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

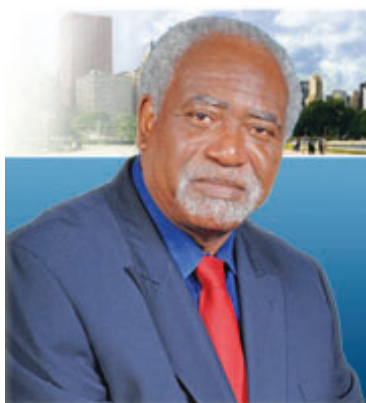
## Newly remodeled House of Prayer Site of Community Summit for Change CONGRESSMAN DAVIS, THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL BUSINESS GROUP, THE GREATER LAWNDAL BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ROLL CALL, SAVING OUR SONS, UNITED X AND NAEFFI UNITE TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY

Over 500 hundred community residents filled the remodeled House of Prayer Church, where the auditorium is now painted in white with yellow trimming, located at 3535 W. Roosevelt Rd., coming out to hear about jobs, contracts and grants and to discuss state program cuts and closing. Congressman Davis spearheaded the meeting organized by the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Business Group and members of the Greater Lawndale Black Chamber of Commerce (GLBCC), including Mark Carter, Vetress Boyce and Board President Percy Harrison. Also attending the meeting were 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Michael Chandler, 28<sup>th</sup> Ward Ald. Jason Ervin, and Chairman of the West Side Black Elected Officials - 37<sup>th</sup> Ward Ald. Emma Mitts. In addition, several community organizations were represented by their leaders and members. The meeting was held on Tuesday, May 22 at 6:00 pm. scheduled to 8:00 pm, but was extended past 9:00 pm giving community residents a chance to voice their concerns and get help.

Congressman Davis opened

the meeting by saying a few words, acknowledging Rev. Paul Jakes and then asking Dr. Lincoln Scott, Pastor of House of Prayer Church to pray for the meeting. He then introduced Ward Ald. Chandler who talked about jobs. "We need jobs in our community and I want people in this ward to be prepared for those jobs when they come along, whether they are construction jobs or whatever jobs they are." He pointed to his website as a resource for jobs at aldermanchandler.com which has a link for jobs and other city services and resources. He talked about One Summer Chicago a summer jobs program for youth that have 17,000 jobs. It can only be applied for through their website (onesummerchicago.org). He also mentioned going to the library, a neighbor's house or his office if you don't have a computer.

Ald. Emma Mitts spoke next. "People who are looking for jobs and those that have jobs, it's just a good thing to show some unity here this evening. This is the reason why we're here. She also stated that Mayor Rahm Emanuel has put a proposal to local 134, the



Danny K. Davis

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and told them you need to hire people on these private projects within their neighborhoods. So if you want to get in the electrician trade, then you can go on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and they will go through June, for a week's training. She also instructed those interested to get a letter of recommendation from the local elected official out to Sam Evans of Local 134



Mark Carter

and they will place you on the site." What I want to share with you I don't want to see folks outside come in and taking food from folks inside and our folks can't eat. That's what you all tell me. It hasn't been easy for us and I do know that some of us will work. Everybody is not out with their pants hanging down not trying to get a job. Some people want to work. But they need to have the opportunity to work. One thing they require you to do, is

you must pass the drug test..... We are going to make sure this process is going to work," said Mitts.

Rev John Harrell then made some announcements about petitions against budget cuts presented by St. Anthony Hospital to help keep the hospital open. He also mentioned other groups like Saving Our Sons, Roll Call, and the National Alliance for Empowerment of the formerly Incarcerated.

"I'm going to introduce, because I wanted to introduce Mark Carter," said Congressman Davis. "I want to tell you, there are some people who don't like Mark," stated Congressman Davis producing some laughter from the audience). "They don't like some of the things that Mark does. But you know there have always been people who expressed themselves in different ways,"..... But I can tell you that when people united, come together and try and make use of the skills and talents that they all have..... I think that Mark has a tremendous amount of talent and I think

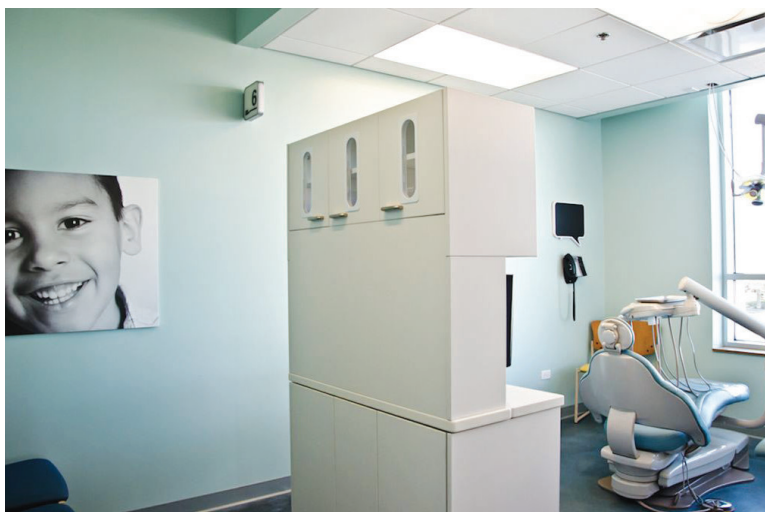
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## Lawndale Christian Health Center Unveils New Health and Fitness Center

*First-of-a-kind West Side facility marks a turning point in community-wide healthcare*



View of the fitness area in the new Health and Fitness Center at Lawndale Christian Health Center.



View of a patient room in the Lawndale Christian Health Center pediatric dentistry clinic.

On Tuesday, May 15, Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) fully celebrated the opening of its new Health and Fitness Center. The state-of-the-art facility located at 3750 W. Ogden provides a safe and inviting public space for fitness, nutrition and medical care in the heart of Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood. Mayor Rahm Emanuel along with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, 2<sup>nd</sup> District County Board Commissioner and LCHC Board President Robert Steele, and 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Ald. Michael Chandler participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Center, alongside other local, state and

federal officials, as well as staff and supporters of LCHC.

The recently completed 60,000-square-foot Health and Fitness Center represents LCHC's commitment to delivering high-quality medical care, while also facilitating wellness and community-building.

"We often describe this community as an underserved community and what I want to say today is I think the winds are changing. We are not an over served but this is a beautiful building and this is becoming a better served community and I'm excited about that. We're bringing employment,

we're bringing access to healthcare. I think one of the things I love the most is what you see downstairs. When you get to take a tour you get to see people working out. Those are people are people in our community who are taking charge of their own healthcare. That's empowering. That's people coming and helping themselves to be healthy not waiting on somebody else to be healthy. That's a change, that's a wonderful change and it is so exciting to see. You know we've made this neighborhood a little bit more beautiful and that's going to bring confidence. It's hopefully going to bring more development on Ogden

Ave. I was talking to the Alderman about improving our lights and just making this community beautiful because those are the things that change a community from being an underserved community to being a community that people respect and the people who live here themselves begin to respect themselves and begin to have hopes and have dreams that will make this community a better place," said Bruce Miller, CEO of Lawndale Christian Health Center.

"This Center will create jobs and economic opportunity right in the Lawndale community and empower

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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

## 2012 Focus

### Health and Education

Twelve years have past since the New Millenium scare of the year 2000, a time of uncertainty. In 1999, NLCN began by thanking God for making this 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. In 2011 Health and Education.

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

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

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

## Writer's Meetings!!

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## The North Lawndale Community News

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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# LANE CHANGE: More Radical Voices Speak During Anti-NATO Protests

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane - The1tlane@yahoo.com

Notwithstanding the self-styled Black Bloc anarchists and alleged potential terrorists now in custody for plotting Molotov cocktail bombings around the Windy City during the recently concluded NATO summit, the youthful faces of Occupy Chicago protesters rallying and marching before and during the two days of meetings by the post- World War II alliance were front and center. So was their fight against capitalism as symbolized by global aerospace industry giant Boeing Corporation.

"We set our goal from the beginning weeks ago to shut down Boeing," Occupy Chicago press committee spokesperson Rachel Perrotta, declared to a small group of about 100 protesters and media outlets in Union Park before Monday's march to Boeing's headquarters at 100 N. Riverside. "And Boeing ordered their workers to stay home for today. So, they were effectively shut down."

Perrotta went on to decry and disavow the violence said to be initiated by protesters during a huge demonstration on the first day of the summit Sunday (May 20), but added the melee in which dozens were arrested, pales "in comparison to the horrific policies of brutality and death that the NATO war machine is inflicting around the world every day." Less than 1,000 protesters marched after Monday's rally near the Washington Street Bridge under the eyes of Chicago Police Superintendent Gary McCarthy and hundreds of CPD officers.

NATO leaders representing the 28 nations of the Cold War military alliance concluded their two-day, world stage-sized summit in the Windy City Monday. And protests against the gathering hosted by President Barack Obama in his hometown began weeks before last weekend, kicking off with a traditional May



**Union Power:** IWW members Martina Rippon and Glenn Wallace sing "There's a Power in the Union" with accompaniment by Wallace's accordion in Union Park.

Day rally downtown.

But the thousands of young 20 something activists ignited months ago when the Occupy movement began in New York City fall, are not—and have not been—alone in their newfound dissatisfaction with the capitalism they have come to reject and oppose. They have also been joined by communists, unionists, socialists and other old, historically radical opponents of corporate America and a U.S. government that bases its policy foremost in the pursuit of securing corporate interests around the globe. These groups were once the youthful occupiers (hippies) of the 50s and 60s during the heyday of popular rebellion.

"There are going to have to be major changes made in our economics and political systems if we are to ever truly change the way the mega-rich and corporations have control of our government and economy," said Dolton resident Alyson Kennedy during the Union Park rally. Kennedy, 61, is also running for Cook County Clerk as a Socialist Workers



**Victory for a Day:** Occupy Chicago spokesperson Rachel Perrotta declared Boeing's decision to keep workers at home Monday a victory for the movement.

candidate. That's what the Occupy movement is trying to, she added.

"They are trying to build a real democracy in this country. It's going to take and awful lot of voices for their message to be heard."

They are now older, less rebellious detractors, but no less vocal in their critique of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century capitalism symbolized by the Boeing Corporation and the military organization that protects and projects massive multinational corporate interests around the world. And much of their well-worn rhetoric regarding the economic inequities of capitalism is echoed by the Occupy crowd of mostly youthful activists who probably were not born when the Soviet Union ceased to exist in 1989.

That event was thought the death kneel of communist ideology and for many Americans, represented and unequivocal victory for capitalism—until the current Great Recession.

Hailed as an opportunity to showcase Chicago as an international, cosmopolitan



**Unfriendly Skies:** Paper planes dart over the heads of Occupy Chicago protesters condemning Boeing Corporation as a "war criminal" Monday.

municipality capable of a global vision and as a centerpiece of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's political aspirations beyond Chicago, the summit was also seen by socialists and communists alike as an opportunity to gain a voice in the debate about the inherent economic inequality of capitalism.

And they got their chance to be heard in the fight against callous, profit-driven corporations and a government doing their bidding in the effort to bust unions and weaken community unity.

"We have to get as many people out in the street as possible, because we need a mass of people to make sure that we are heard," said Martina Rippon, a Kankakee resident and retired member of the International Workers of the World (IWW) union, at Union Park before the rally. She had just finished joining longtime friend and fellow IWW member and Ontario, Canadian Glenn Wallace on an accordion, during a festive rendition of "There's a Power in the Union" by Joe Hill.

## LCHC From Front Page

when we all learn how to work cooperatively together, we can accomplish things that we can't accomplish alone," stated Cong. Davis.

Mark Carter received a rousing applause by the audience as he asked the audience to say unity five times together. "Without it we can't go no where..." stated Carter. Carter also stated, "that means that from this point on all of our generations must unify into one body in order to make things happen for us in this city of Chicago....It is in this city where we are starving. We own less than one percent of the wealth. I think it's been like that since the civil war. With only less than one percent of the wealth, it's no way that we can grow as a people. It's no way that we can deal with our poverty issues, our unemployment, and our rate of incarceration. It's no way we can survive. We must have Cultural Based Community Controlled Development, (examples China town, Greek town, Little Italy etc.). I was talking to a guy and he said to me, our funding is the seed to our economic growth and if we plant it in somebody else's garden they will and shall continue to reap the benefits.

That is what has been happening in our community. We want to make sure that we empower our community to control the businesses along with putting our community to work," stated Carter. Carter also talked about the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Business Group, where he sits as President. Thanking Congressman Davis for the opportunity to unify and going to a next step and talking about a purpose driven agenda. "To make sure that, we develop our communities, to make sure, we are the general contractors on these major construction projects in our community. And if we are not going to be those general contractors, then we would like to have general contractors and developers who are community friendly, who don't mind signing those community benefit agreements. No other community is being developed without community benefit agreements.

I think it's only happening in our community....We can change that by organizing ourselves into a block of power; Into a mighty fist to strike a mighty blow, to make a mighty change. Carter also said he talked to Alderman Chandler to express their concern of unifying around a lot of the abandoned properties, as well as the construction projects that are coming,

mentioning the thirty million dollar UCAN project. "We want make sure that UCAN sits down with us and talk about a real community benefit agreement. At the end of his presentation, Mark mentioned his 13 years of being on the forefront fighting on behalf of the community bringing these issues to the table.

"I can tell you the most organized entity in black life is something called the black church. I know the value of the black church; the one thing that we own is the black church," stated Cong. Davis

"We have all played some role in the landscape that we're looking at," stated Rev John Harrell, pastor of New Evergreen Church and member of the New Genesis Pastors Alliance. "Instead of pointing the finger about what somebody didn't do we need to look forward and continue to move forward and not get distracted.... We all know what the description of our community is, we need to come together and find a prescription," remarked Rev. Harrell.

State Legislative officials were not present because they were in Springfield in session. "We're also talking about budget cuts. Our state legislature is in session right now..... This is our last opportunity to send them a message," said Davis. I talked to several of them and of course they can't be here... I'm just trying to get them to give as much priority to the issues that affect us. He said this before introducing some agencies that would be affected by budgets cuts. They included Donald Dew, CEO of Habitative Systems, Inc. (HSI), Pamela Rodriguez Executive Vice President of TASC, Center and Benny Lee, community liaison with TASC. , and Reginald Akkeem Berry Sr. co-founder of Saving Our Sons Ministries, Inc. an outreach of Greater Open Door MB Church.

Congress Davis stated that as action steps people should register to vote, if they haven't done so. "There is something we can do. We can send a simple message to state legislature don't cut education; don't cut money for substance abuse treatment, don't cut the heart out of our Safety net program. You can send one to your state rep, send one to your state Senator, to the speaker of the house, send one to the president of the Senate and send one to the Governor. That's what lobbyist do. We've got to teach ourselves to lobby. We have also decided to monitor every public works job," said Congressman Davis. For more information you can call Congressman Davis office at 773-533- 7520 or Mark Carter 312-905-3962.

## LCHC From Front Page



**Lawndale Christian Health Center - new Health and Fitness Center**

residents to take control of their health and wellness," said Mayor Emanuel. "Facilities like this one promote a high quality of life for Chicagoans right in their own neighborhoods and increase the overall economic and social vitality of our communities."

The Center's fitness areas feature an indoor track, more than 100 cardio and strength machines, group fitness and youth exercise classes, as well as free, personalized exercise and weight loss programs. An affordable rate structure gives guests the option of joining the Center on a monthly membership basis as a family or individual, or on a daily use basis.

Upper floors of the Center feature clinic space offering comprehensive health care for women, as well as medical and dental care for children. The Green Tomato Café, located on the building's first floor, will offer freshly prepared healthy food options and a comfortable gathering space for community members and visitors to enjoy year-round.

"This beautiful new Health and Fitness Center, which provides the residents of Lawndale with access to high-quality healthcare, is testament to the importance of the New Markets Tax Credit Program. By connecting critically needed private capital with underserved communities, the New Markets Tax Credit Program enables projects to come to fruition that bring vital resources and significantly improve the quality of life for individuals and families across the nation," said Donna J. Gambrell,

Director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, which administers the New Markets Tax Credit Program. Since the program started. The new markets tax credit program has resulted in the financing of 66 distinct projects here in Chicago. Totalling over 381 million dollars, these projects are located in thirty of the city's 77 community areas, almost half of the city's neighborhoods. In Lawndale over 26 million dollars in investment has occurred being the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of all the neighborhoods with Powerhouse high school being one of those investments.

The \$24 million Health and Fitness Center has been partially financed through the federally sponsored New Markets Tax Credit Program, which is designed not only to encourage development but also job growth and retention, education and small business growth in the nation's most economically depressed areas. U.S. Bank is the most active New Markets Tax Credit investor in the country. Working through Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, a not-for-profit community development corporation, and NCB Capital, a nonprofit CDFI, U.S. Bank committed more than \$6 million of federal New Markets Tax Credit equity in support of the development.

The federal government also granted \$10 million of federal stimulus funds to LCHC to support the construction of the Center. Designed by Chicago-based McBride Kelley Baurer Architects, the Center is expected to achieve LEED gold certification for its environmentally friendly features, including a geothermal heating and cooling system, a green roof and energy-efficient lighting and equipment.

Additionally, the Center is expected to create more than 100 new jobs, including physicians, medical and dental assistants, fitness staff and janitors. Supporting economic development and job creation within the Lawndale community is a key priority of LCHC. LCHC's 3860 W. Ogden location will remain the home of the organization's administrative offices, and the exam rooms will continue to be used for adult medicine.



## CLEARING DUMP SITE, AGAIN



*Alderman Jason Ervin (D-28th) shares a conversation with Westside business owner Raed Jabari Monday (May 21) as they observe a City of Chicago backhoe and dump truck clean up the lot adjacent to Jabaria's furniture store on Madison Street. Ervin and Jabari agreed commercial dumpers discarding business trash have been mostly responsible for the mess on the lot, which had recently just been hand cleared by youth volunteers during the Big Day of Service event on the Westside*

*Photo by: TRAVLES R. LANE*

## TRADING HYPOTHESES



*Sixth-grade classmates Kennedy Lawson (left) and Corey Rowland share a moment of discussion about their respective entries during the recent Science Project Day at Holy Family Lutheran School at 3415 W. Arthington St. in North Lawndale. All of the more than 200 students in grades Kindergarten -8th at Holy Family participated in the presentation of projects*

*May 14.*

*Photo by: TRAVLES R. LANE*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: In Search of True Equity in School Funding: Why We Oppose HB4277-House Floor Amendment No. 1

The Lawndale Alliance and the Progressive Action Coalition for Education urge you to contact State Representative Arthur Turner at (217) 782-8116 to tell him to vote no for HB4277 as proposed. HB4277 was introduced in the Illinois House of Representatives in January to make a technical change in the state code concerning school boundary changes. Representative Daniel J. Burke sponsored House Floor Amendment No. 1 on May 3, 2012 to address inequities in charter school funding as compared to traditional public school funding. Juan Rangel, the CEO of the UNO Charter Network, the operator of 11 charter schools in Chicago, testified at a public hearing that the amendment is necessary to cover salary expenses to attract and retain talented teachers.

Under the current law, charter schools may be funded from 75% to 125% of the per student public school tuition charged by the school district. Under the proposed amendment, charter schools would be funded at a minimum of 95% of the local tuition to a maximum of 100%. CPS operating costs are \$13,078 per pupil, according to the district's 2011 state report card (Catalyst Chicago, May, 2012). The House Executive Committee approved the proposal on May 9, 2012. Representative Deborah Mell withdrew from her role as Chief Co-Sponsor, while Representatives Rich Brauer and Paul Evans withdrew from their roles as Co-Sponsors on the same date. The bill awaits its 3rd reading and vote of the full House. The House Chief Co-Sponsors include Representatives Daniel J. Burke, Edward J. Acevedo, Ed Sullivan, Jr. and Thaddeus Jones. The House Co-Sponsors include Representatives Arthur Turner, Joe Sosnowski, Chris Nybo, Luis Arroyo,

Richard Morthland, Franco Coladipietro, Angelo Saviano, Cynthia Soto, Timothy L. Schmitz, Rich Brauer, Paul Evans, Michael G. Connelly and Darlene J. Senger.

### **Why We Oppose Amendment 1 As Proposed**

The current funding formula for charter schools was negotiated in 2008, and included a moratorium on new charter laws that would impact the way state and local governments finance charters until June 30, 2013. The Legislature should adhere to the law that was passed in 2008, and use this time to develop a more comprehensive funding proposal that would be equitable to all schools. As proposed, Amendment 1 does not identify any new revenue sources, and therefore, any increases in charter school funding before 2013 would come at the expense of existing funding for traditional neighborhood public schools.

Chicago Public Schools faces a \$712 million deficit this year, driven by increased operating costs and reductions in revenues at the federal, state and local levels. This projected deficit exists in spite of the fact that CPS closed a deficit of more than \$700 million this year through a combination of staff cuts, program reductions at some schools and renegotiated contracts, while also raising taxes to the highest level allowed by law. (Noreen S. Ahmed-Ullah and Joel Hood Chicago Tribune, March 28, 2012) CPS **has not identified** the costs or a funding source to cover the state-mandated extended day in Chicago Public Schools, slated to begin with the 2012-2013 school year. If Massachusetts and Houston are used as examples, the costs could range between \$525.4 million and \$825 million, or more. CPS will reduce capital spending (funding for buildings and major equipment) by 80%,

or nearly \$600 million, to help make up the deficit. CPS will make up the remaining deficit by renegotiating vendor contracts and streamlining operations. CPS has not ruled out layoffs or other cuts that could directly impact the classroom, and ultimately, the quality of education public school children receive.

In spite of CPS' financial difficulties over the years, they have worked with the civic community to make charter school development a priority. Indeed, charter schools are heavily supported by CPS' Office of New Schools and the Renaissance School Fund, and are part of a series of networks whose primary function is to provide financial, political, human and other resources to ensure that the charter schools succeed. The State of Illinois has already provided charter schools over \$386.4 million this year for operations, including \$48 million for annual support; \$9.7 million in startup funds for 4 new schools; \$6.7 million to expand the number of slots by 1,000 and \$22 million in new funds to add 3,000 slots for additional grades. Charter schools are public schools, and as such, have access to the same public funding streams accorded public schools. Many of the schools do not serve a significant population of children with special needs, and therefore, do not access those funds to the same degree as public schools. Charter schools are often organized as nonprofits and they have greater access to private foundation dollars than traditional public schools do. Charter schools typically bring in about 16% of their budgets from private sources, compared to about 8% for traditional schools. (Megan Batdorff 2009)

It should also be noted that charter schools have been a significant beneficiary of capital

funding from CPS' capital improvement program and state grants. In many instances they share facilities with newly renovated traditional public schools or take over the newly renovated facilities of public schools that have been closed. The UNO Charter Network will be building a new charter school with proceeds from a \$98 million grant from the State of Illinois.

Chicago is already moving toward equal funding for charter schools through its district-charter compact, which calls for equalized funding, more charter accountability and other measures. Cities that participate in the compact, an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, are eligible for a pot of \$20 million in implementation funding that the Gates Foundation will dole out over the next several years. While charter schools would receive an equal share of a district's tax dollars, the neighborhood schools would **not** share in the corporate and philanthropic contributions that charter school organizations often reap. (Jim Broadway, Catalyst Chicago, May, 2012)

This question of equitable funding is very complex, and involves a number of moving parts at the federal, state and local levels. If we're not careful, passing this house amendment could in effect give charter schools a significant funding advantage at the expense of traditional, neighborhood schools. In order for a system to be efficient, we must ensure that **all** public schools are strong, **regardless of whether they are charter or traditional**. This cannot occur by redirecting resources intended for traditional schools to make up for the charter schools' funding deficits.





**24<sup>th</sup> Alderman  
Michael D.  
Chandler  
Announces Skill  
Trades  
Apprenticeship Training Program  
Opportunities**

## ★ **24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Michael D. Chandler** ★ ★ **"News You Can Use" Report** ★

24<sup>th</sup> ward Alderman Michael D. Chandler is pleased to inform the Lawndale community about several skill trades apprenticeship training program opportunities now available to 24<sup>th</sup> ward residents.

**Pipefitters, HVACR and Building Trades Apprenticeship Training Program:** Local 597 Pipefitters Union is offering Apprentice training to become certified journeymen. **Apprentices are paid during the training period and there is no college tuition cost.** Applicants must have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent, must pass a math exam and drug screen, and live within the jurisdiction of Local 597. Apprentices who complete the training will become certified journeymen in four years, with the potential to earn an Associate Degree in Applied Science by taking three additional courses.

Information on the program can be obtained by calling the Local 597 Pipefitters Union offices, located at 25 North Ogden Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60607. Contact phone number is: 312-829-4191 or 708-326-9240. Website address: [www.ptf597.org](http://www.ptf597.org).

**The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Pre-Apprentice and Training Program:** The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters is now offering a pre-apprenticeship program to train persons wishing to join the union with no prior experience as a beginning carpenter.

The General Carpentry 9 week program combines class subjects (safety, math, print reading, carpentry topics) with shop projects (safety and layout). One-third of the pre-apprentice (PA) day is spent in the class, two-thirds in the shop. PA class work includes regular homework assignments and ongoing quizzes and tests. Time is also devoted each day to physical training and material handling. **A \$60.00 stipend is paid to the PA for weeks 4 thru 9.** Upon successful completion of the program the new apprentice receives \$300.00 in hand tools, initiation fees, and first quarter's Union Dues costs are also covered.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters at 12 E. Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Contact number: (312) 787-3076 or 847-640-7373. Website address: [www.chicap.org](http://www.chicap.org).

**Chicagoland Laborers' Training and Apprentice Center Program:** The Chicagoland Laborers' Apprentice Program is an employer-based apprentice referral program. Any individual currently hired as a laborer by a participating construction firm can be considered for the program. The employing construction firm must submit a sponsoring letter and application for the employee to be admitted to the program. Term of apprenticeship is two years and 2,400 hours of on-the-job work and training. Applications are accepted year round for the program. **Training allowances, wage progression and benefits schedules are offered through the program.**

The apprentice must meet the physical, legal and educational standards of the Apprentice program, including passing a drug

screen, high school diploma, GED or transcript showing completion of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, social security card, picture ID (Driver license or Illinois ID card), valid driver's license and a sponsoring letter by a participating contractor participating

in the program. Information on the program can be obtained at the Training and Apprentice Center at 1200 Old Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL 60188. Contact number: 630-653-0006. Website address: [www.chicagolaborers.org](http://www.chicagolaborers.org).

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*The Views and Opinions Expressed by writers are not necessarily those of the North Lawndale Community News*



# AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



**MEN IN BLACK III (\*\*1/2)** Usually, a movie sequel follow-up made several years later after the first sequel in 2002 and the 1997 initial film doesn’t always yield the best results. Just a chance to catch up with some old friends.

Even though it’s been a decade since the last sequel, Time seems to be on the right side for this return of Will Smith (in his first film in four years) and Tommy Lee Jones as agents J and K in a time travel scenario for this belated yet energetic follow-up.

A criminal alien assassin with large dark, sunken eyes and snarky teeth, Boris the Animal (Jermaine Clement) escapes a lunar maximum prison whose intent on re-writing history at the expense of agent K (Tommy Lee Jones) who initially shot off one of his arms while averting an alien invasion, and the extinction of his Roglodite race through a galactic security system device known as the Arknet back in 1969.

Boris manages to find the time travel device from a bearded guitarist/store owner who violates the assassin code of ethics in movies. By allowing the guitarist to live afterwards, allowing him later to help Agent J.

The alien assassin uses the device to time travel back to change his initial outcome by killing Agent K in his youth that leads to consequences that would profoundly affect the future.

After attending a memorial service for their former boss, Zed (Rip Torn, seen only in a photo), the agency staff get introduced to their new boss Agent O (Emma Thompson), and a long time friend to agent K.

Agents K (Tommy Lee Jones) and J (Will Smith) learn about Boris’ prison escape and begin their search that eventually leads to an intergalactic confrontation at a Japanese restaurant. Where Boris gives a threat to Agent K by telling him that he’s

already dead. Then the alien assassin manages to elude agents J and K during the restaurant melee with other alien creatures posing as humans.

Later, J tries to get K to talk about the secret related to K’s initial confrontation with Boris that led to an epiphany moment at Cape Canaveral. His response: “Don’t ask questions. You don’t want to know the answers to”

But the persistent J looks for ways at the bureau to find out the truth. He tries break into K’s computer file, but access is denied (naturally!)

Later when K phones J to talk about his past from his apartment; then the phone suddenly goes silent on Agent J’s end. Being unaware that his partner, Agent K has been evaporated while sitting with one of his arsenal of space weapons seemingly prepared for an altercation.

The next morning, Agent J (Will Smith) becomes bewildered by the presence of a different partner he doesn’t recognize. While, no one at the agency knows who Agent K. is. Then Agent J mentions some previous exploits that Agent O reveals didn’t happen. Because Agent K was murdered years before by Boris the Animal.

So now, Agent J goes over to the same store where the bearded musician agrees to help the agent “time jump” back to the day before his partner’s murder in 1969 to avert the tragedy would change everything in the present. The guitarist warns the agent to do his mission without having contact with the young Agent K that might alter history.

Then in a brief racial reference to the era Upon arriving in the year 1969, Agent J gets briefly greeted to racial profiling by two N.Y. cops who stop and questions him in a fancy car that the agent borrowed (sans “took”) from a white New Yorker.

The scene allows Smith to apply some social justice on the cops that could happen in the movies (no matter the era) with his memory flash stick on them.

But ultimately Agent K meets up with the young agent K, played by Josh Brolin who delivers the same deadpan stare and nonchalant demeanor that is close enough

for Brolin doing a funny impression of Tommy Lee Jones in character. The young K takes Agent J into custody for telling a fabricated story

Eventually, Agent J tells him the truth that involves keeping him alive that creates a new chain of events when they team up that leads to a Coney Island chase before the agents meet Griffin (Michael Stuhlbarg), a little quirky little man with the ability and vision to know the future before it happens that also has custody of the Arknet.

They begins a quest to Cape Canaveral where the device needs to be aboard the Apollo rocket for its lunar flight that Boris seeks to destroy before the security device can activate and protect Earth from his alien invasion.

It all sounds predictable, and there are a few dramatic errors but writer Etan Cohen who gets final script credit here puts a nice twist into the proceedings that we almost don’t see coming.

When the agents and Griffin are stop for trespassing near the launching pad. They seek clearance from a black colonel who initially doesn’t cooperate until the agent use their memory flash pen.

It eventually leads to showdown between the agents and Boris above the launching pad. Where the astronauts deny to themselves what they are actually seeing occur outside their window.

As foretold by Griffin, a death occurs, but there is also a revelation that is recognized from this incident. Without tipping it off, Let’s just say that it was no co-incident that agent J was chosen by the veteran K from the initial 1997 film that could be the best “time” to end the series on a trilogy note. Even though, there is a fourth installment rumored.

Regardless, reuniting many of the film’s cast, director Barry Sonnenfeld and crew from the previous films, “Men in Black 3” is nothing special, but it is pleasantly amusing, and spectacular fun with an almost unexpected and charming surprise. This is a do-over that makes up for the sequel a decade ago that is done better. **PG-13; 94min. A Columbia Pictures Release – Presented at selected theatres**

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David Schultz

### THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY (\*\*\*)

There is simplicity and beautiful grace in this Japanese anime based on Mary Norton’s children’s book, “The Borrowers” that was previously done in a 1997 frenzy live action “Home Alone” slapstick style with John Goodman, bears no resemblance here.

Shawn is a parent-neglected, lonely boy driven to live with relative Hara in her cottage home in the forest. Where the boy discovers a tiny family who try to live unnoticed by the larger variety of humans.

But the tiny parents’ daughter Arrietty’s unbiased approach and curiosity for adventure leads to a forbidden friendship that changes them by their age and inches in this charming, fluidly drawn offering from the famed Japanese animation Studio Ghibli who gave us “Spirited Away”, “Kiki’s



Delivery Service”, to name a few.

This Japanese version is dubbed with well known U.S. vocal talents; Carol Burnett, Will Arnett and Disney Channel stars Bridgit Mendler and David Henrie. **G; 95min. Walt Disney Home Video Coming Soon to Home Video: Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum team up in this rebooted big screen version of the TV series, “21 Jump Street” due out June 26....Eddie Murphy stars in “A Thousand Words” due out June 26... The 1968 Jane Fonda cult favorite “Barbarella” makes its blue ray debut, July 3....Jason Segel stars in “Jeff, Who lives at Home arrives June 19**

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