



Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

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Spring

The VISION

2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday: FREE Foreclosure Prevention Workshops at Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) : 449 W. 79th Street 6pm-8pm

6/6/09: NeighborWorks FREE Workshops & Resource Fair at Faith United Methodist Church: 335 W. 75th Street 10am-11pm

6/11/09: Perspectives Charter Schools-Calumet Campus: Middle School Arts Gallery Walk 8131 S. May Street 10am-4pm

6/12/09: Fitness Jam Session at St. Sabina Church: 1210 W. 78th Place Advanced Admission \$12.00 or \$15.00 at the Door 6pm-11pm

7/16/09: FREE Health Fair on the Block: The intersection of 79th & Racine 11am-2pm

9/12/09: 4th Annual 79th Street Renaissance Festival: 79th Racine-Loomis St. 10:am -6pm



Seniors' Blues and Breakfast Jam Fest: A Huge Success

Several GADC team members and volunteers helped to feed over 100 seniors a hot breakfast as they listened to the soulful sounds of Johnny Drummers and the Starliters. Photos: Linda Johnson

Hungry appetites, a hot, hearty breakfast and live, toe-tapping blues was the order of the day at the Senior Winter Blues Festival at Auburn Gresham's Thurgood Marshall Library. The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) organized another well-attended event to honor seniors who came as far as Markham, IL—a Chicago suburb.

Seniors arrived shortly after 9 a.m., to ensure they

reserved front and center seats to hear the melodious, sweet sounds of Johnny Drummer and the Starliters.

From the very first strum of Johnny Drummer's guitar, seniors rocked in their seats, nodded heads, clapped hands, and snapped fingers to familiar songs like, "Don't You Make Your Move Too Soon."

As the temperatures fell outdoors, the room heated up with live blues and the aroma of a full hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, hash brown potatoes, buttery grits and biscuits, bacon and turkey

sausage, fresh fruit, pastries, coffee and juice, lovingly prepared by Romelle West of Ah La Romelle Catering.

Seniors received a free portrait sketching and the Citibank Auburn Gresham Branch offered banking products and services benefiting seniors. GADC also partnered with a local service provider to provide free health screening.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to serve. We could not have done it without your support.

Governor Quinn Signs Landmark Foreclosure Moratorium into Law



Pictured in front row [L-R] James Capraro of GSDC, Ald. Toni Foulkes (15th Ward), Gov. Pat Quinn, State Sen Jacqueline Collins (D-16), and State Rep Flowers (D-31). Back row [L-R] Michael McRaith and Brent Adams of IL Dept of Financial and Professional Regulations, Jeff Bartow of SWOP, State Rep. Andre Thapedi (D-32), House Speaker Michael Madigan, State Sen Terry Link, and Deborah Moore of NHS. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Senate Bill 2513 reached an unprecedented milestone when Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed it into law. This bill (which took affect immediately) provides up to a 90-day grace period for homeowners in the foreclosure process who agree to seek housing counseling. In the first 30 days a homeowner is in delinquency, lenders are prohibited from initiating foreclosure pro-

ceedings. After this period, the lender is required to notify the homeowner that they have 30 days to seek approved credit counseling before legal action may begin. Homeowners who enter into counseling will have an additional 30 days to develop a loan workout plan with their lenders.

The chief sponsors of this bill were Illinois State Senators, Terry Link (D – Waukegan) and Jacqueline Y. Collins (D - 16th District).

Columbia College Students Visit Auburn Gresham



Carlos Nelson discusses Auburn Gresham's current and potential retail trade area along West 79th Street with 12 students from Columbia College. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Recently, the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development (GADC) partnered with LISC MetroEdge to conduct an assessment of the potential for retail development in the Auburn Gresham trade area including the 79th Street Corridor. GADC and its partners have already invested in the commercial revitalization and other ancillary efforts.

Carlos Nelson, Executive Director for GADC discussed some of the goals of this current and potential retail development with students from Columbia College. Some of the objectives shared included educating Auburn Gresham constituents about the potential for commercial development in defined trade areas, and continue to support future discussions with developers and retailers.

Hosei University of Japan Tours Auburn Gresham

Nobuko Nishina, a graduate student from Hosei University Graduate School in Japan, and her professor, Miki Yasui, Ph.D visited Auburn Gresham's Carlos Nelson and Ernest Sanders to discuss and research community development corporations and their work with housing development and preservation and other programming at large. Nelson discussed Auburn

Gresham's Quality of Life Plan and Foreclosure Prevention initiatives in partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago (LISC/Chicago) and MacArthur Foundation.

Sanders gave a tour of Perspectives Calumet Middle School and their new school-based health center and spoke of their Elev8 partnership with Atlantic Philanthropies.

Nelson and Sanders both learned of Japan's efforts to integrate community growth with housing initiatives.



Carlos Nelson [R] reviews Auburn Gresham's Quality of Life Plan and its comprehensive strategies with Nobuko Nishina [L] and her professor Miki Yasui, Ph.D of Japan's Hosei University Graduate School of Social Policy and Administration. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Building Blocks Celebrates African American Heritage

Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present and Building the Future, was the theme of Building Blocks Learning Academy's annual African American celebration held in the main theater of Kennedy King College.

Full of energy and excitement, nearly 400 preschool-



Building Blocks Learning Academy educators lead preschoolers in a dramatization. Photo: Ernest Sanders

ers performed for an audience of more than 400 adults and youth. The preschoolers performed

dramatizations, recited poetry and historic speeches, and sang heartfelt songs that brought tears to every adult.

These performances included: The Pledge of Allegiance, Life Every Voice & Sing, The Inventors, Freedom Train, Colors, Did You Know?, Poetry in Motion, From Then to Now, and The Black Child.

There was a special video presentation honoring African American history and the leaders of this country, narrated to then President-elect Barack Obama's acceptance speech at Grant Park in Chicago and musical artist Seal's remake of the hit song, "A Change is Gonna Come."

Auburn Gresham Native Wins Prestigious Studs Terkel Award



Auburn Gresham native and national award winning reporter, Alden Loury, was recently acknowledged for his for social justice, media and print journalism experience and work as editor and publisher at the Chicago Reporter. He accepted the 20th Annual Studs Terkel Award, sponsored by the Community Media Workshop.

Loury credits his success to his family members, especially his mother. She helped to develop his skill sets by teaching him lessons of integrity, truth, and honor.

He believes the Studs Terkel Award is a noteworthy honor to his other accolades because of who Terkel personified.

"This award is really significant because it represents the countless stories of real people who may have been forgotten or looked over if we didn't tell their story. Studs was always concerned about serving the people first and I really appreciate his motivation."

Jeanne Kenney's YMCA Day Care Opens at SOS Village

The new Jeanne Kenney YMCA Day Care Center opened its doors at the SOS Children's Village in Auburn Gresham.

The center offers programming for ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Programs also



Arlene Lewis [R] YMCA Day Care Center Site Director poses with members of her staff and youth receiving day care services at the new center. Photo: Ernest Sanders

incorporate support services as nutrition, health, mental health, and early intervention to enable families to achieve and maintain self sufficiency.

Enroll your child today and receive a FREE YMCA membership. Welcome YMCA Day Care.

SSA-32 Brings a New Look to 79th Street

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) has partnered with the City of Chicago's Special Service Area #32, "SSA #32" and Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago

LISC/Chicago to coordinate a Façade Enhancement Program "Façade" for businesses located within SSA#32 business district.

The general boundaries of the business district include both sides of 79th Street, between the Dan Ryan on the

east, and Marshfield Street on the west.

The goals for the second year (2009) Façade Enhancement Program include continued support for the six business recipients of GADC's Façade Enhancement Program and the 4 recipients of the City of Chicago's Façade Rebate Program.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Johnson at (773) 382-0089.

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



G A D C

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

Deliver To or Current Resident:

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.

City of Chicago Offers FREE Minor Home Repairs for Senior Citizens

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) is a delegate agent for the City of Chicago's Department of Community Development (formerly known as the Department of Housing), which provides free minor home repairs through the HRAIL program.

HRAIL (Home Repairs for Accessible and Independent Living) is a program for senior citizens who earn no more than 80% of the medium income—adjusted for family size—and who are at least 60 years of age. Qualified recipients may be homeowners or renters living in a 1-4 unit building.

Renters must have permission from their landlord and landlords

must certify that there will be no rent increase as a direct result of HRAIL improvements. GADC assists seniors through the application process, making on-site assessments to determine service needs, and provide limited home improvements at no cost to the applicant.

The HRAIL program provides safety, security and accessibility improvements that better assist seniors to move freely and remain safely in their homes.

Repair types are limited to minor repairs that may include, but are not limited to: grab bars, handrails, fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, or window and door repair.

GADC has been a delegate

agent for the Department of Community Development's HRAIL Program since 2003, repairing nearly 100 homes in the Auburn Gresham, Englewood, and West Chatham communities.

To access the HRAIL program and find the nearest agency in your ward, call 311, the city of Chicago's non-emergency hotline. Clients are assisted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Residents will need to provide proof of age, income and ownership.

For more information, please call the GADC offices at (773) 483-3696.

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