

Communities

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Contents

St. Sabina Resource Center	Pg. 1
Auburn-Gresham Universal Resource Center	Pg. 1
Institute of Women Today	Pg. 2
Gage Park	Pg. 3
Changes in the Communities	Pg. 4
What Do You Know About Your Community?	Pg. 5

The St. Sabina Employment Resource Center Asks: Got A job?

Well if the answer is no, you can always come to the St. Sabina Resource Center located at **7909 S. Racine, Chicago, IL 60620. (773) 783-3760**

Wednesday August 5, we spoke to the Director of Community Employment: **Phil Hunter**, and this is what he told us.

What programs do you have for the community?

We provide resource for anyone looking for employment. Anyone can come in and utilize the resources that we offered, like the job specialist, financial couch, real benefit counseling, career specialist, and the lead board.

- **Job specialist**— Helps you find a job that fits your skills and goals.
- **Financial Couch**— Helps you with financial and budget planning and also with debts.
- **Real Benefit counseling**— Helps you find benefits like, Food Stamps, Medicare and Link Cards.
- **The Lead board** — lists available jobs and it is updated every two weeks.

All of these services are offered free of charge. Since the day St. Sabina Employment Resource Center opened its doors in 1998 it has help an average of 40 people a day.



Youth Career Development Center

Young people from the ages of 14-21 can participate in the Youth Career Development Center, which provides:

- Resume assistance
- One-on-one guidance for job searching and career planning
- Job readiness workshops
- Employment opportunities



Auburn-Gresham Universal Resource Center

The Universal Resource Center opened its doors in 2002. It is located in **1153 w. 79th Street Chicago, IL 60620 (773) 347-0024.** It has 16 computers with Internet access. Anyone can come in and use the computer for online job

searching. There is also available a fax, photocopier and a telephone which, anyone can use it for job searching purposes. You can also get professional assistance when creating resumes and cover letters. The Universal Resource

Center is open:
Mon-Tue-Fri from 9am— 5pm
Wed from 9am — 3pm



Institute of Women Today



The Dining Area



Donna Jackson



The Living Room



The Senior Center

The Institute of Women Today is located on 7315 S. Yale Street. It is an organization that helps women and their children. The Institute of women was founded in 1974 by Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler. She founded the organization to help women inmates while they were in jail. She would help them see their kids while in jail.

When some of the inmates were out of jail, they didn't have anywhere to go so Sister Margaret thought about a way to help them. She decided to create a shelter for inmate women to go after they were out of jail, but later the shelter became the help for all kinds of women and children. The Institute now serves 50 women and children as well as senior citizens.

We got a chance to sit down and talk to the development director Geri Kerger and the case manager Donna Jackson. They told us a few things about the institute.

Donna Jackson, the case manager who has been working with the Institute for two years, told us about her part in the Institute of Women. "I have two major jobs to do here, those are find housing for the women once they have a settled job, and also locate job readiness programs." Ninety percent of women

leave with an apartment. They have not thought about expanding their shelters to other communities of Chicago, but Donna says "it would be nice". Donna Jackson said the following about the Institute of Women, "I love it. I love what it stands for: give when you can. I treat women with respect because you don't ever know where life could take you. One day I could be like any of the women here."



The Clothing Room

Geri Kerger, the development director, told us about the programs and things the senior center offers. "We serve about 100 seniors. We have weekend programs in the mornings. We have them do art and music therapy as well as the kids. So they mix and it's nice having two generations together. They also have piano lessons and choir."

Some of the other services they offer are free medical attention from medical students, computer lab, and help to make your resume. They offer the clothing room which offers free clothing for the neighborhood. They also have the annual Health Fair, Winter Concert and Halloween Party.

If you would like to know more about Institute of Women Today visit their website:

www.instituteofwomentoday.org



Gage Park

There is a particular park in my neighborhood that I visit sometimes, that I don't know anything about. Until today, when I read the story about Gage Park and I would like to share it with you. The park is located 2411 W. 55th, near my school Gage Park High School.

A business man called George W. Gage died in office in 1875. His colleagues decided to name a developing park in his honor. They already had the location. They just needed to get to work in building the park. By 1890's no progress had been made to the park.

The residents near the coming park started to complain about how nothing had

been done to the park. In 1903 improvements started to be made. The commission added baseball fields, a pool, tennis courts and a sunken garden. In 1918, they purchased more land to expand the park. That same year, they added men and women separate gymnasiums and children's playground. In 1905, they started to develop the building of a field house in the park. By 1920, the park still did not have one. Until 1926, they decided to build one. A few years later, the field house was finished, adorned with murals painted by Tom Lea in 1931. The Park was finally done.

When I walk around, the park is not as pretty and

nice as when they built it back in 1900's. The playground is tagged up with gang profanity. The park does not look as pretty or peaceful. It doesn't even look like a park anymore. The sunken garden built in 1903 is no longer there. As a nearby resident of the park, it would be nice to have some improvement done, to make it more welcoming to the surrounding residents of the Gage Park community.



Changes in the Community

Do you know the major changes that are about to happen in the Chicago Lawn Community? Well you should inform yourself about the big changes that are going to make your community a better place!

The New Communities Program is working on making different Chicago neighborhoods better. One of them is Chicago Lawn. If you live in this community, get ready for a new and improved Chicago Lawn! There's going to be new local stores, more job opportunities, more access to comprehensive health care, like mental health services for all ages, and a safer Chicago Lawn with more police stations. They're also improving schools. There is also going to be a new shopping center.

Be ready for this and more!

For more information visit: www.greatestsouthwest.org



Places where changes will occur.

How Much Do You Know About Your Neighborhood?

While working on our Gage Park story, we wondered how much people know about their neighborhoods. Since we were in the community, we decided to run a little survey by asking simple questions to regular neighborhood residents.

We asked 5 residents Mauricio Gomez, Hilda Dias, Jasmine Dias, Linda Por and Martin Edwards the following questions: What neighborhood you live in? Could you name at least 5 other neighborhoods of Chicago? And, do you know anything good that is happening in the community?

Linda Por and Martin Edwards knew that the neighborhood they live in is Gage Park;

Mauricio Gomez also knows that he lives in the Back of the Yards. Hilda and Jasmine Dias didn't know which community they live in. When we asked if they could name 5 other neighborhoods only Martin Edwards was able to name 5. And when we asked Hilda and Jasmine Dias if they knew of anything good happening in the neighborhood, they said "well they fixed the pavement".

With this little survey we concluded that the residents are not well-informed about their neighborhoods.

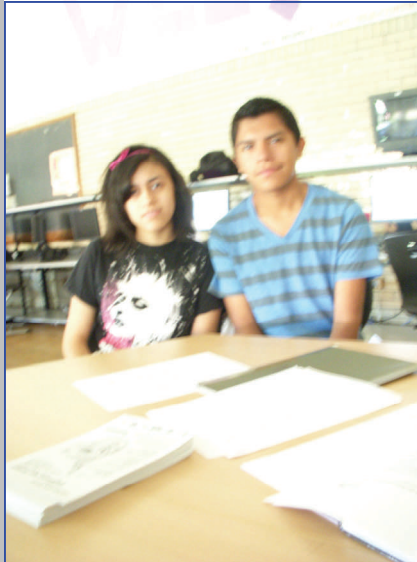


Martin Edwards and Linda Por



Karen Martinez

My name is Karen Martinez. I was born in Mexico City on September 24, 1991. I lived 7 hard years of my life in Mexico. My parents decided to move to the United States in search for a new and better life. Fortunately, we found it. My two older sisters moved with us a year later after I left my home in Mexico. Now I have three sisters; one was born here. With the years passing, my dad was able to obtain a house for us. My dad was able to become a citizen in 2005. My mom and my sisters were able to become residents and I became a citizen for being under 18. In 2006 after almost 8 years, I was able to visit my home in Mexico once again. I graduated from Morrill Elementary School and I now attend Gage Park High School. I still live with my parents and little sister. My plans after high school are to have a career in interior design and travel around the world.



Adrian Martinez

I was born in July 17, 1992. Growing up in Mexico city was fun; I love living in the city. I studied kindergarten and a few years of elementary school over there. When I was in 5th grade, I moved to Chicago. I can't think of any other state I'd rather live in. Chicago has been amazing to me. I've been living in the Chicago Lawn community since I got here. I went to Morrill Elementary School. That's where I met my colleague Karen. Graduating from 8th grade was a big deal for me and my mom. Now I'll be a senior at Gage Park High School, I'm excited for my upcoming senior year. Future goals? Well, I plan on going to college and study fashion merchandising. I know that it is going to be hard, but I'm willing to do my best to reach my future goals. I want to thank Mrs. Norma Sanders for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Digital Excellence Internship Program, and also to everyone else who made this a fun learning experience. :)

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