Management Companies Pitch Show and Tell Proposals
For Ida B. Wells Management Contract

Don D. Robinson
Staff Writer
Douglas — As the old saying goes "There's no business like show business", and for the residents of Ida B. Wells, it was show time. As their public housing development continues its phases to design, one of the four private managers. They went to great lengths to make sure that all the residents, at a public hearing, none of the others did very little.

Four management companies submitted proposals to Ida B. Wells residents hoping to become the single managing agency of the development. The four companies are: P.M. One Management Company, located in Hyde Park, Diversified Realty Group, Inc. located near Lake Meadows, The Woodlawn Organization, and Pinnacle Realty Management on the west side. Helen Finner, Wells, Local Advisory Council president for the past 23 years, was not about to give comments on this hearing stated early this year that "CHA came to us and said they were broke and there was no money for rehab. They felt that private management was the only way to insure that the properties were better run and can be rehabilitated."

Most of the residents believe that private management companies are able to provide a better quality of service in handling day to day operations, maintenance and future opportunities for the residents than CHA. To what extent are bidding companies willing to go to convince the residents of Wells that they can and will provide quality service and much more was partially displayed at the meeting.

TWO, lead by Rev. Louis Finney, the "seasoned veteran" of community meetings, coordinated a somewhat elaborate production in making their case to the residents. The other, "Pinnacle", added insult to injury by presenting cartoon drawings illustrating how to maintain cleanliness in their apartments.

"We Need Answers," Con. Rush
Hearing on Bronzeville Development

Grand Blvd. — "Questions need to be answered", raised Congressman Bobby Rush (2), at a community meeting he sponsored December 16, addressing the overall development of the Bronzeville area. A folk lore name of the most focused neighborhood of Chicago in the Douglas Community. Bound by the city from 31st to 39th Street, State to Cottage Grove. Rush, invited Illinois Institute of Technology, Lake Meadows, The Department of Planning, the Park District and other developers where a crowd of 200 residents attended to get answers that centered on the development of area.

On one side of the meeting was the issue of the "1st Land Grab". In an effort to balance concerns of indigenous community residents with the sensibilities of developers targeting the new frontier of new construction. Of the major developers, HT introduced the plans to give State Street a major face lift form 31st Street to 35th. convert their land for.

On the other hand a concern for no attention giving to the present housing and the lack of information for residents who lived near and around the area of the new Police Headquarters of 1100 South Street to be build on 35th and Wabash. Residents were offered $1,500 for moving expenses with no moving date. While owners of land in the area were offered financial resources (funds) to provide decent care for the units it already manage. Accusations that was not addressed by TWO.

TWO, based in their own members and support to rally on their behalf. This action was soon followed by a very prompt dismissal; upon the completion of their presentation thus, leaving the gym half empty.

Pinnacle Realty Management Company, who manages the Henry Horner Homes on Chicago's west side, seemed to display an unusual skill in adding rhetoric on top of grandiose. This action was soon followed by a very prompt dismissal; upon the completion of their presentation thus, leaving the gym half empty.

The vision of the development team is to extend vibrant residential neighborhoods from Dearborn Park south to Chinatown and to redefine the development area as Burnham Park South. Millennium is intended to be the cornerstone of this neighborhoods evolution. Twenty-four additional units in blocks of eight will commence as the first townhomes are sold. Townhomes will be completed at four to six month intervals and will range in price from $189,000 to $249,900.

The final round of the city's 1996 Low Income Housing Tax Credits awards. The tax credits will generate more than $8.1 million in equity development of 260 units of affordable housing in four Chicago communities. In Mid-South area on 37th and Wabash, the Lakefront SRO/Wabash YMAC-Renaissance Apts. of 101 units with an annual tax credit of $320,725 ($1.8 million equity)
Seniors' Health Fair at Provident Hospital

All for One Community Block Clubs has joined Mayor Daley’s “Adopt-A-Street” program, pledging to keep their south Side area free of litter and other eyesores. Attending the recent installation ceremony were (from left) 3rd Ward Sanitation Supvr. Royelle Horton; All For One members Barbara Ross, Albert Boyd & Yvonne Allen; & Mayor Office of Inquiry aide Florence Goodwin.

Super El Station at 55th Street

The Parkside Community Coalition meet at their regular meeting where Chicago Transit Authority chef Engineer Carlos Compos was present to update the organization on the 55th Street Supertrain. Mr. Compos informed the members that the Supertrain is still in the making. However, the plans to have the retail store levels of three was reduced to one level and that the station will move from the side of the El to the West side.

Several members questioned that decision. Mr. Compos noted that he meet with other community residents headed by Ald. Ardea Troutman and Rev. Leon Finney of The Woodlawn Organization, where the decision was made. The Coalition was informed that a public hearing on the Supertrain will be scheduled early next year.

Campaigning for the Airport

While Mayor Daley and Gov. Edgar are fighting for the control of Meigs Field, Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D) Illinois, discusses third airport issues for the far south suburbs with Illinois Transportation Secretary Kirk Brown. Both were present at the airport meeting and reception hosted by the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce. Attended by newly elected area legislators, the meeting was a briefing on third airport issues.

Meetings and Events

On-Goooming

Any writer of African descent interested in having their work produced by an outstanding African American theatre through a unique collaborative process is invited to submit work appropriate for staging to Playwright Development/Discovery Initiative (PDI), ETA Creative Arts Foundation, 7558 S. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60619. Deadline for submissions is Friday, January 31, 1997.

New Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks At Fuller Park

A new Olympic-size outdoor ice skating rink at Fuller Park, 331 W. 45th St., Rinks will be open from November 27 through January 30, 1997. Skate rental and concessions will be available. For more information call Fuller Park at 747-6144. To inquire about booking the skating rinks for special events or other programs, call 74-SKATE from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

They Sought Freedom: The Underground Railroad from Illinois to Canada, an exhibition developed by the DuSable Museum of Chicago, is now open through January 30, 1997, at the museum, 740 E. 56th Place.

December

Sun. 28

N'COBRA meeting at Washington Park Field House, 55th and King Drive, Meetings are held every 4th Sunday each month.

Sat. 29

Crusaders for Justice regular meeting is at 12 noon, at Holiness Temple Church. The new location of the church is approximately 500 East 61st Street; every Saturday.

West Woodlawn Council of Block Clubs meet on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Parkway Community House, 500 East 67th Street.

Month

Sun. 30

Mid South Planning and Development Commission general meeting at King Center at 4th and Cottage at 6:30pm and held every 2nd Tuesday.

Sat. 11 & Sun. 12

Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce, School of Business Management; Basic Business Management, Self-assessment, Market Research, Intro to Business Plan Writing, financing your business and more. $60 for members, $60 non members. Enroll by January 8 by calling, Class to be held at 1326 S. Michigan Ave.

Thursday 16

47th Street Merchant Association will hold their Bi-monthly meeting at Illinois Federal Savings and Loans, 46th and King Dr. from 6pm to 8pm. The meeting is open to residents and businesses partnership. For more information call Ron Carter at 924-0461.

Wednesday 15

Washington Park Advisory Council meet third Wednesday of the month at the Washington Park Field House

Next issue: January 6th Deadline for material is January 28th. SSJ will publish notices of community meetings, events and programs. Any organization or person in the SSJ circulation area may submit material. We will print others as it relate to the area. Send material one week in advance to South Street Journal, 4556 S. Michigan Ave. Chgo, Ill 60653. Fax 773/924-9536. We reserve the right to refuse and edit material.
Wells Management

rhetoric. As one resident stated, “A snow job without the snow flakes.” Their appearance, along with a video that was too timely that they had to cut it short. It also included statements made by P.M. One Management.

P.M. One believes that residential serving programs should be on the needs of the residents. In a brief interview with Sandra Bivens, Marketing Director, P.M. One stated, “We feel we can help Ida B. Wells to grow, because of our past experiences. We believe a CHA, that is under our management program we use a creative management style.”

Diversified Realty Group, Inc. is currently managing approximately 2,000 units in the metropolitan area, including Wells, and other property in the mid-west, Florida, New York, and Arizona. Some of Diversified’s long-term goals are the recruitment and training of all on-site personnel, to develop and implement a marketing plan, to maximize occupancy, reduce vacancy loss, and assure the competitiveness of the properties.

As the first public housing complex built in Chicago is scheduled to be torn down, one private management company; some residents think the concept is a Godsend, while others see dark motives behind the move.

Hamill, believes that private management in the case of Wells is virtually dead due to the displacement of residents.

“In a private company, you get rid of the tenants and bring in a team that will destroy the low income charter of public housing,” said Hamill.

The meeting with the residents and their committee was a little more positive than they expected. There were presentations and a discussion regarding the operation of private management for all of Ida B. Wells.

Wells which includes: Wells Homes, 37th - 39th and King Drive Borough and Towns, 36th and Calumet Avenue Borough and King (1955). Darrow Homes, Pershing and Langley (1961). Washington Park Homes; 35th - 37th and Calumet (1962 ). In 1981 the total number of persons living at Wells was 9,257. In 1995 these numbers dropped to 4,876.

Date was set not when the residents or the CHA would decide which company would become to single manager.

Continued from page 2

Hearing on Bronzeville

Bronzeville Resource Committee to find resources to meet the organization plans.

The Partnership committee has been given the responsibility to help establish the role of the private sector in restoring Bronzeville and setting development priorities for the historic buildings.

A second objective is to explore the feasibility of a historic tourism-related strategy to identify tourism business opportunities.

The initial collaboration was applied by organizations of Mid-South. However, it was disturbing to some that the panel would waste time and money, and was a duplication of efforts already established by groups in the community.

Anderman William Beavers deserves respect from the electorate for convincing Mayor Daley to place the high-

I leadquarters issue. All we have ever tried to do is to help alleviate the cycle of poverty, drug addiction and hopelessness. We will always create visions and community development initiatives that will educate our young people, preserve our cultural heritage and generate wealth for low income citizens living in Bronzeville.

Bronzeville’s Man of Distinction

Our support of a new $65 million Chicago Police Headquarters coming to Bronzeville was questioned in the Un/apped Column in the last edition of the South Street Journal. We support the project for a variety of reasons.

First and foremost, the new police headquarters gives the impression of greater security to visitors, residents, investors and entrepreneurs. Hundreds of new, good paying jobs will be created, projected to generate 300 construction jobs, but more importantly, it shows Bronzeville’s efforts to restore tourism-related businesses.

The new police station is without question a major economic development coup for the Mid-South Community. City Councilman William Sills of 36th and Prairie, said. "We saw it coming ten years ago, and we are proud to have such a headquarters in the area." he stated "I hope the people come to visit Bronzeville's new Police Headquarters, a national landmark in the city that will make a positive impact on our community and the nation’s police forces."
Street Corner Hangouts

by Frank Ottman
Staff Writer

Mid-South—Go to any part of Mid-South streets, 43rd & State and Lake Park, 47th & Michigan, King Dr. and Vincennes, 33rd & State, and Harper Court; inside McDonald’s early morning, 39th and King Dr.; and on the side streets for that matter any part of Chicago, and you will find men, women and children hanging around on street corners. The young, the old, the rich, the poor, the handicapped, the macho in short-sleeve shirts, the wise and the cutthroats and robbers in ancient Egyptian back as in Roman forums and Greek agoras to present day, people have frequented neon lit streets of major metropolises.

"I’ll always be out in the streets," said James, standing on the corner at E. 47th Street. "I like it out here. Another man wanted to identify himself, and clutching a tattered shopping bag, says, "I’m homeless and this is my home. I could never make it in a shelter and I would rather be out here in the street than [in] one of those places."

Today, in many cities, gangs and drug dealers have a big claim to many street corners, as did cutthroats and robbers in ancient times. Until the people found ways of making the streets safer without them.

Bobby, a gang member who lives on S. Michigan Avenue, says, "Whoever controls the streets have the most say in the neighborhood." Although he was only 15 years of age and because most of his life he had taken to the streets, he had already been arrested several times for shoplifting and petty theft.

Carlos, his friend who looked older than a typical 17-year old, said, "There’s money to be made out here, and I plan on making a lot of it."

The streets are often feared because they can change so suddenly, and often times, do the people who use them. "I saw two men killed right over there," said Carlos gesturing to the cite where the tragedies took place. He adds, "And the next day on 79th Street (a regular street corner hangout), another one got his brains blown out over an argument."

But in spite of chaotic street corners, people still flock to them in search of freedom outside the house. The streets, being outdoors, represent freedom to many -- freedom of movement and expression. Many great philosophers (Aesop, Socrates, Plato), prophets (St. Paul, Mohammed, Buddha), even Jesus Christ Himself took to the freedom of the streets to be heard. "I found God out here," Christine, a former drug addict. She’s now a proselyte to Christianity and passes out literature along with her friend, Mary. "God told me to come back here [to] show others what He has done for me."

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More notorious people have used the streets for their ends -- Panch Villa, Dillinger, Capone, and love gangsters, Bonnie and Clyde. For the streets, although often fickle and sometimes very dangerous at certain hours, are man’s true and earliest expression of freedom. One is never caged-up in the openness of the sky above and the ability of seeing and hearing. And if one becomes discontent, there is always another street corner down the block where another group of young and old people are standing around at all hours of the day.

As in the olden days, the people still justly complain, that the streets are becoming too crowded, unsafe, crowded with debris and litter. This is especially true in Mid-South, where even empty liquor bottles tossed into streets, building entrance ways, yards, school property, etc. by "winos" in not an unusual sight. Too many of our Black men and women are standing around idly, whether it be day or night, when they should be furthering their educations, seeking employment and/or other positive ways for bettering their lives.

Mary Jordan, the owner of a tavern in Mid-South, concurs as she adds, "...[they are] adding to the crime rate. Times are changing, but too many Black men hang around on street corners with nothing to do."

According to Chicagoan Studs Terkel (author of many articles on the social lives in the city), street corners can tell much about a city -- its culture, ethnic make-up, even supply information about the city’s unemployment and crime rate.

Speaking his mind, Tyrone, a street vendor on S. 79th Street, says, "This is my life, my work and how I make my living. I have to put up with the gangs, but still I have to live."

Andy, a newspaper vendor on E. 47th Street & Michigan Avenue, states almost defensively, "I just work here, I don’t live in this newstand. It’s only a job for me, being out here. A friend of mine got me this job, I really don’t have to be out here being that I’m a Korean and Vietnamese." Street vendors have always used street corners to reach to people, as well as street orators who want to expose their claims. In order to reach the people, you must meet them where they’re at, and what better way of meeting people than on a street corner next to a bus stop or a busy park corner.

According to Chicagoan Studs Terkel... street corners can tell much about a city -- its culture, ethnic make-up, even supply information about the city’s unemployment and...
Street venders have always used street corners to reach people, as well as street orators who want to espouse their claims. "It always be out in the streets," said James, standing on the corner at E. 47th Street. "I like it out here." The stores established James to open a Variety Store on 47th & Michigan Ave also milling around on street corners for fear of riots and insurrections against the establishment. And even today, many cities are enforcing curfews of street corner dwellers are "winos" and/or people looking for trouble.

But in spite of city ordinances and curfews, robbers, gangs and drug dealers, people will always enjoy the outdoor life of meeting other people, exchanging ideas and warm conversations.

In conclusion, the streets, safe or unsafe, are one of man's ways of saying, "I'm free, and my street corner is mine to talk on, vend, or just get outside in the fresh air."

The UJAMAA Family hosts the annual KWANZAA, UJAMAA, society, was formed to promote economic relationships that provide reciprocity for all participants. This economic tradition is maintained in the annual Ujamaa Market. The Africamarket is modeled on the traditional village marketplace.
Allstate and the Book Mission

Michael H. Brownstein

Education Column

Allstate Insurance Company has introduced an exciting safety program. Allstate's home office located in Northbrook offered safety diversity to every child in its home community, but District 28 which includes the Westmoor school decided to donate their books to Mollison School.

There were not just any kind of book; these were personalized books put together by Beverly Bloom's Book Company (800-432-6658). The third graders at Mollison gave Beverly their name and the names of three of their best friends.

The book makes the child and her friends the co-stars of the story along with that famous crime prevention dog, McGruff. The book takes the children through a series of safety activities.

Bert Satovitz, the principal of Westmoor, felt there was a tremendous need to teach children about safety. "The McGruff character with the personalized-to-the-student nature of the book is a great vehicle to use," he said.

He was right. All of the third graders at Mollison received their own personalized book and they loved it. One child was so impressed she took the book to her special reading group and shared it with them. Her three friends mentioned in the book wanted to read it again and again.

Allstate not only sells insurance, but they have made personal safety one of their focuses. Lisa Elkus, an Allstate spokesperson, said, "We at Allstate feel it's important for all of our children to learn about personal safety. We feel the personalized nature of the book brings the information to the child's home."

Lisa explains that the web site will be interactive and a lot of fun. "It will allow children to interact with McGruff at different levels. We're very proud to be able to help."

We in the SouthStreet Journal area are glad a Northbrook school district could team up with schools in our community to make a difference.

We can work together to solve our problems. We can cross racial and economic boundaries. We can make all of our neighborhoods safe for all of our children.

Using McGruff in a book and then personalizing the book so the child who owns the book is the star of the book is a great way to reach out and make that difference.

Lisa is glad Beverly Bloom, Allstate, and Westmoor School feel as I do. We can educate and help. We can do it beyond the lines of poverty and racism.

There are heroes everywhere. This is just one more example of how we have been given an opportunity to write about three of them.

I only have one request: next year can all of the Chicago schools receive the McGruff books. There is no greater way to introduce McGruff, the dog who wants to read a book--and learn a very important message. Not only does the book have very real rhymes. DeRite Stephens, the sponsor, said, "The program helps the children with literacy. The students will learn by doing." She plans to take the group to nursing homes and community centers.

Francis Odom, the principal of Mollison won three awards. They are receiving public assistance. Even Start is enabling parents to become involved in their children's educations and to assist their children to reach their full potential.

They are encouraged to reach out to the service area of the residents by canvassing, distributing, literature, and collaborating with community advocates to inform individuals about the services available to them.

An Even Start Program Coordinator states "Welfare Reform is here and changes are being made; we want to support those that are looking to make changes in their lives and their families. These parents need jobs, but they must first get an education."

Even Start enrollees are encouraged to obtain a library card, read more books, and become involved with their families. A survey was implemented and developed with the intent to target the concerns and needs of the participants; there are a few of the responses related to literacy for the participants:

Has the programs' services increased your confidence as a parent?

Brown: "It has taught me how to be more responsible." Have the workshops provided for education? Or have the parent/child activities assisted you with your children's readiness skills for day care?

Tamika Marshall: "Yes, because now I'm more aware of what they should be learning.

Marina Newton: "They have helped me to become a better parent and allowed me to meet my child's needs."

How do you feel that being more involved will make a difference for your child/ren's cognitive, developmental and social skills in the Even Start Program?"
Kenwood Academy Student wins First Place in Student Competition to Design Logo for "Neighbors’ Eve "97"

Kenwood Academy student Lisa Lee (2nd from left), the artist who created the award-winning logo design for "Neighbors’ Eve "97," a Hyde Park New Year’s Eve celebration, receives a grand prize check of $100.00 from Tim Goodsell, president of Hyde Park Bank & Trust Company. They are joined by (1 to r.) Kenwood Academy art teacher, Carlosyn Lawrence, principal Careda Taylor, and Dr. James Wagner, Chair of the Planning Committee for Neighbors’ Eve.

The Special Seasonal Mission of HALES FRANCISCAN HIGH SCHOOL

Grand Blvd.—Hales Franciscan High School on 49th and Cottage Grove and the school’s president, Tim King, is proud of the special mission and achievement of the students. The schools voice mail has King’s voice informing callers that 100% of Hales Graduates are accepted into colleges and universities across the country.

In keeping with the season and Christian tradition that education is part of charity, Hales’ 330 students experienced a day of giving as they shared their time and talents with those in need during this season and on past Thanksgivings. November 26, 1996, Hales Franciscan High School held its second annual “Hales Serves” fundraiser. For the second year in a row, the entire Hales community including parents, faculty, staff, and administrators gathered to participate in a full day of community service to aid the needy in the City of Chicago.

Students arrived as early as 7:00 a.m. and were greeted by the WGCI Promotions Van who advertised the school’s affair in conjunction with their morning radio show. At 8:00 a.m., Alderman Tony Preckwinkle jump-started the day’s events when she presented the school with the Proclamation of November 26 “Hales Serves Day”.

Organized into service teams, student packed give-away bags to be distributed to the poor at the Amari House Shelter, 11740 S. Lowe students from Hales Franciscan High School (Left to Right) Prentice Butler, Michael Oglesby, Tyrone Cover, Bending Left to Right: Harold Johnson, Tim King.

buses returned to the school by 2:00 p.m., where students, parents, and friends were treated to a special Christmas celebration. The school’s president, Tim King, is “especially proud of this collective team effort that reflects the special mission of Hales Franciscan High School and the season and Thanksgiving.” In keeping with the Christian tradition of charity, Hales’ 330 students experienced a day of giving as they shared their time and talents with those in need. “A valuable lesson to take into adulthood,” gleams Mr. King.

Hales Franciscan High School is a nationally respected independent Catholic high school with a special mission to serve young African American men on the South Side of Chicago. The school provides a rigorous college preparatory education in an atmosphere of discipline and nurturing for its students, a proven success with 100% of the graduates being accepted into colleges and universities across the country.

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GREGORY E. KULIS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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2nd Prize 30 in Color T. V.

3rd Prize 1960 Gift Certificate

Toward A Trip to Jamaica

4th Prize $200

Food Gift Certificate

Winner Need Not Be Present

Drawing is January 31, 1997

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HALES FRANCISCAN HIGH SCHOOL

51 st & Cottage Grove Avenue.

Sponsored by Subway Restaurant at

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BCFT Says No to Daley Administration’s Proposed Cab Fare Increase

Black Citizens for Fair Transportation (BCFT), a newly formed committee that seeks to address the discriminatory practices of Chicago’s transportation systems, challenges Mayor Richard Daley’s administration to fairly address what has been called the Yellow Cab and Checker Taxi Association’s “pattern of racist service.” The committee was formed in light of a recent announcement by the Daley administration, which proposes a 12 to 16 percent fare hike for cab service in Chicago’s neighborhoods.

“The availability of service provided by the two biggest cab company’s in Chicago is based on race and income,” said committee spokesperson Vanessa Cross. “I have personally found that when working with either company, the timeliness — or availability — of service is based on where service is requested from and is within the city. The Daley administration has said that the proposed fare hike is designed to improve cab service. The most urgent improvement needed at the time is to insure that all Chicago neighborhoods are provided with full access to cab service. Daley can’t expect the two cab companies to monitor nor implement a solution to this problem.”

The BCFT request that the Daley administration work with a community task force and representatives from the two cab companies in creating a solution that would discourage transportation practices in Chicago. A BCFT representative has said that the committee is willing to go as far as filing a class action lawsuit against these two companies if the city does not intervene with timely and reasonable negotiations.

“If we were to go to court with this situation and a class action suit pursued,” said Cross, “I think the committee is willing to go as far as filing a class action lawsuit against these two companies if the city does not intervene with timely and reasonable negotiations.”

“If we were to go to court with this situation and a class action suit pursued,” said Cross, “we would hope that a solution can be reached in order that such action can be avoided. The most effective weapon the Daley administration has now is that in 1997 and agreement expired which limited the cities awarding additional cab medallions to independent vendors. It amazes me that in a democratic society we would see the kind of market monopoly that has occurred in Chicago with these two cab companies,” said Cross. “By issuing more medallions — especially in light of recent city constructions and renovations posed to stimulate the tourist market — we would be providing a boost to Chicago’s small and dependent cab services, and in turn, Chicago’s small businesses.”

The BCFT asks that the task force be comprised of individuals from the communities that are currently not provided full cab service. It was suggested in a BCFT meeting that 90-day medallion suspensions would be the most effective deterrent to the problem. The community task force, the Daley administration and cab company representatives would be charged with creating a system that identifies discriminatory cab drivers. The BCFT is currently compiling letters to petition the City Council against voting for Daley’s proposed fare increase on January 14, to lobby for the issuance of 1,000 more medallions to small and independent cab service providers in 1998, and for the formulation of a community task force.

If you believe that you’ve been treated unfairly by either of the two cab companies based on your race, please send correspondence with details of the incident, which will be included in the petition the City Council, to BKT, P.O. Box 544066, Chicago, Illinois 60645-0066.

Mid-South Planning Wins Overton

Anthony Overton, an African American “business genius” who amassed his fortune through developing and marketing cosmetics for African American women, had the building constructed in 1922-1923. In Overton’s day, the 30,000 sq. ft., four story building housed the Douglas National Bank, offices for lawyers, doctors and other professionals as well as the Overton Hygienic Manufacturing Company. Major renovations are required to recapture the prominence the building brought to Bronzeville.

In 1992, Mahmoud A. Arub leased the building from the owner, Ben Kramer, to operate a liquor store. Arub subsequently entered an agreement to purchase the property from Kramer, but vacated the building and defaulted on the contract. Mid-South then stepped in to purchase the Overton Building from Kramer. On December 4, the Circuit Court allowed Kramer to cancel the contract with Arub and to proceed with the sale to Mid-South. According to Dowell-Cerasoli, once the Overton Building is renovated, Mid-South will lease space to various commercial tenants as well as provide space for incubator businesses. Mid-South’s plans are consistent with its mission of enhancing the quality of life for African American residents through development programs that reflect and respect community interests.

Saturday, November 30, 1996, Alderman Virgil Jones (15) and members of the committee gathered to remember Elijah Muhammad (Photo insert) founder of the Nation of Islam, stood on the corner of 71st & Artesian, the street named in honor of Mr. Muhammad. Holding street sign (L-R): Munir Muhammad, president of the Coalition for the Remembrance of Elijah, (CROE) and Alderman Virgil Jones.

Honoring Nation of Islam Founder - Elijah Muhammad

Photo by Owen M. Lawson, Jr.
Black On Black Love, Soft Sheen Products, Black United Fund And Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Donate Holiday Food Baskets To The Poor

Grand Boulevard: More than 150 needy families who would have otherwise spent Thanksgiving day hungry and cold lined up at the Chicago Urban League headquarters recently to receive holiday food baskets as part of a mission of love. The organizations whose compassion and generosity are making these families happy are Black on Black Love, Soft Sheen Products, the Black United Fund of Illinois and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

The baskets included turkey and generous portions of fruits, vegetables and other food items in a well-balanced holiday meal. In a brief ceremony prior to the food basket giveaway, with an office located at 43rd and State Street in Robert Taylor Homes, BOBL Executive Director Frances Gutter praised the families and expressed hope that the food donation would, "in some small way," make the holidays brighter for them and their families. She thanked representatives of the organizations for their sensitivity and willingness to help out by partnering with Black Love in such a worthwhile program.

The recipients came from a variety of community-based organizations including Midwest Community Council: Robert Taylor Parents Center, Operation Brotherhood and others throughout Chicago.

Ms. Gutter explained that the holiday food baskets were given as part of a mission of love. Sponsored by Black on Black Love, Soft Sheen Products, the Black United Fund of Illinois and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Edward G. Gardner, 12th Ward Alderman and President of the board of Soft Sheen Products and others are shown taking part of the event.

Foster Parent Search Continues
A Special Search During the Holidays

With the holiday season upon us and the spirit of good will in the air, peace and love in our hearts, the search for foster parents intensifies. Nothing brightens up a room like the joy and enthusiasm of a child on Christmas morning. Nothing warms a stomach on Christmas day like warm milk and cookies. And, nothing shows more love and compassion than a family that has decided to open their home and hearts to children in need of foster care.

All unanswered questions were answered about foster care by Ada S. McKinley, Foster Care and Adoption Services (ASMFCS) representatives during an "Egg Nog Slip" on December 10, 1996.

If you are 25 years of age or older, have bedroom space available in your home and are either single or married, you and your family may qualify to become a licensed foster home. Ada S. McKinley provides an array of services to support the tremendous responsibility of foster parenting. Children who are in the greatest need of care are children who are developmentally challenged, victims of abuse, health impaired, troubled teens, drug and HIV exposed and sibling groups. Can you and your family provide a safe, nurturing and loving family environment to children in need of substitute care? If you have answered yes, be willing to give foster care a chance this holiday season.

For further information on foster care please call 312-225-8211.
INSIDE THE EMPowerMENT ZONE FROM THE TOP UP

Favoritism and Patriotism Controlling the EZ

Will be blame fall on those who we are supposed to help when we create the blame will fall on the people who make up the Empowerment Zone? Will we dare to say that this is not a chance with the Empowerment Zone program and you did not produce? Will we be cold and colorless when there are so many people who live in the Empowerment Zone and seem to be locked out of our process? These are questions we need to consider seriously because we will be answering them in the future if we keep going forward with our "business as usual" attitude.

Mottie Butler has been trying to get us to review a handbook entitled Community Performance Benchmark. This item has not bothered me since the agenda and unaddressed for several months. As I read page one of the document, I clearly see why some of us do not address the benchmarks. Let me say that everything that has happened to date is contamination of our current process. The way to remove the contamination from the water is NOT developing an outreach strategy that does not even address the shortcomings of our current process. The way to remove the contamination is by setting up an OBJECTIVE process. The Community Performance Benchmark paper has five key questions that bare repeating here:

1. Are the funded proposals designed to be improved in accordance with the criteria on the EZ/EC CC Strategic Plan?
2. Are there objective criteria on which the performance of these projects is evaluated?
3. If there are criteria, what are they, and on what are they based?
4. Were they used in the selection of these projects for funding?
5. Will they be used in the performance evaluation of these projects?

If we used the contaminated water under the bridge (round 1) in answering the above questions, we would have to answer "no" to all questions. Our challenge is to create a round two process that will allow us to answer the above questions in the affirmative. I truly think that we can do this. However, the truth is that I have tried to be as forthright as possible while realizing that I may be labeled and ostracized by some of the City and EZ/EC CC. This does not bother me since I did not volunteer for the EZ/EC CC to make friends or enemies for that matter. I came to the EZ/EC CC meeting and met each and every one of you for the very first time. I came without a hidden agenda or representing any organization seeking funding. Rather, I came with an eager desire to work with each of you to make Chicago's Empowerment Zone such a shining success that the entire country would use it as a model. The EZ/EC CC was not created to empower or disempower people. As far as I know, was created to empower or disempower you. I hope that this memorandum will be read and reviewed by all members of the City and EZ/EC CC.

...Will be blame fall on those who we are supposed to help when we create the blame will fall on the people...
hile some maintain that the story of the birth of Christ is merely a thousand years ago tale. Many of us grew up believing in the Son of God, and the celebration of Christmas, even honoring Santa Claus on December 25th, for many reasons only the love of capitalism would be allowed. (Oh, I suppose that's why the Sun-Times and the Tribune do this during the time of the year.)

Every year it seems Jesus' story is buried deeper as the Christmas Holidays. It is an anchor to knowledge of who we are. Sharing not only with our family but with the wise men, the shepherds and the animals. How the birth of Jesus changed the world for us. How the development of a Christian community as a village, maybe in a way Alderman Tillman proposes the African Village on Chicago's South Side, is a way that this time of the year is making things better for our city (community).

As I look at the feast of unleavened bread the coming of the Lord, and the Kwanzaa there is the feast of gifts to our community which enhances Christmas for me.

So happy birthday Jesus Christ

Letters to the Editor

Dear Maurice Perkins:

I'm watching our people stumble and let God!!!

The City's Inner Youth Foundation has been on the frontline in trying to improve the quality of life for our children, but your organization is not alone in trying to accomplish that goal. The Middle School students who are considered geniuses. Maybe I should take a stab at writing a rap song. Here goes...

"You don't have to be where you are, let's highjack someone's prison," or maybe, "He had what I thought should be mine. That's how I killed him with my nine," or still "You see I am not a jerk, I thought what you have or you go to work."

I'm so happy birthday Jesus Christ
The Community honors
Dr. Louis Rawls of Tabernacle

Grand Div.-State Senator, Carol Mosby-Brum was the key note speaker honoring Dr. Louis Rawls Saturday December 14 as the community at large paid tribute to the legendary pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church on 41st and Indiana, where Dr. Rawls has been the pastor there for over 65 years.

The late Rev. Louis Brown, former pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Wills Rawls, affectionately called "Baby" by her loving husband, has been a tower of strength during their marriage of 70 years. Dr. and Baby Rawls have three children, Lou, Samuel and Julius Lee. Lou attained international stardom as an entertainer, and has two children. Samuel is a husband, father and an established businessman, preacher and pastor. Julius Lee is a husband and father in addition he is also a school teacher, undertaker and minister. Just like a son to them, Donald Poston, cares for Dr. and Mrs. Rawls and has lived with him since he was a child. Dr. Rawls helped rear him and his brother, Jerry Poston. Accepting Christ at the early age of six, Dr. Rawls was called to the Ministry in 1931. He was ordained by Rev. W.H. Whitaker, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church on May 12, 1932 and was officially installed as pastor of Canaan Baptist Church in Oct., 1933.

On September 4, 1941, Dr. Rawls organized Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. "Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, ... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." rested Dr. Rawls. "This means the church will never be complete. However, the commission of the church to evangelism remains an integral part of salvation, which is the new birth, will never change. Being vested in its service to the community, he and Mrs. Rawls have been very successful during their years together. They had and currently have several business interests, that goes back as far as 1925 with the Lee Everest Men's Store at 705 E. 47th Street.

Dr. Rawls attributes his rise to his trust in God and being obedient to the will of God. He believes that if one tries, there is chance in this life that you will succeed, according to God's Word.

As a graduate of Wendell Phillips High School and attended over eight colleges and universities, with eight degrees, Dr. Rawls values the education he received the highest. He questioned many Blacks who attained higher education and did not return to the community to serve it. "You young educated people must realize that the education you have is not just for you but for your community as well." As an example of what he preaches, Dr. Rawls has many awards, citations and merits for service rendered and five honorary Doctorian degrees. However Dr. Rawls reminded activists that, "Man is a transient being. May possess great wisdom, but he is not capable of implementing those visions without God's Grace and the work of the Holy Spirit. It has been a joy to know that after we will have finished enjoying the strength of God's forgiveness and mercy, that goes back as far as 1925, it will not be complete. However, the community at large paid tribute to the legendary pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, "Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, ... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." rested Dr. Rawls. "This means the church will never be complete. However, the commission of the church to evangelism remains an integral part of salvation, which is the new birth, will never change. Being vested in its service to the community, he and Mrs. Rawls have been very successful during their years together. They had and currently have several business interests, that goes back as far as 1925 with the Lee Everest Men's Store at 705 E. 47th Street.

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Skilled manufacturing Jobs for women through Chicago Manufacturing Institute Class

Manufactures throughout the Chicagoland area are seeking women to fill technically skilled positions. Opportunities for women to join the economic mainstream through skilled manufacturing positions have increased over the last 10 years. The Chicago Manufacturing Institute will begin a training class for women who wish to access some of these technically skilled positions in the Quality Control field.

The Chicago Manufacturing Institute (a subsidiary of Chicago Commons Association) will begin a unique 900-hour class on January 21, 1997 to train women for jobs as Industrial Mechanical Inspectors and Quality Control Auditors. Of the 31 individuals who completed this class during the period July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996, 30 were placed in skilled jobs at an average starting wage of $8.91 per hour—a 97% placement rate!

For detail-oriented, quality conscious women looking for access to stable, skilled, and well-paid careers in manufacturing, this class can provide excellent start. Instructors are veterans of the quality control field and will work with women to instill a greater feeling of self-confidence and overcome any fears of math and technical subjects.

Enrollment in this Quality Control class is limited to the first 20 Chicago women residents who qualify through the admissions process, which includes an orientation to the quality control field, an assessment of present skills, and an interview. Women with low incomes may qualify for government payment of tuition and are especially encouraged to apply. Classes will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., five days per week, starting January 21, 1997 and ending on June 24, 1997.

To obtain further information and to schedule yourself for an orientation session to learn more about the class and the career opportunities available through the class, call Mira Clifflente at 773-685-1010.

Rush Scores partial victory on Food Stamp Waiver for Chicago

The Clinton administration announced that Chicago will be granted a waiver on new welfare legislation that calls for a 90-day limit on food stamps for 18- to 50-year-olds without dependents who cannot find work. The waiver comes in the wake of heavy pressure from U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush (D). Last week, Rush urged President Clinton to alter several provisions in welfare reform legislation that calls for a 90-day food stamp limit. In Illinois, nearly 42 percent of food stamp recipients who fit the category live in Rush’s district.

This is a partial, but very hopeful victory," said Rush. "It sends a message to the President, to the Congress that our challenge is not only for the able-bodied, but also the less fortunate."

The decision means that 18- to 50-year-olds without dependents in Chicago will be exempted from the 90-day food stamp limit. In Illinois, nearly 42 percent of food stamp recipients who fit the category live in Rush’s district.

This is a partial victory, but very hopeful," said Rush. "It sends a message to the President, to the Congress that our challenge is not only for the able-bodied, but also the less fortunate."

The waiver is aimed at limiting food stamps for able-bodied adults without dependents who are not looking for work. This waiver comes in the wake of heavy pressure from U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush (D). Last week, Rush urged President Clinton to alter several provisions in welfare reform legislation that calls for a 90-day food stamp limit.

In Illinois, nearly 42 percent of food stamp recipients who fit the category live in Rush’s district. The waiver is intended to help those who are truly unable to work and are looking for assistance.

For additional information about this program, call Commander Michael Tolliver at 747-8907 or Officer Gibson 747-895 located at 4844 State.

Training Program in Taylor

This pass summer the Public Housing Section of the Chicago Police Department, in conjunction with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), opened a Computer Learning Center on the premises of Robert Taylor Homes, 4844 S. State Street. The Computer Learning Center is equipped with dozens of computers and interactive software for children and adults. Children can use the center to help with homework assignments, reading comprehension. As the, for GED testing and job preparation. Also on the premises of the center is a new Fitness and Wellness Center, offering weight-lifting instruction, aerobic and health classes and a child care, health program (exchanging several hours of computer training for several hours of child watching.)

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Remember the only difference between this picture......

and this one...

...is this number 708/229-2292
Kenwood Pointe Ribbon-cutting Ceremony
A New Homes For Chicago Program

Woodlawn, Monday, December 16. The Woodlawn Community Development Corporation (WCDC) and Fund Development Corporation, an affiliate of The Fund for Money for their New Homes for Chicago Development (The Fund), a host ribbon-cutting ceremony with some residents slated to move in before Christmas. Phase I consisting of 22 homes, will be completed by May 1997. Each single family home (without basement) contains an enviable 1,500 square feet of living space. It contains 3 bedrooms, 1 and 3/4 baths, family room, living room, eat-in kitchen, modern appliances and built with energy conservation features. They are priced from $95,000. The duplex includes an on the ground rental level unit, 1,000 square feet of living space with two bedrooms and one bathroom. The top unit, contains two levels and has 1,500 square feet of living space. They are priced from $142,000. Several major players banded together with WCDC and the funds to bring this project to fruition. The city of Chicago’s Department of Housing spawned the New Homes for Chicago Programs which provided a $560,000 developer’s subsidy. In addition, the city provided the land to the developers for $1 per parcel. The Alderman Arenda Troutman, 20th ward was greatly commended for the strong and continued support for the development. The architectural form of Ray Damson designed the single family and duplex structure. Buyers continuously rave about its beauty. The developer, Thrush Construction Company has provided immeasurable assistance to developers in building a quality structure. Bank of America, Illinois provided construction financing for the development.

Money for New Homeowners

Ms. Patricia Hill, President of Afro-American Police League is congratulated by Mr. Greg Brown of Illinois Federal Savings and Loan (located at 46th Pl. & King Drive) during a recent financial seminar for new home owners. Mr. Brown informed Ms. Hill that her application for mortgage assistance had been approved.

Second Round of 1996 Tax Credits awarded for Low Income Housings

The City of Chicago Department of Housing has awarded National Progressive Credit awards. The tax credits will generate $19.7 million in equity for 455 affordable housing units. Mayor Daley has awarded tax credits that will generate $19.7 million in equity for affordable housing developments throughout Chicago,” said Mayor Daley. “These tax credits further strengthen the City’s commitment to bring housing opportunities to Chicago’s poorest residents.”

1996 LIHTC Awardee, Wabash YMCA - 48th & Wabash

The City of Chicago Department of Housing has awarded National Progressive Institute $228,951 Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to help finance the development of a 24-unit building on this site at 48th & Wabash. The development represents Phase 1 of a multi-phased new homes initiative conceived for an area hounded by various stages of construction with some residents slated to move in over 40 years. WCDC and The Fund see this new home initiative as the anchor ad bellweather development of revitalization of the Woodlawn Community, South of 63rd street. This development consists of a mix of single family homes and duplex structures which contains a garden level for rent apartment. This duplexes in the Woodlawn Avenue). The development consists of 22 single family homes. Each single family home (without basement) contains an enviable 1,500 square feet of living space. It contains 3 bedrooms, 1 and 3/4 baths, family room, living room, eat-in kitchen, modern appliances and built with energy conservation features. They are priced from $95,000. The duplex includes an on the ground rental level unit, 1,000 square feet of living space with two bedrooms and one bathroom. The top unit, contains two levels and has 1,500 square feet of living space. They are priced from $142,000. Several major players banded together with WCDC and the funds to bring this project to fruition. The city of Chicago’s Department of Housing spawned the New Homes for Chicago Programs which provided a $560,000 developer’s subsidy. In addition, the city provided the land to the developers for $1 per parcel. The Alderman Arenda Troutman, 20th ward was greatly commended for the strong and continued support for the development. The architectural form of Ray Damson designed the single family and duplex structure. Buyers continuously rave about its beauty. The developer, Thrush Construction Company has provided immeasurable assistance to developers in building a quality structure. Bank of America, Illinois provided construction financing for the development.

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$50 Million Development To Redefine Burnham Park South

Near South—November 25, 1996—a trio of real estate professionals with a track record of creating successful residential developments in neighborhoods on the edge of the Loop in years—Milennium is intended to be the cornerstone of this neighborhoods evolution.

In November, ground was broken for eight applicants received tax credit allocations totaling more than $2.17 million for the development of 386 units.

The vision of the development team is to extend 2000 and will include townhomes, lofts, possible single-family homes and some commercial de­velopment. Phase I is located on one full block that totals a little over an acre.

The location, and diversity of its neighborhoods—Preliminary interest in Millen­nium is strong among south Loop residents. For your convenience transfer listings are organized by community. Development. Building The Millennium

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Outside The Comfort Zone What American Dream?

Commentary by James Anyike

Despite the fact that African Americans have made many great contributions to the development of America, we still don’t get our fair share of the American pie. We have never had full freedom, justice, or equality in this great land. When will the majority of our people live the “American Dream” already realized by whites that immigrated here years ago?

Though black men invented the traffic light, cloth dryer, gas mask, electric train, sweepers machine, certain red, flash light, and elevator, we don’t own the companies that make them. Most of our political and economic accomplishments resulted from someone being killed, or from sit-ins, protests, marches, boycotts, and riots. It is strange to me that I can go into any predomi-

nately black community in America and the drug dealers find me within 15 minutes of my arrival, but the police have a hard time finding the same drug dealers that blatantly do business in our communities. It is not fair that black men are routinely and disproportionately, pulled over by the police to much lower rates. It seems we are always paying more and getting less. What is worse, this great “land of the free, home of the brave” is preparing for legalized slavery of black people by way of proliferation of private and public prisons. Three strikes and we back in the comfort zone they have just enough to keep them fed, dressed, housed, driving a car, working a “good” job, drunk or high. Negroes too comfortable are afraid to work for change, or help the majority of our people that are living in an American hell. Only a few of us are brave, or crazy enough to live and work for change outside of the comfort zone.

Blue Ribbon Meat Market

Doreen Savino owner of the Blue Ribbon Meat Market

By Morgan Carter

The Conversation Starter

Mayors Office for Special Events. Chicago does not sleep in the winter

sisking rank was located at State and Randolph. Participants skated from 6:00am til 7:15pm daily. Admission was free but skates were rented for a mere fee of $3.00 for adults and $2.00 for kids.

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Chicago, IL 60634

JOBS AVAILABLE

*Social service agency currently has full-time and part-time positions available. We are looking for candidates that can provide individual counseling and referral services to high risk youth. Must be working in an area that can provide related services to high risk youth.*

Outreach Counselors and Candidates will provide individual counseling to youth as needed. Qualifications: Degree pref. with 2 yrs. experience working with high-risk youth. Must have ability to work with diverse group of people.

Crisis Counselor Candidate will provide crisis intervention services to police dept., family and youth. Qualifications: BA or BS degree, 2 yrs. experience working with high-risk youth. Will assist clients in developing & monitoring treatment plans.

Azusa Family Services

Azusa Family Services is a Child Welfare Agency licensed by the state of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. AFS prides itself on developing the minds of our young by instilling values and morals that will ensure their futures. For more information on how to become a foster parent, volunteer or general information, call us at (773) 638-KIDS

American Placement is an organization dedicated to serve the community and its residents by providing job placement, job counseling and vocational training.

For job information, or general information, please call (773) 638-1374

Blue Ribbon Meat Market

Doreen Savino owner of Blue Ribbon Meat Market

In most cases mitigation makes a difference between incarceration and probation. In capital cases, there is a life difference between life and death, while most attorneys present little to no mitigation.

Have you ever noticed that in every criminal case the judge asks the defense attorney if there are mitigation factors? The Defense lawyer is under the Mitigation Specialist speaks.

Did you know in accordance with state and federal laws you are entitled to mitigation laws? This is an area in which I specialize. If you find your self in need of representation for criminal offenses, please remember that your defense is not over until the mitigator speaks.

Know your rights.

All of your rights.

Youth Outreach Services, Inc.

6417 W. Irving Park Road

Chicago, IL 60634

If you have an interest in acquiring a position as a;

Treatment; Outreach; Crisis Counselor; or a Child Care Worker;

Please send your resume to;

Human Resource Department

6417 W. Irving Park Road

Chicago, IL 60634
Travano Printing

2342 South Kedzie
(773) 522-0648

From the Associate Publisher &
Editor of the West Street Journal
Newspaper
"Wanda Armstrong"

On October 24, 1996, Mr. Fernando Trevino and I were at the Lewis Paper Place at 705 S. Jefferson to purchase paper supplies. Upon my exit from the office, I noticed that my tire had a flat due to the warehouse and I had limited knowledge in changing tires.

The service person directed me back into the office for help. Upon asking for help, the gentleman at the counter began rubbing his head and looking around for someone else. He then said, "may-be one of the other people in the office can help because I am busy." I turned to the next gentleman behind the counter and he too said "he could not help at that time, perhaps later he said".

At that, I left the office to return to my car. I began unloading the things from my trunk to retrieve the spare tire. As I struggled to pull the tire out of my trunk, I heard a man say "I'll help you change that tire". It was Fernando Trevino. A meek gentleman, concerned about a woman in distress. He quickly took the tire out of my trunk and began removing the lugs from the tire on my car. As I stood there offering support to assist him in whatever capacity I could, he began talking about the fact that people didn't assist one another any more, but he felt that was inappropriate, so he helped people whenever he could.

Thanks Mr. Trevino, I've been talking about you ever since. The world needs more men like you. We can't make it in this society being closed minded, selfish and unconcerned about what goes on around us. May good things continue to come to you and your family. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

Joyce Smythe, the organizer and spokes person for the Julia & Hayward Fairfax Multi-Cultural Center & Museum please call The Resource Network Inc at (773) 265-0829 to get further information. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Julia &
Hayward Fairfax
Multi-Cultural Center &
Museum
The Julia & Hayward Fairfax Multi-Cultural Center & Museum (JAHM) is in the planning stages in the Garfield Park East community. Mrs. Fairfax, her daughter Joyce Smythe, her grandsons Adrian & Devon Howard, along with many friends are working to make the museum a reality. The museum will serve as a facility that young folks and others can use to explore the many remnants of the various cultures, traditions, religious beliefs and value systems used by people across the world.

If you have an interest in preserving our history, building landmarks and traditions our forefathers valued and trusted,

Banner Printing

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Relative Foster Care Licensing Progress

As of March 25, 1996, foster home licensure decisions have been made on 74% of the 6,920 applications, postmarked by 6/30/95 from relatives. Over 49% of the decisions resulted in licensure, a much higher portion of this group was licensed than estimated. The higher rate of licensure generates additional reimbursement from the federal government and allowed the Department to seek additional funding from the legislature. Our FY96 supplemental for foster care is in HB1014. HB1014 also contains a transfer from DPA to DCFS because relatives did not get transitioned to AFDC as quickly as anticipated.

Related to the Youakim lawsuit, payments for many relatives caring for DCFS children who were placed with them prior to July 1, 1995 were raised to the full foster care board rate effective January 1. Notices were sent to about 2,600 relative homes with application materials and time lines for completion of licensure steps to retain the higher rate. A foster home application, authorizations for background checks on all adults in the household, family home information sheet and receipts of fingerprinting must have been received in the Springfield Licensing office by April 8 to continue at the higher rate. For those submitting these materials, training and medical exams must be completed by May 8 in order to keep the higher payment rate while the licensure decision is being made. As of March 29, 190 relatives had submitted licensing materials pursuant to the notice.

Adoption Subsidy Changes

During the last week in March, DCFS filed the second notice of Rule 302 changes with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rule (JCAR). Based on public comment and in consultation with the Governor’s office and legislative leaders interested in this issue, the Department has made a change to the proposed rules. The second notice removes language from the rule (and the contract will also be amended) that indicates that the annual adoption subsidy will be based on availability ofunds or sub­ject to appropriations.

Dear Mr. Hampton,

I want to express my appreciation for your efforts to provide a wholesome environment for our children. Your dedication and commitment to their well-being are truly commendable.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Understanding the Empowerment Zones and Knowing Resources

On September 29, 1996 the African American Christian Foundation (AACF) hosted its second Annual Graduation Ceremony, at the Fox Center in Oak Park, Illinois to celebrate its students’ achievements, from varying backgrounds participating in the event. High School students, displaced workers, young and old, marched across the stage to receive their diplomas. It was a sight for sore eyes.

Pastor Amofa A. Asamoah opened the event with a prayer. Morgan Carter “The Conversation Starter” was then introduced as M.C., after which Dr. Richenel Ellecome, rendered a very effective closing address. The Ghana Chicago SDA Church did a beautiful song, followed by a stimulating presentation offered by the Guest of Honor. An important address was given by the President of the Federation of Black America.

The African Christian Foundation Graduates 22 Students

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Why West Street Journal?

In 1993 the concept of South Street Journal (SSJ) surfaced to be a new publication. As an extension to SSJ (now three years later) the West Street Journal is now in publication (December 1996). It will have an agenda and purpose as that of the South Street Journal, confronting how our communities are informed to act. Our intent is to assist West Street Journal as a strong presence for information dedicated to giving an understanding to regenerate the communities. This major step also will help stabilize the financial base of South Street Journal to meet the expectations of our readers. Not placing information in a holding pattern that stifles active growth. West Street Journal as South Street Journal will secure information to be productive and representative of the views of the community.

In order for our direction to be successful, South and West side readers support is being sought for the moral, religious and financial guidance of investors and resources in the direction and formation as we get started. We are sure the proposed partnership with the West Street Journal will be clear that change, in information and how we communicate for empowerment can occur in our circulated areas. Given the resources for opportunity to grow, South Street Journal and West Street Journal will be the long awaited satisfaction of our communities and the representation in the newspaper industry. Your interest, insight and support in this endeavor is our guide and news.

Cybertech Engineering

Cybertech Engineering is owned and operated by Paris Holley, an African-American, modest middle aged gentleman, well versed in electronics and committed to people striving to get ahead. Holley and his assistant Mary conduct business on a day to day basis from 9:00 a.m. until the work is done. Sometimes they work until the wee hours of the morning because somebody needs their help. They work until the job is done. Holley has donated a computer to the West Side of Chicago. Working on the concept of educating elementary school age through 12th grade with a different attitude.

In this day and time, there are some that like what they do for a living. A few of them enjoy their work and make large salaries, but some of them make just enough to get by, so "sharing" is not a part of their routine. Holley has committed to sharing as a means of giving back to the community. He has donated a computer to the West Street Journal Newspaper (WSJN) with the understanding of WSJN's mission to focus on the youths, seniors and community concerns. Once the computer is interfaced with the Kiso Digital Multiplicating System, the WSJN will be able to function as any other small newspaper. The goal is the creation of the West Street Journal Newspaper (WSJN) as an information tool and provider of training programs for those that are underskilled, poorly educated and soon to be affected by the Welfare Reform Act.

On January 15, 1997, Holley will be speaking at an event hosted by "Black Women On the Move" at Homan Square, 3333 West Arlington Street. The event is scheduled to take place on Martin Luther King's Birthday, and expected to bring together one thousand black women (all are welcomed) from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.

As a member of Enterprise for Networking Professionals, (E.N.P.), Holley has provided himself with access to a number of other professionals that provide a variety of services through membership, all members share the benefit of a 20% discount on purchases. Cybertech is located in Forest Park, 7632 Madison (708) 771-5800

West Side Cultural Arts Council and the Pioneer Accelerated Learning Center

Apply for Charter School

Region 3 has a new school! Receiving the Gifted Child is the brainchild of Chicago Public Schools educator known affectionately as Mommahawk. Mommahawk has more than 20 years of experience teaching elementary school children and one of her missions was to save students who were labeled disruptive and undisciplined. Her child centered approach to teaching and learning started in 1990 as a program in her own classroom - a classroom with a different attitude.

The Recovering the Gifted Academy has 44 students in grades 4-7; totally 45 students and seven teachers. The West Side Cultural Arts Council Charter School and the Pioneer Accelerated Learning Charter School are programs that are focused on children that have been identified as slow learners. Through accelerated learning techniques, children will learn their curriculum utilizing processes that are fun and easy to comprehend.

One school will be located on the city's south side and the other on the west side. One will work with children from the preschool age through 12th grade and the other will work with children from 3rd grade through 12th, since children begin being evaluated for competency at that grade level.

Both schools will have an after school program and work with teens that have dropped out and or gotten into other trouble.

We need your help, to support these programs please call (773) 265-0829 and ask for Ms. Armstrong.