

2 Hyde Park Herald, March 19, 2008

"Long Way Gone" at Blackstone

During a book discussion at the Blackstone Library, 4904 S. Lake Park Ave., Jill White (left) and Chris Vollmer discuss "A Long Way Gone - Memoir of a Boy Soldier" by West African author Ishmael Beah. Beah explains in the book how at the age of 12 he was forced to fight, as many other children were, in Sierra Leone's civil war in the 1990s.

Owen M. Lawson III

MEETING
from page 1

methods into and out of the neighborhood.

"It's not just for commuters," she said. "It's a destination — people are coming here to experience your neighborhood."

Young said Hyde Park residents could leverage the possibility of the Olympics coming to Chicago in 2016 to advocate for better transportation in the neighborhood.

A streetcar could work well in Hyde Park, she said. The infrastructure is not expensive and has a permanence that makes investors looking at the neighborhood more comfortable.

More information is available online at cnt.org.

s.cholke@hpherald.com

Jackson Park seeks volunteers

Hyde Parkers can welcome spring by volunteering for the first Jackson Park work day of the season from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The tradition of volunteer work days first started in Jackson Park's Bobolink Meadow and the Wooded Island in 1988.

"These areas need a lot of attention," said Ross Petersen, who has been directing the work days for six years.

Volunteers can expect to do general garden work, removing invasive species such as buckthorn and mulberry bushes, and replanting native vegetation to restore historic nature areas. Petersen said he usually gets about a dozen volunteers to help, six of whom volunteer through the non-profit group Chicago Works.

"We would like to reach out to school, church, community groups

to help out on our work days," said Petersen. The volunteer work days are on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month and start at the Darrow Bridge. Tools and refreshments are provided. For more information, call Petersen at 486-0505.

In other news, the Wooded Island working group was given special recognition for their hard work by the Friends of the Parks during the organization's annual luncheon last month.

More recently, the Jackson Park Advisory Council elected new officers last week. Those officers are Ross Petersen as president, Fran Vandervoort as vice president, Gary Ossewaarde as secretary and Dwight Powell as treasurer.

New police commanders named

Two local police districts have new commanders, part of a sweeping overhaul of police staff by Superintendent Jody P. Weis.

Commander John Doty now heads the 21st District. He replaces Howard Lodding, who was promoted to assistant deputy superintendent of administrative services.

Commander Lynette Helm of the 2nd District was promoted to chief of Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy, or CAPS. Her replacement

had not yet been announced by press time.

Citywide, Weis reassigned more than 40 officers, including 21 district commanders.

Weis, a former FBI agent, took over the job in November from former Superintendent Phil Cline, whose resignation was spurred in part by two videotaped beatings by off-duty officers. Weis is the first outsider named as superintendent since 1960.

City Council honors Leon DespresBy SAM CHOLKE
Staff writer

The whole Chicago City Council rose to sing former 5th Ward Ald. Leon Despres happy birthday March 12.

"I'm sure you have not stopped trying to improve on the masterpiece of your political career," said Ald. Ed Burke (14th). Burke described Despres as "a Renaissance man" and noted he had outlasted all his political opponents and critics is Burke one of two current aldermen to have served in city council with Despres.

Despres, a lifelong proponent of civil rights, women's rights and organized labor, turned 100 years old Jan. 31.

"He's got at least another 20 years, so he's got plenty of years yet to serve," said Ald. Bernard Stone

(50th), the other sitting alderman to have served with Despres. "I only wish I could have as distinguished a career as Leon Despres," he said.

Current 5th Ward Ald. Leslie Hairston said Despres is a "phenomenal being," and thanked him for the work he did that allowed her and other residents of the ward to get an education.

One thing that Despres did with distinction as an alderman was to be "a champion of the African American community when members of this council would not stand up for that community," said Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4th).

Mayor Richard M. Daley said he had always said respect and civility, championed and that Despres extended those qualities throughout his career.

s.cholke@hpherald.com

FUNDING
from page 1

concerns of the rally aren't going to dissuade Strassfeld from coming to the University of Chicago for school, he said, but the administration should treat the graduate students well.

The rallies have drawn undergraduate and graduate students together, strengthening bonds that were previously defined by a teacher-student relationship.

Undergraduate student Sebastian Davis-VanGeldor said that he interacts with graduate students every day on campus, whether as teaching assistants or just in the hallways of the university, and he wanted to support them, even if graduate stipend levels don't directly affect him.

"It doesn't directly affect us because we're not graduate students, but we feel for them," said Tatiana Aroca, an undergraduate student at the university.

s.cholke@hpherald.com

LSC

from page 1

and the power to end the contracts of principals. In recent years, CPS has stripped reopened schools of school councils, replacing them with advisory councils selected by them. PURE filed a lawsuit last month blasting this practice.

HYDE PARK HERALDChicago's Oldest Community Newspaper • Since 1882
Phone: 643-8533 • Fax: 643-8542 • e-mail: hpherald@aol.com

Volume 126 Issue 12 Wednesday, March 19 2008



Publisher Bruce Sagan, ext. 126
V. P./General Manager Susan J. Walker, ext. 128
Business Manager Mary Petrassi, ext. 127
Editor Gabriel Piemonte, ext. 140
Display Advertising Manager Carol Cichocki, ext. 129
Production Manager Tony Zralka, ext. 131
Reporter Georgia Geis, ext. 139
Reporter Sam Cholke, ext. 138
Reporter Daschell M. Phillips, ext. 135
Reporter Kate Hawley, ext. 134
Display Advertising Elizabeth Robinson, ext. 130
Classified Manager Lisa Vinaccia, ext. 124; Fax, 667-0938
Circulation Teena Markarian, ext. 123
Front Desk Irene Kigh, ext. 120

www.hpherald.com

Hyde Park Herald (USPS 580-440) is published weekly by Herald Newspapers, Inc., 1435 E. Hyde Park Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615. Periodical postage paid at Chicago, IL. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Herald Newspapers, Inc., c/o Hyde Park Herald, 1435 E. Hyde Park Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615

Deadline for editorial and display advertising copy is noon Friday before publication. Deadline for classified advertising is 2 p.m. Monday before publication.

Subscribe Today!

1. Call 643-8533 ext. 123 or

2. Return this form to

Hyde Park Herald, 1435 E. Hyde Park Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615 OR

3. Send an e-mail! to hpherald@aol.com

\$15 One Year \$26 Two Years \$38 Three Years
 Gift* New Renewal

*If this is a gift subscription: Gift entered in the name of:

Charge: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Card # _____ Exp: _____

 Check or Money Order + Amount Enclosed Bill Me

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Rates reflect Cook County subscription prices. Rates different outside Cook County.

Two Hyde Park congressmen receive A+ rating for votes

Two Congressmen who represent Hyde Park earned an A+ on the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law's "Poverty Scorecard 2007: Rating Members of Congress."

The center looked at lawmakers' votes on 21 bills that the institute said dealt with "affordable housing, budget and tax, civil rights, early and higher education, health care,

immigrants, labor, legal services, prisoner re-entry and rural poverty."

Each member of the House was scored on 14 key votes, and each member of the Senate was ranked on 15 votes.

Congressmen Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-2) and Bobby Rush (D-1) were both scored with an A+ on the report. Both representatives were considered to have voted positively

on all of the key bills.

The full report is available online at the Shriver Center's Web site, povertylaw.org.

Sen. Dick Durbin also scored an A+, voting what the center saw as favorably towards helping the poor on every bill examined. Sen. Barack Obama was not scored because he voted on less than 13 of the 14 bills.

Page
IndexHome pg.
1
Classified