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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PUBLISHER : STRATEGIC HUMAN SERVICES

VOLUME NO. 13 - ISSUE NO. 7

ISSN 1548-6087

Week of February 14, 2013

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

PROSECUTORS SECURE 50 YEAR SENTENCE FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

A Chicago man was sentenced to 50 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for shooting an individual leaving a party they were both attending, according to the Office of Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez.

Frank Jemison, 23, of the 1800 block of South St. Louis, was sentenced last week for attempted first degree murder.

According to prosecutors, on September 14, 2008, Jemison was attending a party at the house of a friend in the 1400 block of South Ridgeway. The victim, his brother and a friend were leaving the party shortly after arriving when Jemison and several others began yelling at them, accusing them of stealing a cell phone. The group followed the three

individuals to their car. During the confrontation, Jemison shot the victim twice, once in the leg and once in the buttocks. The victim's brother picked him up and dragged him down the street while Jemison continued to shoot while running in the opposite direction.

Jemison was arrested a few weeks later on an unrelated charge and subsequently identified by the victim, his brother and the friend in line ups.

Jemison was convicted by a jury on December 6, 2012 and sentenced by Cook County Judge Mary Colleen Roberts to 50 years.

Alvarez thanked Assistant State's Attorneys Barbara Bailey and Michael O'Malley and the Chicago Police Department for their work on this case.

Lawndale Christian Health Center Wins Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project

Chicago's North Lawndale community is not often cited in the news as an innovator in the field of health and fitness – but that changed last year with the creation of the new Lawndale Christian Health and Fitness Center. The 60,000-square-foot, four-story building, erected on a formerly vacant lot, is a handsome structure of brick and glass that anchors the busy intersection of Ogden and Hamlin avenues. More importantly, the Center now provides a foundation for healthy community life.

The lower two floors house more than 100 fitness machines, an indoor track, basketball gym and areas for group fitness and exercise classes. The lobby includes a café with fresh, healthy food options and small kitchen goods for sale. The café also features a learning kitchen that teaches healthy cooking.

Upper floors hold a pharmacy

as well as 30 medical exam rooms and 17 dental bays, expected to allow for over 300,000 medical visits, 20,000 dental visits and filling more than 75,000 prescriptions annually. A top floor conference center and rooftop garden finish up the building.

After assessing the needs of North Lawndale residents and overcoming a \$10 million financing gap, the building was constructed in accordance with Green Roof and LEED Certification Guidelines. The Center's development and construction were funded by a combination of state and federal grants, new market tax credits and the developer's equity. The new health and fitness center is a testament to the hard work undertaken by North Lawndale's renowned community. Nearly 1,500 community, government, finance, and philanthropic leaders gathered on Feb. 13 at the 19th annual Chicago Neighborhood

Development Awards (CNDA) to honor those whose physical structures or transformative community work were deemed the year's best. CNDA is the only juried award ceremony of its kind in the nation.

This year's awardees – representing 10 different award categories – provided a view into the challenges and opportunities faced by the city's neighborhoods, and the diverse and innovative ways in which they are being met. From an urban farm on formerly vacant lots in Englewood, to a "green incubator" on the site of a former lamp factory; from the use of theater to fight racism and spur economic development, to the creation of an affordable dormitory for Chicago college students transitioning from neighborhood to college life – the winning projects span the city's neighborhoods and provide an in-depth look at

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Saint Anthony Hospital Expanding Services for Local Businesses Outpatient Clinic Provides Occupational Health Services

Saint Anthony Hospital has been taking care of Chicago's Southwest side for more than 100 years. Now, Saint Anthony is expanding its services to offer a focused and specialized Occupational Health service to local companies and business owners—bringing quality healthcare to the local business community.

"Our Occupational Health Service Center at Kedzie has a team of dedicated, specially trained professionals that will provide care to safeguard and strengthen the health of Chicago's workforce," says Dr. Carl Gustas, DO, Medical Director, Occupational Health Services. "Employees are most competent, efficient, and productive when they are healthy."

Last year, the U.S. Department of Labor reported nearly 3 million nonfatal injuries and illnesses in the private sector, which caused

more than 900,000 employees to take time off work. As part of its launch of this new service line, Saint Anthony Hospital is offering a free Occupational Assessment to help ensure a healthy and productive workforce. This assessment includes a visit to a place of business to discuss safety and prevention programs, providing resources to use when incidents occur, and evaluating or establishing health and wellness programs.

Gustas states that additional Saint Anthony health service offerings such as drug testing, illness care and treatment, medical surveillance exams, onsite radiology suite, health education programs, and rehabilitation services give employers and their employees a broad spectrum of ways to stay healthy and safe.

"Our commitment is to a continuum of care that promotes

See Clinic page 7

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN CARDISS COLLINS

As 24th Ward Alderman, it is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of one of North Lawndale's most respected and endeared leaders, The Honorable Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, the first African-American Congresswoman to represent the state of Illinois in the United States Congress. She was 81 years old.

Congresswoman Collins represented the 7th Congressional District with honor and distinction for 22 years until retiring from office in 1997. She was elected to Congress on June 5, 1973 in a special election to fill the seat after the death of her husband, George Collins, in a plane crash. Congresswoman Collins was also a loyal and active member of the 24th Ward Regular Democratic Organization throughout her political career in office.

Congresswoman Collins was considered a "trailblazer" throughout her political career. She was the first African-American woman to represent a Congressional District in the Midwest. Congresswoman Collins was also the first woman



Congresswoman Cardiss Collins

and first African-American to serve as Democratic Whip-at-Large. Congresswoman Collins was also elected chair of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 96th Congress.

Congresswoman Collins was a tireless advocate for consumer protection, universal healthcare, child care, education and human rights issues. She served on the House Energy and Commerce, Government Operations committees and was named chairwoman of the Subcommittee

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Visit us on our website at www.nlcen.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 2013 Focus

Health, Education, and News Literacy

Thirteen 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 and 2012 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 2013 year.

Writer's Meetings!!
The North Lawndale Community News
Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203
Time 6:00pm
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Thursday of the Month
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.

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Drop Site Distribution: Gregory Patterson, Melna Allen, Denzelle Gresham, Robert Williams, and Chris Lewis 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.

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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 of Illinois Depart of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.DCEO through Sate Rep. Art Turner, The McCormick Tribune Foundation, the National Black Caucus of States Institute, Advocate Bethany Fund, and contributions from our community, advertisers, and readers. The North Lawndale Community News was started with a grant from the North Lawndale Small Grants Initiative now known as the Small Grants Human Development Corporation, and the Steans Family Foundation.



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

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LEGAL NOTICE

To merchants who have accepted Visa and MasterCard at any time since January 1, 2004: Notice of a 6+ billion dollar class action settlement.

Si desea leer este aviso en español, llámenos o visite nuestro sitio web.

Notice of a class action settlement authorized by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York.

This notice is authorized by the Court to inform you about an agreement to settle a class action lawsuit that may affect you. The lawsuit claims that Visa and MasterCard, separately, and together with banks, violated antitrust laws and caused merchants to pay excessive fees for accepting Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards, including by:

- Agreeing to set, apply, and enforce rules about merchant fees (called *default interchange fees*);
- Limiting what merchants could do to encourage their customers to use other forms of payment through, for example, charging customers an extra fee or offering discounts; and
- Continuing that conduct after Visa and MasterCard changed their corporate structures.

The defendants say they have done nothing wrong. They say that their business practices are legal and the result of competition, and have benefitted merchants and consumers. The Court has not decided who is right because the parties agreed to a settlement. On November 27, 2012, the Court gave preliminary approval to this settlement.

THE SETTLEMENT

Under the settlement, Visa, MasterCard, and the bank defendants have agreed to make payments to two settlement funds:

- The first is a “Cash Fund” – a \$6.05 billion fund that will pay valid claims of merchants that accepted Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards at any time between January 1, 2004 and November 28, 2012.
- The second is an “Interchange Fund” – estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion – that will be based on a portion of the interchange fees attributable to certain merchants that accept Visa or MasterCard credit cards for an eight-month “Interchange Period.”

Additionally, the settlement changes some of the Visa and MasterCard rules applicable to merchants who accept their cards.

This settlement creates two classes:

- A *Cash Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and other entities that accepted any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S. at any time from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012, and
- A *Rule Changes Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and entities that as of November 28, 2012 or in the future accept any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S.

WHAT MERCHANTS WILL GET FROM THE SETTLEMENT

Every merchant in the Cash Settlement Class that files a valid claim will get money from the \$6.05 billion Cash Fund, subject to a deduction (not to exceed 25% of the fund) to account for merchants who exclude themselves from the Cash Settlement Class. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on the actual or estimated interchange fees attributable to the merchant's MasterCard and Visa payment card transactions from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Cash Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed,
- The deduction described above not to exceed 25% of the Cash Settlement Fund, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, money awarded to the class representatives, and attorneys' fees and expenses all as approved by the Court.

In addition, merchants in the Cash Settlement Class that accept Visa and MasterCard during the eight-month Interchange Period and file a valid claim will get money

from the separate Interchange Fund, estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on an estimate of one-tenth of 1% of the merchant's Visa and MasterCard credit card dollar sales volume during that period. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Interchange Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, and any attorneys' fees and expenses that may be approved by the Court.

Attorneys' fees and expenses and money awarded to the class representatives: For work done through final approval of the settlement by the district court, Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys' fees in an amount that is a reasonable proportion of the Cash Settlement Fund, not to exceed 11.5% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and 11.5% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion to compensate all of the lawyers and their law firms that have worked on the class case. For additional work to administer the settlement, distribute both funds, and through any appeals, Class Counsel may seek reimbursement at their normal hourly rates, not to exceed an additional 1% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and an additional 1% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion. Class Counsel will also request reimbursement of their expenses (not including the administrative costs of settlement or notice), not to exceed \$40 million and up to \$200,000 per Class Plaintiff in service awards for their efforts on behalf of the classes.

HOW TO ASK FOR PAYMENT

To receive payment, merchants must fill out a claim form. If the Court finally approves the settlement, and you do not exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class, you will receive a claim form in the mail or by email. Or you may ask for one at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com, or call: 1-800-625-6440.

OTHER BENEFITS FOR MERCHANTS

Merchants will benefit from changes to certain MasterCard and Visa rules, which will allow merchants to, among other things:

- Charge customers an extra fee if they pay with Visa or MasterCard credit cards,
- Offer discounts to customers who do not pay with Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards, and
- Form buying groups that meet certain criteria to negotiate with Visa and MasterCard.

Merchants that operate multiple businesses under different trade names or banners will also be able to accept Visa or MasterCard at fewer than all of the merchant's trade names and banners.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

Merchants who are included in this lawsuit have the legal rights and options explained below. You may:

- **File a claim to ask for payment.** You will receive a claim form in the mail or email or file online at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.
- **Exclude yourself** from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class). If you exclude yourself, you can sue the Defendants for damages based on alleged conduct occurring on or before November 27, 2012 on your own at your own expense, if you want to. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any money from this settlement. If you are a merchant and wish to exclude yourself, you must make a written request, place it in an envelope, and mail it with postage prepaid and postmarked no later than **May 28, 2013** to Class Administrator, Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement, P.O. Box 2530, Portland, OR 97208-2530. The written request must be signed by a person authorized to do so and provide all of the following information: (1) the words “In re Payment Card Interchange Fee

and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation,” (2) your full name, address, telephone number, and taxpayer identification number, (3) the merchant that wishes to be excluded from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), and what position or authority you have to exclude the merchant, and (4) the business names, brand names, and addresses of any stores or sales locations whose sales the merchant desires to be excluded.

Note: You cannot be excluded from the Rule Changes Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class).

- **Object to the settlement.** The deadline to object is: **May 28, 2013**. To learn how to object, see: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com or call 1-800-625-6440. Note: If you exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class you cannot object to the terms of that portion of the settlement.

For more information about these rights and options, visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

IF THE COURT APPROVES THE FINAL SETTLEMENT

Members of the Rule Changes Settlement Class are bound by the terms of this settlement. Members of the Cash Settlement Class, who do not exclude themselves by the deadline, are bound by the terms of this settlement whether or not they file a claim for payment. Members of both classes release all claims against all released parties listed in the Settlement Agreement. The settlement will resolve and release any claims by merchants against Visa, MasterCard or other defendants that were or could have been alleged in the lawsuit, including any claims based on interchange or other fees, no-surcharge rules, no-discounting rules, honor-all-cards rules and other rules. The settlement will also resolve any merchant claims based upon the future effect of any Visa or MasterCard rules, as of November 27, 2012 and not to be modified pursuant to the settlement, the modified rules provided for in the settlement, or any other rules substantially similar to any such rules. The releases will not bar claims involving certain specified standard commercial disputes arising in the ordinary course of business.

For more information on the release, see the settlement agreement at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

THE COURT HEARING ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT

On September 12, 2013, there will be a Court hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement, class counsels' requests for attorneys' fees and expenses, and awards for the class representatives. The hearing will take place at:

United States District Court for the
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11201

You do not have to go to the court hearing or hire an attorney. But you can if you want to, at your own cost. The Court has appointed the law firms of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP, Berger & Montague, PC, and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP to represent the Class (“Class Counsel”).

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this case (*In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1720), you may:

Call toll-free: 1-800-625-6440
Visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com
Write to the Class Administrator:
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Please check www.PaymentCardSettlement.com for any updates relating to the settlement or the settlement approval process.

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THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HADIYA PENDLETON



Friends of Hadiyah Pendleton speaking at her funeral



Friends of Hadiyah Pendleton speaking at her funeral

There are many serious events taking place in our country at this time that have our attention like the Wars in Afghanistan, out-of-control weather events like hurricanes, tornados, floods, and snow storms in places you would not dream of in a million years. Even more are the events that have been re-occurring over the past 10 years, which are the rash murders of young people in Chicago. It's not only serious it is devastating to this city and our Nation.

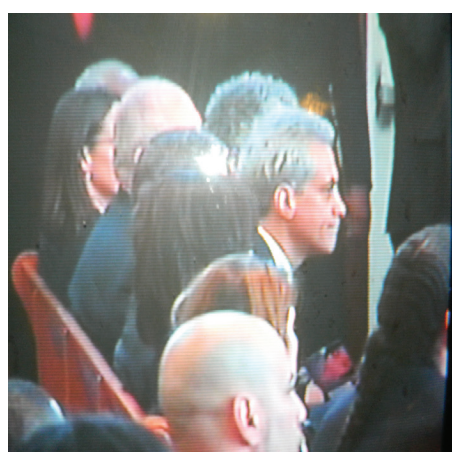
Every Media Outlet in Chicago covered the story surrounding the latest victim, A beautiful honor student named Hadiya Pendleton. Hadiya was 15 years old, with a very promising future. Her parents did all of the right things in raising her, and yet she became the victim of a senseless murder. Just like so many others over the last year. There were over 400 deaths of young people. When will it end?

Hadiya had been to the White House a week prior to her untimely Death. Hadiya and her classmates from King High School, attended and performed at President Obama's inauguration. One week later she was killed in the park ironically, not far from where the President and the First Family reside in Hyde Park.

Gang members had mistaken Hadiya and her friends for rival gang members. They shot them for being on their so called Turf. When did they purchase this property?

The funeral services for the 15 yrs. old was held on sat. Feb. 9, 2013 hundreds turned out was to view her body on Friday the Feb. 8, 2013, followed by services on sat. morning at 11:00 am. The First Lady Michelle Obama, Mayor Emanuel, Father Flager and others were all in attendance.

See Hadiyah page 5



Mayor Rahm Emanuel at Hadiyah Pendleton's funeral

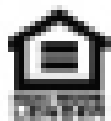


Father Michael Plaker speaking at Hadiyah Pendleton's funeral

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24th Ward Alderman Michael D. Chandler ★ "News You Can Use" Report ★

Get Valuable Construction Technology Training!!! Enroll in Dawson Technical Institute Program

24th Ward Alderman Michael D. Chandler is encouraging all eligible adults seeking opportunities in the Construction Trades Industry to enroll in the new Construction Technology Program being conducted at the City Colleges of Chicago Kennedy-King College/Dawson Technical Institute.

"I encourage anyone interested in training in the Construction Trades Field to take advantage of this program being offered at the Dawson Technical Institute at Kennedy-King College, stated Alderman Chandler. The training gained through the program will give participants valuable certification and degree qualifications necessary to secure viable

employment opportunities in this industry."

The classes are conducted under a four to eight week schedule. The areas of training focus are: 1) Bricklaying; 2) Concrete Masonry; 3) Construction Management (A.A.S Degree); 4) Construction Carpentry; 5) Overhead Electrical Line Worker; 6) Plumbing and Fire Protection; and 6) Welding (Combination). Day and Evening classes are available under the program. Certification and Degree programs are offered under the program.

The technical institute also provides students with academic advising, career counseling, individual or group tutoring and access to their Learning Center, which contains informational

and reference materials for learning.

To apply, students must submit a valid driver's license and official high school transcript or GED. A reading and math placement test may also be required before enrollment. Some programs may also require a student to pass a health examination administered by the Department of Health.

Financial aid is also available. However, eligible applicants must file a FAFSA if they are seeking financial assistance with tuition costs. Students who qualify for financial aid, but have not completed their high school diploma or GED, will be subject to federal regulation guidelines associated with such assistance.

Interested applicants can get registration information on the Construction Technology Program by contacting the Dawson Technical Institute at 773-451-2000. Information can also be obtained on the web by visiting the City Colleges of Chicago Kennedy-King College/Dawson Technical Institute website: www.ccc.edu. The address to the Dawson Technical Institute is 3901 S. State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60609.

Information on this and other training program opportunities are also available on Alderman Michael D. Chandler's website: www.aldermanchandler.com.

Health from front Page

the challenges that communities face in a changing, global economy.

Created in 1994 by Local Initiatives Support Corporation Chicago (LISC Chicago) to raise the profile of and underscore the importance of investments in neighborhoods – particularly inner city neighborhoods– CNDA has grown into one of the city's most well-attended events, attracting a cross-section of leaders who gather to both honor and be inspired by the exemplary work. Many of the awards focus on physical developments, including three Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Awards for Architectural Excellence in Community Design and designations for both the best for-profit and nonprofit real estate developments of the year. Other awards have been added to the program to recognize and honor innovative community strategies

and emerging leadership, as well as a special recognition award given to an entity that defies easy categorical definition. In addition, a non-juried Richard M. Daley Friend of the Neighborhoods Award is given to a person whose lifetime has involved a continuous commitment to, and impact on, Chicago's neighborhoods.

"At the Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards, we acknowledge and celebrate the organizations, developers and architects who sustain and enhance the vibrancy of our city," said Susana L. Vasquez, executive director of LISC Chicago. "Their accomplishments exemplify how Chicago is a leader in community engagement, planning, development and physical design."



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LIVE FRIDAY MARCH 8, 2013

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Hadiya from Page 4

Hadiya's friends spoke with sadness about their friendship with Hadiya. They all seemed to be her best friend. They shared some stories and fond memories. The First Lady did not speak, she was there as a parent for support to Hadiya's parents. There was singing; even the famous song by Boys to Men, "How do I say Good bye?" was performed. There was also praise dancing.

Some of Hadiya's friends and family members were outside hoping to get into the filled to capacity church service. A few of them held colorful obituaries with pictures of Hadiya &

special moments in her short life. It's a day in Chicago that no one wants to revisit.

But, just about everyone agrees that something has to be done about the Violence, Gangs & Guns on the streets. Over 40 have died already this year 2013 and it's only February. We are on our way to surpassing the amount murdered last year. Mayor Rahm Emanuel & Police Commissioner Garry McCarthy are working on strategies to deal with the problem, more importantly, how to prevent more tragedies like this happening again, & again.

Friday Feb. 15th, 2013 President Obama arrived in Chicago to discuss the Gun Violence and other problems plaguing our communities.

There has been pressure from Jesse Jackson Sr. and others for the President to visit his home town and assist with solutions to this seemingly unending rash of murders.

Something has to be done. It is out- of- control. The children are asking, "Who's going to be next?" They are afraid it could be one of them. Hopefully, they will be able to live in peace soon, and not have to ask that question.

Just maybe the Gangs will realize that what they

are doing is senseless, taking lives of Beautiful, innocent, people that they don't even know and STOP. The Violence is in many cities, But, it seems to be worse in Chicago and we are now known as The Murder Capital of the World. Very Sad Distinction! There have been more murders in Chicago in the past 10 years than all of the people killed in Afghanistan. Enough said, now what? What are we going to do?

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AT THE FLICKS

By David Schultz, film critic

BEAUTIFUL CREATURES (**1/2)

Even though this is the second of three films due out that is obviously intended to fill in the void left by the conclusion of the “Twilight” saga and their fans. Perhaps a more accurate film title to best describe this movie would have been “Satanic Rites of the Ya Ya Sisterhood”.



Ethan Wate (Alden Ehrenwach) is your average, small town teenager anxious to go off to college as a means to escape his dead end existence living in Gatlin, South Carolina. Even though he harbors hand sketches from his dreams of a girl he’s never met or believed existed. He also roams this family burial site where he finds a large diamond broach with initials and dates engraved inside.

Then naturally, a new girl arrives in town, Lena Duchannes (Alice Englert) who happens to be the fifteen year old niece to reclusive and wealthy uncle, Macon Ravenswood (Jeremy Irons) who owns most of Gatlin from his ancestors and the family that the townspeople think is “strange” for their suspected satanic worshipping.

Of course, Ethan falls in love with the new girl that he envisioned from his dreams. Eventually, Lena mentions the same about him from her dreams. But popular girl and religious freak, Emily Asher (Zoey Deutch) is the first to openly oppose the presence of Lena for her family connection to the Ravenswoods in their class that leads to the unexplained classroom window shattering and showers the students.

Where the eye patch wearing teacher (Pruitt Vance Taylor) earlier advises his students of their expected participation in the annual re-enactment of the Battle of Honey Hill, from which their town was founded and happens to the sweet 16th birthday of Lena whose being fought over by Ethan over the bias nature of his residence.

Still, Beautiful Creatures” is more cinematically inclined than a chore. The latter was how I felt about most of the “Twilight” saga through at least three and a half films of the movie series. However, credit here goes to writer-director Richard LaLaGravenese who makes movies that stand out their own merit. But he has had his share of die hard audience fervor over his screen adaptation of “The Bridges of Madison County” in 1995.

In “Creatures” LaGravenese uses the story to showcase the teen age angst of finding one’s self and coming of age when confronted by circumstances that challenge a person to evolve. Even though this same life choices that befall anyone whether a person or witch. In the movies, we are all human by our actions and reactions. These are part of some familiar themes we’ve seen before but felt weren’t prominent enough in “Twilight”.

The romance is apparent between the unlikely couple, but this film doesn’t wallow in the notion while it does broaden its scope. Even though, the film begins to drag a little about a half hour before the finale. The movie rebounds in time for Ethan to choose between love and college.

PG-13; 120min. A Warner Bros. Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

SAF HAVEN (**)

The latest romantic book to movie from author Nicholas Sparks who gave us “The Notebook” gets off to a dramatic quick start. Julianne Hough as Katie is a married suburban woman who sets out to escape from an abusive relationship.



With a little help in changing her hair color, wearing hoodie and bus ticket money from an elderly neighbor; Katie ends up starting a new life in a sleepy and scenic seaside North Carolina town community of Southport.

While a determined cop, Tierney (David Lyons) with a growing “Fatal Attraction” - type fetish; takes an active interest in Katie’s disappearance, trying to her whereabouts from the suspected but uncooperative elder neighbor.

Ultimately, the cop centers his

investigation checking over countless bus surveillance tapes. Until he spots Katie slipping onto a bus headed to Atlanta that still has him trying to track her down through the bus’ south east route. In which Tierney creates a photo sketch of her submitted to an all-points bulletin as a murder suspect.

Even when the film shifts back and forth from Tierney’s investigation turned obsession that gets him relieved from duty by his police captain. This doesn’t stop him while on suspension from breaking into the elderly neighbor’s house while asleep; to get a clue to Katie’s whereabouts from a phone message.

Because so much of Duhamel’s character seems a bit gullible and preoccupied at times as he accepts everything on ‘face value’ especially Hough’s character.

Until Alex happens to visit his cop friend at the station to prepare for the town’s July 4th celebration when he spots her wanted poster on the wall. Then the film goes through the usual routine with an incented Alex confronting Katie who reveals the cop is also her husband that leads into the brief split up because he can’t phantom whether or not she can be trusted. Until she tries to leave town, Then Alex advises her that the safest place to be is next to him (Oh brother)

But these “trust issues” could be also said about the movie itself. Without spoiling it, the film suddenly reveals a couple of twists and illogical responses that are key points that don’t make enough sense toward the rest of the tired movie.

PG-13; 115min. A Relativity media Pictures Release- Presented at selected theaters



A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD (*1/2)

The third time isn’t the charm for the latest aging ‘80’s action star to try to recapture their old glory running, diving, shooting through hell storm of bullets, explosions, car chases, crashes and skimpy plotlines. Bruce Willis is the latest to join Schwarzenegger and Stallone that it’s not a good year for old action heroes

Basically overblown mayhem on a grand scale to help compensate for a thin script and dysfunctional and unclear family issues; This fifth film in the franchise that comes nearly six years since “Live Free or Die Hard”, Bruce Willis returns to his iconic renegade cop role, John Mc Clane who sets out on another “vacation” trip to reunite with an estranged grown son, Jack Jr. (Jai Courtney) whose been imprisoned in Russia for murdering a man in a nightclub and slated to appear in court with a political prisoner, Yuri Komorov (Sebastian Koch) that hired Jack to kill

a former associate in the nightclub

Following the concerns of his daughter, Lucy (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) who warns her father not to make a bigger mess; which is partly what we expect Willis’ McClane (Bruce Wills) arrives in time to attend the highly publicized courtroom trial when a massive multi-car car explosion occurs as a distraction for Jack Jr. and Komorov to escape. After the most elaborate and wasteful car chase and smash-up scene in which John helps his son and the political prisoner escape the bad guys.

John learns that his disgruntled son is CIA operative whose not too happy by his dad’s sudden appearance that disrupt his mission that involves working with Komorov who has hidden a key to a incriminating file.

Naturally, father and son have their clashes while the father proves his instincts are better than his son’s intended plans tbring Komorov to the CIA with the file.

But the film’s script applies the usual twists and double crosses when Komorov is reunited with his daughter that ultimately leads to a ridiculous plot line set inside the nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl and a fortress filled large crates of OU-35uranium that is a global threat and potential profit to Komorov.

But all the explosions and chaotic calamity that goes overboard only serves as a weak reminder to how little this script has too offer. It’s a whole lot of noise amidst very little sense. It’s a slam- band trash that looks impressive for action fans that care less about a coherent story plot and sub plots.

PG-13; 97min. A 20th Century Fox Picture Release – Presented at selected theaters

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Clinic from front Page

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and disability," Gustas said. "It's
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Collins from front Page

on Commerce, Consumer
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Her leadership on important
social, political, and economic
issues earned her the reputation
of an effective policy maker and
representative.

In closing, as Alderman of the
24th Ward and on behalf of the
constituents of the 24th Ward, I
express our sincere condolences to
Congresswoman Cardiss
Collins's family. She will always
be remembered with fondness,
reverence and gratitude for the
years of service and dedication
she gave to the residents of the
24th Ward and people of the 7th
Congressional District.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Chandler
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