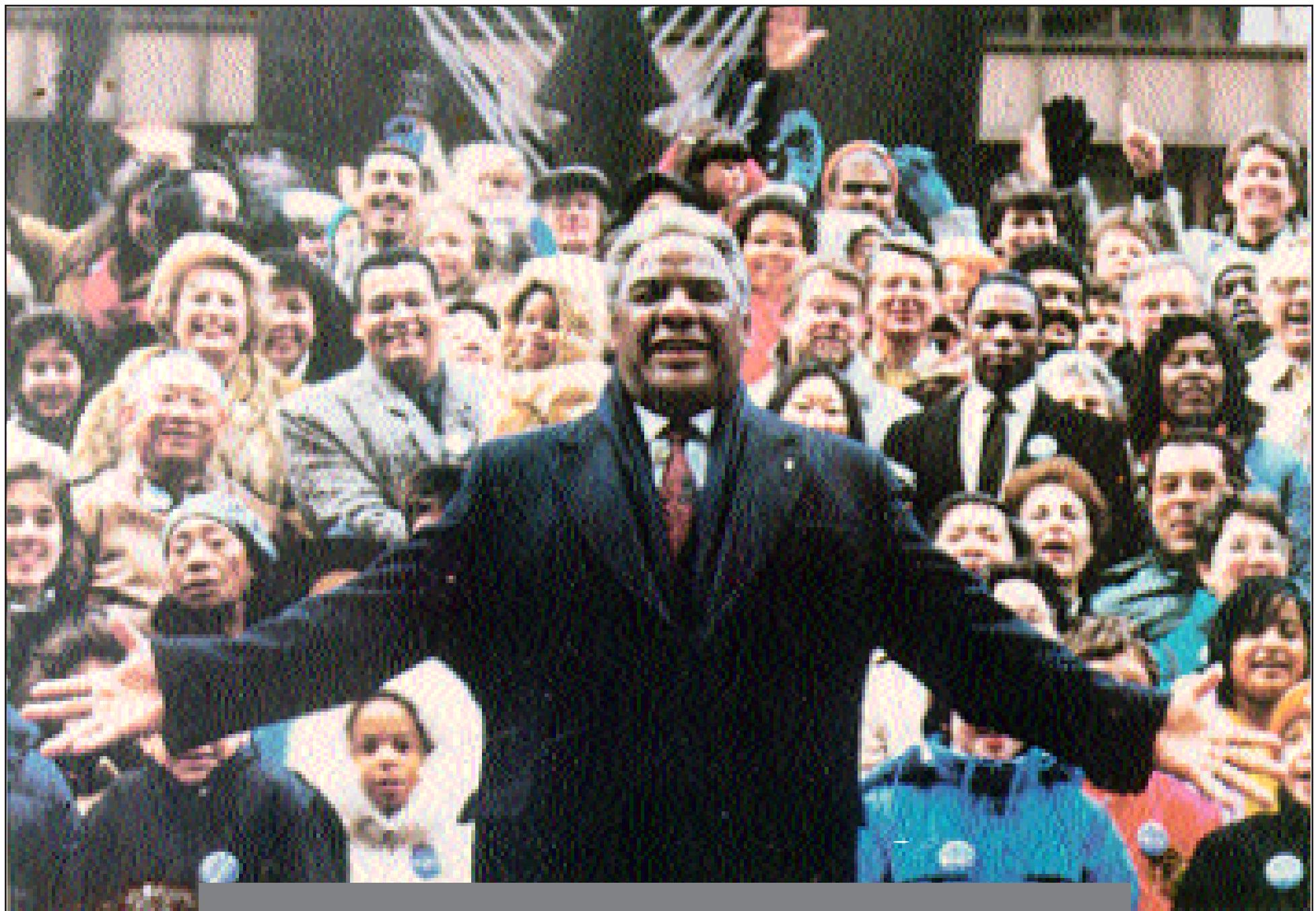


R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority March 1998 /Volume 2/ Number 2



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FRONT PAGE PHOTO
In honor of Black History
and the upcoming election
season, we are presenting a
photograph of the late Mayor
Harold Washington during
his first successful campaign
for mayor in 1983. The staff
of RJ would like to remind
all CHA residents that public
housing tenants playd a key
role in Mayor Washington's
elections.

Photo provided by Cenabeth Cross

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O u r M i s s i o n

This publication is committed to the journalistic principles of fair representation and free speech. Above all else, this publication will strive to fairly and accurately represent all sides of the issues that the editorial staff chooses to investigate. In maintaining an unwavering guarantee of editorial independence, this publication will contribute to the American media's mission of faithfully providing balanced, truthful accounts and information.

Residents' Journal strives to be accessible to all communities, regardless of income, ethnicity or disability.

The Chicago Housing Authority will not censor this publication in any way and is committed to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects the Freedom of the Press.

The views expressed in this publication do not reflect the views of the Chicago Housing Authority or its staff. All editorial decisions are made by the staff of Residents' Journal in conjunction with the editor-in-chief.

Editor's Box

by Ethan Michaeli

common concerns. These concerns potentially form a political agenda, a muscular arm which residents could use to improve their lives at this critical moment in history. That was the vision that we had when we decided to feature the LAC elections.



Our second big change is that this edition of Residents' Journal is being produced from our spacious new offices at 916 S. Wabash Ave.

Our new space has room for Residents' Journal to grow. We have a quiet, secure newsroom for our correspondents to make phone calls, conduct interviews and write articles. We have meeting spaces and offices that will attract and secure advertisers for our publication. In short, I believe

Thank you, Flannery

that this space will facilitate Residents' Journal's growth into a self-sufficient publication with a permanent presence in the national media.

But let it not be said that by growing bigger that we have grown big-headed. We would not have been able to achieve any of our success without the help and support of the residents of the Flannery Homes Senior Development. Residents' Journal was born on the 11th floor of the Flannery high-rise at 1531 N. Clybourn. The paper was nurtured by the Flannery residents much as I was. We were invited to parties in the building and, when we weren't able to make it, we were brought plates of food. We benefited from the mother wit, father wit and lifetimes of experience that the Flannery residents provided us.

At Flannery, our setting was much the same as in every other newsroom that I have worked. We were in a single, open room, where opinions, instructions and suggestions were shouted across the room. The Flannery residents were a part of that chorus.

For the first time in my life, I have an office with a door that shuts out the world. I am discovering the pleasure and efficiency of privacy. But as much as I am enjoying the solitude, I am already missing the sounds of the newsroom. And the newsroom that I have worked in for the past two years has been Flannery Homes.

Thanks.

LAC Special Elections

by Mary C. Johns

On Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, the Central Advisory Council/Local Advisory Council Special Elections were held at four CHA developments to fill the vacant positions that were available.

4440 S. COTTAGE GROVE

The elections were held at Ida B. Wells, LeClaire Courts, Hilliard Homes and Washington Park. Residents were able to vote from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. I covered the elections for Washington Park and my first stop was at 4440 S. Cottage Grove. I arrived around 10:30 a.m. and explained my presence to the election judges. I told them that I knew of the rules for elections, no electioneering - in other words, trying to convince a voter to vote for your candidate within a certain radius of the polling place. I then asked the judges how the election was going and was told that no one had come as of yet. I asked them if it was alright to ask them a few questions and/or take pictures of them but all but one of the judges declined. Laura Baldwin, a LAC Representative for Ida B. Wells, had this to say about the importance of having LACs

"If they get the right people in LAC and they do what they say they were going to do, then it's important to have LACs." Baldwin also feels that the LACs have a good effect on the community.

I had hoped to interview a few voters at this site but things moved slowly and only one voter came during the 30 minutes I was at that polling place.

6217 S. CALUMET

My next stop was 6217 S. Calumet, at the building which is named Randolph Towers, in honor of the late CAC President Artensa Randolph. To my surprise, there were three pleasant male judges stationed there. I have worked as an election judge previously and had never seen a polling place with all male judges. Elder Anderson



A Washington Park resident votes.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Harris, Titus Kerby and William Sewell were very courteous and enthusiastic about the election.

"It's good to have LACs because the residents can have someone in their development to stand up for them because a lot of them (the residents) won't stand up for themselves," said Harris, a resident of Rockwell Gardens.

I also spoke with one of the voters outside to find out why she voted: "I thought that I would vote for a representative to better my community," said Josephine Tucker.

The judges said that many people had cast ballots that morning.

6245 S. WABASH

I then went to the John L. Yancy Boys and Girls Club at 6245 S. Wabash Ave. around 1:20 p.m. Things were also moving slowly there and I was told that just before I came in, only one voter had cast a ballot. The judges' room was very hot and they seemed to be bored, although one of the judges did bring her crochet kit with her. I asked them if they wanted to say anything on how the election was going or why they were willing to spend Valentine's Day being an election judge and if they

thought that LACs were important. This is what one of them had to say:

"I'm a resident of CHA and live in Lathrop. I think that some people already feel that CHA people are lazy when they aren't, so any time I can help out in the community, I will. I could have been somewhere else since it's Valentine's but chose to be here," said Vickie Burns. "I'm trying to support the community."

3983 S. LAKE PARC PLACE

My final stop was at 3983 S. Lake Parc Place. I introduced myself to the judges and explained my presence but was given the cold shoulder. All I could find out was that the election was moving slowly. All declined to be interviewed or photographed.

THE LAC WINNERS

Below are the names of the LAC winners for Washington Park:

Mary Wiggins, LAC President, Marian Franklin, LAC Secretary, Izora Davis, Building Representative for 3983 S. Lake Park, Barbara Fraley, Building Representative for 6217 S. Calumet, Remell Scates, Area 2 Representative for 4440 S. Cottage Grove and Annette D. Hillman, Representative of Area 8.

FINAL NOTE

Even though the CAC/LAC Special Elections was announced in the Jan.'98 edition of the Residents' Journal, as well as being publicized through other means, such as posted notices and by word of mouth, there was a poor turn-out at certain developments.

I stopped many residents on the street who told me they didn't know about the election.

From all of Washington Park, a total of 135 people cast ballots for LAC president. In two buildings, the building representatives were elected with just two votes. In one building, the representative was elected with one vote cast.

by Andre Robinson

The ballots have been counted and the people of LeClaire Courts have spoken. As of Feb. 17, a new regime has begun with a new Local Advisory Council president, Willie Ruth Todd, and vice president, Rosie Garrett.

They said in an *RJ* interview that they plan on breathing new life into LeClaire Courts. The newly elected LAC would like to thank all of the residents of LeClaire Courts who came out to vote and those who were unable to make it out to vote. They would like to give a special thanks to those who voted for them because "It's the residents who are the backbone of our neighborhood."

This administration knows that they have an uphill battle as far as bringing LeClaire Courts back on the map as the leader in public housing.

Fortunately, the new board has many years in LeClaire along with expertise on how LeClaire should be run. Let me introduce you to your new President:

President Todd has been a resident of LeClaire for 17 years. She is married with seven children, four boys and three girls ages 24 to 34. She has been a volunteer in the community for the last 16 years, most-

LeClaire Courts

ly through the Chicago Public Schools system, where she is also a surrogate parent to children that are wards of the state. She was for six years a board member of the Resident Management Corporation (RMC). She served three of those years as its treasurer. She also served on the LAC board.

(managed by a private management agency. The development was for many years managed by the RMC but the Chicago Housing Authority terminated the RMC's contract in 1996. Shortly after CHA took that action, the residents have filed a law suit challenging CHA's action.)

Other new members of the LAC

Your vice president is Rosie Garrett. Garrett has been a resident of LeClaire Courts for over 30 years. She has 8 children so she definitely knows how to handle a large community.

Your vice president is Rosie Garrett. Garrett has been a resident of LeClaire Courts for over 30 years. She has 8 children so she definitely knows how to handle a large community. She has been a very vocal part of LeClaire, fighting for the rights of the residents and not afraid to take on the big boys downtown.

Garrett has many years invested in the community as a member of the RMC and has fought for years to keep the RMC operating.

(Editor's Note: LeClaire is currently

include: Bernestine Munn, a resident of over 37 years who raised four sons and worked in the Chicago Public School system for over 25 years with the majority of those years at Hearst Elementary School; Ethel Bartlett, a resident for over 40 years who raised 5 children - 3 boys and two girls - and has been a big influence in teaching the word of the Lord to many youngsters in the community; Vanessa Long, who you could say has seen LeClaire from both sides, as a youth and an adult, so she can relate to both young and

old about LeClaire's history.

The LAC's duties are to serve the community and act as the mouthpiece for the area. Like the president of the United States represents his country and the mayor represents his city, an LAC member represents his/her neighborhood. They are to listen to each individual's concerns and then represent each individual to the best of their ability. The LACs are chartered to work with every person and with every organization within this community to create a decent and safe living environment for the families in the neighborhood.

I commend these ladies for taking such a burden because I know it must be difficult for one to raise a family but a real challenge to raise a neighborhood. We are looking at women who will be trying to make the neighborhood safe by trying to control gang violence and drug sales.

The new LAC members also will be helping young mothers who are out in the world for the first time raise their families and keep them from the temptations of some of the negative influences in the area.

So I ask of the residents of LeClaire, support your LAC because they are there for you. Attend the meetings because there are a lot of changes that are about to happen and without your support, the LAC doesn't work.

LAC Special Elections

by Annie R. Smith

On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, a special election was held in four developments. So let's take a look as to why the special election was held.

Why was the Special Election held?

Artensa Randolph, who held the position of president of the Central Advisory Council, died last year. Randolph also was president of the Washington Park development. Helen Finner, who held another key position as vice president of the CAC and president of the Ida B. Wells Local Advisory Council, resigned from both posts one year ago. At two other developments, LeClaire Courts and Hilliard Homes, there were vacancies on the LACs.

So there were two vacancies that needed to be filled at the CAC but there were also four developments that didn't have either a president, vice president or other positions in their LAC. The CAC felt that the election was important both for the Local Advisory Councils and to make sure that each development had a voice in the CAC's upcoming election.

Fair play was the only way to handle the situation. So before the CAC elected their key officials, they made sure all developments took part in the election.

Ida B. Wells needed to elect a president and treasurer. Hilliard Homes was missing a vice president. LeClaire Courts wanted to place a president and vice president on its council and Washington Park Homes needed to elect a president and secretary.

The CAC hired Citizens Information Service of Illinois (CIS), a non-profit organization that educates citizens on how to utilize their civic duties. In turn, CIS hired public housing residents to take charge of the election. I was lucky enough to be one of those selected to conduct the election. CIS accepted our input and embraced our ideas. The only thing we couldn't do was work in our development because it was conceived that would

Ida B. Wells

be a conflict of interest.

The New LAC President of the Ida B. Wells

Sandra Young, who held the position of interim president, is now the newly elected LAC president of Ida B. Wells. I went to Madam President-elect and asked her: "What does it mean to be LAC president of the Ida B. Wells community?"

She looked at me and gave a nervous yet friendly smile before responding:

"Being the LAC president is exciting but also frightening. It's like a two-edged sword. The reason I say that is because I have to make sure that at all times the council keeps its appearance as a concerned council and continues to support our community efforts."

"Even though re-election comes again in 10 months, I plan to accomplish several things in that short length of time. Three of those things are: to bring a community linkage, implement some our business plan into the community, and empower our residents, which is the most crucial part for us. To let the residents know that its not an 'I' thing, it's a 'WE' thing and 'WE' are all in this together."

"With the council members just like with the residents, I have to reassure them and reach out to them. To let them know the changes that are being made is going to have a major impact on all of us. We really have to think about our roles as far as being community leaders. Being knowledgeable of the by-laws is the major concern and with that understanding, we can move forward on empowering our residents."

"I'm sensitive to the matters concerning residents getting repairs done in a timely manner. Our tenant relations committee chairperson is Ms. Peebles (who is also the editor of the Ida B. Wells newsletter for the last 27 years). "If residents have concerns of such matters, they should come to the monthly meetings and voice their concerns with the chairperson."

The chairperson takes the concerns to management with or without the resident and management handles it from there.

"I think being able to have residents see that public housing is changing and being able to empower our community around those changes is the kind of commitment I bring to the table. We need that

Acknowledgment goes out to the CAC/LAC and Citizens Information Service of Illinois, Congratulations go out to the winners but the true heroes deserve to be commended. So I say to the public housing residents who participated in the election,

God Bless you and Thank you for making this the most successful election in the CAC/LAC history.



Election workers, including employees of Citizens Information Service and residents hired to oversee the election.

Photo by Annie R. Smith



W. Ruth Todd receives a ballot from judges at the Feb. 14 Local Advisory Council Special Election in LeClaire Courts while judge Hezekiah Smith (right) looks on. Todd was elected LAC president.

Photo by Annie R. Smith

commitment from both the residents and the council members.

"In my position, I have to be stern and in turn, I also have to show compassion. That's part of the two-edged sword I mentioned earlier. With those two attributes being in place with a professional style, the residents will open up to the LAC and hopefully join in and be an active part of the community."

Sandra took a deep breath, looked at me and asked, "Did I do alright?"

"You did more than alright, you did just fine." I replied.

The Means Justified the End

I was stationed in LeClaire Courts on Feb. 14 election day. The day had finally come to an end. The polls were closed, the tally calculated. I congratulated the winning candidates that were in the room acting as their own poll watchers. I thanked the judges, special election day worker, CHA Police officers and other poll watchers. I checked the room before I flicked the switch to turn the lights out. I looked around the polling place and tears held their place in the well of my eyes.

I found the answer as to why this was titled as the CAC/LAC *special* election. The judges, poll watchers, outreach and special election day workers, regional coordinators and project associates were all public housing residents. The election had its tense moments but it was a success.

Feb. 14, 1998 Local Advisory Council Special Election Totals

LeClaire Courts

	Totals
President	95
W. Ruth Todd	73

	Totals
Vice President	119
Rosie Garrett	53

	Totals
President	107
Mary Wiggins	28

	Total
Secretary	113

	Totals
President	248
Sandra Young	42

	Totals
Vice President	26
Julia Wimms	18

Totals provided by Citizens Information Service. Winners indicated in bold.

The New President

Mamie Bone, the longtime president of the Henry Horner Homes LAC, recently was elected president of the Central Advisory Council, the highest level of CHA resident government. The CAC president serves as the resident representative on CHA's Executive Advisory Board. RJ Correspondent Anita Baker interviewed President Bone and discussed her plans for resident government.



Mamie Bone, the long-time Local Advisory Council president of Henry Horner Homes, was recently elected president of the Central Advisory Council

Photo by Anita Baker

“**T**he reason for this election was that the late (CAC President) Artensa Randolph passed away. There was no vice president and I, Mamie Bone, was secretary of the organization for quite a few years. So I was next in line to fill the seat because, under the Central Advisory Council bylaws, I could fill the seat until there was another election. This was stated in the bylaws if it was over a year remaining that there didn't have to be another election. I could have maintained that seat.

“Under Chicago Housing Authority and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines, the Board was told that there had to be an election. The Central Advisory Council was told that there must be an election. The Central Advisory Council had voted to maintain as is because there was only one more year left for the seat.

“So the Chicago Housing Authority said that there had to be an election. The Chicago Housing Authority then hired the Citizens Information Service people to hold the election. “Candidates running for the president's seat were myself and (ABLA Homes LAC President) Deverra Beverly, CAC treasurer, so we both resigned from these seats and voted in two other candidates for these seats as officers for the Central Advisory Council.

“Right now, we're in lots of training and workshop sessions with the Chicago Housing Authority. The structure of the organization will remain the same. There may be goals I might want to reach because my tenure is just for one year. So this means that there will be two elec-

tions in one year.

“Coming up is the annual election for the three-year term. Candidates that were voted in will serve a three-year term. In the meantime, there are some things I would like to get started, even if I'm not re-elected to this seat. Maybe it will make it easy for the next person or helpful to them. At least some of the officers will come back and know that these things are in place and maybe the next president would want to continue whatever it may be.

“I'm a strong believer in the Heavenly Father. He's my God, and Jesus guides me every day. I don't come into this position looking for a crown and I don't come into this position looking for power. I come as a humble servant for the residents and I know as long as I go God's way I'll never be left alone by my Heavenly Father.

“There are going to be some disagreements and huddles but if you learn one thing in serving the Lord, you learn to be meek and humble. This doesn't mean you have to let people walk over you because we all get angry. Jesus got angry in the Temple. This doesn't mean that we can't sit down and work things out together. There's a way to come to an understanding.

“My job as chairperson to this organization is to bring ideals to the board and this is what my job is. There may be some changes as far as something I may have to bring to the board like something suddenly came up that I knew nothing about. I would then have to get it together before I could present it to the board because maybe I don't know anything about it myself. After preparing whatever, we would then have a board meeting.

“So I say this before you even step out there: you have to be together yourself to know what you're talking about. Being the president, you will always be attacked. You must know what you're doing and know who you represent. I've taken the oath for many years and I truly know what it means. I have no intention of sitting in this chair to say that I'm the queen.

“I'm a human being just like anybody else. I'm just the president of the Central Advisory Council. The Board is just as great as myself. The building president I think is greater than myself because they have bigger council to deal with than here at the Central Advisory Council office.

“So I say the job is not easy for any of us because we have such a big job here in the Chicago Housing Authority. There are so many developments being torn down. You must be a person with a big heart trying to work together to make sure that the residents are not homeless and there's no housing out there. There are no jobs and they can't afford the market rents.”



Caged

Photo by John Brooks

El 28 de marzo 1996, el Programa de Extensión del Programa de Oportunidad de Vivienda fue firmada como Ley. La Sección 9 de esta Ley Pública, está conocida como “*Un Strike y Estás Fuera*” (“One Strike and You’re Out”).

“Un Strike” establece procedimientos de selección de solicitantes y requisitos para residentes con el objetivo de evitar el abuso de alcohol o actividades criminales relacionadas con drogas en la CHA y requiere a la CHA terminar el alquiler de vivienda a las personas que estén envueltas en tales actividades. Aunque hay provisiones para personas rehabilitadas y un procedimiento de quejas para aquellos quienes creen que su expulsión o declinación de alquiler de vivienda fue injusto, la CHA no tiene que proveer el procedimiento de quejas antes de terminar el alquiler de vivienda de la familia. Esto quiere decir que la Autoridad tiene una herramienta poderosa para terminar con el abuso de drogas y la actividad criminal relacionada con drogas de manera inmediata.

Esta Ley nos quiere decir que cuando algo está mal tiene que ser arreglado. Todas las personas tienen el derecho de vivir en paz, libre de miedo y libre de intimidación y abuso.

El envolvimiento comunitario y del gobierno en designar e implementar “Un Strike” es un triunfo fundamental. Debido a los altos problemas de crimen, los residentes de vivienda pública tienen que ser protegidos de personas que se dedican a violar las reglas establecidas en el contrato de arrendamiento. Con esta ley, tanto los residentes como los nuevos solicitantes de vivienda pública saben bajo qué condiciones el gobierno les exige una nueva y mejor forma de vivir.

Reporteros del *Residents Journal* hicieron algunas entrevistas con personas mayores de edad en varios edi-

On March 28, 1996, the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act was signed into law. Section 9 of this Public Law is known as “One Strike and You’re Out”

“One Strike” creates procedures for screening applicants and requirements for current tenants with the goal of preventing the abuse of alcohol or drug-related criminal activity in the CHA and requires the CHA to evict tenants for such abuse. While there are provisions for persons who can prove they have rehabilitated themselves and a grievance procedure for those who believe that their eviction or denial of residency was unjust, the CHA does not have to provide a grievance procedure before evicting them.

What this law really means is that when something does not work, it needs to be fixed. Everyone has the right to live in peace, free from fear and free from intimidation and abuse.

According to documents from the Chicago Housing Authority and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “One Strike” was created due to the large crime problem in public housing residents and is designed to protect law-abiding residents. Under this law, current residents must recognize and abide by the same government standards for new and improved behavior just like applicants.

I conducted various interviews with CHA seniors and asked for their opinion of the “One Strike” law. The following are their comments:

Mary Solvenir, a resident of 4945 N. Sheridan:

“I’m in agreement with ‘One Strike

UN STRIKE Y ESTAS AFUERA

Con Julio Martinez

ficios de la CHA sobre sus opiniones de “Un Strike”. Estos fueron sus comentarios:

En el 4945 N. Sheridan:

La Sra. Mary Solvenir nos dice: “Yo estoy de acuerdo con el ‘One Strike You’re Out’, pero creo que no se debe castigar a un residente por ofensas como tener la música de su estéreo muy alto. Yo le llamaría la atención porque quizás esa persona no sabe que está perturbando a los demás residentes y estoy segura que esa persona bajaría su estéreo sin ningún problema.”

“Yo creo que esta ley es muy buena porque protege a nosotros los residentes que vivimos en las residencias para personas mayores de edad y nos sentimos protegidas.”

“Dice la ley ‘One Strike’ que se le puede negar asistencia en la vivienda pública por actividad criminal, presente o pasada, relacionada con drogas o con abuso de alcohol [de parte de] solicitantes.”

Nos dice Mrs. Gertrudes Klark del 5040 N. Kenmore:

“Yo no entiendo esta ley de ‘One Strike and You’re Out’. Lo mejor para nosotros es tener un *meeting* en el edificio y explicarnos qué significa esta ley. Aunque recibimos una carta donde se nos explica ‘Un Strike’, muchos de nosotros no la entendemos, pero si nos explican y es para mejor protección, tener paz y seguridad, pues será bienvenida. Si es para mejorar la forma de vida de nosotros los *seniors*, yo estoy de acuerdo.”

Entrevista con la Sra. Angelica Ramirez, miembro activa del edificio Wicker Park Annex, 2020 N. Schiller:

Acerca de la ley “Un Strike” dice: “Esta ley me gusta. Yo creo que es lo mejor que se ha implementado en la CHA. Esta ley nos da la oportunidad de que los edificios de la

CHA, Sección 8 y *Scattered Sites*, puedan deshacerse de los inquilinos que se dedican a hacerle la vida imposible a los residentes responsables que queremos vivir en paz. Además le da oportunidad a estas personas que están violando la ley a terminar sus acciones porque saben que pueden perder su apartamento.”

“Tenemos residentes que tienen problemas de alcohol y bajo su problema salen al *hallway* en ropas menores y además se olvidan asearse y también se olvidan de limpiar sus apartamentos. Así es que yo confío que esta nueva ley va a cambiar el comportamiento de muchos residentes.”

Pueden ver de estos comentarios que más que nada les gusta la póliza de “Un Strike” a las personas mayores de edad de la CHA, pero solamente si se implementa de manera justa. Estoy esperando el día en que la CHA sea un lugar más seguro como resultado de la ley de “Un Strike.”

of] applicants.”

Gertrudes Klark, 5040 N. Kenmore:

“I don’t understand the ‘One Strike and You’re Out’ law. The best thing would be to have a meeting in the building to explain the significance of this law. Although we received a letter explaining ‘One Strike,’ many people don’t understand it. However, if they explain it to us and it will actually better protect our peace and security, then it will be welcomed. If it improves the lives of seniors, I’m for it.”

Angelica Ramirez, 2020 N. Schiller:

“I like this law. I feel that it is the best thing that has been implemented at the CHA. This law is the best chance CHA buildings, the Section 8 program

and Scattered Sites have to get rid of tenants who are dedicated to making the lives of responsible tenants who just want to live in peace impossible. In addition, it gives these lawbreakers a chance to stop their activity because they know they will lose their apartment.”

“We have residents who have problems with alcohol and because of this problem, they walk out into the hallway half-dressed, without bathing and they don’t keep their apartments clean either. So I’m confident that this new law will change the behavior of a lot of residents.”

You can see from these comments that overall the seniors in CHA like the new “One Strike” policy as long as it is implemented fairly. I am looking forward to the day when the CHA is a safer place because of “One Strike.”

ONE STRIKE AND YOU'RE OUT

by Julio Martinez

You’re Out’ but I think that a resident should not be punished for certain acts such as having their stereo too loud. Bring this up because perhaps the person doesn’t know that they are disturbing other residents and I’m sure the person would lower the volume without a problem.

“I think that this law is very good because it protects the residents who live in senior buildings and we will feel more secure.”

“The ‘One Strike’ law says that public housing assistance can be denied for criminal activity, present or past, related to drugs or alcohol abuse [on the part

“I think that this law is very good because it protects the residents who live in senior buildings and we will feel more secure.”
- Mary Solvenir, a resident of 4945 N. Sheridan

ABLA Homes News

by Karen Owens

On a bright, sunny day during Black History Month, history was also made at ABLA Homes. On Feb. 9, as a banner proclaimed it "Miracle On Loomis," the families who were temporarily housed in the Abbott high rise at 1440 W. 13th St. were able to move back to newly constructed modern units at "The New Brooks Homes."

A crowd of about 200 turned out, offering praises and well wishes such as "Promises made, Promises kept," "Redevelopment without Displacement" and "A New Viable Community."

Some nay-sayers said it couldn't be done but it was. Some of those in attendance to mark this historic day were: Joseph Shuldiner, Executive Director of CHA; U.S. Rep. Danny Davis (D-7); state Sen. Ricky Hendon (D-Chicago); Ed Moses, CHA Deputy Executive Director over Community Relations and Involvement; state Rep. Shirley Jones (D-Chicago), who once was a resident of Brooks Homes; Ald. Madeline Haithcock (2); Margaret Garner, CHA's director of modernization; Doreathear Washington, deputy director of security and modernization; Wanda White, director of development initiatives for CHA, who played a big part in this endeavor; and Wynona Redmond, CHA's public affairs director.

The person who was most ecstatic about the process was Deverra Beverly, presi-

dent of ABLA's Local Advisory Council. She said, "It was a first, definitely something that has never been done before. With the help and unity of Mr. Ed Moses, CHA staff and the executive board of the LAC, ABLA will now look like any other community in the surrounding area."

Phase 1 of the rehabilitation took approximately 120 days to complete. The new development will contain the following:

Units that are accessible to individuals with disabilities

Wall to wall carpeting

2 bathrooms (in larger units)

Washers and dryers (installed) in all units

Heating and air-conditioning systems in all units

Kitchen island

Outside of the units, lighted front and back areas, secured fencing, parking lots and newly installed play areas for children are still under construction.

One resident who was the first to move into a 2-bedroom accessible unit was Justean Gaines. Gaines has been a resident of ABLA for 29 years (20 years in an Abbott Homes high-rise at 1520 W. Hastings. 9 years in Brooks). She found the new unit to be "fabulous" and said LAC President Beverly worked hard to make this happen.

As the day went on, the crowds began to diminish. I realized that one of the principles of Kwanzaa, "Umoja" (meaning unity) had been joyously shown.

Robert Taylor News

by Wateka Kleinpeter

Background

Robert Taylor Homes is the largest housing development in the world. Taylor is also one of the developments whose reputation is associated with the negative stereotypes of high-rise public housing living.

Taylor spans over 95 acres. It runs south from Pershing Road (39th street) to 54th Street. It runs west from State Street to the railroad tracks.

CHA's public housing giant was named after Robert Taylor, who was the first executive director of CHA. Taylor originally consisted of 28 identical 16-story buildings and a total of 4,415 units. Construction of Taylor started in 1960 and continued through four stages. The last phase covered 51st Street to 54th Street, the area now referred to as the "Hole."

According to reports, Taylor's construction was completed ahead of schedule. CHA had more available units than tenants and many people who moved in were not properly screened. The lack of screening was particularly troublesome in the units from 51st Street to 54th Street.

The Wrecking Ball Cometh

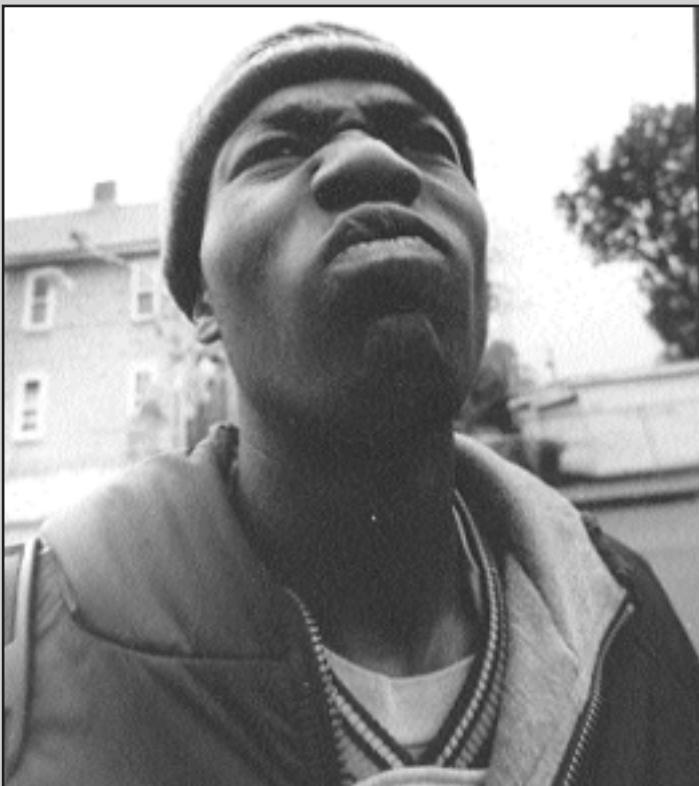
Residents have almost vacated the three buildings in the "Hole" as they are slated for demolition. The buildings to be torn down are 5323 S. Federal St., 5326 S. State St. and 5322 S. State St. The first building to be torn down was 3919 S. Federal St., which was demolished last year.

"More of CHA should come out of their offices."

- Robert Taylor "B" LAC President
Mildred Dennis

Resident Leader

According to Mildred Dennis, Local Advisory Council president of Taylor "B," most of the buildings in question are in disrepair. Dennis said there has been a lot of neglect in Taylor. "No one seemed to care,"



Derville

Photo by John Brooks

Dennis said. There were high vacancy rates in these buildings even before relocation, she noted.

Dennis said that years of CHA administrations have compiled the problem. They did not hire enough qualified personnel to do repairs. She also said, "People are scared to work here. With the outbreak of violence, you can get shot at it the morning, which is bad, but how do you think good residents who live here feel? They are here 24 hours a day. CHA workers come in at eight and break their necks to get out at four."

Of the current CHA administration, Dennis said they are "OK" on some things. However, Dennis said residents have been promised so much and many of these promises were not kept. She also noted that the reorganization of CHA has had a great impact on services to developments. Dennis said, "To be realistic, how can one housing manager handle about 800 units. Also the talk of a new lay-off makes things worse."

Dennis said that the janitorial staff of Taylor, which is joint ventured with the Muhammad Ali Community Economic Development Corporation, does a great job, even better than CHA staff.

Dennis said, "More of CHA should come out of their offices."

Dennis said the relocation staff and Wanda White, director of development initiatives, have been very helpful to the residents. They did surveys and got the consensus of Taylor residents.

"The majority ruled and most of the residents chose Section 8. Many people do want to leave. Change is not easy," Dennis said.

Dennis said that CHA relocation staff have been helping in this transition phase. However, some residents do require other services such as jobs, which also is a factor in their successful relocation.

Cabrini-Green Update

by Cecelia A. Clark

Black History Month

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, seniors from the Evergreen Towers complex at 1333 N. Cleveland Ave. sponsored a gala event for Black History Month called "Lest We Forget." The afternoon's participants performed a short skit on items used by our ancestors. On hand was a silver wash tub and scrub board as well as a small white basin for washing your face and hands.

The students from Manierre School who were brought in for the event looked in amazement as the meat grinder and a bag of cotton were presented and their history was explained.

The seniors prepared a home cooked menu for their guests and the tables were beautifully set. One resident played the piano during the meal. Children who attended the program recited poems, danced and even performed an African song. The garments the seniors wore were beautiful in color and style. Annie Henry, service coordinator and activity director, thanked the residents for a



"Man on the Stoop," a sculpture displayed at Evergreen Towers for Black History Month.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

program well executed. Keep up the good work.

Lights, Camera, Action

The children of Cabrini Connections presented their second annual Film Festival on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St.

Along with parents, tutors and mentors, the children displayed their hard work and creativity. Cabrini Connections is based at Montgomery Ward's, 535 W. Chicago Ave. The children and teens are enrolled in a tutor/mentor program which provides enrichment experience activities, job skills development, job intern opportunities, career counseling/scholarships, continued mentoring support after high school graduation and a commitment to help others.

The 1998 Film Festival participants, along with their mentors, welcomed their guests and escorted them to a buffet table which was beautifully arranged. I had the pleasure of interviewing some of the children involved in the videos

Reginald Crumb, a 13-year-old resident of the Cabrini-Green Extensions South: "This is my first year with the program. There are about 15 or 20 of us involved in the videos."

Tramaine Ford also lives in the Cabrini-Green Extensions. "I've been with the (video) program since it first started last year."

The children produced six video short stories:

"Stop You're Hurting Me!" - This video expresses the frustration, violence, drug abuse, and neglect which occurs.

"The Adopted One" - A horror movie about an adopted child who wreaks havoc on his adoptive family.

"The Marquita Show" - The show entitled "I'm Sorry, But Your Man is My Wife." The cast takes a jab getting guests on the show to bare their souls.

"The Shavelyn Show" - This was the youths' answer to the "Dating Game."

"The Tutor Mentor Story" - This video explores often frustrating but rewarding interactions between adult role models and Cabrini-Green youth with adults often learning things about themselves.

"The Real Cabrini" - One young man's perspectives on life in Cabrini, which won first place in the documentary category of last year's Chicago Childrens' Film Festival. The video quotes one Cabrini-Green resident, Jimmy Biggs, as saying: "To me, this is just like Mayberry."



The young participants in the Cabrini Connections Second Annual Film Festival listen to questions from the audience at their premiere.

THE CREW

Michael Atkins
Sharon Beals
LaShawn Crosby
Reginald Crumb
Toi Dickson
Tramaine Ford
Linnie Fox
Anita Gunart
Alicia Hall
Marquita Hall
Calvin Hughes
Evelyn Johns
Erick Moore
Linda Rios
Theresa Vaughn
Omega Smith

Special thanks to these students who supported the Film Festival:

Kagaiza Coleman
Melvin Fleming
Melanie Thompson

Just watching these very talented young people, I laughed, wondered and was amazed by their performance. For your accomplishments, we at **RJ** give you four stars.



Seniors and their guests at Evergreen Towers clap for their building's Black History celebration.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

Relocation: Grass Not Greener

by Cecelia A. Clark

In the last edition of RJ, the call went out for any CHA resident having problems after relocation to contact the newspaper. Sharon (not her real name) was a resident of Henry Horner Homes. Because her building was demolished, she was relocated about four months ago to a Scattered Site apartment in the northeast part of the city managed by the Housing Resource Center. Sharon and her daughter are the only African American family on the block in which she lives. "I'm very unhappy living here. I have a 3-year-old little girl and when I moved, I thought it would be a place to be happy in. But it didn't turn out that way at all.

Some of my furniture was broken by the mover and some didn't even get to my apartment. It was taken to another resident's apartment. I was never reimbursed for the reconnection of my telephone ser-

aren't friendly at all. I haven't had a good night's sleep since I moved here."

Sharon recalled one afternoon that her daughter closed her door before she could get her keys. When she asked her neighbors to call the management office, all of them refused. One woman who was entering her car hurried into the vehicle as Sharon was approaching her. Finally, this woman agreed to make the phone call.

The janitor responsible for maintaining Sharon's building started asking her a number of unusual questions such as "How did you happen to move out here?" and "How long do you think you're going to be able to stay out here?"

"I've started sleeping with knives under my pillow at night because I am afraid," Sharon said.

vice and there are ants coming from under my heater. I called the Housing Resource Center to complain and was told to only call this number if it is a fire or a death.

"Life here in Scattered Site North isn't pleasant at all and the neighbors

Sharon said she has experienced culture shock since moving to the mostly-white north lakefront. "At least where I was, I knew the people," she said. "Here I don't know anyone."

I spoke to CHA Development Initiatives Director Wanda White, and the person who oversees all relocation of residents, and asked her if there is any way to help residents who move into scattered site apartments that are unhappy with the move.

"Any resident who has moved into scattered site having problems should contact my office," White said.

White said that a tenant can be moved for an emergency reason, such as a life-threatening situation or harassment or if the tenant is participating in a law enforcement case. For other tenants who are not satisfied with their new living situation, White said the circumstances will

Flannery Homes News

by Alan Minerbrook

ocation, location, location - promises made by CHA, promises made in Washington by government. Dreams were created and disintegrated over time. But there are solutions nationwide and in the nation's cities. Progress comes slowly; trial, faults and errors are discovered so back to more solutions. We all must learn or perish we learn from mistakes. That's the Catholic discipline form of learning - painful lessons are not quickly forgotten.

Flannery Towers is struggling to overcome past mistakes which have been incorporated in the new approaches we take toward improvement.

But let's not dwell on mistakes being made by management; it serves no purpose to be critical of Flannery management and its constantly changing and recycling of representatives.

They are indeed trying to improve the buildings for us and we must be allowed to sometimes make them aware of their errors along the way. As human beings, we all make mistakes and need correction. Management must indeed recognize our criticism as meaningful and logical. We are all struggling in our own ways for happiness.

RJ has moved from Flannery Towers to our new location on Wabash Avenue as we go into publishing our and your paper every two months. Your continued

support is helping us grow as your newspaper throughout the CHA.

Laundry Service Complaints

On Jan. 15, there was a meeting at which eight residents complained about the new laundry cards. Complaints varied: "I only got 1 wash" and "I only got 2 washes on my \$6.50 laundry card." But all these tenants were loudly saying, "I demand a new card or give me all my money back."

The computer chips on some of the cards are defective and are causing these complaints. The residents talked about hiring vehicles to take them to a neighborhood laundromat. The tenants finally agreed to take a "wait and see" attitude before taking these drastic measures.

CHA Responds

On Jan. 21, Davine Morris, a representative of CHA's Economic Development Division, met with residents at the 1531 N. Clybourn building to discuss the laundry card situation. Morris explained that the laundry services were bid out for proposal to the resident-owned businesses.

The old contractor, Family Pride, lost their contracts due to a lack of maintenance and service. A resident-owned business headed by Senior North LAC President Shirley Hammond, partnered with MACKE Laundry Services, won the bid. The old Family Pride machines were removed from Flannery and MACKE machines were moved in.

The Family Pride machines used tokens and the charge was 25 cents per wash and 25 cents per dry. The MACKE price with the new machines is set at 75 cents per wash and dry. The contract will last for 5 years.

The residents objected to the \$1.50 deposit fee on the laundry cards. The tenants requested the management come to the building at least one time per week to renew the cards.

Ald. Walter Burnett (27), who attended this meeting, voiced his opinion that the price of 75 cents was too expensive for seniors who have limited income.

Morris said that MACKE set the 75 cent per wash at the prevailing market rate.

The alderman said Senior North LAC President Hammond should maintain better communications with the tenants of Flannery and should have provided demonstrations for tenants on how to use the new cards before they were put into general use. Hammond's assistant said she was negotiating with MACKE to reduce the cost to 50 cents per wash.

Burnett said sensitivity to the special



Flannery Homes resident Edna Tarver turned 98 on Feb. 6. Tarver's birthday was celebrated by many other residents of Flannery, where she has lived for 9 years.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

needs of senior citizens should take precedence in situations such as this when they arise.

Building Business

At Flannery on Jan. 14, in the 1507 N. Clybourn Ave. building, the acting building president, Ethel Henderson, reported to the tenants the building will get \$600 in P.U.Y. (Per Unit Yearly) money. At the meeting, the Flannery leaders announced that these dollars will be used to make a Valentine's Dinner on

On Jan. 15, there was a meeting at which eight residents complained about the new laundry cards. All these tenants were loudly saying, "I demand a new card or give me all my money back."

the top floor. All tenants present agreed to this. Popeye's Chicken costs \$100 for 100 pieces or \$200 for 200 pieces. The tenants agreed that sheet cakes would be baked and five to sixcases of soda pop would be purchased.

On Feb. 15, Mayor Richard M. Daley visited the Flannery high rises. There was little food at the mayor's visit; tenants were only able to get a small piece of cake and a can of pop. The mayor's visit was brief and poorly attended by Flannery residents.

On March 3, Acting President Henderson said we can expect \$914 coming from the vending machines in 1507. She suggested the funds are enough to buy a new video cassette recorder and hold a party for St. Patrick's Day. She said the funds will be enough to buy 3 turkeys and the ladies of 1507 (who are such excellent cooks) will all join in the event to provide a scrumptious dinner for all tenants who will come and attend.

New leather couches and a cocktail table have been purchased for the meeting room on the ground floor at 1507.

Last of the Capricorns

On Saturday, Jan. 17, Mrs. Smith gave a "last of the Capricorns" tenant birthday party. There was plenty to eat and drink and the social company was very good. The tenants did come together in a spirit of good love and care was shared by all residents of Flannery's 1507 Senior Tower.

CHA Police AD

TWO YEARS IN CHA

On March 30, I will have been a resident of CHA for 2 years, having moved into the Eckhart Park elderly housing development in the Greenview Avenue building. I moved from a one-bedroom apartment in Hyde Park on March 30, 1996. I had been disabled and using a wheelchair for nearly 3 years, which included an initial 86 days in Mercy Hospital, where I had been taken by a nephew in an emergency on April 19, 1993.

I have been reasonably satisfied with my apartment. Even though it is smaller than my previous residence in private housing, my CHA apartment is more accessible than what I had previously in that I can enter the bathroom in my wheelchair, which had been impossible previously. The kitchen storage space and appliances (stove & refrigerator) are far superior than had existed in my previous residence also. Because of the size of my CHA apartment, I was forced to discard some items of furniture plus an old musical instrument, an organ, which I no longer had space for.

I had not realized that there are one-bedroom apartments in the Eckhart Park development that are larger than mine. At the time I was originally interviewed, the CHA senior housing person determined that I should reside in an apartment on a lower floor because of my wheelchair status. In the event of a fire or other emergency, I was told that my living on a lower floor would facilitate my being vacated as easily as possible when elevators cannot be used. The available apartment at that time was on the second floor, my current apartment.

ACCESS LIVING

When I originally met with staff of Access Living in preparation for my story in our January issue, I had been advised that a wheelchair accessible bathroom means that I should be able to enter in my wheelchair and turn around completely, close the door and be able to exit easily. This is impossible in my current bathroom and I have subsequently learned that all of the bathrooms in my development have this same problem: In short, there are no wheelchair-accessible apartments in the Eckhart Park elderly housing development per A.D.A. 504 mandates.

On Monday, Feb. 23, I again visited Access Living and this time interviewed Alberto Barrero, Housing

Access Report

by Thomas Merriweather

Team Leader, who advised me that Karen Tamley, the housing policy coordinator to whom I had talked previously, was in a meeting with Carolyn Sistrunk, Special Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director of CHA, and some attorneys from Equip for Equality to discuss the functions of CHA's mandated A.D.A. 504 compliance office and other issues on the matter of accessibility.

Barrero informed me that both written and telephone communication had been done with Sistrunk with nothing accomplished as a result of these contacts.

Barrero expressed concern over the CHA office with the responsibility of ADA compliance which is mandated to direct or enforcing any necessary modifications to bring housing units in compliance so that these are accessible to disabled residents.

Access Living has been concerned with the fact that no staff person has been assigned to direct the activities of this mandated office and that William Peppers, who was hired as acting director, has not been given any real responsibility for coordinating and implementing the real purpose of the office. Since Sistrunk was designated as the contact or liaison person, Access Living's communications were being directed at her, Barrero explained.

Other concerns are the demolition activity currently underway and how this will adversely affect those disabled residents who will be displaced. The Access Living representatives also focused on the shortage of Section 8 housing units and noted that most of these units require construction modification in order to meet

mandated accessibility standards.

Access Living has designated a staff person to make contacts with disabled residents in order to hear any complaints a disabled resident may have. But with no CHA compliance officer to hear any complaints a disabled resident may have, the Access Living representatives complained that their efforts are not as effective as they otherwise might be.

ELEVATOR PROBLEMS

A major access concern involves the condition of elevators in CHA developments. This became a dominant issue with this reporter during the week of Monday, Feb. 9. On that Sunday, I arrived home from church at 12:34 p.m. and was confronted with the fact that both elevators were not functioning. This is a major concern of elderly residents and especially for those of us who must use wheelchairs for mobility.

Personally, there is another concern since I am diabetic which means I must follow a meal plan which recommends that not more than 6 hours exist between breakfast and lunch or lunch and dinner and with a night snack recommended at some point before retiring at night.

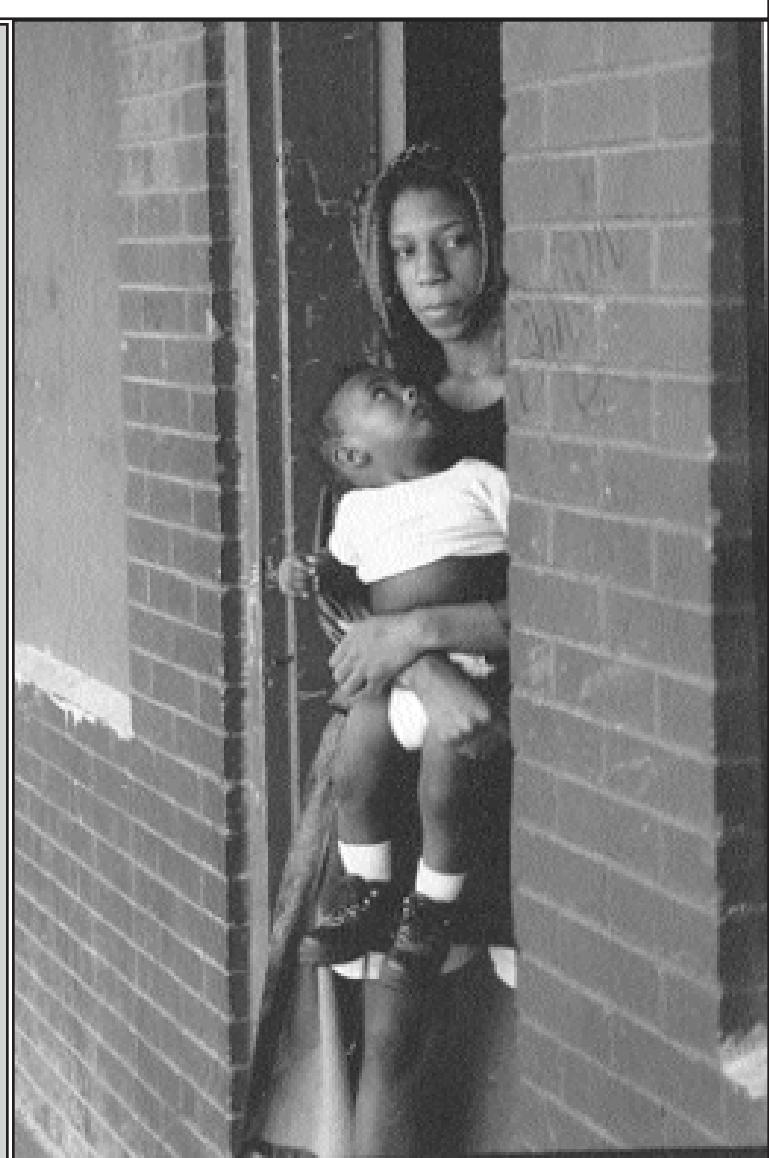
The meal necessity was alleviated when a woman in our building who was present to check on voter registration was kind enough to go out and purchase some food from a nearby fast food restaurant for me. However, this did not alleviate the fact that a bus arrived at our building to transport some residents to a ballet performance at the Harold Washington Library Center and some of these who had signed up for the event were stranded because of the lack of elevator service. It was 2:31 p.m. (nearly 2 hours after I arrived in the building) before one of the elevators was available for service. Our development manager, who was present to accompany residents to the ballet performance, revealed that elevator service personnel had to come out on 4 occasions during this week prior to Sunday.

ACCESSABILITY FUNDS SOUGHT

In accordance with the mandate of 5 percent accessibility housing in CHA developments, our private management is requesting funds to bring 10 units in each of the two Eckhart Park buildings into full compliance.

Mothers and Daughters

Photos by
John Brooks



Black History

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION AT FULLER PARK

by Bobby Watkins

On Saturday, Feb. 28, CHA's Department of Resident Organization celebrated their 2nd Annual Black History Month at Fuller Park, 45th Street and Princeton Avenue.

All developments were represented by very talented youths that made an authentic performance, from poetry to a dramatic play, and the beautiful African costumes from all participants.

Lutheran Social Services Inc., a private management company, also was represented. Among the many participants at the event were Paula Ross, Brandon Martin and Raul Velez, Lathrop's community specialist and Brianna Edwards. Justin Merrit performed a poem regarding Black brothers and sisters and it is very true what he said in his last statement: "Together we stand, we fight and we fall."

Thank you to Bobbie Bolden, director of CHA's Department of Resident Organization, as well as the staff and volunteers who made the program a great success. Congratulations on a job well done.



Remembering Harold Washington

In this archive photograph, the late Harold Washington is shown during his first successful run for mayor in 1983.

Photo provided by Cenabeth Cross

A Black History Field Trip

by Earl Battles

The third weekend of Black History Month had a lot to offer for a few children of Lathrop Homes. With the bus provided by CHA and a friendly but stern driver named Benny, we were whisked off to the Chicago Fire Academy. Little did the youth expect what was in store. It turned out to be an educationally fun and rewarding morning with candy and prizes.

With 18 children and 6 adult chaperones, the chill of the morning found us as bright-eyed as the sun.

Assistant Fire Commissioner Jerry Jones and Executive Assistant Cedric Collins, who oversee the Fire Department's affirmative action program, had a real treat for us in Black History and lessons in at-home fire safety.

Stepping off the bus, the children

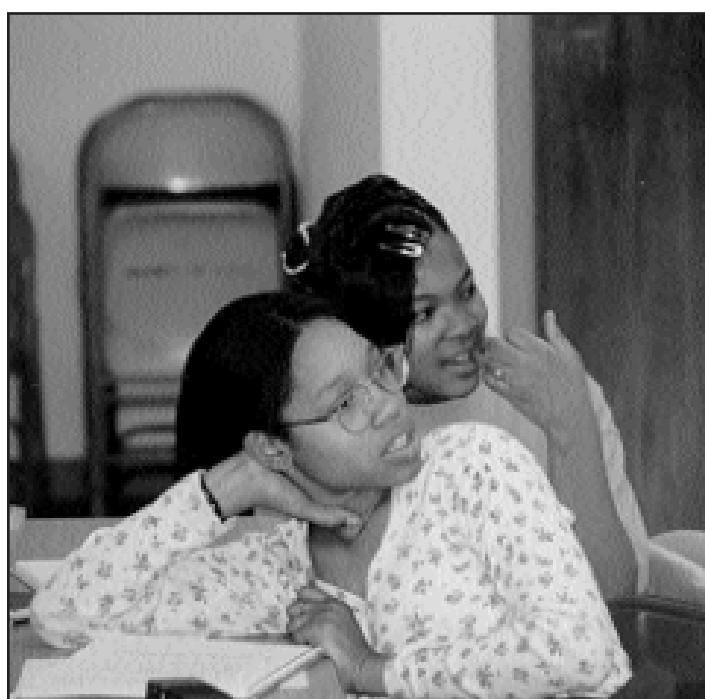
were greeted by Jones. The children received a tour of the academy, the introduction of two fire-fighting crews and their commanders. Then Jones proceeded by awarding prizes. The prizes were awarded through a raffle with three of Lathrop Homes' children winning among youngsters from other neighborhoods visiting that morning. 9-year-old Candice Dobbins and 11-year-old Nakiya Edwards both won bright yellow baby-boom box radios. The big prizes winner from Lathrop Homes was 4-year-old Jovon Morris, who won a brand new 20-inch bicycle without training wheels. His feet barely reached the peddles but he didn't care.

After the awarding of prizes, it was on to a classroom where the children were seated before a wide screen video of learning proper safety of escaping a fire in the home. After the video, the children were escorted by fire engineer Lolita Travis into the model mock neighborhood complete with a home that fills with fake smoke and home alarms and windows to escape through. This setting came complete with a street to cross, a neighbor's home and a pay phone to call for help in an emergency. The children learned to always have two escape plans to leave a home in emergencies, look both ways before crossing the street, try to get a neighbor's help and to call 9-1-1 to report fire and injuries of someone hurt or left behind.

With Travis insisting that the children pay close attention, they learned that following directions closely will save your life in the event of a fire.

Thanks to the Fire Department for helping us educate our children in emergency situations so they may escape with their lives and not worry about personal or material belongings. Your life is more important than anything left behind burning!

Urban Youth International Journalism



Residents' Journal and the Chicago Housing Authority - Resident Publications Department are sponsoring a new initiative this year called the Urban Youth International Journalism Program. CHA young people ages 14-17 will have the opportunity to learn all about journalism by touring newsrooms, meeting reporters and learning the latest techniques. Many of the program participants will go to Washington, D.C., in the spring and overseas to Ghana and Israel in the summer. Slots are still available in this exciting new program. If you are interested, call (312) 674-4218 today!



In this issue, I want to focus on the problem of domestic violence and child abuse/neglect. This story starts with domestic upheaval in the most public house of them all, the White House. And who is being charged? The President of the United States. My man Bill has been unfaithful? All the evidence is not in yet.

But can you imagine how Chelsie must feel? Not the most perfect time in her life for a scandal of this magnitude. Her school work could be in jeopardy as she concentrates on the state of affairs at home. The peer pressure will be tremendous. If faced with the marijuana use, will she inhale?

Hilary is standing by her man but what if it turns out that he has been playing at the back door with Monica? Then is Hilary putting her concerns for her man before the well-being of her child? Her campaign for having the village raise a child would be down the drain. She wouldn't be credible. When you go into the village to save everyone else's child but there's trouble in your own home, you won't draw many followers.

For two months, Timothy Williams beat and locked his wife in the closet, according to the WGN-TV evening news on Oct. 23, 1997. Williams would let his wife out only to have sex with her and beat her more. When her brother came to the house and found her, she had lost 40 pounds and had suffered a broken hand and broken ribs.

The Cook County State's Attorney estimates that 3 to 4 million American women are battered each year by their husbands or partners. But domestic violence does not only affect women; the young, the elderly, the rich, the poor and persons from every race and color can be victims.

Any Cook County resident who is experiencing abuse from a family member may file for an order of protection at the State's Attorney's office at 1340 S. Michigan.

In some ways, I feel that I was a victim of child neglect. I almost always went to bed hungry and felt that my mother would have rather bought a hat for church than food for myself and my seven brothers and sisters. As the second-to-oldest child, from the time I was seven years old, I can remember babysitting. That was a form of child abuse, too.

Every Friday, my mother would take me to the old, broken-down Louis Theater on East 35th Street and leave me there, with rats running over my feet and old men playing with my legs, so she could visit a boyfriend. After the show, I would stand outside the theater waiting for her, sometimes for hours. She only stopped doing this when a police officer noticed me waiting by myself. The officer waited for my mother to come for me and then promised to put her in jail if she left me there again. That only served to hurt me more because then she started taking me with her to various men's homes. I would sit in the front rooms, listening to the beds creak.

Stop The Violence

by Cenabeth Cross

My father was a nice, hard-working man who came from Mississippi and opened a store in Chicago. He started drinking after he found out about my mother's activities. My father's drinking meant that he wasn't minding the store as well and my family's financial situ-

Today, child neglect and abuse has spilled over onto the streets, allowing street gangs to grow large and powerful. As a child, where do you go when you are hungry and can't go home?

ation started to get worse. Things really collapsed when the city bought our house to make way for the Lake Meadows Shopping Mall.

My family moved into one room in my uncle's home. It was hard for me and my brothers and sisters to regroup. We had to change schools, make new friends and avoid the bad influences in the neighborhood. There were street gangs around at the time but they didn't recruit like they do now. I grew up watching fights in the living room, real fights in living color, regularly. I wondered all the time: Where is the love?

Years later, when I was an adult studying psychology, I learned that families have to work together as a team. Children must be included in decision making. It affects them too when mom and dad decide they can't handle their responsibility or create a sense of harmony between themselves.

The home is where all the learning starts. It's where you learn how to love. Parents should start bonding with their child at birth. Families should sit down often and discuss issues - chores, meals and such. Parents must adapt themselves to each individual child because no two are the same. Parents shouldn't take their jobs home in a negative way in order to always keep the children motivated to one day get their own job.

A few days ago, I saw a little boy and a little girl, too young for school, waiting for the bus. I started listening to their conversation and found out they were brother and sister. The little boy snatched his sister's arm and said, "Woman, give me my stuff." I knew that he learned that type of behavior from his guardians.

Stir a little love into the dinner. No matter what you're cooking, this will make it taste much better and you will find that you seem to burn it less. The child's future image, motivation for learning and the ability to care for others are learned in the early years. We can't afford to turn our backs or say the problem isn't ours. The children are our future.

Don't wait for others to help those in need. Meet your neighbors, help them with their children if you can. Return love in order to erase hate. We all have something to give, maybe a bit of our time. If you have no time, then this indicates you are real busy making the big bucks - give some of that. If you can't extend yourself to others, at least take good care of the ones you brought into this world.

Today, child neglect and abuse has spilled over onto the streets, allowing street gangs to grow large and powerful. As a child, where do you go when you are hungry and can't go home? Gangs can provide a lonely child with food and money. I've talked to gang members who tell me that their gang is like their family. They belong to the gang because they don't seem to fit in their family.

As a child, you can't change things. Therefore, you join the other children who are rebelling against the adults who won't even try to change the conditions you're forced to live in. The adults aren't listening, so the children have to find another way to get their point across, like rap music. Some rap lyrics are pretty radical but they are just another way for young people to get their parents' attention. Rap is just another form of chants which were performed in the church in earlier times. Like me, every body can't sing. They rap while I write. We are all just trying to tell our story.

President Clinton is promising that better child care will be available for the mothers. He explained on "Good Morning America" on Oct. 23, 1997 that there are 10 million children under 5 who will need day care while their mothers go to work during the welfare-to-work transition.

There are many organizations that can provide information on how to get good day care: the Day Care Action Council, 4753 N Broadway, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60640. Another is Child Care Initiatives, Hull House Association, 1300 W. Belmont Ave., Suite L1000, Chicago, IL 60657. Child support cases are being enforced. If you need help with this problem, call the toll-free Child Support Action Line; 1-800-447-4278. Or you can write to Illinois Department of Public Aid, Division of Child Support Enforcement, P.O. Box 19405, Springfield, IL 62794-9405.



IG Poster Contest Winners

Stacy Springfield (from left), Mary Johns and Melvina Nunn won the recent contest to create a poster advertising the hotline created by CHA Inspector General Leonard Odom (right). The winning posters will be displayed in the next issue of Residents' Journal.

**On March 17, 1998
Punch 66**

**ELECT
Barbara
McGowan
For COMMISSIONER
OF THE
METROPOLITAN
WATER
RECLAMATION
DISTRICT**

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE



Barbara McGowan's commitment to improving life of those around her spans over 20 years. She served as assistant to the deputy executive director at CHA, office manager at PEP, an assistant to the commissioner at the Metropolitan Reclamation District and is currently Special Facility Coordinator at the Columbus Park Refactory.

Altgeld Gardens News

by Sharon Fornizy

Hey this is Ms. Fornizy again:

I need to get with you but I have not forgotten you and I will be around for all good information. If you need to get in contact with me, please feel free to call me at (773) 535-5614.

I would like to celebrate Black History by sharing this selection with you:

"Mother dear, may I go downtown instead of out to play, and march the streets of Birmingham in a freedom march today?

"No baby, no you may not go, for the dogs are fierce and wild, and clubs and hoses, guns and jails ain't good for a little child .

"But mother, I won't be alone, other children will go with me, and march the streets of Birmingham to make our country free.

"No, baby, No, you may go to church instead and sing in the children's choir.

"She has combed and brushed her night dark hair and bathed rose petal sweet and drawn white gloves on her small brown hands and white shoes on her feet.

"The mother smiled to know her child was in the sacred place but that smile was the last smile to come upon her face. For when she heard the explosion, her eyes grew wet and wild. She raced through the streets of Birmingham calling for her child. She clawed through bits of glass and brick, then lifted out a shoe. O, here's the shoe my baby wore, but, baby where are you?"

150 Black Men

March 2, 1998 8:00 A.M.

The Walking Bus

150 Black Men Knocking on Doors.

March 20, 1998

Meet 8:00

And They Are Doing A fantastic Job!!!

Condolences

My deepest sympathies go out to the families of the following deceased:

Ms. Andrea Gibson - Block 4

Samuel Massey - Block 17

Ms. Josephine White - -Block 17

Mr. Harry Cary- Sports Announcer

Earlene Hardy - Block 17

And my aunt- Emma Cameron

- from Sharon Fornizy

Altgeld Gardens Correspondent for Residents' Journal

PS: On a brighter note, Happy Birthday to Esther Wheeler, president of the Altgeld Gardens Local Advisory Council.

Black History at Aldridge

We had a Black History program at Aldridge Elementary School. These are some of the things they presented:

The 7th grade girls choir sang, "Lift

Dental services are among the many important offerings at the new Altgeld Health Center.

Photo by Sharon Fornizy

every voice and sing."Room 227 presented "Escape to Freedom" by Ossie Davis.

Following is the cast of the play:

Jethro: Gary Harris

Fred: Terrence Shempert

White Boy: Darrell McBride

White Woman: Candice Murphy

White Man: Anthony Gilmore

Room 227 also featured an African American History Rap, presented by Roy Banks, Cornelius Garrett, Gary Harris, Darrell McBride and Ydell Ishmon.

Room 225 featured African dance with

Patricia Brown, Darnell McCarter, Michalena Mosby, Tommy Davison, Dejuan Issac, Latoya Hunter, Tina Tiggs, Crystal Kerby, Monica Thomas, Tina Stokes and Carmone Alexander.

A Black History Quiz Show was presented by Jacinta Allen, Renee Henry, Latoya Hunter, Patricia Brown, Tommy Davidson, Michalena Mosby and Tiffany Samuel.

Room 226 presented "Afro-American Contributions," with Troslyn Murphy as Dr. Mae



Students and faculty from Room 227 at Aldridge Elementary School

Photo by Sharon Fornizy

CADRE is now recruiting their Youth Power Club for older youths 12 to 17 years of age. Youth Power members will have an opportunity to become mentors to younger children and also to become entrepreneurs (start of their own business). As of today, they have nine members and also have opened their own little mini candy store in the CADRE office.

If you have any questions regarding the programs, you can contact Bernadette Memath and Yvette (773) 468-4514.

T.O.U.G.H. (Tired Of Us Getting Hurt) meets every Wednesday at 11 p.m. Come out and support this Narcotics Anonymous-sanctioned meeting. There will be refreshments.

CADRE also is presenting Aldridge Elementary School with a Black History Essay Contest. The winner will be announced at a later time. Three finalists will receive awards for the best three essays.

A technician records medical records at Altgeld Gardens' new health center.

Photo by Sharon Fornizy



Jeminson and Sara Vaughn. The show also discussed the Harlem Renaissance. Shavodka Jones played Rosa Parks and Sheena Smith played Nat Turner. The Black Panthers also were the subject of the play. Darvell Bea played Jessie Owens, Arieal Morgan played Harriet Tubman and Shavonne Green played Sojourner Truth.

The youths also portrayed Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks, Corretta Scott King, Marva Netto Collins, Maya Angelou and Shirley Chisolm.

Room 115 put on "Who am I?"

The 7th Grade Choir sang "We shall not be moved," "I've got a robe" and "Wade in the water."

The local chapter of Combating Alcohol and Drugs through Rehabilitation and Education (CADRE) present ed awards.

by Junious Maxwell

PS: MS. RIOS DID A FANTASTIC JOB

Welfare to Work

Time is running out. Most people have only 2-5 years to remain on Public Aid. From welfare to work Employment Workshops are available if you need help with preparing a resume, filling out an application, advice on what to wear to an interview, what to say in an interview or getting your GED, then come and sign up for the employment workshop training and school referrals at the CADRE office, 13057 South Ellis (Block 10)

For more information, contact Yvette at (773)468-4514 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 p.m.

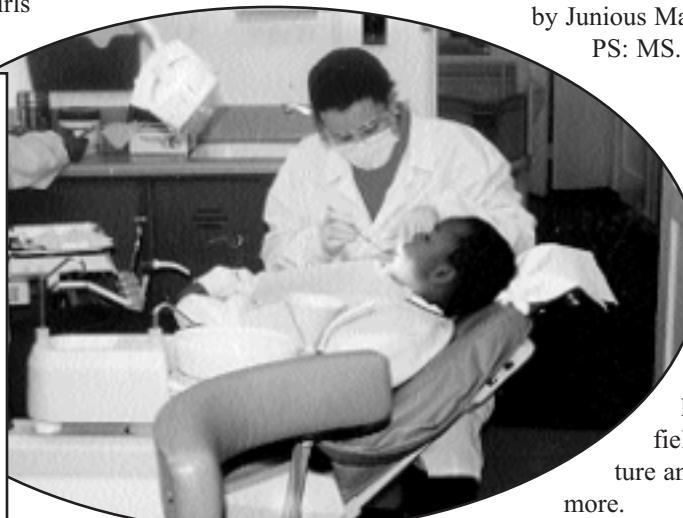
African American Heritage

The bulletin board outside the faculty lounge featured a time line. The time line begins in 1492 and goes to the present, with the main concept being how African Americans emerged. Additionally, brief background and history is featured for several famous African Americans on surrounding walls. The main theme read "Learn, Never Forget" is the objective for all the items displayed.

Citizens of the South Police District

Your South District police are responding to your plea for the suppression of open and blatant narcotics trafficking in your neighborhood. Operation "Neighborhood Clean-Up" has been instituted with your cooperation to help your neighborhood.

We appreciate your support. The CHA Police and the Chicago Housing Authority are determined to clean the streets of that social parasite known as the "DRUG DEALER" once and for all!!!



Shirley Hammond is president of the Senior North Local Advisory Council. During her tenure, the senior LACs broke from the Central Advisory Council and have charted their own course. RJ Correspondent Anita Baker spent a few hours with this hard-working lady and here is an edited transcript of their interview.

“My goal, and the promises to the residents here on the North Side, was to bring in more opportunities to be more self sufficient in their buildings. So they may be able to purchase some of the things needed in their developments, such as bingo boards and parties for their activities, and to beautify

their buildings with things such as blinds for the windows or curtains, some others than what Chicago Housing Authority does.

“While campaigning on the North Side, I promised the residents if I was elected in office as their Local Advisory president for the North Side, I would do my best to bring all of the resources I can find for the residents on the North Side. Some of my accomplished are still in the making. All of the buildings are more sufficient, having their own money for their own developments for whatever. Now they don’t have to depend on outside help. I now have helped them in a persistent way so that they no longer have to bargain with anyone because they have their own research. Yes, I can truly say that I have accomplished many of the goals I promised the North Side residents.

Future Plans

“There are many other goals that I have for the future for the North Side residents - goals that my staff and the residents have set for the future. We want to put everyone on notice that is doing business with the Chicago Housing Authority that they must cut us in or they will no longer be with us and when we say this, we don’t mean fried chicken. If you’re making money, being residents we need to get other business and initiatives such as the Resident Management Corporations and other contracts that the Chicago Housing Authority has out. We as residents want to get some of those contracts. We want to be more responsible to purchase building items and activities item equipment. Also to have parties and other outings that the residents will enjoy doing.

“With the businesses sharing the profits with the residents, we then don’t have to settle for chicken. Right now, we’re trying to get more residents involved in business such as the RMCs and the janitorial services. Because right now, we have private management coming into our developments and taking 100 percent. Whatever the bottom line is, it belongs to them. What we want to do is whatever your bottom line is. We want 51 percent and the private manager can take forty-nine percent because this is a business.

Laundry Service

“Now the laundry service wants the residents to pay 75 cents per wash because the cost of living has gone up. The reason for the laundry price is because we have to pay for the leasing of the laundry room. What I’ve been able to do for the North side residents is get their wash for 50 cents. So this is giving back to every resident on the North Side 25 cents.

“Let me make it clear that this is not a business for Shirley Hammond. This 25 cents will go back into the residents’ pockets. I felt I could not look into a senior’s face and say that they couldn’t afford to pay the 75 cents. The laundry service is a business paying for itself. There was an

article in *RJ* about what you can do with your tokens if you have the new machines in your development.

“If there are any residents with the new machines, I would rather they call the LAC office. The reason is, because my development still has the old machines and we don’t have any more tokens. For any residents with the new machines who still have tokens, we would like to purchase them. Also, there are other developments who still have the old machines.

“However, the new machines will be installed within the next two weeks. The LAC will purchase your tokens. If you have tokens, contact your building president, give them your name, apartment number and the number of tokens that you have and the LAC office will purchase them from you.

New Rules

“For all residents on the North Side, prepare yourself for a change because it is taking place now and we must adjust with change. The building president can also designate a resident to find out who has tokens and they can bring or mail the tokens or they can call the LAC office

ing research for all of the residents to share.

“I would also like if the presidents can’t for any reason attend a meeting, they must then designate another resident to attend the meeting. At my LAC North meeting, there are no providers in attendance, only employees from the Chicago Housing Authority. This is because we’re about getting the news out to the seniors and the disabled residents. The building presidents have made a commitment to the residents as their leader. In other words, the council is an organization. When the building president doesn’t perform their duties while in office, the residents should call he or she to the carpet and let them know that they are not doing their jobs, they must step down.

Residents at Work

“I repeat: any resident, for whatever the reason, can call the development. One of the businesses we have on the North Side is the janitorial service. Over the two-year period, some of the workers have moved on to other jobs. We’ve gotten other jobs - meaningful jobs - for the residents who have worked in our janitorial service. The workers are from different developments.

Interview with Shirley Hammond



Senior North LAC President Shirley Hammond at her desk.

Photo by Anita Baker

(312) 674-4146.

“Beginning January 1998, all (Senior North LAC) meetings will be held at 4645 N. Sheridan Road. The number 151 North Sheridan bus will put you right in front of the building. The schedule for these meetings is every third Thursday of each month. The executive meeting, only for elected officers, is at 11 a.m. The LAC meeting is at 1 p.m. The executive meeting is for the building presidents. The building president must hold a meeting once a month. There should always be a building meeting. If the building president or vice president are unable to hold it, then the secretary should hold the meeting. The meeting should never be

“I found very few residents from the North Side that wanted to work. We left the jobs open for the North Side residents.

“Much thanks to Mr. Clark Roberts (CHA’s manager of resident employment and training) for stepping in to get the workers for the business. We now employ a total of 72 employees. These are all CHA residents that Mr. Roberts trained for the jobs. I must say that I was the first.

“We give back to the senior developments. I have some profits from the business and have presented to each of the developments items such as household appliances, also cash money.

“I also insist here on the North Side that all building presidents open a bank account for their building. The bank account should have three signatures on it and, if for any reason they don’t have the third signature, I then place my name on this account. There must be two people to make a withdrawal from the account. Also, the building president must take this to the building council before a withdrawal is made to be voted out of the account.

“This meeting’s minutes will then be mailed to the LAC office and filed. The building president cannot make any withdrawal unless the council has voted on this money to be taken from the account.

“In years past, some of the building presidents were accused of stealing the vending machine money (pops, candy bars and chips). All of the vending money comes to the LAC North office and quarterly, which is every three months, I give to each and every building president a statement of what each individually has in their vending accounts. When the building president receives their statement, they must then let the building council know.

“Myself and my staff are truly working for the residents and we are being honest and fair here on the North Side. No Cash Station cards - all transactions by check only. This reminds me of something (former Central Advisory Council President) Mrs. Artensa Randolph said, ‘I’m not going to jail for these few pennies.’ There are still a lot of things I’m learning and whatever I learn, I will share with all of my council members.

“All building presidents must give a financial report. The reason is I, Shirley Hammond, have to give a financial report for every cent. There’s such a small amount of the recycling money that I decided that I would let the building president keep this money as petty cash for items such as bingo boards, coffee, etc.

“As you know, before the split (between the senior LACs and the Central Advisory Council), there was always a senior retreat. (Senior South LAC President) Marie Billingsley still has her LAC South retreat. This will be the first year for the LAC North and LAC Central. We’ll have more details on a later day. The retreat will be for the elected officers. We are still connected with the Central Advisory Council and is in full support of the newly elected CAC president, Mrs. Mamie Bone.”

“For all residents on the North Side, prepare yourself for a change because it is taking place now and we must adjust with change.”

**-Senior North LAC President
Shirley Hammond**

canceled.

“All of the building presidents must attend the LAC meeting to report back to the building of what changes have been made and to give a report. Every resident in the development is a member of the building council. Maybe there is a social club, and a resident might not belong to that. But in the building council, every resident is a member. This is why every resident in the building should vote.

“Also, if you don’t attend a meeting for three months, you can demand anything you want to know because you are a member of the building council. The building president is to submit copies of their minutes of their monthly meeting. The LAC office will then know that meetings are held. They can mail or bring them to the LAC office or to the next meeting because I’m about conducting business.

“Also, I would like all of my residents on the North Side to know if they can’t reach me for some reason, it’s because I’m either out of town or just around town gather-



Korean



Chinese

by Earl Battles

All neighborhoods have their good and bad points. Just in the last 6 months, there have been serious problems in Lathrop Homes. We have lost four young people violently in that time. Some of them were not from Lathrop but each one lost their lives in our community and each death had a serious effect on the whole neighborhood.

There have been drug sweeps but the youth violence seems to prevail. At a recent Community Alternative Policing Strategies (CAPS) meeting, many people - CHA residents and our neighbors - complained about an acceleration of gang activity and recruitment in the area.

But I want to point out that the situation is far from hopeless. We have a lot of good kids in Lathrop involved in positive activities. In fact, the situation at Lathrop is better than in many other communities.

To prove my point, I'd like to present a letter that was sent to the Chicago Friends of the River by a young Lathrop resident. The Chicago Friends of the

Lathrop.

Corie certainly went through his share of tough situations and negative influences. But with the help of his mother and various community organizations, Corie has been snatched from the grasp of ruffians. I'll let you read some of Corie's point of view:

"Nine years from the time I moved to Lathrop, it was time for us to move. Much to my surprise, the new neighborhood was far worse than Lathrop Homes."

- Corie Cornwell

"Dear Friends of the River:

Many years ago when I was 2 years old, I moved to Lathrop Homes. According to my mother, we were living in a shelter because my mother didn't want my

Leavitt Street) there was a church. I started going to the church on Sundays when I was about four years old. I was baptized at six years old.

I also had my first fist fight at six. That was the beginning of my fighting years. The rest of the years that followed I found myself fighting more than I ever thought I'd have to. I dreamed about growing up and what a great life I would have. I would go to school. I would be on a sports team. I would be having fun. But it wasn't like that at Lathrop Homes. I found out the hard way that I had to fight for my respect. Whether I wanted to or not, I was forced to defend myself. Other kids would instigate a fight over any little thing. If you didn't fight, the kids would call you names, make fun of you or just make your life miserable.

Nine years from the time I moved to Lathrop, it was time for us to move. I was 11 years old and my mother said the neighborhood was too bad and we needed to find a safer place. At Lathrop Homes, I was caught in gang fights; bullets were flying through the windows at night and my life was threatened. These were the reasons it was time to move on.

Living in Lathrop Homes

River are involved in rehabilitating and restructuring the river's shores at Lathrop Homes.

This young resident's insight to living in public housing prompted the Chicago Friends of the River offer activities to our youth. The activities focus on the importance of self-reliance and the improvement of the north branch of the Chicago River.

The letter to the Friends of the River is from a young man named Corie Cornwell. I first met Corie and his mother, Sandra Cornwell, when I worked the summer program "Chicago Beach Blast" five years ago.

I was told that I would have problems with this young man by my co-workers in the Beach Blast. The program was open to youth 7 to 14 years old and I looked at my job as being an opportunity to get to know the kids in my new neighborhood. I had just arrived at Lathrop after years of homelessness and it was quite a challenge for me to break out of my solitude.

Little did I know how much I would enjoy working with the kids. I didn't expect that Corie's mother would be one of my co-workers. At that time, 9-year-old Corie was already healthy and tall for his age.

He was full of energy and didn't want to listen to directions from adults other than his mother. But Corie was not one of the bad kids; at least, he was not one of the bad kids to me. Basically, he was another child displaying growing pains. Corie's behavior was like most kids his age from single parent homes. They run and jump and yell and play tag with little girls. Normal.

But when I read Corie's letter a few weeks ago, I learned that he thought of himself as a kid in a bad situation. Corie thought of Lathrop Homes as a negative environment due to the gangs.

After he left Lathrop for a time, Corie realized that gangs and violence and drugs are everywhere. He and his mother came back to Lathrop Homes because they realized they could at least take part in the togetherness of community. Sandra told me that she had trouble finding good neighbors when she left



Lathrop Homes youngsters and their chaperones ride the bus to a visit to the Chicago Fire Department in honor of Black History Month (top photo). Four-year-old Jovon Morris (bottom photo) won a bicyclet the event, which was presented by Assistant Fire Commissioner Jerry Jones and Executive Assistant Cedric Collins, See story on page 12.

Photos by Earl Battles.



father to know where we were. My father was not doing the right thing so she thought we would be better off without him. At Lathrop, I've experienced both good and bad things. The bad outweighs the good.

Down the street from where I lived (North

Much to my surprise, the new neighborhood was far worse than Lathrop Homes. Some of the things I witnessed were: drug dealers and gang members; seven year olds and up selling drugs; and gang fights. The landlord and my mother were always arguing over one thing or another. I thought the place was worse than I could have imagined. My mother decided this was not the place for us.

My mother wrote some letters so we could move back to Lathrop Homes. Both places had problems but Lathrop Homes had more organized activities for kids and less drug dealing. Also there are more stores and the transportation is better. I dream someday that I'll be able to take me and my mom out of Lathrop Homes for a better life.

- Corie Cornwell"

Corie was on a baseball team at Lathrop Homes and he and the other Lathrop Homes boys came home one summer with trophies. The neighborhood was proud of these youngsters. So far, these children have been shielded from the really bad influences in and around Lathrop Homes.

To combat the recent surge of violence, the neighborhood has been supporting the local CAPS, different resident organizations - CADRE, the Local Advisory Council, the Resident Management Corporation and many others - and local churches have been active overtime supporting our youth with positive activities and tutoring.

But we'll also need parents to come out of their homes with their children and make change a family as well as a neighborhood effort.

Our neighborhood groups can't do it alone. They are not baby sitters. As you can tell from the young man's letter above, it takes an effort inside and outside the home to make a difference. Perhaps this letter can be an example or the first stepping stone to a safer year and an active summer for all our youths throughout the city.

Chicago Schools News

by Mary C. Johns

The Safe Passage Route

The Chicago Public Schools recently implemented a new program called the Safe Passage Route, which is part of the Safe Passage Initiative. Because of the high frequency of violence these days, it has become very dangerous and life threatening for some children to attend school. Walking to and from school can be very hazardous, as we all well know, and shootings have been continuous near various schools, such as Jenner Elementary School in Cabrini-Green, George T. Donoghue Elementary School near Madden Park and Terrell Elementary School near Robert Taylor Homes.

The Safe Passage Route was formed for the children who attend Wendell Phillips High School, 244 E. Pershing Road. Children from the Robert Taylor, Stateway Gardens, Ida B. Wells Homes and Madden Park CHA developments attend Phillips. Many youths are afraid to attend school because they have to walk to and from school through their neighborhoods, never knowing when the shooting will begin. The Safe Passage Route, which began on Jan. 17, consists of bus shuttles with a police escort to Phillips. Three school buses are required to be at certain pick-up points at certain times to carry students to Phillips.

Here are the Bus Routes:

Here are the Bus Routes.

Bus #1's first stop is at 37th Street and Lake Park and its first pick-up is at 7 a.m. It then goes to 39th Street and Ellis Avenue at 7:05 a.m. and then drops the students off at Wendell Phillips High School. It then makes its third stop at 2730 S. State St. at 7:20 a.m., then goes to 30th Street and State Street at 7:25 a.m., then continues on to Phillips.

Bus #2 makes its first pick-up at 35th and Federal streets at 7 a.m., then drops off the students at Phillips at 7:10 a.m. It then goes to 37th and State streets at 7:20 a.m., picks up the students and drop them off at P.

7:20 a.m., picks up the students and drop them off at Phillips at 7:30 a.m.
Bus #3 makes its first pick-up at 2240/2250 S. State at 7 a.m. It then goes to 2420
S. State at 7:05 a.m., then proceeds to Phillips at 7:15 a.m. It then goes to 4022 S. State
at 7:20 a.m. and back to Phillips at 7:25 a.m.

When companies obtain money from schools by fraud, then it is stolen school children's money, stated Chicago Public Schools CEO Paul Vallas



A bus waiting at the corner of 39th & Ellis to take Wendell Phillips High School Students to school.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

cials, it will save annually \$3 million in operating costs. CPS Board of Trustees member Norman Bobins, who headed the search for the new CPS headquarters, stated that the operating cost for the new building, such as custodial services, maintenance, utilities and security are estimated to be \$3 million yearly, or about half the annual \$6.4 million it takes to maintain the Board of Education buildings on Basing Road.

CPS CEO Paul Vallas stated that the move will be

CPS CEO Paul Vallas stated that the move will be less expensive to CPS and taxpayers, which would in turn mean more dollars for the classroom needs, as well as easier access to trains and buses.

CPS Busts and Bars Firms

In February, the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees took action against two firms, barring them from doing business with the Chicago Public Schools

because of fraudulent acts. In other words, these companies tried to play the CPS but got busted out.

According to CPS sources, Omar Shareef (aka-Anthony Taylor), vice president of Universal Construction Services Corporation, did some work for the CPS at the Dett Elementary School that was valued at \$1,200 but billed CPS for \$6,038. Universal Construction also sent invoices listing workers that never existed and hours that were never worked.

The other firm is the Academic Technology Corporation. According to CPS documents, John Carl Ingram, the owner, tried to obtain payment for merchandise that was never delivered and tried to receive double payment for a \$4,990 projection panel package that was delivered to May School, and received payment for merchandise that the Metcalfe School never received.

CPS CEO Paul Vallas was happy about the debarment action taken against the two firms and basically said that when companies obtain money from schools by fraud, then it is stolen school children's money and that the CPS has an obligation to ensure the taxpayers that every dollar is properly used for the benefit of the students.

Omar Shareef is forbidden to bid on board contracts as an officer of any company for the next 18 months and John Carl Ingram's debarment period is 3 years.

The debarment action applies to the firms as well as the individuals. They had until March 11, 1998, to file a written appeal. The debarment policy was adopted by the CPS in May 1996.



**Students boarding the awaiting bus at 7:05 a.m.
to take them to Phillips**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Attention AD 20633 Free Training as Publication Sales Person!

Residents' Journal/ March 1998 p.19

Commentary Page

County Clerk: The Right to Vote is Sacred

For more than 200 years Americans have struggled, sometimes died, to ensure the rights to register and to vote. Without the right of people to vote, there is no check on those who hold political office and power.

There have been times when those in office have tried to improve their advantage by making voting more restrictive and difficult for the rest of us. That is why, as the chief election officer of Cook County, I spend so much of my time defending voters' rights and trying to make voter registration easier.

Let me discuss two important voting rights issues that I have fought for as Cook County Clerk:

MOTOR VOTER

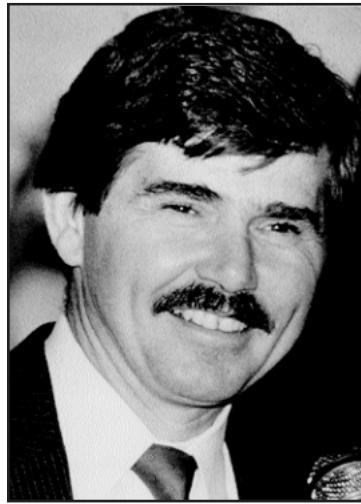
The first is the "Motor-Voter" law. That legislation made it possible for people to register to vote when they get their driver's licenses, at public aid offices and at WIC clinics. Governor Jim Edgar and the Republican leadership tried to nullify the federal Motor-Voter law first, by simply refusing to implement it and later, by making people register twice, once for federal elections and another time for

state and local contests.

We sued the governor and we won. In the 18 months since that success, approximately 400,000 people, just in Cook County alone, have registered to vote either at driver's license facilities or through the mail. This is a people's triumph and the voter rolls in the suburbs are up nearly 80,000 higher than four years ago.

STRAIGHT PARTY OPTION

A second threat to voting rights came in 1997 when Gov. Edgar and the state legislature abolished the people's right to vote a straight party ballot if they wished to. Straight ticket voting has been a right of Illinois citizens for more than 100 years. In the 1996 election nearly 40 percent of voters in the state used the straight



Cook County Clerk David Orr

party voting option. And many also opted to vote for specific candidates from other parties whom they support, so it is not just "mindless voting" as critics have charged.

Joined by the Illinois State Council of Senior Citizen's organizations, I filed a suit to have this unconstitutional law overthrown. We believe that the straight punch was eliminated by the Legislature simply to get back at Cook County voters after Democrats had success at the polls in 1996.

This short-sighted legislation was passed without public hearings and with no input from election officials

around the state. It particularly discriminates against voters in our county which have the longest and most complicated ballots in Illinois. We expect that in the November election, Cook County voters will have to punch

upwards of 100 times to vote a full ballot. In most other counties in Illinois, voters will only have to punch 30 or 40 times.

Without the straight punch option, the result may be long lines at the polls that will discourage people from voting a full ballot or worse, choosing to not vote at all. It will be especially difficult for the elderly, people with disabilities and those with language problems, among others.

We believe the court will agree with us and restore this voting right. I believe that government should be doing everything in its power to encourage voter participation, not working to make voting less accessible, more difficult, time consuming and expensive.

Voting is a fundamental right that makes our freedom possible. We must preserve our right to vote and, as responsible citizens, we must exercise it. As Thomas Jefferson said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Sincerely yours,
David Orr
Cook County Clerk

A Solution to the Housing Crisis

Dear CHA Residents and Section 8 Families:

We're creating Chicago's next generation of subsidized housing. The "we" includes tenants, residents, CHA, consultants (such as the one writing this letter) and Section 8 landlords. But to make sure the next generation is better than today's, three changes must occur:

First...For more and better housing, the private sector will need to create and manage these homes.

Second...These homes will result mostly by renovating existing stock; whether they are scattered sites owned by CHA or Section 8 landlords.

Third...Everyone in the "we" noted above must collaborate in new ways; empowering residents so they can contribute as much as possible to the solutions.

For our tasks are huge and everyone counts.

Let's view these key changes by answering these questions.

First, why must we rely on the private sector to provide the next generation of affordable housing?

A simplistic answer is government has done a poor job; so, maybe we should give the private sector a chance. After all, it probably can do no worse.

But the truth is, the private sector might not provide housing. We see similar private sector failings with welfare reform. It shifted responsibility from government and on to you and the private sector. While many people will lift themselves off of welfare, reform will fail in the next recession because the private sector does not create jobs in a slow economy. Unreformed, the private sector is not equipped to replacing welfare with jobs.

Now, let's apply this lesson to housing. CHA is demolishing developments and shifting responsibilities to Section 8 which, in reality, is a service by the private sector. But like welfare reform, Section 8 and the private sector have no proven methods to create enough housing. But we can solve this through renovation.

Second, why will the next generation result mostly from renovations?

Again, the simple answer is that renovating buildings throughout Chicago can create up to twice as many homes as new construction. And since government is spending less on subsidized housing, renovation is needed to solve the crisis.

Large forces work against renovation and your living in a decent home. To see these forces, let's revisit a commentary in *Residents' Journal*. It noted the solutions to public housing are similar to those for affordable housing. Many agree that CHA's crisis and the lack of affordable housing have the same cause: Chicago's poorer neighborhoods deteriorated largely because there were not enough home improvement loans. As housing decayed and the supply of housing dropped, people paid more to get less. The disastrous result now is that housing eats over 40 percent more of the typical working class family's pocket-book than in 1958.

In short, the cost of housing currently is too high. Renovation increases the supply and offers the lowest cost of replacement so you can have a good home.

Third, how can all of us work together to empower residents so we create enough affordable housing in Chicago? Most important, residents must assert themselves. CHA has offered residents an historic opportunity to reshape their com-

munities. While a few Local Advisory Councils have started long-term plans, all residents and Section 8 tenants can start today by making a daily, disciplined effort to maintain their housing and improve their lives.

Also, CHA must innovate. CHA's leadership wants to empower residents. It recognizes residents are a key to maintaining their housing inexpensively.

Finally, the private sector must build a larger renovation industry in new ways. For example, contractors can employ neighborhood tradesmen who later organize into micro-enterprises that, in turn, train other tradesmen. This grows the industry, increases the housing supply and drops the price to affordable levels so you can get into better housing and, eventually, into a home to call your own.

My letter to you has covered a lot. We've talked about how the private sector must renovate existing stock and create more Section 8 units. Everyone has a role in creating and maintaining these homes. This lowers their cost and yours. That's why empowerment isn't just talk; it makes good economic sense.

Thanks for letting me talk with you in your Journal. I invite your critique of these suggestions and all of us look forward as you help develop Chicago's next generation of affordable housing.

Cordially,
Robert C. Munson
Robert Munson is Managing Director of The Resource, a firm specializing in renovation lending to create more Section 8 units.

Residents' Journal welcomes submissions from all of our readers and especially from public housing residents. Please send all letters to our new address:

916 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 404, Chicago, IL 60605. You may also call our office at (312) 674-4218 to discuss your ideas for submission.

Russian

Letters to the Editor

Remembering Tanya Stewart

Dear Editor:

Unfortunately, I was unable to bid a proper farewell to Tanya Jean Stewart, Program Coordinator of the Mama Said...Program; for you see, my dad expired only hours before her and the memorial services were on the same day, too. It is only befitting that I release her to the universe.

Journey with me if you will to the 1980s when I first crossed paths with the free spirit known to me as "Ton." My mind is racing frantically of many, many fond memories as well as the reprimands when deemed necessary. "Ton" was my boss for five and a half years and under her leadership, I started a Mama Said... Program in Rockwell Gardens and Stateway Gardens.

Also, as assistant coordinator, I was a troubleshooter for the remaining centers, too.

"Ton" had a tremendous amount of energy all the time and never held a resentment nor grudge against anyone. "Ton" would always say "Babe," "Working it like a colored woman," "Look at the big picture," "Don't let no one steal your joy," "Don't let no one change who you are," "If you are about the business, then nothing can be said," "Watch what you eat or it will watch you." "Ton" was a good boss and sometimes we had our differences but I know it was because she only had my best interest at heart. She cared and I was a part of her extended family. There are so many words that could be said but I just can't find the words to express

my feelings. I am grateful to have known "Ton" both personally and professionally. She was a role model, teacher, boss, friend, good mother and motivator. "Ton" could find good in any situation and often talked about gratitude and living life to the fullest. I will treasure the family gatherings, hanging on the beach or just kicking it with her children, Tania, Kea, Sirus and Rashed.

See you later babe, I love you.

- Artra Michelle Thomas
Aluta Centinna (The Struggle Continues)

A Message from Joe Shuldiner

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy New Year. Already this has been an unusual year for me. I started it not feeling well. Although the doctor could find nothing wrong, he was worried because an EKG showed changes to the pattern of my heart beat. At the hospital they gave me a catheter test which showed that I had severe blockage in some of my arteries. The result was a quintuple heart by-pass operation.

It is now eight weeks since the operation, more than half-way through the three month recovery period. Although progress is at times slow, I am doing quite well. I have been going into the office at least three times a week for the past four weeks, and I hope to be back full time by the first week in April.

I want to thank all of you who sent me cards and well wishes. I truly appreciated them.

1998 is a critical year for the Chicago Housing Authority. It was great that my first day back at work was the press conference for Brooks Homes where 132 units have been completely renovated and occupied by Brooks families. These units are the first phase of the redevelopment of Brooks but the second phase of our efforts at ABLA. 1998 should see a lot of progress on the development front. At Horner, over 140 units already are completed and we should have over 300 by the end of the year. At Cabrini, the residents and the CHA have been negotiating at a furious pace and, hopefully, we have worked out a framework that will allow new construction to begin shortly. New units have slowly but surely been coming on line at Lakefront and



CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner (right) and Advisory Board member Rosanna Marquez listen to Acting Advisory Board Karen Newton during a recent Advisory Board meeting.

Photo by John Brooks

construction could start in the summer at Darrow. There are also discussions with both developers to provide us with new units throughout the City.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the new officers of the Central Advisory Council: President, Mrs. Mamie Bone; Vice President, Mrs. Deverra Beverly; Secretary Mrs. Mary Wiggins; and Treasurer, Mr. Charles Reynolds. In addition, new leaders were elected at three developments: Mrs. Wiggins at Washington Park; Mrs. W. Ruth Todd at LeClaire Courts;

and Mrs. Sandra Young at Wells. Welcome, I look forward to working with you.

1998 will be an exciting year for other reasons as well. Our Family Investment Center at the Charles Hayes Center should be opening shortly. It is a marvelous facility and will allow us to better coordinate all of our resident economic development efforts. Later this year, we should be initiating a credit union for REDI participants. This program will provide full banking and check cashing services at reasonable rates.

Two very critical decisions will be made this year. First, the CHA will be submitting the resident-designed plans for the developments subject to the "Viability Test." HUD's response to these plans will shape the future for CHA. And second, the CHA has submitted its PHMAP score to HUD. It will take them two months to conduct confirmatory reviews. By April or May, we will know whether the CHA is off of HUD's Troubled Public Housing Authorities List. While we all know much remains to do, this would be a major accomplishment along the way.

I started this column writing about my operation. People have asked me if this experience changed my views and outlook. Yes, I tend to look at the bigger picture, think of family, friends, happiness and love. But these are the ideas that should guide the CHA. We want families to live in loving environments, new or rehabilitated homes in safe communities where children can flourish. With your help, 1998 can be a year when we move closer to this goal.

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Dear Resident

Welcome to the March, 1998 edition of *Residents' Journal*, our first bi-monthly edition. Now you can look forward to receiving RJ six times a year (every other month). And for me, thank goodness that February and the celebration of African American History Month is over. As a community, as a people, there are many great achievements that we should commemorate. But the reality of our community, our people today leaves us with very little to celebrate. Individually, some of us have made great strides. But these are individual accomplishments, not the accomplishments of a people. As a people, it would appear that we have not taken a step forward since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. took his last. As a community, we should be making history, not celebrating history.

And even more painful than the celebration of African American History Month are the sights and the sounds of our people standing in the same place in time, rocking back and forth, singing "We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day." It occurs to me the only thing left for us to "overcome" is ourselves. As a community, as a people, we have made no progress. We have failed our children. The only progress that many of our children understand is a new Michael Jordan gym shoe. Today, our children's future is their parents' and grandparents' past. For them, history stands still. Not repeating itself but repeating generations. Today, as a community, as a people, we have more resources at our command than ever before. But instead of moving forward by working together to utilize our resources, we continue to stand and have taught our children to stand, asking society for a "piece of the pie" when we have only to work together to achieve what we desire. Isn't that the way it was done in the past? Has anyone ever given us anything? Can we expect anyone other than ourselves to right what's wrong within our community? Within our people? The Black community is the only ethnic community where businesses are owned by people of other ethnic backgrounds instead of the people who live in the community. And now, with the creation of a multi-million dollar recycling industry, people are even making money from our garbage. Everybody profits from the Black Community but the Black Community. This must change if we are to prosper as a community, as a people!

Ultimately, every community, especially those who choose to lead and represent its people, is responsible for itself. Responsible for what does or does not happen within the community. But most importantly, responsible for the future of its young people. In many of our communities the young people are doing the only thing that there is for them to do (and we all know what that is) because as a community we have not worked to give them any other options within our communities. They are trapped in history, caught-up, unable to get out and unless we develop a means by which to recover our young people their children will become trapped in history too. And as we continue to stand still, the world will pass us by. We will go from no progress to regress.

We can teach names, dates and places, we can even put on African garb and sing. But it is the active participation in a people's history that instills pride and strength in its young and shows them the way. This applies to our immediate family, our community and our race. Undoubtedly, we are a great people. But every race is a great race in its own right. It is when we become part of the greater that we are our greatest. This applies to us as individuals, communities and races. It is not names, dates, places, African garb or songs that connect us to our history. It is the inherent things passed on to us by our ancestors. I have been blessed, both as a child and as an adult, here and in the South, to have spent precious time with my elders talking but more importantly listening. Listening to them pass on their love, strength and knowledge not only through the spoken word but by the expression of their face, the sound of their voice, the touch of their hand. I recall how the women would grab your hand and squeeze it tightly as if they were trying to infuse what they were saying and its importance into your heart and mind. The men's voices alone commanded your attention. But when they spoke of that which had touched their lives and would surely touch yours, everything about them would change. The tone of their voice, the look in their eye and even the position of their hand (which sometimes would become a fist) would become more intense. And you knew. You knew to listen, to remember but most importantly to pass it on. So, the question becomes not whether or not our children are listening but whether or not we are talking, passing on that which was passed on to us? It is not names, dates, places, dress or song that sustain us, give us hope, strength and pride. It is participating, it is watching, it is hearing and it is feeling our people and our community. We can give them names, dates and places but we can not give them feeling. They can only feel by participating.

Strangely, I'm looking forward to commemorating African American History Month next February, hoping that some of us somewhere will make history as a people, as a community. But individually, I encourage each of us to make some history within our family and our community. Be the first to graduate from high school, be the first to go to college, be the first not to do drugs. Be the first to go back to high school, be the first to finish college, be the first to go to drug rehab. Make some history of your own.

And that's all she wrote,
Patricia Johnson-Gordon



Children play at the redevelopment site between Clybourn Avenue and Division Street.

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

