and quit hiding behind euphemisms for a struggle that has literal life and death consequences as well as economic and

political ones. And needless to say, the current back and forth among those leading the fight for and against over-arming the public seems to be much focused on the latter two considerations rather than the real ground floor argument about clinging to an unbridled right to possess more and more lethal means to kill other people.

Again, let's be honest in the debate: The culture of the gun is simply a culture of killing. It is bloodthirsty.

And as a former Marine, gun owner and NRA member, I am intimately familiar with full-fledged allegiance to that culture. I bore many arms, and I had no intention of hesitating whenever I felt cause to use one of them. And unlike many of the people bearing deadly arms in Chicago and throughout America, I have always been an expert shot.

Thankfully, the Uzi-wielding gunmen who shot up a South Side block yesterday (Mar. 30), causing a CTA bus collision and injury to 11 people, were not. If they were, we would again be lamenting the killing that goes with the guns so glorified by our national heritage. An argument—that once may have led to fistfights among unarmed men—is reported to have preceded the resort to the assault weapon gunfire at 75th Street and Vincennes in Gresham.

Now, very few think tank scholars will even begin to connect this act of senseless gun violence on the streets of Chicago to our nation's penchant for the type of gunboat diplomacy that continues to involve the United States in killing people, as demonstrated by its actions to join a civil war in Libya while waging wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. When we get frustrated, we drop bombs.

An ever fewer number of experts are also sounding the alarm over our national culture of violence that is also on full display in the case of U.S. Army Specialist Jeremy

Morlock, a 22-year-old American soldier who recently pleaded guilty to the unprovoked killing of Afghan civilians in 2010.

But if we are to truly progress in our understanding of the war zone mentality pervading gangland American communities, it behooves us to not too soon forget the ilk of the Jeremy Morlocks that our nation is producing by the thousands in the unnecessary and wasteful wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Because such fighting men are of the same cloth as the cold blooded killers prowling the streets and avenues of Chicago and other urban centers all over America. They differ only in that they are well-trained by their government to do the job well.

Morlock, who was charged along with four other soldiers with killing Afghan citizens simply for the fun of it, said he lost his "moral compass" in the commission of his crimes. Some of the soldiers are also facing allegations that they mutilated corpses and kept

grisly souvenirs of their deeds.

On the streets, souvenirs are left in sidewalk memorials.

Meanwhile the wars and criminal killings abroad and at home continue to fail in their efforts to satisfy our thirst for blood in a country and a culture that continues to be nurture by and thrive on guns and violence.

Just saying.



FOCUSED IN LEADERSHIP (SM)
 Developing strong and forwarding thinking leaders
www.filchicago.com

Focused In Leadership, a manufacturing based training provider, will be presenting an interactive introduction on the dynamics of community and industrial leadership. Focused In Leadership helps companies to promote from within by training and coaching front-line leaders to effectively lead and engage their teams with a direct, "To the Point" yet business-like approach to improving their companies performance and productivity.

Who should attend?

- Those in frontline leadership positions looking to refresh their skills
- Those that are working towards a role in leadership
- Those who manage people in a leadership capacity
- Those that look to better influence their community

Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Strategic Human Services
1211 S. Western Ave.
Suite 203 – Training Room
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
"NO CHARGE"

****Space is limited, RSVP to Focused In Leadership at 773-543-5114****

Small businesses create jobs and neighborhood stability.

With Alderman Michael D. Chandler, our community is open for business.

A great neighborhood is built from safe streets, strong families, and thriving small businesses that provide local jobs.

So when the small businesses that sustain a neighborhood shut down, it hurts the entire community.

Alderman Michael D. Chandler will help our small businesses and our neighborhoods succeed.

He will cut down on the red tape that hurts our small businesses.

Alderman Michael D. Chandler will also make sure that economic development focuses on neighborhoods like ours, instead of just asking what's good for downtown.



Re-Elect

ALDERMAN MICHAEL D. CHANDLER

Vote Tuesday, April 5th. Or you can vote early until March 31st.



Lawndale Christian Development Corporation Events



Dr. King Legacy Apartments Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

DATE: Monday April 4, 2011
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
LOCATION: 1550 S. Hamlin Avenue
 Chicago, IL 60623

**Come celebrate the opening of the Dr. King Legacy Apartments built on the very land that Dr. King lived on in 1966.
 Dr. King's Dream is Alive on the Westside!!!**

For more information contact LCDC at 773-762-8889 Ext. 22.

Lawndale Christian Development Corporation
 3843 West Ogden Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60623



Don's Auto Parts

**4433 W. GRENSHAW
 CHICAGO, IL 60624
 OFFICE: 773 638-1554**

Celebrating The Dream
 Dr. King Legacy Apartments
Gala

Come help us celebrate the opening of the Dr. King Legacy Apartments, historically placed on the very site in the North Lawndale community, where Dr. King resided (16th and Hamlin). We also will be honoring community heroes that continue to exemplify Dr. King's "Dream" by keeping his spirit alive with their commitment to service.

Rsvp & Ticket Sales
 kwilliams@lcdc.net | 773.762.8889 ex. 22

Lawndale Community
 Members Tickets
 \$50 Per Person

Signature Sponsor



McCormick Place Hyatt Ballroom
 2233 South Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

Sunday, April 3, 2011
 5:00 pm

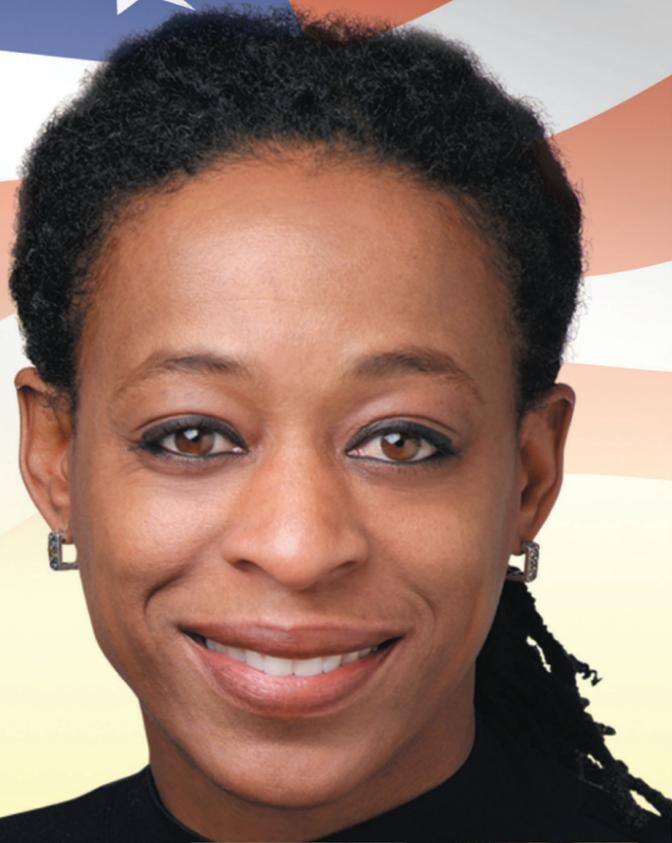
**Keynote Speaker
 Martin Luther King III**

Dixon from front page

not done a good job?

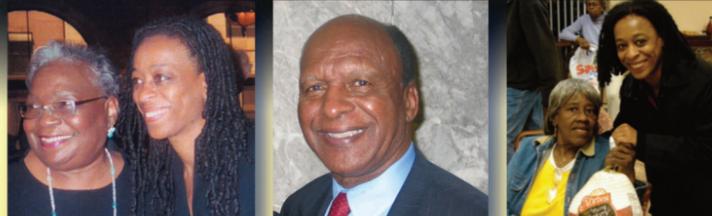
I think that I am going to have that. I think communication is the key here. And I think, as we proceed forward, we will communicate better and more regularly as people will understand what's happening in the ward. I think the last three years has been a lot—a recession, change in leadership, and people are just trying to take care of their families and not really understanding what is happening around them. For the most part, some people are just not involved. I think for so many years it just felt like something wasn't being done if they just pretty much were disengaged. So, it's my duty to turn it around.

Re-Elect Sharon Denise DIXON
 Changing the 24th Ward
 24th Ward Alderman
Punch #69



The Dixon Agenda

- Fighting for more city resources to make our neighborhoods safe for local families
- Improving infrastructure to promote economic development and create local jobs
- Working to ensure our children receive the high quality education they deserve
- Bringing more transparency to city government to clean-up corruption at City Hall



Endorsed by Bobbie Steele, former President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and Secretary of State Jesse White

Making Our Neighborhoods Safe for Local Families

As our alderman, Sharon Dixon is working hard to bring more city resources to our community to improve neighborhood safety. Dark streets and alleys encourage the spread of crime, gangs and drugs. That's why Alderman Dixon has put new and improved lighting on over 250 blocks of streets and alleys in the 24th Ward.

Sharon Dixon understands we need more police officers in higher crime areas and has been a tireless advocate for the Chicago Police to realign patrol beats to put more police in high crime neighborhoods.

Bringing Economic Development and Job Opportunities to the 24th Ward

We all know times are tough, but even during these difficult economic times Alderman Sharon Dixon has worked tirelessly to bring jobs and new businesses to our community. Among her accomplishments:

- Allocating over \$670,000 in TIF funding to support the growth of local small businesses
- Working to bring in the new Leamington Foods after Dominick's left our neighborhood
- Expanded businesses in the 24th Ward, like the Charter Steel Plant, Geokat Granite and Nationwide Furniture, which created new good-paying jobs for our community

Fighting to Provide Our Children with the Educational Opportunities They Deserve

Alderman Sharon Dixon understands that, in order to stop the vicious cycle of violence and crime, we must provide all of our children with the high quality education they deserve. Alderman Dixon is working closely with the Chicago Public Schools to bring a Core Instruction Program that includes a strategic and rigorous curriculum through the Professional Learning System. By setting clear weekly goals and a plan for achievement we're already seeing signs of improvement in our local schools.

Early Voting

Begins Monday, March 14 - Ends Thursday, March 31
 Frederick Douglass Library, 13th & Homan
 9am to 5pm (M-F) – 9am to 12noon (Sat-Sun)

**An Independent Voice fighting for our community
 On Tuesday, April 5th - Punch 69**

Paid For By Citizens To Elect Sharon Denise Dixon

Lawndale Alliance Weighs in on State's Redistricting Process

Valerie F. Leonard, Co-Founder of the Lawndale Alliance, provided public testimony to the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee on March 28, 2011. The following is a summary. To get a copy of her complete remarks, visit <http://lawndalealliance.blogspot.com>, or call 773-521-3137.

Illinois Senate District 5 is comprised of Representative District 9 and Representative District 10. North Lawndale covers approximately 50% of the land mass in Representative District 9, and 25% of Senate District 5. Approximately 80% of North Lawndale's land mass is in the 24th Ward, and the 24th Ward accounts for approximately 50% of Representative District 9's weighted vote, and roughly 25% of the weighted vote for Senate District 5. North Lawndale is also in the 7th Congressional District. The voters of Representative District 9 tend to vote Democratic. We respectfully request that the Illinois Legislature keep the following in mind as they complete the redistricting process.

Potential for Diluting the African American Vote in the 5th Senate District
Some elected officials have hinted that

the 5th Senate District boundaries would be redrawn in a manner that would make it more diverse. This could result in a higher percentage of Latino and white voters and a lower percentage of African American voters. The total population for Senate District 5 decreased only 1%. This should not require changing the boundaries to the point of reducing the percentage of African American voters below the reported 55%.

Treatment of Prisoners in Census Count

Under current law, incarcerated persons are not counted in the Census numbers of the community from which they originate, but in the populations of the towns in which they are incarcerated. As a result, the Census numbers in Chicago for African Americans is significantly undercounted, while the numbers in some Downstate communities are inflated by over 95%. Representatives from the districts in which the prisoners are incarcerated have a history of voting against legislation that will enhance education, job training and rehabilitation of prisoners. In effect, prisoners have no representation. This is a clear violation of the "one man, one vote" principle upheld by the Supreme Court in 1964.

On the other hand, legislators from the prisoners' originating communities (like North Lawndale and East and West Garfield Park) tend to be the ones advocating for improved education and rehabilitation services for prisoners who are not counted in their districts' population. To add insult to injury, Downstate towns are receiving entitlement funds for Community Development Block Grants and Social Service Development Block Grants that benefit their communities, but not the prisoners. When the prisoners return home, their originating communities are the ones who must help them transition by providing housing, job training and other social services. Unfortunately, the originating communities don't get their full share of funding because the prisoners were counted in the Downstate town's Census statistics. We respectfully request that the Legislature support Representative LaShawn K. Ford's proposed legislation to ensure that prisoners are included in the Census counts from their originating communities.

Loss of Congressional Seat

Because the State of Illinois' population grew at a slower rate than most states in the country, we will be losing a Congressional

seat. Chicago's three Congressional Districts headed by African Americans have each lost population and must expand boundaries. There have also been proposals to eliminate one of the districts. We respectfully request that any new boundaries be drawn to protect the voting rights of African Americans. Ideally the new districts would include enough African Americans to create an opportunity for each of these districts to continue to be represented by an African American. It should be noted that African Americans, as a percentage of Chicago's population was reduced by less than 1 percent. It should also be reiterated that our numbers are significantly undercounted due to the numbers of African Americans incarcerated in Downstate prisons.

Need for Public Hearing on West Side of Chicago

We respectfully request that the Senate Redistricting Committee consider hosting a public hearing on redistricting on Chicago's West Side, at a time and location that is convenient for people from the community to attend. The Lawndale Alliance would be more than happy to work with you to do community outreach.

LEGAL SERVICES

(312) 806-0646

Need A Lawyer?

- * CONSULTATION
- * LETTER & PHONE CALLS
- * CONTRACT REVIEW
- * EVICTIONS
- * BANKRUPTCY
- * DIVORCE
- * WILL PREPARATION
- * EXPUNGEMENT



We Can Help!

AS LOW AS \$38.95

CALL THERESA TODAY

(312) 806-0646

WESTSIDE TRANSFORMATION (WST)
1211 S. Western Avenue, Suite 206 Chicago, Illinois 60608
GENERAL CONTRACTORS CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
WK. 312-666-0445. FAX 312-563-0565
CELL 312-576-4509
Email: hlyons@lyonsconsulting.com
Web: www.lyonsconsultinginc.com
HOMER LYONS, JR.



General Contractors
Construction Managers

MBE CERTIFIED
DBE CERTIFIED
REHAB CONSTRUCTION
BASEMENTS
KITCHENS
BATHROOMS
OUR SPECIALTY

Satte from front page



On March 25-26 the State of the African American Male Conference convened at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren Chicago, Illinois There was a welcome by the Honorable U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis. Remarks by Ghingo W. Brooks, Malcolm X College President and Kriss Stanley, the moderator was Ms. Reanetta Hunt. Social Indicators statistical analyst on African American males by Dr. Carl Bell. The keynote speaker for the day, was Rev. John T. Porter Then there were breakout sessions given simultaneously such as "Respecting Family Value" Rm. 2215, moderated by Useni Eugene Perkins, "Kicking it Healthy" Rm. 2512 Presented by Sankofa Teen Pregnancy Prevention Peer Educators, also "Don't DROP OUT- DROP IN" Refuse to LOOSE by Bernard Clay. There was a WORKING LUNCH sponsored by the Young Democrats. Kinte Kizer, the SPOKEN WORD and EMPOWERMENT" by Mama BRENDA Ray Easley presented a discussion on EMPLOYMENT. A panel discussion was held concerning the Church's role in youth development. Pastor Cy Field, Moderator panelist were Rev. V. Bracket, Rev. D. Pope, Rev. M. Hatch, Rev. C. Calhoun, and Min. K. Muhammad. On Saturday the keynote speaker was Thomas Nathaniel Todd and for all that was not present missed. Photo caption (Top left) K Kizer and student Corey Williams (Top right) Babara Bates and Kublai Toure

"Education has always made the difference." Both days of the conference in included drumming and libation for Kwesi Ronald Harris, a spiritually empowered inspirational speaker, and several inspirational words from Davis. Jim Allen, one of the participants, felt that the event is a great opportunity for African American men to receive guidance

from politicians, people in business, and other professionals. "It's very important listen to the elders in our community and talk about the state of the African American male. I think each generation of African American male should come out to something as important as this," he said.

Davis also feels that this event is



Malcolm X College Basketball Team mwith Cong. Davis

important. To him, these kinds of events are designed to be educational and inspirational. "I'm a person who believes that knowledge is the most important aspect of empowerment and that if people know things, then that gives them power," he said.

Co-sponsors of the event are Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, 7th Congressional District Child Welfare Taskforce, NAACP-Westside Branch, Introspect Youth Services, Westside Drug

Free Community, Sankofa Incorporation, State Representative LaShawn Ford, Chicago Urban League, Chicago State University, Malcolm X College, Illinois Department of Public Health, Treatment Alternatives of Safe Community (TASC), Fathers Who Care, Hartgrove Hospital, Illinois One Family One Child, and the 7th Congressional District Young Democrats.

The event was paid for by Benefactor DHL.

AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic

SOURCE CODE(***/1/2) The thought process that evolves in watching this script unfolds for this movie. Along with the emotional elements within the acting and direction makes "Source Code", one of the most ingenious, contemporary sci-fi action romantic thrillers that is smart, riveting and imaginative

Jake Gyllenhaal plays Capt. Colter Stevens, a soldier who is suddenly pulled from an Afghanistan mission He awakes from his darkened plane cockpit simulator into being part of a government experiment that places inside a moving Metra train heading toward Chicago .

Stevens sits across the passenger compartment from a lovely woman, Christina (Michelle Monaghan) that recognizes him but he doesn't her. Still, Colter grows to like what he sees in her who refers to him as "Shaun" to which his reactions makes for an awkward beginning between them on the train.

Minutes later the train explodes into massive and engulfing flames fireballs killing its passengers. Except for Colter who awakes back in that cockpit simulator; Where Colter meets on the screen monitor from the control room, Goodwin (Vera Farmiga) who tries to calm and help the confused soldier to focus not on the incidentals, on the train but on his



immediate mission.

Slowly, Colter begins to realize he's part of an experiment created by Dr. Rutledge (well played by Jeffery Wright) that Goodwin sends back to re-live the accounts of the last eight minutes before the train explosion. Colter is told he must find the bomb and the identity of the bomber before the device detonates

At first, searching and uncovering a new clue at each playback of the incident on the train for Colter that might remind moviegoers of the same dramatic

replay premise.

When Dennis Quaid search for the culprit to stop an assassination attempt in 2006's "Vantage Point". Or compared to the comedic one in Bill Murray's "Groundhog Day".

While Gyllenhaal 's character has some snitil similarities to the role Keanu Reeves played in 1995's "Johnny Mnemonic" Especially since he is told by Goodwin in one scene that he died during his Afghanistan mission and that part of his human remains were being kept alive at the laboratory. This explains why Colters phones his father and can't get a reply until later in the film.

But "Source Code" isn't repetitive as it may seem at the outset. Because with each trip back that helps Colter get closer to finding the bomb's location on the train and eventually discovers the bomber's true identity. In which Dr. Rutledge's experiment has been designed as a new form of combating terrorism before they occur.

Colter begins to pull Christina into his drama that she's doesn't fully comprehend. While Colter

begins to fall in love with her and realizes that the experiment may not allowed him to be with her in the future.

So with each trip and discovery that goes through the last eight minutes before the explosion, Colter not only has to diffuse the bomb and uncover the identity of the bomber. But Colter begins to do little things in order to try to save Christina.

While he still seek out to complete the intention of this initial mission that would alter the events in time and the doctor's invention's purpose beyond its anti-terrorism use.

"Source Code" is a remarkably clever, entertaining thought provoking thrill that keep an audience thinking and on edge. A well crafted and defined thriller as the second movie from director Duncan Jones who did "Moon" and who is the son of rock icon David Bowie who dominates the landscape and aerial scene mostly filmed in Chicago (with the interior shots done in Canada).

Full of clever twists and turns led by a strong character driven performance from Jake Gyllenhaal that makes "Source Code" a film that should not be missed. It is an exhilarating, imaginative. And a smart movie you'll enjoy. **PG-13; 92min. A Summit Entertainments Picture Release - Presented at**

selected theaters

INSIDIOUS (*)** "Insidious" begins like most conventional haunted house movies, School teacher Josh Lambert (Patrick Wilson) and his wife, Renai (Rose Byrne) and their three young children have just moved into their new house.

After their first night sleep and just beginning to unpack the boxes; Renai doesn't play much attention to the few books she just placed in a small book cases that are suddenly on the floor. Then the bumps and scratchy sounds are heard in the walls

Later, the oldest of the three young children Dalton (Ty Simpkins) in his superhero caper decides to do some exploring in the attic. Where Dalton falls trying to pull the string to turn on the light. But the fall is nothing compared to what suddenly causes him to cry out for his parents who rush to his aid in the attic.

With only a slight bruise and cut, the parents assume Dalton will be alright. That is, until the next morning. When Josh can't awaken Dalton from his sleep.

Rushing him to the hospital, they learn that the doctor can't explain their son is in a coma. When there is no apparent interior damage to his body. So eventually, the comatose son is released from the hospital; in order to monitor his condition at home.

Then the middle child begins to complain to his mother that he's frightened of his bed ridden brother who walks around at night. From this point, "Insidious" begins to make a transition from just being a conventional yet scary haunted house movie; Leigh Whannell's script does something with this premise that you might wonder why this hasn't this been done before in movies. When Renai tells her husband, Josh of her fear of their new house; she tells her husband that she can't take living there and wants to move away from the house they just moved into.... and they move!

When Josh's mother, Lorraine (Barbara Hershey) visits to help the couple settle in their new home, she is told by Reina of the strange occurrences that leads her to summons a psychic (Lin Shayne) and her two ghost hunters (Leigh Whannell and Angus Sampson) to begun recording, photographing and explaining the strange occurrences in the house

Ultimately, the psychic reveals the couple's son isn't in a coma and the house isn't haunted. The boy is an empty vessel with astro projection. The spirits have harbored around him while the boy is lost in a place beyond the living called 'the Further' But there are other entities with other reasons trying to reach the boy. The worst being a demon that wants to possess the boy. Initially, Josh doesn't believe the psychic until he observes some of Dalton's dark drawings that make him summons the psychic and the ghost hunters back.

Where it's revealed by Josh's mother that Dalton inherits this astro projection from his father from a suppressed childhood memory in which a demon lady appears his Josh's childhood photos. Now it becomes apparent that Josh finally must confront the fears he's long denied in order to save his son.

When he has to be put into a trance and his spirit must travel back to the original house to return his son from the redneck family of ghost that re-enact the crazy daughter killing her family and encountering the demon with the fire on his face that holds Dalton chained that he has to escape and follow the voice of the psychic and his wife back to the living.

Insidious" is the latest chiller from director James Wan and writer-actor Leigh Whannell who started the "Saw" movie franchise that initially was made for \$1.2 million

Wan and Whannell seize the opportunity here to challenge themselves by making more from less with "Insidious" for a mere \$1 million, without lessening the technical quality in the film.. The crisp production value here, in particular the sound quality that seems to punctuate and manipulate the film's tension and shock value toward thee moviegoers.. Whannell's script and Wan's direction are balanced just enough with a back story that led to the ghost following the family to their new home creating more havoc.

Of course, "Insidious" is nothing really special, but it's well crafted enough to make for palatable and scary entertainment those dishes out the thrills and chills without any excessive

See Flicks page 7



CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK
LEARN



CURRENTLY ACCEPTING STUDENTS

PRE-K to 8TH

ENROLL NOW!

Why LEARN?

- Free Public Elementary School **OPEN to ALL** students
- A proven track record of high academic student achievement and growth
- Students receive individualized instruction based on their identified academic goals
- PE (including yoga), art, Spanish, and music
- Smaller class sizes
- Extended school day (8:00-4:00) and school year (Aug-June)
- Emphasis on family and community participation

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OR VISIT:

Romano Butler Campus
Pre-Kindergarten- 8th Grade
1132 S. Homan Ave
773-826-6330

LEARN Excel Campus
Kindergarten-5th Grade
2401 W. Congress Pkwy.
312-243-7001

LEARN Third Campus
Kindergarten-5th Grade
212 S. Francisco Ave.
773-826-0370

INDIA JENKINS
Community Engagement
Coordinator
(773) 865-4512

OUR MISSION:

To provide children with the academic foundation & ambition to earn a college degree

THE NORTH LAWDALE 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

APT FOR RENT 3-1/2 RMS (1BDRM) secure building 1501 S. Kilbourn, appliances included cooking gas and heat, sec 8 welcome \$700 per month call 773-522-4024

APT FOR RENT 1500 S. Hamlin, 1st Fl. unit. 3 bdrms, 1 bth, garage park, Lv rm/Dn rm Hrdwd flrs. Call 630/625-2812. Avail. 2/1

3 BEDROOMS Hardwood floors, ceiling fans, new kitchen cabinets, new stove and refrigerator. 1124 N. Hamlin. Sec. 8 Welcomed. \$1000/mo. Call (773) 882-9424

2-1/2BEDROOMS HEAT-INCL. \$800 a month 1-month rent & 1month security Mr. or Ms. Hudson- 773-339-5684 or 773-287-5779

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

ART PROGRAMS

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

Flicks from page 6

gore. R; 102min. An Alliance Picture released through Film District - Presented at selected theaters

SUCKER PUNCH (*)Whatever the intention subliminal or other way; Co-writer/director Zack Snyder returns to the graphic comic book in his latest action fantasy that has a premise without much of a storyline. It's an overblown women's prison movie from the 50's genre disguised as an elaborate video game through its overblown and graceless action sequences that are part of the subconscious mind of an abused grown daughter, Baby Doll (Emily Browning) who lost his mother to an illness that leaves her with a mean and abusive stepfather whose bitter over being bypass in her will.

Resentful if his rage and frustration that he takes out on her; Baby Doll tries to retaliate against here stepfather. When she accidentally shoots at him and instead accidentally kills her younger sister. The evil stepfather arranges with a crooked guard who accepts a hefty briber to have place in a section of a mental asylum that is used as a club for dancers run by lecherous warden, Blue Jones (Oscar Isaac) that he uses as cover for his guns and drug operation.

Whenever Baby Doll needs to escape this harsh environment she puts hers mind in an untouchable mental state where the institution comes across like a seedy bordello club run by Dr. Gorski (Carla Gugino) using her "polish therapy to weed out potential dancers.

When Baby Doll is made to audition she stuns the onlookers in her performance. While her mind transports her subconscious being into a fantasy world where she meets a wise man (Scott Glenn) inside a temple who offers four out of five keys that she must obtain to gain her freedom. With the fifth item being a secret.

When Baby Doll happens to rescue another female inmate from a fat cook she offers Blondie (Vanessa Hudgens), Sweet pea (Abbie Cornish) Rocket (Jena Malone) and Amber (Jamie Chung) to join up and escape their male dominated predators who offers no redeeming quality in Snyder's mind that often reminds me how filmmaker Tyler Perry views most men against women in his soap opera-like urban melodramas.

But this only one of many elements that Snyder is unapologetic in borrowing here and there throughout this movie from the "all men are pigs" angle to the Quentin Tarrantino influencer with the women doing acrobatic martial arts fights that makes for an unflattering mixture of "Kill Bill" meets "The Big Doll House" inside a video arcade.

It's becoming increasingly bothersome that a majority of movies today plays more on excuses for action and violence than display a coherent narrative story line tone. "Sucker Punch" lives up to its title, but in the wrong way for its audience. It is an offensive, ridiculous "low blow" whether you're subconscious or not. **PG-13; 109min. A Warner Bros Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters**

2 BEDROOMS 16th & Kedzie \$800/mo plus two months security Call 773-522-0733

CHICAGO WESTSIDE HOMAN SQUARE APTS 2br \$900 - 3br \$1000. Tenant pays light & gas. Section 8 welcome, Pick up applicayion at 3607 W. Polk, Mon-Fri 9:30am - 4:30pm.

1807 S. ST. LOUIS Conveniently located near public transportation. Conveniently located near schools. 2 bedroom units starting at \$725 /+1 month security. Call (773)960-3817

CLEAN SPACIOUS THREE BDRM apartment-newly rehabbed, large living room and kitchen, with appliances, hardwood floors, tenant pays heat, forced-air. Contact 773 838-8471

ROOM FOR RENT \$350 per month. \$150 deposit. 1654 S. Homan. Utilities are included Men Only. Call 773/557-9421.

APT FOR RENT Two (2) Bedrooms, Living Room/ Dining Room Newly Remodeled Kitchen and Bathroom Enclosed Backporch, Heat Included Location: Cermak and Keeler (1st FL), Chicago, IL Rental Fee: \$800.00 Plus one month security deposit For more information call 815-577-0773

FOR RENT 2, 3, 4, AND 5 BDRM HOUSES AND CONDOS. Newly remodeled with appliances. Some of my units have heat included and some have no security. 3506 W. Huron and 2115 W. Farwell, both one bdrm. 2133 W. Howard, 2 bdrms, 1840 S. Harding 4 bdrms, hardwood floors, washer, dryer, and dishwasher. (no security). 3708 W Lexington 3 bdrm condo, first fl, hardwood flrs, washer, dryer, and dishwasher. 3840 W. Van Buren 4 bdrms and 4300 W. Adams 4 bdrms. Call Vincent at 708-473-5464.

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER



April 9, 2011
 1:00PM - 4:00 PM
 Saint Anthony Hospital
 Conference Room 8

Join us for a free community baby shower where we'll have games, gifts, education and resources for moms-to-be!

- ✓ FUN GAMES AND RAFFLES
- ✓ REGISTRATION FOR PRENATAL CLASSES
- ✓ ASSISTANCE FILLING OUT APPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE (FOR PREGNANT MOMS AND ALLKIDS)
- ✓ LEARN BABY AND PREGNANCY TIPS FROM MIDWIVES, NURSES AND DOCTORS
- ✓ PHYSICIAN REFERRALS AND APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

CALL TO REGISTER 773-484-4FUN (386)

The first 60 moms-to-be that register will receive a baby shower gift basket and free lunch!

DIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT JOB FAIR HELD AT ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Nicholas Short

On March 23, a long, long line was formed outside McCloska Ballroom at the McCormick Tribune Campus Center building of the Illinois Institute of Technology. And the line consisted of people who needed work. Inside the ballroom, people had to squeeze pass one another to get to recruiters and hand out their resumes.

Most people were dressed as if they were going to a job interview: the men dressed in formal suits and the women were dressed in business outfits. The ballroom was filled with chatter as job seekers were being interviewed by recruiters and asked a few questions themselves.

These job seekers were at the ballroom for Chicago's Annual Diversity Employment Day Career Fair, where people of all races spoke with Chicago's top corporations, government agencies, and non-profits. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the fair featured recruiters and job seekers getting to know each other, hoping to find what they are looking for. Recruiters were looking for qualified candidates in many fields, which included health care, government, customer service, information technology, sales, and management. Candidates were looking for the right job and were doing so by finding available recruiters who are willing to give them a chance.

Employers that showed up for the event included Verizon Wireless, Aramark Uniform Services, Wal-Mart, Mayer Brown LLP, Metro Water Reclamation District, Wilton Brands, True Value Co., Chiquita, Fresh Express, Amtrak, Underwriters Laboratories, InterCall, RCN, Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield Zoo, WGN, CBS Radio and the Chicago Defender.

One of the recruiters was Fred Newsom from WCPT, Chicago Progressive Talk Radio. "We believe in equal opportunity employment of course," he said. He feels that the job fair is a great opportunity for WCPT. "This is about our busy season for promotions, so the job fair allows us the opportunity to seek new talent," he said. Among the positions he offered was account executive. "With the account execs, it's a sales opposition, so if you have prior sales experience that's helpful of course. It starts off with a base salary as well as commission, but after six weeks it goes to strictly commission. It's a high turnaround, high

pressure type of job, but it is a rewarding job," he said. WCPT was one of the media sponsors for the event.

Another recruiter, Stacey Garretson from the Illinois Institute of Art Chicago, was offering faculty positions as well as admissions positions. When asked what she wants to accomplish, she replied, "I'm hoping to do outreach into the community and service the needs of people who want to advance their education or have a career change or offer a position that currently fits with their educational experience."

Garretson said that the job fair allows employers and job seekers to get to know each other. "All companies need to be exposed to the basic public, and the public needs to know what companies exist," she said.

Not everyone had to deal with the long line that remained outside the ballroom. Candidates had the option to send their resume to fasttrack@citycareerfair.com with the subject CHICAGO CAREER FAIR. Those that e-mailed their resume received a confirmation code that allows them to skip the line.

VETERANS STRIKE FORCE

PRESENTS

"THE FEAST"

FUND RAISING AND SUPPORT INITIATIVE HELPING TO SHELTER HOMELESS VETERANS

AT

LAWNDALE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1227 SOUTH INDEPENDENCE BLVD.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

COME AND HELP

PAINT, REPAIR, IMPROVE, CLEAN, DONATE &

SUPPORT

HOMELESS VETERANS

ON

DATE: APRIL 9th 2011

Time: 9am to 4 pm

Please make donations/contributions payable by check or money order to strike force

At

Jesse brown va medical center

"VETSVILLE IS COMING"

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT ECONOMICS FROM THE BIBLE.

You can learn the natural laws that determine whether a community is prosperous or impoverished. These principles are not just ancient history. They apply here and now. We can use them, if we choose, to build a society with economic opportunity for all.

Learn Economics as if God Cared, a Henry George School course taught at Strategic Human Services, 1211 S. Western #205. This course meets Thursdays, 6:00 to 7:30 PM, four weeks beginning April 14. The enrollment fee (normally \$25) will be waived for anyone who cannot afford it, and the first session is always free for everyone.

No religious belief is presumed or required. For more information or to pre-register, call the Henry George School at 312/362-9302.



Time to punch in.

Opening early at 5:30am in Jan./Feb.

Save money now when you purchase more months*:

- 1 month - \$15
- 3 months - \$40 (save \$5)
- 6 months - \$75 (save \$15)
- 9 months - \$110 (save \$25)
- 12 months - \$145 (save \$35)

Never any joiner fees.



Lawndale Christian Fitness Center

Loving God, Loving People

3860 W. Ogden Ave.
773.843.3219

Bring in this ad for a free one day workout.

Classes available now include: Cardio Flex 1, Cardio Mix, Cardio Punch, Circuit Training, Exercising with Arthritis, Full Body Toning, Get on the Ball, SilverSneakers®, Six-Pack Attack, Strength Toning

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