

FROM: Alderman Pat Dowell +

TO: [Redacted]



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## Aldermanic Office of the Third Ward Newsletter

December

2011

### In This Issue

- Third Ward Update
- Events in and Around the Ward
- Important Announcements
- Third Ward Stars
- December CAPS
- Useful Links

### Dear 3rd Ward Resident,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and is getting prepared for another Chicago winter. With that in mind, it is important to do what we can to make sure everyone has a safe, warm, and happy holiday season.

Last month, the Third Ward office distributed holiday turkeys to senior buildings, nursing homes, and residents in need. Special thanks to Berkshire Refrigerated Warehousing, City Sports, and Mariano's Fresh Food Market for their generous support. Also, a big thank you goes to Tapas Valencia located at 1501 S. State Street. Every year, they host a Thanksgiving dinner for those who may not have otherwise had one and contact our office for referrals. We are so glad that we were able to send

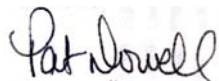
...remember, we are so glad that we were able to bring several families and individuals from the Third Ward to Tapas Valencia for a delicious Thanksgiving dinner.

Throughout the month of December, the Third Ward office will be collecting children's books for the Gifts of Knowledge Program. If you have a culturally enriched literature, coloring, and/or mathematics book(s) you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Third Ward office located at 5046 S. State Street. Additionally, we will be collecting new and gently used unwrapped toys for children ages 1-16 years until December 15th. Our office is also helping to recruit 6-7 volunteers to prepare food baskets for the Chade Foundation's 2nd Annual "Sharing the Holiday Spirit" event. If you are willing and are available on December 9th from 1:30pm to 3:30pm, please contact Allyson Allison at the Third Ward Office at (773) 373-9273.

It is through the kindness of our local businesses, non-profit organizations, churches, and residents, that the holidays are brighter for those in need. In this newsletter, there is information that can help residents with utilities, employment, and housing as well as resources for youth activities and holiday dinners. If you know of an event or resource that is not in this edition of the Third Ward Newsletter, please contact our office at (773) 373-9273 or ward03@cityofchicago.org, so we can let people know.

Happy Holidays everyone!!!

Sincerely,



Alderman, 3rd Ward



## **Third Ward Update**

### **Alderman Dowell's Budget Statement**

Alderman Dowell along with her colleagues at City Hall, recently voted on the City's budget. Below is a written statement she prepared and would like to share with her constituents.

The role of elected officials is to find solutions to problems facing society. Those solutions are the result of long hours of discussion, negotiation, compromise and most importantly, listening to the needs of constituents. I thank all of the residents of the 3rd Ward who called my office or wrote letters and emails about the budget, especially the proposed cuts to the library and other departments, concern about increased taxes, and the homeless and mentally ill.

During the budget season, I fought hard for the needs and concerns of my constituents and voted in favor of the \$6.3 billion budget which was unanimously passed by the City Council. Although there are a number of new fees and fines, most of them focus on people who violate the law and undermine our neighborhood safety and vitality. The budget **does not** include any increases in property or sales taxes. The budget provides a number of things for my constituents and most importantly provides many protections for them including:

- A reduction versus an elimination of the condo refuse rebate program (from \$75 to \$50).
- \$1 million earmarked for vacant lot maintenance, weed cutting, cleaning and graffiti removal.
- A fair price for city sticker increases (\$10 increase for light vehicles and \$15 for large SUV type vehicles).
- Discount water fees for not-for-profit organizations and churches based upon annual income.
- \$3.3 million restored to the library budget allowing the Hall Branch and Bee Library to stay open six days a week.
- Consolidation of the 21st and 2nd Police Districts will continue to ensure our public safety and improve the quality of life along the ward's commercial corridors.
- More efficient garbage collection governed by a new grid system.
- Support for small businesses through the elimination of the business head tax.

Our city budget has been out of order for the last ten years! While I have worked cooperatively with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and my colleagues to craft a balanced budget which addresses some of our deep and long standing fiscal problems, it is not perfect and the cuts and increases have been painful. This is, however, a fiscally responsible budget and I am proud of my vote because we worked hard to find real solutions for today's complicated problems.

On your behalf, I will continue to fight the good fight and leverage public and private resources which improve the quality of life for our City and ward.

## **Synthetic Marijuana Ban**

Alderman Dowell was one of the co-sponsors for an ordinance that recently passed through the City Council that bans the sale of synthetic marijuana. This synthetic marijuana is especially enticing to teenagers and young adults as it is being marketed as a safe and legal alternative. Unfortunately, it can have deadly consequences. In 2010, the use of this substance resulted in 2,700 calls to poison control centers in 49 states. Penalties from the new ordinance can result in fines from \$500 to \$1,000 for each offense. Upon learning that some businesses in the Third Ward were selling this synthetic marijuana, Alderman Dowell sent a letter to each business owner in the ward letting them know she will seek revocation of business licenses for any business in the Third Ward caught selling synthetic marijuana.

## **Education Update**



### **School Actions and Performance Policy**

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) recently announced the list of school closings, consolidations, phase-outs, and co-changes for the 2012-13 school year. Click [here](#) to view the



CPS Chief Portfolio Officer,  
Oliver Sicat, Alderman Pat  
Dowell, State Senator Mattie  
Hunter, and CPS' Director of  
Intergovernmental Affairs,  
Michael Rendina

states for the 2012-13 school year. Click [here](#) to view the list. In response to recently passed state legislation, CPS issued a draft of their [School Actions Guidelines](#) in order to help the public better understand the criteria for certain types of school actions. On November 15th, State Senator Mattie Hunter and the Grand Boulevard Federation's Peer Parent Education Network held a forum at IIT to inform residents of this new legislation and provide an opportunity for them to ask CPS officials important questions. In advance of this meeting, Alderman Dowell sent an e-mail encouraging people to attend and outlining her concerns with the School Actions Guidelines, which were mostly in regards to a lack of detail. As communities rally to support their schools, it is absolutely vital that parents, teachers, and other community stakeholders have clear and concise information to make important decisions and mobilize needed resources. Click [here](#) to review the draft proposal, which was subject to public input until November 21st. The finalized version should be available soon.

Upon reviewing CPS' draft of their School Actions Guidelines, you will notice the academic consideration for school action is based upon CPS' Performance Policy ([10-0728-P04](#)). Please take a moment to review it by clicking [here](#), so you can get a better sense of CPS' policy and will know how the schools in our community are doing.

### **School Actions in the Third Ward**

We are pleased to announce that Chicago Public Schools will not be seeking to take any school actions as outlined by their School Actions Guidelines towards any school located in the Third Ward. However, they are announcing that Woodson South (4414 S. Evans) will be a turnaround under CPS. A school turnaround is where the entire staff of a school is replaced. It is not considered a school action under the above-mentioned state legislation and therefore does not require the same process of community engagement. Alderman Dowell will be working with Woodson's LSC, the LSC President, Pastor Chris Harris, Principal Littlejohn, and the Bronzeville Community Action Council to assess the situation and ensure that whatever action is taken towards Woodson South is fair and benefits the students who attend school there as well as the surrounding community. A public hearing is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 1st, 2012 at 125 S. Clark Street, 5th Floor from 8pm to 10pm**. If you are planning on speaking, it is advisable you get there early to sign up.

### **The Dowell Report**

Last month, Alderman Dowell hosted another Dowell Report on CAN TV. This edition was focused on sustainability and greening the Third Ward. She spoke with John Edel, Founder and Executive Director of [The Plant Chicago](#) (1400 W. 46th St.), which will be a green business incubator in the Third Ward and Chicago's first vertical farm. Michael Howard who is the founder and Executive Director of [Eden Place Nature Center](#) (4417 S. Stewart), which was a dump site that has been transformed into a valuable environmental education resource was also on the program. Johnnie Owens

variable environmental education resource was also on the program. JoAnne Owens from the [Centers for New Horizon's](#) Community Building Program was there to discuss the wonderful community garden CNH has created at 42nd and Calumet as well as Barbara Young who created a beautiful residential garden in the Third Ward. The Dowell Report will be aired on CAN TV on the following dates:

- Sunday, December 4th, 5pm
- Friday, December 9th, 11pm
- Sunday, December 18th, 5pm
- Thursday, December 29th, 10:30pm

## **Department of Water Management Sewer Lining Projects**

In November, the Department of Water Management began work on two sewer lining projects in the Third Ward. The scope of work included: cleaning the catch basins, cleaning pipes, lining main sewer connection pipes, lining catch basins and manholes, cleaning and lining main sewer, and restoring affected streets and sidewalks. Both projects were expected to be completed in late November. The projects in the Third Ward were:

- South Dearborn Street from West 16th street to West 17th Street
- South Michigan Avenue from East 35th Street to East 43rd Street

## **New Decorative Garbage Cans in the Third Ward**

Thanks to collaboration between Alderman Pat Dowell and Streets and Sanitation, the Third Ward will be getting nine new decorative garbage cans. Many residents had been asking for more garbage cans in various places to help reduce litter and beautify the community. This can only be accomplished if people are using them, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to be on the lookout for these new garbage cans. These types of initiatives have been difficult in the past due to people stealing the cans. We can't let that stop us from beautifying the ward, so the cans will be secured in order to prevent theft.

The locations of these cans in the Third Ward are: the northeast corner of 47th and Princeton; the southwest corner of 43rd and Michigan; the northeast corner of 43rd and Indiana; the southwest corner of 39th and Indiana; the northwest corner of 39th and Giles; the southwest corner of 47th and State (near bus stop); the northwest corner of 47th and Indiana; the southwest corner of 47th and Prairie; and the southeast corner of 47th and Michigan.

## **Forestry Blitz**

Please be advised that on Monday, December 5th, 2011, the Bureau of Forestry will have several crews working in the Third Ward.

## **Problem Businesses**

**In and Out Food Mart** - 5431 South Halsted

Violation: Deceptive Practices: Selling expired food

Fine: \$5540.00

**King Food Mart** - 200 East 43rd Street

Violation: Deceptive Practices: Selling products marked "not for individual sale" and selling outdated merchandise.

Court Date: December 16, 2011 at 1pm, 400 West Superior

**Teazze Boutique - 350 East 47th Street**

- Unlicensed Practice/Unprofessional Conduct
- Salon not registered with the State of Illinois as required
- Business Corporation was involuntarily dissolved in 2008
- Issued a Cease and Desist order by the City Department of Business Affairs

**Third Ward Service Requests for October**

In October, 709 calls were made to 311 from the Third Ward. From these calls, 808 city service requests were generated. These numbers do not include calls made from the Third Ward office and only reflect calls made from land lines as the city does not have the ability to track the origin of cell phone calls. For example, there was actually over 2200 service requests generated for Streets and Sanitation for October, but only 179 were from land lines.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Total Requests</b>	<b>Completed Requests</b>
311 City Services	75	74
Animal Care and Control	82	73
Budget and Management	1	0
Buildings	92	43
Business Affairs and Consumer Protection	18	11
Community Development	2	2
Environment	3	3
Family and Support Services	122	121
Fire	2	2
Health	8	0
Police	7	4
Streets and Sanitation	179	126
Transportation	145	102
Water Management	63	40
CHA	2	0
Park District	1	0
JC Decaux (bus shelters)	6	6

**Other October Streets and Sanitation Service Requests**

Weed Removal	1601
Tree Debris	62
Graffiti Removal	38
Vehicle Impoundment	37
Immediate Tow	32
Relocated Vehicle	27
Fly Dumping	25
Sanitation Code Violation	22
Parking Meter Sign Posting	21

TURNING POINT SIGNposting	21
Cleaning Operations	20

## New Businesses

### Forever Nana's Vintage Boutique

Third Ward resident and entrepreneur, Yvette Flemming recently opened [Forever Nana's Vintage Boutique](#) at 2418 S. Michigan. Forever Nana's features vintage clothing, jewelry, furniture, artwork, collectibles and more. For more information, please call (312) 794-5491, visit their [website](#), or stop by to check out the South Loop's first vintage boutique.

### The Burger Point

[The Burger Point](#) located at 1900 S. State Street features all natural burgers that are free of hormones, anti-biotics, and preservatives. In addition to beef, turkey, and chicken burgers, their menu also features wings, fries, chili, drinks, and more. Cal 312-842-1900, visit their [website](#), or stop by to find out more.

## Events in and around the Third Ward

### Congressman Danny Davis Community Outreach Day

Congressman Danny K. Davis is partnering with CEDA, ComEd, and Peoples Gas to promote awareness about state, city, and community services that can assist residents with their utilities. You can apply for grants to help pay for or reconnect your gas and lights as well as receive information about your pending CEDA application. Please bring the following: proof of household income for last 30 days, current rental lease agreement (id required), original social security cards for every member of your household, original current gas and light bills (if your utilities are included in your rent, it must be stated in your lease agreement), proof of home ownership (for furnace repair). For more information please contact CEDA at (800) 571-2332, Peoples Gas at (866) 556-6001, or ComEd at (800) 334-7661.

Where: Malcolm X College (1900 W. Van Buren)

When: December 3rd, 2011 from 10am to 2pm

### Matthew House Winter Open House

Matthew House is a community-based, tax exempt, non-profit organization that provides food, shelter, and supportive services to needy men, women, children, and families who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. In their 21 years of service, Matthew House has provided services to over 9,719 individuals, served over 579,149 meals, placed 854 people in housing, assisted 3,679 individuals with employment, and provided veteran's services, domestic violence counseling to people throughout Chicago. For their Open House event, they are asking people to help them meet their guest's needs by donating face and bath towels, shaving cream, soap, toilet tissue, paper goods, cleaning products, new winter coats (all sizes), gloves, hats, socks, personal items, unwrapped toys for children, and or money. Please call (773) 536-6628 for more information.

Where: Matthew House (3728 S. Indiana)

When: December 3rd from 8am to 1pm

School Closure Events

## School Closings Forum

The Chicago Teacher's Union, Teachers for Social Justice, the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO), Action Now, the Albany Park Neighborhood Council, The Grassroots Initiative, and Enlace Chicago are sponsoring this event titled "Teach-In on Stopping School Closings". For more information, please contact (312) 329-9100 or visit [www.ctunet.com](http://www.ctunet.com).

Where: King College Prep (4445 S. Drexel)  
When: December 3rd from 10am to 2pm

## Winter Weather Preparedness Events

The City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC), the Chicago Fire Department, and the Department of Family and Support Services have teamed up to host two Winter Weatherization Preparedness events that are designed to bring vital winter preparedness information to communities throughout Chicago. Additionally, Chicago residents can receive extreme weather alerts on cell phones and handheld devices by going to [www.alertchicago.com](http://www.alertchicago.com) and subscribing to the "Notify Chicago" program. Preparedness information can also be found at OEMC's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/coemc](http://www.facebook.com/coemc).

Where: Home Depot (1919 N. Cicero)  
When: December 3rd from 9:30am to 12noon

Where: Home Depot (1300 S. Clinton)  
When: December 10th from 10am to 2pm

## 2011 Greener South Loop Awards Celebration Event

Come to the Celebration Event to recognize the greenest among us, and learn how your business or building can go greener too. Experts and neighbors alike will share what works, from major investments to day-to-day operations. The Alliance for a Greener South Loop is happy to welcome Don McLaughlin, [Elara Engineering](#), as featured speaker at our event on December 6. Elara consulted with 2010 Greenest Building award winner, Dearborn Tower, which is in the Third Ward at 1530 S. State Street, guiding them to investments that have paid off with great savings through energy efficiencies.

2011 Greenest Awards winners ORA Oral Surgery & Implant Studio / ORA Dental Studio and State Place Condominiums will provide insights into their green practices, and you will have a chance to meet local green entrepreneurs. Click [here](#) to RSVP by December 2, 2011. Donations to cover the cost of refreshments will be appreciated.

Where: Columbia College: 1104 S. Wabash, Film Row Cinema, 8th floor  
When: Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 6-8 pm

## Gifts of Knowledge Book Drive for Chicago Youth



Acts of Love is a strategic campaign, committed to inspiring over 1,000,000 people to extend love in the form of kind acts to marginalized youth, ages 3-19 all across the world. Various strategies within this campaign will provide the essential resources needed to reduce the physical, intellectual and emotional needs present in the lives of young people.

On August 28, 2011, Acts of Love started the process of



collecting and distributing 1,000,000(+) coloring, culturally enriched literature and mathematics books for marginalized youth, ages 3-19 all across the world. Just three months in, over 3000 books have been collected for Chicago youth and through vigorous efforts, the number continues to grow each day.

Starting Monday November 21, 2011 and ending on December 31, Acts of Love is collecting "Gifts of Knowledge" (Books). We're seeking culturally enriched literature, coloring, and mathematic books for youth, ages 3-19. Our collection sites are all over the City of Chicago, Columbus Ohio, and Minneapolis Minnesota.

On Friday December 9, 2011 we collect Gifts of Knowledge at Alderman Pat Dowell's Office from 9am to 12noon with the hopes of collecting 200 or more Gifts of Knowledge from the 3rd Ward.

If you'd like more information about Acts of Love, visit their website at [www.millionactsoflove.org](http://www.millionactsoflove.org).

Where: Alderman Dowell's Ward Office (5046 S. State St.)  
When: December 9th, 2011 from 9am to 12noon

### **Christmas Dinner and Gospel Jamboree**

The 36th Street Committee presents a Christmas Dinner and Gospel Jamboree featuring gospel artists, praise dancers, and ministers from various churches throughout the Chicagoland area. Donations are \$15 and all proceeds go towards the 36th Street Committee's Annual 36th Street Reunion.

Where: West Point Missionary Baptist Church (3566 S. Cottage Grove)  
When: December 11th, 2011 from 3pm to 9pm (dinner from 3:30 to 5:30 with showtime at 6:00)

### **Christmas at the Ship**

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church located at 45th Place and Princeton is hosting their annual Christmas at the Ship Food Pantry Distribution. Chicago residents with proper ID and proof of residency can stop by the church on December 17th to receive food items for a holiday dinner. Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church also hosts a Community Table every Thursday from noon to 1:30pm for those in need of a hot meal.

Where: Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church (45th Place and Princeton)  
When: Saturday, December 17th beginning at 9am

### **51st Street Business Association's Jazz Explosion**

Come out for this fun-filled and relaxing night of great music, food, and entertainment. Enjoy complimentary hors d' oeuvres and cocktails at the new Swagger Restaurant and Enchanted Gardens before heading over to the Great Lakes Elks Lodge to be entertained with a night of great jazz music featuring Maggie Brown, Kellie Rich, Alexis, and other local musicians. Tickets are \$35. To RSVP, please call (773) 285-3401.

Where: Swagger Restaurant and Enchanted Gardens (5050 S. Prairie)

When: December 22nd from 5pm to 7pm

Where: The Great Lakes Elks Lodge (6108 S. Prairie)

When: December 22nd from 7pm to 11pm

## **Important Announcements**

### **Free Sewing Classes**

Come learn sewing machine techniques, hand sewing, how to read patterns, garment sewing, home decor, and crafting. Overton Elementary School located at 221 East 49th St. is offering free sewing classes for adult newbies, beginners, and intermediates. Style yourself in one-of-a-kind creations, make and save money, have fun, and learn a new skill. For more information, please call Tyisha Rich at (773) 535-1430 ext. 7.

### **Free Breast Screening Services**

The Englewood Neighborhood Health Clinic located at 641 West 63rd St. is offering free breast screening services Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8am to 4pm and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 6pm. Screening services are provided to Chicago residents with an appointment, a doctor's referral, and proper I.D. For more information, contact the Mammography Department at (312) 747-7844.

### **Tuition Free EMT Training for Working Women**

Sponsored by the Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago (ICNC) and the Eleanor Foundation, this course will be offered in March, 2012. Applicants must be single women who are living and working (or recently unemployed) in Chicago earning between \$10,000 and \$40,000 per year and ready to engage in a rigorous training program. For more information and to submit an application, please visit [www.icnctraining.org](http://www.icnctraining.org).

### **Comprehensive Online Database of Job Training and Other Service Providers**

[The Chicago Jobs Council](http://www.chicagocouncil.org) is a non-profit advocacy organization that promotes employment and career advancement opportunities for people living in poverty. Their Workforce Information and Resource Exchange (WIRE) is an online portal to important information regarding workforce development and closely related fields. Visit <http://wire.cjc.net/dynamic/directory> to find out about services in your area.

### **KidSmart City Online Resource for Parents and Children**

[www.kidsmartcity.com](http://www.kidsmartcity.com) is a new website designed to keep parents, teachers, and childcare providers informed about upcoming events and activities (particularly on the south side). Visitors can sign up as free members to the blog and receive information about family events, public services, museum exhibits, educational programs, special needs programs, health related topics, and more.

### **The Lighthouse Youth Center**

The Lighthouse Youth Center located at 4338 S. Prairie, has been serving the community since 2006. They offer an after-school and summer academic program that gives youth from underserved communities their best opportunity to succeed in school and life. Their program empowers students to meet their full potential in three key areas: academics, social skills and leadership. Their program also offers

homework assistance, academic enrichment, supervised computer use, team-building activities, sports and fitness, arts and cultural programming, healthy snacks and dinner, and more.

This holiday season, The Lighthouse Youth Center will hold a *Spectacular Christmas Celebration* for both the youth in their program and children here in our community. It will be a festive occasion for the youth who are in need where we will distribute coats, toys and a surplus of delicious food for their enjoyment. If you are able to assist with making a donation to help them with this event, please contact the Lighthouse Youth Center at (773) 624-0102 before December 17th.

### **Professionals Needed for Job Shadow and Internship Opportunities for CPS Students**

Professionals are needed to participate in the annual Chicago Public Schools **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Job Shadow** event on Wednesday, March 4th where high school students studying your career path get the opportunity to "shadow" you for one half of one day while you work. This is one holiday season request not aimed at you reaching in your wallet or even taking off of work to generate a positive LIFETIME influence on the life of one of our Chicago youth in need.

The **Spring Break Internship Program** is a one-week, paid internship for student interns to work in your place of business from April 2nd thru April 6th.

RSVP by December 15th at <http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/cte/employer/host-application?pd1=mrford-steele>. For more information, please contact Maji Ford-Steele at [mrford-steele@cps.k12.il.us](mailto:mrford-steele@cps.k12.il.us). Once your confirmation is received, you will be contacted to get some additional information so that we can make an optimal match between our students and your background.

### **The Streets for Cycling Plan 2020**

While bicycling provides a healthy, affordable and green way to get around, the reality is that most Chicagoans don't currently feel safe riding a bike on Chicago's streets. Particularly in communities where residents need more options for healthy physical activity and basic mobility, this represents a lost opportunity. A study in Portland found that 60% of its population is interested in cycling, but concerned about safety. Chicago faces the same challenge. Chicago needs streets that allow children and families to ride bikes without fearing for their safety.

The Streets for Cycling Plan 2020 will guide the development of a citywide network of 150-250 miles of innovative bikeways that will make bicycling a safe and easy option for all Chicagoans, from 8 years old to 80. Once built, the bikeways network will safely connect residents to their daily needs with a healthy, affordable and green form of transportation.

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) will develop the plan over

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