

# Summer 2016

## 5th WARD REPORT

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



Dear 5th Ward Resident:

*It seems like this summer is busier than usual. We had the ever popular Chosen Few Picnic & Music Festival expanding to two days and were introduced to the Jackson Five Classic, Margarita Fest, Divine Nine 5K-Chicago and #Wear Orange.*

*The best news of all is the announcement of a new grocery store to replace the shuttered Dominick's. The 5th*

*Ward has been without a grocery store at this prime location for more than two years. In addition, the reconfigured site will include a health club and clothing store.*

*After years of trying to position the 5th Ward as a destination, we are seeing the fruits of our labor with the selection of Jackson Park as the future site of the Barack Obama Presidential Library and Museum. There is still a lot of work to do, however, to ensure neighborhood residents reap the benefits of what will be a world-class facility.*

*Soon, these warm days will be behind us and our children will be preparing to go back to school. Our Back-To-School Picnic is August 28, 2016. Let us make sure all of our children are ready and prepared to learn. The best investment we can make in the future of our community is through our children. Let us make sure we set an example by being involved at every level—home, school, neighborhood and city.*

*In the meantime, stay cool.*

*Sincerely,*

*Leslie A. Hairston*

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Good Things Come To Those Who Wait

For the past two years a vacant store has greeted 5th Ward residents searching to buy groceries to feed their families. The welcomed news of a store finally being built, to replace the Dominick's in Jeffrey Plaza comes after a lot of effort. Following drawn out negotiations between a local grocer, the property owner and lawyers of the old Dominick's site, an agreement has been reached. The new grocery store will occupy roughly half of the building, and two other businesses will occupy the remaining space. Charter Fitness is one of the tenants and City Trends clothing store will be the other.

"Everything the community has asked for was taken into consideration and replaces a grocery store where there is a major need," says 5th Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston.



During a late July ward meeting at Hyde Park High School, the proposed grocer had an opportunity to give residents an update. Karriem Beyah explained the non-union, fresh market will be 40,000 square feet, and 100 percent of the workers will be from the community. According to Beyah, "It will be a store that caters to all ethnicities selling fresh fruit, fresh flowers, fresh produce, everything fresh. There also will be a large organic section to meet the growing demand."

The prospect of a fresh market moving into the neighborhood, should entice other retailers to follow.

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The next step is to move forward with build-out plans. The grocer plans to work with the alderman's service office to ensure community hiring. The target opening date is late Spring 2017.

"Charter Fitness is looking forward to moving into such a great neighborhood and appreciates the opportunity to get a better footprint in the city of Chicago," says Dan Collins, chief operations officer at Charter Fitness. The fitness center will take up roughly 15-20,000 square feet. As a standard practice Charter Fitness hires people from the community. In addition, there will be a great staff of experienced managers and personal trainers. On average 15-20 people work at a Charter Fitness.

"The facility has a full cardio setup, strength machines and free weights. Everything needed to get a full fitness workout," explains Collins. The chief operations officer believes having a grocery store and a clothing store nearby is a great thing. Each will help the other bring in foot traffic. The center is waiting for permits to be approved, but they are looking forward to opening as soon as possible.

## Community Hearings On Police Accountability Aim To Get It Right

Recently, the first in a series of community hearings on police accountability took



TENSIONS RAN HIGH AT THE COMMUNITY HEARING ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY HELD AT THE SOUTH SHORE CULTURAL CENTER IN EARLY AUGUST. THE HEARING WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES PLANNED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. APPROXIMATELY 250 PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

place at the South Shore Cultural Center in response to police misconduct in the shooting death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald late last year. Ironically, when it was suggested that additional hearings needed to take place across the city, the shooting death of 18-year-old Paul O'Neal was not in question. O'Neal died of a gun shot in the back while running from police after jumping out of a stolen Jaguar near 74th St. and Merrill Ave.

The community hearings on police accountability are being held while the administration mulls over whether to replace the Independent Police Review Authority as recommended by the mayor's appointed Police Accountability Task Force. Calls to abolish IPRA come in the wake of the public learning that a police dashcam video showing the killing of McDonald was withheld for more than a year.

Aldermen Hairston and Jason Ervin (28th) introduced two ordinances in direct response to years of biased investigations, lack of transparency and accountability, and failure to address patterns of abuse. While the final touches are being made to preserve and make stronger the tenets of the Independent Citizen Police Monitor and FAIR COPS ordinances, they both introduced in City Council earlier this year, the aldermen are urging the public to attend the community hearings.

Hairston's ordinance ensures the ICPM will have the powers it needs to perform high quality investigations, and will be accountable to the public, unbiased, fully transparent, rigorous and independent. Ervin's ordinance calls for establishing an auditor for the police department within the Chicago Inspector General's Office.

To be effective and transformational, both require community oversight and a dedicated funding source. To get real community input they are joining their colleagues on the Chicago City Council Progressive Reform Caucus to hold a series of public meetings throughout the city on the urgent topic of police reform and accountability.

"It's not sufficient enough to address the harsh wounds the community has had to suffer as a result of police shootings," said Hairston. "A more aggressive outreach is needed that includes the community and is ongoing."

A range of five to seven public meetings have been suggested to take place to evaluate what Chicago residents, most impacted by police misconduct, want to see in the final ordinance.

Hairston said, "Given the enormity and seriousness of this problem, it is unreasonable to think that real reform can take place in a day or two. This is going to take time, and we have to take the time in order to get it right."

## Tackling Crime



While violence in the city continues to spin out of control, it is down in the 5th Ward. One of the reasons is a dramatic increase in police on foot, bike and car patrols. Police are on the street engaging with the community and doing their best to put citizens at ease.

Complimenting efforts is the newly appointed 3rd District CAPS Sergeant Maudessie Jinter, who has a lot of experience working with convicted burglars. In her role with the Chicago Police Department and the Safer Foundation, she oversees the "Keepin' It Real" program, which helps to raise community crime awareness by allowing rehabilitated offenders the opportunity to teach the public about how to avoid home robberies and personal theft.



ALD. LESLIE HAIRSTON SPEAKS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN JACKSON PARK TO ANNOUNCE THE OFFICIAL SITE OF THE OBAMA LIBRARY.

## World-Class Center Chooses A World-Class Park

Jackson Park has been selected for the site of the Barack Obama Presidential Library and Museum. A husband and wife team, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, are the lead designers working with Interactive Design Architects to bring the history-making facility to our great city.

Area residents are familiar with the architects' work through the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago. IDEA also designed the Art Institute of Chicago's Modern Wing.

Jackson Park consists of 500 acres and the library site will be located between 61st & 62nd Streets, between Stony Island Ave. & Cornell Dr. Ald. Hairston says she believes Jackson Park was chosen by the Obama Library Foundation because of its proximity to Lake Michigan, the DuSable Museum of African American History and the Science and Industry Museum.

"This site connects three different communities--Hyde Park, South Shore and Woodlawn, says the 5th Ward alderman. This project means that we will have the investment in these communities that has been lacking on the South Side for a long time, which is what I'm hoping for."

Chicago beat out New York a little over a year ago as the host city for the Obama Presidential Center. Construction is slated to be \$500 million and to begin sometime after the 44th president's final term ends.

## Flower Power Unites Community

The 5th Ward's organic garden, created to teach children about gardening, is complete. So many in the community have commented and thanked the alderman for the beautiful community garden that is brightening the neighborhood and encouraging neighbors to get to know each other.

"Leslie Hairston made it all possible. She opened the door for our community to have the opportunity to take part in this wonderful activity. The garden has helped bring the community together," says Elliott El-Amin. The 5th Ward resident, who was a member of the Participatory Budgeting process, says funding of the garden was something residents really wanted.

Construction of the garden was well prepared using the cleanest soil and irrigation techniques to ensure the growth of fresh produce and sustainability of the garden for years to come.

Some of the herbs and vegetables being grown are basil, cucumbers, green peppers, cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes and celery.

El-Amin encourages all 5th Ward residents to check out the organic garden.

## Looks Can Be Deceiving

As beautiful as Lake Michigan is, it can be frightening if you do not know how to swim. That is why for the past three years, Ald. Hairston, along with the Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Fire Department Scuba Diving Division, Chicago Fire Department Helicopter Squad and the Chicago Coast Guard have gathered on the 57th Street Beach for a 'Water Safety and Rescue Simulation.' The event, which takes place in June, is growing in attendance. This year, approximately 230 students, teachers and chaperones learned the rules of water safety.

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## CHOSEN FEW



THE CHOSEN FEW PICNIC & MUSIC FESTIVAL, LOCATED AT 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE., EXPANDED TO TWO DAYS. THE YEARLY EVENT WAS STARTED IN 1990 AND HAS SINCE SEEN THE ANNUAL MUSIC PARTY GROW TO OVER 40,000 GUESTS EACH FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND.



## Julia M. Smith

Long time 5th Ward resident and business owner, Julia Smith, died of breast cancer on August 1. Smith was born in Greenwood, Miss., on Dec. 8, 1945, and moved to Chicago in the 1960s.

She arrived with a high school education and found work at the famed Southmoor Hotel. After studying cosmetology at one of the first black-owned beauty schools, Smith got an undergraduate degree in cosmetology at Southern Illinois University, a master's degree from the National Beauty Culture League in Washington, D.C., and a Ph.D. from Dillard University in New Orleans.

She was on several boards of directors, including those for the Proud Lady Beauty Show, the Chicago Cosmetology Association and National Beauty Cultural League.

After working as a stylist for years at Chez Pompadour in Bronzeville, Smith opened Julia's Studio East Hair Salon, in the Deco Arts Building, 5500 S. Lake Park Ave., in 1986.

Looks Can Be Deceiving - Cont. from page 3

Many kids returned from last year and the organizers saw an increase of about half who took swimming lessons after attending last year's event. The yearly event is geared toward providing water safety tips while swimming and/or boating. Understanding water safety is a life skill, 70 percent of black children cannot swim and those between the ages of 5-14 years old are about three times more likely to drown than white children.

## Meet Me On The Corner Of Stony Island And John W. Rogers Sr.

World War II veteran and Judge John W. Rogers Sr. was honored with a street sign at Stony Island Ave. and 57th St. Rogers' family, city officials and Hyde Park residents were all in attendance for the naming ceremony.



Rogers was a Hyde Park resident and one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, flying 120 successful combat missions over Europe during World War II. He was a captain in the 99th Pursuit. Rogers was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress's highest civilian honor, in 2007. Rogers also was one of the first African American students to attend the University of Chicago law school in the 1940s. Upon graduation he began a private legal practice and a law firm, eventually having a long career as a juvenile court judge.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Ald. Leslie Hairston, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, John W. Rogers Jr. and the senior Rogers' cousin Juanita Temple, were in attendance.



## Comcast Cares

One of the nation's media giants gave Hyde Park Preschool Center's playground a makeover when it was selected as a site for the Comcast Cares Service Event last spring. Forty-one volunteers of Comcast Illinois, Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan came out to spread mulch, plant flowers, sand and paint furniture, and rake, shovel and clean the entire playground area.

## FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



LADY LIBERTY LED THE WAY AT THIS YEAR'S FOURTH OF JULY PARADE, WHICH ONCE AGAIN TOOK PLACE ON 53RD STREET IN HYDE PARK. AS ALWAYS THERE WAS A HOST OF FUN FILLED FAMILY EVENTS TAKING PLACE. IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARADE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY, PARADE COORDINATOR AND OWNER OF TOYS ET CETERA, NANCY STANEK, WAS THE GRAND MARSHAL.

## Jackson Park 5

All ages and fitness levels gathered together for the inaugural Jackson Park Five Classic Run/Walk event in May. The exciting race organized by 5th Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston, the Tri-Masters-Youth Division and the South East Chicago Commission was created as a way to make a healthy lifestyle a lifelong journey.

Hairston, herself a triathlete said, "These types of events are important because in so many African American communities there is a lack of healthy food choices, a lack of community centers, a lack of physical education in schools and a lack of spaces for kids to play."

The organizers hope to make the Jackson Park Five Classic an annual event to kick-off Chicago's active warm weather season.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

(Residents can meet privately with the alderman from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Ward Office Closed:

#### Labor Day

Monday, September 5

#### Columbus Day

Monday, October 10

#### Veterans' Day

Friday, November 11

#### Thanksgiving Day Weekend

November 23, 24 & 25

#### Christmas Holiday

December 23-27

#### New Year's Day

January 1 & 2, 2017

### Events:

#### 5th Ward Back-To-School Picnic

Saturday, August 28

63rd St. Beach House

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Early Voting Begins

October 24

Jackson Park Field House

6401 S. Stony Island Ave.

Monday - Saturday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Election Day

Tuesday, November 8

### Upcoming Ward Meetings:

(All meetings begin at 6 p.m.)

Note: No ward meetings in November or December

#### Tuesday, August 23

South Shore Cultural Center

7059 S. South Shore Dr.

#### Tuesday, September 27

Gary Comer Youth Center

7200 S. Ingleside Ave.

#### Tuesday, October 25

Hyde Park Academy

6220 S. Stony Island Ave.

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

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