

January 2010 Newsletter



Third Ward Newsletter

January 2010

Dear Walter,

2009 was a historic and busy year. Historic because of the election of our first African-American President and busy because the economy is still slowly recovering, which has created a greater need for resources and services within very limited budgetary constraints. As you review the actions my office has taken throughout last year, I hope it becomes apparent that we have been doing everything we can to address the many needs of our Third Ward residents and make improvements to quality-of-life issues. Additionally, I have taken a number of measures to increase accountability and transparency at all levels of city government. Together with community members, I will continue this work throughout 2010 and beyond.

I know this edition of the newsletter is comparably long, but I wanted to not only provide a retrospect of last year, but inform Third Ward residents of the work we continue to do and the resources and services that are available to them. As much as we have accomplished together in 2009, I know that 2010 will be an even more successful year towards making the Third Ward stronger. I wish everyone a safe and happy new year.

Happy Holidays,

Pat Dowell,
Alderman, 3rd Ward

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2009 in Review

Park Improvements

In 2009, ten projects to improve the facilities at three Third Ward parks were completed with another nine in progress.

Fuller Park (331 W. 45th)

Fuller Park received renovations to their fountain, veranda, tennis courts, and walkway. They also received a brand new fitness center and playground, improvements to their field house such as new air conditioning and a new roof, and a new roof for their powerhouse. Projects in progress are the replacement of the auditorium floor, energy efficient updates to the boiler and heating system, structural improvements to the field house, HVAC energy management system, a pool accessibility lift, a new elevator, and the replacement of the gym floor.

Robert Taylor Park (41 W. 47th)

A pool accessibility lift has been installed, the restoration of the gym floor is in pre-design, and the replacement of the roof is currently being contracted out.

Lowe Park (5203 S. Lowe)

The rehabilitation of the basketball court for Lowe Park was completed.

Friends of the Park Award

Last February, Alderman Dowell was honored to receive a legislative award from Friends of the Park. The award was in recognition of the \$3 million in TIF funds she secured to restore historic Fuller Park.

New Park at Federal and 24th

A new park located near the Harold Ickes public housing site opened September 28, 2009. This park has a new playground, walking path, and baseball diamond.

Education

2009 was a year in which Chicago Public Schools received a great deal of national attention. This was partly due to President Obama's appointment of former CPS CEO Arne Duncan to the post of Secretary of Education. Unfortunately, the greatest amount of attention was received after the tragic death of Derrion Albert. As Chicagoans, we know this was not an isolated incident and that we must continue working together to improve school safety and performance.

Third Annual Back to School Extravaganza

Last August, Alderman Dowell held her Third Annual Back to School Extravaganza at Fuller Park. As in years past, we had a great turnout and several wonderful volunteers and donations that made the event a success. This year, we distributed over 500 backpacks filled with school supplies. This year, we were fortunate to utilize the Olympic theme and were honored with a visit from 1968 Olympic Long Jump world record holder, Bob Beamon.

Capital Improvements

Even with modest improvements in the economy, obtaining capital improvements still requires a great deal of effort as we relay the concerns of principals, teachers, and parents to officials at Chicago Public Schools who are working with limited budgets. Fortunately, many of the requests we have made to the CPS Office of Facilities have been granted or are still being considered. Currently, there are 10 capital projects in progress with a combined total of almost \$33 million. Major boiler and mechanical system renovations for ACE Tech, Beasley, Bronzeville Lighthouse, Woodson South, and Mayo Elementary are underway with HVAC work to begin at John Hope High School this year. ADA related construction scheduled for completion this year includes Woodson South, Mollison, Perspectives IIT, and Attucks schools. Beasley, DuSable, John Hope, and Phillips schools will be receiving renovations to their swimming pools. A new playground has also been installed at Mollison. We realize there are a lot of unfunded needs that still need to be met, but this is a good start towards making sure our students have the best learning environment

possible.

High School Safety Task Force

Established in July, 2009, this was created as a result of the Third Ward Office working with Mike Shields from CPS' Office of Safety and Security. It is an informational and resource exchange between principals, CPS, CTA, and Chicago Police Officials, and representatives from various non-profit organizations and neighboring wards. Members from Alderman Dowell's staff have also been attending safety task forces and LSC meetings from various schools in the 3rd Ward.

Principal's Breakfast Meetings

Periodically throughout the academic year, Alderman Dowell hosts these meetings as a means of hearing the needs and concerns of the schools in the Third Ward and notifying the principals about various resources that may be available to them. The last meeting in October was an opportunity for the new Chief Area Officers (formerly Area Instructional Officers or AIOS) to introduce themselves and explain their role. Additionally, Jaime Guzman, the new Director of the Office of New Schools was there to describe his role and Kye-Anne Wilborn from the Education to Careers Program described how schools can utilize the skills of CPS students to obtain a variety of services from procurement of safety horses and trophy cases to catering services.

Columbia College's New Media Production Center

Opening in February, 2010, this state-of-the-art facility will provide college students with expanded opportunities to learn about media production and advance in their academic and professional careers. The one-story Media Production Center will include two sound stages, a motion capture studio and an animation lab, among other amenities, for film, video and television majors. Located in the Third Ward at 1600-1632 S. State St., the construction of this facility provided jobs to several Third Ward residents. Alderman Dowell approved the sale of the city-owned parcel of land needed to construct the new media center.

Infrastructure

Department of Water and Sewer Management

The Department of Water Management completed several water main projects throughout the city. In the Third Ward, they completed a new water main project along South Union between West 51st and 53rd Streets, replaced the 120 year old pipes along East Oakwood Blvd. between S. King Dr. and S. Vincennes and on Vincennes between 43rd and 47th, installed new, larger pipes along West 48th St. between South Racine and South Morgan, installed a new water main on S. Indiana between 45th and 48th Streets, rehabbed the sewer lines on W. 26th between Federal and State, installed a new water main, pressure tested the pipes, and did sewer repair work.

CDOT

Pavement repairs were made to 47th Street between Shields and Normal, 35th Street was resurfaced between Federal and LaSalle, and completed a street and driveway improvement project at 47th and Shields to address the disrepair underneath the viaduct. As part of the City's Arterial Street Resurfacing Program, the following streets will be resurfaced in the Spring of 2010: State St. from W. Congress Pkwy. to W. 18th, Cermak from S. King to S. Clark, Halsted from W. Garfield to W. 59th St., and State St. from W. 47th to W. 79th. New sidewalks were installed on S. Laflin from 45th to 47th, on the 4400 block of King Dr., on the 5700 block of S. Lafayette, the 300 block of W. 42nd Pl., the 3200 and 4200 blocks of S. Michigan, the 4200 block of S. Wabash, the 4600 block of King Dr., and the 5100 block of S. Halsted. Over 100 new signs were installed, which included "No Parking", "Safe School Zone", and "One-Way". New alleys were installed at East 38th and 39th Streets between Wabash and State that utilized new drainage and green alley techniques.

Streets and Sanitation

The Bureau of Electricity has completed the upgrading of street lights on the 3700 block of South Calumet, the 4200-4500 blocks of South Princeton and the 5200 block of South Green.

Root Street Bridge

In November, construction work for the rehabilitation of the 320-foot Root Street Bridge was completed

after a year long process that involved several state and city agencies. The \$5.5 million project marks the first major reconstruction since the viaduct was built in 1961 and involved resurfacing, installation of storm sewers and drainage structures, and lighting replacement. Albin Carlson and Co. had neglected to implement a process in which local residents and minorities could be hired to do the work. Alderman Dowell organized a protest that took place on March 28th. About 20 residents joined her including students from Dawson Technical Institute's Dawson Skill Center and members of the United Services of Chicago. As a result, one person was hired on the spot and Albin Carlson worked with community stakeholders to develop a hiring policy that put 3rd Ward residents first.

Metropolis Shopping Center

On July 16th, the Chicago Plan Commission approved a zoning change that will allow for the development of the Metropolis Shopping Center at 39th and State. The anchor of this shopping center will be the 60,000 square foot Roundy's Supermarket which will provide needed fresh food options for people in the community. We are working to attract other future tenants including a bank, a performing arts center, and a drug store that will provide needed resources for the community. Alderman Dowell was also successful in her request to City Council and Mayor Daley to use \$28 million of Chicago's \$332 million in Recovery Zone bonds from the federal stimulus money to construct the major retail complex.

Landmark Designations

In recognition of the historical importance of the Calumet-Giles District, the Committee on Historical Landmark Preservation convened on July 27th where Alderman Dowell recommended and subsequently received the support of the committee for the designation of the following areas as a Chicago Landmark: 3112-3443 S. Giles Ave, 3735-3849 S. Giles (odds), 3800-3849 S. Calumet, and 300-319 E. 38th St.

The Margaret Burroughs Home at 3806 S. Michigan, Metropolitan Apostolic Church at 4100 S. King Dr., and the Chicago Baptist Institute at 5120 S. King Dr. were also land marked in 2009.

Other Infrastructure Related Actions

Alderman Dowell approved the sale of city-owned land to a dozen Third Ward residents through the Adjacent Neighbors Land Acquisition Program and supported the rehabilitation of Dearborn Homes. Additionally, 2009 saw the demolition of 6 of the 11 buildings at the Ickes Public Housing site, which will be replaced by mixed-income housing units.

Alderman Dowell worked with members of The Renaissance Collaborative, which hired Third Ward residents to do a corridor cleaning program which included: 35th, 39th, 43rd, 47th, 51st, and Halsted Streets. This work will continue in 2010 and is funded by 3rd Ward TIF money.

Legislative

January, 2009 - Alderman Dowell introduced an Ordinance to City Council that exempts some parking meters near helping institutions in the 3rd ward only from Sunday hours and will ensure that all new meters in the ward (placed in 2008 only) will be exempt from the new rates for at least two years.

February 2009 - Alderman Dowell along with Aldermen Flores and Waguespack co-sponsored an Ordinance that would require all information related to all of the 160 TIFs in Chicago including every specific agreement, amendment, attachment, order, audit, and record for every use of money to be published on a user-friendly website.

Alderman Dowell introduced a Resolution that would require Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Departments of Transportation and Streets and Sanitation, and other city departments that receive federal economic stimulus money to present the details of their proposed projects to the City Council and submit a process in which they will send and receive input from elected officials and community members. The Resolution was passed with the signatures of nearly every City Council member and a public hearing.

March, 2009- Alderman Dowell along with with Aldermen Preckwinkle, Cochran, Fioretti, and Hairston co-sponsored the Chicago 2016 Memorandum of Understanding which was largely shaped by the 3rd Ward 2016 Olympic Committee. The MOU was designed to ensure that the affected communities would have their interests and rights protected. The MOU included: opportunities for minority, veteran, disabled, and women owned businesses, protection of property rights, and requirements for construction, local

investment, and affordable housing. Additionally, the MOU called for a Resolution to be adopted by City Council to support the objectives outlined in the MOU.

April, 2009- Alderman Dowell made use of legislation that holds liquor dealers accountable to the communities where they operate. Pursuant to Chicago's Municipal Code 4-60-195, the Third Ward office has received numerous complaints regarding public nuisances caused by various liquor dealers in the 3rd Ward. Currently, Calumet Food and Liquors is in the last stage where all public hearings have convened. It is now up to the residents within 500 feet of the establishment to sign a petition that is being circulated by Third Ward Office volunteers. If a majority of residents within 500 feet do not sign the petition, Calumet Food and Liquors will continue doing business as usual.

May, 2009- Alderman Dowell introduced legislation that allow homeowners to access Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds through the Neighborhood Improvement Funds (NIFs). The NIF grants can be used for exterior improvements that restore the integrity of the property and safety and health upgrades such as heating, plumbing, and electrical work. In 2009, two areas were targeted: the Pershing/King TIF and the 47th/Halsted TIF. In 2010, two new areas will be identified.

June, 2009- Alderman Dowell, along with Aldermen Flores, Reilly, and Mell co-sponsored an ordinance that requires a report detailing the terms of any proposed city asset sale or lease agreements before the bidding process, a minimum 60-day review period to allow the City Council to properly assess and analyze the terms of the agreements and hold public hearings, and an independent auditor such as the Office of Inspector General to serve as an independent analyst.

July, 2009 - In light of the recent budget shortfalls, Alderman Dowell was the lead sponsor for an ordinance that would require the Mayor to provide City Council with a proposed budget for the next year at least one month prior to the first scheduled budget hearing. All documentation shall also be posted on the City's website within seven days of their release. The ordinance has yet to be passed as it is still in the Budget Committee.

Troubled Buildings

The Third Ward staff developed working and productive relationships with troubled building officers from our police districts and helped facilitate meetings between the Department of Buildings and the Chicago Police to develop more comprehensive strategies. To the extent possible, the Department of Buildings will be focusing on "hot spots" to secure or demolish several buildings within a troubled area. In 2009, 16 troubled buildings in the Third Ward were demolished. These include: three on the the 5500-5600 blocks of S. Perry and four on the 3900-5000 blocks of S. Wells. In addition to the 16 buildings that have already been razed, two properties on the 5500 block of S. Lafayette are being expedited for demolition.

Public Participation

In addition to attending CAPS meetings, Alderman Dowell has organized several events designed to garner community input on a variety of issues. In 2009, she held two Town Hall Meetings covering topics including development and weatherization. She also held a Safety and Security Seminar in which the Chicago Police and several organizations provided useful tips for residents to keep their homes and neighborhoods safe. Last July, about 100 area residents, business owners, and developers gathered to discuss the redevelopment of Garfield Boulevard. Alderman Dowell required the participation of the University of Chicago so they could explain how their development plans are synonymous with the goals of the community. Three community meetings regarding Garfield Boulevard development were held from July to December.

Additionally, Alderman Dowell conducted a property tax appeal seminar in which residents were able to receive assistance from the Chicago Tax Assistance Center in appealing their latest property tax assessments as well as workshops for home foreclosure prevention and condo ownership.

In an effort to maximize the level of community input and distribution of resources to neighborhoods, Alderman Dowell established a network of Community Block Club Captains. We were pleased to have over 30 community members volunteer for this position.



Current Third Ward Update

Education

School Safety Patrol Training

In December, 2009, Alderman Dowell hosted a training session for community members who want to become involved in school safety efforts. It was attended by representatives from multiple Third Ward schools and was very informative. If you are a parent whose school either already has a safety patrol or is interested in starting one, you can have a training session conducted at your school by contacting Jim Venckas, Chicago Police's Youth Service Coordinator at (312) 746-5820 or james.venckus@chicagopolice.org.

South Loop School Possibly Moving into The National Teacher's Academy

In an effort to address overcrowding issues at the South Loop Regional Gifted Center, CPS has crafted a proposal to move the 6-8 grades to the National Teacher's Academy building. Initially, the Local School Council for the South Loop School unanimously supported the move for the 2010-11 school year, but after hearing testimony from various members of the community, it became clear that there were a lot of unanswered questions regarding enrollment, resource allocation, and attendance boundaries. Additionally, many people were disturbed to learn that the principal and administrators from the National Teacher's Academy had not been included in the process. The latest vote from the South Loop's LSC did not support the current plan put forth by CPS. Alderman Dowell is demanding more time for community involvement and will continue to work with Alderman Fioretti, CPS, and NTA to ensure that there are not two unequal schools in the same building and that every child on that campus has the same access to a quality education, extra-curricular opportunities, and college resources. CPS will make its final decision in the coming weeks.

CPS' Magnet and Selective Enrollment Policies

Despite protests from minority groups and elected officials including Aldermen Pat Dowell (3rd Ward), Anthony Beale (9th Ward), Freddrenna Lyle (6th Ward), as well as State Representatives Will Burns (26th District), Barbara Lynn Currie (25th District), and State Senator Kwame Raoul (13th District), CPS and the Chicago Board of Education have made changes to their enrollment policies regarding Magnet and Selective Enrollment schools. The changes place no limit on sibling enrollment, will draw up to 50% from a proximity-based lottery and then split the remaining seats between four different socio-economic tracts from throughout the city. The decision came on the heel of a federal judge's lifting of a twenty-eight year old consent decree that forced CPS into making more efforts to desegregate their schools. The judge determined that race could still be used as an enrollment factor, but could not be the only factor. CPS and the Board of Education claim that using socio-economic status instead of race will increase diversity at magnet and selective enrollment schools. Alderman Dowell wrote a letter to the Chicago Board of Education, which was read at the last BOE meeting in December. In it, she pointed out how the new policy will create less diversity along both racial and socio-economic lines and cited a preliminary study that validated her concerns. The enrollment policies are to be tested this year and CPS has made a commitment to make adjustments based on efficacy and community input. As such, we will continue to work with CPS to ensure Third Ward children have equal access to magnet and selective enrollment schools.

Infrastructure

Chicago residents have until February 1st to get their infrastructure requests on the 2010 Aldermanic Menu. Please direct all of your requests to the attention of Audrey Wade by calling the Third Ward Office at 773-373-9273, faxing to 773-373-6852, or e-mailing to ward03@cityofchicago.org.

Schools

The Chicago Department of Transportation will be surveying the areas around several Third Ward schools

to determine if there are ways they could influence the flow of traffic to improve school safety for both children and parents.

37th and Michigan Sidewalk and Parkway Restoration

CDOT has completed the sidewalk and parkway restoration project at 37th and Michigan, which was funded by the Bronzeville [Tax Increment Financing](#) (TIF) District.

LED Traffic Signal Updates

With the use of stimulus money, the incandescent halogen light bulbs in many traffic signals are being replaced with light emitting diodes (LEDs) throughout the United States. LEDs are advantageous because they are brighter and use less energy. They also last a lot longer than halogen bulbs which means less time and money spent and less traffic blockage from the work crews who change the bulbs. In the Third Ward, 17 traffic signals will be updated in 2010. They are located at the intersections along Pershing Rd. at Indiana, LaSalle, State, Wabash, and Wentworth as well as the intersections along S. Michigan Ave. at 33rd, 35th, 37th, 41st, 43rd, 45th, 47th, 49th, 51st, 53rd, Garfield, and Pershing.

Post Office on South Bishop to Remain Open

In response to constituent concerns and a petition, Alderman Dowell wrote a letter to the District Manager from the United States Postal Service to request that the Post Office at 4642 S. Bishop remain open. As a result, this location will remain open and maintain all of its current services.

National Association of Letter Carriers Receives Architectural Award

The Association of Licensed Architects recently awarded the National Association of Letter Carriers an Award of Merit in recognition of superior achievement and professional design excellence for the NALC building located at 39th and Wabash. Congratulations NALC. We are glad to have you in the Third Ward.

Alley Construction and Closure on Cullerton

Due to sewer excavation, the alley from Cullerton St. north to the Sedgwick Properties construction trailer will be closed from Monday, January 4th, 2009 to Friday, January 15th, 2009. The closure will affect access to the alley at the following buildings: Second Presbyterian Church, the condo building at 1910 S. Michigan, the condo building at 1918 S. Michigan, The History Makers, Commercial Business Building, the condo building at 1844 S Wabash, the condo building at 1826 to 1830 S Wabash, the condo building at 1808 S Wabash, The Studios, National Exterminating Supply, Ada S McKinley Community Services Inc. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Tom Hosty at 312-656-6026

Affordable Housing

Legends South Phase A2

Legends South Phase A2 is part of the CHA Plan for Transformation. The 138 unit, \$45 million mixed-income project will be built on land formerly occupied by the Robert Taylor Homes along the 4300-4500 blocks of South State and South Federal. The project will provide 60 units of CHA replacement housing, 50 affordable rate units for renters not exceeding 60% of the [area median income](#), and 28 market-rate units. This development will incorporate green design elements including Energy Star insulation, energy efficient windows and appliances, sustainable landscaping, and bio-swales to collect drainage water from the roof and disconnected downspouts.

The Renaissance Collaborative's Senior Village

This 71 unit, \$5 million affordable senior housing project will provide housing for seniors who are at or under 60% of the area median income. \$2,382,000 came from [Low Income Housing Tax Credits](#), \$1.9 million came from the Department of Community Development's [Multi-Family Loans](#), and \$725,000 was financed through the Washington Park [Tax Increment Finance](#) (TIF) District.

Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund

Nineteen rental properties managed by thirteen different companies in the Third Ward received a total of

\$595,314 in annual subsidies to help renters meet their housing needs. To learn more about the Chicago Low-Income Trust Fund, click [here](#).

Neighborhood Lending Program

In the Third Ward, four properties received grants for rehabilitation that ranged from \$5,400 to \$176,000. To learn more about the NLP and download an application, click [here](#).

Third Ward CAPS Schedule



Chicago's Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) is the community policing program of the Chicago Police Department and is very successful. At monthly CAPS meetings, residents work together with police to take measures to prevent and deter crime. Visit www.chicagopolice.org to learn more about CAPS and click on each District number to learn more about that particular police district. Click [here](#) to find your district.

[1st District](#) (1718 S. State St.)

Beat 132 CAPS
January 19th @ 6:30pm
1st District Police Station
(1718 S. State)

Beat 134 CAPS
January 20th @ 6:30pm
1st District Police Station
(1718 S. State)

[2nd District](#)

Beat 211 CAPS
January 12th @ 6:30pm
Bee Library
(3647 S. State)

Beat 214/221 CAPS
January 13th @ 6:30pm
St. Elizabeth Church
(4058 S. Michigan)

Beat 232/233 CAPS
January 14th @ 6:30pm
Coppin Church
(5627 S. Michigan)

Beat 223 CAPS
January 18th @ 6:30pm
Hales Franciscan High School
(4930 S. Cottage Grove)

Beat 222 CAPS
January 19th @ 6:30pm
King Center
(4312 S. Cottage Grove)

Beat 213 CAPS
January 26th @ 6:30pm
Monumental Baptist
(729 E. Oakwood)

Beat 224/231 CAPS
January 28th @ 6:30pm
Hall Branch Library
(4801 S. Michigan)

[7th District](#)
Beat 711 CAPS
January 20th @ 6:30pm
Sherwood Park
(5705 S. Shields)

[9th District](#)
[District](#)

for Beat 2112 CAPS
Beat 935 East CAPS Beat 934 CAPS are presently
unavailable. Please call (312) 747-8227 to find out
when and where 9th District CAPS meetings will be.

[21st](#)

Dates and locations for the January meetings

January 11th @ 6:30pm
College of Optometry
(3240 S. Indiana)

Events and Services In And Around the Third Ward

Community Arts Assistance Program Application Assistance Workshop



The Community Arts Assistance Program (CAAP) was created in 1987 through funding provided by the Illinois Arts Council Access Program. The goals of CAAP are to discover, nurture and expand Chicago's multi-ethnic artists and nonprofit arts organizations; and to foster new and emerging individual artists and arts groups by providing grants for professional, artistic, and organizational development to those who have had limited access to funding in both public and private grants programs. CAAP grants provide financial assistance to individual artists, and to nonprofit arts organizations with incomes under \$150,000. The maximum grant request is \$1,000. Funding priority is intended for applicants who have not been previously funded through the CAAP Program, or have not had access to traditional funding programs such as grants, fellowships and art commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts, Illinois Arts Council, corporations, or foundations. It is strongly recommended that first time applicants attend an application workshop. The workshop closest to the Third Ward is listed below. For more information or to download an application, visit www.cityofchicago.org or click [here](#). *Application deadline is January 25, 2010.*



**Chicago
Urban League**

nextSTEP Business Bootcamp

The Entrepreneurship Center at the Chicago Urban League presents a 16 week nextSTEP series of classes titled Business Bootcamp. This is a hands-on learning experience that assists entrepreneurs in learning how to conduct market research, forecast financial potential, write business plans, and take the right steps to launch a new venture. The event will feature business support clinics and opportunities for networking. Space is limited and online registration is required by going to www.thechicagourbanleague.org. The cost is \$20 per class (\$25 at the door) or \$200 for the full semester.

Where: The Chicago Urban League (4510 S. Michigan)

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8pm **-first class is Tuesday, January 12th**



City of Chicago Property Tax Relief Program

This program is meant to provide relief between \$25 and \$200 to City homeowners hit hardest by increases to their 2008 property tax bill for their primary residence. This program is needed largely because of the phase-out of the state law that put a 7 percent cap on the annual increase in the taxable value of home property, and because the drop of this year's exemption under that law went to \$20,000 from \$26,000. The amount of tax relief you might receive is based on a combination of income level and the amount of your property tax increase. To learn more and download an application, visit <http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/PropertyTaxReliefWeb/>. Please note that any applicant with debts owed to the City of Chicago are not eligible. Representatives from the Chicago Tax Assistance Center will be in the Third Ward assisting residents with their applications.

Where: The Chicago Bee Library (3647 S. State St.)

When: Thursday, January 14th at 6pm

47th/Halsted Tax Increment Financing Neighborhood Improvement Funds (TIF/NIP) Are Now Available

Last May, Alderman Dowell introduced legislation that allows homeowners to access TIF funds for exterior improvements like roof repair, gutters, down spouts, siding, masonry work, tuck pointing, new windows, doors, and porches, painting, concrete work, exterior lighting, and wrought iron fencing. Up to 30% of the funds may also be used for safety and health upgrades such as heating, plumbing, and electrical work. The TIF/NIP Program provides grants for single-family residential properties and is open to eligible owner-occupants of a one-to-four unit residential properties within the 47th/Halsted TIF District. To learn more

about the 47th/Halsted TIF area and view a map of its boundaries, click [here](#).

The City of Chicago's Department of Community Development, Aldermen Dowell (3rd), Balcer (11th), Thompson (16th), and Cochran (20th) are hosting a 47th/Halsted TIF/NIP informational seminar where you can ask questions about grant amounts, program eligibility requirements, eligible home repairs, and program administration. Applicants must not have any outstanding water bills or parking tickets with the city. For more information, call Dionne Baux from the Department of Community Development at (312) 744-0678 or Alderman Dowell's office at (773) 373-9273.

Where: Parkman Science and Technology Academy (245 W. 51st St.)

When: Wednesday, January 20 from 6-8pm.

Chicago Public Schools 3rd Annual New Schools Expo

More than 85 campuses will be represented at this free event that is sponsored by CPS and the Renaissance School Fund. Free parking will be available. If you plan to take CTA to the EXPO, there will be a free trolley running between the Roosevelt Red Line stop and the EXPO.

Where: Soldier Field (1410 S. Museum Campus Drive)

When: Saturday, January 30 from 9:30am to 2pm.

Other Important Announcements

Census Jobs Available Now

Conducting the census is a huge undertaking. Hundreds of thousands of census takers are needed nationwide to help locate households and conduct brief personal interviews with residents. Most positions require a valid driver's license and use of a vehicle. However, use of public transportation may be authorized in certain areas. Every 10 years, the Census Bureau takes a snapshot of our population, determining how many people reside within the nation's borders, who they are, and where they live. The results help determine your representation in government, as well as how federal funds are spent in your community on things like roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety. As a census taker, you'll play a vital role in making sure that everyone is counted. To learn more and download an application visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>, call 866-861-2010, or contact the Chicago Near South Census Bureau at 312-265-8680. These are temporary, part-time jobs that offer good pay, flexible hours, and are close to home.

Tree Recycling Program

How do you stuff a tree into a garbage can? You don't! Chicago residents will have the opportunity to recycle their holiday trees at Chicago Park District locations throughout the city. The location closest to the Third Ward is at Lake Meadows Park at 3117 S. Rhodes (next to Pershing School). The trees will be truned into mulch, which can then be available to residents after January 17th. For a complete listing of drop-off sites, call 311 or visit <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/>.

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program offers sidewalk repairs for a cost significantly below what a private contractor would charge. Thousands of Chicagoans have been a part of this popular program, taking advantage of the low cost, exceptional value, and ease of participation. Senior citizens pay a discounted rate.

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program will re-open to participants on **January 1, 2010**. Starting Jan. 1, property owners can call 311 to apply for the program. CDOT recently mailed postcards to thousands of citizens who contacted 311 about a sidewalk issue. They also have posted updated information on the CDOT web site at www.cityofchicago.org/transportation.

Run for Your Local School Council

Local School Councils (LSCs) approve how school resources are allocated, develop and monitor the annual School Improvement Plan, and evaluate and select the school's principal. LSCs are made up of 6 parents, 2 community members, 2 teachers,, the school's principal, and a student representative. No

experience or formal education is required, but candidates must be at least 18 years old and live within the school's attendance boundary. Applications are available at all CPS schools, Chicago Public Libraries, the Office of Local School Council Relations (125 S. Clark, 5th Floor), Alderman Dowell's Office (5046 S. State), and online at www.cps.edu. For more information on how to run for an LSC or how to start one, contact the Office of Local School Council Relations at 773-553-1400. The application deadline is March 4, 2010 and completed applications can be dropped off at the school where you intend to run or at the Office of Local School Council Relations.

State Senator Mattie Hunter Appointed to 21st Century Workforce Advisory Committee

This committee oversees the Development Fund and aims to promote the state's interest in creating and maintaining a skilled and diverse workforce. One of the major concerns of this 21 member committee is the development of energy efficient and renewable energy industries and other occupations that reduce greenhouse gasses and pollution.

Two Area Residents Awarded Governor Quinn's 2009 Environmental Hero Award

Walter Bush IV is the Education and Employment Manager for the Bronzeville Green Project, which employs formerly homeless adults in community gardens and environmentally friendly landscaping projects. Mr. Bush works tirelessly to help these individuals build green job skills to achieve self-sufficiency.

Michael Howard, founder and Executive Director of Eden's Place Nature Center, which offers youth on Chicago's south side a place to learn about native gardening and local farming is one of Governor Quinn's 2009 Environmental Heroes Award recipients. Classes at Eden's Place teach students about conservation while incorporating science, writing, and art.

Thank you Mr. Bush and Mr. Howard for your years of service and congratulations on these well-deserved awards!

Parking Meter Rates

Although parking meter rates will be increasing significantly throughout the city, the parking meters in the parts of the Third Ward will be adjusted according to the ordinances introduced by Alderman Dowell and passed through the City Council. These ordinances mean rates for existing meters that are in close proximity to churches and new meters installed on commercial corridors like 35th, 47th, and Ashland will remain significantly less than the Citywide rate, even after the latest rate increase.

Meet With a Chicago Grant Maker

The [Monroe Foundation](http://www.monroefoundation.org) provides technical assistance, training and grant writing consulting and program development in all aspects of not-for-profit start-up, applying for grants and linkages to Chicagorea grant-makers who participate in our "Meeting With A Chicago Grant Maker" program. The "Meeting With A Chicago Grant Maker" program places our members "face to face" with potential funders, allowing them an opportunity to "pitch" project's to in advance of grant deadlines.

The first workshop of 2010 will be **January 15, 2010** at The Woods Fund of Chicago for funding areas of Community Organizing, Community Advocacy, Arts & Culture, Leadership Development. Visit www.woodsfund.org or call 312-782-2698 for more specific information.

Free Foreclosure Prevention Services

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Help For Homeowners is offering free foreclosure prevention services and referrals. Call their homeowner help hotline at 866-544-7151 or visit them at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Youth Scholar Academy Summer Internships

The Institute for Responsible Citizenship is thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for African American male college students interested in education. They are currently accepting applications to participate in leading the Youth Scholar Academy (YSA), a new initiative for high school students. College students will participate in the Institute's core program in Washington, DC and intern at youth serving organizations. The program runs from June 5 to July 31, 2010, students must commit to two summers. Housing is provided by the Institute and students work at youth-serving organizations during first summer and manage YSA second summer. You should be a college sophomore to apply. The Institute does not

have a GPA requirement. However, the median GPA for recent classes is 3.65. GPA is not the only criterion that is evaluated during the admissions process. Campus involvement, awards earned, athletics, and volunteer work are also important factors. The application can be found on the web at www.i4rc.org/application.htm. Applications must be received, not postmarked, by the deadline. Inquiries should be directed to eheyward@i4rc.org or (202) 659-2832. The deadline is January 29, 2010. Visit www.i4rc.org for more information and an application.

Start a Community or School Garden



Greencorps Chicago provides horticultural guidance and landscape materials free of charge to groups planting gardens in public spaces. Groups eligible to receive our services include schools, block clubs, community centers, CHA facilities and houses of worship. The community garden must be on grounds freely accessible to the public. It is your responsibility to determine ownership of vacant lots. Property ownership can be determined by (1) visiting the web site of the Cook County Assessor at www.cookcountyassessor.com, or (2) appearing at 118 N. Clark, Recorder of Deeds, Room 120 with the exact property address and Property Identification Number (PIN).

PINs can be obtained at the Cook Co. Treasurer's Office (118 N. Clark, Room 112 with the exact property address and a \$2 fee. All applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. Due to the required workshops for new gardens, please consider the following schedule when applying:

Spring Installation Workshop Series

Spring Installations are April - July 2010

Applications due by February 1 for Spring Installation

Workshop 1: February 21 (8:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Workshop 2: March 7 (8:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Workshop 3: March 21 (8:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Workshop 4: March 28 (8:30 - 12:00 pm)

All of the workshops will be held at our headquarters located at the Chicago Center for Green Technology (445 North Sacramento).

Visit www.cityofchicago.org/environment or click [here](#) for more information and to download an application.

Third Ward Aldermanic Office

5046 S. State St.
Chicago, IL. 60609
p. (773) 373-9273
f. (773) 373-6852

Office Hours

Mon.-Wed. 9am to 5pm
Thurs. Noon to 8pm
Fri. 9am to 1pm
Every Third Saturday from 10am to 2pm

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