



THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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Week of April 22, 2024

North Lawndale CAC members welcome STEAM Partnership Magnet Academy Initiative

In a multi-partner collaboration between public and private entities, the aim is to retain and empower North Lawndale Youth through Innovative Education Initiatives in three schools, one high school George W. Collins located at 1313 S. Sacramento Drive, and two elementary schools, James Weldon Johnson School of Excellence at 1420 S Albany Ave and Thomas Chalmers School of Excellence 2745 W. Roosevelt Rd. are set to be leveled up.

Said Dr. Betty Green, one of North Lawndale Community Action Council (CAC) leaders, "In bringing a steam partnership academy to the North Lawndale community we started back in 2017. We were having a problem. The problem was that so many of our children were leaving North Lawndale going to other parts of the city seeking different options. Once that started happening we surveyed our schools and we found that in the North Lawndale community we only had one elementary school with a specialty and that was an IB (International



Roel Vivit Steans Family Foundations Director of education North Lawndale with mic, Dr. Betty Green, Mrs. Areulia Davis and Dr. Moore

Baccalaureate) program. So we decided as a community to work on bringing another program to the North Lawndale community.

The groups initial focus was to have a school built. But that became a bigger task than what they were able to deal with. They redefined their focus and decided to ask Chicago Public Schools to redesign and retrofit three schools, two elementary and one high school.

The idea came when they visited

a school in Aurora. They decided then that this is the kind of program that they would like to have for the children in North Lawndale. Determined to provide additional options, the community set its sights on establishing a new educational pathway tailored to the needs of North Lawndale youth. They knew they would have to make some changes from what they had seen because the cultures were different

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Pierre Chatman: A Beacon of Hope on Chicago's West Side

By Alex Tenard



Pierre Chatman highlights his talent for cooking by showing his famous BBQ chicken quarters off the grill.

On Chicago's West Side in Columbus Park, nestled in the Austin community stands Pierre Chatman - a man of purpose. Chatman not only serves up delicious barbecue but also fosters connections with the community and demonstrates a commitment to the neighborhood's youth through fitness, food, and mentorship.

Alex Tenard: Tell me about

3ABM Fitness. When did you get started, and why did you want to work with youth?

Pierre Chatman: "So basically the 3ABM Performance Academy is a name that me and four of "my boys" were established when we were in junior high school. I established the performance academy 12 years ago, while I was still playing ball. I played in college and professionally so when I came home, I just kept looking out

See Pierre page 4

Trash Talk

Staff Report



Div. Supt. Antionne Harris of the Streets and Sanitation Department and 24th Ward Ald. Monique Scott at Trash Talk event she held at UCAN

April is Earth Month around the country and the world and in keeping with that theme Alderman Monique Scott of the 24th Ward held an event titled "Trash Talk" at UCAN to hear residents' concerns about trash in the community.

The meeting was followed by a community trash pickup event at Central Park and 16th Street, led by I AM ABLE's TR4IM 8-Block Sector and Litter Free Lawndale.

The meeting provided a platform to discuss the impact of excessive trash in the community, spark important conversations, and inspire action from residents. Attendees discussed waste disposal education and community-led initiatives and were left with more knowledge and tools to address the issue.

"Let's carry the spirit of collaboration forward and work

towards a cleaner, healthier community together. Thank you to all who attended, and let's continue striving for progress," Scott said.

Scott gave special appreciation to Sheila McNary from Litter-free Lawndale and Division Superintendent Antionne Harris from the Streets and Sanitation Department who spoke to residents about the trash issue in the community.

Jobs for youth in environmental stewardship was also a topic at the event and a spokesperson from the Cook County Forest Preserves talked about seasonal employment for youth that was good paying and could lead to advancement. However, he did lament that some youth today do not want to work and sometimes has problems attracting candidates for that particular type of work.

Austin Community Unites Against Gun Violence at Poppy's



15th District Faith Based community residents, Police and 37th Ward Ald. Emma Mitts held vigil at Poppys Chat Room and walked along Madison St.

In response to the recent Easter shooting tragedy, the South Austin community came together on Tuesday evening at Poppy's Chat Room to mourn the victims and denounce gun violence. The vigil, held on April 3rd, saw a significant turnout as residents gathered to show solidarity and support for the affected families led by the 15th District Faith Based

Two witnesses who were at Poppy's Chat Room at the time of the shooting spoke exclusively with NLCN about what they witnessed that night.

"I was leaving to go back because it is a big area. so I'm talking to people having no worries at all. Listening to music. Next thing I know we heard people fighting up front and had two shots go off next," she said.

Another witness said he was socializing when a fight started followed by the sound of gunshots. "Everybody ran into the hallway and stumbled over people. They started shooting into the hallway at this point. So I got over to the side and got on the floor. There were a whole bunch of people on the floor just curled up," he recalls. "The dude that was shooting wasn't even really aiming at all, I heard two shots."

Alderman Emma Mitts, representing the 37th Ward, addressed the gathering, expressing her heartfelt empathy for the victims, particularly focusing on two young women tragically killed in the Easter Weekend shootings. Among them

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The North Lawndale Community News

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

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County Commissioner Deer on "Food is Medicine"



Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner, 2nd District

Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deere 2nd District Champions Health Equity and Education Initiatives Commissioner Deere of Cook County's second district is leading an impactful initiative focused on health equity and education, particularly targeting underserved communities. In an exclusive interview, he elaborated on these programs, emphasizing their significance and the need for community involvement.

One of the major projects Commissioner Deere has initiated the Food is Medicine program, aimed at providing access to nutritionists and dietitians for individuals on Medicaid. This program addresses the disparities in healthcare access and nutrition education, particularly prevalent in black and brown communities.

The interview delved into Commissioner Deere's personal health journey, including his remarkable weight loss transformation and subsequent double lung transplant. Through his experience, he emphasizes the importance of faith, family support, and education in overcoming health challenges. His dedication to health advocacy is evident in his efforts to promote healthy eating habits, combat obesity, and address systemic issues affecting community health outcomes.

The Food is Medicine program not only provides access to healthcare professionals but also includes educational initiatives such as cooking demonstrations and nutrition classes. By empowering individuals to make informed dietary

choices, Commissioner Deere and the county aims to combat the high rates of obesity and chronic diseases prevalent in underserved communities.

Moreover, Commissioner Deere stressed the importance of community engagement and education in effecting lasting change. He encourages active participation in initiatives such as the Food is Medicine program and invites community members to attend county

board meetings to stay informed and engaged in the decision-making process.

Commissioner Deere's tireless advocacy for health equity and education underscores the critical need for proactive measures to address systemic disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. Through collaborative efforts and community engagement, he envisions a future where all individuals have access to the resources and support needed to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.



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Sankofa

SAFE CHILD INITIATIVE

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 JOIN OUR TEAM.....Our professional staff.....Keep Up with us!
 Here's what's happening with us!

Through our growing activism we are challenged to create opportunities to build stronger families on the west side of Chicago.

Sankofa Mission

The mission of Sankofa Safe Child Initiative is to encourage underserved families and communities to be strong, self-sufficient, and safe and connected, when practical. This is achieved by providing evidence-based programs and services, including trauma-informed supportive services, supportive housing and scattered site housing. Sankofa refers families to specific community resources, community and faith-based organizations, education services, and healthcare providers that give meaningful effective solutions to their urgent needs.



Our various programs are as follows:

Family Advocacy Centers

Anger Management - Developed to help an individual gain better control over their emotions in order to prevent outbursts that may lead to other negative outcomes
 Parenting - Using effective Black Parenting / Nurturing educational tools to enhance the parents' ability to raise their children.


Contact Ed Bickham, Director of Case Management , Sharon Whitney Case Manager, Dr. Lawanda Sims Manager of Clinical Services

Remember Murphy's Law

"Whatever can go wrong will go wrong. You shouldn't just choose to simply float along with life. Taking things as they come will lead to repeating irresponsible patterns."

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/ Kinship care/ Adoption

We use the village concept for our GRG Program. Providing them with support groups, legal services, respite for caregivers, counseling, kinship/permanency navigator services, case management and guardianship. Line dancing, fitness, sewing, jewelry making, and healthy cooking classes are offered. Michelle Erving is the Program Navigator.

Fill the world with love 



Gun Violence Prevention

Focuses on individuals between the ages of 16 to 24 years old. We offer program services that not only address issues that cause violence, but we create awesome and fun alternatives in order to reduce and eliminate the violence in our community all together.

Counseling – Mentoring, Civic Engagement – Community Forums – Voting-Life Skills & Workforce Development – Workshops, Music Therapy – Dance Therapy – Art Therapy

Contact: Tonia Reaves, Program Manager & Kristal Callon, Program Coordinator



R3 (Restore, Reinvest, Renew)

Sankofa's Safe Child Initiative Restorative Justice program manages, implements, refer/intake, & maintains youth development services for ages 16-24 in North Lawndale, Austin and West-Garfield Communities. This program was developed to Transform, Renew and Educate the lives of youth and their families from an intergenerational perspective. To create Communities of health: Mentally, Emotionally, and Financially. Motto: Sankofa: "Return and Get it"

Contact Nathaniel Cole, Program Manager

Some might believe these systems aren't helpful, but we have found they help to effect change.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- PARTNER ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (PAIP)

Provide specialized service customized for individuals who have committed acts of domestic violence against their spouse or partner. The goal is to help individuals to recognize, understand and ultimately change their abusive behavior.

Contact Antoinette Mayfield Executive Assistant



WE HAVE SOMETHING NEW FOR OUR COMMUNITY

COMING THIS SUNDAY MARCH 23, 2024



You are free to take whatever you need. You are also able to donate any extra food items you don't need. It's A Micro Pantry that will have various non-perishable food items available 24 hours a day.

Located Outdoor on the Springfield side of Gospel Temple COGIC (3855 W Harrison St)



ONLY RULES

1. Don't take items for resale
2. Keep doors closed after every use
3. Take care of your community Micro Pantry

IT WAS SAID THIS MICRO PANTRY WON'T LAST IN OUR URBAN COMMUNITY. LET'S PROVE THEM WRONG!!



BARISTA TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUTH !

April 6 – beginning of weekly in person meetings for adult volunteers who will organize the CUARC summer programming Barista Program for youth at Peace Park. 1p.m. is orientation, followed by information (2-4p.m.) on our programming. No experience is needed. Find out what it is all about.

We plan to train area youth in how to work in and operate a coffee house. At the end of the summer, youth will receive a certificate of training, reference, and their resume. They will have skills & experience to qualify them for Call a job in a barista environment! RSVP contact@urbanartretreat.com Chicago Urban

Art Retreat in North Lawndale 1957 S. Spaulding Ave. at 21st (2 blocks west of Kedzie stop on pink line) (773) 542-9126 **messages only**

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Pierre from front page

for the youth, catering to youth. And then, I just got serious with it and made it a not-for-profit. But 3ABM stands for ambitious, brilliant men."

NLCN: What types of food do you cook and how did you get started in cooking?

Chatman: "So, basically my Uncle Bo is from Jackson, Mississippi. He came up here for three months and gave me some family recipes. Then he showed me a few little things on the grill. But I cook all healthy food. I only sell what I eat. I don't want to put a lot of poison out here in our neighborhood. It's already enough. So I just sell chicken, turkey, fish, turkey tips, chicken wings, chicken kabobs, turkey links, chicken links, lamb, salmon, dairy rice, baked beans, mac and cheese, and cabbage."

NLCN: Are 3ABM Fitness and the barbecue connected?

Chatman: "So, basically I established 3ABM BBQ as an LLC. For me, a direct fundraiser for 3ABM Performance Academy. So that's how I fund all my camps and everything I do for the youth and the community."

NLCN: How has the reception been? Do you get a lot of customers?

Chatman: My first year, it was a little slow, but people were like, yeah if you're out here cooking, and I'll be out all night here cooking so, you know my consistency built my name. And I got tied in

with CPD, the fire department, the ambulance, a couple of political officials, and the mayor. But my response has been good, and It's been growing every year."

NLCN: Do you have other food in addition to barbecue?

Chapman: "My number one seller is my turkey tips. I can't hang on to them, man. I cannot hang

on to the tips.

NLCN: Have you had any issues with safety or violence?

Chatman: "It's funny because a lot of people always come out there and ask me, they're like, what's wrong with you? You aren't scared? I'm a Muslim, and everything I do in life, I do it through God. So, I'm not intimidated by anybody, I'm not intimidated by anyone but God."

NLCN: Where did you grow up and what school did you attend?

Chatman: " I was born and raised out here, but thank God that I got an opportunity to go to Oak Park River Forest because that helped me get to where I was going to be. Because honestly, I feel like if I had gone to CPS I wouldn't be talking to you right now."

NLCN: Any special events you would like to announce?

Chatman: "Sometime in mid-April, I'm doing a community charity I do once or twice a month. I always give out free food, clothes, toys, and stuff like that to the community.

NLCN: Anything you would like to add that you want people to know about?

Chatman: "I would like everybody to come out and support, and hopefully, by the

See Pierre back page

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Black Holocaust Remembrance Day

By Professor Zaki Amir

Begun in Harlem, New York by the late Dr. Kuba Abu Kuss former National Representative of the Lost Found Nation of Islam in the 90's and continued in Washington D.C. by Chief Minister Najee Muhammad, of the LFNOL, Black Holocaust Remembrance Day is held every April to commemorate Afrodescendant ancestors brought to America to be slaves.

Our understanding for Holocaust in this article is "Mass Murder." Some scholars numbered over 10,000,000 deaths of Africans brought to the Western Hemisphere for the purposes of slavery.

Why continue the commemoration of what happened to our ancestors hundreds of years ago, was asked of Chief Minister Najee Muhammad who stated, "To remember those who died during the "Middle Passage" and those who survived that long perilous journey across the Atlantic Ocean is what we should do."

He added, "We would not be alive today if they had not survived." He then cited p. 148 of Bullwhip Days the Slave Remember an Oral History Edited by James Mellon published in 1988 which says, "My marster owned three plantations and three hundred slaves. He started out wid' two o'man slaves and raised three hundred slaves. One wuz called and I quote, "Short Peggy" and the odder wuz called "Long Peggy". Long Peggy had twenty five chilluns. Long Peggy, a black o'man was boss ob de

plantation. Marster freed here atter she had twenty five chilluns. Just think o' dat - raisin three hundred slaves wid two o'mans. It sho' is de trufe, do."

Chief Minister Najee Muhammad clarified the reason for the commemoration with these words, "Black Holocaust Remembrance Day is to remind ourselves and the world that the "Worst Crime" against any people happened to our ancestors," as he talked about how they were taken from their homes and trafficked like products, sold on auction blocks and held in bondage for over 310 years.

Slavery was a part of the American fabric before she became a nation in 1787 with the ratification of the United States Constitution.

12 of American Presidents were slave owners. Eight owned our ancestors while in office. General George Washington being the first Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Johnson, with Ulysses S. Grant being the last president to personally own an enslaved person.

Congressman Al Green of Texas sponsored House Resolution 517 to bring about Slavery Remembrance Day in 2021 which passed the House of Representatives but remains in committee in the Senate with no action taken.

Black Holocaust Remembrance Day is more than just saying our ancestors died, it is a way to memorialize them and further explanation

by Chief Minister Muhammad advanced this thought, "We are at this point and time standing as living testimonies of our ancestors," he said, "allowing them to speak from their graves through us their descendants," finishing his comments with, "They knew we would cry out for justice against America for them, and we are."

Prior to African American, we were known as Black, Negro, Colored, Nigger, Slave. Ex- slave or freed man were names given to us before La Ceiba, Honduras 2002.

Afrodescendant was ratified as the name we chose for ourselves and is now the political identity of 19 countries in the Slavery Diaspora numbering over 250 million.

Final thoughts on Black Holocaust Remembrance Day from Chief Minister Muhammad was, "Our ancestors knew we would stand up in the future and strike a blow for justice on their behalf, and Black Holocaust Remembrance keeps them alive and helps keep our fight for "Reparations" on the front burner.

Link to Black Holocaust Remembrance Day: April 28th, 2024

Held at Joe's Emporium 3309 Bunker Hill Rd. Mt. Rainier, Maryland - for info call 202- 505-1382

THE BLACK HOLOCAUST - YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW - 2024 (youtube.com) Muhammad Speaks (@muhammadspeaks) / X

(twitter.com) muhammad speaks news - YouTube https://www.youtube.com/live/8524Hwe024g?si=v0yQjwzxIP_YPH56 Livestream - YouTube: @muhammadspraksnews

**** Books Recommended by Chief Najee Muhammad****

1. Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome Dr. Joy De Gruy
2. Slave & Citizen Frank Tannenbaum
3. Sugar and Slaves Richard S. Dunn
4. Black Labor White Wealth Dr. Claud Anderson
5. 100 years of Lynching Ralph Ginzburg
6. Bullwhip Days the Slave Remember an Oral History Edited by James Mellon
7. Negro Slavery in Arkansas Orville W. Taylor
8. The Slave Ship A Human History Marcus Rediker
9. The African Presence in Ancient America They Came Before Columbus Ivan Van Sertiman
10. The Souls of Black Folk W.E.B. Dubois

Website for first-hand accounts of slavery About this Collection | Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938 | Digital Collections | Library of Congress (loc.gov)

CAC from front page



CAC members listening to presentations from partners on Lawndale STEAM Project



Collins High School Principal giving presentation on Collins High School and School and the STEAM Project with CAC members and partners.

and they want to meet the needs of the children in the community. Their goal is to train and teach children in the elementary school with a STEAM curriculum, science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. The plan is to start at Chalmers and Johnson and finish at Collins.

At the meeti and greet, Dr. Moore, was the facilitator of the meeting, while Mrs. Areulia Davis gave introductions and read some of the slides of partners who were not present. The Steans Family Foundation made a great contribution to the professional learning of the STEAM Partnership Academies. But Dr. Green stated that the time of its partners is just as important if not more.

According to the CPS website, Community Action Councils (CACs) bring together families, school administrators, teachers, staff, and community stakeholders to support

the improvement of local education. Community Action Councils (CACs) consist of 25 to 30 voting members who are directly involved in developing a strategic plan for educational success within their communities. CAC members include Parents, Elected officials, Faith-based institutions, Health care and community-based organizations, Local School Council (LSC) members, Business leaders, Educators and school administrators, Staff members from Chicago's sister agencies, Community residents, and Students.

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SCAN ME

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Nature in the City Summit

By Todd Thomas

Austin Town Hall on Chicago's West Side recently hosted an event "Creating Welcoming Nature Spaces" that focused on the importance of environmental awareness and outdoor engagement for inner-city residents. The event served as a platform to discuss the pivotal role of nature in enhancing the well-being and resilience of urban communities.

Panelists from organizations across the city highlighted the numerous health benefits associated with outdoor activities and environmental awareness. Access to green spaces has been linked to reduced stress levels, improved mental health, and enhanced physical fitness.

The event was organized by the group Nature, Culture, and Human Health (NCH2) and director Laura Derks said it was a way for people in the community to discuss what they thought was most important.

"It happens at the very grassroots level, at the community level," Derks said. "Where communities can identify where they need to expand nature and green spaces. They define what nature is to them. So it can be from converting a vacant lot to an edible garden or even a native plant garden. Or like in West Garfield Park, where they're converting a vacant lot into a story garden space. It's also a way for community groups to help educate other community members."

The event helped shed light on the role of outdoor spaces as catalysts for improved health and a better standard of living by taking advantage of natural spaces in the community like parks and community gardens.

"There is the health benefit of being outdoors and the physicality of gardening," said Maria Sorrell, a gardener at Harambee Gardens in Austin on the West Side. "There is also the benefit of growing something I may eat that is not processed or grown using pesticides. There is a certain joy or pleasure in eating and sharing fruits and vegetables that I've grown. There is also a sense of community among garden members, some of which have become personal friends."

The Summit emphasized this by promoting environmental awareness and outdoor activities, so communities can ultimately enhance urban life without necessarily leaving the community.

"You do not have to go to a national park to experience nature," said presenter Ann Vertovec. "Nature surrounds us and is part of us. Focusing on the sky/horizon, really looking at a neighborhood tree's bark and leaves, or listening for bird calls are ways we can interact with nature on a daily basis. There are a variety of ways to enjoy the outdoors including walking, gardening, swimming or just sitting on a park bench. Regardless of the activity, truly focusing on the natural world incurs added benefits. For those unable to go outside, a potted plant or even a picture of a natural environment can incur health benefits."

And studies have shown that the benefits are many including, reduced depression, anxiety, and stress, increased relaxation, and attention, better memory along with lower rates of diabetes and heart disease.

Representatives from several organizations also provided information on educational and job opportunities, especially for youth. Friends of the Forest Preserves, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and the Chicago Park District spoke about employment opportunities that provide hands-on experiences in conservation and environmental stewardship.

See Nature page 7



Ann Vertovec talked about the role nature plays in overall health and decreasing stress levels..



Attendees of the Summit tour Harambee Gardens.



Explore exciting job opportunities at a new laundry linen facility opening in North Lawndale this May!

We're looking for dedicated people to join our team.
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Beyond a "Job" - Supporting Employees and their Families

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- Employee wellness services
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Scan the QR code to apply to Fillmore Laundry Linen opportunities.
<https://www.skillsforchicagolandfuture.com/>



Don't miss out on the chance to be part of the growth in North Lawndale.



Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

1. What do you need to apply? Applicants must upload a photo of their Social Security card and state or driver's license ID while completing the application. If you do not have these documents before applying and require assistance in obtaining them, please reach out to info@nlen.org.
2. How can I get help with my application? Application support is available through community organizations such as Skills and North Lawndale Employment Network (1111 N. Homan), onsite starting March 11th from 10 am to 2 pm.



The North Lawndale Community News CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

Do You Have Something to Buy, Sell, Trade, Rent or Announce? Are you Looking for Employment or Looking to Hire? You Can Do it Here In the North Lawndale Community News Call 773-940-1953 To Place Your Classified Ad!

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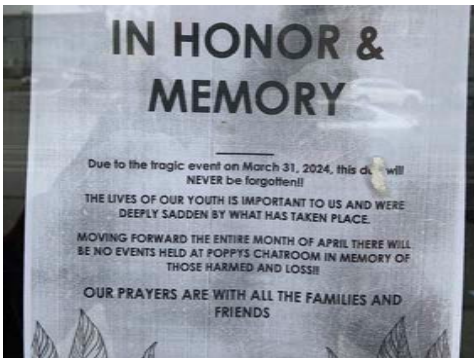
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4 bedroom apartment, front rm, living rm, dining rm, enclosed back porch, storage closet, pantry. Section 8 welcome. Interested parties please call 773-297-0109. Security plus deposit.

Poppy's from front page



Poppy's Chat Room a few days after the incident.



Message from the owner of the Poppy Room posted on their door after the shooting.

was an unnamed 17-year-old female and 19-year-old Arianna Murphy, who succumbed to a gunshot wound to the head. Mitts emphasized the importance of community healing and urged for collective efforts to combat crime, especially adults who need to be there for the youth.

Mitts further emphasized the role of youth engagement in preventing crime, calling for increased involvement of young people in community activities under parental guidance. She stressed the importance of teaching life skills such as financial management, and navigating social media to empower the youth and mitigate the risks of criminal activities, especially as summer approaches.

Chief Ednardo Gutierrez also took the platform, extending a warm invitation to the community to come forward with any information that could aid in the investigation. He stressed the significance of even the smallest details in solving such heinous crimes, stating, "Any information that can help us solve this heinous crime would be vital."

The gathering served as a reminder of the devastating impact of gun violence on families and the community.

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/04/09/police-shot-at-dexter-reed-96-times-in-41-seconds-during-deadly-shootout-watchdog-graphic-video/>

Nature from page 6

The discussions at the summit also underscored the importance of ensuring equitable access

to green spaces and outdoor resources. In many urban areas, disparities in access to parks and recreational facilities persist, disproportionately affecting marginalized

communities. Addressing these disparities requires proactive measures ensuring that all residents have equal opportunities to benefit from nature's wonders.

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Pierre from page 8

beginning of next year, I'll get this property. I'm shooting for it to be around in this area because it's like a desert when it comes to good food.

NLCN: Is this your main job and do you have another career?

Chatman: "My purpose is always either kids or athletics. And I tie kids and athletics into the

same thing, my purpose is the kids. I work at this group home called Aunt Marthas. Most kids who get put in that group home are kids nobody wants."

NLCN: The West Side has a lot of problems, are you hopeful that there will be change?

Chatman: "The way I look at it is, I try to change one or two kids at a time. One or two adults at a time. I'm gonna make a stamp here in Austin, but I don't think I'm ever gonna make a big enough stamp. Because it's Chicago. And, it's been like this since before I was born. So, I just have to try to do the best I can and try to save as many people as I can and just make things happen. I pray every day to make sure I keep my mind sane. You know it gets stressful sometimes."

NLCN: What is a successful day for you?

Chatman: "To make people smile. I like to make people smile. Money motivates me, but being a genuine person and treating people well motivates me more. That's what pushes me. Being a genuine person and moving on principles and morals.

Chatman will be back cooking in Columbus Park in mid-April on S. Central and W. Van Buren St in Columbus Park so bring smiles, an open heart, and an appetite.

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