

LAKEFRONT OUTLOOK

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South Side served by health clinics but little else: study

by Nykeya Woods

Health providers top a list of businesses serving the Mid-South Side, a new retail study has revealed. At the bottom of a list: one auto parts store, one car wash and one taxi service for a population of 123,700. First released at last month's 43rd Street/Cottage Grove Tax Increment Finance (TIF) meeting, the study

compared data from North Kenwood and Oakland to South Kenwood and Hyde Park. The Douglas and Grand Boulevard neighborhoods, which lie west of Cottage Grove Avenue, were divided between the two groups; the North Kenwood and Oakland group is referred to as the Quad Communities Service Area.

Out of a total 924 businesses recorded in an inventory summary done last month, nearly 20 percent serving the Mid-South Side are medical offices, hospitals, clinics and mental health facilities.

Beauty shops, barbershops, hair salons or manicure-pedicure busi-

continued on page 2

Residents call for foot patrols to fight crime

by Tedd Carrison

Frustrated residents are demanding more police foot patrols following a recent spike in shootings, burglaries and robberies and steady drug sales along Hyde Park and Kenwood's western corridor while officers say they are already doing all they can.

"We want a cop on the beat to keep these kid's walking," said one resident during an Oct. 20 Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy meeting for beats 2131 and 2133 at the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club.

Chicago Police Officer Karen Knox said this is difficult due to an increasingly limited number of officers. She said as recruiting requirements become more stringent, there is less interest in the force and subsequently, there are not enough officers to increase foot patrols.

"A rational person like you would think it's that simple," Knox told the resident. "If you are actually out here and you know how it goes, we are short on officers."

Sgt. Jim Mulvey said that an understaffed police force is not the only issue. He said that many of the drug deals in the neighborhood are so elaborately executed that foiling them is difficult.

"It's like a ballet," said Mulvey. "Things change hands. The guy on the bicycle comes by or the woman with the baby carriage walks by and drugs change hands."

Resident Danielle Cassel agreed. "Things are so well coordinated and they have so many lookouts," she said. "They see the [police] car, they scatter. The car leaves, they come back."

Mulvey said that an immediate and detailed phone call to police is a strong deterrent to drug trafficking. "If you stay anonymous keep giving specific information. That's where these officers are going to make their arrests," he said.

Though the cause of this crime pattern is largely unknown,

continued on page 2



Air play

Owen M. Lawson, III

Hales Franciscan High School defensive back Vince Collins, #26, intercepts a pass during Saturday's game at the school. Hales lost to Leo High School 20 to 8.

Driven IIT students draft "smart" dealership plans

by Erin Meyer

Almost 100 architecture students at the Illinois Institute of Technology took the wheel Oct. 19, when they pitched "smart" building designs to executives from ZAP car company or what may be the first Smart Car dealership in North America.

Third-year architecture student Enis Omeralicovic designed floor plans that effect the Smart Car's economy of

space by employing a car elevator to stack cars up to the ceiling to minimize land use.

"My concept, the tower, makes the most of a confined space," Omeralicovic said. "That cliché, 'the sky is the limit,' is very literal in this case."

The vehicle's fuel efficiency, up to 50 miles per gallon on American roads according to ZAP, inspired the

students to think outside the box. They proposed energy-saving building materials, solar-powered heating and cooling systems and water-recycling systems for the ZAP car dealership.

"For the Smart Car the students are designing smart buildings," said IIT assistant professor Tom Brock. "It's

continued on page 7



Willie Kent,
p. 12

INSIDE

Co-op Markets	2
Tim Black.....	4
Blotter	10
Calendar	11
Checkerboard	13
Classifieds	14

Co-op board seeks improvements through committees

by Erin Meyer

Hyde Park Cooperative Society board member James Withrow is spearheading what he calls the "Vision Outline," dividing members into four working groups according to their interests and experience. he told the Outlook last week.

These include the Marketing, Operations, Empowerment and Finance committees.

The Co-op board of directors has a new vision to improve the store's public image by bringing more members into the fold through committees.

The Empowerment Committee, scheduled to meet the second Monday of each month, will focus on increasing membership and education. A subcommittee will tackle issues of membership fees and discounts.

"The Empowerment Committee will be the

voice of the members," Withrow said.

The work of the Marketing Committee will also be critical, as members will see to it that the "Evergreen," the Co-op's monthly newspaper, is published and distributed to members.

"The Marketing Committee will also draft and review the Vision outline, something that will have all the Co-op's values," Withrow said.

According to the Vision plan, each committee will meet separately once a month to discuss issues within their focus area and report back to the board.

Board member Sandy Wilson is in charge of the Operations Committee and Mike Lowenthal will chair the Finance Committee. Withrow said he is acting chairman of both the Empowerment and Marketing Committee

but will step aside if other members are interested and added that all four committees need more members to volunteer.

Most people who live in Hyde Park "think for a living," Withrow said.

"The typical Hyde Park response to things people don't like is to write a very strong letter," he said. "But a letter is only the first step.

The committees will give all those letter writers a place to voice their concerns and see their ideas put into practice.

"By participating in these committees, people who are willing to go through the process will ultimately see their ideas incorporated," Withrow said.

Withrow also said the committees will help guide the general manager.

Carl Waggoner, Co-op general manager said he is behind the committees and hopes

they will improve communication he and members.

"I have been asking for committee. eral years," Waggoner said. "Committee serve as a conduit between manager members."

Withrow hopes his new plan will dispel rumors and infighting within the Co-op.

"The news has sounded much worse," Withrow said. "There are problems we have a lot of things we can be more about."

The Co-op, has grown from its first buying club started, in 1932, into a city institution, Withrow said.

"Our neighbors are our members members own the Co-op," he said. "Success depends on community involvement

QCDC

continued from page 1

nesses are in second at 7.5 percent and eating and drinking establishments not in a chain make up 6.5 percent of Mid-South Side businesses.

Clothing stores come in at 2.5 percent, banks at 2.2 percent and convenience stores at 1.6 percent.

The summary found five laundromats, five office supply stores, three furniture stores and two full-service grocery stores, neither of which are in the service area.

Nearly 80 percent of businesses in the summary are found outside the Quad Communities Service Area, which for decades has seen drastic population declines, poverty and blight.

The summary is part of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission's Full Circle Community Mapping Project. In September, 10 college students mapped every parcel along the area's main corridors—35th, 39th, 43rd, 47th, 51st, 53rd and 55th Streets and Oakwood Boulevard.

"[The study] tells us in real time what is actually here and in turn we can identify where the gaps are," Bernita Johnson-Gabriel, TIF secretary, told the Herald last week.

Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cheryl Heads would have liked to see 57th Street added to the inventory. "It's another study to see what [Hyde Park] is missing," she said.

The study can help potential developers, homebuyers and retailers understand the area, QCDC consultant Chinwe Onyeagoro

said.

"[The community] is doing well in certain categories, but we can be doing a whole lot better in others," she said.

The summary found 104 restaurants in the area. But despite the abundant options, variety was scarce. Fifteen percent of restaurants serve fried or barbecued food. Sandwich, deli and salad shops make up 12 percent. American, Mexican or Mediterranean cuisines were not represented in the Quad Communities Service Area and offer only one of each in the surrounding area.

Onyeagoro was optimistic about a grocery store in North Kenwood or Oakland, saying that would draw more business to the area.

The Mid-South Side has almost a 12 percent vacancy rate for retail space. Hyde Park's vacancy rate is 2 percent, according to South East Chicago Commission data.

Out of a total of 255 street-level businesses in the neighborhood, 94 percent are independently owned, while national chains, like Borders, McDonald's and Starbucks, represent just 17 stores.

"I think it's obvious that businesses do very well here," said SECC's Executive Director Bob Mason. He said many independent stores bring a feeling of "community" to the area because many of those business owners live here and want the area to thrive.

In 2003, Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4th) created the Quad Community Development Corporation to spur development in blighted areas. The program exists because of a \$12.5 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. QCDC prepared the study.

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CAPS

continued from page 1

police speculate that the thriving local drug trade is a factor in the neighborhood's flare-up of shootings including two within the past three weeks at 49th Street and Drexel Boulevard. Sgt. Steve Witczak said that the affluence associated with Hyde Park and Kenwood invites the robbers and burglars. "It's unfortunate but it's true that people are going to go where they can steal good stuff," he said.

Sgt. Mulvey said that many of the burglaries and robberies are also the result of local gang recruits proving themselves to leaders.

"It's like a fraternity rush," muttered one resident at the meeting.

Neighbors also complained that despite the high number of drug-related crimes in the area, the police department has still not designated a gang/narcotics loitering area, which would provide more vigorous patrols.

In the past, 21st District Commander Adrienne Stanley said she has applied for gang/narcotics loitering distinction and been denied.

The next meeting for beats 2131 and 2133 is scheduled for Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 5480 S. Kenwood Ave. The neigh-



Sharon Weekly leads a demonstration from the corner of 49th Street and Boulevard, where her son Walter Armstrong shot by police during a drug bust Oct. 10, 1 headquarters on Michigan Avenue. About demonstrators followed her. Owen M. I.

hood club will also host a fund-raising improvements at the nearby Coleman Park on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. t.carris@hpherald.com

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