

LAKEFRONT OUTLOOK

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Transit project mulls 43rd St. shuttle bus

by Mike Stevens

Despite threatened cuts to city bus service, 43rd Street might gain more public transportation thanks to a new late-night shuttle bus proposed Nov. 30.

The suggested route is one of three new transit-related proposals outlined by the organizers of a \$300,000 federally-funded project.

The two-year project hopes to fill gaps in the public transportation system that hamper Bronzeville job seekers looking for work in the hot suburban job market, said Dia Cirillo of Work, Welfare & Families, a statewide advocacy organization for low-income families helping organize the project.

"The grant will fill some gaps, but it's not going to fill all the gaps, that's why we... prioritize," Cirillo told the small crowd gathered at the Abraham Lincoln Centre, 3858 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

Roughly 75 area residents, business leaders and non-profits outlined those priorities Oct. 28 during a four-

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Marc Monaghan

Improving service

Passengers exit the bus at 43rd Street and St. Lawrence Avenue last week.

Co-op hires agent to find 47th St. tenant

by Jeremy Adragna

Who will fill the 42,000-square-foot storefront at the Lake Park Pointe shopping center, 1300 E. 47th St., soon to be vacated by Co-op Markets, remains unclear this week.

The Co-op has commissioned Illinois-based realtor Laurie Goodfriend to find a replacement tenant for the large-scale space, but as of last Friday, none was found.

Goodfriend said she is looking for a tenant to fill out the majority of the space, which means the nonprofit retailer may be limited to 47th Street and Lake Park Pointe.

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who would use a substantial portion of the space.

Goodfriend is not ruling out any type of business to install there, including another grocery chain or even a fast-food business.

The owner she finds a tenant to take over Co-op's lease, the owner the Co-op can begin to take a breath and find a tenant at Co-op Market, another reported they will still be responsible for some portion of their rent payments until another business moves in, said a Co-op spokesman.

A Co-op spokesman said the nonprofit retailer is looking for a tenant to fill out the majority of the space, which means the nonprofit retailer may be limited to 47th Street and Lake Park Pointe.

week. A spokesman said, "Mr. Koester has nothing to comment on."

In October, the Hyde Park Cooperative Society, which governs Co-op Markets' three area stores, announced it would close its North Kenwood store to limit \$300,000 per-month losses there.

Only months before the decision to close was announced, Co-op had reportedly begun a large-scale effort to consolidate the store's produce department. Some insiders have speculated Co-op could have done this more intelligently, said a Co-op spokesman.

Co-op spokesman said the nonprofit retailer is looking for a tenant to fill out the majority of the space, which means the nonprofit retailer may be limited to 47th Street and Lake Park Pointe.

U. of C. to open second area school

by Jeremy Adragna

The University of Chicago submitted plans to Chicago Public Schools in late November to open a new college prep charter school on the South Side as part of the Renaissance 2010 plan. It leaves the door open for the U. of C. to open three additional schools later.

In the proposal the university specifically outlines how it first plans to open a new primary school at the former Donoghue Elementary School building at 707 E. 37th St. by Sept. 6, 2005.

The proposal does not mention any specifics for the additional schools but rather hints at future plans to build three more schools and at least one high school in coming years. Currently, the U. of C. operates the North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School (NK/O) which opened in 1998 at 1119 E. 46th St.

The plan would boost U. of C. charter school enrollment from 450 students at NK/O to 2,800 students in a total of five schools.

The proposal, solicited by CPS, describes how this newest school, which has not been named, will be operated through the U. of C. Charter School Corporation and the university think tank, Center for Urban School Improvement (USI).

The proposal signals an ambitious university plan to expand its educational reach beyond Hyde Park and create model schools that rely on community involvement in the new mixed-income neighborhoods springing up on the near South Side.

The newest school will be a planned Chicago Housing Authority development known as Madden/Wells/Darrow which will house not only CHA families but market-rate homeowners as well.

Both U. of C. Vice President of Community Affairs, Hank Webber and USI Executive Director Timothy Knowles agree the North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School's popularity and success have played a role in expanding the charter school program.

"We believe some of our practices should be modeled across the city," Knowles said. "We have approaches that we think

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TAC to hold area forums for Ren 2010 schools

by Kiratiana E. Freelon

After receiving 20 proposals for Mid-South schools Hartigan, Woodson, Douglas and Donoghue, transition advisory councils for each now hope that community members use their only opportunity to provide vital input on the school proposals by attending open community forums. Transition Advisory Council (TAC) members make recommendations on what school proposals should be implemented at the new schools under Renaissance 2010. The group consists of representatives from the entire school community—parents, community/faith-based and business representatives, area residents, aldermen, educators and alumni

“The community will come because they want to see what the new schools might be,” Washington said.

attendance area and called people.

Hartigan TAC member Francine Washington expects 100 to 200 people at the Hartigan community forum. She told everybody at a recent community forum to bring five people to the next meeting.

“The community will come because they want to see what the new schools might be,” Washington said.

At the forums, design teams will take 10 minutes to introduce the proposals. Then they will take questions from TAC members and community.

The once open meetings of the TACs now segue into closed sessions so TAC mem-

bers can discuss each proposal. “We try to be as open as possible, but we must retain the confidential nature of what’s being discussed,” said Ron Raglin, CPS TAC liaison for Douglas School and special assistant to Chief Executive Officer Arne Duncan.

In the meantime, TAC members must sift through the massive proposals, which average 100 pages each, said Melissa Magliola, a CPS TAC liaison and assistant to Chief Administration Officer David Vitale.

Douglas and Hartigan each received six school proposals. Woodson received four proposals. Donoghue Elementary school, 707 E. 37th St., will reopen as a University of Chicago charter school and was scheduled to hold a forum 11 a.m. on Dec. 11 at 8:30 a.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Centre, 3858 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

Proposals for Hartigan, 8 W. Root St., will be presented on Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m.; for Woodson, 4414 S. Evans on Dec. 13 at 5 p.m.; for Douglas, 3200 S. Calumet Ave., Dec. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Raymond Elementary School, 3663 S. Wabash Ave.

“[The forum] is an integral part of the whole process,” said Wanda Taylor, a Hartigan TAC member. “We want to make sure that those things the community say they need and want match up with the proposals that we have. Their opinions and input are needed.”

Taylor said she handed out fliers announcing the forum to people in the old Hartigan



Owen M. Lawson, III

Hut, hut...hike

The Junior Chicago Bears train in Washington Park recently. They hope to beat the pro-Chicago Bears' record this year.

Free wireless access to be offered at public libraries

Chicago Public Library officials announced Monday they will begin offering free wireless internet access in all 76 library branches around Chicago. Now anyone may access the web with their laptop computer inside any library. The new service will not affect the free desktop computer service available already.

Officials say the new service will be the largest of any public library system in the United States.

In other library news, patrons may now reserve two, one-hour sessions on desktop

computers as early as three days in advance. Reservations may be made using a Chicago Public Library card at any branch or from home at chicagopubliclibrary.org/pcres/reserve.pl.

Beginning Jan. 3, 2005, users of free computers at the public library may print up to 10 pages of personal material on library-owned printers, additional prints will cost 15 cents per page.

In order to use desktop computers patrons must now present a Chicago Public Library card for access.

transit

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hour workshop intended to pinpoint problem areas in public transportation and brainstorm solutions.

“[Expanding the hours of the 43rd Street bus] was by far the most specific recommendation we heard,” Janet Boryk, also of Work, Welfare & Families, said.

On the proposed 43rd Street route, a pair of 15-passenger vans would start running every half hour from 7:30 p.m., when the #43 bus stops, until 12:30 a.m. They would connect area commuters to the Red and Green Line trains and the 47th Street Metra station.

An estimated \$100,000 would go towards hiring a “mobility manager” for two years who would work with local residents, social workers and employers to raise awareness of existing transit options as well as help set up transit schedules for residents.

If cost estimates are accurate, \$80,000 would pay for an additional shuttle route, running in the morning and evening, that would make stops at local child care providers on the way to major bus or train stations. It is too early to offer even a rough estimate as to when the project will begin, Cirillo said.

Zirl Smith, the president and CEO of the

Abraham Lincoln Centre, argued that some of the grant money should help establish a new program that would help poverty-stricken families qualify for a car loan. Smith added that his organization was considering establishing such a program along with Quad Communities Development Corporation, who hosted the forum.

“You can’t eliminate poverty without money. You can’t get the money without getting there,” Smith said.

It looked like the organizers were ready to reconsider their priorities until Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4th), noting the sparse turnout on a cold-rainy night, suggested mailing the proposal to those who attended the initial meeting.

“We have to follow-up with the broader group to see what their priorities are,” Preckwinkle said.

After a phone-survey, organizers will take the feedback to an advisory committee before fleshing out their proposals more. There are no additional meetings scheduled.

The city’s Office for Workforce Development secured the \$150,000 matching grant from the Job Access Reverse Commute Program, which has distributed \$150 million nationally to extend and promote existing public transportation service or create new service in low-income communities. The Regional Transportation Authority kicked in the additional \$150,000.

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