

Spring 2011

# 5th WARD REPORT

Alderman Leslie Hairston • 2325 E. 71st Street • Chicago, Illinois 60649 • 773-324-5555



Dear 5th Ward Residents:

*I want to begin by saying how honored I am to continue representing this vibrant ward. At my March ward meeting, I introduced the concept of Participatory Budgeting, featured on the front page of this [Report](#). I enthusiastically explained how constituents would have direct influence on how my office dispenses funds allotted the ward for infrastructure improvements. One woman said, "Isn't that the alderman's job? We just re-elected you, so you must be doing okay."*

*While I appreciate her vote of confidence, I am thrilled and energized that over 50 residents have already volunteered to help my office do an even better job. It truly "takes a village" to achieve general consensus about how to prioritize various aspects of our physical environment. People often feel in the dark about why one repair or upgrade got implemented faster than another. When Ald. Joe Moore involved his entire 49th Ward in the budget process, he discovered residents could agree on enhancements closer to someone else's backyard—even dog parks or public murals.*

*Another of my goals is improving the ward's business environment. I am putting together a think tank to tour the ward and advise on development opportunities. I am also working with the South Shore Chamber and Special Service Area staff on standards for our commercial corridors, such as appearance, proper documentation and evidence of intent to fix violations.*

*Third, I intend to make my office more efficient, responsive and proactive in encouraging two-way communication. We are modernizing our technology and Web site to reach a broader base of constituents. I have added a new assistant, Ellie Fox, to facilitate the prompt handling of complaints, inquiries and suggestions.*

*In sum, my watchword for this next term is "together." Personally, I am looking forward to tapping deeper into your talents and ideas, helping to build bridges between the variety of organizations and neighborhoods focused on improving a specific area, as well as partnering with bordering wards on more regional interests. I am confident that, together, we will move the 5th Ward even farther.*

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Hairston  
5th Ward Alderman

## COMMUNITY INTEREST

### Participatory Budgeting: "Show Me The Money"

"The response has been very positive," says Ald. Leslie Hairston about constituents' upcoming involvement in deciding how to allocate her \$1.3 million 5th Ward menu budget for 2012. The funds cover improvements to such infrastructure as thoroughfares, lighting, parks, and public murals.



AT AN APRIL NEWS CONFERENCE OUTSIDE THE WARD'S STREETS AND SAN OFFICE, ALD. LESLIE HAIRSTON DREW ATTENTION TO A PENDING DEAL TO PRIVATIZE THE BLUE CART RECYCLING PROGRAM. SHE LIKENED IT TO THE PARKING METER FIASCO IN TERMS OF A "SWEET DEAL" FOR THE CONTRACTOR, WITH FEW BENEFITS FOR CHICAGOANS IN TERMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY, COST EFFECTIVENESS, SERVICE OR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. STANDING WITH HER ARE (FROM LEFT) ANTHONY WRIGHT, PASTOR OF JUST CHRIST MINISTRIES; ALLYSON SCRUTCHENS, REPRESENTING THE SOUTH SHORE CHAMBER SPECIAL SERVICE AREA 42; HENRY ENGLISH, PRESIDENT OF BLACK UNITED FUND INC.; JANE CIACCI, PRESIDENT OF THE HYDE PARK-KENWOOD COMMUNITY CONFERENCE; AND SAM BINION, REVERE C.A.R.E. PROGRAM DIRECTOR..

Hairston introduced Participatory Budgeting at her March ward meeting. She expects to continue volunteer solicitation, education and planning through late summer, with the real work to begin thereafter and completed early next year.

Over 1,200 municipalities around the world use PB to promote democratic participation, inclusion and accountability. When Chicago Ald. Joe Moore pioneered it for his menu preparation in 2009, his 49th Ward became the first political jurisdiction in the nation to adopt the process.

At the 5th Ward's April meeting, Moore described a six-month span of neighborhood assemblies and committee meetings to identify, prioritize and develop proposals to address local infrastructure needs. A ward-wide election open to any resident age 16 and above drew over 1,600 to vote on which projects to submit to the city for implementation. Aldermanic menu funds cannot be spent on programs and services, such as art classes or youth sports. Visit [participatorybudgeting.org](http://participatorybudgeting.org) to learn more.

### Papa John's Pizza Rounds Out Jeffrey Mall



WELCOMING CUSTOMERS TO THE NEW PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA IN JEFFERY MALL ARE (FROM LEFT) CANDACE SMITH, EDWARD SMITH, ANDRE COLLINS AND OWNERS DEV RAO AND SAM PATEL.

Dev Rao and Sam Patel just opened a Papa John's Pizza next door to the Subway Patel has operated for nearly a decade in the mall at Jeffery Blvd. & 71st St. Rao loves the location. "It's surrounded by large buildings, with a lot of people walking by and parking for drivers. Plus, there's not much choice for quality pizza."

Rao, who owns other eateries on the South Side, says the new place has already drawn customers from as far as 127th St. "It's carryout, and we deliver from Lake Shore Drive to State Street, between 63rd and 79th Streets. About 20 percent of people use the Internet, which is preferable to make sure they get exactly what they want."

Rao currently employs three full- and about seven part-timers, all of whom live within eight blocks. A Chicagoan for over 20 years, he believes it important to be involved in the community, with CAPS meetings at the top of his list.

### Green Light to New Ujamaa Construction Co. Location

Passersby probably will not see signs proclaiming the renovated building at 7744 S. Stony Island Ave. as the new headquarters for Ujamaa Construction Co. President Jimmy Akintonde explains his business primarily serves institutional clients. Still, it stands out on the U.S. Green Building Council Register as the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design structure south of the Museum of Science and Industry.

"We're going for silver certification under the renovation section," says Akintonde, who has done several eco-friendly projects. Ujamaa's own two-story building already boasts several efficiencies throughout 15,000 square feet of office, shop, warehouse, and parking space. They include a green roof, toilet fixtures that use



UJAMAA CONSTRUCTION MOVED ITS CORPORATE OFFICES TO 74TH & STONY ISLAND PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE CENTRAL LOCATION, PROXIMITY TO TRANSPORTATION IN ANY DIRECTION AND COMMERCIAL VITALITY. PICTURED ARE (FROM LEFT) EDWARD KMETZ, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS; JIMMY AKINTONDE, PRESIDENT & CEO; AND TODD PRESSLEY, PROJECT EXECUTIVE.

30 percentage less water, as well as lighting and zoned mechanical and electrical systems to conserve energy. Akintonde plans to install solar panels this fall.

### Questions About "Vague" Bouchet Restructuring

On April 27, the Chicago School Board approved a CPS proposal to change the "educational focus" of Edward A. Bouchet Math & Science Academy to the International Baccalaureate Primary and Middle Years Programme, as well as rename the elementary school Bouchet International Academy of Chicago.

According to CPS, current students and attendance area boundaries for the location at 7355 S. Jeffery Blvd. will not be affected. Implementation begins this fall for grades K-2 and 6-8, expanding to 3-5 next year. Spanish will be the

language taught K-8. All current Bouchet teachers must reapply, with training for those hired to begin in the summer.

"Obviously all of us welcome improvements that may make our kids more competitive," noted Ald. Leslie Hairston. "But it can't simply be cosmetic. The parents love their principal. They don't want to lose good teachers or have everything turned upside down."

Hairston has been meeting with CPS officials to clarify what her office calls "rather vague" eligibility criteria for making Bouchet a feeder school for the IB program at the new South Shore International College Prep. She also wants to ensure veteran teachers are not replaced simply to hire younger ones at lower pay.

## Woodlawn Summit Gives “On the Ground” View of Issues

The 2nd Annual Woodlawn Community Summit, “Building The Blueprint One Block Club At A Time,” provided residents “an energizing morning of reflection and action for their neighborhoods/businesses.” It drew representatives from schools, block clubs, the police and elected officials.

“It’s always heartening to see people so engaged in trying to get their hands around the big local issues affecting their lives,” said Ald. Leslie Hairston, who attended along with her staff. “I participated in a discussion strategizing ways for making the area safer proactively rather than reactively, especially during the summer.” Other panels tackled public education, community revitalization and urban agriculture/sustainability.

The Kenwood Pointe Homeowners Association, Woodlawn Neighbors Association and South East Chicago Commission convened the gathering in March, in partnership with the host, the University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement. To learn more about quarterly working sessions planned to begin in June, call Elizabeth Gardner at 773-575-4222 or the SECC at 773-324-6926.

a recent news release from Ald. Leslie Hairston warning of problems with the city’s plans to privatize the blue-cart recycling program. Ciacci’s inquiry about what residents could do encouraged Hairston to hold a news conference with other concerned leaders of community organizations.

Though HP-KCC will continue such popular events as its spring Hyde Park Garden Fair and fall Used Book Sale, Ciacci promises more outreach to expand membership and add affiliates.

“We’re planning an event for the fall to bring together representatives of organizations to learn what our common interests are and how we can work together,” explains Ciacci. “I’m thinking we may end up with a coalition of sorts for socio-political action.”

Ciacci also notes, “We took all references to geographical boundaries out of our bylaws a few years ago. As a second step, we may want to stretch ourselves—identify and meet with organizations beyond Hyde Park-Kenwood.”

## Stellar Career Day At Comer College Prep



## HP-KCC Plans A “Stretch”

New Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference President Jane Ciacci saw

NASA ASTRONAUT COL. FRED GREGORY TOPPED THE LIST OF 56 PROFESSIONALS WHO SERVED AS PANELISTS AT GARY COMER COLLEGE PREP’S MARCH CAREER DAY. OVER 500 STUDENTS INTERACTED WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM SUCH WIDE-RANGING FIELDS AS LEGAL, GOVERNMENT, CULINARY, BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT MANAGEMENT, CONSULTING, SAFETY/ SECURITY, EDUCATION, MEDICINE, AND MEDIA. PHOTO BY JASMIN SHAH/CSEF

## Be In The Know

### Summer Work Opportunities for Youth

Those ages 14-21 can apply for apprenticeships, internships and jobs at [youthreadychicago@cityofchicago.org](http://youthreadychicago@cityofchicago.org) by June 3, 2011 or call 312-743-0208 for more information.

The 5th Ward Office has been allocated funding from June 15-August 24 for a college-level intern. To learn more about the application process, call 312-324-5555.

### Paid Parent Leadership Slots at SS Chamber

The South Shore Chamber Inc. is accepting applications through June 1 for their Parent Leadership program, which begins in May. Leaders must be 30 years or older, have a state ID and pass a background check. They will receive \$9.75 an hour for eight hours a week to train youth as certified docents for tour buses, festival staff and assistants for other activities. Those interested should contact Ciera Whitaker at 1750 E. 71st St., call her at 773-955-9508 or e-mail [Chamber17ssa42@yahoo.com](mailto:Chamber17ssa42@yahoo.com).

### Ald. Hairston To Meet With Businesses

Ald. Leslie A. Hairston is inviting 5th Ward business owners to discuss and strategize addressing their needs at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 20, at the Ward Service Office, 2325 E. 71st St. RSVP requested to [rosalind.moore@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rosalind.moore@cityofchicago.org) or by phone to 773-324-5555.

### Expungement Summit Offers Second Chance

Several Cook County agencies and volunteer attorneys will be on hand to assist eligible adult and juvenile ex-offenders apply to clear their criminal records on June 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., at Apostolic Church of God, 6320 S. Dorchester Ave. Contact 312-603-5200 or visit [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org).

## Transit Study To Survey Area Riders

The City has commissioned the South Lakefront Corridor Transit Study to identify ways to improve public transportation between 22nd and 95th Streets east of the Dan Ryan Expressway. The first presentation and open house was held in April at 35th St. For details on the planned June public meeting, call Sue Purrington at 773-324-5555.

## Shout Out To 5th Ward Block Clubs

The 5th Ward Service Office urges block clubs to provide contact names and information of their members to enable comprehensive e-blast updates on Participatory Budgeting and other important announcements. Call 773-324-5555, fax to 773-324-1585 or e-mail [ellie.fox@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ellie.fox@cityofchicago.org).

## CAPS Seeks Involvement From "Silent Witnesses"

3rd Dist. CAPS Officer Michelle Millison is launching a Break The Code Of Silence campaign for the summer to highlight the importance of witnesses coming forward to solve crimes. She has planned an event for late June featuring forums, entertainment and an exhibition basketball game with teams composed of local celebrities and notable high school players. Contact 312-747-7004 for updates.

## ETA Welcomes New President

ETA Creative Arts Foundation founder Abena Joan Brown retired in March after leading the now legendary theater and arts training institution at 7558 S. South Chicago Ave. for 40 years. ETA will celebrate her passing the torch to the new president, Phillip Thomas, during their star-studded 28th Annual Spring Board Benefit on Sunday, May 15, from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Call 773-752-3955 for details.

## Drilling for Gold



AFTER YEARS OF COMPETING IN THE WINTER GUARD INTERNATIONAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, TWICE REACHING THE SEMI-FINALS, THE BOY'S SOUTH SHORE DRILL TEAM WON GOLD THIS APRIL IN DAYTON, OH - TO A 10-MINUTE STANDING OVATION EVEN FROM MEMBERS OF 200 OPPOSING TEAMS. THEIR PERFORMANCE IS CAPTURED AT [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=k03zLXhsWBc](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=k03zLXhsWBc).

## Save the Date



MEMBERS OF THE 2010 GARDEN FAIR COMMITTEE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS YEAR'S 52ND ANNUAL OFFERING OF CHICAGO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY GARDEN SALE, SLATED FOR **MAY 13-14** AT THE 55TH ST. & S. LAKE PARK AVE. HYDE PARK SHOPPING CENTER. [WWW.HYDEPARKGARDENFAIR.ORG](http://WWW.HYDEPARKGARDENFAIR.ORG).

**June 4: 13.1 Marathon** - Race starts at 7:00 a.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 South Shore Dr.

**June 4 & 5: Hyde Park Art Fair & Community Art Fair** - 10:00 a.m. to dusk on 57th Street between Kenwood, Kimbark and Dorchester Avenues

**July 8: Tri-Masters Youth Sports Program 20th Anniversary** - 7:00 p.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center.

**July 9: Chosen Few House Music Picnic** - Jackson Park, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
(Residents can meet privately with the alderman from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)  
Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Ward Office Closed:

**City of Chicago Inauguration Day**  
Monday, May 16

**Memorial Day** Monday, May 30

**Independence Day** Monday, July 4

### Upcoming Ward Meetings:

(All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.)

#### Tuesday, May 24

Original Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
6614 South Blackstone Ave.

#### Tuesday, June 28

LaRabida Children's Hospital  
E. 65th St. & Lake Shore Dr.

#### Tuesday, July 26

Chicago Booth School of Business  
5807 South Woodlawn Ave.

### City Vehicle Window Stickers

July 7, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
5th Ward Service Office  
2325 E. 71st St.

### Movies In The Park

Start time at dusk

#### July 11, *Despicable Me*

Bixler Playlot, 5641 S. Kenwood Ave.

#### July 12, *Jaws*

#### July 19, *Barber Shop*

#### July 26, *BABE*

63rd St. Beach

#### July 27, *Let The Good Times Roll*

#### Aug. 3, *Straight No Chaser*

#### Aug. 10, *TheLionious Monk*

South Shore Cultural Center,  
7059 South Shore Dr.

For further information  
contact the 5th Ward Service Office  
773-324-5555 or visit the Web site  
at [www.cityofchicago.org/ward5/](http://www.cityofchicago.org/ward5/)

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