

Life seems but a quick succession of busy nothings.

— Jane Austen

NEWS-STAR

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Kids help spend \$1M in taxpayer funds in North Side participatory budget

Fourteen-year-olds among those eligible to vote

BY PETER VON BUOL

New Year's Eve was the last day residents of the 40th Ward were able to vote in an online poll to determine how Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th] should spend \$1 million of taxpayer money.

Each of Chicago's 50 wards receives an annual allocation of \$1.5 million in capital bond funds, officially known as Chicago's Aldermanic Menu Program. When first implemented, the Menu Program was designed to give Aldermen an opportunity to quickly fund infrastructure projects where they believed there was the greatest need. Most money was spent to fund street and alley resurfacing and street lighting.

Since his election in 2019,

Vasquez has used a method of allocation described as participatory budgeting, an idea first championed by former Ald. Joe Moore in Rogers Park's 49th Ward. Participatory budgeting was first developed in 1989 by Brazil's Worker's Party, a Democratic Socialist party.

The finalists for Vasquez's 2025 Menu money allocation are the installation of accessible playground equipment at Chappell Elementary School, 2035 W. Foster Ave. (\$170,000) pedestrian safety improvements at Peterson and Maplewood (\$90,000), a riverwalk viaduct mural at River Park at Foster Ave. (\$40,000), pedestrian safety improvements at Law-

SPEND see p. 12

\$3M CTA payout ordered for woman who killed landlord, Story on page 7

State grant program for door entry security locks hopes to keep out ICE, Border Control

Illinois State Rep. Kelly Cassidy [14th], is partnering with Rogers Park Business Alliance [RPBA] to relaunch the 14th District Small Business Security Infrastructure Grant.

The goal of the effort is to help small businesses to install front door security lock buzzers. The grant, led by Cassidy and funded through the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity [DCEO], will provide community businesses funds to install emergency door-lock-buzzers.

The initiative hopes to improve the safety and security of small business owners in response to the fear and disruption caused by recent Immigrations and Border Control [ICE/CBP] operations in local commercial corridors in Chicago.

"Building up the security means we're directly investing in the safety of our local families," said Cassidy. "It's been a scary few months. We've seen families torn apart and businesses close their doors to protect themselves from a regime that seeks to divide and dehumanize. I encourage the small businesses around our community to apply for this grant."

Utilizing taxpayer funds for the grant, Cassidy and RPBA have already provided more than

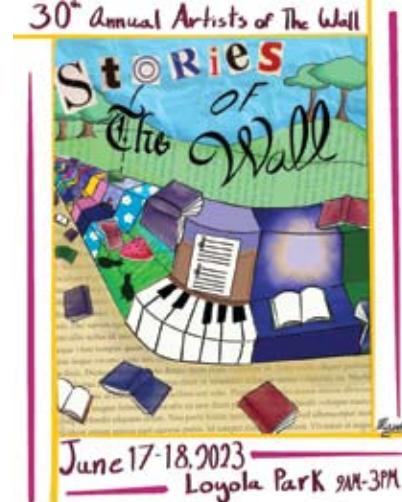


Illinois State Rep. Kelly Cassidy

\$320,000 in support to 45 businesses on the North Side, and are now making a limited number of door entry control systems (buzzers) for vulnerable businesses available as a way to help ensure the safety and security of their workplaces.

"We at South of the Border Restaurant feel more alert and secure with [the grant] initiative," said Antonio Diaz, owner of South of the Border Restaurant in Rogers Park. "We were able to install cameras inside the business, the back alley and in front of our business. In addition, we are in the process of getting new glass windows for the front of the store."

LOCKS see p. 12



Artists of the Wall posters from years past.

Theme, poster contest underway for 2026 Artists of the Wall

Over 100 people voted in this year's straw poll on a theme for the 2026 Artists of the Wall festival, and last week, event organizers announced that the theme will be "We're All Neighbors."

"This theme celebrates what makes our lakefront so special: people from many backgrounds sharing the same park, the same shoreline, and the same community," Loyola Park Advisory Council said in a released statement. "We hope it inspires murals that reflect kindness, connection, and the everyday magic of living

side by side."

Artists of the Wall 2026 will take place Saturday and Sunday June 20-21, at Loyola Park.

Underway next is the 2026 Artists of the Wall Poster Contest. Those who wish to participate in the contest must include the following in their poster entry:

- 33rd Annual Artists of the Wall festival, We're All Neighbors
 - June 20 and 21, 2026, Loyola Park, Chicago
 - Hosted by Loyola Park Advisory Council
- Poster should be 8x10. Pre-

ferred designs will be in four color - CMYK - for easier printing on t-shirts, but the council will welcome all designs.

The winning poster will be used to promote the event and on event t-shirts for the day of the festival. The winner will receive a \$250 prize for use of their art on the promotional materials. Artists will retain full rights to their work.

Send entries as a high-resolution JPEG or PDF to loyolaparkac@gmail.com. The deadline to submit posters is Jan. 23.

Lawmaker welcomes possible Marine deployment in Chicago

BY CATRINA BARKER
The Center Square

Gov. J.B. Pritzker praised as a "win" a U.S. Supreme Court ruling temporarily preventing President Donald Trump from deploying the National Guard in Chicago, but legal scholars say the court could have given Trump an opening to deploy other even tougher forces.

"I am glad the Supreme Court has ruled that Donald Trump did not have the authority to deploy the federalized guard in Illinois," Pritzker said in a statement. "This is an important step in curbing the Trump Administration's consistent abuse of power and slowing Trump's march toward authoritarianism."

The Supreme Court last week blocked Trump from sending federalized National Guard troops to Illinois. But former George W. Bush administration official John Yoo warned the ruling may not

mean what Democrats think.

"The statute says the president has to be unable to enforce the law with regular forces," Yoo said during an interview with Fox News. "The Supreme Court now says regular forces means you have to try with the regular armed forces first before you can bring out the National Guard."

"J.B. Pritzker claiming victory while Illinois, especially Chicago, lacks safety and security is nothing to celebrate, said Illinois State Rep. Adam Niemerg."

Yoo said the ruling could force the president to deploy active-duty troops like the Marines or 82nd Airborne, not just the National Guard. Illinois State Rep. Adam Niemerg [102nd] of the House Immigration and Human Rights Committee, agrees and

said Trump should use every tool at his disposal.

"Any means that he can use to restore safety and security to Chicago, I fully support," said Niemerg. "J.B. Pritzker claiming victory while Illinois, especially Chicago, lacks safety and security is nothing to celebrate. Trump wanted the National Guard in Chicago for a reason: there are too many deaths every weekend.

Niemerg pointed to Illinois policies such as the SAFE-T Act, the elimination of cash bail, and sanctuary state and city laws as contributing to what he described as "mass chaos" in Chicago.

"Whether Marines, the National Guard, whatever is needed to restore safety, he should use them," Niemerg said. "Kids and families should be able to walk down the Magnificent Mile, and not feel scared."

And there are already Marines

DEPLOYMENT see p. 12

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Put it on your calendar



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Wed. 4 p.m. take David to the doctor. Thurs. 7:30 p.m. pick Toby up from play practice. Thursday. 8 p.m. pick up groceries for breakfast sleepover tomorrow for the girls. 8:30 a.m. pancakes and fresh O.J. Right after that jog up Lake Shore Dr. Run after pancakes are eaten.

Do you manage time well? Do you control time or does it control you? Here's an easy way to tell, are you always late? Do you rush to every appointment, meeting or obligation? Or are you at ease, maybe even showing up early?

Calendars bring management and organization. Its effectiveness grows as the disorder of hu-

man life intensifies. If you have a large family with times needed to be set aside for music practice, sports practice, dance lessons, or meetings with teachers or a principal, a calendar can be your best friend.

Since the development of computers, the size and shape of calendars have been reborn. Everything is so much more intense in contemporary usage. Dates and events can easily change. They can be altered from afar. Sequences for meetings can readily fit the unpredictable.

The calendar brought a definitive, revolutionary component to human life. When calendars began to revolutionize the world of monks and scholars, time was elasticized. Soon time was fitting itself to the turbulence of time and scholarship. Awakening the world to higher functioning, more able to invite solutions to conflicts and bring expansion to scientific understandings of human life.

West Wing is back on Netflix, men and women keeping the White House open, free and clear. President "Jed" Bartlet's 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. is ironically ruled by the calendar.

What would you expect from a man who is the descendent of American revolutionary patriots? Often through the most life-threatening of journeys. When the fictional president takes back the Congress I did have a tear in my eye.

Everything in this White House moves in a remarkable, well-ordered fashion. It can be done on TV.

In the high moral tone of Notre



Calendar history traces humanity's need to track time, evolving from lunar/solar observations by ancient civilizations like Egyptians and Babylonians to the standardized Gregorian calendar, introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, which corrected errors in the Julian calendar and is now the world's most used civil calendar, though other systems persist.

Dame alum Jed Bartlet, there is a refreshing adoration of the U.S Constitution which is so appealing. The TV president has a passion, too, for the rescue of immigrants who flee to America.

He's trying to save and rescue them at all costs.

Bartlet's TV presidency respects human beings, values their historic opportunities to cherish America and make serious contributions in the workplace and our culture. There are no Somali pirates in this script

It also savors the value of time that keeps everyone on the same page for opportunities and growth, a luxury provided by scriptwriters. From Mrs Landingham at her desk outside the Oval Office to Chief of staff Leo McGarry, to Press Maven C.J. Cregg and big political thinker and writer Josh Lyman and his assistant Donna Moss, the crew is woven together to create a time-sensitive organization to handle all problems and conflicts in a timely and reasonable manner.

In the fictional West Wing there are no Congressional invasions. No broken trusts or promises. Just a moral man getting his most trusted advisors and aides to stand with him and beside him. This could never happen in our real Washington, D.C.

Always connected to their calendars of diplomatic, politically expansive economic solutions of reasoned governmental solutions far beyond the limits of America's first founding fathers' regimes and constraints.

It's no accident that more refined concepts of government began to emerge as concepts of time ripened with the use of calendars in past centuries. And a growing population, with room for everyone, more stable and literate, greatly readied themselves for participation in more intelligent politics and governance. All in just 60 minutes.

So don't miss the bus. Be on time. Have some cash for the cleaning lady. Take your colleague to lunch. Respect the press. Don't break the law, respect it. We've got time. Just check the calendar.

NEW CHICK: Well, waddle you know, the new African penguin chick at Lincoln Park Zoo officially has a name following a public naming contest. "Waddle" ended up being the fan favorite, beating out Pebble, Uno, and Bean. Although the naming contest was a close race, Waddle saw a sharp uptick in votes after former

Chicago Bears wide receiver and current ESPN Chicago radio host **Tom Waddle** campaigned for his namesake. While bears don't cross paths with African penguin chicks in the wild, Chicago Bears fans came out in droves to vote for this penguin chick's name.



Waddle

REUNION: Pope Leo XIV met up with some fellow Chicago neighborhood classmates in Rome. They also grew up on the far South Side and reminisced about wanting to open up a pizza place in their 'hood. The group also included **Archbishop Jerome Listeki**, retired Archbishop of Milwaukee.

ATHLUXE GLAM: Glamour for Good brought an elevated athluxe-inspired VIP event to Wicker Park, in support of cancer research. Hosted at Three Cities Social, 1643 N. Milwaukee Ave., this fundraiser allowed guests to get "Golden Globe ready for a great cause" while welcoming the new year.

This daytime event featured curated wellness, beauty, fashion, and foodie activations from luxury brands, encouraging guests to explore, experience, and connect, all while supporting cancer research. Live music was provided by DJ **Claire de Lune**, bringing her signature Las Vegas sound to the celebration. All proceeds benefitted Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation.

GET WELL: Get well wishes to **Monsignor Ken Velo** who had a terrible fall in the Basilica of Assisi while leading a pilgrimage. He spent 30 days in the hospital and was put in the famed Gemelli Hospital in Rome... Wishes to designer **Takara Beathe-Gudell** also, recovering from knee replacement. Next on our list is **Father Greg Sakowitz**, Rector of Holy Name Cathedral and son of showman **Sig Sakowitz**, who suffered a terrible fall, parishioners are distraught. He's still in Northwestern Hospital and was forced to miss broadcasting

Midnight Mass for the first time in 30 years.

ADLER/WEISS: For many Chicagoans the **Weiss** and **Adler** names trace a powerful mercantile significance and remarkable civic charitable leadership. **Floretta (Flo) Adler Weiss**, was one of Chicago's most erudite arts leaders. By her long life stretching from 1929 to 2025, she held the title as "the nicest person." Her dynamic leadership sustained Chicago's reputation as a leader in the arts. She was cherished for her kindness, sharp wit and hosting prowess. She was a dynamic Chicago social maven.

Passionate about Chicago's opera and world renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra, she also served for decades on the women's boards of the family's namesake Chicago medical facility, Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital. The Lyric Opera and Ravinia Festival grew under her financial and organizational leadership.

She met her future husband, **Robert Weiss**, in high school at 16, and they loved each other for the rest of their lives. This past February they celebrated 75 years of marriage amidst their vast family. Flo, as she was known, was gifted with long life as a Chicagoan and resident of Glencoe. But Flo carried the grand pedigree that was hers as the youngest child of famed Chicago master furrier **David Adler** and **Jane Devere Adler** who together in 1913 emigrated to Chicago from Ukraine.

WHO'S WHERE: It's **Kathy O'Malley Piccone's** birthday, the lady responsible for enhancing and celebrating Chicago's Gibson's Steakhouse, she deserves an all-day streetfest on Rush St... **Julia Jacobs**, **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** and songstress **Irene Mojica** joined forces for the New Year

CALENDAR see p. 8

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Illinois lets senior citizens defer up to \$7,500 a year in property taxes

BY MARIA PAPPAS

Illinois offers senior citizens a property tax relief program that works like a loan. The Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program allows qualifying seniors to defer or postpone the payment of up to \$7,500 a year in property taxes.

The loan is repaid to the state when the property is sold or within a year after the death of the participant or within 90 days after a homeowner no longer qualifies for the benefit. If you'd like to apply now is the time. But act fast because March 1, 2026 is the last day to apply for the

program and seek deferral for 2025 taxes that will be due in 2026.

Qualifying homeowners must be 65 or older by June 1, 2026, have household income of \$75,000 or less, and have owned and occupied the qualifying property for at least the last three years.

Surviving spouses of previously approved applicants who are 55 or older within six months of the taxpayer's death are eligible for the program.

Applicants must have fire or casualty insurance for the qualifying property and must not owe outstanding property taxes or special assessment fees.

To apply, log on to the Treasurer's website at cookcountytreasurer.com. Once there, click on the green box that says Downloadable Forms. Then scroll to the bottom and click on the Deferral of Taxes for Senior Citizens link.

Applications also are available at the Treasurer's Office in the County Building at 118 N. Clark St., Room 112. Applicants must submit copies, not originals, of required documents that include proof of birth date and home ownership.

By law, the state prohibits anyone from applying after the March 1 deadline. The state charges 3% interest per year payable upon the

death of the taxpayer or when ownership of the home transfers to a different owner. Participants may choose to pay off the loan sooner.

Additional qualifications apply when a home is held in a trust. Visit cookcountytreasurer.com to learn more about those requirements.

If you qualify, Illinois pays the taxes deferred by program participants. The 3% interest rate charged for 2025 taxes due in 2026 is half the rate charged in previous years when the state charged 6% interest.

Additional changes increased the household income eligibil-

ity threshold to \$75,000 from \$65,000 and the amount able to be deferred to \$7,500 from \$5,000.

And remember 2025 First Installment taxes are now due April 1. They're normally due March 1, but since 2024's Second Installment tax bills were due just 10 days before Christmas I pushed for the delay so property owners would have extra time between bills. Lawmakers in Springfield granted that request late last year giving nearly 1.8 million Cook County property owners an extra month to come up with the money needed to hopefully pay their bills in full.

Happy New Year, now pay more taxes

Shoppers will pay 1,500% tax on that grocery bag

In accordance with the City Council's passage of the 2026 Revenue Ordinance on Dec. 20, 2025, the following tax increases are now effective. So pay up.

Perhaps the most egregiously high tax paid today is the Checkout Bag Tax that is hidden in your grocery bill. That tax is imposed at the rate of 15¢ per checkout bag sold or used in the Chicago.

The average cost of a single plastic grocery bag to a retailer is very low, often just 1¢, and at some high-end retailers up to 5¢, meaning the bag that cost Jewel and Mariano's 1¢ will be taxed to the consumer at a rate of 1,500% of the bag's value. At 5¢, that bag tax is a 300%. (Hint to shoppers, hit "zero bags" when self-checking out, most grocers won't care.)

Transportation Tax

For ground transportation vehicles used in Chicago to provide transportation service by vehicle drivers, for every single ride, an additional \$1.50 per vehicle tax per

ride will be taken for every such ride that includes a pickup or drop-off, or both, in a newly defined "Congestion Zone." This shall apply 7 days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For every shared ride, an additional 60¢ per vehicle per ride accepted for every such ride that includes a pickup or drop-off, or both, in a newly defined "Congestion Zone." This shall apply only on weekdays (M-F) from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Social Media Amusement Tax

The Social Media Tax is imposed on social media businesses that collect consumer data on more than 100,000 Chicago consumers in a calendar year. The rate of the tax is 50¢ per the number of Chicago consumers per calendar month in excess of 100,000. So for 100,000 consumers in excess, that would be a \$50,000 tax.

Internet and Mobile Sports Wagering Amusement Tax

The new tax on Internet wagering is on each sports licensee operating in the City. The rate of the tax shall be 10.25% of the

adjusted gross sports wagering receipts from sports wagers that are placed within the City.

Outfit mobsters called this 10% tax the "Juice," the "Vig" or "Vigorish." It is the fee charged by a bookmaker for taking a bet, which is similar to Chicago City Hall's tax on a wager.

Liquor Tax / Alcoholic Beverages Tax - Off Premises Consumption

For those so besotted they can't walk down the street without a cocktail in their hand, a new tax has been imposed on the privilege of purchasing alcoholic beverages at retailers for consumption off of the premises where alcoholic beverages are sold. The rate of the tax for drinking while you stroll is 1.5% of the purchase price, exclusive of all other taxes charged for that same drink.

Personal Property Lease Transaction Tax

The rate of the tax shall be 15% of the lease or rental price for all leases. This includes a lot of business equipment, particularly in the food and beverage industry. Those taxes will be passed onto customers at those various businesses.

Motor Vehicle, Boat Tax

The tax imposed upon the leasing of motor vehicles within the city on a daily or weekly basis shall be 50¢ per vehicle per rental period specified in the lease agreement.

The Boat Mooring Tax imposed shall be 23.25% of the mooring or docking fee. The tax assessed to not-for-profit corporations shall be 7% of the mooring or docking fee.

Annual Silver Skates competition underway

Speed skating returns for 109th year at local parks

The 109th Annual Silver Skates speed skating competition returns to five neighborhood parks to find the fastest ice skater over the age of 6 years old in Chicago.

Last year's fastest skater covered 700 meters in just under two-minutes. Each race distance is proportional to age groups. Younger participants race at 100 meters, and older participants race distances up to 700 meters.

Five sites will host regional qualifiers at neighborhood ice rinks. Following regional qualifiers, a championship will take

place indoors at McFetridge Sports Center, located at 3843 N. California Ave., on Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Registration for the Silver Skates Speed Skating competition is available now for participants.

"Nothing heats up our beloved ice rinks like the spirit of competition," said Chicago Park District CEO Carlos Ramirez-Rosa. "This is a tradition that has endured for over a century, and we can't wait to welcome people of all ages to shatter existing records."

The following sites will host Silver

SKATES see p. 7

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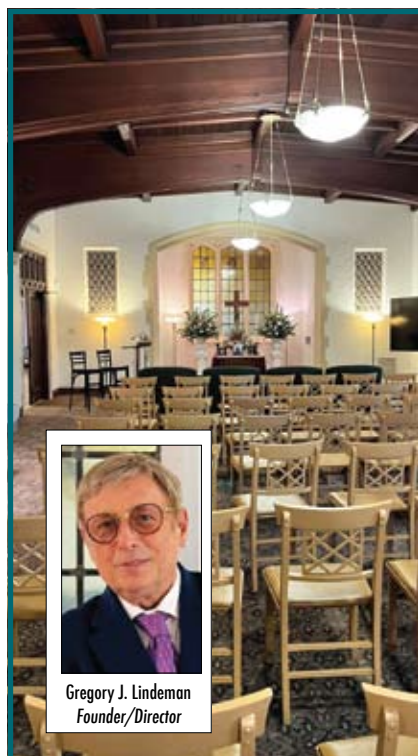


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(Left) Chicago Police Commissioner Larry Snelling. (Center) ICE agents march through Downtown. Courtesy Chicago Sun-Times (Right) President Donald Trump.

A look back at 2025's roller-coaster events



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

With the dawn of 2026, many Chicago apartment renters, home buyers and bungalow owners probably are wondering how they survived the crazy roller-coaster-ride of 2025.

These 2025 stories were all reported by The Home Front column this year:

- With property tax bills soaring by an average of 16.7%, there are threats of double-digit apartment rent increases on the horizon for spring of 2026.
- Resale home prices in Lincoln Park skyrocketed 25.9% over the past year, while existing North Side property listings are drying up because worried homeowners are sitting pretty on their bargain 3% and 4% mortgages.
- Home-loan interest rates appear to be frozen in a non-affordable zone above 6.5% for the next two years, according to Federal

Reserve Board analysts.

• Then, there's the wacky City of Chicago transportation planners, who by bowing to the bicycle activist lobby, have spent many millions to build dozens of miles of elaborate privileged bike lanes across city neighborhoods jamming up traffic and eliminating critical commercial parking.

The fancy privileged bike lanes remove vital street parking at once thriving "Ma and Pa" local businesses and restaurants leaving many struggling to survive.

Chicago's ICE

Just as important is a look back at one of the strangest, most frightening scenarios to remember about 2025—the Immigration and Custom Enforcement [ICE] invasion intended to enforce long-established federal immigration law.

This event, dubbed "Operation Midway Blast" by the Feds, impacted the Windy City and other "Sanctuary" cities across the nation, and led to President Donald Trump overseeing nationwide arrests of 67,800 immigrants during one five-month period.

Since Jan. 20, 2025, when Trump took office, through Oct. 1, 2025 about 36% of ICE detainees had criminal convictions, and 30% had pending charges. However, nearly a quarter committed only minor offenses such as traffic violations.

Nearly half of the 79,000 people ICE arrested and placed in de-

attention nationwide between Oct. 1 and the end of November, did not have pending convictions or pending criminal charges.

Of the more than 3,000 immigrants arrested in Chicago, fewer than 100 allegedly had criminal convictions or pending charges if you don't include illegally crossing over the southern border.

The Trump Administration is pressing for 3,000 immigration arrests a day, and has set a goal of 1 million deportations in the president's first year of his second term in office, according to the White House.

The administration deported more than 579,000 people in 2025, according to border-czar Tom Homan. For more efficient "feeder system" processing of illegals, ICE recently revealed a secret plan to hold 80,000 immigrants in seven large, industrial warehouses scattered around the country, mostly in the South, claims a Washington Post investigation.

Each warehouse would hold up to 10,000 immigrants. The large warehouses would be located in Virginia, Texas, Louisiana, Arizona, Georgia and Missouri. Sixteen smaller warehouses would hold up to 1,500 people each.

Land of the free?

Is America really the land of the free, home of the brave? A nation founded on liberty and justice for all? The dedication on the Statue of Liberty reads:

"Give me your tired, your poor. Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-toss to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

In 1900, those words beckoned to my grandfather, a Bohemian coal miner and farmer, who immigrated with his future wife, through the gates of Ellis Island. They came from a European nation now known as the Czech Republic. He eventually mined coal and farmed 40 acres near Terra Haute, IN, and his wife gave birth to 11 children, including my mother.

In 2025, veteran downtown and North Side Chicago real estate brokers said they worried about the impact of armed National Guard troops and bullying ICE agents marching through the streets in front of their property showings.

However, in 2025, it was hard to keep the founding fathers' Constitutional concepts in mind, as masked ICE agents used tear gas, clubs, shields and rubber bullets to keep protestors at bay while persecuting immigrants in the streets of Chicago.

The photos of armed ICE agents in military uniforms marching near Trump Tower on the banks of the Chicago River really was an eye-opener for this veteran writer, who witnessed the 1968 riots in Chicago after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2025, veteran downtown and North Side Chicago real estate brokers said they worried about the impact of armed National Guard troops and bullying ICE agents marching through the streets in front of their property showings.

Meanwhile, Michigan Ave. retail-street crime also added to the chaos with gang bangers smashing boutique and shop windows and grabbing armloads of Rolex watches and Gucci purses.

"Political and economic uncertainty, along with perceived or actual crime rates also kept home sellers on the sidelines," observed broker John Irwin of Baird & Warner.

"The turmoil at the national and local levels continues to unfold," Irwin said. "This makes it impossible to predict with certainty how our local real estate business will be affected in 2026."

ICE protests on TV

TV news reports in autumn of 2025 were filled with images of violent protests by immigration activists that included beatings, gassings, rubber bullets, arrest and physical and psychological harassment of immigrants.

One protesting Humboldt Park Alderperson was handcuffed by ICE agents, while another alderman's Chief of Staff was arrested and charged. Journalists also were detained. To avoid arrest, thousands of immigrants avoided work, and hid in basements and attics to avoid being snatched off the street corners and out of their homes.

To his credit, Chicago Police chief Larry Snelling says Windy City cops operate by a different set of rules than federal ICE agents.

"Chicago police training is different than ICE training," Snelling said on TV. "When working with protestors, we show more restraint. Cops don't use gas. Cops don't wear masks. They wear body cameras. Cops serve and protect the people of Chicago."

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.

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Rescue puppy brought rabies from reservoir in southern states

BY BOB ZULEY

In a critical news development affecting all branches of government and involving the North Side communities of Ravenswood, Andersonville, Lincoln Square, and Uptown, a confirmed, rare positive case of rabies in a dog has been detected within the City of Chicago.

This is the first rabies-positive dog identified in Cook County since before 1964 and the first in Illinois since 1994.

At this time, 13 individuals known to have had direct contact with the dog have begun post-exposure prophylaxis [PEP], and no one is symptomatic, according to the Cook County Dept. of Animal and Rabies Control [ARC].

Additionally, owners of dogs who had contact with this rabid dog are being notified by city officials so that appropriate in-home quarantine may be insti-

tuted. This quarantine period will end on Feb. 1, and rabies vaccine boosters should be administered.

Rabies is almost always fatal in humans and is caused by a virus that attacks the central nervous system. It is highly preventable with immediate medical care after a potential exposure such as a scratch or bite from an infected animal.

In Illinois, the most prevalent vector for rabies is through contact with a bat. Rabid bats are found in all U.S. states except for Hawaii. All bat species are susceptible and any direct contact should be reported to your public health department and your medical provider even if a bite is only suspected.

In the Southeast states east of the Appalachian Mountains, raccoons are a rabies reservoir. Ten percent of raccoons that are exposed to people or pets have rabies, making them one of the highest rabies-risks in the U.S., according to the Center for Disease Control [CDC].

The time from exposure to in-

fection in people or animals can range from days to over one year. Once the virus reaches the brain, it causes severe inflammation [encephalitis] leading to confusion, paralysis, and death soon thereafter, with very few documented recoveries.

Despite being vaccinated for rabies, the dog had experienced behavioral abnormalities with worsening aggression, anxiety, growling, snapping, and increased barking culminating in a bite to his owner.

According to a news release from PAWS Chicago, "The rabies virus sheds for at most 10 days prior to symptoms. As a result, only people in direct contact with this dog in Dec. 2025 may be at risk."

PAWS has been in proactive communication with five individuals who encountered the dog

during the period of possible contagion. No PAWS animals or employees were in contact with this dog in December.

On May 26, 2025, PAWS Chicago received the puppy and its littermates from a rescue partner operating in the U.S. Southeastern states of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The dog was brought to PAWS' medical center in Chicago for intake and medical evaluation. He received all vaccinations including rabies in June 2025 when he was age appropriate.

The dog, still less than one year of age, was adopted from PAWS by a Chicago household. Despite being vaccinated for rabies, the dog had experienced behavioral abnormalities with worsening aggression, anxiety, growling, snapping, and increased barking culminating in a bite to his owner.

Five months after adoption from PAWS, the dog was returned to PAWS on Dec. 17 and was euthanized on Dec. 18, 2025.

In examining a brain specimen, the dog tested positive for rabies

via direct fluorescent antibody testing at the Cook County Dept. of Health laboratory on Dec. 19, 2025. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture is testing the rabies vaccine given to the animal.

During the period of home adoption and despite the worrisome behavioral issues, the dog visited the Bow Wow Lounge, 5135 N. Ravenswood Ave. for doggy day care – potentially coming into contact with other household dogs and serving as a vector throughout the community.

According to City of Chicago records, Bow Wow Lounge is owned by Destination Pet, LLC. Destination Pet is a private equity-backed entity owned by L1 Health, an investment firm, and operates in 31 states.

Aside from Bow Wow Lounge,

RABID see p. 8

This newspaper needs your help

Help support the freedom of the press



This newspaper vs Sudler Property Mngt.

Inside Publications has hired legal representation to defend ourselves in Sudler Property Management's defamation suit against this newspaper.

But lawfare costs money, and we don't have a lawfare budget. So we are now appealing for your help, and donations.

Below is a link to a GoFundMe page that we established to help raise funds to fight this case in the Cook County Circuit Court. The page is titled "Your Friendly Neighborhood Newspapers."

We would appreciate you sharing this link with anyone in your network who might like to help out their friendly neighborhood newspapers.

Visit: www.gofundme.com/manage/your-friendly-neighborhood-newspapers.

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Police Beat...

Chicago man stole nearly \$8,000 in cigarettes during Walgreens theft spree

Prosecutors say a Chicago man stole nearly \$8,000 worth of Newport cigarettes by repeatedly turning North Side Walgreens stores into smash-and-grab tobacco stops, vaulting counters and emptying secured display cases after clerks unlocked them.

The alleged cigarette spree fits neatly into Dontrell Willis's long-running relationship with tobacco. Court records show the 31-year-old has more than 40 cases filed against him in Cook County since 2011, many of them including ordinance violations for allegedly selling cigarettes on CTA property.

Willis, who also uses the names Dontrell Williams and Dawayne Jones, is now accused of eight raids on Walgreens locations since July, with most of them occurring in recent weeks.

Chicago police arrested Willis in Lincoln Park on Dec. 10 after he allegedly stole \$745 worth of tobacco products from a Walgreens store at 834 W. Armitage Ave.

Surveillance video showed Willis asking to buy a pack of cigarettes and then jumping the counter to grab a large quantity of Newports after a clerk unlocked the secured tobacco display. Officers found him in the nearby neighborhood and charged him with felony retail theft.

Judge Rivanda Doss Beal released Willis on electronic monitoring the next day, allowing him to leave his residence between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Within days, investigators connected Willis to a series of similar incidents that had been plaguing several Walgreens stores. According to the allegations, Willis targeted the same locations multiple times.

Prosecutors have since charged Willis with seven additional felony retail theft counts along with one count of robbery.

On July 23, Willis allegedly jumped the counter at a Walgreens in the 6100 block of N. Broadway and stole \$182 worth of Newport cigarettes. Prosecutors say he returned to that store on October 3 using the same approach and went back again on December 7, when he allegedly took cigarettes valued at \$1,583.

Prosecutors say Willis used the same method at a Walgreens in the 900 block of Irving Park Rd. on Aug. 6, stealing \$1,027 worth of Newports. He allegedly returned on Nov. 29 and took another \$1,645 in tobacco products.

On November 21, prosecutors say he targeted the Armitage Avenue location for the first time. Willis allegedly asked the clerk for Newports, jumped over the counter, filled a bag with tobacco items worth about \$600, and fled.

Four days later, on Nov. 25, he allegedly struck a Walgreens in the 1200 block of N. Dearborn St., stealing \$849 worth of cigarettes. Prosecutors say he returned to that store on Dec. 5 and took 60 packs valued at \$1,007.

During one of the incidents, prosecutors allege Willis struck a cashier's hand and used force, prompting a robbery charge, which, unlike retail theft, is detainable under the SAFE-T Act.

Prosecutors used that charge to

ask Judge James Costello to keep Willis detained pending trial. The judge agreed, citing the "takeover-style tactics" as a significant concern.

Woman mugged in Lakeview, man robbed at knife-point in River North

Police are investigating two street robberies reported Dec. 28, including a mugging in Lakeview and a knife-point holdup in River North.

In the first incident, a 26-year-old woman was attacked as she walked along the sidewalk in the 3200 block of N. Racine Ave. around 10 p.m. Dec. 27. According to CPD, two men approached the woman and a "physical altercation" ensued. One of the men took the woman's purse and phone before both offenders ran off through a nearby alley. The victim declined medical attention at the scene.

Officers were told to be on the lookout for two Black men, one was described as standing about 5'-7" and wearing a hoodie with a fur-trimmed hood. Both were reportedly dressed in dark clothing.

Several hours later, around 4 a.m., a 22-year-old man was robbed at knife-point in River North as police were investigating a mass shooting less than a block away.

A CPD spokesperson said five men confronted the victim on a sidewalk in the 100 block of W/ Hubbard St. and one of the men produced a knife while demanding the man's property. The group fled with the victim's phone, wallet, and about \$400 cash.

The victim described the robbers as Black men between 20 and 28 years old, all wearing dark clothing. No one is in custody in either case, and detectives are continuing to investigate.

Gunmen fire 50 shots, leaving one dead, three injured on River North street corner

Gunmen fired at least 50 shots on a River North street corner Dec. 28, killing one man and critically wounding three others in the third mass shooting on the Near North Side since July. All three of those major shootings have been linked to the area's nightlife districts.

In a statement, Chicago Police Dept. said officers responding to a report of multiple people shot found four victims who had been struck by gunfire in the 400 block of N. LaSalle St. around 2:35 a.m. The victims were entering a vehicle in a nearby parking lot when four male gunmen approached on foot and opened fire, CPD said. The gunmen then got into a vehicle and fled the area.

The car the victims were entering, a Lamborghini SUV, rolled to a stop on LaSalle St. just outside the parking lot ramp. Officers located one victim inside the vehicle, two others lying in the street, and a fourth nearby.

Officers immediately rendered first aid, applying chest seals and tourniquets and administering CPR to one of the victims. Chest seals are adhesive medical devices placed over penetrating chest wounds to prevent air from entering the chest cavity and collapsed lungs, while tourniquets are tight bands applied to limbs to control severe bleeding.

A 34-year-old man who suffered multiple gunshot wounds was pronounced dead at Northwestern Memorial Hospital [NMH]. The other victims, men ages 35, 36, and 43, were listed in critical condition with gunshot wounds, police said.

Dozens of shell casings were found scattered around the intersection of LaSalle and Hubbard streets.

A witness told police that four men exited what was described as a "soccer mom" style minivan and walked toward the parking lot moments before the shooting. Investigators were working to determine whether those individuals were involved in the shooting.

While securing the scene, officers had to pause their investigation at

times to break up fights among bystanders both near the crime scene and outside NMH.

In November, we reported that shots were fired on that same parking lot where the Dec. 28 victims were targeted. At around 2:36 a.m. on Nov. 9, officers on patrol heard loud, possibly automatic gunfire and saw a white sedan speeding south across the LaSalle St. Bridge. The police found shell casings in a parking lot near 430 N. LaSalle St. But no gunshot victims were located at the scene, and no one later arrived at a hospital with gunshot-related injuries.

Records show 46 people have been shot on the Near North Side so far this year, an increase from 29 during the same period in 2024. The total also exceeds the 43 people shot in 2023 but remains below the 68 recorded in 2022 and 65 in 2021 during the height of the COVID-era violence.

More than half of this year's shooting victims on the Near North Side were injured in mass shootings. Eighteen people were wounded on July 2 outside a lounge in the 300 block of W. Chicago Ave. in what is believed to be the worst known mass shooting in Chicago history. Four others were shot Oct. 17 near the intersection of Division and Dearborn streets.

No arrests have been announced in connection with any of the Near North Side mass shootings.

12 years for man charged with three CTA train robberies, vape shop holdup

A 20-year-old man accused of a string of robberies aboard CTA trains and a smash-and-grab holdup of a Rogers Park smoke shop has pleaded guilty in three of the cases and received a 12-year prison sentence, court records show.

Prosecutors said Kenyon Guillory admitted responsibility for two CTA train robberies and the store robbery as part of a plea agreement that left the third CTA robbery case unresolved.

All of the crimes occurred earlier this year, with authorities accusing Guillory of joining at least six other men in a takeover-style robbery at Galaxy Smoke Shop, 1349 W. Morse Ave., on April 6. According to a detention petition, the group stormed the store wearing masks, gloves, and mostly black clothing. Several of the men stood directly in front of the cashier with their hands tucked into their waistbands, implying they had firearms.

"Do not try anything or else," one of the robbers allegedly warned as the group moved behind the counter.

Prosecutors said the crew collected roughly \$5,000 worth of tobacco, smoke, and vape products before fleeing and boarding a Red Line train. A Chicago police officer later recognized Guillory on CTA surveillance video of the getaway, and facial recognition also returned Guillory as a match. When questioned, Guillory allegedly admitted his role and told officers he sold stolen cigarettes on CTA trains.

Separate charging documents detailed three CTA train muggings on April 6, April 7, and April 9. Police arrested Guillory after the April 9 incident, when two men, ages 25 and 27, flagged down officers near the 87th Street station and reported that they had just been robbed aboard a southbound train. The victims said the attackers had entered a nearby BP gas station, where officers located Guillory and 30-year-old Kevin Stoner. Both victims identified the pair as the robbers, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors claimed Guillory held a knife to one victim's side while Stoner searched the victim's pockets, taking a debit card, a baseball cap, and

a bottle of tequila. The strap of the man's bag was also cut with the knife. In the same incident, Stoner allegedly struck the younger victim in the head with a glass bottle while Guillory went through his pockets, taking \$30 and another bottle of liquor.

Stoner pleaded guilty last week and is awaiting sentencing, while Guillory's case is still pending, according to court records.

Judge Ursula Waloski sentenced Guillory to 12 years in prison for the other two CTA robberies and seven years for the store holdup. The terms will be served concurrently at 50%, giving him an anticipated parole date of June 27, 2031.

Police surge on CTA Red Line leads to two gun arrests in Loop



Mugshots of Adrian Morris, left, and Deandre Moody.

A recently announced surge of Chicago police patrols on Chicago Transit Authority train lines is already paying dividends, with cops taking two men into custody within days for allegedly carrying loaded firearms on CTA Red Line platforms in the Loop, according to CPD and court records.

At around 4:40 p.m. Dec. 28, officers patrolling the Roosevelt CTA station noticed 24-year-old Adrian Morris riding an electric bicycle on the Red Line platform, a violation of CTA rules, prosecutors said. When police asked Morris to get off the bike, he refused.

During the encounter, officers allegedly saw a knife on Morris, prompting them to begin detaining him for the weapon. At that point, Morris told officers that he was also carrying a firearm, according to a Chicago police report.

Prosecutors said officers recovered a loaded Glock .40-caliber pistol from a Guess side bag Morris was wearing. Morris allegedly told officers that the gun belonged to his wife.

Judge James Murphy II detained him on charges of aggravated unlawful possession of a loaded weapon and carrying a firearm after a prior gun conviction.

Five days earlier, late on Dec. 23, officers arrested another man for allegedly possessing a loaded firearm at the State-Lake Red Line CTA station.

Patrol officers said they saw Deandre Moody, 47, sitting on a train holding what appeared to be a marijuana cigarette. When they asked Moody to step off the train for a CTA violation, officers reported that he moved around them in what they described as an "evasive manner."

Police said they saw a pocket knife clipped to Moody's right pant leg and, when asked whether he had any other weapons, Moody allegedly said no and handed the knife to an officer.

A subsequent pat-down search allegedly revealed a loaded Springfield Armory .45-caliber handgun in Moody's left chest pocket, equipped with a laser attachment, prosecutors said.

Moody was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a repeat felon. Prosecutors said his criminal history includes four prior gun convictions, including a 2021 armed habitual criminal case. He was ordered detained by Judge Antara Rivera.

Masked burglars steal ATMs from taverns in Lincoln Park

An ATM burglary crew is actively targeting businesses across Chicago's North and Northwest sides, striking at least three locations since Christmas morning, according to police reports. The most recent burglaries occurred Dec. 29 at taverns in Lincoln Park and Portage Park, following a similar ATM

theft reported Christmas morning in North Center.

Around 2:30 a.m., four masked burglars broke into Local Option, a tavern at 1102 W. Webster Ave. in Lincoln Park, a CPD report said. Surveillance video shows the men arriving in an SUV, making a U-turn, and stopping directly in front of the bar. All four suspects exited the vehicle while wearing masks. They forced their way inside, carried an ATM out of the business, loaded it into the SUV, and drove away.

Less than two hours later, at a little after 4 a.m., a similar burglary was reported at Di's Den, 5100 W. Irving Park Rd. in Portage Park. Investigators believe the same crew may be responsible based on the timing, method, and surveillance footage.

Police are working to determine whether the suspects were using a stolen SUV that had been seen circling areas on the Northwest Side before the burglaries. The vehicle is described as a Kia registered as brown but appearing gray under low nighttime lighting conditions. Additional surveillance video shows five men exiting that vehicle and appearing to case multiple buildings before the burglaries occurred.

This week's break-ins began Christmas morning with a burglary at Lucky Mini Mart, 4100 block of N. Lincoln Ave. in North Center. At approximately 2:47 a.m., burglars broke the front glass of the store, removed both the ATM and a cash register, and fled in a dark-colored SUV. The estimated loss in that burglary was reportedly close to \$10,000.

Two cops hospitalized after stolen car strikes squad car in Lakeview

Two Chicago police officers were seriously injured in Lakeview Dec. 29 when a stolen vehicle slammed into their squad car as officers searched for suspects involved in a nearby auto break-in.

Minutes earlier, at about 2:45 a.m., a 911 caller reported seeing two men as part of a larger group traveling in three vehicles breaking into a car near Balmoral Ave. and Winthrop Ave. in Edgewater, according to police dispatch records. A responding officer then observed three vehicles running stop signs and fleeing southbound from the area.

Officers were actively searching for those vehicles when the crash occurred around 2:56 a.m. in the 3600 block of N. Racine Ave.

In a statement, police said a marked CPD squad car was traveling south on Racine Ave. when a stolen Hyundai Elantra disregarded a stop sign and struck the police car in the intersection.

The force of the collision pushed the police vehicle onto the sidewalk and into a tree. The Elantra continued forward and struck three parked vehicles, authorities said.

Both officers inside the squad car sustained serious injuries. They were transported by fellow officers to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where they were treated for their injuries.

The driver of the Hyundai, an 18-year-old male, was found unresponsive at the scene and taken to Masonic by the Chicago Fire Dept. He was later placed into police custody with criminal charges and traffic citations pending, police said.

A preliminary report indicated the Hyundai had a peeled steering column and was outfitted with a license plate registered to a different vehicle, both common indicators that a vehicle is stolen. CPD's Major Accident Investigation Unit is handling the case.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

\$3M CTA payout ordered for woman who killed, butchered landlord while personal injury case was pending

BY CWBCHICAGO

The Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] must pay \$3 million to a woman who killed and dismembered her North Side landlord after an Illinois appeals court ruled that a trial judge properly shielded jurors from learning about the then-pending murder case during her personal injury lawsuit against the transit agency.



Sandra Kolalou

Unfortunately for Sandra Kolalou, also known as Sandra White, she will be in prison until at least July 2076, when she will be 90 years old.

In a Dec. 31 order, the Illinois First District Appellate Court confirmed a \$2.8 million jury verdict against the CTA stemming from

a 2018 bus crash in which Kolalou was struck while walking in a crosswalk. The court rejected the CTA's arguments that the case should have been delayed or the verdict reduced because Kolalou was later charged, and ultimately convicted, of murder and related crimes.

"But," the court wrote, "our decision should not be read as an endorsement of White's conduct."

After the civil case ended, a separate jury convicted Kolalou of the Oct. 2022 slaying and dismemberment of 69-year-old Frances Walker in West Ridge. Kolalou received a 58-year sentence for murder, dismembering a human body, and identity theft.

The civil case arose from a March 1, 2018, incident in which a CTA bus driver hit Kolalou, causing orthopedic and neurological injuries that she claimed resulted in chronic back and leg pain, fu-

ture medical needs, and long-term loss of a normal life. The CTA admitted negligence, and the dispute centered solely on the amount of damages Kolalou should receive.

In Oct. 2022, while the civil case was pending, Kolalou was charged with first-degree murder, dismemberment of a human body, concealment of a homicide, robbery, and aggravated identity theft after prosecutors said she killed her landlord, Frances Walker, and dismembered her body inside Walker's home in the 5900 block of N. Wastewaw Ave., where Kolalou rented a room.

Despite the pending charges,

a Cook County judge allowed the personal injury case to move forward under Kolalou's maiden

Those social media posts showed Kolalou "cliff-jumping, swimming with the dolphins, roller-skating, playing tennis, wearing high heels, and traveling to far-away destinations such as Egypt, South Africa, and Mexico" while she was experiencing debilitating leg and back pain, the CTA claimed in a filing.

name, White, and barring any reference to the criminal case or the fact that Kolalou was being kept in the Cook County Jail as the civil trial was held.

Court records show the CTA filed a motion for a new trial in May 2023, citing the poor audio quality of Kolalou's deposition, which had been recorded inside the jail, and her alleged failure to disclose social media accounts.

Those social media posts showed Kolalou "cliff-jumping, swimming with the dolphins, roller-skating, playing tennis, wearing high heels, and traveling to far-away destinations such as Egypt, South Africa, and Mexico" while she was experiencing debilitating leg and back pain, the CTA claimed in a filing.

A second jury heard the case in Oct. 2023 and returned a \$2.8 million verdict, including \$400,000 for future medical care and \$500,000 for future loss of normal life.

DOJ says IL law can't be used to limit, sue, 'harass' ICE agents

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

Many immigration activists, many on government payrolls, have been following and harassing federal agents in the Chicagoland area over the last few months. But things may be changing according to the U.S. Dept. of Justice [DOJ].

Illinois has no constitutional authority to empower the state's trial lawyers and social justice organizations to use state courts to sue and "harass" federal immigration agents over their efforts to enforce federal immigration law, nor to set boundaries for where immigration agents can make arrests.

Those are the claims leveled by the DOJ in their latest lawsuit filed against Gov. JB Pritzker and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul amid the continued multi-front legal fight over Illinois' sustained and varied attempts to

SKATES from p. 3

Skates time trials:

- Jan. 7, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing Rd.
- Jan. 8, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mt. Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th St.
- Jan. 14, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Warren Park, 6601 N. Western Ave.
- Jan. 15, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Wentworth Park, 5625 S. Mobile Ave.
- Jan. 17, 9 a.m. to noon at Championship, McFetridge Sports Center, 3843 N. California Ave.

Check-in usually begins at 5 p.m. for each event, with races beginning at 5:30 p.m. Youth races take place first, followed by the adult races. Registration is required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis for the first 20 participants from each age group and gender.

Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian register them in order to participate. Gloves, long sleeves, and a bicycle or hockey helmet are required to participate, and skates must be worn at all times.

For more information visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312/742.PLAY or 312/747.2001 (TTY).

resist federal immigration law enforcement in the state.

Already, Illinois and the DOJ, under President Donald Trump, have clashed repeatedly in court over immigrants' rights, including in actions challenging Illinois' so-called sanctuary policies seeking to welcome and shield illegal immigrants from removal; an Illinois law threatening employers who use the federal E-Verify system to check if workers are legally authorized to work in the U.S.; and Illinois' attempts to block the Trump administration from kicking illegal immigrants off of Medicaid, out of taxpayer-funded housing, and other government benefits programs.

The lawsuit filed Dec. 22 in federal court in Southern Illinois takes at a new Illinois law, passed rapidly by Illinois' Democratic legislative supermajority and signed by Pritzker, which Illinois Democrats have said they intend to use to limit Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] and Border Patrol agents from continuing to carry out immigration raids and other enforcement operations in Illinois.

The law specifically creates a so-called right of private action, allowing people who claim their rights were violated by immigration agents engaged in so-called "civil" immigration law enforcement to sue the agents and potentially extract big payouts and attorney fees.

The law also establishes buffer zones in state courthouses and within a 1,000-radius of the buildings, prohibiting immigration agents from making arrests there.

The law would allow plaintiffs to seek damages of \$10,000 per violation against the agents they accuse of violating their rights or the law.

The law further allows plaintiffs to seek potentially much more excessive punitive damages against federal agents, which could be multiplied based on numerous factors, such as if the immigration agents wore a mask to conceal their face; failed to wear a badge and identify themselves when making the arrests; didn't wear a body camera to record the arrest; or were driving an unmarked vehicle without proper li-

cense plates.

Illinois Democrats and immigration rights activists have repeatedly complained of such tactics by immigration agents since the Trump administration launched the so-called "Operation Midway Blitz" and other immigration enforcement operations throughout 2025.

In announcing the law, Illinois State Sen. President Don Harmon said that he believed the law would put agents on notice that "if you abuse your authority, there are consequences."

"We are providing the victims of this chaotic federal assault a clear, legal path to go after their abusers and hold them accountable," Harmon said.

In the lawsuit, the DOJ said, rather, the state is intending to empower anti-ICE activists and trial lawyers through "the creation of a state-sanctioned private remedy that inevitably will become a vehicle to threaten and harass federal officers."

In the filing, the DOJ also noted Harmon, in earlier comments,

had all but admitted the law was likely to lose when inevitably challenged by the federal government.

They noted Harmon told his fellow lawmakers the legislation "was an 'imperfect bill' and acknowledged that Illinois lawmakers were 'playing with a stacked deck' against the Federal Government which has the 'upper hand.' Accordingly, he is 'prepared for this law to be challenged.'"

Harmon has repeatedly enacted other legislation of questionable constitutional standing previously, as well, even when fully acknowledging the legislation would be subject to vigorous and uncertain constitutional challenges in court.

AGENTS see p. 11

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Founders Day at Nature Museum Jan. 10

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Dr., celebrates its history and mission with the Founders Day Celebration 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, featuring special activities, interactive experiences and access to the museum's daily programs and exhibits.

Nature Museum is the public face of the Chicago Academy of Sciences [CAS]? The CAS was founded on Jan. 13, 1857 and has been dedicated to studying and sharing knowledge about local

nature ever since, including opening the first public museum in Chicago in 1869!

Guests can celebrate that legacy by meeting some of the museum's scientists and collections team members that continue that work. The event highlights the museum's role as the public face of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and offers guests a chance to explore nature and science in a family-friendly setting. For more information visit <https://nature-museum.org/>.

Annual Christmas Tree recycling runs until Jan. 17

The Chicago Dept. of Streets and Sanitation [DSS] and the Chicago Park District [CPD] have announced that the City's annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program will run until Jan. 17, at locations across the city.

The Christmas tree recycling program helps the City divert organic material from garbage dumps by converting it to mulch. Last year, 22,000 trees were recycled through the program, and 411,000 trees have been recycled since the program's inception in 1990.

"The CPD is pleased to join DSS to host the program," said CPD CEO Carlos Ramirez-Rosa. "After the holidays have ended, we encourage families to bring their undecorated trees to one of the 27 Parks and City service locations. Trees will be converted

to free mulch that will be used at parks and homes to contribute to the overall health and beauty of our lawns and gardens."

Live and natural holiday trees can be dropped off inside the tree recycling corrals at the designated locations. All ornaments, lights, tinsel, and tree stands must be removed before the tree is dropped off, and plastic bags used for transport should also be removed prior to placing the trees in the corrals.

This year, 27 citywide drop-off locations are available for residents, with six locations offering free mulch beginning Monday, Jan. 5, denoted in parentheses. North Side drop off locations include:

- Clark Park: 3400 N. Rockwell St.
- Garfield Park: 100 N. Central Park Ave.
- Grant Park: 900 S. Columbus Dr.
- Humboldt Park Boathouse: 1369 N. Sacramento Ave.
- Lincoln Park: East side of Cannon Dr., north of Fullerton Ave. (free mulch available)
- Margate Park: 4921 N. Marine Dr. (free mulch available)
- North Park Village: 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. (free mulch available)
- Norwood Park (Service Yard): 5800 N. Avondale Ave.
- Portage Park: 4100 N. Long Ave.
- Walsh Park: 1722 N. Ashland Ave.
- Warren Park: 6601 N. Western Ave. (free mulch available)

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Portillo's is coming to Wrigleyville; Boul Mich

One of Chicago's most famous hot dog and Italian beef chain, Portillo's, is planning to open a brand-new restaurant in Wrigleyville, marking its fourth location within the city.

The proposed locations is at 3519 N. Clark St., just steps from Wrigley Field. The site places Portillo's in the middle of the Wrigleyville entertainment district, surrounded by other restaurants, sports bars, live music venues, two pot shops and a constant stream of locals and visitors heading to Cubs games, concerts, and neighborhood events.

For Portillo's, it's a strategic move that puts the brand directly in front of its ideal audience: fans, families, and food lovers looking for a quick, hearty, and distinctly

Chicago bite before or after a baseball game.

Founded in 1963 as a small hot dog stand in Villa Park, Portillo's has grown into a nationally recognized brand while staying deeply connected to its Chicago roots. Known for its loaded Chicago-style hot dogs, Italian beef sandwiches dripping with au jus, crinkle-cut fries, and that legendary chocolate cake shake, Portillo's remains a local institution and a nostalgic favorite for generations of Chicagoans. A Wrigleyville location seems like perfect fit. A natural fit for a neighborhood defined by youth, sports, partying, and Cubbie pride. No opening date has yet been announced.

The building, located just south of Addison St., previously housed

a convenience store.

Mag Mile

Portillo's also has plans to open a new facility on Michigan Ave., according to building permits filed with the city. It would be their second location in the Central Business district, including their River North site, 100 W. Ontario St.

The hot dog chain's new location is slated for 300 N. Michigan Ave., just south of the Chicago River.

Permits show Portillo's plans to retrofit the building's ground-floor space for a dine-in location. A timeline for the opening has not been announced.

CALENDAR from p. 2

saluting the luck of their friendships with birthday girl **Leah Chavie** and her creative Skincare Boutique which is apparently a fabulous addition to Chicago life and health... **Matt Arnoux** and **Bobbi Panter**, President of Service Club, finally made it to Paris and the luxurious Bristol Hotel for a winter break and a tour of Notre Dame Cathedral... Chicago radio star **Marianne Murciano (Mrs. Bob Sirott)** saw **Pat San Pedro's** art exhibit and says it really invites you in, she had a personal tour of "Discover Your Doorway" at the Jewish Museum of Florida... **Rose Gomez** and pals having a fine Swiss dinner in Zurich... **Sean Eshaghy** relaxing at Villa Paraiso in Acapulco, Mexico... potential mayoral candidate **Maria Pappas** says she had a wonderful time at Julmarknadat at the Swedish American Museum in Andersonville... **Todd Davis** got a few snaps of Tiffany Lamps: Beyond the Shade at the Driehaus Museum, which is all but impossible to photograph, needs to be seen in person... **Rich** and **Kathy Daniels** taking time to kick back to enjoy the city... **Sherry Lea Fox** in Dana Point, CA at the Waldorf Astoria Brach Resort &

Club... **Rhonda Sanderson** was so sweet saying she'd walk over hot coals for some of this writer's lobster pot pie... Belated birthday wishes to Chicago columnist, **Bill Zwecker**, the gentleman in the know.

VIOLATION: We heard from West Ridge reader **Jean Smiling-Coyote** about troubles at the the all-new Berwyn Red Line CTA station. She's using a rollator now due to a recent hip replacement surgery. She has real mobility challenges.

On her first post-surgery visit to the station, she used the "accessible" gate at the fare payment location, tapped her card, got the green screen, and tried to push the gate open.

"Before I'd even gotten the front of the rollator there, I heard the locking mechanism open for maybe half a second and close. I tapped my card two more times, but the machine refused to let me try again, alleging "repeated use" - as if I were letting multiple passengers in on my fare card, which is not allowed on my card."

She was stuck standing outside, unable to enter to go get a train.

She pushed the red button on the outside of the attendant's booth to summon help, heard the PA, and then it shut off. "I had to

push that button three times before the CTA station attendant sashayed in from the outside," SmilingCoyote said.

She told the attendant she paid her fare but the gate wouldn't let her in. The attendant insisted on blaming her.

This sure looks like a violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The CTA needs to fix this device so that it stays unlocked long enough for the disabled passenger to get to the gate to push it open, assistive device and all.

TAKE A BOW: Christie's **Steven Zick** at the Passavant Cotillion and Christmas Ball at the Hilton Hotel. Twenty-two impressive college-age society debutantes were surrounded by beaming parents, grandparents and alumnae of this storied event. It was fun, if slightly alarming, to see debs I met as toddlers.

The censorial power is in the people over the government, and not in the government over the people. - James Madison

tog515@gmail.com

RABID from p. 5

Destination Pet, LLC, also owns two other pet operations in the Chicago area; Dogaholics, 3608 N. Southport Ave., and Top Dog Retreat, in west suburban Elmhurst. There is no known disease linkage to other venues and a Bow Wow Lounge staffer refused to comment to this newspaper.

It is an accurate representation that PAWS Chicago receives a significant number of rescue dogs from southern U.S. states, due in part to cultural factors like keeping dogs outdoors and pet overpopulation from warmer climates.

In late 2021, CDC confirmed

three separate human rabies deaths among males in the U.S. including one in Illinois. All three persons did not seek PEP after exposure to bats that occurred in Aug. 2021. The other two states were Idaho and Texas. This followed only three deaths during the previous 48 months.

Initial symptoms included pain and paresthesia (numb or burning sensation) near the site of the exposure progressing to dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), altered mental status, paralysis, seizures, and autonomic instability (dizziness and fainting).

All three patients had recognized direct contact with a bat approx. 3-7 weeks before symptom

onset and died 2-3 weeks after symptom onset.

Rising human distrust in authorities is likely behind dog owner hesitancy toward rabies shots, fueled by misinformation [like links to autism/cancer], despite the rabies vaccine being incredibly safe, effective, and legally mandated.

For information or issues with rabies in Chicago, contact Chicago Animal Care and Control by calling 311, especially for reported bats or bites. To report potential exposure, contact your medical care provider or the Chicago Dept. of Public Health at 311.

If you or your pet are bitten, call 311 to report the incident.



[L-R] George Washington Gale Ferris Jr., inventor of the Ferris wheel. Workers reconstructing the Ferris wheel on N. Clark St. near Wrightwood Ave., 1895. CHM, ICHI-000028. Ferris wheel re-erection on Clark St., Aug. 14, 1895. CHM, ICHI-000029. Images courtesy Chicago History Museum

A second life in Lincoln Park for the first Ferris wheel

BY RUSSELL L. LEWIS
Chicago History Museum

You've heard about how the Ferris wheel debuted at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, but what happened to the enormous structure afterward? That original Ferris wheel made its last local stand - and revolutions - on Clark St. in Lincoln Park.

Celebrated as a technological marvel that rivaled the Eiffel Tower, Chicago's Ferris wheel has stood as an enduring symbol of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

During the past 125 years, the Ferris wheel has inspired imitations, large and small, around the globe: the 443-foot-tall London Eye and the 541-foot-tall Singapore Flyer are two of the tallest contemporary wheels in operation. Designed and promoted as an observation wheel, the Ferris wheel is part of a lineage of urban observation towers built for expositions that includes the 1853 Latting Observatory and the 1889 Eiffel Tower.

But the story of the Ferris wheel's rise skyward begins with the dynamics that shaped Chicago during the 1850s.

In 1890, Chicago was awarded the honor of hosting the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, colloquially known as the World's Fair. The selection was a significant achievement in the history of the young city and symbolized Chicago's growing reputation worldwide.

Proposals for a grand monument to mark the occasion filled newspapers, and for many, this meant the construction of an observation tower.

Daniel Burnham, director of works for the Columbian Exposition, however, was never keen on plans to "out-Eiffel" Eiffel and his stunning structure. Instead, he advocated for an engineering breakthrough, something completely original that would engage the public and demonstrate American technological superiority.

George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. (1859-96) was born in Galesburg, IL, and attended the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, where he earned a degree in civil engineering. His career began in the railroad industry, but he eventually focused on consulting and construction, especially bridge building.

He founded G. W. G. Ferris and Co. in Pittsburgh and later opened a satellite office in Chicago.

In 1892, he answered Burnham's call for an original technological breakthrough for the

World's Columbian Exposition, committing \$25,000 to develop plans and specifications for his revolving observation wheel. He then formed the Ferris Wheel Co., raising \$600,000 in capital to manufacture and construct the great wheel. Ferris eventually won the concession to build his wheel on the Midway Plaisance.

The construction of the Ferris wheel was a Herculean task. The first challenge was excavating the foundations for the two steel support towers, which began in Jan. 1893. During one of the coldest Chicago winters on record.

The Ferris wheel debuted on June 21, almost eight full weeks after the fair opened. The manufacture and construction of the wheel had cost \$400,000.

One of the wheel's cars, wrapped in patriotic bunting, hosted the Iowa State Band, playing to a crowd of 2,000 gathered for the event. At 3:30 p.m., the speeches began, and Ferris modestly stated that he hoped "the giant wheel might be thought worthy to stand as a representative of the skill and daring of American engineers."

Ferris then blew a golden whistle signaling that the wheel should begin rotating. It moved deliberately, conductors loading cars with passengers, and began its two rotations, a schedule it would repeat again and again during the next four-and-a-half months.

The wheel held 36 cars, or carriages, each with a capacity of 60 passengers. Measuring 37-feet long, 13-feet wide, and nine-feet tall, the cars were constructed of an iron frame covered with wood. Each featured a door for loading passengers, five broad plate glass windows, and 40 revolving chairs made of wire and screwed to the floor.

Ferris added numerous safety measures, including Westinghouse air brakes to stop the cars in the event of an emergency. Conductors loaded each car, locking the doors after all passengers were inside; the wheel would not move until the conductors had activated their annunciators.

When a gale force storm hit the fairgrounds on July 9, Ferris and others rode the wheel in its midst. The structure weathered 115-mile-an-hour winds with barely a shiver and sustained no damage.

The big wheel was the undisputed centerpiece of the Midway. Admission to the fairgrounds was .50¢, but attractions on the Midway cost extra. A ride on the Ferris wheel cost another .50¢ for two revolutions, making it one of the most expensive concessions at

the fair.

This week-by-week sales report reveals that 1,453,611 tickets were sold between July 1 and Nov. 6, earning \$726,805.50, with the largest number of tickets sold (151,201) the week of Oct. 16. As part of Ferris's concession agreement, fair organizers received \$211,805. No concession came close to earning as much, making the great wheel the most lucrative operation on both the Midway and the official fairgrounds.

Without the financial success of the Ferris wheel, it is doubtful that the fair corporation would have showed a profit.

After the fair closed in Oct. 1893, Ferris began searching for a new venue to host the wheel, which remained on the grounds of the abandoned Midway through the winter and was dismantled in the spring of 1894.

By 1895, Ferris reorganized his Ferris Wheel Co. and settled on a site on Clark St. near Wrightwood on the North Side—present-day 2619-65 N. Clark St.—which was easily accessible via cable car and offered a stunning bird's-eye view.

Architect Jarvis Hunt had developed a plan for a roof garden, restaurant, and other attractions.

The proposed development met community opposition from the beginning. Many Lakeview residents feared that the enterprise would attract the "unsavory" and the cable car line would become overtaxed and inconvenient. They organized an effort to prohibit liquor licenses, attempting to thwart the development plans, and succeeded in winning the ban.

Despite the opposition, the wheel was erected in Lakeview in Aug. 1895 and the cars attached by September. But the season was almost over, and Ferris Wheel Park did not open until spring of 1896.

Then, Ferris unexpectedly died of typhoid fever on Nov. 22, 1896.

In the end, few Chicagoans were willing to pay .50¢ for another ride on the big wheel, and the combination of a national economic depression and the liquor ban proved disastrous for the fledgling enterprise.

On June 3, 1903, the Chicago House Wrecking Co. purchased the Ferris wheel at a receiver's auction for \$1,800. During the winter of 1903-04, a workforce of 95 men spent 72 days dismantling the wheel and shipped it on 175 railcars to St. Louis to be erected in Forest Park for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

Once again the centerpiece of

FERRIS WHEEL see p. 10

Letter to the Editor

Why does life have to be so sad?

I cannot believe they are gone. When you printed the news [Dec. 24] about Matthew A. Siemer getting killed in that horrible car crash, and then you printed the news about A.J. dying [Dec. 31] after being sedated. I really do not think she would have made it without him.

I lived where they would walk their dogs and I got to meet them because of the dogs. They were the nicest couple in the world. I saw Matt last about four months ago as he was walking his dog at Touhy Park.

I cannot imagine how their relatives are taking this. Now, the

dogs are orphans. How do you get over something like this?

The only qualm I have is that you put the photo and story on the page where that maniac, Marton Miller was. But I guess it shows the difference between good and evil.

At this time of year... yet to lose such a lovely couple... I could not be sadder... except when my own partner died - two years come this February. I don't know why life has to be so sad.

Adrienne Sioux Koopersmith
Rogers Park

Restaurant Week kicks off Jan. 23

Chicago Restaurant Week is coming up in the city, where locals and visitors alike will head out to dine in Chicago's diverse and vibrant food scene.

Now in its nineteenth year, the celebration has grown into an annual winter tradition, offering specially curated prix fixe menus at hundreds of restaurants across the city and surrounding suburbs.

This year, Chicago Restaurant Week runs from Friday, Jan. 23 through Sunday, Feb. 8 - and yes that's longer than a week - it is 17 delicious days of dining specials.

The festivities begin with the popular First Bites Bash—an all-inclusive kickoff event at Chicago's Field Museum 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. Guests enjoy tasting portions from dozens of participating restaurants, along with wine, beer, spirits, and entertainment. This chef-driven evening traditionally sells out quickly.

During this 17-day span, par-

ticipating restaurants across Chicago and many suburbs offer special prix fixe meals designed to showcase their best culinary creations. Under the promotions, brunch and lunch menus are offered at \$30, while dinner menus are available at \$45 and/or \$60.

These fixed-price options (excluding beverages, tax, and gratuity) make it easier than ever to explore the local dining landscape without breaking the bank. Reservations are recommended. For 2026, over 500 restaurants are expected to take part—a record number. This includes beloved local favorites, fine-dining, and hidden neighborhood gems alike.

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Nearly 550 truck drivers cited for not understanding English in Illinois

BY GREG BISHOP
The Center Square

The number of English language proficiency violations for commercial drivers in Illinois year-to-date has eclipsed last year's totals with nearly 1 in 5 having Commercial Drivers Licenses [CDL] coming from the state of Illinois.

Since guidance was incorporated into the North American Standard Out-of-Service criteria in June, Illinois State Police [ISP]

say that 221 citations were issued for violating English Language Proficiency assessments.

A spokesperson said "every ISP officer conducting a commercial motor vehicle inspection initiates the inspection in English. If there is an indication the driver may not understand the inspector's instructions, the inspector then conducts an English Language Proficiency [ELP] assessment."

Year to date, about 550 drivers were cited for not understanding English. That's just shy of totals for all of 2024. In 2023, there were 385. So far this year, 18% of those citations are given to in-state CDL holders.

"The vast majority of citations are given to out-of-state CDL holders," the ISP spokesperson said.

State Rep. Adam Niernerg reacted to nearly 1 in 5 citations going to Illinois CDL holders saying, "So we need to solve the problem in the state of Illinois, the federal government, other states need to solve the problem

State Rep. Adam Niernerg fired back against any notion that it is racist. "I don't see anything racist about that in any way, shape or form for an individual to be able to read a sign, to be able to drive here in the state of Illinois."

within their states. But it really does scare me."

ISP said it could not accommodate our request to ride along with an enforcement officer to observe the frequency of such citations.

"Also very scary that they're willing just to supply you that information and not actually allow you, as a journalist, to go on a ride along to figure out what's happening here in the state of Illinois, because the ISP works directly for Gov. J.B. Pritzker," Niernerg said. "Maybe there's something to hide there that they

don't want you to see."

In the wake of a fatal crash involving an illegal immigrant that killed a Coles County official and his wife last month, Niernerg has filed legislation to require those wanting an Illinois issued standard driver's license to be a U.S. citizen. Illinois allows non-citizens to be issued a standard license.

"So we really have a situation where when law enforcement pulls over an illegal immigrant, that illegal immigrant cannot speak English, law enforcement cannot detain that individual, law enforcement cannot ask the immigration status of that individual," he said.

His measure comes after Mike and Gail Clayton were killed in a fatal crash involving an illegal immigrant last month. HB 4184 also would require English language proficiency to get a standard driver's license.

Niernerg fired back against any notion that it is racist. "I don't see anything racist about that in any way, shape or form for an individual to be able to read a sign, to be able to drive here in the state of Illinois."

Illinois' standard issue driver's license is not federally recognized as REAL ID and cannot be used to prove citizenship, get on an airplane or enter certain federal buildings.

sold the steel and other components for scrap. The original Ferris wheel was no more, but its idea lived on in London, Vienna, and Paris, captivating new crowds with thrilling rides and expansive views of some of Europe's great cities.

FERRIS WHEEL from p. 9

a world's fair, the Ferris wheel dominated the fairgrounds, carrying as many passengers as it had on the Midway.

Then on May 11, 1906, the Chicago House Wrecking Co. dynamited the Ferris wheel and



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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC, Plaintiff,

Real Estate For Sale

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Real Estate For Sale

property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

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AGENTS from p. 7

After enacting Illinois' controversial ban on so-called "assault weapons," for instance, Harmon famously quipped: "See you in court."

In this instance, the DOJ said Illinois' law all but flouts the "long-settled principles" of the Constitution's so-called Supremacy Clause, which limits the abilities of states to use state laws to countermand or limit federal law enforcement actions in their borders.

The federal action noted state lawmakers attempt to dance around those principles by attempting to limit the state's causes of action to so-called "civil" immigration enforcement actions initiating arrests and deportations against illegal immigrants, which Illinois Democrats have repeatedly insisted is distinct from "criminal" enforcement.

However, the DOJ asserted such a distinction is a "fallacy."

Instead, they said, "the vast majority of removal cases involve a combination of administrative, civil, and criminal charges."

"... The effects of this misconception will permeate all areas of law enforcement — administrative, civil, and criminal alike — causing confusion and chaos by unjustly subjecting officers to liability for discharging their lawful duties under federal law."

The DOJ further argued flatly the state

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4307 N. Western Ave. in North Center / Lincoln Square. Near Queen of Angels, Waters School and Wells Park both one block away, 9-rooms, 2-floors, 3,100-square-foot apartment over storefront and a 1,300 square foot garage. No grass to cut, building takes up whole lot. email: john1770@att.net or call 773-728-8888

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Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage located at 730 West Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-876-2000, is opening lockers:
5230D- Akinwumi, Akinseye
8194SM- Akinwumi, Akinseye
4235F-Carter, Porcha
8200SM-Chiappelli, Johnathan
6350X-Garces, Alexander
3250G-Gino and Marty's
4130F-Hofbauer, Michael
4040D- Izcano Lopez, David Alexander
4100G- Marshall, Mark
3500E-Mentor, Marvin
4200H- Petzold, Susan
4285H- Petzold, Susan
4345H- Petzold, Susan
6360X- Petzold, Susan
4305H- Romero, William (Dom Interiors)
4075D- Talley, Tefny Catrice
7110F- Venkataraman, Abhishek
3129A- Ventura, Giovanni for public sale.
This sale is to be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 2:00PM. Cash payments only.

FOR SALE

TAVERN

Business, 3-buildings, 11-units, 13,000 sq. ft., driveway and 3-car garage.
Email: John1770@att.net

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Notice of Public Sale

THE LOCK UP SELF STORAGE at 1930 N. Clybourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 Will sell the contents of the following units to satisfy a lien to the highest bidder on 01-27-2026 by 11:00 AM at WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM
All goods must be removed from the unit within 48 hours.
Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account.
Unit 4123 Tinika Epps

Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312-644-2000), is opening lockers:
3623X (Annette and Jimmy Briseno),
2719A (Barbara Broadhurst),
3523X and 6619X (Edward Lahood),
3525X (Debra Stubbs), 5708X (James Henry),
2748X (Tony Huynh), and
7168SM (Nichole Johnson),
for public sale on January 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Cash only.

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 23rd of January 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
at 3632 E.Lake Ave. Wilmette, IL 60091
at www.storagetreasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m.
C4 Daniel Palacios
F14 Kiran Qureshi
J10 Neville Thompson
O10 Gerry Tyrrell
This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 23rd of January 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
at 2724 W. 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608
at www.storagetreasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m.
B057 Angelica Blatchford - England
B123 Frederick Nelson
2043 Darryl Thompson Jr.
3008 Shaquawn Jackson
3061 Jose Calderon
4008 Tiffany Novack
4021 Hugo Aranda
This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

News tips? Call 773-465-9700

Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

070707 -----
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MIDFIRST BANK Plaintiff,
-v- UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, ROGERS PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF EMINA DZAMBEGOVIC, DECEASED, HADZIRA DZAMBEGOVIC, DAMON RITENHOUSE, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF EMINA DZAMBEGOVIC Defendants
2022CH08405
1615 WEST GREENLEAF AVENUE UNIT F CHICAGO, IL 60626
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 4, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 5, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35F, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1615 WEST GREENLEAF AVENUE UNIT F, CHICAGO, IL 60626
Property Index No. 11-31-213-037-0000
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was \$145,823.48.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire

Real Estate For Sale

transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact MANLEY DEAS

Real Estate For Sale

KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 22-020692. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 Chicago IL, 60601 312-651-6700
E-Mail: AMPS@manleydeas.com
Attorney File No. 22-020692
Attorney Code: 48928
Case Number: 2022CH08405
TJSC#: 45-2867
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2022CH08405
8231-960863
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We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00.
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Ice fishing in Chicago with local enthusiast Chris Ranney

BY NEW EASTSIDE NEWS
Chicago Star

The best wintertime ice fishing holes in Chicago are about eight inches wide. Cut by hand into the Lake Michigan ice, they offer robust leisure, healthy sport and tasty filets to a community of dedicated anglers who count DuSable Harbor among the finest spots around.

“You can come down here and do something in the middle of Chicago that most people wouldn’t think of,” says Chris Ranney, a DuSable regular who grew up fishing near his childhood home in Pilsen. “We have access to some of the most beautiful stuff in the city down here.”

You’ll need an Illinois Resident Fishing License (\$15 per year). There is winter access to the docks of five Chicago Harbors — Belmont, Burnham, Diversey, DuSable and Montrose — available from Thanksgiving through March by way of a \$6 Pier Pass. Pier Passes are essentially the passcodes that open certain gates to the docks in the harbors. Henry’s Sports, Bail & Marine, 3130 S. Canal, 773-835-1531, is Chicago’s exclusive distributor.

Hot spots include Montrose Harbor, with ice forming well enough for ice shelters in winter. Also DuSable, Diversey and Belmont Harbors, and the Lincoln Park Lagoon are where people fish year-round and sometimes in winter for smelt, trout, salmon, pike, smallmouth bass, perch, crappie, bluegill and other species.

Ranney fishes from Chicago to Milwaukee year round. When he hits DuSable in the winter months, he arrives before sunrise with a sled full of angling gear in tow. “I like to drill a lot of holes because I trout fish as well as perch fish out here.”

He uses a motorized 51 CC Eskimo Auger to get through the ice. It retails for about \$400, cuts an eight-inch hole and looks like a knee-high red corkscrew topped with a two-handled pull start engine. For the thrifty sportster with time and muscle to spare, he recommends a hand auger “for about \$60.”

SPEND from p. 1

rence and Washtenaw avenues (\$90,000) and pedestrian safety improvements at Maplewood and Artesian (\$366,000).

In 2024, Vasquez spent his Menu money on the pedestrianization of Western Ave., sidewalks at Ridge Nature Park, a left turn signal at Foster and Damen and the installation of bike repair stations.

Through his version of participatory budgeting, Vasquez is also attempting to build support for two causes championed by the far left wing of the Democratic Socialists of America, Ranked Choice Voting, in which voters rank candidates/options in an order of preference, and lowering the voting age to 14.

Through Ranked Choice voting, candidates who would ordinarily be considered fringe candidates in a two party system are able to more easily become the winning choice. A lowered voting age with impressionable youths whose brains have not yet fully formed, would empower public school teachers who could openly instruct their students on how to vote.

Youth brains aren’t fully formed until the mid-to-late 20s, around age 25, with the prefrontal cortex (responsible for planning, decision-making, and impulse control) being the last part to mature, which explains why teens and young adults often struggle with long-range planning and impulse control. While the brain grows in size earlier, this fine-tuning and connection-building continues through adolescence and into the mid-20s.

Vasquez conducted voting on-line and at ballot box locations throughout the 40th Ward, including at the 40th Ward office and 14 other locations, including Amundsen High School, Mather High School and at public libraries and park field houses.



Hot spots for ice fishing include DuSable, Diversey and Belmont Harbors, the Lincoln Park Lagoon and Montrose Harbor, with ice forming well enough for ice shelters in winter.

Photo courtesy Chris Ranney

Either way, he explains, the threshold should be at least eight inches wide because “you need an eight-inch hole to get some of these fish through.”

Most anglers agree that the ice should be at least three inches thick to provide safe fishing. According to Steve Palmisano, who co-owns Henry’s Sports with his brother, Tom, “We need three days of five degrees or colder to get the lake to freeze.”

The Palmisanos, who learned to fish near their family’s Bridgeport home, took over the 64-year-old business from their father. Like many enthusiasts, they combine information from others in the community with their own methods to determine the ice’s thickness.

During the mid-January heat wave, Steve explained that, “I’m still getting a confir-

mation that we can step out on the ice.” The store also provides daily fishing forecasts for customers.

Back on the harbor, Ranney relies on a “little network of people that’ll let us know when to come down and chop a hole.” After getting the good word, he uses a “spud bar” to test the thickness beforehand.

A spud bar is a long rod of steel that measures about four feet in length with a hammer-type end. It is used to strike the ice and, ideally, create a certain sound that indicates proper thickness.

“When you’re testing ice thickness, you’re going to spud your way out, and as you go, you’re going to get used to what a ‘thunk’ is,” he explains. “If you don’t hear the right thunk, or your spud goes through that ice, it’s not safe.”

Other essential gear includes creepers, which are basically cleats or cleated shoes “so you don’t break your neck,” and, of course, rods.

Ice fishing rods are much shorter than their warm-weather counterparts. Averaging about two feet long, the size allows greater movement within fishing shacks, on bucket perches and over small openings in the ice. Ranney demonstrates the advantage by explaining, “you’re standing over a hole,” then backing a few feet away and saying, “you don’t want to be over here.”

For bait, Palmisano recommends wax-worms, which are the larvae of wax moths. “The fish are more dormant,” he explains. “They’re not really eating as large quantity, so smaller-type bait would be suitable.” Fathead minnows are another good option, he says.

When the fish are caught, all of the anglers who spoke to this reporter say they prefer to eat them.

Ranney likes to fry his catch in a pan with Creole batter. His fishing buddy, John Lazarich, likes to coat his with panko.

“Japanese breadcrumbs,” he says. “You know, season it up with a little salt and pepper. If you’re going to panfry it, you can use butter. Deep fry it in oil. Little Old Bay seasoning is always good.”

Palmisano enjoys “doing the Mexican way.” “Fresh cilantro, tomato on a wheat tortilla, seasoned bread crumbs,” he says. “They’re very tasty.”

LOCKS from p. 1

This additional funding will provide and install basic door entry control systems for up to 90, for-profit, brick-and-mortar businesses. Eligible businesses must be located in the district, be in good standing with the State of Illinois, hold a valid Chicago business license, and complete the required application.

For more information, visit www.14sbsig.org. Applications can be found in both English and Spanish.

DEPLOYMENT from p. 1

stationed in Chicago. The 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines is a Chicago-based reserve infantry battalion consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors who are a trained combat and combat support personnel and units. They augment and reinforce the active component in time of war, national emergency, and at other times as national security requires.

Federal authorities say they plan to stay in Chicago, despite organized local resistance and legal challenges to some federal tactics, aiming to maintain pressure on immigration enforcement.

U.S. Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino on Dec. 30 said that federal agents were not done with Chicago yet and plan to be there for years to come. “If you think we’re done with Chicago, you’d better check yourself before you wreck yourself,” he wrote on the social media platform, X.

Niemerg also criticized Pritzker, saying he prioritizes political ambitions over public safety. “Pritzker would use this [Trump deploying ‘regular forces’] as a political weapon for his presidential run. He puts the safety and security of Illinois citizens last.”

In a Dec. 23 press release, Pritzker said communities should not have to live in fear of masked federal agents demanding identification, profiling residents based on appearance or language, or the possibility of the president deploying the military in their neighborhoods.

Yoo warned that the Supreme Court’s ruling is preliminary and could still be overturned when the case is fully considered.

“I think a governor would rather have National Guard troops than the 82nd Airborne and the Marine Corps patrolling the streets of Chicago,” Yoo said.

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