

Fall

The VISION

2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Litter Free Zone Highlighted 2

Morganway Community Garden and Park 2

New energy Savers Blocks Program 2

SIU Graduate Returns to Auburn Gresham 3

Local Charm Helps to Improve Community 3

Auburn Gresham's Latest Addition to LISC 3

GRAND Families Presents LISC Award 4



Auburn Gresham Hosts a THRILLER of a Street Festival

South Shore Drill Team performs to the sounds of Michael Jackson's Thriller. Photo: Aum Mu-Ra



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.

Shear charisma and excitement adamantly describes an estimated 7,000 festival-goers reaction to the live entertainment, food, retail businesses, and service agencies that came out and celebrated at the 3rd Annual Auburn Gresham 79th Street Renaissance Festival.

Hosted by the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), this festival brought on a perfectly picturesque sunny day and attracted many new and

old faces at one of Chicago's largest neighborhood celebration.

The festival occupied a portion of 79th Street's main business corridor (Special Service Area #32) between Racine Avenue and Loomis Street and invited several thousand individuals to sample local eateries, learn about pertinent services, and purchase merchandise and other related accessories.

There were so many noteworthy stories to tell about the 3rd Annual 79th Street Festival. Stories like

Illinois Secretary of State, Jesse White's incredible ability to stand on his head as his tumbling team made leap defying stunts over him, to a special guest appearance by Auburn Gresham native and one of the creators of House Music and original member of the Hot Mix 5 - internationally known, Farley Jackmaster Funk.

Mark your calendars. The planning has already begun for next year's festival on **Saturday, September 12, 2009**. Don't miss out on the fun. See you there!

Mayor Daley Highlights Litter Free Zone

There is No Unity Without Community



GADC's Executive Director, Carlos Nelson offers remarks about the Litter Free Zone at Mayor Daley's Climate Control Action Press Conference. Photo: Lee Bey

The Litter Free Zone Initiative (LFZI) was highlighted during Mayor Daley's Chicago Climate Action press conference as a shining example of what organized and empowered communities can accomplish.

Climate change affects everyone, but low and moderate-income neighborhoods are often disproportionately affected by these issues.

The LFZI was designed to empower the community to fight climate change by teaching everyone, especially youth, about environmental responsibility.

For more information about the LFZI, contact the GADC offices at (773) 483-3696.



Community residents pose for a photo in front of a mural at the Morganway Community Garden and Park. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Residents from 7600-7900 Morgan Street Block Clubs participated in cleaning and planting of flowers provided by Greencorps Chicago's Great Perennial Divide. The mural was created with GADC partners LISC/Chicago, Urban Gateways and Perspectives Charter Schools. The park is located at 7844 S. Morgan.

Community Takes Control of Energy Costs with New energySavers Blocks Program

Homeowners across the country are experiencing record breaking heating and cooling costs, but one group of motivated Chicago residents are taking matters into their own hands and creating a stronger neighborhood.

The Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA) and the Lowe's Home Improvement "Heroes" program joined residents from the West Chatham neighborhood to kick-off the HCBA's new energySavers Blocks program, a program targeting energy-efficiency and housing preservation.

Using the HCBA's Green Bungalow Blocks as a model, the new energySavers Blocks program will work with dedicated residents, community organizations and block clubs to bring the financial incentives of the energySavers program, to more owners of Historic

Chicago Bungalows. Organized by the 79th and LaSalle Block Club and dedicated residents, the first energySavers Block features eight participating bungalows to date, with more expected to sign on in West Chatham – and other neighborhoods along the Bungalow Belt – shortly.

"The inclusion of new insulation and an energy-efficient heating unit in these homes can bring an average savings of between \$1,000 and

\$2,000 off of utility bills each year," said Annette Conti, Executive Director of the HCBA.

Under the expanded Bungalow energySavers Blocks program, a group of homeowners can apply for grants to cover most of their energy-efficiency needs including insulation, new heating systems, as well as hot water heaters, the replacement

and shower heads, and dual flush toilets.

To be eligible for the grant, the homes must be certified as a Historic Chicago Bungalow with the HCBA. Certification is free and simple – only a picture of the front and back of the home and proof of ownership is required. There are no income restrictions on the grant; rather there is a sliding scale for the match. Those at or above 80% of median income will receive a 75% reimbursement up to \$6,000 while those below 50% of median income will receive a 100% reimbursement up to \$6,000.

Grant applications for the energySavers program are available by contacting the HCBA at (312) 642-9900 or bungalow@chicagobungalow.org. If you have any further questions or would like more information, please call the phone number above or visit www.chicagobungalow.org.



A Lowe's associate works with a resident of the 7900 Block Club of LaSalle Street in West Chatham to preserve nearby homes and landscapes. Photo: HCBA

of doors and windows, and installation of water-saving devices such as low flow faucets

SIU Graduate Returns to Auburn Gresham



Tiffany Horton

With a Bachelors degree in psychology from

Southern Illinois University of Carbondale and a primary interest in adolescent psychology, Tiffany Horton, joined GADC as an Americorps Youth Coordinator.

Tiffany's specific duties involved working with the Elev8 Program (formerly known as Integrated Services in Schools-ISS) in which GADC partnered with Perspectives Charter Schools-Calumet Campus, ACCESS Community Health Network, St. Sabina's Center for Work-

ing Families, and many others. Elev8's goal is to better integrate social services and family income support, healthcare, and academics within the Auburn Gresham Community.

Tiffany also has responsibility for GADC's coalition participation in an initiative sponsored by Governor Rod Blagojevich—The Safety Net Works. This program is designed to stop the tragic and unacceptable loss of life of youth and instead, instills

hope for the future. The state's resounding theme of the safety is a continuous focal point in Auburn Gresham's Quality of Life plan, which speaks of the need for improved supportive services and safety for youth and their families.

Tiffany's educational endeavors and stake in Auburn Gresham certainly helps GADC to achieve this goal.

Tiffany has been an Auburn Gresham resident for over 20 years and has volunteered for 17th Ward Office.

Local Charm Helps to Improve Community

Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, Jamiyla Boone has lived in the Englewood community for more than 20 years. Jamiyla joined GADC exactly one year ago November 2007.

Her primary responsibilities are to multi-task; meet and greet, answer phones, and assist co-workers with tasks that need special attention. Specifically, Jamiyla has helped to coordinate GADC's Litter Free Zone Initiative

(LFZI) and the 3rd Annual 79th Street Renaissance Festival. Soon she will assist in GADC's partnership with Perspectives Charter Schools (PCS)-Calumet Campus.

She is extremely goal oriented and focuses her leadership qualities and vibrant personality in many other areas both personally and professionally.

A graduate of Dunbar Vocational Career Academy and current student at Ken-



Jamiyla Boone

neddy King City College, Jamiyla is broadening her skill set in Computer Programming and also Business Entrepreneurship. Her career aspirations are to graduate from

college with a honors and become the CEO of her very own business establishment.

Jamiyla's story does not end here. She has been a community volunteer for more than 8 years now! She has volunteered at multiple organizations always working with children and making people smile. When asked about time for herself, Jamiyla said, "I enjoyed reading, writing, photography, drawing and designing. The thing that ultimately makes me happy is making others' dreams come true! I desire being a positive role model for young children and setting great examples for young adults like myself."

Auburn Gresham's Latest Addition to LISC

Danielle Gillum is more than a valuable associate at Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC/Chicago), she is a long time Auburn Gresham resident.

With the care of her loving family, Danielle has lived in the Auburn Gresham community for more than 20 years. She is also a Simeon Career Academy High School graduate.

Danielle has a loving grandmother, and sister whom live in the community as well.

While Danielle's tenure as an Auburn Gresham resident is really exciting, there is another story to tell about this remarkable woman.

Danielle was laid off from 3 previous employers since 2000 because of harsh economic times and began to actively search for a career at the St. Sabina Employment Resource Center. Her search be-

gan in February 2007 and ended July 2008, when she started her employment at LISC/Chicago.

Danielle enjoys reading fictional stories and being the best mom she can be to her 3 sons, Anthony (14), Breard (11), and Elijah (1).

When asked how she survived such a long period without employment, Danielle said she puts her faith in God and practices the gift of patience. "I love my job and

the people here at LISC. Everyone is so nice. I am really impressed by the professionalism and patience here."



Danielle Gillum

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



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**Greater Auburn-Gresham
Development Corporation**
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Deliver To:

GRANDFamilies

generations creating a legacySM

Honors LISC/Chicago at 1st Annual Legacy Dinner



GRANDFamilies' Linette Kinchen [L] partnered with Ernest Sanders of GADC [R] to present Sandra Womack of LISC/Chicago a Friends of GrandFamilies Service Award. Photo: Ron Lewis

(HRAIL) program to addressing the affordable housing crisis in Chicago, none of these initiatives would not have been possible without the support of Local Initiatives Support Corporation/Chicago (LISC/Chicago).

Recently, GADC worked with LISC/Chicago to provide GRANDFamilies a grant to assist in the expansion of the GRANDFamilies Housing and Outreach Initiative (GHOI). This is a pilot program that provides subsidized housing to grandparents raising grandchildren.

"Housing is the largest and most immediate need of these families," said Linette Kinchen, Executive Director of GRANDFamilies. "We currently have a waiting list of over 60 families in need of affordable housing. We get calls every week, including emergency cases where the families risk becoming homeless. When these families have safe and decent housing, they can focus on raising their grandchildren instead of worrying if they'll even have a place to live." To reach GRANDFamilies, please call 773.651.8800.

While GADC has partnered with the GRANDFamilies organization from City of Chicago Department of Housing's *Home Repairs for Accessible and Independent Living*

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