

# Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

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On the Web : [www.gagdc.org](http://www.gagdc.org)

## 3rd Quarter

# The VISION

## 2007

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**The mission of the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) is to foster and promote revitalization of the greater Auburn-Gresham community, which includes Auburn-Gresham, Englewood, and West Chatham.**



Tommy, the IDOT Turtle, gives a shout out at the 79th St. Fest.



The ladies of the South Shore Drill Team perform to the sounds of Motown classics for hundreds of 79th Street Renaissance Festival goers. Photo: Aum Mu Ra-EI

## 79th St. Renaissance Festival: An Elegant Affair for Auburn Gresham

You could not have asked for a more perfect day for Auburn Gresham's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 79<sup>th</sup> Street Renaissance Festival. The sky was a *picture blue* with the most spectacular clouds—the perfect back drop for this phenomenal day.

Approximately 4,000 festival goers attended this event, as they received words of inspiration from Father Michael Pflieger of St. Sabina Church. The day was filled with the smiling, hand-painted faces of children; toe tapping, head

bobbing seniors (treated to a free lunch) fun activities and live entertainment.

Many entertainers, local agencies, restaurants, retail establishments, education and financial institutions, and government and health service agencies were among more than 100 vendors, selling their wares and sharing their information.

This breath-taking event was not only a success because of the thousands of people who attended, but also because of the much-appreciated sponsorship from the following sponsors: 17<sup>th</sup> Ward, 21<sup>st</sup> Ward, Citi-

bank, Fifth Third Bank, LISC/Chicago, Marquette Bank, Northern Trust Bank, Quest Development, Shore Bank, Special Service Area (SSA) #32, and UJAMAA Construction.

Hosted by the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 79<sup>th</sup> Street Renaissance Festival proved to be a huge a success.

From all of us here at GADC, we wish to extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to this Festival. We look forward to your support and participation next year, **September 6, 2008.**

# SOS Children's Village Community Center



(Left to right) Tim McCormick, Kimberly Duchossois, Dayle Duchossois Fortino, Ald. Sharon Denise Dixon, Senator Jacqueline Collins, Ald. Latasha Thomas, Lynn Kiley, Mayor Richard Daley, and Ted Weldon. Photo: SOS Children's Village

**M**ayor Richard M. Daley along with Alderman Latasha Thomas (17th Ward), Senator Jacqueline Collins (16th Legislative

District), Ted Weldon (Board President, SOS Children's Villages Illinois), Lynn Kiley (Board Vice President, SOS Children's Villages Illinois), Tim McCormick (CEO, SOS Children's Villages

Illinois), and other key stakeholders celebrated the grand opening of SOS Children's Village Community Center.

Located at 7600 South Parnell, in the Auburn Gresham community, this Center will also house the Jeanne Kenney Day Care Center.

The Center will offer an array of services and programs to support Auburn Gresham and Englewood youth and adults, especially foster families living onsite at the Village.

Mayor Daley was elated about this Center and said, "We know that children who have access to these types of programs are more engaged in school and have a better chance of success later in life."

Alderman Thomas said,

"This Center is great! It is the first City Village in the world and we are glad to have it be home to the *Mighty 17th Ward*,"

Senator Collins expressed similar sentiments and paid special tribute to Mayor Daley and Father Michael Pfleger of St. Sabina Church for their leadership to eliminate gun violence and provide safe neighborhoods in Auburn Gresham and the City of Chicago.

Collins was also instrumental in securing a \$1 million grant from the State of Illinois, while additional funding was raised through private contributions. The City of Chicago donated the land where this Village now sits.

**Welcome SOS Village!**

## GADC & LISC Participate in the Metro Chicago Information Center's (MCIC) Income Diversity Forum

**T**hrough an exhaustive research process, Metro Chicago Information Center (MCIC) has developed measures of high-, moderate- and low-income that remain consistent over time and has used them to create an Income Diversity Index.

This innovative research tool allows community stakeholders to study income change in Chicago's 77 neighborhoods over the 30-year span, 1970 to 2000. The Income Diversity Index identifies four types of neighborhood changes in the City of Chicago: Emerging High Income, Emerging Low Income, Emerging Bipolarity, and Stable.

Asked to participate as panel-

ists for MCIC's forum, GADC's Executive Director, Carlos Nelson and Local Initiatives Support Corporation's (LISC) Program Director, Joel Bookman shared their

Co-sponsored by Harris Bank, MCIC President and author of the Income Diversity study, D. Garth Taylor, Ph.D. Garth presented the research findings.



(Left to right) MCIC Moderator, Andrew Williams-Clark; Panelists: Maria Hibbs (The Partnerships for New Communities), Steve Quasny (Harris Bank), Joel Bookman (LISC), Carlos Nelson (GADC), and Diane Yost (Albany Park Community Center). Photo: Ernest Sanders

insights about this groundbreaking research and how it applies to their organization's community development vision and mission.

MCIC's work extends across a broad range of issues, including social capital development, neighborhood investment, health, human services, arts and culture, and education.

For more information about MCIC and to view the interactive

Income Diversity Index map, please visit their website at [www.mcic.org](http://www.mcic.org).

### Coming to the Hood



Tony Tolbert (Lowe's District Manager) speaks with a potential Lowe's employee.



**Lowe's Job Opportunities**  
1550 West 88th Street  
**Each new store brings:**

- An average investment of \$18.5 million
- Up to 175 jobs with competitive wages and benefits
- Community benefits including significant property and tax revenues

[http://www.lowes.com/lowes2/AboutLowes/careers/careers\\_opp\\_store.html](http://www.lowes.com/lowes2/AboutLowes/careers/careers_opp_store.html)





Jonathan Swain

## TBC's Swain Helps to Promote Growth in Auburn Gresham

graduated from University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business program with a Master's of Business Administration. Swain also holds a certificate in Faith Based Community and Economic Development from Harvard University.

Jonathan's engagement with the Auburn-Gresham community began in 1999 when he was appointed as Chief of Staff to then 17th Ward Alderman Terry Peterson, serving both he and his successor Latasha R. Thomas.

Jonathan has also worked as an assistant to Mayor Richard M. Daley and most recently in the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development as Deputy Commissioner for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

As an active parishioner of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina since 1997, Jonathan has shown a penchant for com-

munity activity having led Operation Empowerment (Saint Sabina's consumer advocacy program), and the Vote Dry Campaign (Saint Sabina's effort to close problem liquor establishments). Jonathan currently resides in Auburn-Gresham with his wife and two children, in a rehabilitated former drug house. He is deeply committed to the concept of proactive, strategic community and economic development and reflects Saint Sabina's philosophy of living one's faith in a spirit of ministry and service.

For more information about the Beloved Community, please visit their website:

[www.belovedcommunitychicago.org](http://www.belovedcommunitychicago.org)

or

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Serving as the Executive Director for the Beloved Community (TBC) in Chicago (a partner of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina), Jonathan Swain was raised in Chicago's Hyde Park community as the son of African-American entrepreneurs. Jonathan attended St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University, with a double major in Economics and African American Studies. He also holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Northwestern University School of Law and recently

## Foreclosure Prevention Counselor for Auburn Gresham, Englewood and West Englewood

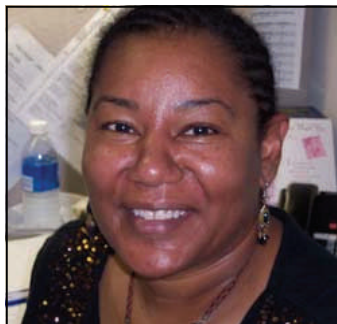
Sandra Wells joined Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, (the Auburn Gresham/Englewood office) in February of 2007 as a Customer Service Specialist. She has 15 years experience in the customer care field and has worked with REMAX Realty, Bank One (Chase), and Citibank.

At NHS, Sandra counsels homeowners to help them solve their mortgage default and prevent foreclosure. This includes finding viable options for homeowners with their lenders including forbearance agreements, repayment plans and sometimes refinancing to

a lower fixed rate mortgage.

While not all homeowners can be **saved** from foreclosure, Sandra has assisted many in preventing foreclosure and getting them back on track with their lender.

NHS also offers a variety of free homeownership education



Sandra Wells

classes, post purchase workshops and mortgage reviews (all free) for homeowners with existing loans to help them understand their financial options.

NHS' next workshop will be:

### Protecting Your Housing Investment

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

5:30 p.m.

449 W. 79<sup>th</sup> Street.

RSVP required



Topics will include forgotten refunds, property taxes, foreclosure prevent, and more. Also, Sharon Stokes, Center for Working Families will conduct a special session on credit.

For more information, contact Deborah Moore or Sandra Wells at (773) 488-2004.



*Auburn Gresham: Chicago's Best Kept Secret! We Dare You to Tell Someone.*

Greater Auburn-Gresham  
Development Corporation  
1159 W. 79th Street  
Chicago, IL 60620

*Deliver To:*



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GADC  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## GADC Supports Senator Collins and IDOT to Stop Impaired Driving



**Illinois Department  
of Transportation**  
Division of Traffic Safety



Over 40 religious organizations, joined Senator Jacqueline Collins' office and Ernest Sanders from GADC to partner with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) by taking an active role in this year's **Labor Day You Drink & Drive You Lose** campaign to help increase traffic safety awareness in the African American community.

Recent statistics show that 30 percent of the traffic crashes in Cook County involving African Americans were alcohol related.

"Safety belt use is up across the state, which is great news," said

Michael Stout, Director of IDOT's Division of Traffic Safety. "However, each year, far too many people die on Illinois roads, and, all too often, they die at the hands of an impaired driver. We need to make sure everyone gets the message and we appreciate the support of key leaders in getting this life saving message to their community."

"IDOT realizes faith-based and community organizations play an integral role in African American communities; that is why we are reaching out to leaders to help spread the message about the severe impact of impaired driving and other dangerous

driving behavior," said Stout.

As part of the **You Drink & Drive You Lose** impaired driving crackdown, IDOT, with the assistance of faith-based and community organizations throughout Chicago, distributed impaired driving and other traffic safety educational materials.

**For more information about upcoming campaigns and educational materials, please call Julie Mestling at (312) 673-1301.**

**Please drink responsibly and drive safely these coming holidays!!!**

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