

He is richest who is content with the least,
for content is the wealth of nature.

— Socrates

NEWS-STAR

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FREE

Senior LIVING,
page 7

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NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

insideonline.com

Judge unloads on man accused of Rogers Park shootout while on electronic monitoring for two felonies

BY CWBCHICAGO

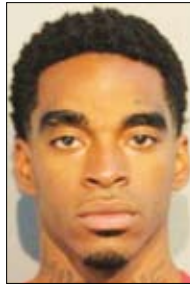
A Cook County judge unleashed during a bond court hearing Dec. 29 for a convicted armed robber who's freshly accused of firing a gun during a Rogers Park shootout when the man was supposed to be on electronic monitoring and home confinement for two separate pending felony cases.

"He was under a seven-year armed robbery sentence, not supposed to be in possession of even a bullet. On house arrest for two

cases," Judge John Lyke said after hearing the latest allegations against Deshawn Gillette.

Gillette previously appeared before Lyke on Nov. 25 when prosecutors charged him with escape from electronic monitoring, but not for the shooting. Another judge later reduced the strict bail conditions Lyke set for the 24-year-old.

"I set his bail at [\$250,000] and one of my colleagues thought that, I guess, I made a mistake and now here we go again," Lyke railed.



Deshawn Gillette

According to court records, the colleague who reduced Gillette's bail in the escape case to \$50,000 is Judge Charles Beach.

But, Gillette was never able to post the reduced amount because the judge

JUDGE see p. 12



Pharmacist Tim Riley is one of more than a million workers who have kept showing up to work in person to keep the economy going.

Courtesy Sandy Bressner ShawMedia

Tell us what you need as an essential worker

Essential workers have kept our economy going, now we want to hear what they need to keep going

BY STAFF

Thousands of workers around Chicago have been labeled "essential" to maintaining our health, educational and economic infrastructures. We want to hear from those essential workers about what they need to keep going.

What is your biggest concern as an essential worker and what should be done bring relief?

Twenty newsrooms in Chicago

are collaborating to better understand and report on important issues facing essential workers. We want our coverage to adequately reflect experiences impacting life, family and community for workers in health care, schools, transit, public safety, food service and other industries that are critical to our ability to function as a city and state.

Fill out this survey [<https://airtable.com/shrJHZoNsQEb-w9T5D>] and tell us what should be done for those who must physically show up for work

NEED see p. 12

City to ramp up speed camera enforcement City expands metered parking across North Side

City Hall is wishing the North Side a 'Happy New Year' with ramped up ticket enforcement, hoping to help finance their massive — and still-growing — budget hole on the backs of drivers and parkers.

The city has announced 96 new parking pay boxes on the North Side adding about 750 new metered spots that until now had been free. Most of the new pay-parking spots are located in Old Town, Lincoln Square, North Center, downtown, Lakeview and several other North Side neighborhoods.

The city also plans to start issuing tickets to drivers automated speed cameras catch driving between six and nine mph too fast. Chicago has 88 speed cameras placed around parks and schools. The city also has 309 red-light cameras, which have brought in over \$719 million since they were installed in 2003.

On the North Side, some of the most profitable and productive speed cameras are located on Ridge Ave. adjacent to Senn High School; on Western Ave. adjacent to Warren Park; at The Chicago River and Peterson, Foster, Mon-

trose and Irving Park. Adjacent to Lane Tech High School on both Addison St. and Western Ave. On Lincoln and Western avenues adjacent to Welles Park; on Irving Park just west of the Red Line CTA tracks; on Broadway just north of Montrose; on Ashland Ave. just south of Belmont Ave.; on Clybourn and Ashland avenues just north of Fullerton; on Ashland at North Ave.; on Chicago Ave., both east and west of State St.; on Columbus south of Illinois St., and on Illinois east of

SPEED see p. 12

From Addison to Howard, Western Ave. now under city's microscope

The Chicago departments of Planning and Development and Transportation [DPD/CDOT] has initiated a five-mile planning study for Western Ave. between Addison and Howard streets.

The study, starting in Jan. 2021, will be a comprehensive, community-driven look at current land uses, circulation, density, and other issues over the next six months to improve the corridor as a neighborhood amenity.

The \$240,000 planning project will emphasize the voices and goals of the multiple communities that intersect the study area, including portions of North Center, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, West Ridge and West Rogers Park.

The study is being financed en-

tirely by Tax Increment Financing (TIF) tax collections taken from four North Side TIF Districts.

The study will consider opportunities for higher-density and transit-oriented development, pedestrian safety, economic diversity, and transitions with lower-scale residential areas that surround the corridor, among other subjects.

"This is an opportunity to identify and maximize new development opportunities and small business growth while improving the corridor experience for all users, especially motorists, public-transit users and pedestrians," DPD Cmsr. Maurice Cox said.

Interested parties are invited to attend a virtual kick-off meeting for the study at 6 p.m. Wednes-

day, Jan. 27. Registration is now open on Zoom, and the event can also be live streamed on DPD's YouTube page.

Participants' comments and insights may help shape planning and focus areas in the months to come.

Additionally, residents and business owners can take part in an online survey, which seeks input related to opportunities for the corridor. The survey will remain open until Sunday, Jan. 31.

"Our goal is to produce a long-term vision for this segment of Western Ave. that builds on the existing mix of commercial and residential uses, while enhancing mobility and safety for all users,

WESTERN AVE. see p. 12

Rideshare drivers in the crosshairs as carjackings soar, hijackers now even more violent

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police recorded 279 carjackings between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 this year. By comparison, there were 75 during the same period in 2019, according to city data. That's a 272% increase.

Year-to-date, reports are up 140% compared to 2019.

That's bad. But there are two even more troubling trends within that statistic: Vehicular hijackers seem to be increasingly willing to use violence during their crimes, and ride-hail service drivers are being targeted by robbers who lure them into carjackings by using stolen phones.

And, now this reporter has learned, the actual number of people who are being shot during

hijackings is likely much greater than the public knows. We found Chicago Police Dept. media releases about shooting incidents have repeatedly failed to mention that victims were shot by carjackers.

More violent

At least three people have been shot during carjackings across Chicago during December, according to media reports. Two of those victims died of gunshot wounds.

Most recently, carjackers fatally shot Shuai Guan outside his Bridgeport home on Dec. 21 after becoming frustrated because they did not know how to operate his Jeep, his widow told CBS2.

CARJACKINGS see p. 12



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Lots of colorful book jackets with nothing written on the pages



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

You don't need to be gossip-hungry Lady Whistledown to understand how Americans see the results of the pandemic on our everyday lives. Just look at the enormous increase in the use of "zoom" communications.

'Zoom' is when our telephone calls become major full screen broadcasts to one another face to face.

Like the funny paper's detective Dick Tracy used to do.

Zooming permits us the chance to have our computer screen filled with the faces and voices of our family and friends in Chicago and around the world. With startling intimacy, we are soon connected. Speaking. Mugging for the camera like a class photo.

Our phone calls becoming a timeless production moment like those visits to celebrities' homes from the distinguished CBS journalist Edward R. Morrow on his early TV show "Person to Person" in the 1950s.

The computer camera picks up everything within sight during our conversation with our parents, in-laws, workmates, lonely loved ones or grandma back on the farm.

While we can't be together in person, we get the next best thing, some happy time talking to grandpa in the barn, mother back in the palace, sister dear in her flat in New York or our law partner skinny-dipping in the hotel pool in Palm Beach.

Our phone call brings us up close and personal with our friends, but our phone call also becomes a moment of great reveal. No longer are we simply



Can a person buy their reputation at a bookstore?

voices chatting back and forth in the night. Instead, the camera lets us see it all. The photos on the desk. The crumbling plaster on the walls. The wilted plant on the table. The soaring Christmas tree in the living room. The arrangement of the good china on the holiday table. The Butterball turkey on the kitchen counter.

Zooming allows us the opportunity to get a full picture of our phone mates. A wider and more layered look at our pals. Their home. The refined arrangement of their lives. The clutter and garbage of their everyday living.

A recent article in the New York Times wrote about a company in Maryland called "Books By The Yard." They're used book sellers who will come into your home, apartment, office or work place and fill it up with books. Yard by yard. They credit a lot of their newfound success and popularity with the increase in zooming. People apparently want to create an interior environment around them that reflects the books they wish they had read.

Or should have read. Or needed to read in order to be considered an erudite and well-read person.

Imagine conversing with your boss at the office via zoom. You're surrounded with the works of William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, John Steinbeck, Rudyard Kipling, John Updike and Seamus Heaney. You're definitely not the same unread worker bee that management thought you once

were. Here you are zooming, looking like you're on the faculty at Wellesley. No longer three months of the Tribune sports section tossed helter-skelter around your home. Just you sitting among your books. In your personal library. The brightest bulb in the box.

Perhaps your family has been on you to take better care of yourself living in your first apartment in the city.

Maybe your mom is deeply concerned you don't have the wherewith-all to care for yourself. Dirty clothes piled to the ceiling. Gym clothes hanging from the light fixtures. But now when you call home and zoom, they are uplifted by the sight of you surrounded by the works of Henry Kissinger, Hillary Clinton, Pope John Paul II, Mike Royko, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Martha Stewart and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The parents can breathe again and relax. All is not lost. Their boy is in good hands with the first names in fiction and political thought. Yard by yard, by yard.

Can sprucing up our zoom environment actually change the climate of our everyday living?

Can the book binding and colorful spines of literary masterpieces actually help in restoring our sense of zoom intellectual self-awareness?

Well, Books by the Yard thinks they can. And so too do all the other large quantity used book sellers who are all too ready to lift you higher up on the intelligence tree, doing something even your resume can't do.

It's also said to raise the impact on an individual's social life.

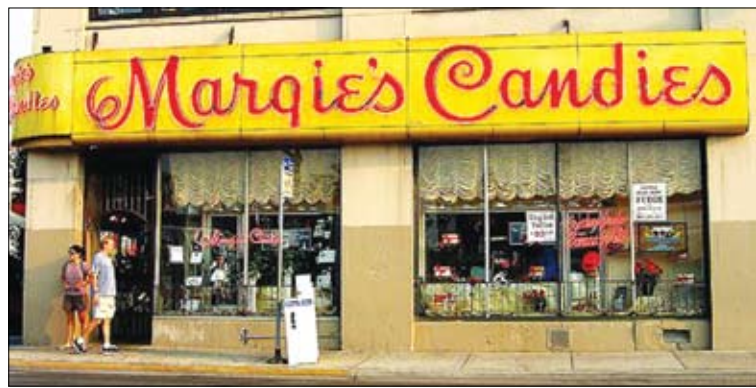
Can you imagine when some serial bowler discovers the power of books and acquires shelf after shelf of works on fashion, philosophy, photography, painting, travel and French cooking?

Can you imagine the boost their zoom calls to female co-workers will take on when their books on Coco Chanel, Julia Child, Ina Garten, Erma Bombeck, Maureen Dowd, Gloria Steinem, Jane Fonda and Emily Dickinson are seen on zoom camera?

Who wouldn't want to split a milkshake with this dude?

The growing problem, however, becomes one of a crisis of artificial intelligence.

You can be sure of this much, if you don't actually read the books, their wisdom will never leave the page. Osmosis just won't work to get it into your brain. If the depth of on-hand understanding and intelligence doesn't actually



Margie's Candies, 1960 N. Western Ave.

have any measurable depth, then all the zooming in the world shall not make it so.

Buying an intellectual reputation by the yard will have no staying power to open a mind. Formulate a sensible synthesis, or establish a credible ability to string two thoughts together.

You'd be better off memorizing a thousand jokes and funny stories. Or commit to heart the beatitudes in the Scriptures.

In many ways the "Books by the Yard" metaphor is

the perfect one to characterize the last four years of American politics. Lots of colorful book jackets with nothing written on the pages. Only the grit and hard work of the citizens of the nation had the power to unseat the artificial intelligence of a shameful era of lost American influence and value. As a new year is about to commence, the artifice and shallow integrity that we were forced to endure can now be scattered by the good works and moral integrity of people who want to climb over the disunity and dishevelment of the recent past. We need to remember what goodness can accomplish and patriotic loyalty can restore.

The confinement of the pandemic has cut us off from one another across the nation. Great change came to many during this past Christmas. Restrictive travel. Lonesome isolation. Nostalgic longings for favorite holiday meals and traditions. Reevaluating what is important, life-giving and real.

The discovery of any honesty about life is a transforming gift, often helping us find what is really worthwhile.

Now, we are standing at the very threshold of the vaccine, ready to eradicate the disease as it's released to the public. Let's hope it will cleanse and heal us from the shortcomings of the past. Save us from artificial intelligence. And phony posturing that gets us nowhere. All those things that get in the way of the purpose and meaning of our lives.

There's nothing wrong with buying "Books by the Yard," so long as we attempt to start reading them one foot at a time.

Zoom in on that little miracle and change the way Chicago, and the nation, lives. Whether you're a bright bulb or not. Reaching for her quill, what would Lady Whis-

tedown make of it all?

CHICAGO TALK SHOW: Whitney Reynolds has landed a national syndication deal. She'll be bringing the stories of extraordinary Chicagoans to a wider audience in 2021. Beginning Jan. 6, 2021, "The Whitney Reynolds Show" will air on Public Broadcast Stations.



Whitney Reynolds

MARGIE'S CANDIES: We splurged and picked up a big box of handmade Margie's Candies, "Terrapins," that's another word for

turtle, a confection that is top of the line. Caramel, pecans, milk chocolate. All I can say is that they are the best chocolate in the city I've had in a long time. Remember this was Al Capone's favorite soda fountain and chocolate shop back in the 1920s. The one place the Beatles stopped in at in 1965. One of those chocolate shops owned and operated by distinguished hard-working Greeks that changed

COLORFUL see p. 6

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Resolution suggestions from a local performer/theater lover

Plus,
baby she was born to run



Heart
of the
'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

One thing I missed terribly in 2020 -- besides my family and friends -- was going to the theater.

Theater is a necessary mental health escape of mine, even if just for a few hours, to wrap myself up in a wonderful story and catchy music that stays in my mind for days, sometimes weeks, sometimes forever.

The following are some new year's resolution suggestions from Denise McGowan Tracy, an event and theatrical producer, author, playwright and cabaret performer with more than 40 years experience on-stage and behind the scenes in Chicago's entertainment/events community. McGowan Tracy's "Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish – The Musical" streamed virtually to homes this holiday season and she presents a point of view that we could all use to keep in mind.

"Since mid-March, 2020, when theaters and live music and event venues abruptly closed for what many thought would be a brief hiatus, I have watched the world in which I and [many] talented friends reside crumble as the sledgehammer of COVID-19 took a swing at theater, music, events and more taking out an entire industry," said McGowan Tracy.

"Every day since I have watched professional performers, technicians, designers and creatives keep their personal ghost lights burning while pivoting, revising and recharging as government and civic leadership, a too-large portion of the media, and many who claim to love live entertainment collectively shrug their shoulders and move on leaving artists, actors, musicians and gig workers to fend for themselves."

"And, so, nobody asked me, but ... here is a short list of New Year's resolutions that I hope will turn those shrugs into action, compassion and respect for the industry professionals who are so crucial to our world."

Here are McGowan Tracy's New Year's resolution ideas:

1. Local Media: Resolve to shave 90 seconds off of each of your weather and sports segments during every broadcast and give those three minutes to the local arts scene -- theater, music, galleries -- all of it. Hire reporters and producers who actually feel passion for the scene and are naturally curious about the talent, discipline and more that each requires.



Denise McGowan Tracy shares her thoughts on the effect of the pandemic on theaters, performers, etc.

(Side note: You do know we all have weather apps on our phones, right? Why do you devote so much time to the weather?)

2. National Media: Resolve to learn that there are musical theater productions in the world that are not "Hamilton." I get it. We all love "Hamilton." I mean, it's

If you want to support the arts, lay down the credit card. Supporting the arts isn't just tweeting and sharing on "the social" that you attended a show. It's paying for the privilege of seeing that production. You can afford it.

"Hamilton." Brilliant. Once-in-a-generation. Groundbreaking. Yes. All of that. But there is more to theater than "Hamilton" - and Broadway for that matter. Maybe take one of those "Steals and Deals" or "Made in America" segments each week and focus on smaller arts organizations. Congratulations on shining a spotlight on shopping local and supporting small business. We applaud and thank you for that. But we hear crickets on the subject of how the pandemic has affected theater/live events/concerts venues and the individuals.

Turn the spotlight on struggling not-for-profits, smaller arts organizations, venues and emerging artists who are always vying for that recognition now and post-pandemic.

3. Celebrities: Buy a ticket. Don't request, expect or accept comp tickets to a show unless you are the theater/music/arts critic of your organization. If you want to support the arts, lay down the credit card. Supporting the arts isn't just tweeting and sharing on "the social" that you attended a show. It's paying for the privilege of seeing that production. You

can afford it.

4. Biden Administration: Resolve to create a cabinet position -- Secretary of the Arts. This office will work with all 50 states to promote to encourage and support the arts with national enthusiasm and funding. Had there been a position such as this during the pandemic, we might have already seen a much needed WPA-type program. It's not too late to create this nationwide platform to bring the talents of out of work actors, writers, technical people, stage managers, directors and so many more into schools via Zoom classes, lectures, Q&A and so much more. Do it now and keep it going post-pandemic while also putting arts funding back into schools.

5. Biden Administration Again: Seriously, has anyone looked at The Kennedy Center budget? I mean, I love The Kennedy Center and the annual Kennedy Center Honors. It's tradition. It's gorgeous. What's not to love? But \$25M in emergency government support on top of the tens of millions already dedicated in the federal budget? What if they received 75% of the promised annual funding in future budgets and the remainder was distributed to storefront theaters and small live event venues across the country? The places that anchor the block and neighborhood and provide jobs in communities. Yes, there is finally now COVID funding/grants, etc. but this will be a long road back.

6. Theaters: When you are back - and look, I know you have many, many, more things to worry about when you return. But when you can - use the Starbucks "pay it forward" type chain. Resolve to establish an "on account" ticket pool. When donors, sponsors, ticket buyers purchase a ticket, give them the opportunity to put one "on account." Use those tickets for struggling performers, se-



Shawna Bruchert will raise funds for the River North-based Bright Pink while running the Chicago Marathon 2021. Deadline to support her effort is Jan. 7.

nors, students and others. It will fill unused seats with enthusiastic and informed audience members and add to your bottom line.

7. All Of Us: Be kind to yourself. Be kind to others. We've all been through so much. And there is so much more to go through. We will get there. We will not be the same. The world will not be the same. But whatever we're all facing, it will be faced better together with kindness. And respect for the people and places that bring the magic and the wonder of live performance and live events into our lives.

8. Have a Happy New Year! 2021 - I'm ready for FUN!

Born to run... Shawna Bruchert may not have gotten to run the cancelled 2020 Chicago Marathon as planned, but that hasn't stopped her planning for this year's event. On Oct. 10,

Bruchert will run her first marathon for the River North-based organization Bright Pink, a national non-profit focused on the prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer in young women. If you're looking to support a cancer organization, please consider donating through Bruchert.

"I'm running the Chicago Marathon because it has been on my bucket list for years," said Bruchert, who comes from a long line of Rogers Parkers. "I was also inspired to run because I lost my dad from lung cancer Jan. 30, 2017. He was a longtime smoker and was exposed to Agent Orange in the war. Also, my other 'why' is because in Sept. 2019, a very close person in my life was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer and has thankfully made a full recovery.

"The deadline for me to reach my goal is Jan. 7, 2021, to raise \$2,000," said Bruchert, whose training consists of running four days a week following the walk-run Jeff Galloway Method. "If I can exceed that amount, that would be great."

She chose Bright Pink as her charity of choice because they focus on bringing awareness to ovarian and breast cancer, early screening, and "educating women on the early stages of things to pay attention to."

"My hopes are to raise the funds for Bright Pink and complete the marathon... that will be a feel-good moment in my life," said Bruchert. Besides the aforementioned reasons, Bruchert said she's also running for, "all of the women in my life as well as people I haven't met."

As of Sunday night, Bruchert had raised \$1,740 of her \$2,000 goal. Anyone wanting to donate please do so through the 2020 Chicago Marathon website.

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Services for seniors

The Senior Services Division of the Dept. of Family & Support Services [DFSS] offers programs that are designed to address the needs and interests of Chicago's senior citizens. Additional information is available for families

who are caring for their older loved ones, for seniors residing in long-term care facilities, or for seniors that may be confined to their home. For more information, call 312-744-4016 or email aging@cityofchicago.org.

Block or building safety assessment

The Chicago Police Dept. is offering to conduct a block safety or building safety assessment, which involves an on-site visit from the police. These visits help to evaluate the safety of your street, or your building's safety equipment or preventative measures.

Building and home security cameras can also be evaluated

as to whether they can be connected with Chicago Police Strategic Decision Support Centers (SDSC), which assists with real-time video surveillance and situational awareness alerts for officers in the field. To schedule an assessment, write to ward02@cityofchicago.org.

Driver Services facilities have reopened, driver's license and ID cards extended to June 1

While the state is encouraging people to continue to use online services as heavy customer volume is expected, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White said that Driver Services facilities have now reopened.

White is also reminding the public that driver's licenses and ID card expiration dates have been extended until June 1, 2021. As a result, people do not need to rush to visit a facility.

Facilities that opened on Monday include Chicago North, 5401 N. Elston Ave., and Chicago Diversey Express, 4642 W. Diversey Ave. (The James R. Thompson Center and Chicago Loop Express, 69 W. Washington St., Driver Services facilities will remain closed because they are located in public buildings that are not open).

White stressed that many transactions can be conducted online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com instead of waiting at a Driver Services facility. Some of these services include renewing a license plate sticker or valid driver's li-

cense for qualifying drivers; renewing a valid ID card for those age 22-64 (seniors 65 and older have free, non-expiring IDs); obtaining a driver record abstract; filing Business Services documents, such as incorporations and annual reports. Customers with issues involving administrative hearings may contact adminhearings@ilsos.gov.

In an effort to reduce facility visits for in-person service, White has expanded online renewals for driver's licenses and ID cards. Not everyone qualifies, particularly those who are required to pass a written or road test.

For qualifying drivers, individuals will receive a letter with a unique PIN approximately 90 days before the expiration date. The PIN is required to renew online. For more information on determining one's eligibility for online renewal, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com and click on "Read more on how to renew your driver's license or ID card online" near the top of the main page.

Chicago housing outlook brighter with record-low rates



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Now is the time to gaze into the crystal ball and look ahead at the future of residential real estate in Chicago, and gaze back at 2020, the mind-bending year of the pandemic.

The Dow Jones stock average hit a record high of 30,606 points at year-end, meaning wealthy home purchasers likely have plenty of cash in their pockets.

Benchmark 30-year-fixed mortgage interest rates ended the year at an extremely affordable 2.67% on Dec. 31, reported Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey.

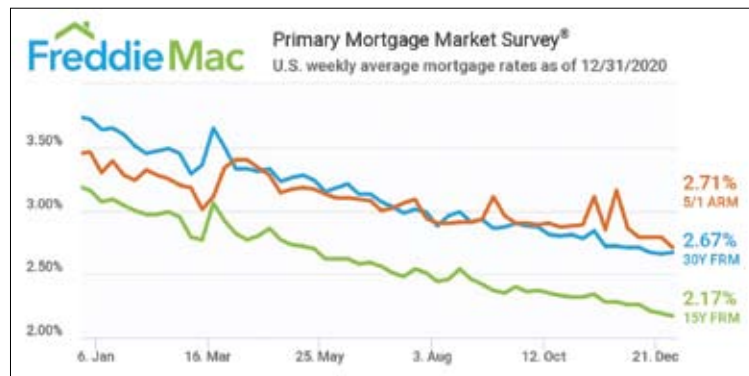
With home-loan rates breaking to record lows for a whopping 16 times in 2020, thousands of first-time home buyers likely have smiles on their faces. A year ago, the 30-year fixed mortgage rates averaged 3.72%.

"All eyes have been on mortgage rates this year, especially the 30-year fixed-rate, which has dropped more than one percentage point over the last 12 months, driving housing market activity in 2020," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

On Dec. 31, lenders nationwide were charging an average of 2.17% on 15-year-fixed loans, down from 2.19% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed mortgages averaged 3.16%. On Jan. 1, Gateway Capital Mortgage was quoting 2.667% on 30-year loans and 2.125% on 15-year mortgages, reported RateSeeker.com.

The Freddie Mac survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully amortizing home purchase loans for borrowers who put 20% down and have excellent credit.

"Heading into 2021 we expect rates to remain flat, potentially rising modestly off of their record low, but solid purchase demand and tight inventory will continue to put pressure on housing markets as well as house-price growth," Khater predicted.



Despite the pandemic, riots, looting, violence, massive unemployment and unprecedented government financial problems, Chicagoland home sales volume rose 6.3% in 2020 compared with the prior year.

At its December policy meeting, the Federal Reserve Board said it expects to keep its short-term benchmark interest rate near zero through at least 2023. The Fed has held its key rate there since March of 2020, when it took a range of extraordinary steps to fight the pandemic recession by keeping credit flowing.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist of the National Assoc. of Realtors, believes that 2021 will be another record-breaking year for real estate.

The "December 2020 North Side Market Analysis," drafted by Chicago Realtor John Irwin of Baird & Warner, pinpointed the following trends:

- Despite the pandemic, riots, looting, violence, massive unemployment and unprecedented government financial problems, Chicagoland home sales volume rose 6.3% in 2020 compared with the prior year.

- The Lakeview and North Center neighborhoods posted 2020 home-unit sales increases over last year while Lincoln Park and the Near North Side experienced decreases.

- Condominium and townhome sales in the Gold Coast, Streeterville and River North have declined 18.4% from 2019 and inventories have risen 15.2%. There

are currently 12.5 months of supply of inventory. "Social unrest and aging inventory with high assessments are partially responsible," Irwin observed.

- Restrictions of the COVID-19 crisis have changed priorities of many homeowners. "Working from home has made the need for more space and a home office more important than proximity to the company office," Irwin said. "Many people are looking to move away from the trendy neighborhoods with a new eye on Lincoln Park, Lakeview and Bucktown neighborhoods, where they can get more space."

- While some families are opting to move to the suburbs, it does not appear to be having a significant affect on the North Side real-estate market.

"A smooth Presidential transition and positive news about a COVID-19 vaccine are the first big steps in re-establishing stability that the real estate market needs, in order to take full advantage of the pent-up demand on the North Side," Irwin said.

For more housing news, visit www.dondebat.biz. Don DeBat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

Condomania!

3110 N Sheridan Road, Unit 702 1st OFFERING
Spacious 1BR plus a Den, corner unit contemporary (2017) bathroom, Brazilian Cherry floors in the living space. Kitchen has a breakfast bar, Stainless Steel appliances, oak cabinets and granite counter-tops. Secured assigned Parking included in price.

2800 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 308
Immaculate modern one bedroom, walk-in closet, hardwood floors throughout, walk-in closet, master bedroom, and fantastic storage space. Building features 24-hour door staff, fitness center, outdoor pool, rooftop deck and party room. **SOLD**

3550 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 2211
This condo features beautiful gray wood floors throughout, a cook's kitchen with white shaker soft-close cabinets, white & stainless steel appliances, LED under-cabinet lighting, undermount sink & a full range of stainless steel appliances, along with a breakfast bar. Gorgeous bathroom with new floor & wall tile & vanity. **SOLD**

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Shared sidewalk program

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program will open to new applicants 6 a.m. Monday, Jan. 11. Residents have several options for applying this year: Call 311 or apply through the CHI 311 website or mobile app. Program operates on a first-come, first-served basis and is extremely popular. Whichever option you choose, make sure to enroll as soon as possible after the program opens. For more information call 312-744-1746 or email cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org.

End of a century of non-stop recycling service at General Iron

City shuts down one of Chicago's first female-founded businesses



Rose Rosenmutter started the business known today as General Iron on the North Side in the early 1900s to provide for her seven children.

One of the oldest continuously operated North Side businesses has closed after over a century of non-stop recycling service.

General Iron, 1909 N. Clifton, closed permanently last weekend.

No further raw material will be accepted at General Iron's yard north of North Ave. on the east bank of the Chicago River.

The process of disassembling the shredder and other machinery is already in progress, and may take up to 90 days to complete.

The company specialized in

processing and recycling nearly 750,000 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap material annually, while providing head-of-household jobs for more than 130 people.

As outlined in a cessation agreement signed in Aug. 2019, all scrap metal recycling and material intake had to stop at the end of the day on Dec. 31, 2020.

General Iron's site decommissioning started on Jan. 2, all materials over 12' tall must be removed from the site by Jan. 10.

Full site decommissioning must be completed by March 31, including the complete removal of all associated equipment and machinery, including the demolition and removal of the buildings on the General Iron site.

Their operations will be transferred to the South Side facility of RMG Investment Group, LLC, at 11600 S. Burley Ave.

Until 2019, General Iron was a family-owned and operated scrap metal recycler whose business spanned four generations. Rose Rosenmutter started the business on the North Side in the early 1900s to provide for her seven children. Her son, Nate Rosenmutter, later developed several innovative processes that were widely adopted throughout the industry and was hailed as an industry-leading pioneer.

After his passing, Nate's daughter and grandson operated General Iron's facility, which has been in the same location for approximately 60 years. But neighborhood redevelopment and zoning changes signaled that operations could not remain indefinitely at the longtime location when million-dollar homes were popping up all around what once was a heavily industrialized area.

Brothers posed as Uber drivers to steal identities and cash

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man who posed as an Uber driver to scam four people out of more than \$24,000 in downtown nightlife districts last year has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Meanwhile, his older brother, who was sent to prison for doing the exact same thing in 2016, is about ready to wrap up his parole.

Lance Baymon, 40, has pleaded guilty to operating a continuing financial crimes enterprise and identity theft in a plea deal with prosecutors. Judge Charles Burns sentenced him to four years on the first charge and two years on the second. Prosecutors dropped 27 counts of felony identity theft in the deal and Baymon will receive 510 days credit for time served before sentencing.

Prosecutors said Baymon, who was on parole for previous ID theft convictions at the time, posed as a ride-hail service driver to pick up victims near bars in River North and Loop during the summer of 2019.

After unwitting passengers got into Baymon's fake Uber, he asked for their debit cards and usually swiped the victims' cards into a reader on his phone, according to prosecutors.

He later used the card infor-



Lance (L) and Marlon (R) Baymon.

mation to take money from the victims' accounts. A source told this reporter that police recovered a collection of stolen debit cards from the rental cars Baymon used.

Meanwhile, according to Illinois Dept. of Corrections records, Baymon's older brother Marlon's parole for operating an identical scam will wrap up in April.

Marlon Baymon, age 47, was arrested in December 2016 after a woman accused him of posing as an Uber driver to steal her credit card information and take \$1,200.

The victim told police she got into Baymon's car near Clark and Ontario because she thought it was her Uber ride. When they arrived at her destination, Bay-

mon allegedly told her the app was malfunctioning and insisted that she hand over a debit card for payment. He swiped the card on his phone and made her enter her PIN — information that he later used to access her money, according to prosecutors.

The older Baymon pleaded guilty to operating a continuing financial crimes enterprise in August 2019 and received a five-year sentence. He was paroled three months later and will remain on parole until April 20, according to IDOC.

He has a lengthy criminal history for felonies including theft, misuse of debit and credit cards, robbery, and DUI.



Margaret Croke is sworn in as the new 12th District State Rep. at Ann Sather's Restaurant on Dec. 31.

Croke sworn in as State Rep. of Illinois' 12th District

BY PATRICK BUTLER

In a series of very inside-the-party games of musical chairs several North Side seats were re-organized in the last month by the Democrat Party.

Jonathan "Yoni" Pizer had only been 12th District State Representative less than a year before resigning rather than lose his government-paid health coverage. The resignation became official Dec. 31. He then returned to the previous government job he'd held for five years as an aide to U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley.

To nobody's surprise, Pizer's legislative spot went to Margaret Croke, who had been a tight contender for Pizer's legislative job in the special race called after Sara Feigenholtz [6th] gave up the 12th District job to become a state senator once John Cullerton retired from the post. Croke won the post in the November election.

The Croke and Pizer teams have been working together as usual handling the usual problems as well as other special needs that have recently arisen during the

current pandemic and economic lockdown.

Croke has seemingly done everything, from deputy chief of staff at the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economics to service on Hillary Clinton's campaign staff.

Feigenholtz gave high marks to Croke on her previous jobs, and predicted local residents can expect more of the same as she takes over the 12th District. "Residents of our community are in good hands. I know Margaret will hit the ground running."

"I'm honored for the job and ready to work," said Croke, whose district office is at 3223 N. Sheffield. "[Pizer] and his staff have been exceptionally helpful during this quick transition. I am grateful for all of the work Yoni has done during these difficult times. While 2020 has been incredibly challenging, with hard work, I am confident that better times lie ahead. Every new year brings optimism, hope, and promise for recovery and renewal. I'm ready to get started."

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State energy laws created ‘profit machine’ for ComEd

ComEd’s profits have grown 47% from 2011 to 2019, report says

BY SARAH MANSUR
Capital News Illinois

State energy laws passed in 2011 and 2013 allowed Commonwealth Edison to earn huge profits while the utility giant failed to fulfill its promise of consumer savings and benefits, according to a new report issued by an independent public interest group this week.

Think about that the next time you get out your checkbook to pay their bill.

The report from the Illinois Public Interest Research Group [PIRG] describes the energy laws as a “profit machine” for ComEd, the sole electricity provider in the city and largest utility company in the state. The laws established a formula rate “that guaranteed revenue and profits,” weakening the regulatory role of the Illinois Commerce Commission [ICC].

The Illinois General Assembly passed the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act [EIMA] in 2011 over the veto of then-Gov. Pat Quinn. The law required ComEd to spend at least \$2.6 billion on infrastructure improvements – up to \$3 billion – over a period of

five to 10 years and created a formula for raising consumer rates based on those expenditures.

The “performance-based formula rate” included a mechanism for the utility to increase its service rates and recover the costs of delivering its services “pru-

“We think very clearly that there has been harm. Consumers are paying much more than they would have otherwise for their delivery service, and that we were promised all types of customer benefits from the law, and those have fallen short,”
Abe Scarr said.

dently incurred and reasonable in amount.” The ICC, which regulates utilities including ComEd, can prevent a utility from recovering costs that the commission finds are not prudent or reasonable.

Two years later, the General Assembly passed a related law that

overruled the ICC’s adverse regulatory decisions against ComEd and made changes to the formula rate that further diminished the commission’s oversight.

ComEd is also the focus of an ongoing federal investigation that revealed the company engaged in a bribery scheme, from 2011 to 2019, seeking to influence House Speaker Michael Madigan to pass favorable legislation, including EIMA and the Future Energy Jobs Act, which passed in 2016.

Federal prosecutors in Chicago entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with ComEd this summer that allows the company to avoid being prosecuted for crimes in exchange for paying a \$200 million fine and agreeing to cooperate in the federal probe.

Last month, four people – including former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore and former ComEd executive turned lobbyist John Hooker – were indicted on charges of bribing Madigan by awarding no-work jobs, internships and contracts to Madigan associates in order to win his favor for legislation benefitting

COM ED see p. 10

ComEd defendants plead not guilty in bribery case

BY PETER HANCOCK
Capital News Illinois

Four former Commonwealth Edison officials pleaded not guilty Dec. 2 to charges that they engaged in a years-long bribery scheme that federal prosecutors allege was aimed at influencing Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Former executives Anne Pramaggiore and John Hooker, along with lobbyists Michael McClain and Jay Doherty, were arraigned on the charges in U.S. District Court in Chicago during a hearing that was held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

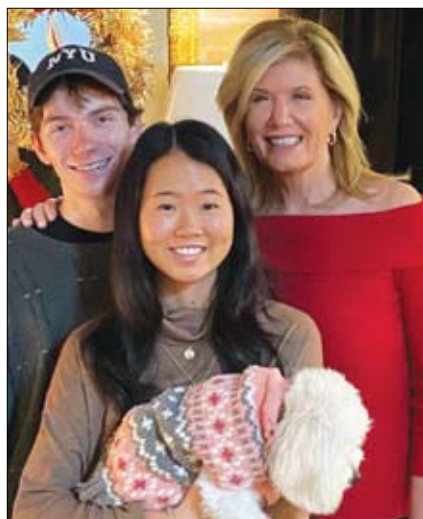
In a 50-page indictment that was unsealed Nov. 18, federal prosecutors allege the four engaged in a conspiracy to award no-work jobs and lobbying contracts to close associates of Madigan as part of an effort to maintain his support for legislation that benefited

the company.

Those included the 2011 Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act, which established a formula-based system of setting utility rates that effectively bypassed the ICC, and the 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act, which, among other things, provided ratepayer-funded subsidies to two nuclear power plants owned by ComEd’s parent company Exelon.

U.S. District Judge Harry D. Leinenweber, set an initial schedule that gives prosecutors and defense attorneys three months to exchange all the evidence they intend to use at trial and file pretrial motions. A status hearing is tentatively set for Feb. 16 and the defendants remain free on bond.

Republicans in the Statehouse have frequently accused Democrats of dragging their feet on the investigation in an effort to protect Madigan.



Connor, Sianna and Anne Kavanagh.



Sophia du Brul



Lorenzo Salgado

COLORFUL from p. 2

chocolate in Chicago. We have to protect Margie’s during the pandemic. And you need the sugar. They’re at 1960 N. Western Ave. and 1813 W. Montrose Ave. You can order online.

CLOSURES: Sad news concerning many well-known franchise/chain restaurants across the country that are closing many locations for good due to the pandemic. None of these are really fine dining, but when you’re hungry in small town American many of these are just what you want. They’ve become a part of the American landscape. The list is large, these are those that operate in and around the Chicago area: Applebees, Cheesecake Factory (John Hancock Building), TGI Fridays, QDoba, Sbarro, Bar Louie, Houlihan’s, Hooters, Boston Market, Papa John’s, Ponderosa, and Steak N’ Shake.

DREDGE CAROLS: Are you acquainted with the Dredge? They’re a superb a cappella choral group from the alumni of Yale’s Ivy League male choruses like the Whiffenpoofs. They are well-bred, brahmin

men who love to sing. So once you get past the trust funds, the corporate achievements and the often historic American roots of these former collegiate tenors and basses, from America’s poshest university, you will enjoy their well-mannered civility and first class musical accomplishments. One of my old Astor St. neighbors, the late **Charles Haffner**, a **Rueben R. Donnelly** descendant, sang with the Dredge. So too did young **John Smyth**, descendant of **John M. Smyth**, the Chicago furniture baron. Well all that is to say that the Dredge appeared last week at the Rush St. Triangle and sang their sweet hearts out. They brought the avenue of eateries to a harmonious standstill that many will not soon forget. The Christmas cheer was large. Go Yale.

NEW YEAR ART: Chicago artist **Adam Scott Umbach**, now residing in Brooklyn, NY, just opened in a very important exhibition, “Halcyon Daze,” at Roman Fine Art, 11 Bridge St., in Sag Harbor, NY. A true “launch” show receiving critical acclaim and attention. This exhibition will be on view until February,

marking a dramatic evolution in Umbach’s career as an important American painter.

HAUTE FASHION: The master couturier, **Pierre Cardin**, has died in his beloved Paris at 98. Monsieur Cardin reinvented fashion for many. Beginning with his costume designs for **Jean Cocteau’s** “Beauty and the Beast,” in 1946, he revolutionized high fashion with his balloon dress in 1954 and his Space Age collection in 1964. His influence on world fashion was supremely French, poetic, modern and artistic. He was beloved by **Jackie Kennedy**. No one quite like Le Parisian Cardin.

PAX TIBI: John V. Lucas, a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Chicago, died before Christmas after a long illness. He was generous, hard working, spiritual, reasoned and always ready to engage the hunger or heartache of others. He was the oldest of all the famed 55 **Lucas and Dowdle** cousins of the Northshore. He was married to **Patricia Long** for 52 years. A true “Man for others.”

HISTORICAL NOTE: Dec. 29 was the 850th Anniversary of

the Christmas Day martyrdom in 1170 AD of **St. Thomas a’ Becket**, the Archbishop of Canterbury and one time Chancellor of England. He was a lion of religious liberty, immortalized in the T.S. Eliot play, “Murder in the Cathedral.”

GET ME AN ASPIRIN: Chicago Police are alleging that former 1st Ward Ald. “Proco” **Joe Moreno** was “drink driving” his Volvo down Astor St., careening and crashing into eight parked autos along the fashionable route. Rumor has it that this is the same Volvo that was reported stolen by the former alderman while running for re-election years ago. When he filed an insurance claim, only to have Chicago Police find his ‘sometimes’ girlfriend driving the vehicle around town with her own set of keys.

WHO’S WHERE: **Bobbi Panter** and hubby, attorney **Matthew Arnoux**, are in Dubai, riding their dune buggies across the desert sands and celebrating 15 years together... **Julie Harron** in Jackson Hole, WY... **Edward Galvin** and **Daniel Paul** are in the Shehy Mountains of West Cork, Ireland... **Nate Ryan**, El Paso sports anchor at ABC’s KVIA, home with mom and dad, **Tim** and **Joann Ryan** ... newsy **Anne Kavanagh** had both **Connor** and **Sianna** home for the holidays... **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** and **Marius Morkvenas** still basking in the Mexican sun in Merida... **Rose O’Neill** and her entourage dining on Boul Mich in the splendor of Bondgirl **Diane O’Connell’s** pad with attorney **Brendan O’Connor** on hand... **Libby** and **Larry Lucas** having family dinner in the city... **Mark O’Malley** and Irish violinist **Patricia Tracy** celebrating with songstress **Irene Michaels**

and JAM Productions’ **Arny Garant**... designer **Jeffrey Banks** couching it and loving it in NYC, binge watching Netflix’s newest series, **Bridgerton**, that includes the ubiquitous 19th century scandal monger, **Lady Whistledown**... the handsome **Borg Family** all together ... **Sophia du Brul**, whose Yorkshire puddings look superb, what a deft hand she has making it all work... **Brian White** looking splendid in black tie for an elegant dinner party with **Heather Wright** and **Karen Zupko**... **Brent** and **Kelly Whealan George** at home in Maryland with all three lads around them, **Emmett, Brennan** and **Kiernan**, ... **Dan O’Donnell** running all around town with trunk-loads of donated toys, free to good girls and boys... everyone’s favorite staffer, **Lorenzo Salgado**, served up the sweet macarons with the port on the night of Boxing Day... **Myra Reilly**, **Paula Borg** and the incomparable **Vonita Reescer** were jolly at the Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, at **Sherry Lea Fox’s** splendid 2019 Christmas lunch, reminding us it’s important to live in our memories at times.

NICE ENDING: The outdoor patio and tent at the Irish Nobleman Pub on Erie St. was badly damaged by vandals one night just before Christmas, but neighbors quickly passed the hat to pay for over \$10K in repairs, just in time to re-open the very next day. Blown away by the kindness, owner **Declan Morgan** says “Thank you.”

It wouldn’t be New Year’s if I didn’t have regrets.

– **William Thomas**

Happy New Year to all our families, friends and readers, regrets and all.

tog515@gmail.com



Senior LIVING

The Clare ownership company ranks highest in customer satisfaction for second year in a row

The Clare residents continue to be among the most satisfied in senior living communities.

That's according to the 2020 U.S. Senior Living Satisfaction Study from J.D. Power, in which Life Care Services, The Clare's ownership company, ranked highest in customer satisfaction among industry competitors for the second year in a row. The award demonstrates that residents are receiving care and service that goes above and beyond.

The award for Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Independent Living Senior Living Communities encompasses six individual resident-experience factors. Not only did Life Care Services win the overall category, but it also ranked highest within each



of the six factors:

- Resident Activities
- Community Staff
- Dining
- Price Paid for Services Received
- Resident Apartment
- Community Buildings and Grounds

"This award represents the voice of our residents and is a testament to our commitment to serve the customer first and foremost," says Joel Nelson, president and CEO of LCS, the parent company of Life Care Services.

Given the unique circumstances the COVID-19 pandemic has presented the last few months, the award is even more meaningful.

"I'd like to recognize the heroic efforts of our community staff, who serve the residents each and every day," Nelson says. "Their diligence and perseverance provide residents with the best senior living experience possible."

Indeed, the pandemic has paved the way for innovation at The Clare. Programming and activities went virtual. Dining operations shifted to delivery without compromising quality. Day-to-day life for residents changed drastically, and weekly COVID-19 testing became the new normal for employees.

"This is an incredible honor for LCS, and it is a direct reflection of what we work

"One of our principles is to serve the residents first and foremost, and navigating a pandemic in 2020 has only highlighted the importance of that principle," said Kyle Exline.

toward every day at The Clare," Executive Director Kyle Exline says. "One of our principles is to serve the residents first and foremost, and navigating a pandemic in 2020 has only highlighted the importance of that principle."

Life Care Services ranked highest in independent living resident overall satisfaction with a score of 855 in the J.D. Power 2020 U.S. Senior Living Satisfaction Study. The study is based on responses from 4,992 residents, or their decision-maker, living in an independent, assisted-living or memory care community within the previous three years.

The Clare is located at 55 E. Pearson St.

Pritzker issues marijuana pardons, clears eligible arrest records

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO
Capitol News Illinois

Some of the North Side's aging hippies from the 60s got a break from Gov. JB Pritzker who issued 9,219 pardons for low-level marijuana convictions last week while announcing the Illinois State Police [ISP] had expunged all eligible records at the state level for marijuana related arrests.

Since the passage of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act in 2019, Pritzker has issued pardons in 20,236 marijuana cases. Pritzker previously issued 11,017 pardons for low-level marijuana convictions on New Year's Eve 2019.

He also announced that ISP had expunged 492,129 non-felony marijuana-related arrest records in the state database.

Illinois counties were required to expunge records of arrests created between 2013 and 2019 by Jan. 1 and have until Jan. 1, 2025 to expunge all eligible arrest records.

The legalization act created three groups of marijuana-related records eligible for some type of expungement. The first two groups are eligible for automatic expungement, meaning no action is required on behalf of the affected party, while the third group requires a court petition to start the expungement process.

ISP's completed arrest record expungement, and the corresponding record purge ongoing at the local level, is part of the first group. Eligible records for expungement in this category are arrests for possession under 30 grams or less that occurred before June 25, 2019. The arrest must not have resulted in charges, or if it did, those charges were dropped, dismissed, resulted in acquittal, or resulted in qualified probation that has been completed.

This automatic expungement only occurs in law enforcement databases. To remove all mentions of the arrest from

court records, a motion must be filed by the defendant in the court where the charges were brought.

Arrests for minor marijuana offenses that were tied to a violent or sexual crime are also not eligible for expungement. Neither are arrests for delivery on school grounds, trafficking or possession of marijuana plants.

Records available for automatic expungement in the second group go through a six-step process that includes a pardon from the governor. These are convictions for low-level misdemeanors that occurred before June 25, 2019, such as possession of 30 grams or less, or the sale of marijuana up to 10 grams.

The Illinois Prison Review Board [PRB] will then recommend eligible convictions to the governor for a pardon. The governor then decides whether to accept or deny the recommendation. Pardons issued by the governor are given to the Illinois attorney general, in this case Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, who then files a request with the circuit clerk where the conviction occurred to expunge the record. The circuit clerk then expunges the record and sends an order to law enforcement to expunge records related to the conviction as well.

The PRB now expects to review thousands of additional felony and misdemeanor marijuana offenses in 2021.

The third and final group of records eligible for expungement are not subject to an automatic process, but require a court petition filed by the convicted party.

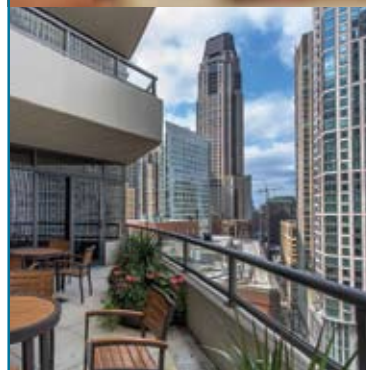
These are for marijuana offenses that do not qualify for the previous two groups.

By law now, a portion of tax revenue from the legal sale of marijuana must be put towards the expungement process. Local residents seeking to remove convictions from their record can seek the help of some 20 nonprofit organizations that provide free legal representation and information on expungements, by visiting NewLeafIllinois.org or calling 855-963-9532.



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Police Beat...

Eight years for man who robbed three people downtown... while on parole, electronic monitoring

A man who allegedly escaped from electronic monitoring in Nov. 2019 to pull off three robberies downtown has been sentenced to eight years in prison.

Devin Wilder, 32, had been on parole for five weeks when he was charged with selling narcotics in Oct. 2019. A judge released him on his own recognizance.



Devin Wilder

Just eight days later, police arrested him again after he allegedly sold heroin to an undercover cop. Another judge released him on a new recognizance bond and ordered him to go on electronic monitoring.

Wilder never showed up for court after that, according to records. Although, he did take some time to rob three people on Nov. 13, 2019, prosecutors alleged.

In one case, a woman reported that a man asked her for directions on the 500 block of S. Jefferson and then threatened to kill her if she didn't give him money around 5:15 p.m. The man left after she handed over a credit card, the woman said.

Another alleged victim flagged down police near the Greyhound bus terminal at 630 W. Harrison after a man tried to rob them while implying that he was armed.

Then, around 6:50 p.m., a woman reported that a man implied that he had a gun as he robbed her at an ATM near Wells and Van Buren in the Loop.

About ten minutes later, police found Wilder standing outside a convenience store across from City Hall on the 100 block of N. LaSalle. He allegedly matched the description of the robbery suspect.

The alleged victims identified Wilder as the man who either robbed or tried to rob them that evening, police said.

Now, Wilder has pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery, attempted aggravated robbery, and robbery in connection with the hold-ups. He also pleaded guilty to one of the narcotics cases, according to court records.

Judge Stanley Sacks sentenced Wilder to three concurrent 8-year terms for the robberies and a one-year term for the drug case.

Wilder previously did time for narcotics in 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009, and 2008. His first prison term was a six-year sentence for robbery in 2005.

Man beat CTA worker who wanted to let him ride bus for free

A Chicago man is facing multiple felony charges for an incident that all started when he refused to pay his bus fare — and then beat up a CTA supervisor who was preparing to let him ride for free, according to prosecutors.

Prosecutors charged Onay Davis, 22, with five felonies and six misdemeanors in the wake of the alleged attack on a CTA bus in Lincoln Square around 7:30 a.m. Dec. 23.

Davis and two juveniles boarded

the bus at the intersection of Western and Leland but refused to pay for their rides, prosecutors said. The bus driver summoned a supervisor who decided to let the three fare jumpers ride for free.

But when the supervisor stepped onto the bus to give Davis and his friends the good news, Davis punched him in the face and body until he fell to the ground, prosecutors said. Then, one of the juveniles jumped in to join Davis in battering the fallen supervisor, according to the state's allegations.

Arriving officers said they saw Davis and the two juveniles circling the supervisor. Davis pushed one of the cops away and threatened the officer and their partner as they tried to protect the CTA worker, prosecutors said.

The trio fled, and Davis allegedly threatened and fought with the cops who caught up with him nearby. According to prosecutors, two officers were injured during his arrest, including one who was struck by a transport van door after Davis kicked it.

At the police station, Davis again fought with cops and a CPD detention aide as he was brought into the lockup area, prosecutors said. The detention aide and another officer allegedly suffered sprains and hand and finger injuries. The CTA supervisor suffered multiple contusions to his face and body.

Prosecutors charged Davis with three felony counts of aggravated battery of a peace officer, felony aggravated battery of a government employee, felony aggravated battery of a transit employee, and six misdemeanor counts of resisting police, according to a CPD spokesperson.

Judge Arthur Willis set his bail at \$100,000. Davis must go on electronic monitoring if he can post a 10% deposit bond to get out of jail, Willis said.

In 2018, Davis received two years probation for pepper-spraying a man during a robbery attempt near Addison and Lake Shore Dr.

Burglary crew targets North Side T-Mobile stores

A burglary crew targeted three T-Mobile stores across the North Side in about 15 minutes Dec. 27, according to CPD reports. But it appears they only managed to get merchandise from one of the locations. Around 2 a.m., three burglars forced their way into the wireless company's store at 6179 N. Lincoln. They smashed display cases and got away with electronics before police arrived.

Ten minutes later, alarms sounded at T-Mobile's Albany Park location, 4706 N. Kimball. Police found the store's front glass smashed, but the burglars could not make it onto the sales floor. A witness saw three men get out of a white SUV occupied by a fourth man before the burglary attempt.

Five minutes after that, around 2:15 a.m., a witness reported seeing a group of men pounding on the front windows of T-Mobile's store at 2911 W. Addison during an apparent burglary attempt. The men drove away in a white Jeep before police arrived.

According to surveillance video of the first burglary, the suspects are three men. One wore a white hoodie with black pants, another wore a blue hoodie with black pants, and the third wore a black sweatshirt with a white hoodie underneath, according to a CPD report.



Onay Davis

17th time's the charm? Man gets probation for committing burglary while on probation for burglary

An accused serial burglar and thief has been sentenced to probation for a burglary in Lincoln Park last year — even though he was already on probation for two burglaries at the time of the alleged break-in.

Jonathan Hernandez, 26, pleaded guilty to one count of theft in exchange for an 18-month probation sentence in the latest case, according to court records. He has been arrested 17 times in Chicago since March 2014, according to CPD records.

Hernandez was most recently arrested on the 800 block of W. Belmont in Sept. 2019 by cops who noticed his distinctive shoes looked a lot like the shoes they saw in surveillance images of a burglar who stole a bike from a garage on the 2500 block of N. Wayne a couple of weeks earlier. One of the officers who spotted Hernandez's fancy shoes also recognized him from

a previous burglary arrest, according to CPD records.

One year before his arrest, Hernandez was charged with threatening to shoot an off-duty police officer who confronted him as he allegedly burglarized the cop's garage on the 3600 block of N. Bell.

"I have a gun. I know where you live," Hernandez allegedly told the officer. "Where do you work?"

Needless to say, Hernandez found out where the officer worked and he later pleaded guilty to the break-in as well as another in Lincoln Square. In Feb. 2019, Judge Catherine Haberkorn gave him a sentence of 18 months probation on a reduced charge of theft.

Shortly before his encounter with

the off-duty cop, Hernandez unsatisfactorily completed two-year's probation that he received for stealing a bike from a garage in the 2600 block of N. Mildred in April 2016, according to court records.

In another case, Hernandez was stopped by cops near Belmont and Sheffield after witnesses allegedly saw him cutting locks off of a bicycle outside of Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont, in June 2016.

When officers approached Hernandez, he hopped off the bike and blurted out, "It's not mine. I just stole it," police said. He was given a two-day sentence in that matter.



Jonathan Hernandez

Man shot during River North gunfight

At least 50 shots were fired during a gunfight that left a man injured on a River North street Dec. 27, according to police and witnesses. No one is in custody.

The shootout unfolded near the intersection of State and Erie streets at 3:42 a.m., according to nearby residents who spoke with this reporter.

Officially, police said a 32-year-old man was on a sidewalk in the 600 block of N. State when another man walked up, fired shots, and fled in a gray SUV. The victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital with a gunshot wound to his leg, according to a CPD statement that cited preliminary information.

But officers on the scene, graveyard shift workers, and residents described a wild shooting scene that left about 50 shell casings from at least two different guns on State St. and around the corner on W. Ontario St. Two windows sported bullet holes at the 7-Eleven, 635 N. State. A car parked outside the store was also shot up. According to a witness, the victim got out of that car and then walked around the corner where he was shot on Ontario St. Police have not confirmed that account.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

An hour after the shooting, witnesses called 911 after seeing a woman drop a handgun in the lobby of the Embassy Suites hotel, 600 N. State. According to a witness, a man who was with the woman picked the gun up off the floor and walked out of the hotel with her before police arrived.

Police say that they have seized an average of one illegal firearm per day on and near the Magnificent Mile during December.

Cops link two Lincoln Park home break-ins

Two residential burglaries in Lincoln Park have prompted Chicago police to issue a community alert for the North Side neighborhood. Detectives typically issue alerts when they believe an individual or group is responsible for committing a series of crimes.

The burglaries took place Dec. 22 between 9:55 p.m. and 10:25 p.m. in the 400 block of W. Roslyn and at 3:40 p.m. Dec. 23 in the 800 block of W. Lill, according to the alert. In both cases, the burglar broke ground-floor windows to enter the homes.

A witness to one of the burglaries said the offender is a White male between 25- and 35-years-old who stands 6'-2" to 6'-4" tall and weighs about 200 lbs.

Detectives encouraged residents of the area to tell neighbors and family members about the pattern and to keep an eye out for suspicious people.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives about alert P20-3-227 at 312-744-8263.

Burglary alert issued for Lincoln Park businesses

Detectives have determined that the same person or group likely committed two recent Lincoln Park business burglaries. Police issued a warning about the crime pattern Jan. 3. The community alert comes just a couple of days after detectives issued a similar warning to nearby Lakeview businesses.

Police said the Lincoln Park burglars struck most recently during the morning hours of New Year's Day on the 2000 block of N. Clark St. The same offenders are suspected of burglarizing the Pogo footwear boutique, 912 W. Armitage, around 2:15 a.m. Dec. 26, according to the alert and a CPD report.

Sunday's bulletin said the thief used force to enter both stores, but police did not offer any descriptions of the suspects.

Over the weekend, detectives issued an alert for Lakeview businesses after investigators linked two recent break-ins to a three-man burglary crew.

One of the Lakeview break-ins took place just a couple of hours after the Pogo burglary on Dec. 26. In that case, the offenders forced their way into Ulta Beauty, 3015 N. Clark, around 4:50 a.m.

Another Lakeview business was targeted in the 3400 block of N. Southport at 3:32 a.m. on Dec. 18, according to police.

Anyone with information about the burglaries can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263. The Lakeview crime pattern is P20-3-229, and the Lincoln Park pattern is P21-3-003.

Amazon hijacker is on parole for his second gun conviction, prosecutors allege

A four-time felon on parole for being an armed habitual criminal is now accused of hijacking an Amazon delivery truck near the Gold Coast Dec. 23.

Prosecutors charged Cedric White with armed vehicular hijacking in the case. Illinois Dept. of Corrections officials are moving to revoke his parole.

A 44-year-old Amazon driver reportedly noticed White looking at him as he made deliveries shortly after noon on Dec. 23. Then, he allegedly came face-to-face with the 31-year-old parolee as he prepared to step off the truck to make more deliveries in the 1100 block of N. LaSalle.

White lifted his shirt to display a handgun and ordered the driver to hand over his keys, Assistant State's Attorney Jocelyn Schieve said. The

driver complied, and White allegedly drove the Amazon truck into a nearby alley that has a dead end.

White got out of the van at the end of the alley and fled, Schieve said. A CPD surveillance camera reportedly captured images of White crossing a nearby intersection minutes after the hijacking.



Cedric White

Around 1 p.m., police were called to a gas station in the 300 block of W. Chicago after White tried to go behind the counter and then began pulling on car doors in the lot, Schieve said. Police detained White, who was allegedly wearing distinctive green shoes that the Amazon driver described to officers. The courier later confirmed that White is the person who hijacked him, according to Schieve.

White allegedly told investigators that he was inside the Amazon truck, and he drove off with it after finding the keys inside. But during a bond court hearing on Thursday, White's public defender said White has no memory of the incident, and he denies any involvement.

Judge Arthur Willis set bail for White at \$500,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a 10% deposit bond. White is not eligible to bail out until IDOC decides if it will revoke his parole.

State records show White was paroled in May after serving most of a six-year sentence he received for armed habitual criminal and a concurrent three-year sentence for possessing burglary tools.

Driver stabbed, shots fired during Uptown road rage clash

A driver stabbed another motorist and fired shots through the rear window of the victim's car 12:05 p.m. Dec. 23, during a road rage incident in Uptown. No arrests have been made.

The victim, a 21-year-old man, told police he got out of his car to confront the other driver about following too closely on the 5000 block of N. Broadway.

He said the confrontation escalated when the other man stabbed him in the calf and fired shots through the back window of his Audi. No one was struck by the gunfire, but passers-by called 911 about the clash.

The injured man returned to his vehicle and drove himself to Weiss

Wrigleyville sports store burglarized, cops warn about Lakeview business break-ins

A burglar scored thousands of dollars worth of jerseys from a Wrigleyville sporting goods store early on New Year's Day. The break-in came just hours after Chicago police warned about a pattern of business burglaries in the Lakeview neighborhood.

An employee found the front glass door broken around 8 a.m. Jan. 1 at Sports World, 3555 N. Clark. The long-running retailer is located on the corner of Clark and Addison.

Surveillance video shows a man breaking into the store and collecting piles of jerseys. He was last seen walking behind the nearby Cubby Bear restaurant and

bar, according to police. According to an initial review, the stolen jerseys are reportedly worth between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

The offender is a White man in his 40's or early 50's who has shoulder-length brown hair. He was wearing a yellow checkered shirt and gray sweats.

On Dec. 31, Area Three detectives issued a warning for Lakeview businesses after investigators linked two recent break-ins to a burglary crew. The Sports World incident does not appear to be related to the pattern.

Detectives said a group of three burglars broke into two businesses in Lakeview recently. After forc-

ing the businesses' front doors open, the team removes property from the sales floor and storage rooms, according to CPD's alert.

One of the cases listed on the bulletin is the break-in at Ultra Beauty, 3015 N. Clark, at 4:50 a.m. Dec. 26.

The other burglary linked to the team took place on the 3400 block of N. Southport at 3:32 a.m. Dec. 18.

Investigators did not provide any offender descriptions in the alert. However, a witness to the Ultra burglary said the crew drove away in a white SUV.

Police warn of robbery, carjacking pattern in Lakview and Lincoln Park

Chicago police have issued a community alert to warn about a series of carjackings and robberies that have been reported in Lincoln Park and Lakeview.

According to the bulletin from Area Three detectives, two to four offenders are approaching victims who are alone on streets and sidewalks to take property by force or at gunpoint. Investigators connected five robberies to the pattern, two of which involved carjackings.

All five incidents happened during the early evening hours:

On Dec. 20, two men robbed a woman at gunpoint outside her home on the 600 block of W. Wrightwood in Lincoln Park around 7:30 p.m. The offenders put a firearm to the woman's head and took her valuables before running northbound on Orchard Street, she said. Police previously said this incident took place on the 700 block of W. Wrightwood.

Around 6:30 p.m. Dec. 21, several witnesses reported seeing a victim fighting with three men during a robbery on the 3800 block of N. Fremont.

Three men robbed a woman as she sat in her car under the "L" tracks on the 900 block of W.

Oakdale around 7:10 p.m. Dec. 21. The woman, age 22, told police that the three robbers pulled up next to her in a dark SUV, grabbed her, and began taking property from her and from inside her car. She was not injured.

At 8:20 p.m. Dec. 21, a group of carjackers in a dark SUV pulled up next to a 28-year-old man as he got out of his Honda CR-V on the 1700 block of W. Wrightwood, according to CPD spokesperson Sally Bown. One robber pointed a handgun at him while the others took his belongings, then they drove away with his Honda CR-V.

Police found the carjacked Honda in traffic near Fullerton and Ashland a few minutes later. Officers began pursuing the car, but police supervisors ordered them to terminate the chase under CPD policy.

Just after 7 p.m. Dec. 22, three men pulled up next to a 53-year-old woman as she sat in her parked car on the 2500 block of N. Seminary, Bown said. The offenders got out of their vehicle, opened the woman's driver's door, and dragged her from the SUV. According to Bown, they then threw her to the ground, and she struck

her head on the pavement.

Two carjackers got into the woman's Nissan Rogue and sped away northbound. The third offender followed them in the vehicle they all arrived in, according to Bown.

Cops located the stolen car a few minutes later as it traveled northbound on Sheffield near Belmont. A police supervisor ordered the patrol unit to terminate their pursuit of the carjacked SUV near Addison and Southport.

Moments later, the stolen SUV slammed into two other cars at the intersection of Montrose and Clark. The two occupants of the stolen car ran away northbound, according to witnesses. Officers who responded to the scene said they found one of the other drivers trapped and unconscious in his car. An ambulance transported him to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

According to the community alert, the robbery team has four members: three Black males between 15- and 26-years-old. One stands 5'-8" tall, another 6't, and the third about 6'-2"; and a Black male between 19- and 23-years-old.

Several victims and witnesses reported seeing the robbers arrive in a dark-colored SUV, possibly a Buick.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding pattern P20-3-226.

to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment of an injury to her hand.

The other three robberies that police have linked to the pattern also took place during evening hours. All of the victims were walking alone at the time of the attacks, police said.

At 8:20 p.m. on Dec. 21, three men knocked a woman down and dragged her in the street on the 1700 block of S. Michigan. They took her purse, too.

Robbery near Grant Park part of wider pattern

A robbery near Grant Park last weekend is part of a wider pattern in the Loop and Near South Side, police said in a community alert Jan. 2.

Detectives usually issue alerts when they think a person or group of people is responsible for a series of crimes.

On Dec. 26, three men pushed a 31-year-old woman down and took her purse in the 1100 block of S. Michigan around 9:50 p.m., according to a CPD report.

An ambulance took the woman

All stories on this page compiled by CWBChicago

City shuts Wrigleyville bar after cops bust huge NYE party

The city's Dept. of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection has ordered the Dugout Bar, 950 W. Addison, to close until further notice after police allegedly found the Wrigleyville bar over capacity and in violation of COVID operating rules on New Year's Eve.

Police summoned city agencies to the bar after officers found a huge gathering as they responded to reports of a person with a gun at a party in an apartment above the tavern.

Now, BACP has ordered the bar to remain closed until the city completes an investigation of the Dec. 31 incident and determines what steps, if any, will be taken against the business.

Cops went to the building that houses the Dugout after a 911 caller reported that a 19-year-old had been battered and people had guns inside the second-floor unit around 10:45 p.m.

Officers did seize an unattended firearm in the unit, but no arrests were made.

A webcam that streams footage from just west of the building recorded nearly 100 people walking away from the area as police arrived. It's not known how many people departed in other directions.

The Dugout has not responded to multiple requests for comment via email, Facebook, and its website.

Couple carjacked at gunpoint near Bryn Mawr CTA Red Line

Armed carjackers struck again Dec. 30, in Edgewater, where they took a couple's SUV at gunpoint around 7:40 p.m., according to Chicago police.

The man and woman, both age 38, were getting in their charcoal-colored 2019 Audi Q5 when the hijackers pulled up in a white Honda Civic on the corner of Bryn Mawr and Winthrop, police said. One offender pointed a handgun at the man and ordered him onto the ground while the other carjacker forced the woman out of the Audi's passenger seat.

Both robbers climbed into the Audi and sped away southbound on Winthrop — with the man's

wallet as a bonus.

A CPD license plate reader detected the stolen Audi traveling southbound on Lake Shore Dr. at Chicago Ave. just a few minutes later.

According to an officer at the scene, the carjacker who brandished the handgun is a Black male who stands about 5'-9" tall, weighs about 140 lbs, and wore a black hoodie. The other offender is a Black male who stands about 6' tall, weighs about 150 lbs, and wore a blue hoodie or sweatshirt, the cop said.

Chicago police recorded 279 carjackings between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 this year. By comparison, there were 75 during the same period in 2019, according to city data. That's a 272% increase.

Year-to-date, reports are up 140% compared to 2019.

Residential robberies in West Ridge

Police are warning residents of West Ridge about two residential burglaries. In these incidents, the offender enters through the rear door of the apartment. No damage to the door has been observed. Upon entry, the offender opens the bedroom drawers, leaving them open.

The offender flees via the rear door. Incidents include one on the 6200 block of N. Mozart St., Dec. 2 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., and a second on the 2700 block of W. Rosemont Ave., Dec. 20, between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

There is currently no description of the offender[s].

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POLICE BEAT from p. 8

Hospital, although he did take a moment to flag down a passing police officer on the way to report what happened.

Doctors at Weiss transferred the man to Stroger Hospital for treatment.

According to the victim, the other motorist is an Asian man who drove a silver Subaru with Wisconsin license plates.

Theft crew raids four downtown convenience stores in 2 hours

A three-man theft crew stole large amounts of booze and cigarettes from three downtown convenience stores Jan. 2. And, after cops briefly chased them through River North, the team made one more stop in the West Loop to do it again.

In each incident, two or three of the men barged into 7-Eleven stores, collected smokers and booze from behind the counters, loaded the merch into a dark-colored 2003 Ford Expedition, and sped away.

They first targeted 7-Eleven's store at 201 E. Ohio in Streeterville around 8:45 p.m.

Minutes later, they did it again at 645 N. Kingsbury in River North.

At 10:30 they struck the store at 177 N. Wells in the Loop.

Cops spotted the Expedition crossing the Chicago River a few minutes after that heist. Officers pulled the SUV over in River North and approached the vehicle with guns drawn. But the driver sped away again.

He stopped for a few minutes in the West Loop so the crew could raid one more store at 627 W. Jackson, according to a CPD report.

Officers who pulled the SUV over in River North said the driver is a Black male who's over 50-years-old. He wore a dark stocking cap with a dark coat, an officer said. We recently reported that convenience store robberies, which have traditionally netted only small amounts of money, were skyrocketing in Chicago as criminals

turned their attention to the stores' high-priced tobacco and liquor inventory.

Robberies of convenience stores soared 75% in Chicago last year compared to 2019, according to CPD records.

Cops seize two guns near Mag Mile during first two hours of 2021

Chicago police seized two firearms in separate arrests near the Magnificent Mile before the new year was even two hours old. The Jan. 1 gun arrests come after cops arrested an average of one adult per day for illegal firearms possession near the Mag Mile during December.

Just 90 minutes into the new year, police stopped Crystal Payne in her car on the 600 block of N. State. When they discovered that her license was suspended, officers asked the 30-year-old and her passengers to get out, prosecutors said.

According to the state's allegations, police then saw a loaded handgun sticking out of a jacket on the driver's seat where Payne had been sitting. Also in the jacket pocket was a key chain emblazoned with the name Crystal Payne, police said.

Assistant Public Defender Courtney Smallwood said Payne was visiting Chicago from Indiana for the holidays.

Prosecutors charged Payne with unlawful use of a weapon and Judge Arthur Willis set bail at \$5,000. Payne posted a \$500 bond to go home.

At 1:45 a.m. Jan. 1, police responded to the intersection of State and Grand after a 911 caller reported that someone in a group of three people flashed a gun and "menaced" them, according to prosecutors.

Cops searched the area and saw three people walking up a garage ramp — one of whom matched the description of the person who allegedly had the gun.

When cops stopped the trio, Cierra Stokes, 27, was carrying three purses, prosecutors said. One of those purses allegedly contained a loaded hand-

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

gun. Stokes was not the person who matched the suspect's description, according to police.

Prosecutors charged her with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and Judge Willis set bail at \$3,000.

New Year's Day arrests continue a month-long wave of gun seizures along Michigan Avenue and nearby side streets.

At 2:50 p.m. Dec. 29, police allegedly found a loaded handgun under the driver's seat of James Thigpen's car during a traffic stop at State and Superior. Prosecutors charged Thigpen, whose firearm owner's ID card has been revoked, with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. Judge John Lyke released the 26-year-old on his own recognizance.

On Christmas Eve, fire department personnel transported a semi-conscious man from a Mag Mile department store to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment. On the way to the hospital, a paramedic opened the man's bag to look for ID and found a loaded handgun inside.

Police responded to the hospital to confiscate the gun, and prosecutors charged the man, Lamond Sims, 20, with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. Judge Willis released him on his own recognizance.

On the evening of Dec. 27, cops pulled over Deajon Kemp, 20, for allegedly driving while talking on a cellphone in the 700 block of N. LaSalle. Police said they found a loaded handgun between the driver's seat and the center console.

Prosecutors charged Kemp with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, and Judge Lyke released him on his own recognizance.

Around 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 23, police pulled Donald Moore over on the 100 block of E. Pearson because his registration was expired, according to a CPD report. Cops said Moore, 27, could not produce a driver's license and tried to run away after getting out of his Mercedes.

According to the report, a loaded and stolen handgun fell from his

waistband as he ran. Cops also found Indiana unemployment debit cards in Moore's wallet issued in names other than his own, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors charged him with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and identity theft. Judge Willis released Moore on his own recognizance with electronic monitoring.

Also on Dec. 23, pulled Mark Mason, 33, over for traffic and vehicle violations in the 200 block of E. Erie. When police asked if he had a gun in the car, Mason allegedly admitted that he did. Cops found a loaded handgun in the car's sunglass compartment, an ammunition magazine in the center console, and an open bottle of Patron Tequila under the console, according to a CPD report.

Prosecutors refused to file felony charges against Mason, the report states. Instead, he's charged with misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon. He posted a \$150 deposit bond to go home.

Man, 18, charged with raping 13-year-old after both run away from Lawrence Hall

An 18-year-old resident of the Lawrence Hall youth home in Lincoln Square is accused of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old resident of the home twice last month in a park near the state-operated facility, 4833 N. Francisco.



Richard Carter

Prosecutors said Richard Carter suggested to the younger boy that they run away from the home on Nov. 28 and again on 29. On both days, the teens went to River Park, where Carter pulled down the boy's pants and sexually assaulted him near a bridge, according to Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy.

The alleged victim reported the incidents to a staff member upon

ally to investigate and hold utilities accountable in an effort to promote the public interest," according to the report.

Scarr said the two energy laws have allowed ComEd to recover almost all of its roughly \$5 billion in investments. In fact, only \$23 million of that amount was disallowed, or determined it should not be charged to customers, by the ICC since 2011.

"That's why we call it a profit machine," Scarr said. "Because they spend the money and put it through this formula, and out comes their guaranteed revenue and their guaranteed profits."

A ComEd spokesperson denied that the energy laws harmed consumers or that they changed the way ComEd can recover its investment costs.

"The Deferred Prosecution Agreement does not contain any allegations that consumers were harmed by legislation passed in Illinois. In fact, the bipartisan legislation that was passed — EIMA and (Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016) — resulted in substantial benefits for ComEd's customers, including reliability that has improved more than 70% since 2012 to record levels," said Shannon Breymaier, ComEd communications director. "The standards for which investments ComEd can recover today are the same as they were before EIMA created the formula rate."

profits increased by \$1 billion, compared to its profits over each of the two previous six-year periods going back to 2001.

Abe Scarr, director of PIRG and coauthor of the report, said the information in the report should dispel the company's claim that while politicians may have acted corruptly to secure the legislation, the legislation itself does not harm consumers.

"We think very clearly that there has been harm. Consumers are paying much more than they would have otherwise for their delivery service, and that we were promised all types of customer benefits from the law, and those have fallen short," Scarr said.

"Not only should we allow the federal prosecutors in the legal system to work its way through the process, but legislators need to take action and right some of these wrongs from the past decade because customers could be overpaying for years to come."

Although ComEd customers have seen their utility bills remain relatively flat in the past decade, Scarr said this is because costs on the supply side have decreased and distribution costs have increased.

"But we think that the distribution side shouldn't have gone up as much and customers should have seen more savings in their bills than they have," he said. ComEd serves 4 million customers across northern Illinois.

The 111-page report explains how the 2011 and 2013 energy laws altered the existing process, which was in place for nearly a century, used by the ICC to set a utility's electricity rates and determine the investment costs the company can recover.

"As part of the traditional rate case process, the ICC would set the return on equity, the profit margin applied to the rate base, after evaluating the risk profile of the company. Under EIMA's formula rates, the Commission has no such authority," the report states.

The formula rates established by EIMA "strips the ICC of the tools and mechanisms tradition-

returning to Lawrence Hall after the Nov. 29 incident, saying "he didn't want to do it," according to Murphy.

The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment. On Dec. 17, the alleged victim made "positive disclosures" during an interview with police, according to Murphy.

Carter, who reportedly went missing after leaving the home Nov. 29, subsequently returned and was arrested at Lawrence Hall on Dec. 29.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale**Real Estate For Sale**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
BLACKSTONE TORO OPERATING PARTNERSHIP LP n/a BLACKSTONE RESIDENTIAL OPERATING PARTNERSHIP LP
Plaintiff,

-v.-
PULSE USA, INC., an Illinois corporation, RORY E. FLOT, an individual, PANDAV ENTERPRISES, INC., an Illinois corporation, MIDLAND TRUST COMPANY as Custodian FBO John SanFilippo #170688, an Illinois Self-Directed IRA, BURICH, INC., an Illinois corporation, 1138 LOMBARD, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, ANGEL L. ANGER, an individual, THE CITY OF CHICAGO, a municipal corporation, UNKNOWN OWNERS; and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants

19 CH 000349
(Jointly Administered with Case No. 19 CH 000352)
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NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Amended Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 27, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 2, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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Property Index No. 14-18-417-003-0000
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COM ED from p. 6

the company. Madigan has not been charged, and he denies any wrongdoing.

The PIRG report outlines how ComEd increased its base rate — or the value of its assets used to calculate the utility's level of return — by about \$5.1 billion, from \$6.2 billion in 2011 to \$11.4 billion in 2019.

ComEd's profits have increased by 47% between 2011 and 2019, according to the report, as customers saw a 37% increase in the company's delivery services over the same time period.

During the six years after the follow-up legislation, ComEd's



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SPEED from p. 1

Columbus.

Chicago currently imposes a \$35 speeding ticket on drivers caught by cameras for going 10 mph over the speed limit. Drivers caught going 11 mph or higher pay a \$100 ticket. Five unpaid tickets from a traffic camera can get a driver's license suspended.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot is counting on millions of dollars in new revenue in 2021 from the \$35 tickets to help close a \$1.2 billion deficit that is primarily the result of the pandemic-related economic lockdown that has decimated the local economy.

So far details on specifics of how and when the stricter enforcement will be enforced are scarce. Two years ago Lightfoot ran for mayor - in part - on a platform of reducing the predatory nature of City Hall when it came to camera-captured driving offenses and the severe tactics the city took to collect those debts. Lightfoot promised to end the city's addiction to fines and fees that fall heaviest on the city's low-income residents.

Cars found on the streets can now be booted and towed away with as few as two open ticket violations.

The money raised from all those new meters is slated to offset the annual pay-



Drivers caught going 11 mph or higher over the speed limit pay a \$100 ticket.

ment the city has to make to Chicago Parking Meters LLC for meters taken out of commission.

The speeding ticket change is part of City Hall's 2021 plan to raise an additional \$38 million from fines, forfeitures and penalties.

According to a study by The Chicago Tribune, total crashes were actually down by almost 20,000 in the first nine months of 2020 compared to the same period of 2019. There have been 28 more deaths on the road this year, but it's not clear to what degree speed was a factor. A Tribune analysis of the data found one more death this year related to speed or reckless driving than in the same period of 2019.

CARJACKINGS from p. 1

On Dec. 3, carjackers shot and killed retired Chicago Fire Dept. Lt. Dwain Williams as he returned to his vehicle outside a popcorn store in Morgan Park.

Prosecutors on Dec. 28 charged a third person in connection with Williams' death, Devin Barron, 20. Barron was on bond for possession of a stolen motor vehicle at the time of Williams' murder, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said during a bail hearing.

On Dec. 6, a carjacker shot a 44-year-old man as the two struggled for control of the victim's car at a gas station in South Shore.

Earlier this month, prosecutors charged two men with shooting people during separate carjacking attempts in November. But CPD's media release about those cases did not mention that the victims were shot during carjackings.

In one case, CPD said, "a 28-year-old male victim was inside of a vehicle when two unknown offenders exited an unknown vehicle, presented handguns, and fired shots." In the other, the police department said the victim was driving when two men wearing masks fired shots at him.

And at least two more people were shot during carjackings Thanksgiving week. Carjackers shot a Bucktown man who intervened in the attempted hijacking of his wife and daughter's car on the 1800 block of N. Marshfield.

In a media release after the Nov. 24 shooting, CPD failed to mention that the offenders were trying to hijack the family's car the time of the assault.

On Nov. 22, a worker was shot as he took garbage to a dumpster at Whole Foods, 1550 N. Kingsbury. Investigators determined that the shot was likely fired by carjackers who were trying to take another store employee's car inside the grocer's parking garage. But, again, the police did not include that detail in the department's media alert.

Uber and Lyft hijackings

We reported in November that a growing number of Lyft and Uber drivers suspected that carjackers were using stolen phones to lure ride-hail workers into armed hijackings. Since then, plenty of evidence has emerged to support the drivers' suspicions.

Prosecutors on Dec. 16 charged Joshua Johnson with carjacking and robbing three separate ride-hail drivers at gunpoint during November. Johnson used stolen phones to lure the victims in via Uber and Lyft,

According to prosecutors and police reports, carjackers are ordering Lyft and Uber drivers on phones that have been taken in other robberies.

according to the state's allegations.

On Dec. 28, CPD detectives warned that four ride service drivers were carjacked last week by passengers they drove to the 11300 and 11400 blocks of S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Dr. One carjacking took place every night between Dec. 23 and Dec. 25, according to the community alert.

According to prosecutors and police reports, carjackers are ordering Lyft and Uber drivers on phones that have been taken in other robberies. The robbers typically order victims to give up their phone passwords at gunpoint or with a threat of violence and then access the victims' accounts.

Because Lyft and Uber apps do not have customers' identifying information — other than their names — drivers have little opportunity to confirm that the person getting into their vehicle is the person who owns the account.

On Monday, CBS2 spoke with another Lyft driver who was recently carjacked by a fare. That driver said that the ride-hail company's insurance program tried to charge him a \$2,500 deductible after his hijacked car was found in unusable condition.

NEED from p. 1

during the pandemic.

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WESTERN AVE. from p. 1

particularly for pedestrians and people on bikes, as well as CTA bus riders," CDOT Cmsr. Gia Biagi said. "Public feedback is a crucial ingredient in this process. We encourage everyone who lives and works along this corridor to get involved and let us know their ideas for how it can be improved."

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JUDGE from p. 1

overseeing his pending narcotics case, Michael Hood, ordered him held no-bail for violating the terms of bond by escaping, records show.

Escape and a shoot-out

Late on Nov. 3, a gunman rolled up in a car and opened fire on a group of people who were standing on a street corner in the 7600 block of N. Bosworth. The group scattered and dove for cover. Chicago police officers who were keeping an eye on the targeted group via a nearby POD camera saw it all happen.

About 15 seconds later, as the cops continued watching the video feed, Gillette returned to the corner, pulled a handgun from his waistband, and fired a shot down the street toward the gunman's vehicle, said Assistant State's Attorney Jocelyn Schieve.

There were several innocent bystanders downrange from where Gillette fired the gun, according to Schieve, but none was injured. She said officers in the camera room immediately recognized Gillette, whose face was not covered, from previous encounters.

Cops found six shell casings from three different weapons and a handgun lying near the shooting scene.

At the time of the incident, Gillette was supposed to be in his house on electronic monitoring for two separate narcotics delivery cases that he picked up while he was on parole for armed robbery last year, Schieve said.

Authorities arrested him a couple of days before Thanksgiving and prosecutors charged him with escape on November 25. Lyke ordered him held in lieu of \$250,000 — meaning Gillette would need to pay a \$25,000 deposit bond to get out. Then, Beach slashed Gillette's bail requirements in the case by 80% at a Dec. 14 hearing.

This week, prosecutors charged Gillette with Class X felony aggravated discharge of a firearm and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon by a felon in connection with the Nov. 3 incident.

"Had he adhered to house arrest, maybe he wouldn't have — number one — got shot at and — number two — returned fire shortly thereafter," Lyke said Dec. 29 before pointing out that Gillette faces a mandatory sentence of six to 30-years if he's convicted of the Class X charge.

The judge then ordered him held without bail.

Another shooter

Last month, prosecutors charged another convicted felon with also firing at the same car during the same incident that Gillette was allegedly involved in.

On Nov. 23, prosecutors said the cops who saw the shooting unfold while watching CPD surveillance camera feeds also identified Sherwin Flowers, 31, as one of the men who pulled out guns to return fire at the drive-by shooter's car.

Flowers, who has been convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm three separate times, was arrested on Nov. 22, the exact same day he was discharged from parole for his latest narcotics and weapons charges. One of his previous convictions stemmed from an incident in which he allegedly shot someone.

Last month, prosecutors charged him with Class X felony armed habitual criminal in connection with the Nov. 3 shoot-out.



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