



Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

1159 W. 79th Street, Chicago, IL 60620 773.483.3696 Fax: 773.483.3692

Follow us on the web @ [www.gagdc.org](http://www.gagdc.org) and .....



# SUMMER **The VISION** 2010

## Auburn Gresham Schools Welcome Illinois State University's **TEACHER+PLUS** Project



The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) and Illinois State University (ISU) have partnered to bring the TEACHER+PLUS Project to Auburn Gresham in 2011. Image: Ernest Sanders

**A** strong community is not only anchored by its businesses, its homes, and residents, but also by the quality of its schools. Since 2003 the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), in partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago (LISC/Chicago), has invested many planning hours in improving neighborhood schools.

This significant investment has proven itself beneficial because 1) 110 high school seniors recently became the first graduating class of Perspectives Charter Schools-Calumet; 2) a partnership with The Atlantic Philanthropies leveraged the expertise of Access Community Health Networks and a new a school-based health cen-

ter inside Perspectives servicing both Perspectives' students and local feeder schools, and now 3) a new joint venture with Illinois State University to bring the TEACHER+PLUS Project to Auburn Gresham in 2011.

The TEACHER+PLUS Project is a special initiative at Illinois State University that is open to all teacher education majors who have interests in pursuing employment in the Chicago Public Schools. The central goal of this initiative is to prepare teachers to work in this challenging urban context by providing them targeted course work, clinical experiences and unique internship opportunities.

The TEACHER+PLUS Project's clinical experience is especially valuable to Auburn Gresham because the teacher candidates will live in the com-

munity where their residency takes place.

What does this mean? It means in 2011 Auburn Gresham will have ISU teacher candidates not only working in our neighborhood schools, but also living here for one year, while completing their program.

While TEACHER+PLUS students are adding value to our neighborhood school during the day, they will lend a helping hand at GADC and other community organizations in Auburn Gresham during the evening.

For more information about the TEACHER+PLUS Project and GADC's other educational initiatives, please contact Ray Thompson at 773-483-3696 or via email at [rthompson@gagdc.org](mailto:rthompson@gagdc.org).

**Inside This Issue:** Page 2: University of Chicago ✕ GADC/GAIA Cleaning and Recycling Day ✕ Riverdale Body Shop Page 3: Financial Incentives ✕ Monique Caradine ✕ Toby Williams Page 4: 79th Street Renaissance Festival

# University of Chicago's Urban Health Initiative Kicks Off in Auburn Gresham

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) in partnership with faculty and staff of the University of Chicago's South Side Health and Vitality Studies are conducting a mapping of assets in Auburn Gresham and surrounding communities. The purpose of this study is to better understand how these resources and services affect the health of a community.

Once completed an on-line information center

[www.Southsidehealth.org](http://www.Southsidehealth.org) will give community residents and community-based organizations the ability to:



Led by Elacsha Madison (L), Auburn Gresham teen-aged community stakeholders participate in a mapping project with the University of Chicago's Urban Health Initiative. Photo: Ernest Sanders

view a comprehensive list of the resources and services available in Auburn Gresham that impact the overall

health of a community, 2) list services of South-Side community organizations, 3) provide information about many types of places: private businesses, non-profit health and social service organizations, and public agencies, 4) create information maps of the community, and 5) be listed on the Southwest Smart Communities Portal (under development by GADC). This partnership was further developed with support from the Southwest Side Smart Communities Initiative, After

School Matters and teen-agers from various schools throughout the community.

## GADC/GAIA Senior Summer Cleaning Day

On Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) in partnership with GAIA Movement held a senior citizen summer cleaning day.

This consisted of contacting seniors in the neighborhood and inviting them to participate in this first time event. GADC targeted the senior citizens to aid in the recycling of household items.

GADC and GAIA visited the homes of 10 community seniors and collected 1,480 lbs of clothes and other items, which were all diverted from landfills. All participants agreed the event was successful and both organizations plan to do the collection again in the fall.

For more information regarding participation in this recycling clothing event, please contact Aurora Cruz at (773) 483-3696 or email at [acruz@gagdc.org](mailto:acruz@gagdc.org).



## Riverdale Body Shop: 40 Years of Success



A staple and family-owned automotive body shop in the West Chatham community, Riverdale Body Shop (RBS) is celebrating 40 year of service.

With eight locations, RBS is a leading collision repair specialist in metropolitan Chicago,

surrounding suburbs, and Northwest Indiana.

They employ comprehensive repair tactics that ensures the highest quality, efficient and timely repairs.

For more information about RBS, please contact them at (773) 874-9400 or visit their website at [www.riverdalebodyshop.com](http://www.riverdalebodyshop.com).

# Maximizing Financial Incentive within the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Business



The Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) has partnered with the Special Service Area (SSA) #32 and C Johnson & Associates to coordinate the city of Chicago's Façade Enhancement Program for businesses located within the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Business District.

The Façade Enhancement Program is designed to encourage local business owners to maximize financial incentives and improve the façade of their building. Eligible business owners receive free architectural services, grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000, and technical assistance with completing grant application forms for the Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF).



Recently more than 50 businesses attended the Business Breakfast Workshop at the Northern Trust Bank on 78<sup>th</sup> & State Street. Guest speakers from the city of Chicago's Department of Community Development, Business Affairs & Consumer Protection, Small Business Improvement Fund and 17<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Latasha Thomas' office provided business owners with critical information regarding city financial incentives. For more information please call (773) 382-0089 or email Cheryl Johnson at [cjrc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cjrc@sbcglobal.net).

Cheryl Johnson leads conversation with interested business owners within the 79<sup>th</sup> Street business corridor. Photo: Samia Malik

## Auburn Gresham is Home to Famous TV/Radio Personalities

As a media professional for 15 years, Monique Caradine has worked in every aspect of the television and radio industry to include advertising and public relations.

Currently, Monique is the host of a community affairs television program called "Perspective," which airs Sundays on FOX affiliate WPWR My50 in Chicago.

Caradine's believes her success is root-

ed in her support system (family) and life style choices. A Lindblom High School graduate, Caradine was often reminded about the importance of attending college and raising a family at an appropriate age. Today she is married and has one son.

Caradine has taken this nourishment and skill set to launch a media development and consulting firm, called **Momentum Media Group**. Thanks Monique!



## A Communications, Media & Theatre Giant



Toby Williams' doctors told his mother that he would be brain dead and nothing but a vegetable if she proceeded to give him birth.

Against the doctor's recommendations of abortion, Ms. Williams decided to give her son life and subsequently retired from her full-time job to become Toby's professional homemaker.

An arduous upbringing including years of surgeries, therapy, and developmental courses, Williams defied all odds and re-

ceived his master's degree from Northeastern University with a concentration in communications, theatre, and media.

Today Williams works as a intern at American Street Mortgage Company where he participates in strategic tactics to motivate staff, while in return, he learns the aspects of the mortgage business.

An Englewood native, Williams concluded this interview by expressing how grateful he was to mother for the gift of life and that he would, "**Keep on - keeping on.**" Congratulations Toby Williams!!!

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



**G A D C**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

BOARD PRESIDENT  
**CORTEZ CARTER**  
QUEST DEVELOPMENT

VICE PRESIDENT  
**JAMES MILLER**  
STATEWAY ASSOCIATES,LLC

TREASURER  
**AMANDA NORMAN**  
75TH & PARNELL BLOCK CLUB

SECRETARY  
**DEBORAH MOORE**  
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES

**BYAM ALEXANDER**  
SYNERGY FORCE

**ALBERTA BROOKS**  
RESIDENT

**KHAM BEARD**  
WAHLOMAK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**RON MARTIN**  
THE JOHNSON GROUP

**MICHAEL PFLEGER**  
FAITH COMMUNITY OF  
ST. SABINA CHURCH

**WILLARD PAYTON**  
NEW BIRTH CHURCH OF GOD  
IN CHRIST

**BETTY SWANSON**  
79TH CARPENTER BLOCK CLUB

**BOARD ADVISOR**  
**ALDERMAN LATASHA THOMAS**  
17TH WARD

**CARLOS NELSON**  
GADC  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

*Deliver To 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.*



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

5th Annual  
**{ RENAISSANCE }**  
79th street **FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**  
**79TH & RACINE**  
**10AM - 6PM**

