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Chicago, IL
Permit No. 8970

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Volume 7 Wednesday, January 19, 2004 Issue 3

King principal fails to win council approval

by Kiratiana E. Freeton

To the dismay of a majority of the parents in attendance, King College Prep interim principal Linda Coles failed last Friday to garner the seven local school council votes needed to receive a four-year contract.

If the council remains deadlocked, Coles may remain the interim principal until next local school council elections in April 2006.

"I am for who is for my child ... Dr. Coles is for my child," said Beverly Stanton, a parent and representative of the Parents United for the Retention of Dr. Coles Committee. "It is clear what most people want. It is clear what we have is good. If it isn't broke, don't fix it."

Despite outspoken parental support, only five of the 10 voting council members supported Coles. Three parent representatives—Cathy Smith-Dale, Carmen Hunter, Harold Williams—and one community representative, Norman Bolden, voted against the motion to give Coles a



Muhammad Abdullah (from left), Linda Coles, Cathy Smith-Dale.

four-year contract, King teacher Ben Washington abstained.

A motion to give the board of education the authority of picking King's principal also subsequently failed.

The motion was brought to the table based on the recommendation of the principal election committee, which a week earlier had selected the top four resumes from a field of 14 candidates. The committee decided to forgo the interview process and instead recommended Coles as the contract principal based on the strength of her resume.

Several council representatives who voted against extending a contract to Coles insisted that they only wanted to see the entire principal selection process through.

"My personal agenda is to make sure this school is successful," Smith-Dale said. "We have to make sure we have the best candidate. I gave a 'no' because I think everyone should be considered."

Smith-Dale also noted that the school council does not know Coles'

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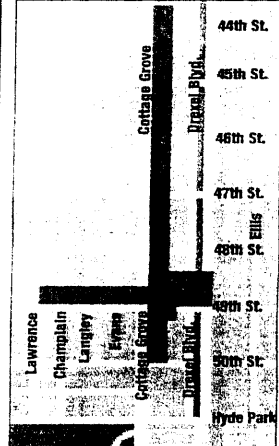
TIF study urges local business

by Nykeya Woods

A recent study by the Quad Communities Development Corporation (QCDC) found that residents in Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Oakland and Kenwood spend up to \$693.5 million outside the neighborhood.

The study released to the public at the Jan. 10 53rd Street Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District advisory council meeting at the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club cited a lack of retailers in the area as one reason residents are taking their disposable income elsewhere.

The study also concluded that new construction in these same neighborhoods had increased by 74 percent from 2000 to 2003.



Boundaries of the 43rd St./Cottage Grove TIF district.

Which Chinwe Onyegoro, project consultant to the QCDC sees as an opportunity to spur business growth locally. Included in the study is the expectation of more than 10,000 new residents in these neighborhoods in the next five years.

"There is a very nice, uncomplicated story about why this area, the Cottage Grove trade area, is a great opportunity," Onyegoro said.

"There are things happening in this neighborhood that make it

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47th St. Co-op closes doors after five years

by Jeremy Adragna

The Hyde Park Cooperative Society closed the doors of its 47th Street Co-op Markets store last Saturday, two weeks ahead of schedule. As patrons shopped at the store over the weekend seeking close-out deals many found long lines.

Board members made the decision to close the store at 1300 E. 47th St. last October to cut down major losses the three-store chain suffered beginning after the store opened in 1999.

The Co-op also announced late last year that they had missed the help of a final state grant to build a new store at the new site, a 12,000-square-foot store located between 47th and 48th streets. The grant was supposed to help pay for the store's construction and the purchase of inventory. The Co-op also announced that they would be closing the store at 47th Street last Saturday.

big box retail store a locally-grown business.

"We're working on some things," Goodfriend said. "We haven't signed anyone but we've had some offers."

The store was built to anchor the Lake Pointe Plaza shopping center and to help revitalize the North Kenwood neighborhood, which has been booming with new housing construction in recent years. But since opening has done little but drag Co-op Markets \$6 million into debt.

More than usual Saturday shoppers visited the 47th Street store seeking deals published in the Outlook. An advertisement offered 50 percent off some merchandise and the store closed Saturday night.

The Co-op markets store is a community-based business that has provided jobs and training for many young people in the neighborhood.

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Co-op General Manager Dar Maggonar took the store to the 47th Street last Saturday.



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Black creativity

Owen M. Lawson, III

Brian Joiner talks about the inspiration for his painting "Invisible Women" at the Museum of Science and Industry's opening reception of the "Black Creativity 2005" art exhibit. Joiner's painting won first place.

TIF

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a real quality opportunity for retailers."

The Cottage Grove Corridor, which will be an anchor as a business strip for retailers, is defined as the boundaries along 37th to 51st Streets between Lake Shore Drive and the Dan Ryan Expressway.

Also included in the study was another test area that included several 10 minute driving times from the Cottage Grove Corridor—23rd Street to the north; Marquette Road to the south; Halsted Street to the west; and Lake Michigan to the east.

TIF Advisory Council President Howard Males said it was important that Hyde Park businesses know what initiatives surrounding communities were planning to implement.

"The rationale from our point of view today for having our guests here has to do with the way the city is coming together with a recognition of a Mid-South district," Males said.

Susana Vasquez, program director for the New Communities Program of the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) agreed.

"They [Quad Communities] thought this entity [53rd Street TIF] is realizing that some of the organizations and groupings of folks in the Hyde Park neighborhood are things that we would like to see happen in Quad

Communities," Vasquez said.

LISC, a group established to rejuvenate decaying communities including 16 Chicago neighborhoods, was the other guest speaker at the TIF meeting.

The study also concluded that these neighborhoods spend nearly \$35 million more than Chicago's average neighborhood.

Although the average income is \$30,000, these neighborhoods can generate \$191 million per square mile for retailers. Of 77 communities, neighborhoods within the Cottage Grove Corridor were ranked 18th collectively. In comparison, Hyde Park was 8th, Kenwood was 10th, Douglas 20th, Grand Boulevard 25th and Oakland 50th.

"One of the early action items that the Quad Communities Development Corporation took on was really trying to quantify what the

opportunities for retailers," Onyeagoro said. She said residents may understand the resources that they have at their fingertips being "sandwiched between Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Chicago," but retailers need numbers that can prove that a store will survive. The study predicts that within the next ten years, middle-income families surrounding the Cottage Grove Corridor will spend over \$850 million. If correct, these numbers mean the area could support over 700,000-square-feet of business, including apparel stores, eateries and hardware stores.



Owen M. Lawson, III

Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4th)

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