## Residents' apathy GL thwarts investigation

"We want to help the community. This is our job. But we need cooperation," said a frustrated 1.1. Joseph DiLeonardi, commanding officer of the gang crimes north unit. By crest time Monday, no one had

By press time Monday, no one had responded to an appeal from Dileonardi in last week's NEWS calling for witnesses to volunteer alternative on the stabbing Seturday. Aug 4, of Edward Rizzo, 17, of N Springfield.

when he was pulled to the ground during a flight involving several youths at the annual perish that fair at \$1. Stanialaus B & M church \$352 Belden. The light reportedly issolved members of the Joszters and Gavlords

bers of the Jousters and Gaylords street gangs, but Rizzo was not a gang member, according to the police. The Humboldt Park youth was herpitalized in sedent condition at S.

hospitalized in serious condition at St Anne's hospital after the stabbing, but he recovered and was released Friday. Aug. 10

Two prime suspects, arrested two weeks ago as the Saturday night stabiling had to be released because witnesses were unable to identify them. The suspects had been taken into custody because they fit descriptions provided to police by the witnesses. Parents of witnessers have refused to allow their children to provide information. The provide information to the police according to

allow their children to provide information to the police, according to DiLeonardh. "People in the lily-white neighborhoods of the Northwest side think

the gangs will just go away if they keep quiet," he said Dileonardi explained that residents of such areas that have had relatively little arises at the cost — often the doing their jobs, but in the Rizzo case, "We are at a dead end to the extent that we have no cooperation from witnesses' mothers and fathers." Northwest side residents should

cooperate in this investigation, DiLeonardi said, before the gangs become entrenched in the area

become entrenched in the area
"When we have a mother and a
father telling their kid not to help the
police, then what kind of society are we
living in?" he asked "Not one phone

calf<sup>22</sup> was made in response to his plea for aid in the investigation of the Rizzo stabbing. Dileonards said. The gang crimes north unit a continuing the investigation in confunction with the home aid this upon of area five

tinuing the investigation in conjunction with the homicide division of area five Persons who may have information on the stabling have been asked to call

the gang unit at 744-5409 or 486-5066.

The church carnival at which the incident tooh place was to have ended Monday. Aug. 13, but the Rev. Anthony Laskowski, pastor of \$S. Stans, closed the fund-raising event Saturday, Aug. 4, after he received reports that the gangs "wanted to level off on the hall field on Sanday."

"The primary reason for the cancellation of the St. Stamslaus B & M lead fair this year was the preservation of the safety of the members of the entire parish family and guests," Laskowski wrote in the parish bulletin.

"Because of serious misbehavior and and crude element of our society, it was prudently judged that this very important parish social cease before its scheduled time," he said.

The church is looking into alternative

## Community apathy thwarts\_ St. Stans stabbing search

Northside gang investigators say a lack of community cooperation is frustrating their efforts to find end identify suspects in connection with IVA stabbing Saturday. Aug. 4, of a 17-wear-old youth during the St. Stanislans B & Moerish fun fair.

Two primo suspects, arrested LLI week for the Salurday night stabbing of Edward Rizzo, 1139 N. Springfield, nad to be released because witnesses were unable to identify them. The suspects had been taken into custody because the fit descriptions provided to police by the winesses.

Rizzo was stabbed in the lower back when he was pulled to the ground during a fight at the earnival lavolving several youths at about 9:30 pm. The fight reportedly involved members of the Jousters and Gaylords street gangs, but Rizzo was not a gang member.

according to police.

The Humboldt Park youth was hospitalized in serious condition at St. Anne's hospital after the stabbing, but he recovered and was released Friday.

Aug 10

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Sunday."
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Lt. Joseph Dilleonardi, commanding officer of gang crimes north has issued an appeal to Community Publications readers to come lorward and help float three responsible for the Aug. 4 stabbing of Edward Rizzo. Persons with any information on the incident have been asked to cattlithe oanquitt at 744-5400 or 486-5400 or

The church carnival at which the incident took place was to have ended Morday, Aug 13, but the Rev. Anthony Laskowski, oscion of St. Stans closed

the safety of the members of the entire parish family and guests," and a said in the parish bulletin "Recause of the serious misbehavior and unruliness of a certain irresponsible and crude element of our society, it was prudently judged that this very important parish social cease before its scheduled time." be said.

market sangs found it the carminal inition a reporter "That was a real dark day for Chucago. If they can't be controlled, its a sad day and pretty soon they'll be

running the city "he commented.

Sporadic fighting reportedly
preceded the statung at the carnival
on the parish ground: 5256 Helden.

Li Joseph DiLeonardi, commanding officer of gang crimis north, seld, "We are not getting my cooperation I are not getting my cooperation I administration of the property of the community People are saying it didn't happen to me' or 'its notimy son." We need the cooperation of the people."

. "We need beto "Dilleonardissun

## Neighborhood safety <sup>GL</sup>

A IT year-old Northwest side boy was seriously injured in a gang fight at a local church carnival. And although the carnival, an annual end-of-thesummer event, was as well attended as usual, no one saw anything happen.

At least, now the police can't find anyone who will say they witnessed the fight, much less lhe stabbing of the high school youth.

Police investigating the incident made an appeal in the last several issues of this paper lor witnesses to volunteer information on the stabbing. And three weeks after the incident haven't received a single telephone call Not one call.

we know people in the community, even those who wen't there that particular Salurday are talking about it. If only because the carnival organizers closed down the operation ten days ahead of schedule We're pretty sure, too, that many are talking about the incident because they and their children witnessed it. Most of them unfortunately are not talking to the police.

The investigators, therefore, are being frustrated in their attempts to clear up this incident -and more important in their attempts to prevent another one from occurring

Although the injured teen was rol a gang member ofter youths involved were. Police have watched gangs in other areas of the city grow bolder and bolder as they threaten, harass and terrorize a neighborhood. They attack and rob community residents to prove their "power residents to prove their "power proventing the community of the community of

away with, the more powerful they an . the gang leaders reason.

Witnesses, who refuse to aid pollee or encourage others lo keep quid, reinforce L e gang logic and encourage their invasion into an area

fronically, those people won't help police in this case and others like it, are the first to bemoan the rising crime rates and criticize the police for being negligent and uncooperative. Some even talk about "putting a cop on every corner."

In we sense, those "cope" should be they and their neighbors acting as **continuity guardisms**. A neighborhood is only as **safe** as the residents make it **Petty thiefs**, burglars, vandals and gangs know in what **areas** they can operate with the least hassle.

We don't expect the guy next door to tangle with an armed robber or investigate strange wises in a nearby drug store after closing horns. But we do expect and think neighbors should demand that the police receive the help they need whether it's the description of someone tampering with a car or wielding a knife at a carnival. Police welcome such aid and credit local residents in other sections of the city with contributing to the decrease or elimination of gang-related incidents of crime, incidents of crime

Again we urge anyone who has information about the carnival stabbing to call the gang unit at 74454m or 4863666. We hope others will remember to contact the police at other times when the can be of help to the investigators.