

# HYDE PARK HERALD

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Local  
Since  
1882

Volume 125  
Issue 44

**MORE INSIDE...**

- Letters .....4
- Blotter.....6
- Calendar .....8
- Classifieds .....23



**Being Margaret Burroughs**

page 14

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**



**Set your clock back one hour Nov. 3!**

**50¢**



## Preckwinkle leads names release fight

By SAM CHOLKE  
Staff Writer

Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow Thursday ruled that she did not have jurisdiction to compel corporate counsel Mara Georges to release the names of Chicago Police officers accused of using excessive force to members of the City Council. Aldermen, led by Fourth Ward Ald. Toni Preckwinkle, will likely plead their case to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"She denied our motion. She concluded that she really didn't have jurisdiction," said Judson Miner of Miner, Barnhill & Galland.

Miner, Matthew Piers of Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd. and Clyde Murphy of the Chicago Committee for Civil Rights Under Law are representing 28 aldermen in their efforts to get Mayor Daley and

the corporate counsel to release a copy of the list without the officers' names blacked out.

Miner said the aldermen have several options now that the appeal to Lefkow has been denied.

"It's really up to the aldermen [to do] what they want to do," Miner said. "Do they want to challenge it? They could move up to 7th Circuit; they could file their own action. They're thinking about it, and I don't know what they're going to do."

Preckwinkle said Friday that they will likely appeal to the 7th Circuit, but she needed to confer with the other aldermen first.

"That's what we're going to do," Preckwinkle said. "I think we've missed one out of the 28, but yeah we've talked to everybody."

Preckwinkle said she did not have

expectations for the appeal.

Twenty-seven aldermen have joined Preckwinkle in her efforts to get the city to release the names after an initial request resulted in an argument with the city over the limits of Judge Lefkow's stay on documents. The stay followed a decision by Lefkow that the city's list of police officers with repeated complaints of official misconduct — registered against them through the Office of Professional Standards, the police's watchdog arm — should be available to aldermen.

"We're just hopeful," she said. "We just hope this will be public information."

The aldermen have made no firm plans yet should the 7th Circuit appeal fail, Preckwinkle said. They're just taking it "one step at a time," she said.

## Condo task force nowhere in sight

By GEORGIA GEIS  
Staff Writer

Last September tenants of a building at 52nd Street and Drexel Avenue organized a march down the streets of Hyde Park to protest the loss of affordable housing in the neighborhood due to condo conversion. More than 150 people from throughout Chicago joined them, and Mayor Daley responded to the rally by convening the Condo Conversion Task Force.

A year later the task force, chaired by Ald. Ray Suarez (31st), has yet to meet, and tenant rights groups

took to the street to protest again — this time in front of the mayor's office.

"The march on September 30, 2006, was the impetus for the Mayor convening this condo conversion task force," said Kathy Cheney-Egan of the Metropolitan Tenants Organization (MTO). "We [were] waiting for the task force to come out with some sort of recommendation, and we found out they haven't even met yet — and here it is 2007."

Elizabeth Todd, who was at the rally last year in Hyde Park, also

See MARCH on page 2

## 68th annual Chamber dinner honors HP banks

By SAM CHOLKE  
Staff Writer

Members of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce gathered Thursday night at the Quadrangle Club, 1155 E. 57th St., to honor the financial institutes in the community during their 68th annual dinner.

"We're poised for rebirth in Hyde Park," said Jim Poueymirou, president of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce and a consultant with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, 5239

S. Harper Ave.

The chamber also welcomed some new members since last year.

"We are new members this year. We're happy to be here," said L a m o n t Robinson of



James Poueymirou

See CHAMBER on page 2

## Antheus holds forum to address questions

By YVETTE PRESBERRY  
Staff Writer

Following a rush of land acquisitions that made it the second-largest property owner in Hyde Park, Antheus Capital has sparked many questions about how Hyde Park will be affected by their presence in the neighborhood.

In an effort to address those questions, Antheus head Eli Unger, in cooperation with the Hyde Park — Kenwood Community Conference

(HP-K CC), held an Oct. 16 forum at which residents peppered Unger with concerns ranging from details about the everyday business of property management to the



Eli Unger

See ANTHEUS on page 2

### Ready, set, go!



Children leaping off the starting line at this year's Gargoyle Gallop Sunday. The annual event raises funds for literacy and social service agency the Blue Garoyle, 5638 S. Woodlawn Ave.

Courtesy of Dave Carno

took part in last week's protest. Todd said she spent more than a year fighting for her rights as a renter when the building she lived in was severely neglected and the owner made plans to convert the building to condos without giving proper notice.

"We started organizing to fight for our rights," Todd, a University of Chicago graduate student, said. "We took the landlord to court."

Eventually the owner, John Dehelean, lost the building, and Harris Bank took over and is vacating the building, which only has a couple families still living there. Many of the former residents have moved out of Hyde Park, going as far as Indiana and Michigan to find affordable housing, she said.

"I was one of the newest tenants, but my neighbor above me lived there for 40 years," said Todd, who now lives in a rental at 49th Street and Drexel Avenue.

MTO Tenant Advocate Malik Wornum said the area on Drexel Avenue on the west side of Hyde Park is going through a dramatic transformation, with many buildings being vacated to create condos. Some of these buildings that have been vacated — such as the building at 5135-37 S. Drexel Ave. — have sat empty since 2005.

"Some had to move out of the community and we are talking about people who have lived in Hyde Park for thirty-plus years," said Wornum. "And we see this every day with the condominium conversion[s] going on in Chicago."

During the recent protest, MTO and other tenants complained that the task force did not have a single tenant advocacy group represented.

"There is no tenant representation on the task force," Wornum said. He added that his organization as well as tenants had been calling and writing Suarez to join the task force and did not get any response.

After the protest, Suarez announced that the Condo Conversion Task Force will have their first meeting Nov. 8.

As of press time, Suarez did not respond to calls from the Herald.

Allstate Insurance, 1120 E. 47th St. "It has been good for us."

Robinson said Allstate employees were working with the University of Chicago and interacting with the students during their first week back.

Poueymirou said he tries to instill the values of the chamber in all new members.

"I want to see new business owners understand their civic responsibility to give back to the community," he said.

It's that commitment that has helped make Hyde Park the most vibrant neighborhood in Chicago, Poueymirou said.

"I refer to Hyde Park as my small town in a big city," Poueymirou said. "It's really about all of us working together to make this a great small town."

Poueymirou urged all of the roughly 120 business owners at the dinner to "think about how you're going to make this, our small town,



Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce President James Poueymirou and Quadrangle Club student-employees David Kaye & Kristin Casper work the floor selling raffle tickets during the 68th Annual Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce Dinner Thursday.

Marc Monaghan

a better place."

His message rang true for many in attendance.

The Chamber of Commerce has been very good for Hyde Park, said Penny Aulston of the Museum of Science and Industry.

"It has been consistently working to bring the community together and create more businesses coming into

the community," she said.

Hyde Park has expanded beyond its traditional borders in the last four years to be more inclusive, Poueymirou said, adding that, as Hyde Park grows, he hopes the Chamber of Commerce can be instrumental in moving business owners' commitment to the community into the future.

# HYDE PARK HERALD

Chicago's Oldest Community Newspaper • Since 1882  
Phone: 643-8533 • Fax: 643-8542 • e-mail: hpherald@aol.com  
Volume 125 Issue 44 Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007



- Publisher** Bruce Sagan, ext. 126
- V. P./General Manager** Susan J. Walker, ext. 128
- Business Manager** ext. 127
- Editor** Gabriel Piemonte, ext. 140
- Display Advertising Manager** Carol Cichocki, ext. 129
- Production Manager** Tony Zralka, ext. 131
- Production Artist** Claudia Laska, ext. 133
- Reporter** Nykeya Woods, ext. 135
- Reporter** Yvette Presberry, ext. 134
- Reporter** Georgia Geis, ext. 139
- Reporter** Sam Cholke, ext. 138
- 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](http://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](mailto:hpherald@aol.com)

- |                                |                              |                                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>\$15 One Year</b>           | <b>\$26 Two Years</b>        | <b>\$38 Three Years</b>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift* | <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

## ANTHEUS

from page 1

growing expense of renting in Hyde Park.

Late into the night, Unger answered question after question during the uncharacteristically subdued event. In between frequent apologies, Unger told the nearly 100-member audience his investment in the neighborhood is for the long haul.

"We have no intention of selling," Unger said.

Among the properties the company owns are Village Center, 1525 E.

Hyde Park Blvd., a mixed-use center with a grocery store, restaurant, office space, and apartments; the Algonquin, 1606 E. Hyde Park Blvd.; Maple House, 1120-26 E. 47th St.; and 1350-1364 E. 53rd St., an apartment building that also includes a Washington Mutual branch and several shops on the 53rd Street site of the property. The company also plans to erect a high-rise designed by award-winning architect Jeanne Gang at 56th Street and Cornell Avenue. At a second recent community meeting (see inset), Unger also met with parents and representatives of Bret Harte Elementary School, 1556 E. 56th St., about construction of the high-rise,

which will affect the school.

Several people at the HP-K CC forum discussed concerns of condominium conversions and rising rent rates in Hyde Park.

"We will move out if we can't afford to live here," said Hyde Park resident Allison Hubbard.

Unger repeatedly apologized for inconveniences tenants mentioned they had encountered when trying to reach MAC Properties, Antheus' management arm in Hyde Park, and said that buying so much property in Hyde Park at once was a learning experience.

"We've learned a lot from it," he said.

## Antheus updates Bret Harte officials about high-rise plans

By NYKEYA WOODS  
Staff Writer

An Antheus Capital representative updated Bret Harte Elementary officials in early October about its plan to build a 26-story high-rise adjacent to the school.

Construction on Windermere West near 56th Street and Cornell Avenue could begin next summer and officials at the school at 1556 E. 56th St. fear they may encounter snarls.

Updated plans show that the New Jersey-based company is cre-

ating a larger wrap-around playground and a one-way private driveway, which can be used as a drop-off and pick-up lane for the school. An alley, which juts behind the property and is located east of Bret Harte, is expected to move north. The parking lot will increase in size and is set to move to a grassy area next to the school. Before Antheus could pursue creating a 26-story building, the company had to acquire a small strip of land from the Board of Education.

Antheus head Eli Ungar said that he understood that the construc-

tion of the 142-unit condominium building would create some problems for Bret Harte. But he said that he specifically searched for a construction firm that has built next to schools.

"Whenever you build things in an urban area, it's complicated," Ungar said. "Whenever you build near a school, it's 10 times as complicated."

Possible problems include traffic flow and congestion along 56th Street, which is a concern the school's principal Shenethe Parks has raised.

## Art group continues search for muralist

The Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG) has had no luck in tracking down artist Albert Zeno, who created a mural on the south side of the 55th Street viaduct wall three-and-a-half decades ago.

CPAG Executive Director Jon Pounds said that he is anxious to learn about Zeno's whereabouts.

"I haven't heard anything from anyone about this," said CPAG Executive Director Jon Pounds. "We're also looking for anyone who knows if he passed away or anything."

The mural, titled "Alewives and Mercury Fish," along with other murals along the Metra underpasses in Hyde Park, from 47th to 57th streets, are going through a restoration process as part of the Chicago Department of Transportation's two-year plan. Pounds had previously contacted an Albert Zeno in the Bronx, N.Y., with no luck. Attempts by the Herald to contact multiple Albert Zenos in Texas and Florida listed at [zabasearch.com](http://zabasearch.com) and [switchboard.com](http://switchboard.com) were greeted with a busy signal and disconnection tones.



Those with information can contact Pounds directly at 312-427-2724, ext. 24 or e-mail him at [info@cpag.net](mailto:info@cpag.net).