

the Stand

south side news

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Syracuse, NY

OCTOBER 2017 Issue 61 FREE

FATHERHOOD FUN

Spending time with children provides father with a second childhood

An indoor greenhouse

Former smoke room at Toomey Abbott Towers replaced

grocery to close

Nojaim's in Near Westside to shut down after almost 100 years in the city

Rookie officer

Meet Lashonda Russell in 'They Wear Blue' series

POWERFUL WOMEN UNITE



INSIDE | OCTOBER

the Stand

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SPECIAL THANKS THIS MONTH

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■ Cover photography by Zach Kraemer of Cyrus Lyles and his children

CALENDAR | OCTOBER

What: Dunbar Association Harvest Celebration & Cocktail Reception

When: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24

Where: CNY Philanthropy Center, 431 E. Fayette St.

Cost: \$50

More details: Join the Dunbar Association Board as it ushers in a new century of service to the community with the presentation of its new executive director. The celebration also honors the legacy of the Dunbar Association in its centennial year and beyond. Proceeds will benefit the community center.

For tickets: Visit EventBrite.com, search for Dunbar Association

What: Minority Business & Economic Empowerment Summit

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21

Where: Marriott Syracuse Downtown, 100 E. Onondaga St.

Cost: \$75/\$45 for students with ID

More details: Speakers will include Jorge Villar, Jennifer Parker, Dennis Kimbro and Calvin Corridors

To register visit COHI-INC.org or call (315) 469-1106

This past month, a number of special events were held on the South Side.

Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today Southside presented a special fundraiser, Gala in the Garden, Sept. 9 at The Brady Farm. While attendees mingled, keeping warm by several fire pits, Jessi Lyons, who runs the community farm operated by the Brady Faith Center, led tours of the sprawling farmstead situated next to Southside Academy Charter School. Lyons shared the successes and challenges the young farm has faced — including having their sweetest melons devoured by deer and raccoons, disease management and protecting crops from other pests. The greatest challenge, though, is food literacy. "There are many vegetables here that people in the community don't eat because they don't know how to cook it," Lyons explained. Educating residents is a top goal, with a dream to build a working kitchen to offer culinary lessons in healthy eating.

Read more about the gala on Page 6. The gala was held in memory of Will "Chef Bleu" Lewis, who died in September. Lewis, known by many in the community, often volunteered his culinary talents to good causes. He even introduced healthy eating to local youth at various local South Side community centers.

Another new green space is featured on Page 8. A room in Toomey Abbott Towers, once used as a place for residents to smoke, was left vacant in 2015 when Syracuse Housing Authority adopted a smoke-free facilities policy. The space was recently transformed into an indoor garden.

On Sept. 14, more than 250 volunteers gathered in the 200 blocks of West Borden and West Beard avenues to improve nearly 50 homes within a five-block area. Organized by Home Headquarters, this Block Blitz event takes place on a side of the city each year. Local businesses, churches, students and community groups transformed these blocks by pruning bushes, planting flowers, repairing porches, painting and even collecting water samples for lead testing.

Lastly, Sankofa Fest '17, held Sept. 16, brought community groups, kids' activities and live music to the heart of the Sankofa District in Sankofa Park, located behind Beauchamp Branch Library. Praise resounded for organizers who planned this special event to spotlight local talent, entrepreneurs and organizations. Many are excited for what next year's event will bring.

To read even more stories, turn the page. And to stay up to date, visit The Stand's homepage at MySouthSideStand.com.

Ashley Kang



CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The Stand currently has two openings for community members to join our Board of Directors. Board members meet every other month for two hours on a Saturday morning. Members discuss story suggestions, events, advertising opportunities and the future outlook for the project.

The Board is searching for people ready to become active members. Ideal candidates will have accounting and/or grant writing experience.

The Stand is a print and online news source covering Syracuse's South Side. It is written for and by South Side residents. As the voice of the South Side community, the paper aims to start a community conversation by inviting residents of the South Side to share their stories. The paper is the brainchild of The South Side Newspaper Project, a collaboration of the Southside Community Coalition, Syracuse University and a number of dedicated South Side residents.

If interested, submit a letter of interest and resume to The Stand, 2331 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13205.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We invite your letters. Send them to Ashley Kang, South Side Communication Center, 2331 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13205 or to ashley@mysouthsidestand.com.

Maximum length: 200 words. Include your full name, address and contact information.

NOJAIM'S HISTORY

1919: Nojaim Brothers Supermarket is founded by current owner Paul Nojaim's grandfather, Lebanese immigrant Richard Nojaim.

1998: Paul Nojaim buys store from his father, Charlie Nojaim, who inherited the store from his father, Richard.

2013: Nojaim's expands into online ordering and grocery delivery service in partnership with that year's Startup Labs Syracuse winner, Rosieapp.com.

2014: The supermarket opens after a \$2.65 million renovation, adding 3,000 square feet to the store.

2017: Nojaim's on Gifford Street announces it will close.

OUT OF BUSINESS

An almost century-old Near Westside grocery store to close this month

By | McKenna Moore
Urban Affairs reporter

The owner of Nojaim Brothers Supermarket cites financial stress as a reason for the closure

Nojaim Brothers Supermarket, a fixture on Gifford Street for nearly a century, will close on the Near Westside this month. Paul Nojaim broke the ground-shaking news in a letter he sent to his employees in mid-September. He blamed the decision on financial hardship.

The store, which opened in 1919, offered a rare place to buy produce and fresh meat within the surrounding 30 blocks. Earlier this year, a PriceRite opened just less than a mile away on South Avenue.

"Grocery stores in general operate on a very small margin of profit," Syracuse City Commissioner David Clifford said. "So you have to do quite a bit of business to make money, and it's subject to market forces."

The letter from Nojaim read: "We are unable to remain financially viable," and he expressed "great sadness." The store's closing will mean a number of people will lose their jobs in a neighborhood that already has a high unemployment rate of 9.1 percent, according to AreaVibes.

Paul's brother, Richard Nojaim, owner of another supermarket — Nojaim Brothers in Marcellus — and a member of Nojaim Inc., declined to say how many jobs might be lost.

"Any job loss in that community is significant," said Chris Ryan, county legislator representing the Near Westside. "A lot of people walk to Nojaim Brothers, and if they're walking there or farther away, they have to navigate some seriously heavily trafficked roads."

Many people living and working on the Near Westside walk to their destinations because they cannot afford a car or even the \$2 per-ride bus fare, said Leslie Dubiel, pantry director at St. Lucy's Church.

Dubiel said she worries that the elderly and people with disabilities living in the area will struggle to get groceries once Nojaim's closes. Many residents of three buildings near the supermarket, including the James Geddes Housing Development across the street, have disabilities or mobility issues, Dubiel said. She said that most of them walk the short distance to the market to buy their groceries.

"It's not far, but if you're limited with mobility, it's really far," she said about PriceRite, which stands nearly a mile away and may now be local residents' closest gro-



> Nojaim Brothers Supermarket has served the Near Westside community since 1919. Its closing will create a hardship for nearby residents, some of whom have limited mobility. | McKenna Moore, Staff Photo

cery store. "And that will definitely increase our need," she said, referring to St. Lucy's food pantry, which she said serves between 500 and 550 families monthly.

Dubiel also noted that the struggle for elderly and disabled people increases in the winter because they no longer can obtain fresh produce from the community gardens near their homes.

"It irritates me so bad because it would never be tolerated in the neighborhood I live in," she said, referring to Baldwinsville.

"We serve the whole neighborhood, but we only serve people once a month for a three-day amount of food," she added. "It's not meant to be a sustenance. It's meant to be a supplement."

John Dougherty, Onondaga County legislator for the 2nd District, said, "It's certainly a huge burden on anyone to lose a job. It's not a very affluent area in the city, so it's a burden on people who are already in tight financial constraints."

Maureen Gillespie, representative for PriceRite, declined to comment on whether or not the South Avenue PriceRite would hire former Nojaim's workers.

RESTORING BEAUTY

TNT Southside and Home HeadQuarters create a visual difference



> Community volunteers clean up the South Side gateway area as part of “Coming Back Together.” | Provided Photo

By | Lou Carol Franklin
Guest columnist

Beautification overhaul brings light and allure to homes, park as a welcome to the South Side

On a Thursday in September, Tomorrow’s Neighborhoods Today Southside partnered with Home HeadQuarters’ Block Blitz, Syracuse University alumni and community neighbors to make a visual difference on the South Side of Syracuse.

Community volunteers such as Patrona Jones-Rowser, leader of the Beautification Task Force of TNT Southside, brought her love for landscape design to the project.

She also facilitated the redesign of the newly installed Borden Pocket Park, initiated by the Greater Syracuse Land Bank and located on the corner of West Borden and Landon avenues.

The park is now complete with new fencing adorned with colorful birdhouses and cubed benches.

All were painted by volunteer youth and community residents. The area around the park also has been generously graced with perennial plantings to enhance the green space design.

Vaughn Irons, a native of Syracuse and an Atlanta-based real estate developer and planner, once again developed an opportunity to “give back” to his hometown by obtaining help from his Phi Beta Sigma fraternity brothers and SU alumni. Many came in from across

the country for the annual “Coming Back Together” weekend to play a vital role.

Volunteers armed with gloves, rakes, weed cutters, shovels and high energy prepared the South Side gateway from Taylor to Burt streets and extended to the former Coyne Textiles parking lot on Cortland Avenue. Coyne Park will soon be the home of the newly designed signage welcoming all to the South Side of Syracuse.

Additionally, the Taylor Street bridge will soon undergo construction to prepare for the “Welcome to the Soul of Syracuse” overpass signage and murals. Those will be painted in spring 2018.

London Ladd, a local artist/illustrator, has worked with TNT Southside for the past year to develop murals that will depict the strength, dignity and continued growth of the South Side.

Home HeadQuarters chose West Borden Avenue on Syracuse’s South Side as its annual Block Blitz endeavor. Homeowners were gifted with renovations to their homes, including landscaping, house painting, fence restorations and driveway repairs — a generous contribution made to the families who live and have invested their lives in this neighborhood.

Many repairs were long overdue and well appreciated.

This event is just another beacon of light shining brightly in what was once deemed a darkened part of town.

Lou Carol Franklin is a member of TNT Southside and a lifelong neighborhood resident

LOOKING AHEAD

The recent restoration and beautification efforts are just a small portion of what is to be developed on the South Side as part of the soon-to-be-released **TNT Five-Year Plan**.

The plan was constructed and developed through the completion of **community surveys and discussion sessions**, which took place over the past 18 months.

Camille Coakley, a native of Syracuse, has spent countless hours devoting herself to the rebranding of the South Side.

— Lou Carol Franklin

FAVORITE THINGS

We asked: What is your favorite thing about Syracuse?

Jim Bright — always bumping into people you know

Charles Pierce-El — the people

Geneva Hayden — the children

Frank Fowler — Syracuse University

Angela Wright — the people

Camille Coakley — the people

COMING TOGETHER

Gala in the Garden fundraising event unites South Side community



> Geneva Hayden received a Community Hero Award at the Gala in the Garden event. Hayden is a strong advocate for better literacy practices for students. The award was presented by Vaughn Irons. | Kelvin P. Ringold, Sr., Provided Photo

By | Cleo Adebisi
Urban Affairs reporter

Members of the South Side were honored with awards in a celebration of the neighborhood

Amid the twilight atmosphere of string lights and flickering candles, a crowd of South Siders recently put on a party to show a shared love for their neighborhood.

On a Saturday in September at The Brady Farm, Gala in the Garden raised money for Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today Southside. TNT aims to improve residents' quality of living by working with homeowners, business owners and anyone who cares about the South Side. Board delegate Camille Coakley said she felt compelled to put on a fundraiser for the community by utilizing funds TNT was awarded at a community event.

"Our nonprofit didn't have an annual fundraising gala," Coakley said, "and I felt that was important for the initiatives that we wanted to enact within the community."

TNT's efforts come in many forms, from funding gar-

dens to cleaning up parks so children can have a safe space to play. Coakley said her only goal is to help her community.

"A lot of people don't see the value in our mission. But where everyone else sees doom and gloom, we see opportunity," she said. "We are committed to combining the skills of the youth and the wisdom of people who have been here, to improve the quality of life."

At the gala, before a four-course meal was served, the organization presented five awards honoring those who make continuous efforts to improve the community.

Charles Pierce-El received a Community Hero Award. A longtime activist and advocate, Pierce-El sits on the boards of organizations such as The Stand and Home HeadQuarters Inc., and he is an active member of TNT Southside. Within his neighborhood, he also serves as a youth mentor.

"I love Syracuse," Pierce-El said, "and not just because I was born here, but because of the opportunities here — there are so many opportunities to get engaged."

He said he is motivated by the idea of what the neighborhood could be.

"When I was a young child, we had cultural centers and we were able to teach the young about the land and

our history,” he said, adding that as these cultural spaces disappeared, the community also lost some of its creativity. “We are a creative people. We have some of the best musicians and artists in the country. I think that we have a vision, but we just need to put it to use.”

Pierce-El said in the future he imagines Syracuse as a place where people reinvest in the community.

“The number one thing I would like to see is more entrepreneurs who look like me. I want to see the youth being creative, collaborating on their ideas and bringing them into fruition. And I want to see our people reinvesting money into the community.”

Geneva Hayden also received a Community Hero Award. Founder of Light a Candle for Literacy, Hayden brought awareness to the need for better literacy practices for children. Through educational enrichment efforts spanning more than three decades, such as the creation of her “library of love,” Hayden has provided South Side students with tools to better their learning.

“It really started with my kids and trying to make sure that they were receiving the best education possible,” she said. “Then I thought, ‘If I can do it for my kids, I can do it for my community kids, too.’”

Thirty years later, Hayden says being recognized by her own neighborhood is priceless. “I feel so special getting this award because it is from my community — the South Side.”

Hayden said that at the heart of her work is her desire to help children.

“I want every child to have the opportunity to live out their dream. I work with kids at a very early age, and I focus on character education, making sure they know they are smart and capable of doing anything,” she said.

The best part of her job is seeing the children who have grown up in her programs.

“It is so wonderful to see our kids finish school, go away to college, get degrees and be able to choose to do whatever they want.”

Chief of Police Frank Fowler, of the Syracuse Police Department, was awarded the Public Service Award for his efforts. Fowler said he has not been driven by recognition. “The job that I do is a difficult and challenging one, and people often describe it as being a thankless job. Even though I didn’t go into this field for ‘thank yous,’ awards like this help to reaffirm that I am in the right line of business.”

Fowler said he was grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve his community.

“I am a public servant,” he said, “and anyone could have been asked to be chief.”

Fowler’s hope is that the community works together in their efforts to improve the neighborhood.

“I think Syracuse is a great city made up of unique people probably different from anywhere in the United States,” Fowler said, “and together our community can become extremely successful.”

The South Side organization presented its Community Business Award to Dunk & Bright Furniture. Jim Bright, who purchased Dunk & Bright from his father, said that the store recognizes it is part of a larger community.

“We try to be good neighbors,” Bright said, “and support what is going on in the community because the community supports us.”

Bright takes pride in knowing that his store is an engaged part of the community.

“We always want to be in touch with what is happening, whether that means going to a neighborhood meeting or an event,” he said. “Every day, we go and pick up trash around our property because we want to make sure we stay committed to the neighborhood.”

The Community Non-Profit Award was given to Syracuse Model Neighborhood Corporation. For more than 45 years, the not-for-profit has committed itself to collaborative community reform by providing quality housing services and community initiatives.

“We handle everything from housing for low-income families to job training and community programs,” said Angela Wright, the organization’s executive director.

Wright said the organization caters to more than 250 low-income families. She is motivated by the need she sees in the community.

“The South Side is one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the nation,” she said, “and we are responsible for providing safe, decent places for people to live and grow.”

Wright said the people are the heart of the South Side.

“The people here are the greatest resource,” she said. “They are what makes this place vibrant.”



> Reggie Seigler plays guitar at the Gala in the Garden event in September at The Brady Farm. | Kelvin P. Ringold, Sr., Provided Photo

PLANTING TREES

Join Save the Rain in the Brighton Neighborhood during a volunteer tree-planting event from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 28. Meet at McKinley-Brighton Elementary School, 141 W. Newell St.

Volunteers will plant more than 80 trees along streets throughout the community. This tree-planting event is an important component of the Save the Rain program, a comprehensive stormwater management plan intended to reduce pollution moving to Onondaga Lake and its tributaries. Each tree intercepts over 1,000 gallons of storm water annually. This process filters 80,000 gallons of storm water a year.

For more information, call (315) 424-9485, ext. 227

ABOUT THE GARDENS

Where are Syracuse Housing Authority gardens located?

Pioneer Homes

924 S. McBride St.

Toomey Abbott Towers

1207 Almond St.

Which seeds are available to plant?

- Peppers
- Tomatoes
- Beans
- Mushrooms
- Squash
- Potatoes
- Beets
- Parsley
- Oregano
- Cilantro
- Collard greens
- Lettuce
- Broccoli
- Peas

How many residents live in Toomey Abbott Towers?
Around 700

GARDEN VARIETY

Greenhouse replaces former smoking room at Toomey Abbott Towers



> Aldrine Ashong-Katai, a project manager at SUNY Upstate Medical University, shows off a few of the seed varieties available for planting at the Garden of Health in Toomey Abbott Towers. | Hanna Horvath, Staff Photo

By | Hanna Horvath
Urban Affairs reporter

Garden of Health provides residents with space to grow produce and engage with community

Aldrine Ashong-Katai, known among residents of Toomey Abbott Towers as a man full of ideas, launched into explaining his latest project: an indoor greenhouse on the second floor of the apartment building. His exuberance attracted residents, who repeatedly wandered over to interrupt, wanting to ask about the glass room next door.

“Hey Al,” one man called out, using Ashong-Katai’s nickname. “What do you have going on in there?”

“It’s a ‘green’ room,” said Ashong-Katai, smiling and explaining that his project had a purpose: engaging the community and linking residents to healthy produce.

Ashong-Katai’s endeavor is a small, temperature-controlled greenhouse called the Garden of Health, which opened Aug. 18. Bags of parsley, basil and mint seeds line one side of the room, and shelves of small pots hang from the ceiling. The greenhouse serves as a place for residents to grow and eat their own healthy food and

interact with other residents in the building. What’s more — it also replaces an indoor smoking room.

“We had a room that would take away life,” said Ashong-Katai, “and now we have a room that promotes life.”

He said that some residents rarely leave their rooms and engage in practices that are not healthy, such as smoking and consuming junk food. Initiatives like the Garden of Health get the residents to socialize with one another and engage with their community, in addition to learning how to eat healthy, homegrown produce.

Ashong-Katai, who is a project manager at SUNY Upstate Medical University, conceived the idea last fall as an answer to the question of how to expand on a community garden project he had headed in another housing complex. He took advantage of a Syracuse Housing Authority policy, adopted in 2015, that banned smoking rooms in all its properties, including Toomey Abbott Towers.

That gave him the space he needed: an indoor glass-enclosed room, once used for smoking, on the second floor, said Constance Gregory, resident engagement specialist at Upstate Medical University.

“It was honestly serendipitous,” she said. “The room

just happened to be there, and we were able to use it.”

To fund the project, Ashong-Katai used part of a \$15,000 grant from a local nonprofit, HealtheConnections, that was donated to develop disability programs in Syracuse housing facilities. Using this money, Ashong-Katai said he was able to develop a greenhouse plan that was accessible for handicapped and disabled residents.

Looking for help in planning and building the greenhouse, Ashong-Katai approached State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry professor Matthew Potteiger, who in turn enlisted two SUNY-ESF students to create the blueprint.

One of the students, landscape architecture graduate Brian Swank, said that by the time the plans were finished, they had only two weeks to construct the greenhouse before he graduated.

“We really hammered it out,” Swank said. “I’m really happy with how it turned out, though. It’s nice to take the skills I’ve always had and do something good.”

The garden officially opened in mid-August. Ashong-Katai’s next goal is to encourage residents to come in and do their own gardening. In order to keep the project running smoothly, he said he appointed resident health advocates in the building to get other residents interested in the project and to monitor the greenhouse.

“All we have to do is come in and garden,” said Bobby Little, a Toomey Abbott Towers resident and one

of the health advocates. “I am looking forward to the room becoming as green as the outside.”

Another resident, Phyllis Johnson, agreed. She said that many residents are looking forward to flexing their green thumbs.

“I can’t wait to get my hands in the dirt,” she said. “I just love the feeling of earth in my hands.”

Ashong-Katai consulted a gardener to figure out which seeds to purchase and got dozens of starter pots. He said he hoped, over time, that the residents would grow bigger and bigger plants and the garden eventually would be moved to a different space.

Though the project is complete, Ashong-Katai visits the greenhouse a couple of times a week to check up on the garden and repair any leaks in the pipes. There haven’t been many residents doing their own gardening yet, but he said the curiosity is there, apparent by the number of residents coming up to ask him about the space.

Each time, Ashong-Katai patiently explains the concept of the garden. He greets each resident by name. When stepping into the greenhouse, he tenderly rearranges the pots and brushes the dirt off the workstation.

Amid the rows of dirt-filled pots, a single green plant has sprouted.

“It’s mine,” said Ashong-Katai, smiling. “It’s a lima bean plant. I guess that’s what I do. I make things happen.”

GARDEN TIMELINE

September 2015: Syracuse Housing Authority bans smoking rooms inside its housing facilities

November 2016: Aldrine Ashong-Katai pitches idea for greenhouse to replace smoking room in Toomey Abbott Towers

January 2017: SUNY-ESF students Brian Swank and Joshua White design blueprint for garden over the course of the semester

May 2017: Greenhouse is constructed over two weeks

August 2017: Garden of Health officially opens



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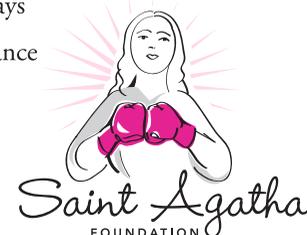
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Do you need help with your breast cancer bills?

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- ▶ Wound care systems
- ▶ Breast reconstruction
- ▶ Lymphedema sleeves



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Cyrus Lyles

Nominated by Ed Perry



MEET FATHER CYRUS: Lyles, 36, has worked as a barber at E-Clipz Barbershop for the past five years. He has one biological daughter, Jamiah, right, and a niece, Saniyah, and nephew, Malachi, who also call him dad. | Zachary Krahmer, Staff Photo

By | Ashley Kang
The Stand director

Q: *What did it feel like when you became a father?*

A: Initially, I was terrified. At first I didn't understand it — she (the mother) still looked normal. Then when her belly started to get big ... I was like 'Uh oh! This is the real deal.' And I didn't grasp the concept that I was becoming a dad until I saw the sonogram. I held my breath for like 20 seconds when we got into the room. The nurse asked me, 'Do you know what it is?' and I responded, 'It's a boy, right?' She said 'No.' And then I snapped my fingers or something and they jumped on me thinking I was disappointed, but I didn't mean it like that at all. Because I'm so glad I have my daughter, and I wouldn't trade her for anything else.

Q: *And what about when she was born?*

A: I was the first person to hold her. She was delivered via C-section, so her mom couldn't hold her yet. Her mom told me not to look when she was being born and for us to first see her together, but I couldn't help myself and just peeked over. As they were cleaning her up, she was looking right at me. I don't know if she could really see me because the eyes probably aren't fully developed at that stage, but I felt like she looked right at me. It was definitely love at first sight.

Q: *What can you share about your children?*

A: My daughter Jamiah Lyles, 12, and me are inseparable. She's funny, smart, athletic and likes jokes. My other two are my nephew and niece on my ex's side. My nephew Malachi

Thornton, 9, is very similar to my daughter. He loves to play sports. My niece, Saniyah Thornton, 7, is the opposite. She's quiet, but once she gets to know you, she'll open up.

Q: Do your niece and nephew live with you?

A: We share them between both households. The agreement came about naturally. We never had to get involved with courts. I love my kids, and she does, too, so we just agreed. And what mainly decides who gets them is our work schedules. Whenever she's working, I'll have them. My niece and nephew are her sister's kids, who had them young. She needed some help, so we stepped in to help take care of them so they would not have to go into foster care. She's now come back for her kids, but we have established such a strong bond we keep in contact and I have them throughout the week.

Q: What do they call you?

A: They call me dad. At first it was weird, because I would remind them, 'No, I'm Uncle Cy.' But they kept calling me dad, and now after seven years of that, I'm kind of used to it. So I know biologically they're not my kids, but you can't tell the difference between them and my daughter. So I feel like a dad of three.

Q: What is your opinion about commonly held stereotypes about black fathers?

A: My philosophy on it is this: My dad had both parents for most of his life. So he probably didn't recognize the importance of having a father. But I grew up without a dad. So I'm going to give it my best shot to be involved in my kids' lives. So I feel like that may be the disconnect with some of our generations because our parents had their parents around, but they didn't realize that was a necessary part of life for development.

Q: Are there any special moments that stand out?

A: This is something that is weird — but it's fun. Whenever I'm taking them to school and they don't really want to go, I'll play music really loud in the car and have them sing along — but we'll do our own rendition with lyrics like, 'I'm ready to go to school ...' So by the time they make it to school, they're all energized and motivated for the day ahead.

Q: How has your life changed as a father?

A: Having kids is like having a second childhood. I get to do the things I remember doing with my brothers — chasing each other in the park, having water balloon fights ... I didn't get to do it with my dad, so I think it's great fun

“Having kids is like having a second childhood”

Q: What was your relationship like with your father?

A: My relationship with my dad was very, very short. He and my mom separated when I was very young. I don't even remember living with him. He then moved out of state. But I had a good support system growing up — uncles and my grandfather, who served as the closest male mentor figure.

Q: Is there a saying you heard growing up?

A: My mom was a strong figure. She always said, 'A hard head makes for a soft tail.' Sometimes I hear myself repeating that. Or just, 'Clean up. Clean up.' I was a messy kid, so I didn't realize how aggravating that is until you're now cleaning up after somebody else.

Q: What is unique about the father's role?

A: The importance of having a father is to have someone that traveled the road you're traveling and can give you advice on how to avoid some of the things that they may have done wrong or guide them positively ... to give them a little leg up on life. Like someone that took a test before you who can give you a tip to watch out for that one trick question.

to play with them. And every holiday is special again. In my early 20s, no one really buys you anything anymore because you're making your own money. Halloween is cool because you get to go trick or treating. Christmas is especially cool because you know what gifts they're getting and they might think they aren't getting something because they don't always behave. So you get to see their excitement when they receive it. Even going to the movies and watching cartoons. Now that you have the little ones, you can go see the latest Pixar movie without feeling weird.

Q: Any advice for first-time dads?

A: Be patient. You might have an idea of how things are supposed to go, but be prepared to abandon those. Always have a Plan B. And live in the moment. Don't be afraid to be spontaneous because those are the memories that will last a lifetime.

Q: Final thoughts?

A: Being a dad is a lot of fun. It's a lot of work, but it's definitely worth it. No one's going to pat you on the back for the things you do, but knowing that you're making your kids' life better makes it all worth it.

ABOUT THE SERIES

Many people think of the police force as one unit, like a tribe with a single identity. But beyond the blue of the uniform, each police officer is unique. This project takes you inside the lives of the chief and several officers in Syracuse, showing that the force is truly a collection of individuals. Given the country's major news events involving the police over the past few years, and because this is a city where the minority population has very nearly become the majority, we pay special attention to minority officers in this project. They account for just one in every 10 officers, though Syracuse is 45 percent minority. Our project is not intended to be either "positive" or "negative," but rather an honest and powerful look at this complex issue — all with the hope that it improves police and community relations.

Yet while race matters, it is not everything. As the new chief in Ferguson, Missouri, told a reporter on our team, when citizens see police, they don't see individuals or race, "They see you as blue."

READ MORE

Next month, *The Stand* will feature more stories and photos from *They Wear Blue*.

ROOKIE RESPECT

Officer's new job excites mom, but dad voices worries about what's ahead



> Syracuse Police Department officers Adam Pritchett, left, Lashonda Russell and Tim Martins chat after responding to a call in Syracuse on March 24. Russell said it is important for her to build trust with the community. "Police officers bleed blue, but if you cut us, we're going to bleed the same color as you," she said. "Even though people have these terrible views of the police, we're still human like you." | Kathleen Flynn, *They Wear Blue* Photographer

By | Jasmine Gomez
They Wear Blue reporter

Lashonda Russell is a black officer who doesn't "see color," but she knows others do

Lashonda Russell's mom supported her when she became a police officer. It was the reason her mom pushed Lashonda to go away to school — to find her passion, whatever it was.

"I'm one of those firm believers, if you stay where you are, you're never going to grow. So I wanted her to go out in the world," said Lichele Hanson, Lashonda's mom.

While attending Morrisville State College, Lashonda completed an internship with the Syracuse Police Department. It led her to where she is today: a rookie cop with the SPD.

Lashonda's dad, Ricardo Hanson, has supported her, too. He told her how proud he was of her and how happy he was to see her go out and follow her dreams.

And he is indeed proud. But it wasn't until this April — when Lashonda's parents agreed to talk about their daughter's career choice in an interview at their home on

Long Island — that she realized the reservations her father had. He said the job comes with too many risks. "(There's) too much stuff going on right now," he said, referring to the tense relations between police and the public in many communities. He said he's afraid the job will change her.

Ricardo, who said he's lived a hard life of running around with the wrong people, has seen police target people of color, including him.

"One time they stopped me, and (when) I (asked why), they said, 'You fit the description.' I said, 'What's the description?' They said, 'You're the description: black man in a car.' That was it. I'm the description. I didn't do nothing wrong, but I'm the description," Ricardo said.

Ricardo shares the views of many who feel police unfairly target people of color. Minorities who decide to pursue a career in law enforcement are often seen as "Uncle Toms," or as having gone to the "other side," making it difficult for police departments to recruit officers from minority backgrounds. As a black and female officer in the Syracuse Police Department, Lashonda is quite an exception. In 2016, just 7.1 percent of sworn personnel were black; only 14 percent were female.

Ricardo said the good police officers he's seen know

the community, and he urges more to do the same. When Lashonda's younger brother, Jewuel, was getting into trouble, officers who knew the family would stop by to keep them in the loop and to suggest getting him some help.

By her father's standards, Lashonda's already on the right track. In her short tenure as a police officer, she has worked at making connections in the Syracuse community — not just arrests.

One of those connections is an elderly woman, "Patricia," whom Lashonda checks up on every now and then. Lashonda met her when Patricia called the police, concerned about finding a bullet in her attic where her grandchildren play. Lashonda discovered Patricia has lived in her house for five generations and has witnessed the deterioration of the neighborhood. Now, Lashonda visits Patricia when she can to make sure she's doing OK there and is safe.

A call on the West Side this spring about a stolen vehicle turned up more evidence of Lashonda's connection-making. A man named "Sean" spotted her and eagerly approached, proudly revealing a stash of coins in his hand that he'd collected. Sean, Lashonda explained, has a mental disorder. She first met him when Sean called police because he felt threatened by another mentally disabled man in his complex whose tongue permanently sticks out.

"It doesn't matter what I'm doing. If he sees me, he's there," Lashonda said.

As she slowly drove through the West Side, her assigned quadrant that afternoon, Lashonda shared facts about the beat, pointing to a window that had been pierced by a bullet and the area where a fellow officer

had shot and killed a man during a party that spiraled out of control.

She came across a girl she had arrested during an incident at a 7-Eleven the week before. Lashonda rolled down her window, greeted her and asked whether her charges had been dropped. The girl responded "yes." Lashonda, who thought she may have been lying, enthusiastically replied, "Good," anyway and kept driving.

On yet another call, Lashonda advised a son and father who had just gotten into a bad fight. After much coaxing, she persuaded the father to take his son to the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP), a licensed psychiatric emergency room.

She told him, "This is your son. The way that you raise him is the way that he's going to grow up, so if you want him to be successful, you've got to be there to support him."

Her reward: While at the hospital on a call the next day, Lashonda saw them getting along and smiling.

Still, even the supportive Lichele acknowledged Lashonda will meet other people on the beat who might not be on board with her being on the force.

"I know she's going to run across people, especially of the same race, saying that she's a sellout," Lichele said. It's something Lashonda confirms has already happened.

Lashonda said she would hear barbs while she jogged on the streets during the police academy training that new recruits must go through after they're hired.

She's also met it on the job. On one call Lashonda responded to with several officers, a young black woman who was acting erratically told Lashonda that she was a "black b----" and that had she not been hiding behind

SEE HER IN ACTION

While attending Morrisville State College, Lashonda Russell completed an internship with the Syracuse Police Department. It led her to where she is today: a rookie cop with the city's police force.

See what her life is like not only patrolling her beat but out of uniform, too. Travel with her back to her hometown on Long Island to hear her parents' conflicting reactions to her career choice.

To watch, visit <https://vimeo.com/224696337>

and

<https://vimeo.com/224688978>



> Lashonda Russell gets ready for work last February in her apartment. | Kathleen Flynn, They Wear Blue Photographer

ON THE SIDE

IN HER OWN WORDS

Officer Lashonda Russell reflects on her career: No doubts, *not once*

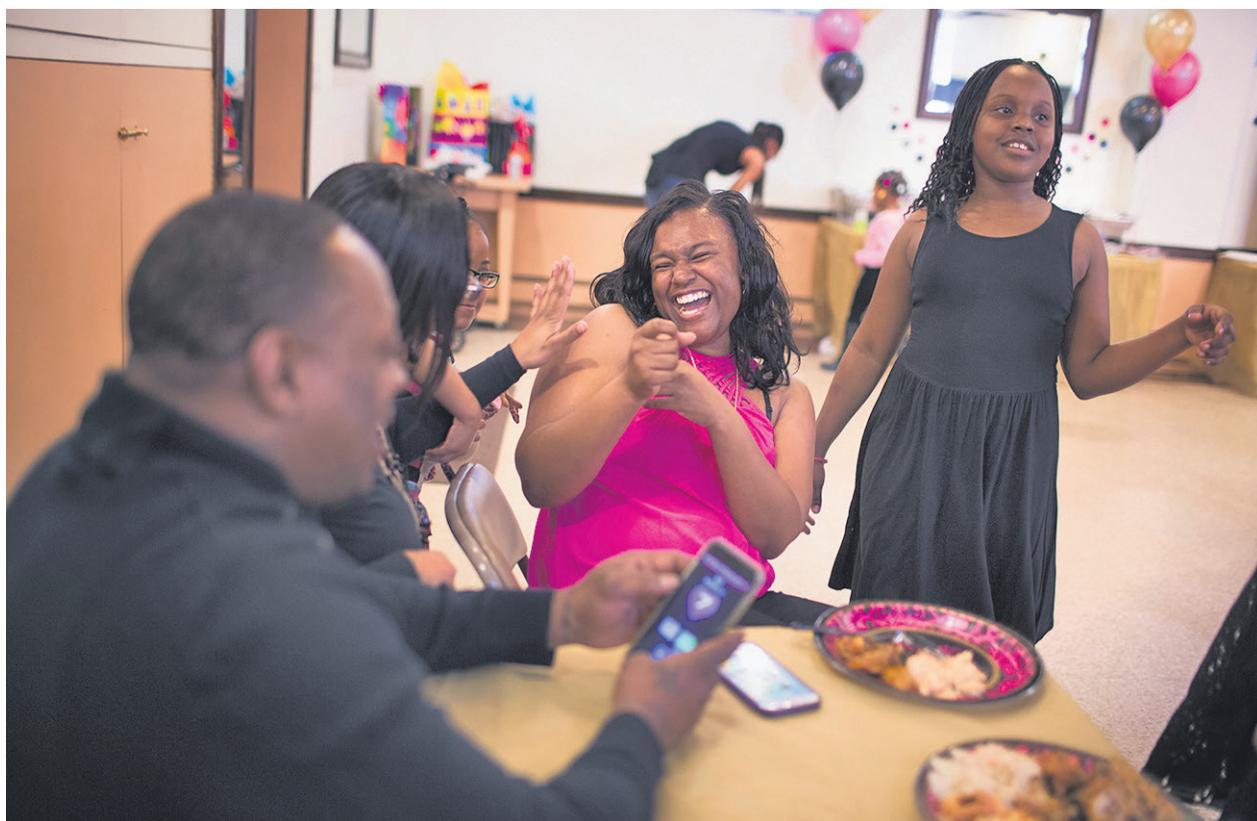
“As a new police officer with the Syracuse Police Department, I am still growing and learning new things every day.

Even if it is from the civilians, to the rules and regulations or the penal law.

I take each day with safety and precaution, so I can be thankful I am returning home each night. I enjoy my life and the career path I am on.

Not once have I questioned myself as to, ‘Why I am doing this job?’

I cannot say going into the job I knew everything a police officer does or dealt with, but the expectations have not been a shock. The experience so far has been great, and I am excited for the next 19 years to come. ”



> Lashonda Russell jokes around with her family, including her younger sister, Rihanna, during a birthday party for her great grandmother held April 8 on Long Island. | Kathleen Flynn, They Wear Blue Photographer

her badge, she would get beat up.

Usually, Lashonda doesn't let comments like that get under her skin, but that particular incident did.

“I can honestly say she kind of got me upset a little bit. Like I didn't do anything at all. I don't understand why you're attacking me,” Lashonda said.

While her dad sees how race plays a role in police-community relations, Lashonda said she doesn't see color herself when it comes to her job.

“Race is not something that I really play into. It's not that I don't care about it at all, but it's just that I feel like everyone's human and we do certain things because that's what your brain is telling you to do,” she said. “It has nothing to do with the color of your skin or where you come from.”

The SPD has been trying to recruit more officers of color — with only modest success. The latest class of police recruits was more diverse, but Lashonda's father still voices doubts. He believes police departments hire people of color just to cover themselves.

“Sometimes they just put you in there, just to put you in there to say they got a black officer in the group. Not even if you're a good officer or not, just because you're black, so they don't get no grief about anything,” Ricardo said.

Now that she's on the force, Ricardo fears Lashonda will change and eventually bond with other cops behind the “blue wall,” where officers cover for one another and may conceal wrongdoing.

“I'm not saying she's a bad person or that she's going to want to be a corrupt cop, but when you're in that position, sometimes the rookie cop just wants to keep his mouth shut and don't tell on nobody at all,” Ricardo said.

Lashonda is determined that won't be the case.

“I'm not going to change. Some people are influenced by the people that are around them,” she said. “But I feel like I influence people around me.”

Ricardo said he's already seen some slight changes in her, though. He said Lashonda now operates on a very strict schedule, though Lashonda said she's always been that way.

Her mom defends her, saying that's just the way she was trained at the academy. Lichele sometimes has to bring her back down to earth — like the time Lashonda roused her little sister from bed.

“She came in waking up her little sister, like ‘Hey, you got seven minutes because we got to be A, B and X, Y, Z.’ I understand that this is the way y'all work, but we don't do that in here,” Lichele said.

But Lichele has more hope than worry.

She said she knows Lashonda will continue to make an imprint on the Syracuse community.

“I think with her personality and especially her being in the same area, after awhile she's going to get to know these people and they're going to get to know her,” she said. “So of course in the beginning they're going to be resistant. (But) once they get to know her, they'll actually be looking for her.”

Brother's troubles inspired Lashonda to choose law enforcement

By | Jasmine Gomez
They Wear Blue reporter

On her 25th birthday this spring, Syracuse Police Department officer Lashonda Russell got a message from her younger brother, Jewuel Hanson. "Happy Birthday Toot," it read, using the nickname family members lovingly refer to her by. Excited he remembered her birthday, she messaged him right back, asking: "How's it going?"

He never replied. Thinking he probably read it and just forgot to answer, she called. But Jewuel never answered that, either.

"I just feel like he just fell off the face of the planet, and it's not how I expected us to grow up," Lashonda says today, looking back on that April 15 exchange.

Before their younger sisters Princess and Rihanna were born, it was just the two of them.

Their mom, Lichele Hanson, recalls that they were inseparable. "If one got into a fight, the other one was right with them. My son, he got into a lot of stuff, and his sister was always trying to save him or he was trying to save his sister."

Yet now they haven't been speaking at all. "He doesn't really talk to her because she's a cop. He doesn't like police at all," their mom says.

Jewuel's run-ins with the law had spurred his dislike.

"He felt like they were targeting him because he was black, but that wasn't the case, and I tried to explain to him over and over again that you're only drawing attention to yourself," Lashonda said.

Her brother would spend several years under the supervision of a probation officer, prompting Lashonda's interest in the field. The officer would often visit their home, spending time talking with her brother and setting up a gameplan with him for productive activities he could get into, like volunteering.

Lashonda became enamored of the officer's role.

"I saw where he was taking my brother just by speaking, and I really liked that and I felt that he was a great help," she said. "I wanted to be like that. I really wanted to help, and then they got to wear plainclothes and a badge and a gun, so I liked that."

After Lashonda lost a competition called Skills USA, which would have afforded her a full-tuition scholarship to beauty school to study cosmetology, her other passion, she enrolled as a criminal justice major at Morrisville State College to become a probation officer.

During her last semester, Lashonda fulfilled a 600-hour internship at the Syracuse Police Department. There she asked officer Dennis Burlingame if she could work with the probation department.

After a day, though, she realized that though she respects the field, it was not the job for her. She was

taken aback by the mountains of paperwork.

"I had the impression that you're going to be with the people, doing home visits, talking with them, going on the internet, searching for jobs. That's the aspect I got from it, seeing my brother's probation officer help him out."

Instead, she found policing.

She went on ride-alongs, started working out with officers, and spoke to Burlingame about what the academy was like, where new officers spend months preparing to be cops. She recalls seeing officers dealing with an erratic woman who would not stop cursing and spitting at them. The officers never lost their cool, though, and Lashonda was impressed.

"They still talked to her as a person, told her that she's going to be OK. It was awesome," she recalls.

She was sworn into the police academy on March 7, 2016, marking the start of the 26-week academy training. Her 22-year-old brother was there for the ceremony.

"He supported me, but then he also made it known that (he) doesn't like the police. ... " Still, he let her know: "You're my sister, I'm proud of you."

Though he sported an angry face the entire time and said he couldn't believe he was there, Lashonda appreciated his support and presence.

She started patrolling on her own Nov. 22, 2016, and for Christmas, she gave Jewuel a Syracuse police shirt. To her surprise, he accepted it and said he would frame it.

Things seemed to be looking up.

Lashonda had hopes of mending the broken relationship, but after Christmas, Jewuel got into a physical scrap with their father, Ricardo Hanson. After that incident, he started avoiding their parents, Lashonda and the rest of the family.

And as Jewuel has withdrawn, they've all lost touch with his almost 2-year-old daughter as well.

He's had other troubles in the past year. He crashed his car, and at the hospital he lost his cool with the staff checking him out.

"We've tried so many times to get him to find help, and he was on medication, but that was when he was younger and he didn't want to take it anymore. So you know you can't force him," Lashonda said.

Lashonda's mother hopes that one day Jewuel's relationships with the family will get better.

"Sometimes the streets get ahold of people, and they just go that way and they just don't come back, and I'm praying that one day he does get it right. But until then we just got to leave it like this," Lichele said.

And for now, Lashonda is done trying.

"At this point if he comes to me and reaches out to me, then I'll be there to support him 100 percent," she said. "But until then, I'm not reaching out to him. Not to sound stubborn or like I'm better than him ... but I'm not going to hurt myself further trying to be there for him."

LOSING A FRIEND

As kids, Lashonda Russell and her brother spent their days playing outside, riding dirt bikes or enjoying family vacations to a timeshare in Kissimmee, Florida. Jewuel was her best friend until he started getting into trouble.

On Halloween one year, her brother and a couple of friends between the ages of 17 and 21 were arrested when they were pulled over in a car filled with drugs, guns and counterfeit money. Jewuel's friends put the blame on him, figuring since he was only 13 he would draw a lesser charge, Lashonda said.

Yielding to the arguments of lawyers hired by Jewuel's parents, a judge ordered him to spend two years at the Timothy Hill Children's Ranch, a boys' transitional home in Riverhead, New York.

Lashonda asked if she could visit and talk to some of the boys there. "I just wanted to let them know that they have a second chance."

Some listened, some didn't. One who didn't was her own brother.

"Some people said 'thank you' and stuff, and other kids didn't want to hear it. They just wanted to go back to their room. My brother was one that wanted to go back to his room. He didn't want to hear it."



> **MEET:** Back row from left: Nina Purhenn, Maria Maldonado-Lewis, Sharron Pearson, Tatiana C. Parker, Emily Dening and Kate Collins. Front row from left: Taykola Gainey, Catie Brigandi, Tammy Reese, LaKisa Renee and LS. | Rondell Parker, Provided Photo

By | Tammy Reese
Community correspondent

Ten Syracuse women share their stories of how they empower others and inspire unity within their community

Women of different backgrounds came together for a photoshoot to display a sense of equality and support that tends to be lacking in our nation today. The photoshoot, which felt like a powerhouse movement, took place at the Guest House, a venue for events, meetings and celebrations. The resulting image reflects the women in Central New York who uplift the community in various ways — women who also need a voice or outlet to inspire others.

The Stand has been a huge outlet for me. So have local television stations and a YouTube series that I co-produce and co-host called “Visionary Minds.”

These women — Kate Collins, LaKisa Renee, LS, Catie Brigandi, Sharron Pearson, Tatiana C. Parker, Taykola Gainey, Nina Purhenn, Emily Dening and Maria Maldonado-Lewis — inspire one another and countless others, including myself. We strive to motivate others.

These amazing women have great accomplishments, goals and advice to share. Their guidance can be used in any profession or aspect of life. Women empowerment: It is in full effect and here to stay.

Uplifting a community

NINA PURHENN

Entrepreneur, actress and fitness instructor

Nina is a motivational public figure in the community. Her passion is helping people, especially in times of need. For example, she helps through her endeavors as a nurse, by offering encouragement to her Zumba students to push through another step and by uplifting the community with her poetry.

Nina and I became familiar with each other and our efforts through mutual friends on Facebook, but we had not met in person. “You continued to show me love for my goal-orientated entrepreneur endeavors and even reached out to me and asked if you could write an article for your Visionary Minds website,” Nina said. She appreciated what I was trying to do; that’s women empowerment. “I’m inspired by my mom and daughter,” she added. “My mom is such a strong woman; she’s been through a lot of ups and downs in her life and never gave up.”

Her advice to other women who wish to inspire the community is to know their worth, chase their goals and remember tomorrow.

KATE COLLINS

Photographer, writer and mentor

Kate says she didn’t have many mentors early in her career, so she tries to make it easier for others — including students from diverse backgrounds — by mentoring them. Kate feels it’s important to be generous with your time and knowledge in order to give back to your profession and your community.

She believes empowerment isn’t just about elevating yourself or striving to be “the best” at something. “To me, empowerment is about believing in yourself and using your talents to help others around you,” she said. “My grandmother was definitely the biggest influence in my life. She was born into poverty, but then she and my grandfather built a very successful business and were generous to everyone. My grandmother treated everyone as equals.”

Kate believes everyone has a talent. Her advice is to volunteer and use your talents to help others.

SHARRON PEARSON

Entrepreneur, event coordinator and writer

Sharron believes empowerment is making no excuses and being relentless in your pursuits. “My inspiration comes from other women on the journey and from my ancestors who paved the way before me without any of the resources or benefits afforded to me,” she said. “My humble advice to other women: ‘How much you get is directly proportional to how hard you squeeze.’”

MARIA MALDONADO-LEWIS

Life coach, credit adviser and radio host

Maria is co-host and co-producer of “I Know I Can Radio and TV,” which is a platform for empowerment, life skills and inspirational messages for the community.

She says that women empowerment is someone who walks her talk and is selfless. “Oprah (Winfrey) is my biggest inspiration because she loves to help and is humble,” she said.

Her advice is to be yourself, learn who you are and love yourself first so you can genuinely give to others. “Find your passion,” she added, “and keep it real.”

TAYKOLA GAINEY

Dancer, print model and hair stylist

Taykola owns Dangerously Fierce, a dance company where she choreographs and teaches women 18 and older. Teaching younger girls is her next goal. She is also a hairstylist and loves making women feel good about themselves. Taykola will be seen in the upcoming movie, “The People’s Champ,” a story about local boxer Martel Potter, whose life inspired others and whose death took a toll on many in the Syracuse community.

She believes women empowerment is when women of all races come together to praise, encourage and stand by one another. “My biggest inspiration is Iyanla Vanzant,” she said. “She has given me a sense of realness that empowered me to do better for myself and then for the women around me.”

Taykola advises women to never give up on themselves. “No matter what comes your way, know that you are strong enough to get through it,” she said. “All women are naturally strong by themselves, but together we are stronger.”

LAKISA RENEE*Actress, fitness instructor and entrepreneur*

LaKisa is a fitness instructor at Southside Fitness Gym, co-owner of LSK Modeling & Events Company and an Onondaga County Health Department community health worker.

“Creating LSK Modeling & Events was a major contribution to the Syracuse community,” she said, noting that her company serves as a platform for Syracuse models, dancers, singers, actors, designers, entrepreneurs, organizations and more to discover their talents, showcase them and create businesses. “In my position as a community health worker, I assist and advocate for pregnant women/teens and parenting mothers. It’s the best feeling in the world to know you’re making a difference in someone else’s life.”

She says her mother is her biggest inspiration. “She faces many challenges on a daily basis, but handles them with grace.” She also says she is inspired by many wonderful, powerful women in her community such as business owners, political leaders, mentors, advisers and consultants.

Her best advice: “Be willing to go out into the neighborhoods, attend events, bond more with people in your community.” She also suggests that women should go after their goals and let nothing or no one stand in their way. “Be fearless, break barriers and set the bar high. People will naturally gravitate towards you and be inspired.”

EMILY DENING*Model, singer and actress*

Emily is involved with the modeling and film community and has been featured in films, commercials and fashion shows. She is signed with CNY MODE, a local model management agency.

She says she’s had many women ask how she started her career.

“What I tell them is to get involved. I do whatever I can to help other women follow their dreams the same way I follow mine,” she said. “Women need to build each other up. We live in a time where women empowerment should be prominent more than ever. Race, shape or size means nothing — your character means everything. We have to have each other’s backs. Real women don’t compete against each other. They empower one another.”

She feels the best way to inspire one’s community is to genuinely want to help others succeed without expecting anything in return.

“It’s an inspiring thing to help others, especially when you know what it takes to work towards your ambitions and to be able to see someone else be successful. Then knowing you had an impact on that is an irreplaceable feeling.”

CATIE BRIGANDI*Actress, filmmaker and makeup artist*

Catie says women empowerment is about different women from different cultures and careers coming together and building each other up. “Women empower each other by working together and using each woman’s beauty and talent to become one strong force,” she said.

“My mother has always been my number one inspiration,” she added. “She taught me that you don’t need a man to be successful in life. If you want to inspire, you’ve got to do what you love. Then you will automatically spread positivity and inspiration to your community.”

TATIANA C. PARKER*Community advocate*

Tatiana uses her time, skills and knowledge to help promote the quality of life for the Syracuse community.

She believes women empowerment is the process of increasing the political, economic, professional and spiritual capacity of women. “My mother is my biggest source of inspiration,” she said. “She fought through the challenges young single parents face while managing to raise four well-adjusted children.”

She adds: “The thing about inspiration is that it is organically grown from how you make people feel through your own authenticity, personal passion and dedication. I would tell women to network with experienced professionals. These actions activate you and lead to an increased awareness of your interest areas.”

LS*Business owner and Syracuse International Film Festival board member*

“Starting LSK Modeling & Events gave people the opportunity to showcase their talents,” LS said, detailing such examples as casting for “Priest The Lost Son’s” movie trailer, which filmed in Syracuse, and coordinating a performance and fashion show at the Great New York State Fair Empire Experience Stage this summer. “LSK is a company that supports the community by donating to local charities such as the Determination Center, Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital and Catholic Charities Refugee Youth Program.”

LSK also has put on a charity kids fashion show on behalf of Amani Bowale African Youth Dance Team. For LS, women empowerment is receiving support from women and praising each other. “Oprah Winfrey is my inspiration,” she said. “In all her adversity, she prospered to be the mogul that she is now.”

LS believes the first step for a woman to help her community is to think about ways to get involved. “To my ladies in the world who would like to inspire your community, even the thought counts,” she said. “The fact you are even thinking about ‘how can I help my community’ is a big start.”

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Get in the spirit with these family-friendly activities for all ages



> This is a scene from last year's Halloween Spooktacular at Beauchamp Branch Library. | File photo

Halloween is all about fun and fantasy, and you'll find all of that in these special events

WHAT: Cricut: Spooky Cut Halloween Lanterns

WHEN: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 12

WHERE: Central Library's first floor of MakerSpace, 447 S. Salina St.

COST: Free to attend

DETAILS: Children can make their own decorative lanterns using mason jars and the Cricut machine to create eerie landscapes that glow. Register in the MakerSpace or online at onlib.org/events/calendar.

WHAT: Pirate Dave's Halloween Magic Show

WHEN: 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14

WHERE: Beauchamp Library, 2111 S. Salina St.

COST: Free to attend

DETAILS: Join Pirate Dave (aka magician David Moreland) for his family-friendly, not-at-all-spooky 45-minute Halloween magic show. Audience members, young and old, will laugh at the magic, balloons, puppets and audience participation. All ages welcome.

WHAT: Spooky Stories by the "Fire"

WHEN: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17

WHERE: Beauchamp Library, 2111 S. Salina St.

COST: Free to attend

DETAILS: Cozy up and enjoy not-too-scary stories and a Halloween craft. Children may wear their Halloween costumes or pajamas. Ms. Laura will have her Halloween PJ's on, too. All ages welcome.

WHAT: Halloween Spooktacular

WHEN: 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26

WHERE: Beauchamp Library, 2111 S. Salina St.

COST: Free to attend

DETAILS: This is a fun-filled night of games, crafts, food and activities for the entire family. Come in costume.

WHAT: Halloween Movie Marathon – with Crafts

WHEN: 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28

WHERE: Beauchamp Library, 2111 S. Salina St.

COST: Free to attend

DETAILS: Get in the Halloween mood with a kid-friendly movie marathon and Halloween crafts.

GHOST TOUR

WHAT: Ghost Walks in Eastwood

Walk the Streets of Eastwood and hear stories from residents of the neighborhood's rich past.

Historic Ghostwalks, presented by the Onondaga Historical Association, are led by guides to locations in neighborhoods, buildings and cemeteries where actors in costume portray individuals from Onondaga County's past. The "ghosts" reveal their lives in 12- to 15-minute vignettes, giving personal insight to those who have preceded us.

WHEN: Oct. 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 6 p.m. and offered every 15 minutes until 8 p.m., except there are no 7 p.m. tours.

WHERE: Meet at the Welter-Price Funeral Home, 3111 James St.

COST: \$15 for the general public and \$12 for Onondaga Historical Society members; call (315) 428-1864 for the member discount code.

FOR TICKETS: Visit cnyhistory.org/calendar

For The Stand's full event listings, visit mysouthsidestand.com/events/



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