

R E S I D E N T S ,

# Journal

*A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority December 1998 /Volume 3/ Number 2*



## Boom Boom Boom!

*Lakefront Implosions pg. 8*

*Flannery Homes Fire pgs. 7,18*

*CHA: Out of Trouble? pgs. 12-14*

# **Haymarket House AD**

# Index

PAGE 4:  
CHA Almost Elections....by Ingrid Holt  
Lathrop LAC Election ...by Bobby Watkins

PAGE 5:  
Ball of Confusion...by Karen Owens  
No Ballots, Bailouts.... by Annie R. Smith

PAGE 6:  
Harold Ickes Residents Speak Out...by Jacqueline Thompson  
LAC Election Turnouts...by Cynthia Morris

PAGE 7:  
Flannery Fire....by Julio Martinez

PAGE 8:  
Boom, Boom Goes The Lakefront....by Wateka Kleinpeter

PAGE 9:  
Access Report....by Thomas L. Merriweather

PAGE 10:  
Cabrini-Green News....by Cecelia A. Clark

PAGE 11:  
Stop the Violence...by Cenabeth Cross

PAGE 12:  
LeClaire Courts Bewilderment...by Andre Robinson

PAGE 13:  
Security Cuts Threaten Horner...by Stacy Springfield  
Building Family Ties...by Sue Sago

PAGE 14:  
CHA Privatization....by Mary C. Johns

PAGE 15:  
A Circle of Friends....by Jacqueline Thompson

PAGE 17:  
Altgeld Gardens Report...by Sharon Forinzy

PAGE 18:  
Flannery Fire (In English)

## Credits

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Ethan Michaeli

**Assistant Publisher**  
Cynthia Morris

**Assistant Editor**  
Mary C. Johns

**Advertising Consultant**  
Jeff Davis

### RJ Correspondents

Anita Baker, Earl Battles, Cecelia A. Clark, Cenabeth Cross, Izora Davis, Carla Greenwood, Sharon Fornizy, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Ingrid Holt, Wateka Kleinpeter, Janelle Jones, Julio Martinez, Thomas L. Merriweather, Alan Minerbrook, Melvina Nunn, Karen Owens, Andre Robinson, John "Popcorn" Sampson, Marsha Smallwood, Annie R. Smith, Jacqueline Thompson, Bobby Watkins

### RJ Photographers

John Brooks, Cecelia A. Clark, Arminta Clark, Sharon Fornizy, Mary C. Johns, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Wateka Kleinpeter, Karen Owens, James Rayfield, John "Popcorn" Sampson, Annie R. Smith, Jacqueline Thompson

**Intern**  
Raven Lightsey

*Residents' Journal is published by the Chicago Housing Authority-Resident Publications Department, 916 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 404, Chicago, IL 60605. All Chicago Public Housing Residents are welcome to contribute to Residents' Journal©. Please call (312)674-4218 or (312)427-8626 (TDD), fax us at (312)427-8614 or send us e-mail at emichaeli@thecha.org with your ideas, comments and concerns. Residents' Journal is available in alternative formats, such as braille or large type, upon request.*

## Our Mission

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**



Dec. 19, 1998 - On behalf of the staff of *RJ*, I would like to thank the Chicago Association of Black Journalists as well as CABJ President Mary Mitchell and Vice President Natalie Pardo for awarding Annie R. Smith's story, "A Decree but to what Degree."

I believe that the article won both for its content and for the fresh, alternative perspective it presented. Annie's article reviewed the status of the Gautreaux Decree, a landmark civil rights lawsuit that has governed the way new public housing is built in the city for close to 20 years. She covered the history and implementation of the Decree and interviewed Alex Polikoff, the attorney who represented Altgeld Gardens resident Dorothy Gautreaux and then continued to pursue the case after Gautreaux died.

But Annie's article was shaped by her experience as a resident of Darrow Homes, a public housing development at which residents on their own decided to pool their resources, allow their high-rise buildings to be demolished and have a smaller mixed-income community built on the land.

The Darrow Homes redevelopment was threatened by the tenets of Gautreaux, as they were interpreted, because the plan included construction of new public housing in a largely African American community. Gautreaux was designed to stop discrimina-

tion against African Americans eligible for public housing and has been praised locally and nationally. But for Annie, Gautreaux was an impediment to her dreams of a better community.

The Chicago Reporter Editor and Publisher Laura Washington covered *RJ* premiere and interviewed columnist Patricia Johnson-Gordon on her WNUA radio talk show.

WBBM-TV Reporter Suzanne LeMignot and cable television host W.L. Lillard also have produced pieces about the publication.

In each case, other reporters have noted the alternative view of *RJ* staff. Often, the *RJ* staff's views challenge prevailing wisdom, which is, after all, the true purpose of the

## On Civic Journalism

American media. In an era in which journalism is derided as scandal mongering and 'infotainment,' it is particularly important that journalists seek out new ideas.

One effort to infuse the media with new ideas is a still-evolving concept known as civic journalism. In some places, civic journalism has meant cooperative efforts between different media with some input from a community board. These types of efforts certainly are laudable, particularly from the point of view that they bring in the perspectives and priorities of a cross-section of the broad view of the media public.

But I believe *RJ* offers a new technique in civic journalism. Unique among Fourth Estates in the world, the American media has the constitutionally enshrined mission to grant objective access to the country's power brokers.

Civic journalism aims to reconnect the media to the priorities and agenda of the public. *RJ* unites both missions by training those with stakes in their communities to access the powerbrokers and decision-makers. More than that, *RJ* aims to demonstrate that relevant media can reach new audiences and thereby strengthen our democracy.

The awards and citations of our fellow journalists are important acknowledgements of this effort.

## Thank you to our Sponsors

**Ald. Walter Burnett (27)**

**Rabbi Capers Funnye**

**Stan Calderon**

**Tem Horwitz, Principal, Horwitz Matthews**

**Phillip Jackson, Chief of Staff, Chicago Public Schools**

**Rev. James C. Austin, Pastor, St. Luke Church of God In Christ**

**Barbara E. Lawrence**

**Mik Snider**

**Peter Landon, Principal, Landon Architects**

**Robert Munson, Managing Director, The Resource**

**Ana L. Vargas, Principal, CVR Associates Inc.**

# CHA's ALMOST ELECTIONS

by Ingrid Holt

It could have been one of the most powerful and hottest elections in the history of the Chicago Housing Authority. Instead, the Local Advisory Council elections held Dec. 15 were chaotic. It was the least organized election this reporter has ever seen.

On the night before the elections, I went to the Community Workshop on Economic Development (CWED) office and found a staff and office I had always known as professional to be a complete mess.

Election workers were in a panic with the phones ringing faster than they could grab them. Residents were calling from the developments with questions about polling places, ballots and challenges. When the workers were unable to answer some of these questions, the callers often threatened to report the chaos to the news media.

I was asked to answer some of these calls myself and from that moment on, I knew in my heart this was just the beginning of a nightmare. While I was assisting CWED in troubleshooting, I had a very unpleasant phone call with the sub-contractor of this project, Ida B. Wells resident and business owner Leroy Square. Square was obviously upset over how things were going.

**It could have been one of the most powerful and hottest elections in the history of the Chicago Housing Authority. Instead, the elections held Dec. 15 were chaotic.**

## Election Day

On election day, the outreach workers in CWED's West Side office were flustered by the large volume of residents calling in. Complaints included polls opening late, no ballots in some polling places, ballots without proper candidates and a lack of resident voting rosters.

The problems in this election were more than a notion. Some residents felt that the errors were part of a larger effort. One resident who asked that her name not be used said, "This is too much of a coincidence that the developments where CHA is doing the most redevelopment are where the most follies took place."

I hit the road to see how things were going. Voting is a private act but in ABLA's election, some residents coming out of the polls complained that their privacy was invaded. These residents said judges reviewed their hand-written ballots before placing them in the ballot box.

In Robert Taylor Homes, in the 4400 block of South Federal Street, an election worker said she had a gun put in her face.

At Stateway Gardens, although judges arrived at 7 a.m., ballots did not arrive at the polling place until 9:20 a.m. This fact was confirmed by several of the judges along with two of the development's candidates, Francine Washington and Charles "Cosmo" Reynolds.

After leaving the Stateway polling place, I went back to the CWED office to find Joyce Morgan, the special project manager for the Central Advisory Council, the central body of the Local Advisory Council. When I arrived at 6:30 p.m., Morgan was copying ballots for the Madden Park polling place at 3855 S. Ellis Ave. Since the atmosphere at CWED was so tense, I was unable to get a statement from Morgan. Instead, I was asked to deliver ballots to the judges at Madden Park.

On the road again, I reached Ida B. Wells and Madden Park at 6:55 p.m. I found the Madden Park field house polling place filled with angry judges who had been there since 6 a.m. without the proper equipment to even open the polls to residents.

After I left the Wells polling place, I headed back to the CWED office. To my surprise, I found an angry mob of judges that filled the parking lot hallway, each floor of the building and the stairways demanding to be paid. Once again, this reporter was asked to assist CWED by preparing paychecks. I along with all able hands passed the checks out to the judges. Even this wasn't done fast enough for the angry mob of judges. By this time, they were using profanity and threatening the staff of CWED with bodily harm as well as vandalism. Some petty thefts occurred at the office until the Chicago Police Department had to be called to assist in serious crowd control. This went on until 2:30 a.m. Wednesday.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, CAC President Mamie Bone was still waiting for the results to be produced from CWED. Though Bone was unchallenged in her bid to be reelected as LAC president of Henry Horner Homes, she acknowledged that others were waiting to hear about the results of tight races.

"They have a right to be upset," Bone said. "I just tell them to have faith and hang in there."

Bone noted that residents have run previous CHA elections that have gone smoothly and blamed the election problems on the two contractors.

"I'm pretty sure we wouldn't hire them again," Bone said.

Bone said make-up elections would be held in developments where significant problems took place.

CHA officials said the contract with CWED and Square totaled slightly less than \$250,000 but that only \$172,000 had been paid and the contractors would not receive more.



**Happier Times: A CHA resident voter at the polls for an LAC elections of yesteryear.**

# Lathrop's LAC Election

by Bobby Watkins

As a Lathrop Homes resident and also a candidate in the Local Advisory Council Election held Dec. 15, I would like to say it was handled very unprofessionally. I know CHA likes to give resident-owned businesses a chance but the Community Workshop on Economic Development and their resident business partner really handled this election very badly. There were not enough ballots in the Lathrop developments but some developments didn't have any! There were candidates in Lathrop whose names did not appear on the ballots. There were residents working as judges in their OWN developments.

Area coordinators from CWED took ballots from polling places saying they would not count. Also there was no security in polling places. Judges did not check resident rosters for addresses. We had several residents

come into our Local Advisory Council that were upset at the fact that the polling places did not open until 11 a.m. They were working people and wanted to cast a vote. Then there was another incident in which a resident was sent to one polling place where they did not have ballots for her area but was given a ballot for another area. Also, judges left polling places with ballot boxes going from one polling place to another. There were no poll watchers with credentials for candidates.

One judge summed up the problems with the election as a general lack of security and a lack of training and instruction from CWED. This article could go on

and on. It's just to say it makes it seem like you can throw anything to CHA residents and we have to accept it all. We had a great turn-out in Lathrop but if the elec-

**"A general lack of security and a lack of training and instruction from CWED."**

**- Statement of an LAC Election judge**

tion is recalled, that will probably discourage residents from participating. I just hope that in the future, things will be handled more professionally.

by Karen Owens

To paraphrase an old Temptations song, the LAC elections at ABLA were a "Ball of Confusion."

The polling places opened at 6 a.m. Residents were out canvassing the ABLA community, even using megaphones to urge residents to get out and vote. However, the situation soon became totally confused.

Ballots arrived at polling places as late as 11:30 a.m., causing some residents to leave who tried to vote early. Long lines formed as election judges tried finding tenants' names on rosters showing what area they lived in.

The election judges were unfamiliar with the area in which they worked and didn't know the difference between a row-house and high-rise address, explained residents.

Certain candidates' names were not on the ballots for the area they were supposed to represent. Incorrect affidavits were given out to some residents to verify ABLA residency if names didn't appear on the roster.

One long time resident said, "I've voted in every LAC election but this one is very disorganized." Overall, it was a very good turnout at all three polling places.

According to the Community Workshop on Economic Development (CWED), incumbent LAC President Deverra Beverly was the projected winner over challenger Ferrell Freeman. CWED admitted that the final count will take some time.

Regarding her projected victory, Beverly said: "The victory was not mine. God and the community spoke."

Freeman said, "My first encounter with the political process as a contender has been very eye opening and has confirmed my feelings about politics and why I've stayed away from it."

Beverly is a lifelong resident of Brooks Homes and has been president for 13 years. She has been treasurer of the Central Advisory Council (CAC) for 10 years and was recently elected CAC vice president.

# Ball of Confusion

A local newspaper recently ran an article alleging that Beverly owned an apartment building outside of CHA. Beverly's challenger tried to remove her from the ballot and others said she shouldn't remain a resident of ABLA because of this news. According to CHA spokesperson Wynona Redmond, however, Beverly can remain a resident of ABLA because she's paying ceiling rent.

In response to the allegation, Beverly said: "It was substantiated that the article was in fact not true. The challenge to have me removed from the ballot by my opponent was unsuccessful. The election contractors' panel members unanimously supported me staying on the ballot. The Local Advisory Council and my record of promises and commitment speaks for itself. Promises made to the residents were kept.

"A relocation building was rehabbed for Brooks residents who would return to the new rehab in Phase I New Brooks Homes. Phase II of New Brooks Homes will be built for those residents that did not move

in to Phase I of the New Brooks. They will return in Phase II in New Brooks Homes."

Beverly went on to describe the redevelopment plan for ABLA: "The plan we have is right for the whole ABLA community. Residents have been informed that the whole

ABLA community will be completely revitalized and one side of the community will not be any different from another side. ABLA will be a community of mixed residents not aware of what their next-door neighbor's income will be.

"A job program will be established especially for residents who are able to work.

Some residents will be able to purchase their own homes. Affordable housing will be available. Going into the year 2000, most of these things will be accomplished. The residents will be working toward purchasing affordable housing."

Challenger Freeman has been a resident in ABLA for over 40 years, first in the Jane Addams Homes and – after Jane Addams was demolished – then in the Grace Abbott section. Freeman is also a member of the Concerned Residents of ABLA (CRA), "which are advocating for tenants' rights living in ABLA."

Freeman's concerns center on the redevelopment plan for ABLA. The benefits of redevelopment include clean, new units for resi-

dents. But Freeman said there also are negative aspects: "The present redevelopment plans, as they are written, will only benefit others – developers, not residents."

Freeman added, "There should be more new town home apartments for current ABLA



Polling place for ABLA LAC elections.

Photo by Karen Owens

## ABLA

by Annie R. Smith

As I started to write this story about the Dec. 15 Local Advisory Council Elections, I began thinking about the angles of this story: How did Leroy Square, a resident-owned business owner, get involved? Why was the Community Workshop on Economic Development chosen to handle the election? I had a keen perspective on each of these questions because, you see, I too was contemplating becoming a contractor for the CAC/LAC elections.

But I pulled out before things actually began. Instead, I watched as the election turned into what is now known throughout the developments as "The Fiasco."

On Election Day, I didn't have a clue as to where my polling place was and walked over to the Wells LAC office.

Jackie, the office clerk, told me where my polling place was but then added, "Wells hasn't received any ballots."

I looked at my watch. It was 9:10 a.m. I wondered what was going on. Jackie looked at me, shrugged her shoulders and proceeded to take care of her business.

I went to my gallery and the phone rang as soon as I walked through the door. It was a message from a fellow resident business owner who said ballots had not yet

# No Ballots, Bailouts

arrived in ABLA.

I decided to investigate and called the Central Advisory Council. The gentleman on the phone told me that CWED was handling the election and he gave me the number. I called CWED and asked to speak to Willie Hayes, the executive director. I was left on hold for 15 minutes. I hung up and called back but all I got was a busy signal. I went through that ritual about seven times to no avail. The line stayed busy.

I wondered whether the CHA brass knew about this situation. I called CHA Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses' office. Ed's special assistant, Sharon Elliot, explained that Ed was out of town but gave me an answer that would have satisfied the angriest of candidates. I thanked her and hung up.

The phone rang again at 10:30 a.m. Titus Kirby, a would-be candidate from Lathrop Homes, said his name was left off the ballot. Titus added a resident who is running as a candidate in Lathrop was working as an election judge. I told Titus to call CAC, CWED and Ed Moses' office and wished him "Good Luck." I knew he

would need it.

## On A Quest For The Missing Ballots

At 1 p.m., I walked over to the polling place, which was a trailer in the back of the CHILD Center. I opened the door and introduced myself. The ladies looked at me and asked me what I wanted. I told them I was there to vote.

"Honey, you and the whole community of Wells want the same but we don't have any ballots," said one of the would-be judges.

We joked with each other for a minute and I walked back over to the Wells LAC office.

The office was full of con-

Peebles was on the phone calling every television station she knew of, letting the cat out of the bag. I watched as the chatter became clatter.

## The Aftermath

At 9 a.m. on Dec. 16, I got a call from Ernestine at the Wells LAC office. Ernestine was with a Wells resident who worked in Dearborn Homes as an election judge and she asked me to come over.

When I arrived, I saw this lady sitting in a chair that was positioned at the side of the desk with a shopping bag sitting on the floor. Inside the bag was steel, grayish blue ballot

box full of ballots. No one had come pick up the ballot box the night before.

I looked at Ernestine. She looked at me and then we both looked at the ballot box that sat on the floor in a shopping bag. I reached into my pocket, pulled out \$2 and gave it to the confused but persistent election judge. She said she didn't know how to get to CWED. I also gave out directions.

## IDA B. WELLS

cerned residents talking about the event. Where were the missing ballots? LAC President Sandra Young came in and said she didn't have a clue as to what was going on. She said she called CWED and Willie Hayes refused to talk to her.

Newsletter editor Lee Esther

residents than provided for in the current plan, particularly north of Roosevelt Road.

"New housing should be every ABLA resident's choice and every ABLA resident should have the opportunity to live in those houses, regardless of their political status.

"All ABLA residents should be given complete information about relocation choices and be permitted to make an informed choice about where they want to live.

Freeman said she would "rewrite the redevelopment plan with resident involvement and to see that the LAC does what it was set up to do: represent the tenants."

The office of vice president also is an important office in the LAC. The position, which is held currently by Beatrice Jones, a 45-year resident of Brooks Homes who has been vice president for 13 years.

If re-elected, Jones plans "to continue working with the revitalization committee of ABLA. Making sure all residents are located or relocated in ABLA or their choice. And still work with residents with all their complaints."

Byron Dickens, who was running against Jones, was removed from the ballot due to a questionable background.

Dickens said, "I did not receive information of removal in time to dispute it."

Before he was removed from office, Dickens said he wanted to "create positive programs and activities for all residents, especially our youth, work along with the residents to make sure CHA, nearby communities, business owners, hospitals, UIC, developers and local politicians are working for us, with us and not against us."

Dickens said he was running to "fight against the ones that want to see the residents of ABLA off this 'money-making' land that ABLA sits on."

## In Retrospect

This election was like a nightmare and I am glad it's over. But there is a lesson to be learned from this fiasco.

Sometimes we are so bent on bringing about a change that we forget change isn't something that will come overnight but a process that takes on deliberate progress with a thought-out plan. Sure, the involvement of a resident-owned business was a sign of change.

CWED's desire to handle the election was noble. But CWED was never a general in the fields. We were put out there on the battlefields without a general. There was no place to run and nobody to bail us out. We lost ground and wondered why.

But deep down inside we knew the answer. Change is about taking baby steps and slowly learning how to walk. Change is about taking progress at intervals of time, not rushing in blindly and stumbling in the dark. Change is a process that takes time and if we take our time, the change will eventually come about.

Change is not about progress for progression will take place one way or another. Change is about making progress!

# Ickes Residents Voice Their Choice

by Jacqueline Thompson

## Election Day 1998

At 7:15 a.m., on the way to care for my grand daughter, I stopped by the LAC polling place to vote. When I arrived, I was informed that "there were no ballots, and therefore no voting could be done."

I asked of a worker, "Do you know when the ballots will arrive?"

"We have no knowledge of when the ballots will arrive," the worker said. "No one has contacted us."

Later in the day, I phoned the Ickes LAC office to find out if the ballots had been delivered to the polling place.

"Yes, they came about 9:00 a.m.," the voice on the phone told me.

For me this was good, because I could then pick up my granddaughter from school and go to the polling place to cast my important vote.

After casting my vote, I was able to talk to some of the residents about the election.

I asked Dorothea Williams, an election judge who does not live in Ickes, how residents felt about the tardy arrival of ballots?

"It didn't seem to bother anybody," Williams said. "(The election) has been going good since then (When the ballots came)."

Donald Hollins said, "I'm running myself. I think it was wrong not to have them ready (the ballots) on time."

Joseph Cunningham said, "I did it (voted) on my lunch hour. I saw some residents that came out for a change. Some that don't usually come out."

Earl Smith said, "Well it was all right. It's going to be about the same anyway. No lights in the hallway or the stairwell. You don't have

nobody to talk to."

Joe Davis said, "I was glad to vote today. I had a good feeling about the new people running. I feel like some turn-around changes may take place."

Most Ickes residents were unaware and unaffected by the late arrival of the ballots. Employment is low among residents and many were getting their children out to school for 9 a.m. so many wouldn't have been able to vote until after 9 a.m. anyway.

## Election Night

The election at Ickes Homes almost had a hot race for president of the Local Advisory Council. Longtime incumbent Gloria Williams faced a vigorous campaign from Aaron Boyd, who distributed flyers and spoke to residents often. Boyd was successfully challenged and removed from ballot, however, and Williams ran unopposed.

On the evening of election day, I asked Williams how the late delivery of ballots affected Ickes residents.

"Prairie Courts was open on time, like Ickes, but had no ballots. Lawndale never got theirs. Bridgeport never got theirs. Archer got theirs about 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. They had a choice to hold the election or have another. They (the election contractors, the Community Workshop on Economic Development) will have to hold another election. They will have to find out how widespread the errors were."

I asked Williams how she felt about the challenges for her position, even though Boyd did not appear on the ballot.

"I had already said that this would be my last election," Williams said.

"There was too much hostility and damage to character. I'm not about that. I did not enjoy the campaign at all. There was negative literature put out with snide remarks about

people."

I asked Williams how election day proceeded.

"It got really ugly one part of the day when some of the younger people discovered their candidate (Aaron Boyd) was not on the ballot. They stood outside of the polling place and demonstrated for about 45 minutes. Then they went away.

"Other than that, the turn-out was really good."

I asked Williams if she thought CWED would be able to run another election after the errors on the Dec. 15 polls.

"No. But no company has ever done so twice. It's too hard."

Williams has presided in that office for four consecutive terms, equal to twelve years.

Williams' term in office has been predicated on her record of developing proper and positive ways to allow residents to plea for and support their own community-led activities through individual building councils. By doing so, each building gets to handle funds allotted in Per Unit Yearly (PUY) Sharing.

At her urging, Ickes seniors have been the recipients of special trips to Disney World along with other outings such as visits to the Senior Health Fair, CHA employee Christmas parties at downtown hotels and special invitations to Palmer House gatherings for Anthony Todd, developer of Universal Services.

Williams also made sure the presidents of the different building councils know the seniors who live in each building and visit the seniors regularly to ensure community needs are met.

Under Williams' leadership, the LAC has worked with CHA's Resident Organization Department to help coordinate special trips for children, administer the Mayor's Summer Jobs for Youth program,

and established the Mama Said program at Ickes. For the past three years, the LAC has solicited and donated \$3,000 in toys for the holidays and organized a food pantry for residents.

Within the past 2 1/2 years, the LAC has started to manage the janitorial service at Ickes and has hired residents to perform the work. They do a good job.

Before the election, Williams said she would "continue to believe in Ickes getting their fair share of opportunities and things that make improvements."

## Challenger to the Incumbent

Aaron Boyd, 26, is no stranger to Ickes; his mother, uncles and aunt grew up there and he participated in Henry Booth House Social activities. Boyd has been back at Ickes for four years and he currently works as the after-school and evening youth program director of Henry Booth House Social Services.

Boyd's job allows him to interact with over 80 students daily. He has two group workers and two volunteers workers to supervise after-school and evening arts and crafts. Boyd also has been responsible for the production of many community events.

Boyd decided to run for office when he wasn't recognized for his hard work during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Ickes' new basketball court.

"I want to try and ward off any more lack of credit for outstanding programming from a resident and to represent the residents at the CAC (Central Advisory Council) meetings and cast a vote for things that benefit everyone."

Boyd was removed from the ballot, according to officials from CWED, because his resident folder was not in compliance and therefore he was not eligible to run for office.

## Public Housing Voter Turnout

by Cynthia Morris

This election year was one where Republicans and Democrats learned the value of the Black vote. The Nov. 6 issue of the *New York Times* reported, "A heavy Black turnout enabled Democrats to win some major races." The heavy Black turnout surprised the leadership of both parties, who were used to special interest groups like the Christian Coalition bringing out the vote.

If the political pundits, poll watchers and armchair politi-

cians think that African Americans do not come out and vote, they think that public housing residents come out in even smaller numbers. But an analysis of the voting habits between public housing residents and their neighbors shatters the stereotype. Precinct for precinct, public housing residents come out in equal or greater numbers than their neighbors. For this survey, *RJ* looked at a number of public housing precincts in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> congressional districts and compared them with their neighbors.:.

### 1990 Voter Turnout:

#### Ward 2

##### ABLA

Precinct 9: 32%  
Precinct 10: 35%  
Precinct 25: 70%  
Precinct 30: 53%  
Precinct 4: 68%

#### Ward 2

##### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 5: 29%  
Precinct 16: 37%  
Precinct 19: 37%

#### Ward 3

##### WASHINGTON PARK

Precinct 9: 36%

##### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 7: 17%  
Precinct 25: 52%

#### Ward 4

##### Public Housing (Wells/Darrow)

Precinct 19: 33%

### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 27: 25%

#### Ward 19

##### Public Housing

Precinct 4: 72%

### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 6: 68%

#### Ward 20

##### Public Housing

Precinct 7: 26%

### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 19: 30%

#### Ward 2

##### ABLA Homes

Precinct 9: 41%

Precinct 10: 25%

Precinct 25: 44%

Precinct 30: 42%

Precinct 32: 56%

### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 6: 23%

Precinct 15: 16%

Precinct 35: 38%

Precinct 40: 44%

#### Ward 3

##### Public Housing

Precinct 9: 28%

### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 1: 36%

Precinct 20: 18%

#### Ward 4

##### Public Housing

Precinct 19: 30%

#### Ward 19

##### Public Housing

Precinct 4: 70%

#### Ward 20

##### Public Housing

Precinct 7: 50%

### Surrounding Communities

Precinct 29: 38%

Precinct 2: 75%

## Re-election Sites

*The following sites were scheduled for reelection on Dec. 22, according to CWED:*

### Washington Park:

3939 S. Lake Park  
3983 S. Lake Park

### Ida B. Wells

Robert Taylor A

### Robert Taylor B

### Wentworth Gardens:

Scattered Sites Only

### Gautreaux N/E Scattered Sites

### LeClaire Courts

### Ickes:

2222 S. Princeton Ave.  
2242 S. Princeton Ave.

Lawndale Gardens

### ABLA:

Area D Row Abbott Rowhouses

### Lowden Homes

### Trumbull:

Section I-II-III

### Senior Housing South:

4930 S. Langley  
681 E. 89<sup>th</sup> Street  
9141/9177 S. Chicago  
4227 S. Oakenwald

243 E. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
6401 S. Yale

665 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
6360 S. Minerva

3146 S. Wentworth  
3120 S. Wentworth  
7120 S. Merrill

### Lawndale:

Scattered Sites  
Washtenaw site

### Cabrini-Green:

Rowhouses  
1121 N. Larabee  
1159 N. Larabee  
1161 N. Larabee

412 W. Chicago  
911 N. Hudson  
939 N. Hudson

862 N. Sedgwick  
929 N. Hudson

53 W. Division  
630 W. Evergreen  
1230 N. Larabee

1340 N. Larabee

# Incendio de Viviendas Flannery

por Julio Martinez

En la mañana del viernes 30 de octubre como a las 10:30 AM, nadie pensó que esa preciosa mañana se convertiría en una pesadilla para los residentes de los edificios de la Autoridad de Vivienda de Chicago, localizados en el 1507 y 1531 al norte de la Clybourn. El operador de una pala mecánica no se percató de que donde estaba excavando estaba la linea principal suplidora de gas para estos edificios. Esta persona perforó la linea y comenzó así un movimiento masivo de equipos de emergencias en la ciudad de Chicago, cuerpo de bomberos, policías de la ciudad y de la CHA.

Pude hablar con el Sr. Máximo Alicea, que era residente del edificio que se encendió. El dice que estaba en su apartamento y que como a eso de las 10:30 a.m., "Escuché un sumido enorme y un ruido que daba miedo y un olor a gas tan asfixiante que tuve que salir del apartamento porque la garganta se me estaba cerrando. Cuando salia de mi casa, pude ver que todos los residentes estaban corriendo asustados, despues de un rato fue que estalló el gas en fuego," comenta este residente.

A la siguiente mañana, pude entrevistar a varios de los residentes de estos edificios que estaban esperando ser reubicados en otros edificios. Pude hablar con un residente que se encuentra en silla de ruedas y que se llama Gilbert Martin, quien residía en el edificio que se quemó. Este residente me comentó que está esperando ver si le dan otro apartamento ya que él pasó la noche en un hotel de la calle Clark y que debido a lo sucedido no se siente bien y hasta ha perdido el apetito, comentó este residente de 72 años de edad.

También entrevisté a la Sra. Tomassina Anderson, quien se cubría con una frazada roja, ella dijo que vive en el 1531 N. Clybourn y que pasó la noche con su prima y desea volver a su apartamento lo más pronto posible. "Le doy gracias a los empleados de la CHA por lo rápido que fuimos sacados del edificio y me alegra que nadie haya resultado lesionado," comentó la Sra. Anderson.

Pasé a entrevistar a la Sra. Shirley Hammond, presidenta del Concilio Consultor Local (LAC por sus siglas en inglés) del área norte. Dice que ella se enteró del fuego porque la llamaron a San Antonio, Texas, donde se encontraba de vacaciones. Ella comentó que los residentes damnificados fueron llevados a la YMCA que está cerca del edificio y que nadie fue llevado al hospital gracias a la pronta ayuda de los empleados y trabajadores de la compañía constructora que intervinieron a tiempo juntos con los empleados de la CHA.

Le pregunté a ella si sabe que le pasó a las pertenencias de los residentes que tuvieron que abandonarlo todo? Dice la Sra. Hammond que la CHA empezó a revisar los daños desde el primero hasta el cuarto piso. Algunos de estos apartamentos tuvieron daños por humo y otros por agua y humo, 4 apartamentos se perdieron totalmente. En algunos de los apartamentos, los televisores, retratos y refrigeradores están intactos, ya que nadie

puede entrar al edificio hasta que los daños sean calculados. Además, el Inspector General tomó fotos y video para ayudar a calcular las pérdidas de los residentes.

Al preguntarle a la Sra. Hammond si ella creía que la Autoridad era responsable por el incendio, me contestó que la CHA nada tiene que ver con este fuego. Le pregunté que, ¿Quién iba a pagar por la reubicación de los residentes? Y contestó que la Autoridad iba a hacerse cargo de todos los gastos. Al preguntarle como se envolvieron los líderes de estos edificios en esta situación, comentó que la presidenta de los edificios tiene una doble responsabilidad, porque el presidente está enfermo y ella está encargada de las pertenencias de los residentes.



Front view of the fire-stricken Flannery Senior building at 1507 N. Clybourn Ave.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

English version  
of this story on page 18

Le pregunté si la CHA debe hacer más por estos residentes. Y ella me contestó que "Ellos se han comprometido de día y noche con todo su personal a ayudar en este lamentable accidente. Y quiero felicitarlos por lo duro que están trabajando para hacer la situación más fácil para los residentes y buscar la solución más rápida para que ellos puedan regresar a sus apartamentos."

Tambien entrevisté a la Sra. Donna Dixon, quien es la directora del Centro de Programas Gladys L. Reed para Personas Mayores de Edad. Sus oficinas están localizadas en el 1150 E. 89th Street. Sobre los esfuerzos hechos por parte de los residentes de 1507 Clybourn, comenta la Sra. Dixon "Yo espero que los residentes sepan que la CHA no ha trabajado sola. Tuvimos ayuda del Departamento de la Vejez, la Cruz Roja, la YMCA que queda al lado del edificio y que abrio las puertas a los residentes de estos dos edificios y esto fue una obra magnífica.

"También les damos las gracias a los supermercados Dominick's por su ayuda a la causa y a las tiendas Target y las otras compañías que se han comprometido a ayudar. Y tambien a la oficina del Concejal del área. Value City se comprometió a esta causa, así como varias compañías más que desean cooperar. Los empleados de la CHA fueron movilizados debido a este accidente y les damos las gracias por la labor tan preciosa que están llevando a cabo. Y tenemos tanta ropa que si todos los residentes se la llevaran todavía quedaría para regalarle a otras entidades. No sé si es por la época pero las personas se sienten comovidas y se envolvieron para ayudar."

La Sra. Hammond comentó que algunos de los residentes quieren buscar sus pertenencias, pero por ahora es muy peligroso ya que los elevadores no están trabajando y es imposible entrar al edificio. Al preguntarle como fueron reubicados los residentes, comentó que algunos están viviendo en el 1531 N. Clybourn, incluyendo el vice-presidente del edificio del 1507. Otros fueron llevados al 1633 W. Madison y otros más están en el 116 W. Elm St., 4945 N. Sheridan, 1845 N. Larrabee y 2720 N. Sheffield.

El presidente del edificio del 2140 N. Clark, el Sr. Sam Johnson, recibió las contribuciones de dinero y ropa que dieron los residentes de este edificio. Y la organización donó camas y provisiones enlatadas. Los residentes de 20 edificios están haciendo donaciones de dinero a la causa. Todas las personas que quieran donar pueden llamar a la oficina de LAC (312) 674-4146.



A side view of the badly damaged 1507 N. Clybourn Flannery Homes senior building.  
Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson



Top view of the fire damaged 1507 N. Clybourn Flannery Homes senior building.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

# BOOM BOOM GOES THE LAKEFRONT

## Former Lakefront residents vow to pursue suit

by Wateka Kleinpeter

Early in the morning of Dec. 12, hundreds of people lined up in the park across the street from the four 16-story CHA buildings that were about to be demolished by implosion. Traffic was rerouted on South Lake Shore Drive momentarily. For a while, it was a solemn event. Protestors were afoot with a bullhorn saying that CHA did not keep their promises. But most people quietly waited for the demolition to begin.

A few loud booms of dynamite brought out cheers from some of the onlookers. The buildings came down and a large black cloud of dust covered the area where everyone was. People scrambled to their cars and everyone was completely covered with dust; the dust that was the lives of the people that once occupied the over 600 units in those buildings.

The dust cloud was the buildings' last revenge. When the smoke cleared, the pile of rubble was a ghostly



A cloud of dust appears from these collapsing building during implosion.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

reminder of the people who once inhabited those buildings.

My personal recollection is of my best friend, Belinda Threatt, who was killed at 4155 South Lake Park in 1970. Her family watched the implosion in sadness; the buildings standing there had always been a sad reminder.

The buildings were more than bricks and mortar. The dust that spread from the implosion site is made up of the lives of the people who used to live there. People coming and going. People sleeping and eating. Going to the store and going to school. Everything that people do in their lives was represented in the ashy dust.

Many residents are concerned that their dreams for replacement housing drifted away with that cloud of dust.

But for others, the implosion represented an opportunity. One contractor at the implosion told a protester not to worry, that he would be glad to build the replacement housing on that site.

### Implosion

Implosion is a process where large structures come straight down to the ground. By strategically placing explosives in the structure, the force of gravity does most of the demolition. Implosion is fairly new in Chicago but has been safely used in other cities.

The demolished buildings are three in a horseshoe and another building just north of them. The buildings in the horseshoe, 4155 South Lake Park, 1130 East 41<sup>st</sup> and 1132 East 42<sup>nd</sup> streets, have been vacant since 1985 and 1986 and the solitary building, 4040 South Lake Park, has been vacant since 1988.

The four buildings were torn down at a cost of \$1.9 million.

According to the demolition company, implosion is cheaper than demolition by wrecking ball and bulldozer. Other structures imploded in Chicago include the old S curve of Lake Shore Drive, the U.S. Steel South Works and the old McCormick Hotel.

The implosion took place just after 8 am. The entire process took about 24 seconds. The former residents of the four buildings were either relocated to other CHA properties, took a Section 8 certificate or some form of rent subsidy.

Many of the former residents are opposed to the demolition because they say that CHA did not keep their promises. The Lakefront Properties consisted of the four imploded buildings as well as 3939 and 3983 South Lake Park, the two buildings that are now called Lake Parc Place. Lake Parc Place is a mixed income development that has received national attention.

When residents left the buildings, CHA promised the properties would be rehabilitated. However, they completed Lake Parc Place and then said the other four were to be torn down.

These buildings had the open gallery and - according to former residents of the Lakefront Properties - the wind and elements caused the elevator to stop working frequently. The Lakefront Community Organization (LCO), which represents the former residents, took CHA to court in 1995. CHA agreed not to tear down the four buildings until 141 units of replacement housing were built in the neighborhood. Once those replacement units would be built, another 80-100 units were slated to be built on the site of the four buildings. According to Izora Davis, executive director of the Lakefront Community Organization and a former resident of 4040 South Oakenwald, CHA has not kept its promise.

"It's not about the buildings. It's a legal battle. They have broken the contract. It's not about the buildings. It's about the agreement they signed on to. It's legal," Davis said.

In October, a meeting was held at 3983 South Lake Park with the residents of Lake Parc Place. They met with representatives of the demolition company, CHA officials and 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Toni Preckwinkle. They were shown a film about the process of implosion and given the opportunity to ask questions. They were also given safety instructions for the day of the implosion.

At the meeting, many residents said that Preckwinkle does not represent their interests and that she is all for the implosion. They said that she sided with Kenwood Oakland homeowners who have been vocally demanding that no more public housing should be built in their community.

Preckwinkle said she was in court with LCO, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and CHA when they reached the agreement to rebuild 241 units of housing in North Kenwood Oakland. She said that some are already built and some in



As the buildings implode, a cloud of dust forms from the remains.

progress. She also said that the units would be part of a mixed-income development and indistinguishable from market rate housing.

Several residents expressed to Preckwinkle that they did not trust CHA or her because the court order seems to have been ignored anyway. They said Henry Horner Homes, Rockwell Gardens and Cabrini-Green have had court orders and they are still fighting. They expressed their suspicions that even with a court order, CHA will come back and change the terms.

"They were going to remodel six buildings and only two got remodeled," one resident said.

Preckwinkle said former CHA Chairman Vince Lane's dream was a balanced neighborhood with 50 percent public housing residents and 50 percent market-rate tenants. She also said, "I have said that CHA should do what they promised."

### After the Implosion

According to Charles Petrof, attorney for LCO, although the buildings are down, the court battle will continue. Petrof said that the Habitat Company, the private developer responsible for building replacement housing, is having a hard time getting people to accept replacement housing in their neighborhoods. **RJ** asked him to comment on the quality of the replacement housing in North Kenwood Oakland.

"Yes, some of it looks like crap," Petrof said.

**RJ** asked Petrof how many units of replacement housing have been built to date and do they have the money to build more?

"Less than 70 units have been built so far and they have admitted they don't have the money right now for more," Petrof said.

Petrof also said that he feels LCO lost some of their leverage with the buildings being torn down. As long as they were standing, the buildings were a reminder that more replacement units need to be built, Petrof said.

**RJ** asked Petrof if there are a lot of relocatees that are in contact with LCO and do many of them want to live in replacement housing?

Petrof said, "(LCO Executive Director) Izora Davis knows the exact number but I understand there are quite a lot of them. Some of these people have been shuffled around; one lady moved from the Lakefront Properties, moved to a building in another development and later had to move because it had to be torn down."

### The day of the implosion:

There was a short ceremony on the day of the implosion at which a number of officials made public comments:

CHA Chairperson Karen Newton said, "This is the beginning of a new era. New construction can begin and people can live together no longer in isolation."

Chicago Housing Commissioner Julia Stasch said, "The last barrier has been removed and we look forward to a triumphant future."

CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner thanked Izora Davis and added, "She is a tough negotiator and in two years maybe we will be cutting ribbons."

by Thomas L. Merriweather

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has been the law of our nation since 1990 and with 8 years of existence, it remains an often perplexing problem to public housing agencies, private housing entities and public accommodations of all types, including transportation.

In April of 1998, I began to attend monthly meetings as a new member of the CHA ADA Equal Access Tenant Advisory Committee. The committee has been reorganizing to attract members from all of the 58 CHA buildings with senior housing, since at least 80 percent of this population have some type of disability.

On Sept. 24, I was elected president of the committee. Gloria Davis of the Dickens and Burling Apartments was elected vice president, Melvin Smith of the Lincoln-Perry Apartments became secretary and Gladys Jefferson of 116 W. Elm St. became sergeant at arms.

Prior to that meeting, William Peppers, then the director of the ADA Section 504 Compliance Department, suggested that guest speakers at each meet-

**On Jan. 1, 1999 new full and reduced card packs will be available from the same stores and currency exchanges. The old cards may be used until May 31, 1999**

ing address important issues relevant to residents.

At our Oct. 22 meeting, Pat Reskey of the CHA Modernization Department was present along with Linda Mastandrea, newly appointed manager of CHA's ADA and Section 504 Compliance Department, and Daniel Thomas, civil rights testing coordinator for Access Living.

Pat Reskey brought some very valuable information to the committee in her presentation. Reskey discussed various plans for the improvement of senior housing developments. She explained that legal accessibility per ADA mandates are because of senior housing units (apartments) being smaller than those in family housing. Being a resident of the Eckhart Park Senior Housing Development, I can attest to the difficulties in making CHA senior units accessible.

At the Nov. 19 meeting, the special speaker was Christine Montgomery, ADA Compliance Officer for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). Montgomery's specific responsibility are fixed route/mainline busses and trains but she was very helpful in providing valuable information about CTA Paratransit Operations, which are used by mobility impaired individuals and those with other disabilities.

There are some significant changes in the entire transportation system under CTA. A new fare structure

# ACCESS REPORT

went into effect Nov. 1 which uses new transit cards available from station card machines and at currency exchanges, grocery stores and the Internet.

On Jan. 1, 1999, new full and reduced fare transit card packs will be available from the same stores and currency exchanges. The old cards may be used only until May 31, 1999. The cost of full fare card packs is \$15 (ten cards at \$1.50 each) for one-way rides without transfer or \$15 for a reduced fare pack of 20 cards (75 cents each) which may be used by children ages 7-11, students with CTA riding permits, seniors and disabled individuals with the proper ID.

There also will be changes to CTA Paratransit. A new zone system will be put into place with each of the four existing carriers, Arts Transportation, Cook-Dupage Transportation (CDT), SCR Transportation, Simtran Medical Transportation and the establishment of a telephone queuing system for all carriers such as SCR currently uses. I have used SCR for my travel needs for 2 extended periods plus 2 short periods of one day each. The phone queuing

system accommodates the reservation of trips on first called, first served basis. The other three carriers use a random phone system, which usually means hours spent calling and on hold. However, SCR remains inefficient in its on-time service and dispatching of vehicles.

Another change in CTA Paratransit is the Taxi Access Program (TAP) with the cost per voucher having been reduced from \$3.00 to \$1.50 per trip if it is less than \$10 on the taxi meter. The basic requirement is the same as certification for regular door-to-door operation per the Special Service vehicles. Riders in wheelchairs must be able to transfer from their chairs into the cab and their wheelchairs must be able to be folded up and placed into the trunk of the vehicle. Since vouchers are only good for up to \$10 on the meter, the passenger must pay the cost of any excess over this amount plus any tip. Vouchers may be obtained at CTA headquarters at the Merchandise Mart or at various locations of the City of Chicago Department of Aging.

The Taxi Access Program is a demonstration project of CTA and the City of Chicago and is only available for trips within the city

and with a limitation of a maximum of 30 to be purchased within a week. And 4 vouchers purchased must be used within a period of 90 days.

I have written – both in *RJ* and in letters to federal officials - many times about the lack of timeliness in the service and continuing difficulties in telephoning to reserve trips. In the case of CDT, the most efficient of the four carriers, I wrote to the Federal Transit Administration office in Chicago. That agency's Office of Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., sent me back a letter dated Nov. 5. By the time this letter from Eugene Jenkins, equal opportunity specialist, was received, an appreciable improvement in service was being experienced for about a month and this was conveyed to him by telephone. But soon the service began to deteriorate again. In a follow-up call from Jenkins, I decided that my original complaint should be withdrawn pending an anticipated sustained improvement in service.

In the meantime, some changes in personnel have occurred in CHA's ADA Section 504 department. Linda Mastandrea resigned as manager of the department although she continues in the office on a part-time basis until a replacement will be located. William Peppers, former director of the department, moved to the occupancy department. I hope a manager for ADA will be in place very soon.

## CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES

### TWO WELFARE-TO-WORK-PROGRAMS!

"COMPREHENSIVE EARNFARxE" & ILLINOIS WORKS/WORKFARE

(Earn up to \$294.00 per month) (Job Search & Job Leads)

#### IF YOU ARE....

- An Able Bodied Adult
- Eligible for Food Stamps

#### .....AND YOU NEED:

- A Job
- A Paycheck
- Work Experience
- Job Search Resources
- Transportation Money

THEN ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS IS FOR YOU!  
TO LEARN HOW THESE PROGRAMS CAN BENEFIT YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILY  
CALL OR VISIT OUR OFFICES

RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING DEPARTMENT  
(Economic Development Division)

(312) 567-7775

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

## LA AUTORIDAD DE VIVIENDA DE CHICAGO ANUNCIA

Dos Programas de "PERSONAS EN AYUDA PUBLIC-A-TRABAJAR"  
(WELFARE TO WORK)

"Comprehensive Earnfare" Y "Illinois Works/Workfare"  
(Gane Hasta \$294.00 Por Mes) (Busqueda Y Referencias De Empleos)

#### SI USTED ES...

- Una Persona Adulta En Condiciones De Trabajar
- Elegible Para Cupones De Comida (Food Stamps)

#### ...Y USTED NECESITA

- Un Trabajo
- Un Salario
- Experiencia De Trabajo
- Recursos Para Buscar Trabajo
- Dinero Para Transportacion

ENTONCES UNO DE ESTOS PROGRAMAS ES PARA USTED!  
Para Saber Como Estos Programmas Pueden Beneficiarle A Usted Y Su Familia  
Llame O Visite Nuestra Oficina

DEPARTAMENTO DE ENTRENAMIENTO Y EMPLEO PARA RESIDENTES DE LA CHA  
(Economia En Division De Viviendas)

(312) 576-7775

NO SE PIERDA ESTA OPORTUNIDAD



by Cecelia A. Clark

#### The Story Behind the Man

Former Cabrini-Green resident Ald. Walter Burnett (27) recently took a step back in time. Walter was your young average teenager who made a mistake which ended with him incarcerated. He had been the getaway driver in a robbery and was caught.

"This is the worst, self inflicted slavery," Walter recalled. "There is someone telling you when to go to bed, when to wake up, when to eat, when to talk and even when you can receive your mail."

When Walter was released, the first thing he wanted to do was to get a job. But this was harder than he thought. Employers weren't interested in his resume or educational background but only the label of "convicted

***"Going through this whole ordeal was hard - the waiting, not knowing."***

- Ald. Walter Burnett



27th Ward Ald. Walter Burnett (left) watches Mayor Richard M. Daley during the opening of a supermarket near Cabrini-Green.

Photo by Cecelia Clark

"felon" that he thought would always follow him in life.

Walter wanted to join the army but this door also was shut.

Eventually, Walter started working for Jesse White, a former state representative and Cook County Recorder of Deeds who will become Illinois Secretary of State in 1999. Walter was elected alderman in 1995.

This year, as he was preparing to run for reelection, Walter was challenged on the grounds that he was a convicted felon. According to the law, the only way Walter could stand for reelection was if he received a full pardon from outgoing Gov. Jim Edgar.

On Dec. 3 at 2 p.m., Walter received a telephone call informing him that he was granted the pardon.

Walter said, "Going through this whole ordeal was hard - the waiting, not knowing."

Walter is continuing to grow. "I will be receiving my bachelor's degree on Dec. 20 from Northeastern University and I will continue to pursue my education. I am remembering that God is always with me and that my mom and dad raised me to have good morals and values and holding on to all of this is important to me."

Walter added a special message for Cabrini-Green residents: "To our young men and women, please stay out of trouble. For those who have been incarcerated, don't give up because God will see you through."

#### Farewell to a Community Family Member

From sitting in meetings with her, watching the children surround her, anyone could see how Lue Edwards dedicated her life to helping

others.

She served on community organizations like the tenant patrol, Cabrini Alive computer program and also the building council. Ms. Edwards also founded a girls club in Cabrini-Green and was honored at the White House in 1994. She also was the prime mover of the It's Time for a Change Resident Management Corporation.

Your family and friends won't forget you. Cabrini Will Miss You.



Three friends at play in Cabrini-Green.

Photo by Cecelia Clark



Lue Ella Edwards (top left) with Cabrini children. "Expression of Love and Service."

Photo by Cecelia Clark

## Urban Youth International Journalism



The Urban Youth International Journalism Program broadens the intellectual, educational and career horizons of public housing youth ages 14-17 through exposure and training as professional journalists. We teach young people to conduct interviews, write articles and access the powerbrokers. The young people's articles appear in Residents' Journal.



We show young people how to become journalists by exposing them to top journalists and institutions in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and around the world.

Last year, UYIJP participants went to Washington, D.C., Ghana and Israel. Similar trips are planned for this year.

For more information:  
916 S. Wabash Ave., #404  
Chicago, IL 60605

Call  
**(312) 674-4218**  
Classes Start Soon

## by Cenabeth Cross

I recently took a three-hour tour of Domestic Violence Court at 1340 S. Michigan Ave. I was joined by Jacqueline Kimbrough, a community outreach specialist with the Chicago Abused Women Coalition (CAWC), Ora Anderson of the Center for Urban Education and a number of concerned parents.

Guided by assistant state's attorney Paul S. Pavlus, we learned how to support victims of domestic violence; about legal issues of family violence; court procedures; protection for a victim of domestic violence and the children; and lastly, we met the presiding judge.

There are four very small courtrooms in the building and the judges rotate from one to the other. The elevators only hold about 4 people at one time and there could be a lot of tension inside if opposing sides in the cases had to go up together. These courtrooms are newly assigned because of the increase in domestic violence cases over the past few years. The tiny halls are filled with people from both sides.

The alleged assailants are brought to the courtrooms to find out what type of bond will be set for them. They usually have spent the night in jail by then. If the accused already has a record for any thing, the bond will be higher than the average, which is about \$200. In order to walk away from the trial, an accused assailant must be able to pay 10 percent in cash.

Judging from the mass of peo-

ple that comes in daily, the courts are kept very busy by people who can't control themselves. If an assailant makes bond and needs to return to the victim's home to get clothes,

they will be escorted by a police officer and a court order will prevent the assailant from returning or contacting the victim.

In one of the courtrooms, I was impressed by one case where the victim, a wife, and her husband, Harris, had been recently married. They had been married for just 2 months but they have 4 children. The female judge asked Harris how many boys he had. She told him to "get it together because she didn't want to have to see his sons in this courtroom in the future."

Kimbrough said, "People don't know that 63 percent of boys ages 11 to 20 who commit murder murder the man who abused their mother. Domestic abuse is often the cause of other community problems and children are especially impacted."

I believe that the only way you can show a child that you love them is to love their mother. If this is impossible, the two adults should make other arrangements. The children are next in line to take over our civilization.

When the tour was over, we went into the private chambers of Gloria G. Coco, supervising judge

of the domestic violence division in the first municipal district of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Coco described a program her office was starting in the public schools. Coco's office and the Graeme Stewart Elementary School have started a pilot program called Outreach to Education. The program is designed to combine positive emotion handling skills and basic problem solving skills with the school's Character Education curriculum. The focus group of this pilot program are children in grades 3-5. The program aims to reduce the incidence of violence among children and adults.

The Illinois Domestic Violence Act was passed in 1982 and makes domestic violence a serious crime. Here are other agencies in Chicago that can help: Family Rescue (312) 375-8400; Friends of Battered Women (312) 764-4326; People Battered and Abused United (312) 436-7766; and Rainbow House (312) 762-6611. Because the problem reaches into businesses by causing absenteeism, the corporate world also has an anti-violence effort called the Corporation Alliance to

End Partner Violence. Their address is 246 E. Washington St., Suite E, Bloomington, IL 61704.

### Gun Control

On the issue of gun control, I have been studying Mayor Richard Daley's suit against the gun industry. The suit charges that the gun industry floods the streets of Chicago with illegal weapons and that suburban stores willingly sell guns to gang members.

On Nov. 12 the city and county filed a whopping \$433 million lawsuit against the gun industry, according to the mayor's press office.

The suit is the first of its kind and was filed after a 3-month-long investigation in which Chicago police officers posed as criminals and bought 171 guns from suburban gun stores. Investigators revealed that the stores were the source of many weapons used in murders, including the gun that killed Chicago Police Officer Michael Ceriale last Aug. 15.

Daley discussed the suit at a recent press conference at the Homan Square Police Facility, 3349 W. Fillmore St. The mayor said that if money is the only language the gun industry understands, then it will be the language he will use. He wants to hit them where it hurts. Named in the suit are 12 gun shops in the suburbs, 22 gun manufacturers and 4 gun distributors.

The suit is intended to become a national test case. Chicago has some of the nation's most restrictive gun laws. City law prohibits the private ownership of handguns unless they were registered prior to March 30, 1982. In the last 10 years, the city confiscated 178,000 handguns. And yet, guns continue to flood the city because it is ringed by suburban gun shops. The suit charges that manufacturers are saturating the stores with more guns than are needed to serve their clientele. The suit alleges that the manufacturers know the guns are being sold and used for criminal purposes.

The undercover police officers easily purchased guns at the suburban gun stores. The officers made it clear that they lived in Chicago and that they intended to pass the guns on. The mayor said he wants to force gun dealers to spend a day at the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital and watch children coping with spinal cord injuries because they happened to get caught in a crossfire of gang-related gun violence.

The \$433 million figure is an estimate of gun-related costs incurred since 1994 by the Chicago Police Department, Cook County Hospital, City Law Department, the Chicago Fire Department's emergency medical services and the Cook County criminal justice system. Last year, 570 people were murdered by people using guns. I'll have to investigate the phenomenon. I want to know how this will help to stop the violence. The hospitals put in a suit and won over the tobacco companies. The hospitals got the cash and the manufacturers only raised the price of the cigarettes.

**WE WISH YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS**



**WE WISH YOU A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND HEALTHY  
1999**



LICENSED

M I D W E S T S E C U R I T Y A G E N C Y

INSURED

**Security Guards - Investigations**

**235 EAST 35th STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616  
(312) 842-7033**

# CHA: Out of Trouble?

The Chicago Housing Authority recently was removed from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) list of 'Troubled' housing authorities after a three-

year takeover by federal officials. With this issue, Residents' Journal begins to examine whether the takeover has improved the lives of CHA residents.

# LeClaire Courts' Bewilderment

by Andre Robinson

May 1995 – the date of the federal takeover of the Chicago Housing Authority - brought many changes for residents and, depending on who one is talking to, some are good and some are not so good. One of the housing developments that was most affected by this change is LeClaire Courts, located on the Southwest Side off Cicero Avenue, two miles north of Midway Airport. One year after CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner and his team took over, the agency removed the resident management corporation that had run

LeClaire for many years. Today, LeClaire Courts is operated by the Signature Group, a private management firm which took over back in September.

**L**eClaire residents have mixed emotions about private management. There is a big problem as far as security, which is minimal in LeClaire. There are more shootings in the evenings and at night. There was even a time where we had a residents meeting at the local field house and had to wait for the shooting to stop so many of us could go home. It has even expanded to Hearst School, where the children have had to wait for shooting to stop before they could go home.

CHA has explained that money for full-time security is unavailable. The new management company has said they are doing their best to try and curb the shootings in the neighborhood. There are neighborhood Community Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meetings that take place every month but the turnout from LeClaire is so low that residents are not even recognized at the meetings. Some elderly LeClaire residents try to attend some of the meetings but it is hard for them to get around. Younger residents don't seem to know the importance or just do not care. Some people have relationships with some of the gangbangers and drug dealers in the area.

**W**ithout the cooperation of the residents and no matter who is managing the area, dealing with the security issue will be a major headache.

Lack of leadership among the residents also is an issue. When the Resident Management Corporation was in office, there was direction and guidance. Since the dismantling of the RMC, many residents are unsure whom to trust. There are residents that have come to the forefront but some people question their intentions. Can they be trusted? Are they in things for financial support or to better the situations of their families and close friends or are they really there for the cause. It has become that you are either behind this person or that person.

**T**here is a ray of hope with the new management company. They have tried to be responsive to the residents' needs and social issues by holding monthly meetings to get input and to update the residents on what's happening in LeClaire.

# HUD: Friend or Foe?

by Cecelia A. Clark

## Cabrini-Green Residents Speak Out

**W**ith CHA coming off of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's list of 'Troubled' housing authorities, I thought it was time to ask a few questions. HUD claimed to have taken over CHA in May 1995 due to mismanagement. Residents were tired of agreements that meant nothing even though they were signed by the person who sat at the head of the regime. Have there really been changes for residents over the past three years?

I first asked Gloria Shaffer, Cabrini-Green resident, Local Advisory Council member as well as former president and founder of Its Time For a

Change Resident Management Corporation. After 4 1/2 years of dedicated service, Shaffer recently resigned from It's Time for a Change RMC to spend time with her family.

I asked Shaffer what changes she had noticed since the HUD takeover:

"First, the residents were excited because we thought there were going to be changes made. I really can't tell any difference," she said.

"One change that's happening in Cabrini is that CHA is talking about the demolition of more buildings.

Shaffer also discussed the resident management groups that recently had taken over Cabrini-Green.

I'm for resident management but the residents who are working as janitors are having a hard time," she said.

Shaffer talked about complaints the janitors had received from the buildings in which they were assigned to work.

"If the residents had more support from management half of the problems would be solved," Shaffer said.

Shaffer said building coordinators should walk the building each day and monitor the work being done.

Shaffer explained,

"Janitors are complaining that after they clean the buildings, tenants come behind them leaving trash and garbage. If the residents are going to be successful, we all need to try and work together and support each other."

**Martha Crawford**

A resident of Cabrini-Green for many years, when I asked

Martha if she's noticed any changes since HUD took over CHA:

She said, "I can't tell the difference. What has changed?"

Martha was one of the residents who enrolled in the Chicago Housing Authority Step-Up program. She completed the training program as a carpentry apprentice and then applied at the resident manage-

ment office for the extensions (red buildings).

"I went over to the resident management office and submitted my application. But I wasn't hired. They told me that they were hiring the most qualified people. But with all of my experience, something isn't right with this," she said.

## The First Level

by Joseph Shuldiner  
CHA Executive Director

**I**t has taken this Authority 20 years to get off the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) troubled housing list and it is an accomplishment worth noting.

This was a team effort and I think it is important to remember this. There were a lot of participants in this effort. In addition to the senior staff, there was the entire staff, the residents, our private management partners, the City, HUD and a number of vendors and contractors, all of whose contributions made this possible.

While this is a great achievement and we must savor it, we have reached only the first level. The fact is, there is much more improvement that needs to happen. We also all know that the next level will be even harder to attain than this one was.

In this first stage, we have addressed the basic structure, straightening out our books, putting in place better record keeping and accountability programs and implementing basic processes. The next stage requires increased effectiveness in the field. In order to achieve this, there will be organizational changes.

## Commentary

The most specific is greater decentralization. This already has started. We are refining our ability to work with development-based budgets. We are implementing site-based waiting lists in City/State and Senior developments and we have created six regional task forces charged with the responsibility of designing and then implementing action plans to carry forward the resident-created strategic plans for all of our housing.

The task ahead is even harder but now we have credibility. We have shown that we can accomplish what we set out to do. As we move into this new phase, we should be confident despite the daunting challenge.

While it was our goal to come off the troubled list, it is not our goal to settle into comfortable mediocrity. From the beginning, our goal was to be the best and provide our residents and communities with the best. The difference now is that we know that we can do it and people will expect us to do it.



**CHA Executive Director,  
Joseph Shuldiner.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

# Security Cuts Threaten Horner

## Horner

by Stacy Springfield

# CHA: Out of Trouble?

*A similar version of this article appeared in a recent edition of Our Voices, a publication for and by the residents of the West Haven community.*

Security for Henry Horner Homes has never been totally up to standards but new cuts in security are ridiculous. What do such cuts mean to our and other CHA communities? Complete and utter chaos. It seemed at one time like CHA was trying to clean up the reputation of being a slumlord. I will be the first to admit that things have gotten a lot better. But what good is better if the spiral is going downward as quickly as some of you may be reading this story.

CHA recently cut and is still cutting back on 75 percent of its security guards. CHA apparently had to do massive cutbacks because of a federal order from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Apparently, HUD had allowed in the past for funding that was originally supposed to be used for repairs and upgrades of public housing to be used for security instead.

I asked CHA spokesperson Vivian Potter about these cuts. She said that there is a plan being implemented to utilize the remaining officers to work smarter in lesser

**It is obvious that with crimes like the malicious killings of Dantrell Davis and the brutal rape of little Girl X - who both lived in the Cabrini-Green - along with countless crimes that go unreported, there will still be a need for more security, not less.**

numbers. She added that CHA will still continue to work with the Chicago Police Department. Potter said CHA Police Chief LeRoy O'Shield is proposing to have better plans for policing of the developments, such as computerized access cards, having more police walk the floors as well as community strategies.

Thom Finerty, a consultant for the Henry Horner Local Advisory Council, does not hold great hope in O'Shield's policing plans. Some of these strategies already have been tested at Horner and have failed mis-

erably, Finerty said. The frightening part of it is that, according to Finerty, there only will be 26 CHA security guards on duty throughout all of the CHA developments.

I asked Finerty why none of the \$80 million put into the Horner/West Haven neighborhood for re-modernization and beautification can be used for security. Finerty alerted me that HUD withdrew funding for security and CHA no longer had to allot millions of dollars for security at Horner.

I recently interviewed Anne Harrison from the East Lake Management Company, the company that manages Horner/Westhaven.

Harrison said, "Crime has been on a definite rise in the last 60- 90 days. There have been reports of breaking and entering in occupied apartments as well as vacant ones with some appliances being stolen out of the renovated apartments as well as shootings."

In one of the high rises, Harrison said postal workers are afraid to go in and deliver the mail because of the gangs. She said East Lake is trying to arrange for temporary security so residents at least can receive mail but nothing has been done as of yet.

Harrison said East Lake can do very little about this issue because security decisions are up to CHA and the Local Advisory Council.

Harrison added that there should be more residents attending the policing organization called Community Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS), which is an organization made up of residents and police, organizing strategies to prevent criminal activity. She said that for any program to work, there must be resident participation.

Many residents also are concerned that the relocation of residents may cause dangerous situations because participating gang members are being moved into different gang territories. Most of the gangs that exist in housing developments are very serious about protecting what they consider important - their money, drugs and power.

But gangs are not the only focus of this story. There are people who live in developments that just do not seem to respect other people's property. They steal and destroy whatever they can whenever they can. And since this is now a community focused on mixing incomes,

# Building Family Ties

## by Sue Sago

*A similar version of this article appeared in a recent edition of Our Voices, a publication for and by the residents of the West Haven community.*

On Aug. 4, I invited several residents of my block, which is in the new town homes near Henry Horner Homes, to meet in my home to discuss starting a block club. To begin, I wanted a mixture of very low-income and market-rate tenants to get a feel of what was important on both sides. Just as I thought, we all wanted the same things: a safe, clean, peaceful family oriented environment in which to raise our children.

The first thing we did was decide what things needed to be fixed and how could we fix them. We put together an agenda, had Adam Gross, our advisor from Business and Professional Persons in the Public Interest, print up flyers and then I went door to door with them, announcing that we were starting a block club and needed everyone's input to make it work.

Our official name is the West Haven Community Block Club (WHCBC). We are incorporated with the state and we're now an official organization that can receive special city services and tax breaks.

Getting started was not an easy task because we had to constantly send out flyers to remind our neighbors what we are trying to do and convince them that one or two people can't do it alone. We encouraged them to attend the Community Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meetings because they are an important part of any community organizing. Also, we worked hard to get as many of our neighbors as possible to start attending at least one of the two monthly Central West Community Organization meetings at the Mable Manning library.

I know this seems like a lot of meetings but it's necessary to have the type of com-

munity that we could be proud of and proud to invite anyone to visit or tour.

Our first event on Oct. 1 was a Halloween event for the children which turned out very nicely. We are also planning aerobic day for the women, a Christmas event for the entire family and many more family-orientated activities.

There are still quite a few members of our family who haven't made one meeting but we are still hopeful. One thing that really bothers me is that a lot of our new Horner family members say during the family interviews that they are willing to participate in the block clubs but have not.

A lot of my old Horner family members say they want things to be better and that they are willing to work to make them better. So where are you? Why haven't we seen you? You are needed in order to rid our community of all things undesirable.

**Ultimately, changes and successes will have to come from us.**

We can't depend on CHA or anyone on the outside. We must do everything in our power together. Yes, we can get assistance from CHA, East Lake, CHA Police and even the Chicago Police Department but ultimately, changes and successes will have to come from us.

# CHA: Out of Trouble?

## Privatization: Gain or Loss for residents?

by Mary C. Johns

Since the privatization of Chicago Housing Authority senior and family housing developments, questions have been raised as to who is benefiting from the process. Is privatization a gain or loss for residents?

### CHA Takes Back Property

With great hopes, CHA hired private managers for 5 family developments in 1996. Since that time, CHA has dismissed one firm and rejected another's bid for renewal.

CHA has removed the

Dominium Company, which was assigned to Hilliard Homes located on the near South Side, and the Habitat Company, which was assigned to Madden Park, located on the South Lakefront.

According to Maggie Stewart, acting director of CHA's asset management department, the properties were taken back due to "low Public Housing Management Assessment Program (PHMAP) scores, backlogged work orders and poor performance."



A partial view of Madden Park Homes.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

### A Tale of Two Developments

#### Hilliard Homes

After only managing the Hilliard Homes for a little under a year, CHA dismissed the Dominium Company. Hilliard's Local Advisory Council President, Manor Jean Wiley, said that the Dominium Company kept the property in a satisfactory condition and praised them in their efforts. "I think they were really getting the development together compared to CHA," said Wiley.

No security measures were in place during Dominium's control of the property, according to Wiley, because there was "no money in the budget."

Stewart said that the private companies are required to supply security for the senior and family developments and budget for that reason.

"There's never been a lot of money for security as a whole in CHA and there's certainly not enough money now," Stewart said.

"But anything for the site should be budgeted in their operating budget. They can budget for security."

Wiley said that she heard it "through the grape vine" that Dominium was dismissed due to some "misappropriation of funds." Further research on the matter revealed a lawsuit between the Dominium Company and CHA. A spokesperson from the CHA Legal Department said Dominium filed a lawsuit against CHA on June 10, 1998, for "unpaid management and attorney fees." CHA counter sued for services not rendered, but both cases were dropped and settled on Nov. 10, 1998. The spokesperson declined to comment further on the case.

Hilliard Homes is currently under the private management of Diversified Realty.

#### Madden Park

On Nov. 1, 1998, the Habitat Company vacated Madden Park. Residents alleged that the Habitat staff took phones and other office equipment and left the office in disarray. Stewart said "the matter is being looked into."

In July 1996, *Chicago Defender* reported that Madden Park LAC President Beverly Dorsey was unimpressed with Habitat's performance shortly after Habitat took over. During a recent conversation, Dorsey accused Habitat of being deceitful and purposely misleading residents.

"We were lied to," Dorsey said. "Certain things that they stated they would do in their proposal when they made their presentation did not occur because at that time they did not tell us that the only way they could do those wonderful things was if CHA gave the funding."

No security was administered at Madden Park and Dorsey said many of the problems at the development were due to a lack of CHA funding and implied that Habitat wasted the little money they were given. She insinuated "Habitat left the development in a worse condition" but credited them with hiring the Orcan Extermination Company.

The Habitat Company has since been assigned three more CHA senior buildings, for a total of five.

CHA is again managing Madden Park.

#### Habitat Responds

Al McCowan, vice president of the Habitat Company, agrees with Dorsey that CHA did not provide enough funding but disagrees with her about the management of the development.

"With the limited resources we had, we think that we did a great job," McCowan said.

He added that Dorsey hindered some of the development's progress.

"It was a constant controversy with her," McCowan said, explaining that Habitat was "constantly challenged" by Dorsey with everything that they did.

McCowan said that they were not required to budget for security and that CHA was responsible for security.

"Security was controlled by the Chicago Housing Authority and police, period," he continued. "We presented CHA with a very comprehensive plan for security but there was never given enough money to budget for it."

"The private management firms are only paid a management fee that only covers the management expenses," he added.

According to a Habitat report, their accomplishments at Madden Park included the removal of three high-rises from the Building Code Violations list and served 89 families with donated Christmas toys. The tenant patrol started in 1998 completed over 12,750 work orders in 1997 and 1998; 80 residents participated in their Development Clean-Up Program; and 100 percent completed Household Quality Inspections (HQIS) in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

McCowan said CHA never officially announced why Habitat's bid for continued management of Madden Park was rejected.

#### Improvements?

Asked if she had noticed improvements in any of the privately managed developments, Stewart mentioned better conditions at some senior developments.

"The maintenance is better and the rent is up a lot more than they were in the senior buildings and now they have a full-time manager," Stewart said.

She also noted that Habitat had built a health club at one of the senior buildings.

As for family development improvements, she said "some aggressive painting" had been done by some of the private companies.

Paying for a private firm to manage a building and/or development saves CHA money because "you don't have to pay the wages and benefits," Stewart said.

She noted that CHA would continue to have security guards in the senior buildings.

#### The Origin of Privatization

Private management of CHA developments originated with the Gautreaux Consent Decree. In the 1980s, the federal judge monitoring the scattered sites program under Gautreaux required that CHA have the units privately managed.

CHA then began privatization of family and senior housing developments. Rockwell Gardens and Ida B. Wells were the first family developments placed under private management.

To date, there are approximately 8,591 family units, 5,617 senior units, 3,043 scattered sites units and about 4,500 units in Resident Management Corporations that are privately managed by 15 private firms.



**Maggie Stewart, acting director of the Asset Management Department.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

## Government Checks? Direct Deposit From Your Currency Exchange is Safe, Easy and Affordable!



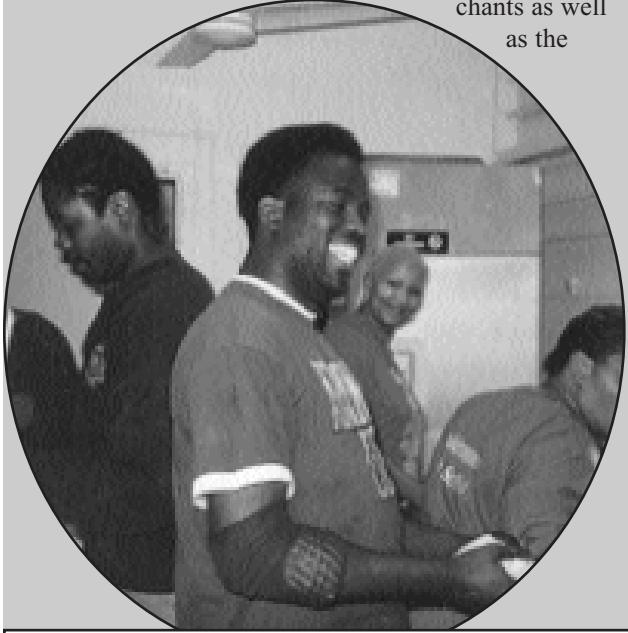
Direct deposit is the safe, secure way to receive your Federal government payments. SecureCheck is a direct deposit service available through participating Currency Exchanges (a nominal fee applies). It is a great option if you receive Federal government benefits from Social Security, SSI, VA, Railroad Retirement Board, etc., or if you work for the Federal government. With SecureCheck, there is:

- No more worry about having your check lost or stolen
- No more waiting for the mailman to come
- Peace of mind...receive your benefits or pay at your safe Currency Exchange store
- Convenience...come in whenever you like to pick up your SecureCheck

# A Circle of Friends

by Jacqueline Thompson

One word led to another and before anyone knew it, a band of friends had supplied fresh foods, cooked foods, man power and a lot of caring to feed over 325 hungry people who otherwise would not have had any food on Thanksgiving Day 1998. The groups involved were the Harold Ickes Local Advisory Council, the local branch of Combating Alcohol and Drugs through Rehabilitation and Education (CADRE), members of the advisory board, local food merchants as well as the



**Young men of Harold Ickes lend a helping hand to feed the needy on Thanksgiving Day.**

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

Christian Valley, Healing Love and Deliverance churches.

Twenty-five to 30 people gave up their time with their own families to make sure their more needy neighbors were fed. The outstanding menu consisted of turkey, dressing, hot rolls, gravy, macaroni and cheese, sweet potatoes, greens, string beans, potato salad, spaghetti, gelatin molds, ham, cornbread and cranberry sauce. An assortment of pies, cakes and fresh fruits made up the dessert list. Fruit punch was served to wash it all down.

Between 12 p.m. and 6 p.m., carefully laid tables welcomed hungry residents who were hand served with care by loving volunteers.

Of course, you have read about and view pictures of

**This particular event was a first time effort of kindness, caring, sacrifice and delivery on the part of the many different groups.**

many Thanksgiving celebrations all around the nation. However, this particular event was a first-time effort of kindness, caring, sacrifice and delivery on the part of many different groups. It was an achievement just for them to come together to produce such a worthy endeavor.

Pam Wright of our local CADRE office expressed the thrill of "God giving her and her co-workers an opportunity to be of service to their neighbors."

LAC President Gloria Williams spoke of the "gift of opportunity to serve." Roy Sanders, president of the advisory council, provided soothing music from his bag of disc jockey treats to encourage the heightened social

spirit.

Our sincere appreciation for supplying and supporting the collective efforts of our community's first Thanksgiving table success goes to Love, Healing and Deliverance Church, Christian Valley Church, Primeway Foods and each person who helped prepare, serve and clean up for the memorable event.



**Harold Ickes youth taking time out to help prepare the food for the needy on Thanksgiving Day.**

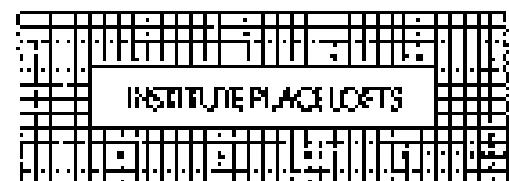
Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

**35th St.  
Merchants AD**



SOUTHSHORE DRIVE  
5350

81A  
North Franklin Street



2551  
CLARK



W  
WASHINGTON  
SQUARE

CLYBOURN  
LOFTS & TOWNHOUSES

QE  
SIXTEEN  
50 MICHIGAN AVE

420  
NORTH  
WARASH  
PLAZA

BRIDGEPORT  
CROSSING  
1040 WEST 35TH STREET

HORWITZ & CO.  
814 NORTH FRANKLIN ST.  
Chicago, Illinois 60610  
312.944.0539  
312.944.0807 fax



# Altgeld Gardens Report

by Sharon Forinzy

This is Ms. Fornizy again. I'm trying to get around. But if you have information for me, please get in contact with me at (773) 201-7678 or (773) 535-5223 or (773) 535-5794.

## Sympathies

Deepest sympathies and prayers for the loss of loved ones Mr. Marvin Zeigler and Mrs. Parles Bacus. She was the crossing guard for many years in the Altgeld Area at 131<sup>st</sup> Street and Evans Avenue.

## Holiday Events

Some CHA residents have made their homes very beautiful for Christmas. All the kids were so happy that they got different presents and delicious food on the table.

Also in the community, at the Clinic of Altgeld, they have an art exhibit in the office. It's beautiful and you can examine it while you are waiting on the doctor. The clinic's director is Dr. Gloria Jackson Bacon.

## Election News

Good luck to the people of Altgeld Gardens that are running for president, vice-president or any other offices in the community. Also, I am running for block 17 captain. I have things to say. I've been watching the community and it seems to be better this year. I have seen much positive behavior and many positive ideas lately. Keep up the good work.

Poems by room 227 in Aldridge Elementary School

**Chair, Chair**  
by Jeremy Winston

Chair, Chair  
Why do you  
Stare for a  
Strong piece of  
wood  
That lives in  
the 'hood,  
But that's no  
good,  
For a chair  
that lives in the  
'hood.

**The Pen**  
by Jeanice McDowell

The pen is very valuable because you can tell many stories, especially a person's life story, and when I'm done writing and start again, it runs out on me. But it's not the end

**The Clock**  
by LaTasha Clay

The clock reminds me of something Tick-Tock  
Tick-Tock  
Tick-Tock  
Of all the people who waste their life in nonsense.  
Theirs is ticking away.



Aldridge Elementary School children going to class as Principal Deborah Jackson monitors them.

Photo by Sharon Forinzy

## Winners

Congratulations to those parents and area residents who won a turkey for Thanksgiving. Donations of the turkeys were sponsored by Du-Rhan products and distributed by Mrs. Kindred and her many faithful helpers.

## Wedding

Congratulations on your marriage, Renee Wilkins-Johnson and L.C. Johnson.

Happy birthday to Lucelle Browlow. From your oldest granddaughter, Sharon Fornizy

## GED Classes

Register for your GED. Contact Sharon Davis at Carver Middle School, 801 E. 133<sup>rd</sup> Place, at (773) 535-5655.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to

Mrs. Lyles for her concern for the children of Aldridge School. Not only does she handle the attendance but she also makes sure that they are clothed warmly when she can, even if it means buying hats and socks herself.

Special thanks also to Ms. Baker and Ms. Wills for the fine job they are doing in the hearing and speech department.

Special thanks to Cynthia Knox for the fine job she is doing in the Discipline Department.

Keep up the Good Work. Thanks...

## Schools News

The Aldridge Parent Teacher Association (PTA) gave away 20 food baskets to needy families on Dec. 17.

The Aldridge kindergarten class had breakfast with Santa Dec. 18. It was a beautiful success.

Carver High is beautiful. The school has new lockers and a baseball field and many other amenities. The Local School Council had a toy and food give away and it was a success. Happy Holidays!

## Black Family Pledge

Because we have forgotten our ancestors, our children no longer give us honor.

Because we have lost the path our ancestors cleared kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find their way.

Because we have banished the God of our ancestors, our children cannot pray.

Because the old wails of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying.

Because we have abandoned our wisdom

of mothering and fathering, our befuddled children give birth to children they neither want nor understand.

Because we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our gates and holds us up to the mirror of the world, shouting "The Loveless."

Therefore we pledge to bind ourselves again to one another, to embrace our lowliest,

to keep company with our loneliest, to educate our illiterate, to feed our starving, to clothe our ragged, to do all good things,

knowing that there are more than keepers and sisters, we are our brothers and sisters.

In honor of those who toiled and implored God with golden tongues, and in gratitude to the same God who brought us out of hopeless desolation.

We make this pledge....

30 EAST LAKE STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601 • (312) 553-5600

**HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE**

## O p p o r t u n i t y F o r C h a n g e

Taking a class can be the first step to changing the quality of your life! It can lead to preparation for a career, career advancement, change in career or personal development.

The Applied Science Department at Harold Washington College is interested in helping you with your plans for the future.

If Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Child Development, Criminal Justice or Social Work studies are of interest to you, give us a call.

We can help you discover how to turn a dream into reality. Spring semester registration is going on now. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

**C l a s s e s b e g i n 1 / 1 1 / 9 9 .**

**Call (312) 553-6080 for details.**



ONE OF THE CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

# Fire at Flannery

by Julio Martinez

No one thought the precious morning of Friday, Oct. 30, would be transformed into a nightmare for the Chicago Housing Authority residents who live at 1507 and 1531 N. Clybourn Ave., the Flannery Homes Senior Apartments.

The operator of an earth shovel was unaware that a natural gas main supplying the two buildings lay below the area he was excavating. At about 10:30 a.m., the operator ruptured the gas main and caused immediate



**Smoke continues to issue from Flannery Homes' 1507 N. Clybourn Ave. on Oct. 30.**

Photo by Julio Martinez

and massive mobilization of City of Chicago emergency personnel, firefighters, police and CHA staff.

I spoke with Máximo Alicea, a resident of 1507 N. Clybourn Ave., the building that was burned. He says that he was in his apartment and that at 10:30 a.m., "I heard a very loud rushing sound which made me afraid and the odor of gas so strong that I had to leave my apartment because I began choking. As I left my apartment, I could see that the other residents were running scared and after a while, the gas turned to flames."

The morning following the fire, I interviewed residents from the affected buildings who were waiting to be relocated to other buildings. I spoke with Gilbert Martin, a 72-year-old resident who uses a wheelchair for mobility. Martin told me he was waiting to see if he would receive another apartment since he had to spend the night in a hotel on Clark Street. Because of what happened, Martin said he did not feel well and even lost his appetite.

I also interviewed Tomassina Anderson. Anderson, covered in a red shawl, said she lives at 1531 N. Clybourn but spent the night with her cousin. She would like to return to her apartment as soon as possible. "I would like to thank the employees of the CHA for getting us out of the building so quickly and I am happy that no one was hurt," said Anderson.

I visited Shirley Hammond, president of Senior Housing North Local Advisory Council. She says she found out about the fire in San Antonio, Texas, where

she was on vacation. She said the residents affected by the fire were taken to the YMCA that is next to the building and that no one was taken to the hospital due to the quick work of the employees and workers of the construction company that assisted CHA employees in the evacuation.

I asked her if she knew what happened to the residents' abandoned possessions. Hammond said CHA had begun to investigate the extent of damage from the first to the fourth floors. Some of these apartments received smoke damage and some received smoke and water damage. At least four apartments were totally lost.

In most apartments, Hammond continued, the televisions, pictures and refrigerators are intact since no one was



**Salvation Army and Red Cross officials on stand-by at 1507 N. Clybourn Flannery senior building.**

Photo by Julio Martinez

allowed into the building until the damages have been calculated. In addition, the CHA Inspector General has taken photos and video to help estimate the losses of the residents.

Despite the damage, CHA announced recently that the building would be rehabilitated.

When I asked Hammond if the Authority was at fault for this disaster, she responded that CHA had nothing to do with the fire. I asked her who will be responsible for the costs associated with this fire? She answered that the Authority would cover all of the costs of the fire. I also asked what role the building representatives played in this situation and she answered that the building vice president had a double responsibility because the president is ill and the vice president has taken responsibility for reuniting the residents with their possessions.

Should the CHA be doing more for the residents, I asked.

"They have committed their personnel day and night to help in this unfortunate accident," Hammond said. "I



**RJ reporter Julio Martinez interviews Donna Dixon, CHA director of the Gladys Reed Senior Programs Division.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

want to congratulate them for their hard work in making this situation easier for residents and by finding the speediest solution to this situation in order for residents to be able to return to their apartments."

I also interviewed Donna Dixon, director of CHA's



**Flannery residents in the nearby YMCA waiting for word of where they are to be relocated.**

Photo by Julio Martinez

Gladys L. Reed Senior Programs Department, 150 E. 89th St. Commenting on the efforts made on behalf of the residents of 1507 N. Clybourn, Dixon said, "I hope that the residents realize that the CHA has not worked alone. We had help from the city's Department on Aging, the Red Cross, and the YMCA, which is next to the building and opened their doors to the residents of these buildings – a wonderful gesture.

"We also would like to thank Dominick's for their contributions to the cause, Target stores and other companies that have committed to help. And the alderman's office has helped as well. Value City has committed items as well as other companies.

"We thank the CHA employees who were mobilized because of the accident for their valuable efforts. We have so many donations of clothes that even if all residents received clothes, there would still be clothes left



**Donated shoes and clothing from the staff of the CHA Gladys Reed Program for residents of 1507 N. Clybourn.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

over to donate to others. I don't know if it is because of the time of the year but people were moved and helped."

Although residents would like to retrieve their belongings, Hammond said it is still too dangerous to re-enter the building and practically impossible since the elevators do not work. She also related where the residents have been relocated. Many have gone to 1531 N. Clybourn, including the vice president of the 1507 building. Other residents were relocated to 1633 W. Madison and some to 116 W. Elm St., 4945 N. Sheridan Road, 1845 N. Larrabee and 2720 N. Sheffield.

The building president of 2140 N. Clark, Sam Johnson, collected money and clothing donations from his building's residents. His organization also donated beds and canned goods. The residents from 20 other buildings have made cash donations. Anyone who would like to make donations is encouraged to call the LAC office at (312) 674-4146.

## **RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS**

**L O S T ! !**

**REWARD**

***PLEASE HELP US FIND OUR DOG***

Answers to the name of PO PO

Light Tan Paws & Brown Tan Nose

**Chihuahua -- Taco Bell Dog**

Female 8 years

**Lost At 1300 BLOCK SANDBURG MALL**

**CALL (312) 943-2216 FOR REWARD!**



**KOREAN TRANSLATIONS**

**CHINESE TRANSLATIONS**

by John "Popcorn"  
Sampson

Oct. 14 was a beautiful sun-bathed autumn day in Chicago. I arrived 20 minutes before the Royal American Bus was to depart at 8 a.m. for a trip to Kettle Moraine State Park in Kettle Moraine, Wisconsin. The picturesque state park is located about 100 miles northeast of Milwaukee, Wis., on interstate highway I-94.

The big Royal American Bus departed from the Levy Center at approximately 8:05 a.m. carrying 35 senior citizens on a scenic tide to the Kettle Moraine State Park. Following a two-hour jaunt, the bus arrived in Milwaukee, Wis., at or about 10 a.m. for our first stop at the Grand Avenue Mall.

Before I go any further, let me tell you about this



Road to Kettle Moraine State Park.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

majestic, exquisite Midwestern city of Milwaukee. I realized how wonderful the city is the moment, indeed the very instant, that our bus descended the I-94 expressway, bounced across Sixth Street, went zippy per de zip across Morgan Avenue, straddled the white line down second to Wisconsin and came to a halt in front of the Grand Avenue Mall.

And believe me, every foot of the ride into the spotless, white-glove-clean city was a source of awe and amazement for this old man. And the reason for this seldom experienced feeling of wonder and astonishment stems from the fact I went to welding school in Milwaukee. I became a welder, an amateur photographer and wedded my first wife in the 'city of suds' - as the brothers say.

It was precisely - but nonetheless hard to believe - 30 years since the day I stood on the Corner of 3rd Street and Walnut Avenue and witnessed the birth of the Martin Luther King Riot in Milwaukee. I don't think I shall ever eradicate the memories of that tragic day from my mind. Nor shall the reason for it all satisfy my curiosity. What purpose did it all serve other than to disable the very community it was meant to support? I'll tell you what the riot did for the Black community in Milwaukee. It did the same thing there that it did for all Black communities throughout America: NOTHING!

Our very first stop was at Grand Avenue Shopping Mall in the heart of Milwaukee. For the last 10 years, the Grand Avenue Mall has been Milwaukee's premiere shopping site for openhand-

# On The Road



Road entrance into Kettle Moraine State Park.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

ed shoppers ever since its outset back in 1982.

The Grand Avenue Mall encompasses two main shopping arcades, namely the elegant two-story level Plankinton Arcade and the three-level new arcade. It is said that the Grand Avenue Mall is a fascinating example of preservation in action linking the historical Plankinton Building, the U.S. Back Building, the Boston Store and the Woolworth Building.

Extensive restoration and remodeling have made these historical locations icons that date back to the early 1900s suitable for modern use.

At 12:30 p.m., Jimmy, the bus driver, nosed the massive vehicle back onto I-94 and headed for the Kettle Moraine State Park.

The journey through this unequaled land of allure and enchantment was - to this life-long lover of scenic phenomenon and goodly scenarios - almost like sneaking a peek through the portal of paradise. In all honesty, I found myself moved to a point of ecstasy and literally spellbound in a web of joy and bliss by the heartwarming views: glittering white farmhouses, the endless parade of farmland, the glades and glens that reached out from the rambling roadway far into the blue bosom of Abraham, and last, but by no means least, the breathtaking, myriad, eye-catching array of multi-colored trees standing shoulder to shoulder along the roadway in such awesome splendor.

However, our arrival at Kettle Moraine State Park

was a disappointment of great magnitude. And all because a scant five minutes after we climbed down from the bus, the bright golden sunshine that had brightened our way all the distance from Chicago suddenly vanished behind dense, dark clouds, leaving this would-be shutterbug with camera poised at the ready and great expectations hanging out.

There were the die-hards who made an attempt to polish their flagging hopes after all and wandered out into the drab and dreary chill-growing-chillier evening

breeze for spite, if nothing more. As for yours truly, I took an old man's nap and wandered off into dreamland in search of that which an old man does best in his dreams.

The drab hours had dwindled down to the hour of six when I was awakened by the bouncing rhythm of our homeward-bound bus and the songs being sung by the white folks in transit.



An inside view of Kettle Moraine State Park.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

Darkness had moved across the mighty Wisconsin River when our driver abandoned the hurly burly of interstate 94 for the ebb of Wisconsin highway 59 leading to our final pit stop at a fast food restaurant in Kenosha, Wis.

Upon our arrival, Brookie, the mother hen and supervisor of the outing, announced that we would have 30 minutes to chat and chew before we would saddle up and move out.

The 30 minutes was as short as a mother's kiss before we were back on the road again headed for grand and glorious Chicago.

Until we meet again, your old reporter is leaving you with upraised hands and words of fare thee well, shalom and God be with you one. I'm Popcorn.

R E S I D E N T S ,

## Journal



A d v e r t i s e

In the February '99



# Letters to the Editor

## Giving Back to the Community

### Dear Editor:

During the holidays, the following organizations join forces to give back to the community they serve:

The 35th Street Merchants Association

The Lake Meadows Association  
Douglas Development Corporation

Gappie Shopping Center

The Share and Care Program was started back in 1995 by the local business members of the Douglas/Bronzeville community.

As of next week, the Merchants Association encourages all community members to wear hand-made blue/red ribbons for the season as a way of honoring the local Chicago Police officers and the local members of the Firefighters.

On Christmas Day, members of the organizations will join together to help serve a traditional holiday dinner with gifts to the members of the police force and firefighters. Dinner is ready by 1 p.m. and lasts until all refreshments are gone. The Midwest

Security Agency Inc. has had the honor of hosting this event each year.

On Saturday, Dec. 19, the group gave away over 100 toys and gift bags to needy children and families. The families were drawn from boxes in various businesses along 31st, 35th, 39th and State streets as well as Michigan, Indiana, Giles and Prairie avenues, King Drive and Lake Meadows. Other names were taken from a list given to the organization from local schools in the community.

This year, members of the association have agreed to display holiday decorations that indicate unity in the business community. Decorations are scheduled to be put up by Dec. 12 in the various windows or doors.

-The 35th Street Merchants Association

## Wasting Valuable Time

### Dear Editor:

Finally, the time has come for the Bill Clinton and Monica soap-bar opera to end. We seniors in public housing have endured their sexual encounter through the media long enough. As a democratic voter who has kept abreast of many White House scandals including Watergate, I must put the Bill Clinton and Monica sexual scenario as the biggest mess I have ever heard in my lifetime. To make this a bigger mess, our country's elected officials, especially the Republicans, are wasting valuable

time trying to impeach Bill Clinton for being a weakling for women like Monica.

The American people have plainly spoken against impeachment of Bill Clinton but the Republican Congress still refuses to acknowledge the American people's decision.

As a life-long democratic voter, I am not condoning Bill Clinton's sexual behavior but I do admire the job he is doing as our president. Perhaps there should be some type of punishment handed down by the American people

for Bill's behavior. Then Bill can get back to the business of running the country instead of wasting his energy worrying about the impeachment process.

-Edward Turner

## Senator Salutes Residents' Journal

### Dear Friend:

Your Residents' Journal is superb. Congratulations.

-Paul Simon  
Former U. S. Senator  
Director, Public Policy Institute  
Southern Illinois University

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.

## Safety and Security Observations

### Dear Editor:

(continued from previous issue)

In years past, concerns regarding children involved in gangs or drugs, although always present, were far less a threat. Why? In all fairness, the threats of criminal behavior, gang warfare and child abuse have always existed but not to the level that they have now grown.

Today, gangs appear to have declared ownership of certain areas and are willing to challenge police regarding who will rule the streets and buildings. Today's common shootings, territorial wars and evidence of illegal drug money were unusual in years past. Today, gang colors and signs, drug sales, gang-related turmoil and defiance, and constant confusion

are very serious challenges for law enforcement and security specialists as well as the community as a whole.

Repelling the attack presented by today's serious problems necessitates a combined effort of all involved in CHA housing: tenants, staff, police, security workers and administration. Some very positive programs currently are being generated along this line.

While there are certainly very positive efforts being made in Chicago public housing, much work lies ahead. Programs and planning arrangements, committees to address safety and security problems and more extensive training and development of security personnel as well as leadership

are all underway.

We may regret the necessity of such expense and desire lumping the entire project into the hands of city police. However, the current direction taken by CHA seems to be much more promising.

When asked, an overwhelming number of CHA residents expressed concerns about personal safety and gangs in hous- ing. A majority of that group conceded that there was evidence of efforts to remedy the problem.

Over time, there have been a number of very capable, well trained and experienced individuals that have tackled the awesome responsibility of creating order, safety and security in public housing.

Most have for one reason or the other left. The struggle continues.

Bringing safety and security to housing is a monumental task. If this is to happen - and I think that it can - then the likelihood is that it will occur from a program similar to the approach currently being utilized. But the jury remains out. There is really no reason that the joy, peace and tranquility of residents living in public housing yesterday cannot be restored. We can recapture the community and shape things as they were in the past.

The community policing model spells out what will be necessary for victory: togetherness.

- Melvin R. May, Ph.d.

## Commentary

# Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

Dear Resident,

Greetings and best wishes to you and those you love in the coming new year. But please know that I wish all of us the very best each and every day. I want the same thing for you and yours that I want for me and mine.

The Holiday Season and the feeling it inspires has changed a lot since I was a child. When I was a child, Christmas was a personal celebration. A celebration within each heart, family and home but felt throughout the community. A celebration as quiet and as beautiful as the snow that always seemed to fall on Christmas Eve. There were no commercials. No crowds. No adults. I don't even remember my parents exchanging gifts. There were no expectations. No disappointments. Everything and everyone seemed to stop and focus on the children and reflect on the greatest gift ever given - love.

Christmas Day was special. But only a little bit more than any other day. Every day and everything we had, no matter how small, was special because we were special. We were the reason that our parents did what they did. I often remember my parents saying, "We want you to do better than we did. That's why we do the things we do. For you. So that you can do better."

It's because of my parents' love that I feel special. It is the greatest gift that they have ever given me. A gift, I hope, that I have given to my children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. Love is a gift to be shared as its Creator intended. And the wonderful thing about love is that it does as much for those who give it as it does for those who receive it.

Now, while we have more at Christmas time, we seem to feel less. Today, like everything else, love seems to come in many varieties; lite, extra strength, even sugar-free. But

I am reminded by I Corinthians 13:4-8 that: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in right. Love bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Verse 13 goes on to say, "There remain faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love." To fully understand love, one must seek its

Creator. That, too, is personal. But like His sun, His love shines on all of us each and every day.

My point? Just like the "child" born and celebrated at this time each year, as a gift of love, all children are special gifts. And the greatest gift that we can give to them is love. Love is defined as "a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a friend, for a parent or child, and so forth." But we labor under the belief that a parent's love for a child is instinctive.

Look around you. That could not possibly be true. Animals, not people, live by instinct. People must learn how to love. Therefore, children must be taught how to love by being loved. When young, a child is like an open vessel that can be filled with many things. But as a child grows older, the vessel begins to close and they become what they have been given.

"Children Learn What They Live - If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight. If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy. If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty. If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

"If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence. If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate. If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith. If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself. If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world."

Parenting today is the hardest job that you will ever have, especially if you're doing it alone. As I look back, I could have been a much better parent. Sometimes, when we think that we are walking, if we were to adjust our head and look around, we would discover that we were crawling. When parenting, adjust your head, focus on the children and not giving, but what you're giving. And most importantly, when you're giving it to them.

I don't celebrate holidays. I celebrate every day. Every day that we have with our loved ones is a gift. Never miss an opportunity to say "I Love You" and choose the words you use carefully.

Don't be sorry. Be careful. You never know which words will be your last spoken to a loved one.

So - Happy Monday, Merry Tuesday, Over the Hump Day Wednesday, One More Day Thursday, Thank God Its Friday, I Can Rest For A Minute Saturday, and We Should Praise God Sunday (and every day).

Please, celebrate life, love and giving every chance you get.

I love you

- Pat

**"Just like the "child" born and celebrated at this time each year, as a gift of love, all children are special gifts."**



**"My gifts"**

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

# *Happy Holidays*



*From Residents' Journal*