

THE BRIDGEPORT INTERNATIONAL



"Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one." - A.J. Liebling • • • January 29, 2010 Volume I, Issue One

WAL-MART SHENANIGANS

Wal-Mart's support is being manufactured by a local public relations powerhouse. SEE PAGE 03.



PRIMARY VOTE

We think this primary election is an important one. Primary Endorsements inside. SEE PAGE 10

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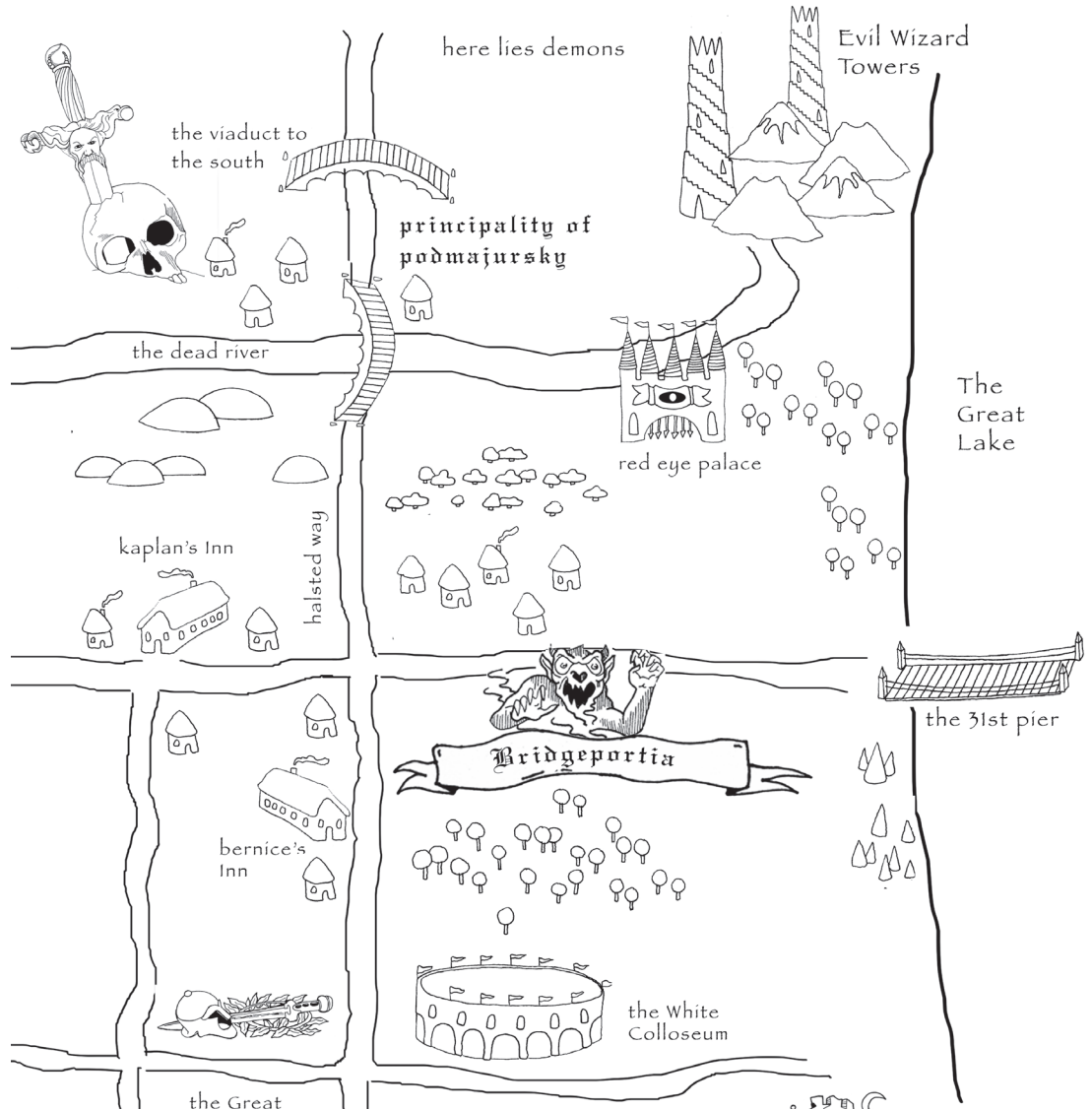
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Bridgeport Long Ago - By Rachael and Ed Marszewski
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AN INTRODUCTION

Thanks for picking up the first issue of the *Bridgeport International*. This is a new project put by the folks from *Lumpen* magazine and the Co-Prosperty Sphere. We are your neighbors. Please excuse our mess as we set up shop. We are rushing this issue to press because we want to motivate you to vote in the primary and help get some independent minded candidates into office.

The name, *Bridgeport International*, celebrates the fact that our neighborhood is a great reflection of the good ol' American Melting Pot our social studies teachers told us about back in grade school. Bridgeport, according to some *Red Eye* or *Chicago Tribune* article, is the 4th or 5th most ethnically diverse neighborhood in Chicago. And that's a good thing.

We have been living and working in the neighbor-

AN INTRODUCTION CONTINUED

By
Ed Marszewski

We think most politicians are crooks and we usually vote for the least offensive and least harmful.

hood for over twenty years. So we are not strangers to our corner of Chicago. But since we moved here over twenty years ago we feel that the neighborhood is in multiple states of transistion and we want to talk about it. We primarily want to raise some awareness about important local issues, and have a community-wide conversation about what we want our neighborhood to look like in the next few decades.

Think of the *BI* as a publication for both locals and tourists. In each issue we will print a map featuring a directory of places and spaces of interest. We also will print crime blotters. Those are fun. In addition, we will also share important articles written by our friends who publish on local blogs and area papers. In general we will feature everything from the mundane to the weird and our contributors will share their expert and amateur knowledge about film, cooking or starting a political machine.

Speaking of political machines, we are putting this issue out before the primary elections in order to give you a little help while you are in the voting booth. If you live in this neighborhood then you know how important voting is.

Our primary ballot endorsments were picked to help sort out the confusing mess of Illinois politics. We think most politicians are crooks so we usually vote for the least offensive and least harmful.

In the upcoming primary this February 2, you have an opportunity to choose independents and reformers to represent you in government. If you are registered to vote, you can make a difference in choosing a candidate who is not an incumbent and shares your interests. Fresh faces are a harbinger of the change we want to see in Chicago, right?

Please use our endorsement picks on page 10 and 11 and bring them with you to the voting booth! It's totally legal! Or go online and check out what the *Chicago Reader*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Sun Times* have to say. But remember you have to declare a party before you vote. So take your pick from the Green Party, The Democratic Party and the Republican party.

We are pulling a Democratic Party ballot in the primary because we are rooting for our buddy, Josip "Joe" Trutin, for State Representative in the Illinois 2nd District. The 2nd District is primarily comprised of the neighborhoods of Bridgeport, Pilsen, McKinley Park, Back of the Yards and Little Village. Joe is a community leader, runs a small business and has lived here most of his life. He's been endorsed by both the *Tribune* and the *Sun Times*. And now he gets the official *Bridgeport International* plug! We're Rootin' for Trutin!

In our next issue we want you to join us in making this newsletter. Please share your stories with us. Let us print some of your family's old photos of the neighborhood. Or why don't you review the architectural wonders of Morgan Street? Maybe you can share a conspiracy on some hush hush political happenings, or explain how a TIF zone works. And don't forget we want recipes, and interviews with your grandma.

Well, we hope you will let us know what you think of this first issue. We plan on doing this for a long time...

Visit our blog <http://bridgeportinternational.blogspot.com> or Email BridgeportInternational@gmail.com and lets get started..

The Bridgeport International
3219 S Morgan St
Chicago Il 60608

Web
bridgeportinternational.blogspot.com

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published by Reuben Kincaid and
friends.

email:
bridgeportinternational@gmail.com

Contributors: L Cortez, Robert
Giles, Dean Olson, Ed Marsze-
wski, Rachael Marszewski, Kevin
Robinson.

WAL-MART USING FAKE COMMUNITY GROUP TO MANUFACTURE SUPPORT

By
Kevin Robinson

Wal-Mart's support is being manufactured by a local public relations powerhouse.

From the [Chicagoist.com](http://chicagoist.com)

The controversy over Wal-Mart's attempts to break into the Chicago retail market has flared up again recently. Opponents argue that Wal-Mart drives down wages, destroys local businesses and leads to no net increase in jobs or tax revenue for the city. Wal-Mart and its allies contend that neighborhood residents deserve to have a say in what happens in their neighborhood, and people that don't live there should stay out of the matter. The lack of good options available to people that live on the South and West sides of Chicago has been well-documented, and it's very plausible that there is a substantial and passionate movement in those neighborhoods to bring Wal-Mart to their communities as a solution. Wal-Mart would have us believe that such a sentiment exists, but it turns out that support for their expansion into the city is being manufactured by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, a local public relations powerhouse, and by Wal-Mart itself.

A few weeks ago, a series of posts that I wrote on the subject attracted the attention not only of our regular readership, but also people that don't

normally visit our site on a regular basis. One reader in particular, going by the login "Chatham" took issue with the subject matter of the posts, but also with the arguments that Wal-Mart opponents have made. Specifically, Chatham rebutted one of our regular commentors, Navin, when accused of being a "paid Wal-Mart/Daley PR spammer." After a discussion with the site's editor, Marcus Gilmer, I decided to take a look at who Chatham might be. I checked out the URL that was associated with Chatham's comments, <http://ourcommunityourchoice.com> and discovered it's a website promoting the opening of a Wal-Mart in Chatham, declaring that "Everyone else but Chatham and the South Side are making the decisions - It's OUR CHOICE, NOT THEIRS." At the bottom of the screen it announced that "Our Community. Our Choice. is proudly supported by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce." I wanted to know more about who was behind what appeared to be a community group that supported opening a Wal-Mart in the neighborhood, so I did two things. First, I emailed the address that had been commenting on the site, asking for an on the record interview about their involvement in the movement to bring Wal-Mart to Chicago. Then I looked up the IP address (information provided with each comment) and found the comments were made from an IP address associated with Serafin and Associates.

That name might sound familiar to you: they're the Chicago-based consulting firm that Wal-Mart has retained to manage its public relations campaign in Chicago. That includes push polling done last summer in Chicago. A day after I emailed the ourcommunityourchoice.com address, I got a phone call from Haydee Caldero, a consultant with The Freeman Institute. She told me that she represented the firm hired to manage the website and community contact related to Wal-Mart's expansion into Chicago, and directed me to Michael Mini, the Government Relations Director at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, whom I promptly emailed, requesting an interview. He didn't immediately respond.

READ MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE>>



Creative Action!
For the past several years, Raging Grannies throughout the United States, Canada and the UK have joined forces to rage at their neighborhood Wal-Marts on one coordinated day.

see www.raginggrannies.com for more info.

WAL-MART CONTINUED

Also on the same day that I emailed the ourcommunityyourchoice.com email address, the Chicagoist tipline received an email from the Walmart Community Action Network, suggesting that the site might help CAN engage readers that want to help Wal-Mart set up shop in Chicago. I emailed that address requesting an on the record interview about their involvement in the Wal-Mart campaign. A day later, Tara Stewart, the Regional Director of Media Relations for Wal-Mart emailed me back, saying that CAN had forwarded my email to her. She said she was busy but could answer five questions submitted in writing. While Chicagoist has on rare occasions conducted an interview via email for Arts & Events stories, our editorial policy for news issues is that we only do interviews face-to-face or via phone, and we never submit questions in writing in advance of the interview. I explained this to Ms. Stewart and after some back and forth about who was authorized to speak on Wal-Mart's behalf, she stopped replying to my emails. On January 22, I emailed both Mike Mini and Tara Stewart to give them one last opportunity to sit with me for an interview. Ms. Stewart refused to answer any questions that weren't emailed; Mr. Mini did respond and agreed to an interview.

Mike Mini told me that Wal-Mart is indeed a member of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, that they have "a representative on the Government Affairs Committee," and that "our process is kind of open. Any member that expresses an interest can come to meetings and work on issues that are important to them." Is the Chamber working on behalf of Wal-Mart in the city? "We're working on behalf of policies that we feel further business and commerce in the city." Because I got to Mr. Mini through Our Community, Our Choice, I asked what his involvement in the site was. "It's part of our advocacy effort to gain support," and that "we set that up as a way to communicate with people. We were expecting this to come up for a vote before the council sooner, but obviously it's been stalled." I asked him if he was familiar with Serafin and Associates. "Yes, we have worked with them in our strategy sessions. We've worked with [Thomas] Serafin and his team." When I told him that our site

had gotten comments from the email address that led me to him and asked if he knew that it was being used to comment on blogs, he said "no, not that I'm aware of." Are you surprised that an IP address from Serafin was being used that way? "No, not in particular." Why not? "I really can't comment without looking into it further."

Given that Wal-Mart supporters (and the website run by the Chicagoland Chamber) claim that opponents to Wal-Mart are outsiders that don't live in the neighborhood, I thought I should find out if Mike Mini lived in Chatham. "Uh, no." What part of Chicago you live in? "No comment." Do you even live in Chicago at all? "No comment."

While Wal-Mart certainly has the right make its case to Chicago, the way they've gone about this - creating a fake community group that purports to represent a community's residents and interests - is sneaky and underhanded. If what they have to offer Chicago is such a great deal, why did they need to go through the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce to set up a bogus grassroots group? When I started asking questions around their tactics, they refused to talk to me, except on their own terms. Wal-Mart claims that Chatham residents should be the ones speaking up and making the decisions about what happens in their neighborhood. Over the next few weeks, we plan to look even further into this issue, including talking to residents and community leaders in Chatham and their thoughts on the issue. But it looks like Wal-Mart is working behind the scenes to make sure that the official corporate line is the only one being heard. That's not what an organization that wants to be an active part of the community does. That's not letting the community have a say in its own destiny - it's using race and class to divide people for profit. And that's not something Chicago needs right now.

Read more by Kevin Robinson at Chicagoist.com.

THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHILDHOOD

CHILDREN, TEENS, MEDIA AND CONSUMPTION-A SUBJECT TO THINK ABOUT

By
L. Cortez

Marketing to kids is out of control.

The average child spends over 40 hours per week consuming images in front of some kind of screen; this is the equivalent of a full-time job. It is an estimated 400 billion dollar a year market. They are the hottest consumer demographic in America.

In the year 2000 teens spent 200 billion dollars and their parents an additional 50 billion on stuff. Now those figures have doubled. The generation of kids under 16 is the largest consumer market in history.

All of us have been marketed to since we were children, but now it's out of control. They have complete domination over most aspects of our lives, telling us what to think about, believe and consume. MTV even does ethnography studies to find out very precisely what to sell to kids. Everything on TV is designed to sell. And the internet has become one big social media market to sell products.

Corporations package and sell to teens what they believe teens think is cool or important in their lives. Sex is a primary subject on the teen radar, so they exploit this fact and market it. There was an unbelievable show on MTV called "Undressed" and according to MTV's head of marketing they don't find it inappropriate because MTV "does not believe in censoring art." Evidently teens taking their clothes off is now an art form. With shows like these we have to questions the power these corporations have over our children's minds.

A few facts on this industry: 4 or 5 music companies sell 90% of the music in the United States. News Corp, Rupert Murdoch's company, is number one. Viacom is the second largest, Walt Disney is the third, followed by Bertelsmann, Vivendi, AOL-Time Warner and Sony. It's no coincidence that these companies are also the main global media conglomerates that are our primary distributors of news, information and other forms of entertainment.

Is it in their interest to keep us informed or to deprive us of information that helps us understand and affect our society? And what about our kids, do they have their interests in mind while they are trying to manipulate and sell them products?

Working with young people and thinking about filming a documentary that depicts the lives of teens has made me reflect on mental development and how much our youth have to say about life and living.

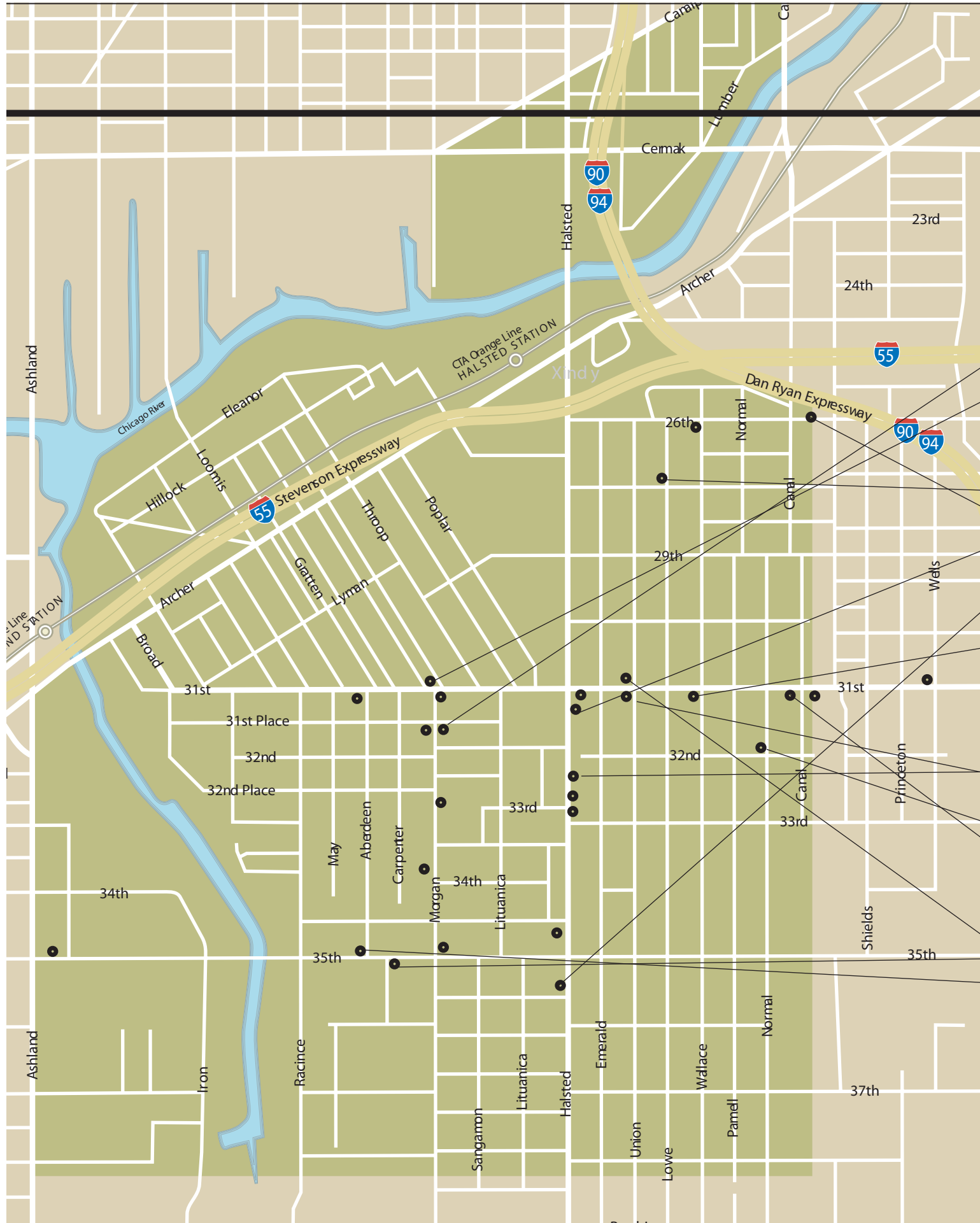
We all grow up deprived of knowledge and don't realize it until we are much older. We just don't learn about "real life" until we have entered the work force. Inevitably, one realizes the immense level of inequality in our society and we feel impotent to do anything about it. It's as if we are destined to be trapped in Plato's Allegory, in which he declares it is necessary to have an elite. Those enlightened elites are destined to rule over the many. Plato did not believe in God, but he believed it was necessary that people did believe in the Gods so they would follow the rule of law created by those elites. It seems not much has changed in over 2000 years.

The images on TV are also like the flickering shadows projected on Plato's cave. The visuals are made to represent reality, only they are not real. People watching the shadows in Plato's cave are just like us contemporary humans watching TV or a computer screen. We are mentally blinded, confined to a reality created by someone else.

In this age of technological wonders: the computer, the X-box, the cell phone, texting, the internet, video games; the majority of kids grow-up in a world of flickering images projected onto screens.

In order to understand young people we must understand the caves which have become screens. And we need to explain what is happening to them and to all of us.

A MAP OF BRIDGEPORT THE "WHERE TO EAT" EDITION



**By
Ed Marszewski**

This is my short attention span guide to dining in the neighborhood. I am not a vegetarian so I really don't know where to get that kind of food.

I have eaten at almost every single place that is listed and chosen a favorite food item from each restaurant's menu.

If you don't like it go ahead and Yelp away.

Zaytune
3129 S. Morgan St
Incredible, fresh, falafel and grilled kebob wraps. Required eating.

Carlito's Way
964 W 31st St
Now doing breakfast! Great breakfast food if you are on the go.

Ramova Grill
3510 S. Halsted Street
The bachelor's kitchen. Our regular place for breakfast.

Ed's Potsticker House
3139 S Halsted Street
The special pot sticker must be tried.

Gio's
2724 S Lowe Ave
The Italian place to eat at. Vodka Rigatoni is the bomb,

Han 202
605 W 31st St
Contemporary five course asian dinner makes you feel good.

Ricobene's
252 W. 26th St
Known for their legendary steak sandwich, but I eat the sloppy joes.

Taqueria San Jose
3253 S Halsted St
I eat the Carne Asada and the Pork.

Freddies
701 W. 31st Street
Burgers, pizza, and more worth eating.

Uncle Johnny's
500 W 32nd St.
Home made Italian Beef, and subs.

Phil's Pizza
1102 West 35th Street
The standard for pizza. Overwhelming sausage lovers pizza.

Bangkok Thai 55
451 W 31st St
My favorite Thai food from the southside. Opens after 5pm.

Pancho Pistola's
700 W 31st St
I order the chicken Torta.

Goodie Tacos
1117 W 31st St
Mid day taco option.

Nana
3267 S Halsted
The much needed organic brunch lunch action. Probably the best burgers in the hood.

Georges
3445 S Halsted
These cats have the best Gyros.

Erendira
3207 S Halsted St
Burrito action.

Happiness
3313 S Halsted St
Sometimes i need a little MSG.

Lina's Pizza
3132 S Morgan St
I eat the Italian beef pizza.

Little Caesar's
3010 S Halsted St
When you need the hot n' ready.

Bridgeport Coffeehouse
3101 S Morgan Street
My favorite sandwich is the black bean sandwich with bacon.

Johnny O's
946 W 35th Street
Great subs. Homemade beef.

Dunkin Donuts
749 W 31St Street
Enjoy coffee while hanging out with a perfect mix of Bridgeport residents.

Zhou B Café
1029 W 35th Street
Great ambience and drinks in the Zhou B Complex.

35th Street Red Hot
500 W 35th Street
Perfect hot dog.

Scott's Hamburger Heaven
1546 W 35th Street
24 hour cheap hamburgers.

Maxwell Street Depot
411 W 31st Street
The late late late nite option.

Polo's Nut and Candy Cafe
3322 S. Morgan
Thursday night ribs and burgers a specialty.

Stage's Family Restaurant
657 West 31st Street
French toast.

Scoops Ice Cream
608 W 31st Street
For great shakes and ice cream

Punky's
2600 S Wallace Street
Tasty breakfast sandwichs and good pizza.

Carbon
300 W 26th Streetopping
The bowl! Try the bowl!

Rocky's
234 W 31st Street
They say they have nice burgers.

Martinez Supermarket
3301 S Morgan Street
Tacos in the back are the bomb.

Ace Bakery
3200 S. Halsted
Everyone needs bread and pastries.

Bridgeport Bakery
2907 S Archer Ave
Awesome bread, get their early.

Chicago Food Courts
1000 W 35th St
Serving everything.

Franco's Ristorante
300 W 31st
Old School, charming Italian ristorante with good entries.

Buffalo Wings and Rings
3434 Halsted St
I prefer the wings at Ricobene's but when in Rome..

Mimi's Churros
2520 S. Halsted Street
Get em while they're hot.

A WEEK OF REPORTED CRIMES IN THE 11TH WARD

3100 block S. Canal St Simple battery: Simple
Place: Street. Reported at 4:30 a.m. on January 17, 2010.

3300 block S. Emerald Ave Motor vehicle theft: Automobile
Place: Street. Reported at 9 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

4100 block S. Wallace St Aggravated battery: Handgun
Place: Street. Reported at 7:38 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

2800 block S. Union Ave Other offense: Telephone threat
Place: Apartment. Reported at 2 a.m. on January 17, 2010.

1900 block W. 33rd St Criminal trespass: To vehicle
Place: Parking lot / garage (non-residential). Reported at 3:45 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

1900 block W. 33rd St Theft: Retail theft
Place: Department store. Reported at 3:50 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

3200 block S. May St Simple battery: Domestic battery: simple
Place: Apartment. Reported at 5:30 a.m. on January 17, 2010.

2100 block W. 37th St Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, 30 grams or less
Place: Street. Reported at 10:32 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

3700 block S. Halsted St Public peace violation: Reckless conduct
Place: Street. Reported at 5 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

700 block W. 48th Pl Aggravated battery: Domestic battery: hands/fist/feet serious injury
Place: Residence. Reported at 8 a.m. on January 17, 2010.

3400 block S. Marshfield Ave Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, more than 30 grams
Place: Residence. Reported at 4:20 a.m. on January 17, 2010.

2800 block S. Wallace St Burglary: Forcible entry
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 3 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

900 block W. Pershing Rd Theft: Over \$300
Place: Parking lot / garage (non-residential). Reported at 5 p.m. on January 17, 2010.

700 block W. 47th Pl Simple assault: Simple assault
Place: Alley. Reported at 6:30 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

3100 block S. Ashland Ave Theft: Retail theft
Place: Grocery food store. Reported at 12:30 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

1900 block W. 35th St Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Street. Reported at 7 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

3100 block S. Wallace St Deceptive practice: Fraud or confidence game
Place: Currency exchange. Reported at 3 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

3400 block S. Claremont Ave Vandalism: Criminal damage to vehicle
Place: Street. Reported at 6 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

2100 block W. 35th St Weapons violation: Unlawful possession of handgun
Place: Apartment. Reported at 6:10 a.m. on January 16, 2010.

3100 block S. Throop St Vandalism: Criminal damage to vehicle
Place: Alley. Reported at 11 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

1000 block W. 35th St Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, 30 grams or less
Place: Street. Reported at 9:58 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

4700 block S. Union Ave Aggravated battery: Other dangerous weapon
Place: Street. Reported at 11:45 a.m. on January 16, 2010.

3000 block S. Lowe Ave Motor vehicle theft: Automobile
Place: Street. Reported at 11 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

3100 block S. Halsted St Public peace violation: Bomb threat
Place: Police facility / vehicle parking lot. Reported at 1:55 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

2400 block S. Halsted St Simple assault: Simple assault
Place: Street. Reported at 6 p.m. on January 16, 2010.

3500 block S. Damen Ave Simple assault: Simple assault
Place: Gas station. Reported at 8:09 a.m. on January 16, 2010.

4700 block S. Union Ave Simple battery: Simple
Place: School, public building. Reported at 12:30 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

700 block W. 26th St Burglary: Forcible entry
Place: Apartment. Reported at 8 a.m. on January 15, 2010.

1000 block W. 32nd St Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Street. Reported at 8:30 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

3400 block S. Oakley Ave Criminal trespass: To land
Place: Residence. Reported at 1 a.m. on January 15, 2010.

900 block W. 34th St Narcotics: Found suspect narcotics
Place: Apartment. Reported at 9 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

3000 block S. Loomis St Burglary: Forcible entry
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 4:25 a.m. on January 15, 2010.

4700 block S. Union Ave Criminal trespass: To state sup land
Place: School, public building. Reported at 11:30 a.m. on January 15, 2010.

1600 block W. Pershing Rd Criminal damage: Criminal defacement
Place: Other. Reported at noon on January 15, 2010.

2800 block S. Grady Ct Other offense: Sex offender: failing to register
Place: Residence. Reported at 6:45 a.m. on January 15, 2010.

3700 block S. Honore St Vandalism: Criminal damage to property
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at midnight on January 15, 2010.

200 block W. 35th St Theft: Pocket-picking
Place: CTA platform. Reported at 5:10 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

3600 block S. Archer Ave Theft: Retail theft
Place: Grocery food store. Reported at 4:40 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

3300 block S. Wells St Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Street. Reported at 8 a.m. on January 15, 2010.

4500 block S. Wallace St Vandalism: Criminal damage to property
Place: School, public building. Reported at 3 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

4200 block S. Ashland Ave Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Parking lot / garage (non-residential). Reported at 7 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

3700 block S. Winchester Ave Other offense: Missing person
Place: Residence. Reported at 5:30 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

3500 block S. Marshfield Ave Vandalism: Criminal damage to property
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 12:30 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

1800 block W. 36th St Vandalism: Criminal damage to vehicle
Place: Street. Reported at 10 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

4400 block S. Emerald Ave Vandalism: Criminal damage to property
Place: Residence. Reported at 5:05 a.m. on January 14, 2010.

3500 block S. Marshfield Ave Burglary: Forcible entry
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 12:30 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

JANUARY 11 THROUGH JANUARY 17, 2010

2700 block S. Eleanor St Simple battery: Domestic battery: simple
Place: Apartment. Reported at 11:27 a.m. on January 14, 2010.

1500 block W. 33rd St Vandalism: Criminal damage to vehicle
Place: Parking lot / garage (non-residential). Reported at 1 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

3600 block S. Archer Ave Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Parking lot / garage (non-residential). Reported at 8 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

3400 block S. Archer Ave Motor vehicle theft: AutomobilePlace: Parking lot / garage (non-residential). Reported at 7:30 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

3400 block S. Damen Ave Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, 30 grams or less
Place: Sidewalk. Reported at 3:20 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

3700 block S. Union Ave Motor vehicle theft: Automobile
Place: Street. Reported at 6 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

1200 block W. 32nd Pl Arson: By fire
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 1:58 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

2900 block S. Loomis St Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, 30 grams or less
Place: Sidewalk. Reported at 12:20 a.m. on January 14, 2010.

2900 block S. Stewart Ave Theft: Over \$300
Place: Street. Reported at noon on January 14, 2010.

4000 block S. Emerald Ave Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Street. Reported at 7:06 p.m. on January 14, 2010.

1500 block W. 43rd St Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, 30 grams or less
Place: Street. Reported at 10:11 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

700 block W. 35th St Public peace violation: Mob action
Place: Street. Reported at 12:18 a.m. on January 13, 2010.

2900 block S. Canal St Theft: From building
Place: Residence. Reported at 7:30 a.m. on January 13, 2010.

3700 block S. Wallace St Burglary: Attempted forcible entry
Place: Residence. Reported at 3:40 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

3300 block S. Hoyne Ave Burglary: Attempted forcible entry
Place: Residence. Reported at 4:50 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

3900 block S. Ashland Ave Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Parking lot / garage (non-residential). Reported at 3:30 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

4600 block S. Halsted St Theft: \$300 and under
Place: Grocery food store. Reported at 6 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

3600 block S. Wolcott Ave Vandalism: Criminal damage to property
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 8 a.m. on January 13, 2010.

3100 block S. Canal St Deceptive practice: Fraud or confidence game
Place: Apartment. Reported at 2:15 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

3700 block S. Damen Ave Theft: Over \$300
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 6 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

3200 block S. Aberdeen St Simple battery: Domestic battery: simple
Place: Apartment. Reported at 2:20 a.m. on January 13, 2010.

500 block W. 31st St Public peace violation: Reckless conduct
Place: Residence (garage). Reported at 7:25 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

3100 block S. Emerald Ave Other offense: Vehicle title/registration offense

Place: Street. Reported at 4:42 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

800 block W. 33rd St Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, 30 grams or less
Place: Street. Reported at 6:52 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

3400 block S. Hoyne Ave Simple battery: Simple
Place: Park property. Reported at 3:30 p.m. on January 12, 2010.

2600 block S. Lowe Ave Criminal trespass: To vehicle
Place: Vehicle (non-commercial). Reported at 7:40 a.m. on January 12, 2010.

4400 block S. Wallace St Narcotics: Possession of heroin (white)
Place: Street. Reported at 8:57 p.m. on January 12, 2010.

2700 block S. Archer Ave Motor vehicle theft: Automobile
Place: Street. Reported at 9 a.m. on January 12, 2010.

3000 block S. Halsted St Theft: Retail theft
Place: Small retail store. Reported at 5:45 p.m. on January 12, 2010.
3100 block S. Wells St Other offense: Harassment by telephone
Place: Residence. Reported at 7:23 a.m. on January 12, 2010.

3100 block S. Ashland Ave Theft: Retail theft
Place: Grocery food store. Reported at 9:30 p.m. on January 12, 2010.

900 block W. 31st Pl Simple battery: Domestic battery: simple
Place: Residence (porch/hallway). Reported at 7:20 p.m. on January 12, 2010.

3400 block S. Archer Ave Theft: Retail theft
Place: Grocery food store. Reported at 11:43 a.m. on January 12, 2010.

900 block W. 32nd St Aggravated battery: Handgun
Place: Sidewalk. Reported at 6:46 p.m. on January 12, 2010.

3600 block S. Oakley Ave Aggravated battery: Domestic battery: other dangerous weapon
Place: Street. Reported at 6:15 p.m. on January 11, 2010.

2800 block S. Loomis St Motor vehicle theft: Automobile
Place: Street. Reported at 9 p.m. on January 11, 2010.

2600 block S. Green St Vandalism: Criminal damage to vehicle
Place: Street. Reported at 7:55 a.m. on January 11, 2010.

800 block W. 31st St Theft: From building
Place: Medical / dental office. Reported at 2 p.m. on January 11, 2010.

3500 block S. Damen Ave Simple assault: Simple assault
Place: Gas station. Reported at 9:45 a.m. on January 11, 2010. Post a comment

800 block W. 33rd St Burglary: Forcible entry
Place: Residence. Reported at 9 a.m. on January 11, 2010. Post a comment

3400 block S. Halsted St Simple battery: Domestic battery: simple
Place: Vehicle (non-commercial). Reported at 8:30 p.m. on January 11, 2010. Post a comment

3600 block S. Winchester Ave Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, 30 grams or less
Place: Street. Reported at 8:41 p.m. on January 11, 2010. Post a comment

4700 block S. Union Ave Public peace violation: Reckless conduct
Place: School, public building. Reported at 1 p.m. on January 11, 2010.

CHECK OUT CRIMES REPORTED BY THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT AT <http://chicago.everyblock.com/crime>

PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

WHY VOTE?

Here is a big fact: In our voting district a few hundred voters have the ability to upset business as usual.

If you plan on voting on February 2, 2010 for the primary ballot we suggest you check out <http://www.evoter.com> for information on where your polling place is located. There is a reason they made the primary happen in the dead of winter. They really don't want you to vote. It helps the incumbents.

We have made endorsements for the three parties running in the coming primary election: The Democrats, Republicans and The Greens.

Feel free to bring this newsletter with you to the polls.

However, you shouldn't just rely on our opinion. We suggest you conduct your own research.

Try these papers and websites for advice:

Evoter.com (<http://www.evoter.com>) shows endorsements of candidates by everyone from the Chicago Sun Times and the Federation of Labor to the Homer/Lockport Tea Party.

Chicago Sun Times: check out their Voter's Guide at <http://www.suntimes.com/news/elections/endorsements/index.html>

Chicago Tribune: visit <http://elections.chicagotribune.com> for coverage.

Chicago Reader: You can read some of the best reporting about our local officials at the reader website. Start with the Clout City blog. <http://www.chicagoreader.com/TheBlog/archives/clout-city/>

VOTING GREEN

It's Not Easy Being Green

The following is a list of candidates recognized by the Illinois Green Party as Green candidates in the 2010 primary. The Greens are pretty much running unopposed against any inter-party contenders. They do need a few of you to pull a Green Ballot. We are very excited about the Tom Tresser and Rich Whitney campaigns.

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

United States Senator - LeAlan M. Jones
Governor - Rich Whitney
Lieutenant Governor - Don W. Crawford
Attorney General - David F. Black
Comptroller - R. Erika Schafer
Treasurer - Scott K. Summers
Secretary of State - Adrian Frost

COOK COUNTY CANDIDATES

Cook County Board President - Thomas Tresser
Cook County Assessor - Robert C. Grota
Cook County Sheriff - Marshall P. Lewis
Cook County Commissioner, District 01 - Ronald Lawless

Cook County, Metropolitan Water Rec District
 You can pick all three!
 Diana Horton
 Nadine Bopp
 Jack Ailey

PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

VOTING REPUBLICAN

The Republican Gambit

The Republicans don't have any candidates running for the Illinois House or Illinois Senate from the Bridgeport area. So if you are looking to make a difference locally for House and Senate seats you might want to choose a Democratic ballot. However they are going to run hard against the Democrats for the US Senate seat. So if you want to find someone not in the Democratic party to replace President Obama's stained seat, here is your chance.

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

United States Senator: Mark Steven Kirk
Governor: Andy McKenna
Lieutenant Governor: Matt Murphy
Attorney General: Steve Kim
Secretary of State: Robert Enriquez
Comptroller: Judy Baar Topinka
Treasurer: Dan Rutherford

COOK COUNTY CANDIDATES

President of County Board: Roger A. Keats
Cook County Clerk: Angel Garcia
Cook County Sheriff: Frederick Collins
Cook County Treasurer: Carol A. Morse
Cook County Assessor: Sharon Strobeck-Eckersall

VOTING DEMOCRAT

Vote Early and Often

The Democratic Party Primary ballot will be the most contested and interesting ballot to vote in. Please do your duty as a Bridgeportian. Vote Early and Often!

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

United States Senator: #2 Hoffman
Governor: Dan Hynes
Lt. Governor: #19 Ricky Hendon
Attorney General: #23 Lisa Madigan (Unopposed)
Secretary of State: #24 Jesse White (Unopposed)
Comptroller: #27 Clint Krislov
Treasurer: #29 Robin Kelly

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

US Representative 3rd District: #42 Jorge Mujica

State Cental Committeewoman 3rd District:
 #51 Helen A Ozmina Barc (Running Unopposed)

State Cental Committeewoman 3rd District:
 #53 Michael Madigan (Running Unopposed)

State Senator 1st District: We are leaving it blank

State Representative - 2nd District:
 #74 - Josip 'Joe' Trutin

COOK COUNTY CANDIDATES

President of Cook County Board: #95 Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Clerk: #101 David D. Orr (Unopposed)
Cook County Sheriff: #102 Thomas J. Dart
Cook County Treasurer: #104 Maria Pappas (Unopposed)
Cook County Assessor: #107 - Raymond Figueroa
Cook County Board Commissioner: 111- John Daley

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner:
 You can vote for Three We only endorse ONE!
 #84 - Mariyana T Spyropoulos

Judges

Reccomended: #167 Joanne F. Fehn

THE MOVIE GUY

THE WHITE RIBBON

Das Weisse Band (The White Ribbon) – directed by Michael Haneke. four and one half out of five stars

A review by Robert Giles

First off, I'll say unless you are a German film expert like Archie Hicox in *Inglorious Basterds*, then you won't know any of the actors in this film. It doesn't matter because it is steeped in incredible performances. This is a film that gets under your skin and makes you ponder the very nature and origin of Evil, where it starts and how it is born.

It is set in 1913 in a village in rural Germany with WWI looming in the distance (the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand is mentioned near the end). There are many strange occurrences happening in this village that begins with a horse-riding accident involving the town doctor who is badly injured and which appeared to be premeditated. Later, young children are victimized by the culprit terrorizing the village. The village is run by a baron and his subjects tend the fields which provide sustenance and income for the village in a quasi-feudal system.

In the backdrop is a budding romance between the school teacher and a young girl and this serves as the bright spot in a village turned upside down by turmoil, suspicion and fear. You can see the optimism in the relationship that serves as a light to be drawn toward amidst so much darkness. And there is plenty of darkness once the Doctor returns to the village; he is portrayed by Rainer Bock in an absolutely chilling performance. In one scene in particular, he tells his second wife he is disgusted by her and explicitly details why he is so. I stared at the screen in open-mouthed shock at the brutality of verbal abuse assailed on this poor woman and his lack of redeemable qualities does not end there.

At the center of the story, other than the school teacher's own discoveries into who is responsible for these acts, is the Pastor, brilliantly portrayed by Burghart Klaubner. He is somewhat of an unknown quantity, because he tries to do right by his family and his congregation but as the story unfolds we see him miserably failing at both.

The cinematography (it is shot in black and white) is perhaps the best of the year as is the original screenplay by Haneke and his always impeccable direction. As he often does, he explores the human condition by examining aspects of humanity that aren't always the most pleasant to look at. So put aside your qualms of seeing foreign films, because this is my pick for best film of the year and it's almost a lock to win best foreign film.

Read more reviews by Robert Giles at <http://bridgeportinternational.blogspot.com>

ROBERT'S TOP 25 FILMS OF THE DECADE

1. **Mulholland Drive (2001)** - David Lynch's surreal masterpiece will stand the test of time.
2. **The White Ribbon (2009)** - Michael Haneke's masterpiece will do the same.
3. **City of God (2002)** - Fernando Mierelles' stunning debut about rival gangs in the slums of Rio and the young photographer caught between them.
4. **The Lives of Others (2006)** - a harrowing look at life in Communist East Germany and it's secret police in the mid 1980s.
5. **The Diving Bell and The Butterfly (2007)** - the most inspirational film since *The Elephant Man*
6. **Michael Clayton (2007)** - will be an American classic, best original screenplay of the decade.
7. **The Departed (2006)** - Martin Scorsese's re-working of a Hong Kong trilogy, Incredible filmmaking and all-star cast.
8. **Million Dollar Baby (2004)** - The tearjerker of the decade. Clint Eastwood at his finest as actor and director in same film.
9. **21 Grams (2003)** - a trio of great performances by Sean Penn, Naomi Watts and Benicio Del Toro center this powerful drama.
10. **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)** Ang Lee's martial arts film - beautiful and breathtaking.
11. **No Country For Old Men (2007)** - The Coen Brothers take us on a thrill ride that doesn't let up.
12. **Zodiac (2007)** - David Fincher's incredible film about the Zodiac killer and it's effects on the Bay Area and those close to the case.
13. **Notes on a Scandal (2006)** - Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett acting their sweet asses off. All you need to know.
14. **The Hurt Locker (2009)** - best war film of the decade (well that and *Downfall*).
15. **The Prestige (2006)** - perfect filmmaking in every aspect (from script to set design).
16. **Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)** - best romance of the decade.
17. **Children of Men (2006)** - best cinematography (and innovative) of the decade and a great story.
18. **House of Sand and Fog (2003)** - get out the Kleenex, this plays out like a great Greek tragedy.
19. **Far From Heaven (2002)** - Julianne Moore's finest hour (should have won Best Actress) in Todd Haynes' take on the Douglas Sirk melodramas.
20. **Adaptation (2002)** - best adapted screenplay of the decade. Another trio of great performances (Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep and Chris Cooper)
21. **Talk to Her (2002)** - Pedro Almodovar's best film and screenplay.
22. **Brokeback Mountain (2005)** - Ang Lee's film shows a life long love story can be powerful and extremely moving regardless of gender (should have won Best Picture) .
23. **In The Bedroom (2001)** - Todd Field's remarkable debut with what should have been Oscar winning performances from Tom Wilkinson, Sissy Spacek and Marisa Tomei .
24. **Inglorious Basterds (2009)** - Quentin Tarantion's best screenplay and film yet.
25. **There Will Be Blood (2007)** - Paul Thomas Anderson's epic with the best performance of the decade from Mr. Daniel Day Lewis.

In conclusion, if you said 2007 was the best year for cinema this decade, I would have to agree.