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

FORMER ALDERMAN MICHAEL D. CHANDLER IN HIGH SPIRITS



24th Ward runoff Michael D. Chandler, Nita Duwell of Duwell's Fish Market, Campaign manager Richard Barnett, and campaign supporter Mary Reed

In high spirits and with a strong hope to once again become Alderman of the 24th Ward, Michael D. Chandler has been given a spirit of political rebirth. With over a "150 people attending his fundraiser," said one attendee, some new supporters, and many of his former supporters, he has gained more momentum moving

toward the runoff election on April 5th and early voting beginning on March 14th. After gaining the 2nd most votes in the February election among 19 candidates. He will be facing the incumbent 24th Ward Alderman, Sharon Denise Dixon.

"I'd like to take a moment this afternoon to talk to you about my vision for the 24th Ward. I am

asking you for a chance to put the 24th Ward back on the right track. To do this, it will not be difficult, when you know what the right track looks like. The right track looks like: Job development, Economic revitalization, bringing people together and strengthening our schools," said Chandler.

Chandler was in office for 12 years before losing by 187 votes in the 2007 runoff with Alderman Dixon. Chandler stated that he has over 25 years experience in local government and can help the community with what is needed. "We must get back on track by reinvesting again in our communities, making the 24th Ward a place to invest and to live. Education must be a priority for us.

If the people elect me, I will be committed to working with Mayor Elect, Rahm Emanuel. But I will be more committed to making sure that the community get its share of much needed resources. I will also make sure the community has

a voice in who will be selected as the next Chicago Public Schools Chief Executive

I am committed to making sure that crime is diminished and public safety increased. We must work very hard to make sure residents that are least able to protect themselves, are protected from the criminal element in our communities. I believe we must have a say in who is selected the next police superintendent.

Jobs and economic development is on the forefront of almost everybody's mind. People need jobs. People need money for rent, food, clothing, and other essential things to be productive citizens.

I will work tirelessly to bring jobs to the 24th Ward. I will work with the federal government, the state legislature, the county, the foundation community, the social service agencies, businesses and the churches, to make sure that every able bodied man, woman or youth that wants to work, can

work. We will again be on the right track.

I love my community and worked with the community to bring jobs and economic development. I have worked to stimulate housing growth, advocated for more resources to stop foreclosures and we were on the right track.

These past few years have been difficult for many of us. Some of us have moved forward, but many of us have remained still. I'm sorry to report to you, that this ward has in most cases remained stagnated, and in some cases slid backwards," said Chandler

I am by no means perfect. I have had my ups and downs. I believe in a higher power that welcomed me back and encourages second chances. I believe in second chances. I believe in the people, the people are forgiving of those who have good hearts. And with a righteous God and the right people, we will prevail and move our community back on the right track.

Hundreds of African American Youth and Parents Rally on March 7th to Protest Gov. Quinn's Plan to Eliminate Community Youth Services



Hundreds of Youth, Parents and Community Residents and Leaders representing 17 Metro Chicago Organizations held an African American Community Rally on Monday, March 7, at Chicago Area Project (CDTES), 605 S. Albany, in Chicago. Their message: **Restore Community Youth Services Grant Line for FY2011 and FY2012 NOW!** That means restoring the Community Youth Services (Community Services) Grant Line for the balance of FY 2011 (4-month budget: \$1,788,060) and restoring Community Youth Services (Community Services) Grant Line for FY 2012 (12-month budget: \$5,364,180).

Rally participants are among thousands statewide who are protesting Governor Pat Quinn's budget proposal that would eliminate over 300 youth

programs, prevention services and community-based groups that serve over 70,000 teens and adolescents and more than 30,000 in Illinois. The Quinn proposal, which cancels out the Community Youth Services grant line for the rest of FY2011 and for FY2012, would be a death knell for grass-roots organizations affiliated with Chicago Area Project (CAP) and the Illinois Council of Area Projects (ICAP)—organizations working on the front-lines with at-risk youth and their families.

The African American Community Rally is one of two simultaneous protest actions that took place in Chicago on March 7, 2011. A Hispanic Families' Press Conference will also take place on Monday, March 7, 2011, 11 a.m. at the National Museum of Mexican

Art, 852 W 19th St. in Chicago. Over 100 Hispanic families from 7 Metro Chicago organizations are expected to participate. The elimination of the Community Youth Services grant line would drastically reduce or eliminate 55 Chicago Area Project grass roots affiliate organizations and several CAP programs in Metropolitan Chicago including the 17 organizations serving African American youth and their families that are participating in the March 7th rally. These participants included:

Alternatives, Inc. (Uptown, Rogers Park), **Ark of St Sabina** (Englewood), **Better Life for Youth** (West Garfield), **Bishop Shepard Little Memorial Center** (Back of the Yards/Englewood) **Chicago Area Project** (Career Development, Training & Employment Services/CDTES), **Englewood Street Alternative Program** (Englewood), **Exodus Drum & Bugle** (Austin), **Hegewisch Community Committee** (Hegewisch, East Side), **Lawndale Christian Community Center** (Lawndale), **Major Adams Community Committee** (Near West Side), **Mid-Austin Steering Committee** (Austin), **Mildred Franks Foundation Scouting Network** (Avalon, Grand Crossing, Chatham), **South Shore Drill Team** (Grand Crossing, South Shore, City Wide), **St. Malachy** (West Side), **Wentworth Residents United for Survival** (Wentworth Gardens), **St. Agatha Family Empowerment (SAFE)** (West Side)

The 7 organizations involved in the

Hispanic Families' Press Conference included Casa Aztlan, Cicero Area Project, DuPage County Area Project, La Causa Community Committee, Latino Organization of the Southwest (LOS), North Suburban Area Project and Sembrando El Futuro (SELF).

The African American Community Rally and the Hispanic Families' Press Conference are two of several protest actions undertaken by affected organizations and programs throughout Illinois. Other actions include a letter writing and phone call campaign that is targeting Gov. Quinn and state legislators. A youth-leader created facebook campaign and a petition drive are also in progress. Delegations of concerned community residents are also visiting their state representatives and state senators.

Master-of-Ceremonies for the African American Community Rally was Karlyn Boens, a member of the Mid-Austin Steering Committee, Exodus Drum and Bugle, and the Chicago Area Project/Youth as Resources Leadership Team. Karlyn is an example of Chicago Area Project's and Illinois Council of Area Project's emphasis on training youth, not only to succeed in life, but also become leaders and positive role models in their communities. Karlyn, who recently become a minister at Prince of Peace Baptist Church, handled her MCing task with a grace and charm that was commented on by many in attendance.

Among the programs on the chopping block in African American

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Winner of the 2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award

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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/ NCLN was People and Education. In 2008, the primary focus for was the Church, Financial Literacy, and Technology. In 2009, the primary focus for SHS/NCLN 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.

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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Letter To the Editor:

Voters on Chicago's Westside know very well my father, the former Representative Arthur L. Turner, and I (State Rep. Arthur Turner II) have certainly had our feuds over the years with the recently retired Senator Ricky Hendon. Our differences, however, do not detract from the long record of service that Sen. Hendon proudly performed for Chicago's Westside, particularly as he grew in seniority and leadership positions in the Senate. As our democratic committeemen consider who should fill his vacant seat, I urge them to select someone who can grow into the leadership roles left by Sen. Hendon. In less than a year, the selected replacement will face an election challenge that is certain to be fierce.

In particular, redistricting based on the 2010 census data will create a significantly more diverse senate district than present. The census data show the population of the Westside has diminished significantly and the historic base of the senate seat will be seriously diluted. It is vital that the committeemen select someone who can win over a large cross section of diverse Chicago voters in just a year's time to maintain the seniority advantage over the next incoming class.

Just as important, the committeemen must also choose someone with the tenacity and appetite to stay in the seat for the long haul. It will not be easy, but I believe we must continue the tradition of service that my father and Sen. Hendon established - and that will take a great deal of time.

I look forward to building an excellent partnership and representing our districts with whomever the committeemen choose.

Submitted by ARTHUR TURNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR TURNER II - DISTRICT 9



HOUSING HELPERS WORKSHOP

As part of the recently announced Community Benefits Agreement between US Bank and the Coalition to Save Community Banking, US Bank and Housing Helpers of Maywood will be hosting a Foreclosure Prevention Workshop. The two day workshop's goal is to unite homeowners with their loan servicer, so a solution may be negotiated to prevent qualifying home owners from losing their homes. Loan servicers from several banks, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as US Bank's Loss Mitigation Department, will be available from 1pm-7pm on Friday the 18th and 11am-6pm on Saturday the 19th.

Home owners should bring with them the following documentation:

- Monthly mortgage statement;
- Tax statements for 2009 and 2010, if applicable;
- Information about other mortgages on your home, if applicable;
- Two most recent pay stubs, documentation of income you receive from other sources, and/or the most recent quarterly profit and loss statement if self-employed; if rental income is received, please provide lease/rental agreement.
- Three most recent bank statements
- Estimate of monthly expenditures, such as utilities, cell phone, insurance and medical bills

Home owners will also have access to housing counselors that will advocate in their best interest, and when needed, an attorney will be provided to advise and review loan documents. Providing assistance at the event will be Bethel New Life, South Austin Coalition, The Resurrection Project, Oak Park Regional Housing Center, Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action, the John Marshall Law School, State Attorney General, Lisa Madigan's office, and the Coalition to Save Community Banking.

The first workshop of US Bank and the Coalition to Save Community Banking is in Maywood because of the severity of foreclosures and decreasing home values in this community. Housing Helpers, Inc., a non-profit housing advocacy and redevelopment organization serving Maywood has been tracking foreclosure data for ten years. According to their research, 620 homes were affected by new foreclosure filings and active court cases in 2010, a 10% increase over 2009. 270 of those cases included judicial sales. After the judicial sale the homeowners are evicted from the houses and the title to the property transfers to the bank or company holding the mortgage. The glut of vacant houses in Maywood is similar to the national crisis causing a decline in local home values. Utilizing information published in the Chicago Tribune, home sale prices in Maywood have declined approximately 20% each year since 2007.

For more information or to RSVP contact: Sarah Lira at Housing Helpers, Inc. (708) 681-2101 or housinghelpersinc@gmail.com.

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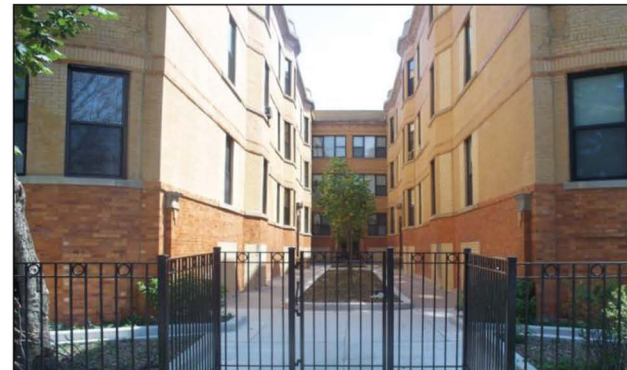
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THE 24TH WARD ALDERMANIC RUNOFF DILEMMA

Some voters find themselves in an unwanted situation

Fred Mitchell

"Be careful what you wish for...you just might get it."

In 2007, some in the 24th ward wished for anyone to be alderman except Michael D. Chandler and they got Sharon D. Dixon. Fast forward to 2011. Because of poor performance in office and broken promises, the some now wish for anyone else to be alderman except Sharon D. Dixon. Because of the historical number of candidates (19) with write in candidates that ran for alderman, the vote was split up between Chandler and Dixon placing in the top two. Now the people of the 24th ward have two candidates in the April 5, runoffs that are tough choices for many.

During his tenure (12 years) as alderman, Michael D. Chandler developed a reputation among some for not being transparent, accessible, arrogant, and unsympathetic to their concerns. To some Chandler failed to move the ward forward and deliver on his promises. City Hall did most of the planning for the 24th ward. Chandler fostered relationships with like Cecil Butler, Cecil Butler was the manager of the defunct Lawndale Restoration affordable housing project.

Elected by a narrow margin of 192 votes, in 2007, Sharon D. Dixon was the people's choice over Michael D. Chandler. What was Sharon's claim to fame? She organized two block clubs because she was tired of looking at the filth on her block and vowed that if elected; she would cleanup the 24th ward. After she was elected, Sharon took some residents of the ward on a bus tour to show them the areas that she was going to clean up first. She failed to keep her promise.

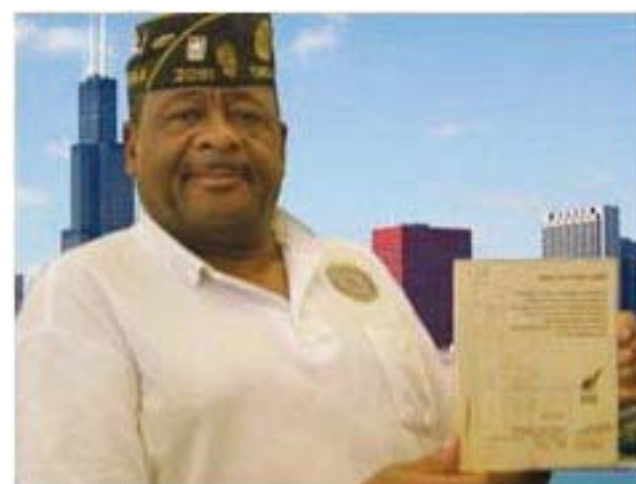
Mr. Sel Dunlap, property owner, said, "It's extremely critical to my vision and efforts to help eradicate the hell in North Lawndale, and the hell is filth and trash. Neither Chandler nor Dixon responded to my efforts to work through their offices to initiate a comprehensive, sustaining cleanup campaign that would involve a recycling educational youth program. There is a role for every stakeholder to play in mitigating the stress of living in a distressed community."

Several people of the 24th ward are so outraged over the results of the February 22, election that they are seeking options to overturn it. Some are seeking a recall law, like in the "Blagojevich recall law." Others want a city ordinance passed so the voters can recall unsatisfactory representatives in the city council.

In the 2007 election, the people's choice proved
See Runoff page 5

PASSING THE TORCH FORWARD: THE DREAM OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN INVENTOR

In the contemporary world that we live in, it's not often that you hear the great news of an inventor staying loyal to his craft. This is because of the long process that it takes in order to make sure that he/she is the only one in the entire world that has come up with such an invention. And the cost of making sure that this process is taken care of properly and efficiently is quite expensive according to research. It is important that a patent lawyer makes no mistakes in researching the rights to your patent and he/she must not over look what someone else may have already discovered in a parallel patent.



Virgil Mathis

Virgil Mathis, an African American inventor from the West side of Chicago is very positive and sincere about his invention and wants to encourage the youth to dream, and make their dreams come true. Although it took 18 months for Mathis to receive his patent after hiring a patent lawyer and 15 years to have almost completed the product, he said that he will never give up on his dream because he is very confident about his invention, just like he wants the youth to be confident in their dreams.

Mathis began his process for his invention in 1995. The invention is called "The Elevision-Television." The elevision-television is a television that elevates and moves in any direction that one needs for it to move in--in order to be at the comfort level of ones liking. As a veteran of the US army signal corps, Mathis says "I invented this elevision for the sick, after seeing many sick veterans not being able to move and watch television in a comfortable position, I just wanted to help." Also, Mathis mentioned that his mother was a nurse and he constantly observed the discomfort of sick people not being able watch television or do anything that will help them ease their pain. All of what Virgil Mathis was exposed to in reference to the sick and disabled, has given him the idea of just wanting to help. However, Mathis makes known that the elevision definitely has benefits for all

television watchers. Mathis adds "The vision began to develop at a very young age, this is why it is important for the youth to begin to dream while they are still young."

At the age of 12 Mathis worked in a local TV shop called "Adams TV Shop," on 35th and Wabash and from their it was history. He already knew that television and anything that had to do with electronics was definitely his niche. With a positive and confident heart, Mathis enrolled into Coyne American Electronic School and after graduating joined the armed forces. While in the arm forces he helped with the signal corps and a missile launching program. Mathis says that it is important for the youth to start young and for their dreams to be molded in order to build confidence in them. Mathis reminds us that when he was a young boy there was more of a family structure for young people. He said "My mother and father were both around, my father worked and my mother took care of the children." Mathis feels that it is important for children to have a support group in order to support their dreams and invites anyone who feels that they or their child is an inventor, to join him and other local inventors at the Chicago's 1st Black Inventors Entrepreneurs Organization

meetings every second Saturday of the month. He also makes mention about the Poly-technical Institute which is a high school right here in Chicago for young children who are technically inclined and who are the future inventors of tomorrow.

Recently Mathis was awarded with a Chicago Area Inventors Award in Wisconsin for the Stout Technology Discovery Center where two inventions by Mathis gained ground for innovating Wisconsin and creating about 900 jobs for amputee's and other disabled veterans in the state of Wisconsin. This week Mathis will meeting with his first group of engineers from Northwestern University that will review the elevision's concept and help build the actual product. The project will be completed in March of 2011 and will be ready to market to the best manufacturer which will take the project to the next level. Mathis advises all who are looking to become inventors, just a few words of wisdom--below you will find his advice.

1. When you have an idea/invention keep your mouth shut until you can get a patent on it.
2. Get enrolled into some type of inventors program such as Chicago's 1st Black Inventors Entrepreneurs Organization.
3. Network with other inventors.
4. Be consistent with meetings because it is a process and ask lots of questions.
5. The age limit is based on a persons interest, you could be a child, adult, or senior citizen.
6. Parents if your child is an inventor, support their dream.
7. Read books on inventors and inventions.
8. Enroll your child in a school that will help in his/her pursuit.

For more information on the Chicago's 1st Black Inventors Entrepreneurs Organization log on to: <http://www.cfbeo.org/cfbc/>

To contact Virgil Mathis for more information on his inventions email him at virgilmathis1@yahoo.com

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to be disastrous. After three years into the Dixon administration the people felt that "hope springs eternal" because the 2011 aldermanic election was on the horizon and they could vindicate themselves.

An informal survey of the people in the 24th ward revealed that both candidates involved in the April 5, 2011 runoff are unsatisfactory choices and they want other options. Ms. Frieda Saffold, resident, was asked about the 24th ward choices for alderman and she replied, "Surely we have better qualified people in our community than Chandler and Dixon. Out of all the choices we had for alderman, these two were picked... really! This does say much for the community and speaks volumes about voter apathy."

Where do we go from here? For the people that did not vote on February 22, 2011, stop whining, get out and vote! Vote frequently and we won't find ourselves in this dilemma again." People get the government they deserve." -- Joseph de Maistre

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ELECT MICHAEL D. CHANDLER



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AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (1/2)** For all the guts and glory under fire and destruction; the marines get their chance at defending an alien invasion in "Battle: Los Angeles". A rollicking and spectacular combat fest in which the world is at war; when the meteors begin hitting the coastline of Tokyo and other countries.

Squadrons at California's Camp Pendleton are awaiting their orders. While the story's brief human elements involves certain members deal with some domestic and emotional issues.

Among those includes Aaron Eckhart as the veteran, combat fatigued Staff Sgt. Michael Nantz who decides to turn in his resignation after several men died under his command during his last mission.

Naturally, before Nantz can get off the base into his civilian threads; the TV news broadcasts the meteors that begin to fall on Southern California zapping the civilians (what happened to advance warnings and the civil defense sirens?)

At the same time, the military radar discovers the meteor harbors something hidden that crashes lands. And emerging from the oceans zapping the hordes of beachcombers. (What happened to advance warning and the civil defense siren system?)

So now Nantz gets re-assigned to a new squadron

to assist a slightly inexperienced platoon leader Martinez who is aware of his recent reputation that Nantz's presence displays a grudge from squad member, Captain Kevin Harris (rapper/singer Ne-Yo) who is due to marry his fiancé, but turns out that one of dead men from Nantz's previous mission was his brother. There are other human issues that are predictably mentioned, but don't expect any resolution considering the fate of most in this unit

Nantz, Martinez and their squadron get throw in the combat mix on the LA streets in Santa Monica. Where the aliens have control above and from rooftops that eventually leads to a shootout that the marines find themselves pin down in a warehouse building where they find civilian survivors, Joe Rincon (Michael Pena) and his son, Hector (Bryce Cass) who develop a close bond with Nantz and Martinez who promise to protect and get them out.

"Battle: Los Angeles" might see itself as an intergalactic version of "Saving Private Ryan" meets "Independence Day" but movie only encourage the interest in re-seeing the reality and

fantasy state of war from those films' perspective.

This is a problem that this movie can't technically overcome. "Battle: Los Angeles" is adequate action entertainment if that's all you desire without much depth or interest toward its characters' personal conflicts. It's basic as an action survivalist movie that achieves minimal appeal beyond its dazzling combat special effects scenes. "Battle: Los Angeles" is routine stuff that is not very distinctive or memorable to watch after the effects its action and drama wear off.

PG-13; 116min. A Columbia Picture Release - Presented at selected theaters

MARS NEEDS MOMS (1/2)** Initially inspired by an argument that "Bloom County" comic strip creator Berkeley Breathed had with her son, that been fleshed out and reshaped here; "Mars Needs Moms" concerns a young boy, Milo (Seth Green) who can't verbally maneuver his way out doing household chores such as taking out of the trash from his mother (Joan Cusack) who also takes away his TV watching privilege for lying about eating his broccoli that he gives to their housecat.

It's an all-too familiar relatable scenario in which kids are trying to gain leverage from what they want over what their parents needs to have done. The verbal exchange for taking out the trash between mother and son on the front porch is observed galaxies away by a crusty old female Martian called The Supervisor (Mindy Sterling) and her young assistant on their space monitor to asset for the proper mother to zap their parental skills into their machines that deal with their baby Martians.

Meanwhile, inside the home, when the mother reneges on her son's TV request; that leads to a hurtful comment from Milo that later the child feels guilty about.

Unable to sleep, Milo goes to his mother's room to apologize, when he notices a glow of light from under her closed bedroom door.

When the kid's intergalactic adventure begins when Milo opens the door, he gets a glimpse of his mother gone from the bedroom window, being carried off by aliens to a spaceship that Milo hitches a ride on.

In trying to find her whereabouts on the planet, Milo winds up below in the trash wasteland. Where he meets another human, Gribble (Dan Fogler), an excitable chubby guy who sees Milo as a permanent companion he's wanted that initially pretends to help Milo find his mother. The hyper talkative character is also the film's main source for humor for his clumsy efforts for companionship

The plan is an attempt to show Milo what Gribble already knows from personal experience; that there is no escape or rescuing Milo's mom.

"Mars Needs Moms" is a family oriented, motion captured animated feature from Chicagoan filmmaker Robert Zemeckis' Image Movers Digital team that easily could have been made as a live action adventure with elaborate special effects and set designs that might have served its story and human elements better.

Somewhat shown through outtakes of its green screen background process with the actors going through the motions and dialogue of their roles over the film's end credits. A live action version could have helped smooth over some of the film's slow moments and better humor output over an entertaining but slight movie.

PG; 88min. A Walt Disney Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters

RED RIDING HOOD ()** A gothic version of a fairy tale set up as a "Twilight" type werewolf who-done-it. Amanda Seyfried plays Valerie, a woman torn between two lovers. From her childhood, Valerie was a good girl doing bad things with Peter (Shiloh Fernandez) who captures and cuts the throat of a rabbit and hangs out in the forbidden dark forest.

They remain close friends through the years as he grows up into an orphan woodcutter that her parents 'disapproved. Until Valerie learns her father has promised her hand in marriage to the wealthy Henry (Max Irons)

They all live in a snowy village plagued by a werewolf that decided after 20 years to break the peace from settling for the villagers' sacrificing their livestock to a human victim that turns out to be Valerie's older daughter, Lucie.

Leaving the women to grieve together; the village men gather and prepare to hunt down the wolf. Valerie is concern for Peter who joins the posse while she observes from a distance. Until she decides to visit her grandmother (Julie Christie) who made a red dress with a hood as a nuptial present.

Meanwhile the village men travel into the mountains on the night of the red moon; the men come under attack by a wolf that kills Adrian Lazar, Henry's father. The men

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Flicks from page 6

kill the white and gray colored wolf, thinking they killed the wolf that has plagued their village.

The men return to their village to celebrate their accomplishment. Where a famed werewolf hunter Solomon (Gary Oldman) arrives with his two black assistants (Adrian Holmes and Matt Ward) to the village. Solomon observes the village men parading about with a wolf's head on a stick. He tries to inform they the wolf is not the beast that terrorizes the village.

Soon after, Solomon's warning is confirmed when the swift moving black wolf attacks the village. During his attack, the wolf privately confronts Valerie and her neighbor, Rose. The wolf begins to talk to Valerie who hears and understands the creature who warns he'll be back for her.

Meanwhile after the attack, Solomon tells the villagers that wolf they seek, walks among them in human form that he intends to find and destroy. So a witch hunt for the black wolf begins that leads to Rose's mentally challenged and speech impaired brother being wrongly accused and imprisoned.

Later, Rose meets with Solomon to reveal Valerie had talked to the wolf, in order to gain her brother's freedom that comes too late.

As now as we are told that Valerie older sister, Lucie was secretly in love with Henry that leads to other

romantic entanglements and other revelations. While the film follows Valerie to determine who among them is "the human in wolves' fur".

Played straight almost like a medieval re-enactment, director Catherine Hardwick keeps the tone and level of what she accomplished in the first "Twilight" installment for this teen oriented melodrama that has its interesting elements, but lack the drive and suspense beyond the village attack scenes

While this movies doesn't embarrass itself as it could have. "Red Riding Hood" is an interesting twist, to say the least.

PG-13; 100 min. A Warner Bros. Picture Release - Presented at selected theaters

BEASTLY (*) "Beastly" is modernized, cliff note variation on "Beauty and the Beast" that centers around a self conceived, rich, "pretty-boy" N.Y. high school teenager, Kyle (Alex Pettyfer) who manages to win the school election as president of the Green Committee through his "beautiful people" campaign that is strong opposed by a voodoo worshipping student, Kendra (Mary Kate Olsen) wanting to make him realize that being rich and beautiful doesn't make you privilege over everyone else.

Afterwards, Kyle claims to Kendra that he wants to "bury the

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hatchet" and invites her to the school dance. Kendra accepts the invitation because she believes in "second chances". But instead, Kyle ridicules her in public that later leads to a private confrontation.

Kendra pits a curse on Kyle that disfigures his face and body in a shaven head, scars and outward skin veins to make him appear "ugly". She tells him the only way to break the spell, is that he has one year to find someone to love him.

Kyle return home to his politician father, Rob Kinston (Peter Krause) who raised him on those "beautiful people" ideals to succeed in life, Kyle reveals his disfigured appearance to his father who seeks medical assistance that are unsuccessful for his son.

So Rob rents a penthouse condo apartment in Manhattan equipped with a Jamaican housekeeper (Lisa Gay Hamilton) trying to get a green card to bring her son stateside. Rob also hires a quick witted blind tutor, Will (entreatingly delivered by Neil Patrick Harris) who offers some advice with

his sarcasm.

While, Rob promises to be there for his son, but didn't due to his job obligations makes Kyle feel alone and neglected. Kyle manages to venture outside to realize how his outward behavior made him more hated than popular.

Through all of this, there has been the high school presence of Lindy (Vanessa Hudgens), the only girl who can see through Kyle that they have periodic, cordial conversations. Now disfigured and alone, Kyle begins to seek out Lindy by following her from a distance.

Until, she involves herself trying to help her drug addict father in debt to two dealer brothers. When Kyle injects into this melee, where one of the brothers is shot to death by Kyle's father. The other brother vows retaliation by threatening to kill his daughter.

Soon after Kyle confronts the father offering his daughter sanctuary in his penthouse apartment. Lindy doesn't want to go, but her

father realizing he's ill equipt himself to protect her delivers her to the house. Where Kyle is called "Hunter" and initially hides his disfigured face from her. While Lindy sits alone in her room, rejecting the gifts he leaves outside her door.

Until, the tutor and black housemaid intervene a little to help Kyle understands who he needs to be, in order to gain her acceptance that would eventually lead to love. Just in time for Kyle to defend her drug dealer's brother finds them.

There isn't much passion and emotion to make the movie audience feel and believe. Only remind us of better screen version of the same storybook premise. Therefore, "Beastly" lack electricity and feels superficial and bland to watch especially with its brief "less than a hour and a half" running time.

PG-13; 80min. A CBS Films Release - Presented at selected

Rally from front page

communities are crucial after school programs that keep young people off the streets and out of trouble and help them succeed in school. The need to keep these programs open is voiced by many youth including Karlyn Boens. "I don't see how they would ever want to take our funds away," says Karlyn. "We need our funds. Without them our youth are left hopeless because we would have no place to go to get help with homework and every day youth problems." Karlyn also pointed out the importance of extracurricular activities that keep youth from being outside on the street or wasting time in their houses. Karlyn's advice to Gov. Quinn: "Don't take our funds. Give them back NOW!"

The t-shirts worn at the rally also sent a strong message to Gov. Quinn. Many youth people wore t-shirts that said "What About Us?" on the front and "Where do we Go Now?" on the back. Parents and concerned community residents and leaders wore t-shirts that said "Educate, Recreate or Incarcerate!" on the front and "Local People Taking Local Action for Local Solutions" on the back

Many other youth are voicing their opposition to Gov. Quinn's plan to cut the Community Youth Services grant line. These include Shania Brown and Shanovia Moore from Wentworth Residents United for Survival. "Where would I go without after school programs?" asks Shania. "I look forward to going to our community center for activities to stay out of trouble or to learn. To have a community that supports me is a blessing." Shanovia, a college student, credits the Wentworth Gardens' after school program with helping her achieve academic success. "The programs that Chicago Area Project provides to the community are the programs that kept me occupied as a child," states Shanovia. "The program influenced me and later I began to volunteer on my spare time. It would be devastating to lose something with such a good cause. I'm a college student who enjoys working with and helping others. Please try to save Wentworth Gardens' children by saving the after school program.

Organizations and programs supported by the Community Youth Services grant line are also teaching non-violence skills that are keeping youth out of trouble and out of jail. Ryan Johnson, 10, from EXODUS and the Mid-Austin Community Committee, for example, points out that the programs she belongs to are keeping children from being involved in shootings. And Erika Metcalf from Wentworth Gardens emphasizes that her program teaches teen to get along instead of fighting. "My community has a lot of new people and a lot of violence tried to start," says Erika, "but because of the program, we became friends instead of enemies with the new people. This program helps prevent violence from starting and is very needed in the Wentworth Gardens Community."

Another concern for African American parents is the loss of summer programs. "Our parents are concerned about their kids being unattended and getting into trouble over the long

hot summer," states Glen Hilton, Executive Director of North Suburban Area Project serving Evanston.

The bleak picture of a community without programs funded by Community Youth Services is painted by LaKeisha Evans from Bishop Shepard Little Memorial Center in the Back of the Yards/Englewood area. "What would my community look like without Chicago Area Project and Bishop Shepard Little Memorial Center?," asks LaKeisha. "My community would be hopeless. No one would see the fun, bright side of life that CAP and my organization offers. There would be a lot of drama!!" There is also plenty of evidence that eliminating the Community Youth Services grant line will end up costing Illinois taxpayers several million dollars as un-served high-risk youth end up in the expensive juvenile justice system.

"These programs, which cost taxpayers less than \$500/youth/year, focus on juvenile delinquency prevention," states CAP Executive Director David E. Whittaker. "The cost of keeping youth in juvenile detention is estimated to be up to \$80,000/youth/year. If the CAP and ICAP programs close down, many of the at-risk youth we serve are in great danger of ending up in the juvenile justice system. The cost to the State of Illinois would be enormous. If only one percent or 700 of these youth go into juvenile detention, it would cost Illinois \$56 million per year—almost 10 times more than the entire Community Youth Services grant line. And that's just the beginning. Research shows that youth in juvenile detention often become the adult criminals of tomorrow. The question that needs to be asked is, 'Do you want to pay a little bit now in prevention or pay a whole lot later for incarceration. The message is clear: Restore the Community Youth Services grant line for FY2011 and FY2012 NOW!"

For more than 70 years, the Area Project model, which is funded by the Community Youth Services grant line, has demonstrated effectiveness in producing positive outcomes for youth and their families and strengthening civic engagement in communities throughout Illinois. There are 55 organizations employing the Area Project model in high-risk neighborhoods in Chicago (see list below) and 232 organizations using the Area Project model working in communities of need throughout Illinois. The Area Projects are the only statewide program focused on the development of organizations created and led by local community residents. These organizations address systemic and community factors influencing youth crime and violence, thereby enhancing youth protective factors with community.

"The youth of Illinois are the future of Illinois," emphasizes Whittaker. "Governor Quinn and the State Legislature needs to immediately restore the Community Youth Services grant line for F2011 and FY2012. Without appropriate funding levels these programs will close, jeopardizing the safety, security, well-being—and future—of youth throughout the State of Illinois."

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