

Nothing endures but change.

— Heraclitus

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Neighbors overwhelmingly oppose Clark St. TOD, but plan still moves forward

Communities now being silenced by virtual meetings

Many Chicagoans are coming to question the value of virtual community meetings, particularly when they are being used as a basis to promote and seal controversial development deals, while many times stifling community debate.

The latest incident occurred over a proposed Transit Oriented Building [TOD] development at 4511-23 N. Clark St.

In a strip of Clark St. made up of mostly single-story retail buildings, the city is preparing to plop a giant 56-unit TOD building in the middle of a commercial Uptown block.

According to the office of Ald. James Cappleman [46th], MCZ Development wants to turn the property into a five-story mixed-use building with ground-floor retail and 56 apartments. The developers are seeking an up-zoning from C1-2 to B1-3TOD.

While plans also call for a ground-floor parking garage, one

of the clear benefits to developers of a TOD is that the rules allow them to bypass much of the city's off-street parking regulations. In this case the plan calls for only 27 parking spaces, while allowing no space for the dozens of visitors, ride share and food delivery vehicles, or for all the Amazon,

Many people are unhappy that community meetings are now all held virtually giving one person the right to literally mute everyone else sitting in on an online meeting.

UPS, FedEx and other delivery trucks that would normally be making daily deliveries to such a large building.

The project is set for a vote in the City Hall 10 a.m. Jan 27.

MCZ was scheduled to meet with the community in person on March 30, 2020. But a public meeting between MCZ and community groups like the Dover St. Neighbors Assoc. [DSNA] was

postponed after the COVID-19 virus lockdown was issued. As everyone knows, that lockdown remains in place today, preventing any in-person assemblies.

After the proposal was first made in early 2020, nearby neighbors started pushing back almost immediately, and continue doing that even now. They question the speed of this decision during a pandemic lockdown, and overall lack of community input and planning in the mostly-online process.

This newspaper has been hearing more and more of this same gripe now from various community groups all over the North Side during the lockdown. Many people are unhappy that community meetings are now all held virtually giving one person the right to literally mute everyone else sitting in on an online meeting.

OPPOSE see p. 12



Brian Hopkins



Michele Smith



Scott Waguespack

Joint state-of-wards meeting Jan. 28 with aldermen of 2nd, 32nd, 43rd wards

The Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce is hosting their popular annual state of three wards meeting virtually this year, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 28.

Titled Lincoln Park 2021, this online meeting should provide neighbors will news and city updates from aldermen Brian Hop-

kins [2nd], Scott Waguespack [32nd] and Michele Smith [43rd].

Pre-registration is required, which is free to Chamber members but \$10 for guests.

For more information call 773-880-5200, or visit www.lincolnparkchamber.com.

CTA Bus ridership down big on North Side

CTA Bus ridership decreased dramatically on the North Side last year, according to the Chicago Transit Authority.

The worst ridership performances were on routes heading downtown and to the Near North Side from points north.

The CTA calculates ridership by counting the customers who board a transit vehicle (bus or rail). At present, CTA statistics are only available through Sept. 2020.

The route that saw the largest decrease in ridership was 134 Stockton / LaSalle Express with a stunning 96% drop.

Other North Side routes that saw a big fall-off include the 135 Clarendon / LaSalle Express at 94%, the 120 Ogilvie / Streeterville Express at 94%, the 125 Water Tower Express at 92.2%, LaSalle Express at 90.2%, the 37 Sedgwick 89.4%, the 136 Sheridan / LaSalle Express at 87.7%, 124 Navy Pier Express at 86.7%, and 148 Clarendon / Michigan Express at 81%.

In another - non-economic lockdown year - the ridership drops in other routes might seem stunning as well, like The Inner Drive / Michigan Ave. at 67.6%, Sheridan at 67.5%, Addison at 65.8%, Armitage at 64.8%, Montrose at 64.1%, Damen at 62.9%, the Ashland Express 59.5%, the Western Express 58.2%, and even the 11 Lincoln at 53%.

CTA train ridership across the city during the lockdown saw a decrease of 78% year over year with Sept. 2019. The train station that saw the largest decrease was the Merchandise Mart Brown Line station with a decrease of 90.8%.

So far, the CTA has made no service cuts even with the large

decrease in ridership.

The Metra, which provides service to many of Chicago's suburbs has seen a 97% decrease in ridership.

For many people on the North Side, the morning commute for teachers, students and workers feels like a distant memory. And that's dealt a huge financial blow

Stay away from Franklin

Stay away from Franklin St. as the CTA is performing maintenance on the Brown Line tracks over N. Franklin St., between Hubbard St. and Grand Ave.

N. Franklin, between Grand Ave. and Hubbard St. will be closed to vehicular traffic Saturdays and Sundays, Jan. 23 and 24, 30 and 31.

Throughout the project, curb lanes and parking, alley access and sidewalks will be closed intermittently.

Work will occur from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. during the weekdays and from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on the weekends. All work is expected to be completed at the end of March 2021.

to the transit agencies who rely on fares to balance their budget. According to the Federal Transit Authority, Chicago's public transportation sector received \$1.43 billion in bailout funds from the CARES act to combat the decrease in ridership.

But the long term survival and recovery of the CTA and Metra going forward seems overly dependent on Chicago employers and schools bringing their students and workers back downtown. Many people have figured out how to work and learn virtually from home and may lack any desire to commute downtown in a pandemic era.

CPD data show carjackings are soaring even higher in 2021

BY CWBCHICAGO

As bad as Chicago's carjacking problem was in 2020, it's even worse so far in the new year, according to data from the Chicago Police Dept.

CPD logged an average of six carjackings per day during the first 10 days of 2021, according to the department's stats. A source said there were 110 cases by midday on Jan. 15.

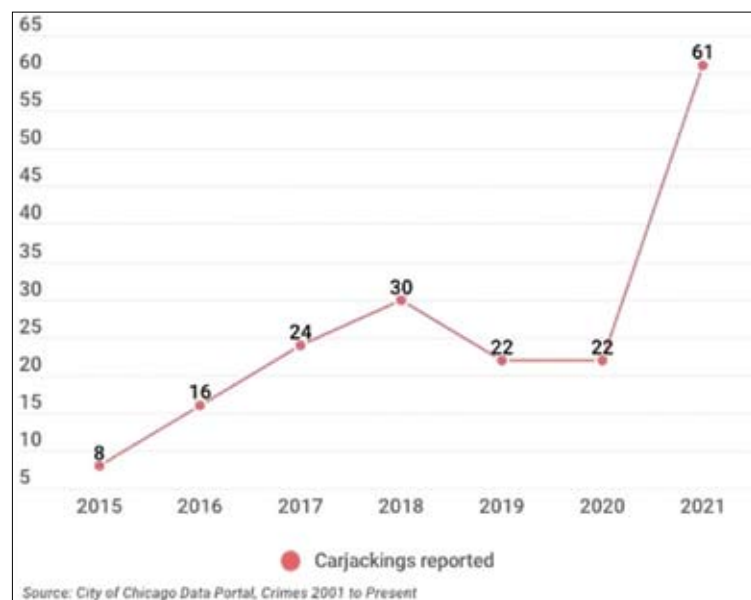
With 61 vehicular hijacking reports logged through the first 10 days of the year, 2021's carjacking pace is slightly less than three times the levels seen during the same time periods in 2020 and 2019.

While there's a long road ahead of us, Chicago will see about 2,200 carjackings this year if the pace is allowed to continue. The city had 1,417 cases last year and 603 in 2019.

According to CPD's data, the city's hot spots for carjackings during the first ten days of the year were the Austin neighborhood and Wicker Park.

But there have been many, many more carjackings since then. Wicker Park and Bucktown had at least five hijackings reported from Saturday afternoon into

Carjackings in Chicago January 1-10 annually



early Sunday evening. Two more were reported in Lincoln Park on the night of Jan. 15. And a woman successfully foiled an apparent carjacking attempt in Rogers Park on the evening of Jan 17.

Juveniles are highly involved in carjackings. Unfortunately, Illinois changed the law in 2016 so that arrests for armed carjacking are no longer treated as automatically adult crimes. An effort to change the law I championed in 2018 failed in Springfield. Since

then, carjackings by juveniles have skyrocketed.

In November, we reported about an emerging and troubling trend: Carjackers are luring Uber and Lyft drivers into hijackings by ordering rides on stolen phones. Earlier this month, CPD confirmed our reporting when the department issued a warning about a crime pattern in which ride-hail drivers have been car-

CARJACKINGS see p. 12

Wise words not just top 40 hits



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

"When a man unprincipled in private life, desperate in his fortune, bold in his temper, ... despotic in his ordinary demeanor, known to have scoffed in private at the principles of liberty—when such a man is seen to mount the hobby horse of popularity—to join in the cry of danger to liberty—to take every opportunity of embarrassing the government and bringing it under suspicion—to flatter and fall in with all the non sense of the zealots of the day—It may justly be suspected that his object is to throw things into confusion that he may 'ride the storm and direct the whirlwind.'" — Alexander Hamilton, 1792

Maria Muldaur was singing "Midnight at the Oasis," and Barbara Streisand was breaking hearts with "The Way We Were." Funny times, 1974.

You may remember it as the Watergate Era? President Richard Milhous Nixon's swan song? Fundamental car wreck of American history.

Unfolding the strangest of times. It's still more creepy than nostalgic.

Under the most bizarre circumstances the Viet Nam War filled every crevice of life. It certainly did if you were just graduating college and could not reason why there was such warfare raging on the planet earth.

Of course the details and mayhem of the actual Watergate events unfolded slowly. Like Masterpiece Theater episodes. But broadcast every night of the week, as it were, once the Watergate Hearings got under way.

Elton John had not yet been

knighted. But he was singing to great applause, "Bennie and the Jets." And no one had yet heard of Princess Diana.

With the congressional hearings it was like we had the keys to the X-ray machine. They showed the official interrogation of the nation's toughest and most important political leaders tied to Nixon. Sworn witnesses, one by one, pulled before the public like wisdom teeth by stunningly brilliant interrogators.

My personal favorite was young Texas U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan. Her voice, alone, became a clarion call of hope and promise. Her Texas accent had what always appeared to me to be a heavy layer of Ivy League brilliance. She was a young, African American lawyer. A rural American and first woman to be elected to the Texas state senate since reconstruction. She was also the first Southern African American woman ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Jim Croce marked the moment singing "Time in a Bottle." Seemed appropriate.

On July 25, 1974, Jordan delivered a 15-minute speech before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. Her words framed the opening salvo into the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. Many believe that her words shaped one of the most significant speeches of 20th century American history. Her words glued her to the U.S. Constitution. It was with her in her in-depth understanding of the Constitution that she set out to lay the case against Nixon.

Defending the system of checks and balances the Constitution provides, she demonstrated how they assist in inhibiting those who would abuse their power. "Waterloo," sung by Abba, most popular at the time, seemed hauntingly apt.

It was the voice and reason of Barbara Jordan, speaking of "a



Texas U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan

man unprincipled in private life, desperate in his fortune, bold in his temper, ... despotic in his ordinary demeanor, known to have scoffed in private at the principles of liberty," who helped to lift the brokenness of the moment from the shoulders of the American people. So grieved at the sad series of Nixon White House crimes.

In the end Nixon, ever the gentleman, resigned. He spared the nation the panoply of emotion that would have ensued in a full impeachment and removal from office.

I remember Stevie Wonder singing "Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing." Seemed we didn't have to.

But as terrible and broken as that moment was, America had Jordan to help them find and feel solutions. The ultimate American work out.

While the nation was emotionally and psychologically exhausted from the experience of Watergate, our Democratic Republic survived. Despite all the obituaries written to the contrary. Or the predictions proved untrue, naysayers' foolish warnings, or the uncertainties of the loyalties of many.

We survived because Americans were open minded, capable of reason and filled with the ability to absorb the truth and to act with patriotic integrity.

Just when America needed it most, our common sense and reason helped us to find a true American patriot in the struggle. Barbara Jordan redeemed the terror of that moment and America caught sight of the spirit and humanity that first shaped our cause for independence. Our rational understanding of freedom. Our civil perceptions about the role and function of the people's right to govern themselves. Free from the abuse and recklessness of dictators, tyrants, and self-serving rulers.

"Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" lit up the air waves. Thanks, Elton.

The treasure of our democratic way of life continued to flourish on the fresh soil of America. But it had also taught us to guard and defend it when threatened. Whether by the rule of a European despot, or an American tyrant. Or a Quaker's son from Califor-

nia. Our Republic permits us the chance to always start again, freer, more understanding. More sensitive to the needs and necessities of our fellow citizens. More committed to a way of life that we believe heals the wounds of error and bad choice.

Every time we achieve new harmony and growth, we bring to life the spirit of Lexington Green. Saratoga. Ticonderoga and Antietam. Gettysburg and Bull Run. Havana Harbor. The Somme. Ypres. And the Conference at Versailles. The Normandy

Landing. Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. The challenge, of course, is to articulate in our national character our understanding of the debt we owe the earth. And each other. And the Barbara Jordans and the Richard Milhous Nixons of the world. No citizen is free if all are not free.

No citizen can disregard, as Alexander Hamilton says, "the principals of liberty." So "Put your Hands Together," as the O'Jays sang back then.

BLAIR KAMIN: Chicago Tribune architecture critic Blair Kamin has announced that after 33 years he is leaving the paper. I hope he's not going far. Chicago is legendary for its voracious architectural appetite. Unlike anywhere else in America. Only the rabid



Blair Kamin

French and Prince Charles complain more when there's something they dislike. In Chicago we languish together, ever since those outhouses along the river where charred during the 1871 Fire. Some thought them works of art. The rest thought them common and vulgar. Flush. And that sent us off to the races. For years we ate steady diets of Daniel Burnham, Louis Sullivan, Benjamin Marshall. Getting architecturally plump in the bargain. We slenderized with Mies van der Rohe, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Frank Lloyd Wright and Thomas Beebe. All the way to the Jeanne Gang bang. Through an important portion of our architectural romp we have been accompanied by the wise and erudite Mr. Kamin. His streetwise knowledge and brahmin civility have been generous twin companions on our journey. He has helped to embolden us with sturdy architectural understanding and gentlemanly style. For many he has been architecture itself for us. So we wish him well in his new projects.

And wish we could take him to lunch but for pandemic.

Who knows what the degraded Tribune will do without him. Bigger question is what will Chicago do without him? We need fresh vocabulary and civility. Who knows what travesty the Mayor and City Council may drop on

us? With their small plans. And form that never follows function. Thank you, Mr. Kamin, for your vigilance. Wit. And wondrous synthesis. You're right. Buildings are vessels of human possibility.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE: The daily is moving its newsroom from the Prudential Building to the Freedom Center, its printing facility along the Chicago River, at the end of January. Why didn't they skip the detour south and just head to the riverfront after abandoning the landmark Trib Tower?

MANGE. MANGE: After 41 years foodie supreme Phil Vettel departs the Chicago Tribune. No full-time critic on food anymore.

Sad. He was a star, and the Tribune is a mess.

THE FIDDLER: The accomplished Irish concert violinist, Patricia Treacy, now in Chicago, was off to Washington DC to serenade the inaugural celebration with her remarkable artistry. Until security

conditions made it almost impossible. Now with 25,000 troops on the ground, she'll still have President and Dr. Biden dancing jigs in the aisles but in a virtual zoom. She will still sweeten the climate with her emotive sound and elegant gown, but from a safe distance. We hear a stunning bracelet of diamonds is at the ready. And a Stradivarius. But her performance was videoed at Old St. Patrick's Church.

NEW HOME FOR ART: Urban Art critic Carrie Lannon

WISE see p. 10

Ronald Roenigk	Publisher & Editor
Katie Fritz	Copy Editor
Sheila Swann	Art Director & Production Mgr
Cindy Amadio	Account Executive
Kathleen Guy	Account Executive

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6221 N. Clark St., rear
Chicago, IL 60660
Tel: (773) 465-9700
Fax: (773) 465-9800

E: insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com



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Rallying to save a community treasure

It's fun to play at the YMCA



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

Last Sunday, some 150 or so residents from Rogers Park, West Ridge and other Far North Side neighborhoods lined Touhy and Western avenues, banding together to fight to save one of the community's most cherished institutions, the High Ridge YMCA, 2424 W. Touhy Ave.

Last month, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago abruptly announced that it would permanently close the almost 70-year-old neighborhood treasure. The news stunned neighbors and propelled them into action, with many realizing it would be a huge blow to lose not only a safe community haven, but also what has been called the most diverse Y in the country.

"It would be devastating," said Rogers Parker Mike Thallemer, whose sister and her daughter frequent High Ridge. "The sense of community it brings...it brings

people together who might normally not have the chance. There are less places like this than ever before, especially in this neighborhood."

Neighbor Chris Johnson believes that with effort, the Y could be saved and expanded. It'd be well worth it, she said.

"The Y is a wonderful community resource, a beautiful place that brings people together of all ages, ethnicities and religions who come together in a happy, healthy way," said Johnson. "And right in the middle of darker days they want to close it?"

Some 200 community members, school reps, and elected officials all agreed during a Jan. 12 Zoom meeting that High Ridge Y must be saved. YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago representatives, who apparently had originally planned on attending, pulled out of the meeting when they saw its attendance size, preferring, they said, to be in a smaller group setting, an offer they say remains open.

I wish that everyone could have a place like the High Ridge Y in their community. Perhaps we, its neighbors, have taken it a bit for granted. After all, it has always been here for us. Or it seems that way anyway.

The High Ridge Y and its many programs have long been a saving



Mike Thallemer and Anna Sharp both said places like the Y are needed more than ever now, especially in Rogers Park.

grace for the various people who live around it. Working families need it for Head Start, after school programs and summer camp. Immigrants and refugees and elders use it, as do teens and people of all races, sizes and colors. They get along, side -by -side, using every nook and cranny of that building. It's a multi-generational, multi-ethnic community hub.

High Ridge Y saves lives in more ways than one. For some, it is life. It's their gathering place, where they've made friends and

are accepted for who they are.

And then, there are the oh-so urgent, life-saving swim lessons. After all, we do live on a lake.

Every single person I spoke to at the rally mentioned swim lessons at High Ridge Y. My three kids, now in their 30s, all went to swim class there starting at about six months old. We had wonderful, safe, birthday pool parties. Thanks to the Y, my offspring are all excellent swimmers.

Sue Ontiveros has been a High Ridge Y member for almost 30

years and is part of the recently-formed Save the High Ridge YMCA Coalition. You name the hour and she says she has been there taking a class, working out in the fitness room, swimming. Her son, now 32, took his first swim lessons there at 18-months-old, went to the now-shuttered preschool, day camp, before/after school, boxed there, even worked there as a trainer for a few years. And now that she is retired, Ontiveros was enjoying the senior classes until the pandemic hit.

"The idea that there might be no High Ridge anymore just doesn't seem possible," said Ontiveros. "We are communities that sit on a Great Lake. The children here need nearby, affordable swim lessons."

"And that wonderful Head Start program there!" Ontiveros exclaimed. "What a fabulous resource that has been for working parents of modest means. I think of the immigrants, refugees and the lonely souls who've found a community at High Ridge and what they will be losing and honestly, it brings tears to my eyes."

Members on and off for the last 15 years, Anne Igoe and her daughter, Annie, came out because they're concerned about the negative impact the closing

SAVE see p. 4

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Spacca Napoli wins top Italian restaurant award



Spacca Napoli Pizzeria, 1769 W. Sunnyside Ave.

In December, Gambero Rosso released their annual Top Italian Restaurants guide for 2021— including their list of best Italian Restaurants in the world. One of 15 top honorees for 2021 is Spacca Napoli Pizzeria, 1769 W. Sunnyside Ave., who in 2017 was also presented Gambero Rosso's Best Pizza in Chicago Award.

Owner Jon Goldsmith, a certified pizzaiuolo opened the Ravenswood-area restaurant with his wife, Ginny Sykes, in 2006.

In February they will celebrate Spacca Napoli's 15th anniversary.

Spacca Napoli's pizza is faithful to the authentic Neapolitan style, also known as Naples-style pizza. It must be made with either San Marzano tomatoes or Pomodoro del Piennolo del Vesuvio, which grow on the volcanic plains to the south of Mount Vesuvius, and Mozzarella di Bufala Campana, a protected designation of origin cheese made with the

milk from water buffalo raised in the marshlands of Campania and Lazio in a semi-wild state, or "Fior di Latte di Agerola," a cow milk mozzarella made exclusively in the Agerola comune.

Gambero Rosso is an Italian food and wine magazine and publishing group. Its name translates as "red prawn" and comes from a tavern in the Pinocchio tale where the Fox and the Cat dine.



Rogers Parker Annie Igoe uses the Y for family swim, swim lessons and open gym.



Maria Salgado and her daughters, Nala and Kashi.



Left to right: Sherry Legare, David Roche, Chris Johnson and teenager David Roche all show their support for the Y.

SAVE from p. 3

would have on the community. "We use it for family swim, swim lessons, open gym and Zumba," Igoe said.

Extremely troubled about the closing is the co-founder of the Chicago Alliance for Waterfront Safety, Halle Quezada. High Ridge Y is "one of the few pools community members have access to for swim lessons, which is so important as our young people also have access to the lake," said Quezada, a West Ridge resident.

"In terms of water safety, we need to be expanding access to layers of protection against drowning," said Quezada. "The ability to flip and float is a layer of protection that will travel with you wherever you go, so in many ways it is the most important. Having a pool that is deeply familiar with the community matters, and now with heightened attention to the High Ridge YMCA it is the time to double down on creative ways to expand membership and programming for the safety of our young people."

On Sunday, YMCA spokesperson Man-Yee Lee released a state-

ment saying High Ridge Y would close its doors at the end of business on Jan. 29.

The statement said the overwhelming economic stress caused by the coronavirus pandemic put an enormous financial strain on the organization and it can no longer identify a path to sustainability for the center.

"Like many other community organizations throughout the Chicagoland area, our nonprofit has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, making this past year the most financially challenging ever in the 160-plus year history of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago," Lee said in the statement. "We experienced significant financial losses last year and will again this year."

It went on to say that the Y's 2020 revenues were tens of millions of dollars below 2019.

Federal government relief was sought, but because the Y is an organization of more than 500 employees, it was deemed "too large" to be eligible. That led the organization to make some "extremely difficult decisions," including closing three other Chicagoland-area centers in 2020.

Lee said despite efforts, High Ridge Y has experienced significant declines in both membership and program enrollment for several years, resulting in operating losses. Membership at the end of 2020 was just half of what it was seven years ago, he said. The facility has been at the end of its useful life since before the pandemic, with current deferred maintenance needs valued at \$3 million.

"Knowing how much the community values the High Ridge YMCA's programs and services, we sought to keep the center operational despite its many challenges," Lee said. "Unfortunately, given these challenges combined with the enormous financial strain on our association over these past several months, we decided with regret to close the facility."

The YMCA continues to serve the community through various programs at Daniel Boone and Hayt elementary schools, Lee said. "We look forward to continuing that work and hope to find other ways to serve the area in the future," said Lee. "We are also offering current High Ridge Y members a six-month complimentary membership at any of our locations starting Jan. 30, 2021."

Now I don't know about the Metropolitan YMCA of Greater Chicago finances, but I do know that when the New City development replaced the New City YMCA at 1515 N. Halsted St., the property sold for like \$54 million. That Y, disposed of in 2007, was like a tale of two cities -- it not only catered to wealthy Lincoln Parkers but also to the struggling residents of Cabrini Green. Yet when Cabrini-Green toppled so did New City Y membership and Y officials took advantage of the area's red hot prices and sold the



Oscar Mayer Wienermobile is in town now looking for hot dogs to drive their big four-wheeled weiner. Applications close Jan. 31 and will not reopen until next year.

property even though they told the community that the Y would be staying. No other Y was opened in that area, and the \$54 million was to be sunk into Y programs in needier areas throughout the city.

I'm sure High Ridge Y would have loved to see a few of those big bucks, and maybe they even did. (I can only imagine what several mil invested there back in 2007 could have produced).

Meanwhile, places like High Ridge are desperately needed in this day and age, said community member Anna Sharp.

"I think it's a wonderful place," said Sharp. "We need this kind of place more than ever."

West Ridge resident Maria Salgado's daughters, Nala and Kashi, also learned to swim at High Ridge. "I was a member for two years before the pandemic hit and then I stopped going," said Salgado. "If I had known they were having a hard time financially I'd have done my payment anyway."

David Roche was there to support his grandson, also named David Roche, who is on the Y's Dolphins swim team. The young-

er Roche, 14, has been perusing High Ridge Y since he was about six.

"I think it's awful they're closing," the teen said. "I've met so many great people here and had fun. I'm sure we can do something."

Hot diggity dog... Zachary Chatham, professionally known as 'Zach n Cheese' and his partner, Ketchup Katie, are in Chicago through Monday looking for the next class of 'bunderful' people to drive the iconic Oscar Mayer Wienermobile!

While here, the pair will be doing anything from birthday parties to food truck festivals. Not only are they taking 'buns and buns' of requests from their 'Frank Fanatics' but they're also on the hunt for the next group of Wienermobile drivers. I know you'd love to be an Oscar Mayer wiener, but since you can't, driving the Wienermobile is the next best thing.

Applications close Jan. 31 and will not re-open until next year. For more info, email zachary.chatham@kraftheinz.com.

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One of Nicholas Gouletas' projects was a conversion to the serpentine River City Condos overlooking the Chicago River in the South Loop. It is one of the few housing projects offering privately owned boat dockage near downtown.

Final closing for condo-conversion king

Nicholas Gouletas, dead at 82... sold over 45,000 units



The Home Front
By Don DeBat

Chicago's condo-conversion king—the late Nicholas S. Gouletas—was a shrewd, self-made businessman who also was a kid at heart. He loved juke boxes, antique Rolls Royce automobiles and festive

condo sell-out celebration parties in Greek Town.

Gouletas, CEO and chairman of American Invsco—the nation's largest condo converter, sold more than 45,000 units valued at \$12 billion in 140 projects in 40 markets since 1969. Gouletas attended his last great closing on Jan. 8, when at age 82 he died of congestive heart failure.

A Greek immigrant who got his start in sales marketing Colliers encyclopedias door-to-door, Gouletas loved to tell the story about how in the early 1970s he purchased a high-rise at 2400 N. Lakeview. The glassy 264-unit Ludwig Mies van der Rohe-designed building overlooking Lake Michigan and the lagoons of Lincoln Park, only steps from the world-famous Lincoln Park Zoo.

"When I was a child, I'd help my father sell ice cream from a pushcart on the corner of Fullerton and Lakeview avenues," Gouletas recalled. "Who'd ever guess one day I'd be selling high-rise condos on the corner?" asked Gouletas, who claimed he found a four-leaf clover in front of the building.

In the early 1970s Chicagoans could buy a studio apartment at 2400 N. Lakeview for \$16,900, one-bedroom units for \$24,000, and two-bedroom layouts for \$40,000.

Gouletas spent \$250,000 to lovingly restore the two-story glass-walled and marble lobby and common areas of the building to look the way Mies originally planned them—furnished with plush Oriental carpets and leather and chrome Barcelona chairs. Joseph Fujikawa, the architect's



Nicholas S. Gouletas

chief assistant, was hired as a consultant for the redesign of the 262-unit 2400 N. Lakeview.

Later, Gouletas would buy and convert such Chicago landmarks as the 867-unit Lake Point Tower, the curved, glassy skyscraper overlooking Navy Pier, the serpentine River City in the South Loop, Ontario Place in River North, and 111 E. Chestnut on Michigan Ave., where he spent \$1-million to refurbish the lobby with marble and fancy brass elevator doors. He even sold a condo there to the late Mayor Jane Byrne.

In 1977 at the 862-unit Imperial Towers, 29-story twin high-rises at 4250 N. Marine



Nicholas Gouletas did a condo-conversion on the 867-unit Lake Point Tower, the only Chicago skyscraper east of Lake Shore Dr.

Dr., Gouletas handed out price discounts of 15% below appraised levels to the tenants, while off-the-street buyers received 5% price breaks.

Gouletas ordered that \$1-million be spent to upgrade common areas at Imperial Towers, including the development's landscaping and Japanese-style gardens.

Excelling at teaching his sales staff the "art of closing the deal," he told them never take no for an answer. Renters who were reluctant to sign sales contracts received gift fruit baskets and invitations to lavish parties. The philosophy communicated to apartment dwellers was "Buy or Good Bye."

"Condo-price discounts always make the units more attractive and lead to a rapid sellout of the building," noted Gouletas, who listed Donald Trump as a personal friend and attended the 2006 lavish grand opening party of Trump Tower in Chicago.

In the late 1970s, Gouletas hosted a legendary party for more than 100 sales people at the Greek Islands restaurant on Halsted St. to celebrate his team's successes.

On that joyful evening, Gouletas invited this reporter to hop into his limo for a ride to Meigs Field. Then, we flew up and down Lake Shore Dr. in the Condo King's private

City announces \$8.9 million in debt forgiveness from utility bills

Despite the city's own financial woes, City Hall has set aside \$8.9 million to use for potential debt forgiveness for eligible homeowners enrolled in the Chicago Utility Billing Relief [UBR] Program, a debt relief initiative that reduces the cost of water, sewer, and water-sewer tax portions of City utility bills for low-income Chicago residents.

Launched in April 2020, the City has already cut in half the water utility bills for 8,539 UBR participants, and the City anticipates setting aside more forgivable utility debt in 2021 as more qualified customers sign up for the program. Additionally, UBR Program enrollees are eligible for total debt forgiveness on their past due balance – an important step in helping residents with a viable plan to resolve their overdue bills.

The UBR program provides low-income residents with a 50% reduced rate on their water, sewer, and water-sewer taxes, as well as debt forgiveness on their outstanding utility balance for those who pay the

reduced rate for one year. Over the course of the year, customers are not required to make any payments on their set aside balance and collection and shut-off activity is suspended during enrollment. Since implementation in April, UBR enrollees have averaged \$1,044 in outstanding utility debt set aside.

UBR Program participants can be illegal undocumented aliens but must reside in the city of Chicago, must be a homeowner who resides in a single-family home or two-flat; the homeowner's name must appear on the utility bill; and, income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, i.e., the 30-day income for a family of four cannot exceed \$4,367.

Homeowners are encouraged to check their eligibility at www.chicago.gov/ubr and follow the prompts to complete the income verification process. Residents can also contact the City's Utility Billing & Customer Service Center at 312-744-4426 or utilitybill@cityofchicago.org to learn more.

Our Lady of Lourdes may learn its fate Friday

After months of discussion, parishioners now await the decision of Cardinal Cupich regarding the best configuration for parishes in their North Side grouping (Saint Benedict, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Saint Mary of the Lake parishes).

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 4640 N. Ashland, is believed to be on the Archdiocese of Chicago's chopping block.

Residents who care to join in on the

decision are encouraged to be on a public call with Bishop Bartosic in which the announcement will be made at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22.

Call participants will need to register through the Archdiocese's online form, or visit www.renewmychurch.org/decisions/ parish-announcements for more information.



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KING see p. 6

New environmental groups' virtual meetings start Jan. 26



The newly-branded Edgewater Environmental Coalition [EEC] is hosting a series of Town Hall discussions to explore some pressing issues to create a sustainable future for the North Side community.

The series kicks off 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, on Zoom to discuss Chicago's waste collection, recycling, reuse, and regeneration.

The Jan. 26 meeting will invite leaders in the educational, institutional and environmental-industrial complex to discuss old and new ways of managing and minimizing collective waste. These meetings are supported through a COVID Response Grant from the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

The EEC hopes to add another "green voice" to local challenges, helping people to build and maintain a more sustainable future through action and advocacy by advancing a healthy and verdant Edgewater agenda.

The EEC started in 1990 as Edgewater Beautiful as a committee at the Edgewater Community Council with a neighborhood-wide clean up that brought together passionate neighbors that

cared for our land, water, air, and wildlife.

In 2008, they formed the Edgewater Environmental Sustainability Project. In 2010, the neighborhood's first climate action plan was completed. Over the last decade, the project grew into a team of long-time and recent volunteers under a new banner. For more information visit sustainedgewater.org or 6018north.org/town-hall.

Environmental group seeking location ideas for new trees in Edgewater neighborhood

The Edgewater Environmental Sustainability Project [EESP] recently received an Openlands Treekeepers tree planting grant and is looking for candidate locations in the neighborhood.

Residents should fill out a candidate location form if they have a viable spot for a tree to be planted on the parkways between the curb and the sidewalk in front of residential buildings, school property, or vacant lots.

The deadline to submit is Feb. 25.

Anyone who submitted a request for fall 2020 do not need to re-submit.

EESP is a group of local volunteers who actively partner with neighbors, local schools, block clubs, faith groups and elected officials in order to create a sustainable and environmentally friendly future for current residents succeeding generations. For more information visit sustainedgewater.org/.

New mass vaccination site for healthcare workers at Truman College

The City of Chicago Dept. of Public Health [CDPH] is opening of new mass vaccination site at Harry S. Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.

The goal is to increase distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to non-hospital and other community-based healthcare workers. The Truman College site will be open Tuesday-Fridays noon to 5:30 p.m.

Based on guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, healthcare workers and long-term care facilities are in phase 1a of vaccine distri-

bution. There are close to 400,000 healthcare workers in Chicago, including doctors, nurses and additional clinical staff and support staff, as well as EMS providers, home health care workers and dentists.

"These are workers who have been treating COVID-19 patients and continue to provide the critical testing, care, and resources needed by our most vulnerable residents during these challenging times," said CDPH Cmsr. Allison Arwady, M.D.

Healthcare workers must make an appointment to receive a vac-

cine at one of the sites. After completing a survey, these people will receive a facility code. The code is required in order to set up a vaccination appointment online.

While healthcare workers and residents and staff at long-term care facilities are part of phase 1a, under federal guidance 1b includes workers in essential and critical industries including emergency services personnel, people at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions, and people ages 65 years and older. The City expects to soon move into 1b.



Nicholas Gouletas took this writer on a bicycle ride around the Loop to tour potential office-building conversions. The effort paid off with the purchase, conversion and sellout of the 292-unit Century Tower, an office high-rise at 182 N. Lake St. Later, he purchased the 309-unit high-rise apartment building at 200 N. Dearborn.

KING from p. 5

airplane so he could point out the high-rises he converted—like a bachelor counts his female conquests.

Along with the price breaks, a number of other factors helped spur successful condominium conversions in the late 1970s. Mortgage money was relatively affordable, condos were accepted as a chic new lifestyle across the nation, and there was interest among tenants for owning a unit as a hedge against inflation.

"In the early 1970s a developer was lucky if 30% of the tenants bought their units," recalled condo appraiser Gail Lissner, managing director at Integra Realty Resources. "He was a kind and generous gentleman and just a super salesman."

During the 1970s condo boom, Gouletas was asked to testify before the U.S. Senate on the national growth of condominiums and conversions. Prior to his

testimony, condo conversion was viewed by some as harmful to the apartment community because it caused displacement.

After his testimony—during which he showed how more than 70% of buyers in his conversions were the current renters—the parting comment from one Sena-

During a special sales event in 2009, American Invsco sold 80 condos valued at \$25 million in one hour at 200 N. Dearborn. That event should be listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. Opa!

tor was: "Mr. Gouletas, we should be giving you accolades, not interrogating you."

The vast majority of renters were not displaced. They were converted to buyers.

"Homeownership today empowers individuals financially and psychologically, as it benefits the economy and surrounding community," Gouletas said.

When the condo market slowed after 9/11, Gouletas asked his media consultant to draft a "Downtown Chicago Plan" for presentation to Mayor Richard M. Daley on how—with attractive buyer incentives—vacant Loop office buildings could be converted to condos.

Then in his early 60s, Gouletas insisted that he and this writer ride bicycles around the Loop to tour potential office-building conversions. The tour was like taking a three-hour trip to the health club. Chicago's Loop has hills and bridges. Who knew?

The effort paid off with the purchase, conversion and sellout of the 292-unit Century Tower, an office high-rise at 182 N. Lake St. Later, Gouletas purchased the 309-unit high-rise apartment building at 200 N. Dearborn.

During a special sales event in 2009, American Invsco sold 80 condos valued at \$25 million in one hour at 200 N. Dearborn. That event should be listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. Opa!

"Nick was famous for his big-picture thinking and his courage to forge ahead knowing his team would take care of the details," said Steven Gouletas, his oldest son. "He thrived on large and complex deals. He would rather do deals than take a vacation."

Unfortunately, the financing crunch of the Great Recession scuttled Gouletas' plans for other big deals, including the \$950 million bid in 2013 to acquire a national portfolio of 3,900 apartments.

Less than three years later, Gouletas filed for personal bankruptcy, listing assets of just \$3,200 and liabilities of \$1.7 million.

I bet Nick's family still has the juke box.

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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Parking meter rates now higher

Parking meter legislation passed last year that went into effect in the New Year will drive up meter rates. The cost for the \$2-per-hour zone will now be \$2.25 per hour. Rates in the \$4 zones (North Ave. south to the Chicago River) are now \$4.50 and rates in the \$6.50 zone (in the Loop) are \$7.

All parking meter revenue now goes to a private company, Chicago Parking Meters, LLC., who raked in \$138.7 million in 2019. All told, through 2019, private in-

vestors have earned \$1.5 billion, which is \$500 million more than their initial, \$1.15 billion investment under the sale of the city's meters negotiated by former mayor Richard M. Daley. There are still 63 more years to go on that deal before it expires.

The numbers for parking meter revenue in 2020 have not yet been released but are expected to have dropped due to the pandemic.

The increase in parking changes will come at the same time as

a new congestion tax is being collected.

That ordinance increases a fee on single-passenger rides using ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft from 72¢ to \$3 for rides in and out of downtown on weekdays between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. The ordinance also raises that fee to \$1.25 for rides to and from neighborhoods, while decreasing the fee on multi-passenger (or "pool") rides to 65¢.

U.S. Supreme Court: City Hall can keep impounded vehicles even after you file bankruptcy

BY SCOTT HOLLAND
Cook County Record

The U.S. Supreme Court has said people can't use a bankruptcy filing to prevent the city of Chicago from retaining vehicles impounded over unpaid parking tickets and other fees.

The issue dates to a 2016 ordinance granting Chicago the power to impound and hold vehicles if the city deemed the owners owed too much money in unpaid fines and fees. Four debtors — identified as Robbin Fulton, Timothy Shannon, George Peake and Jason Howard — owed between \$5,600 and \$13,000 in unpaid tickets and fees, including the impound fees charged by the city, and asked the city to return their vehicles after they filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy protection.

Several federal bankruptcy court judges ruled the city couldn't "ignore the Bankruptcy Code" and "continue to hold a debtor's vehicle until the debtor pays her outstanding parking tickets." In June 2019 the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld those rulings.

The appellate panel noted the city never asked bankruptcy judges to expedite claims to unpaid debts, and said bankruptcy law puts the onus on a creditor to ask the court for protection, as opposed to obligating the debtor to sue. It further rejected the city's attempt to invoke its police powers, saying seizing vehicles for unpaid parking tickets has little to do with law enforcement's charge to protect the public.

"We are persuaded that, on balance, this is an exercise of revenue collection more so than police power," the appellate judges said.

The city took the case to the Supreme Court, however, and found a more favorable audience there.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote the court's 6-0 opinion, issued Jan. 14. The case had been argued on Oct. 13. Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who had formerly served on the Seventh Circuit court and who only recently joined the Supreme Court, took no part in the decision.

Several federal bankruptcy court judges ruled the city couldn't "ignore the Bankruptcy Code" and "continue to hold a debtor's vehicle until the debtor pays her outstanding parking tickets." In June 2019 the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld those rulings.

Saying the city's policy amounted to "mere retention of property" after a bankruptcy filing, Alito explained federal bankruptcy law serves a debtor's interest "by protecting the estate from dismemberment, and it also benefits creditors as a group by preventing individual creditors from pursuing their own interests to the detriment of the others."

Acknowledging the potential for ambiguity in interpreting the Bankruptcy Code's Section 362 language regarding the automatic stay provision concerning the estate created at the time of a bankruptcy filing, Alito pointed to Section 542, which "expressly governs the turnover of estate property" and does so in the city's favor.

In keeping the cars, Alito explained, the city isn't exercising

control over the property. It is just preserving the status quo at the time of the bankruptcy filing. Taking the view of the vehicle owners, he continued, would force the city to surrender property otherwise exempt from turnover under Section 542 as it is "of inconsequential value or benefit to the estate."

Justice Sotomayor agreed, writing section 362 "does not cover a creditor's passive retention of property lawfully seized prebankruptcy." But she added the court didn't determine when that section's other provisions might make a creditor return property or whether the city was in compliance.

"Regardless of whether the city's policy of refusing to return impounded vehicles satisfies the letter of the Code, it hardly comports with its spirit," Sotomayor wrote.

Peake, for instance, wanted his car back so he could keep driving to work in Joliet, Sotomayor noted. The car was worth about \$4,300, but lacking reliable transportation resulted in a loss of income and therefore jeopardized Peake's ability to pay off all his creditors, including the city.

"Bankruptcy courts are not powerless to facilitate the return of debtors' vehicles to their owners," Sotomayor wrote.

The Court vacated the Seventh Circuit's opinion and sent the cases back for further proceedings.

City to start ticketing again at School and Park zones

The City of Chicago has issued a warning that starting on March 1, they will again be ticketing speeders in Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Children's Safety Zones located near schools and parks starting at 6 MPH over the speed limit.

The new enforcement threshold comes in response to what the city claims is an increase in speeding and motor vehicle fatalities.

Owners of vehicles that are caught speeding 6 to 10 MPH over the speed limit in a speed enforcement zone during enforcement hours will receive a warning by mail until March 1. After that tickets will be issued for vehicles traveling over the speed limit.

If a vehicle owner has never previously received an ASE ticket, they will receive a zero-dollar notice of violation for the first ticket. Depending on the individual situation a vehicle owner can expect fines of \$35 for vehicles traveling 6-10 MPH over the speed limit and \$100 for vehicles traveling at 11 MPH and above over the speed limit.

Under Chicago's ASE program, the City has had a policy of only issuing tickets to drivers going 10 or more miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Under Mayor's orders that threshold has been lowered to 6 MPH.

Despite people driving considerably less due to the economic lockdown, through the end of 2020, the city claims that the total traffic fatalities are up by 45%, with 139 fatalities, 43 more deaths than 2019. Looking just at fatal crashes involving people in motor vehicles, fatalities are up 77%, from 52 to 92.

Under Chicago's ASE program, Children's Safety Zones may be designated within 1/8th of a mile from Chicago parks or schools. Currently ASE cameras are activated at the following North Side zones:

Frances Xavier School: 11 E. and 14 and 19 W. Chicago,
Welles Park: 4433 and 4436 N. Western, and 4432 N. Lincoln
Warren Park: 6523 N. Western Ave.
Horner Park: 2721 W. Montrose, 2705 and 2712 W. Irving Park
Challenger Park: 4429 and 4446 N. Broadway
Schaefer Park: 2432 and 443 N. Ashland, 2448 N. Clybourn Ave.
Lane Tech High School: 3521 and 3534 N. Western
Burley Elementary School: 3111 and 3130 N. Ashland Ave.
Burr School: 1635 and 1638 N. Ashland Ave.
Senn Park: 5885 N. Ridge Ave.

Online Community Emergency Response Team training

The Office of Emergency Management and Communications [OEMC] has announcing a first-time virtual Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] training program.

The training is free of charge to all interested participants, this new course engages users through an online platform utilized to complete 12 hours of virtual CERT training followed by 16 hours of in-person, hands on

training sessions.

Due to COVID-19, hands-on training will be scheduled in Spring/Summer 2021. Chicago residents can sign up for this class by visiting the following website to create a free account: <https://cert.hazready.com/HazReady/Home>. Once an account has been created, register for the following class: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 2020.1.3.

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Police Beat...

Lincoln Park burglar caught red-handed with stolen jewelry, rifle

Police caught a Lincoln Park burglar red-handed as he crawled down a high-rise residential building's fire escape with stolen property — including a rifle, prosecutors said this weekend.

Cops responded to the building at 399 W. Fullerton after a resident reported that their neighbor's unit was being burglarized around 9 p.m. Thursday.



David Walthall

Police found broken glass on a rear patio area and even saw the man crawl out of a broken apartment window with a bag of booty, according to prosecutors.

The man allegedly dropped the bag as he came down the rear fire escape. Police arrested David Walthall, age 41, when he got to the bottom, prosecutors said during his bond court hearing Saturday.

Police allegedly found jewelry, ID cards belonging to the occupant of the burgled residence, and a 22-caliber rifle inside the discarded bag. The total value of the goods was estimated to be \$2,000.

Catalytic converter thieves fire shots, brandish gun in separate incidents

Catalytic converter thieves fired shots after a victim caught them in the act on the city's Northwest Side Jan. 15. And on Jan. 14, another catalytic converter theft crew threatened a man with a gun when he caught them under his daughter's car in West Ridge.

As you probably know, catalytic converter thieves use saws to remove the devices from under parked vehicles, then sell them for \$100 to \$200 each at scrapyards. The parts are especially valuable because they contain expensive metals.

But these two reports, which were documented by police, suggest that the ubiquitous theft crews are ready to do more than steal car parts — and people may want to think twice before confronting the thieves on their own.

Around 2:50 a.m. Friday, a man tried to record an auto theft crew on his phone as they took a catalytic converter from a Toyota Prius in the 7100 block of N. Mason.

One of the three offenders then fired shots, and the thieves sped away in a white 4-door car. No one was injured, but police found two shell casings and the crew's car jack, which was left behind.

On Thursday, a West Ridge man caught a two-man crew stealing the catalytic converter from his daughter's car on the 6400 block of N. Sacramento around 5:35 a.m. The thieves displayed a handgun and fled southbound on Sacramento in a red Chevy Impala.

Since Jan. 13, police have responded to several calls of catalytic converter thefts in progress on the North and Far North Sides.

On Jan. 13, a crew was seen operating near the intersection of Giddings and Hamilton in Lincoln Square around 6:30 a.m. Those

thieves were getting around in a dark-colored Dodge Charger.

Around 4:20 a.m. Jan. 16, catalytic converter thieves were back in West Ridge. A witness reported seeing them sawing parts off a white Chrysler in the 6300 block of N. Bell. The offenders fled in a Dodge minivan, the witness said.

Group beats, robs man in Mag Mile parking garage

Five men beat, robbed, and stole property from a man's car Jan. 15 inside a parking garage on the Magnificent Mile, police said. A source said the group tried to take his vehicle, too, but that effort failed.

According to CPD, the five offenders got out of a black Honda CR-V that was parked inside the garage at 120 E. Walton and approached the man as he tried to get into his own car around 7:45 p.m.

They began pushing and punching the man throughout his body, and one of the offenders went into the back seat of the victim's car to take a bag.

The victim, who experienced head and rib pain, was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition. No arrests have been made. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Two armed carjackings reported in Lincoln Park shortly after alderman announces anti-carjacking webinar

Shortly after 5 p.m. Jan. 15, Lincoln Park Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] sent an email to her constituents to announce a community forum about the city's out-of-control carjacking problem.

Within two hours, her ward racked up two more armed carjackings.

Just before 7 p.m., a 27-year-old woman and a 31-year-old man were sitting inside a Chrysler 300 on the 1100 block of W. Montana when two men walked up on both sides of the car, police said.

According to CPD, the offender on the passenger side pulled out a handgun and ordered the couple out of the car. They complied, and the carjackers drove away with their vehicle.

The carjackers drove the Chrysler to the 400 block of W. Roslyn Plc., where they carjacked another driver's gray Audi Q5. They drove away with the new car, followed by an accomplice in a dark-colored Dodge Charger. The Chrysler was left behind.

The Audi and Dodge were last seen heading onto southbound Lake Shore Dr. from Fullerton. Police evidence technicians processed the Chrysler, which is being returned to its owner.

Police did not release descriptions of the carjackers.

"This carjacking surge is unacceptable," Ald. Smith told her constituents just two hours before the latest hijackings unfolded. "Since Dec. 15, we have received 12 police alerts about 58 carjackings occurring in every corner of the city."

Smith said her office will host an online community forum about carjackings at 6 p.m. on February 2. The CPD's chief of detectives, the 18th and 19th police districts' commanders, and a representative from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office will be participating, the alderman said.

Two Rogers Park robberies in about 15 minutes

Police are investigating two robberies that unfolded in about 15 minutes Jan. 15 in Rogers Park. No arrests have been made. Police believe the same duo is responsible for both crimes, which were reported around 11:45 a.m.

In one case, a man displayed a handgun and robbed a man near the corner of Glenwood and Arthur. The offender then ran to a silver SUV with a female driver that was waiting near-

by. The vehicle sped away through the west alley of Glenwood, according to the victim

Around the same time, Loyola police found another robbery victim on the 1200 block of W. Columbia. The victim said a man robbed them and then fled to the silver or gray SUV, which was waiting on Sheridan. It then went westbound on Albion.

The main suspect is a Black male in his late teens who stands about 5'-6" tall and weighs about 150 lbs. He wore a white or gray hoodie.

Earlier Friday morning, another man reported being robbed a little farther north near Paulina and Jarvis. The victim told police he was walking northbound on Paulina when the man walked up, displayed a gun, and took his iPhone and cash around 6:45 a.m.

The suspect is a Black male who stands about 5'11" and weighs about 170 lbs. He was last seen southbound on Paulina wearing a dark jacket and a dark mask.

Up to 7 attackers are beating, robbing people in Rogers Park

A group of up to seven young men is attacking and robbing people during the afternoon and early evening hours in Rogers Park, police said. The group has targeted at least five victims last week.

CPD issued a community alert about the crime pattern Jan. 14.

During the crimes, between five and seven offenders walk up to victims and usually kick and punch the victims in the face, police said. They demand wallets and take backpacks.

The first robbery took place in the 1600 block of W. Howard around 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 8.

On Jan. 10, another victim was targeted in the 7700 block of N. Ashland around 5:30 p.m.

Two cases were reported Jan. 12: A 26-year-old man was beaten and robbed in the 1300 block of W. Jarvis at 2:35 p.m., and another man was targeted in the 1400 block of W. Morse around 6:30 p.m.

Most recently, a man was beaten and robbed by the group as he tried to enter his apartment building in the 7200 block of N. Greenview at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 13.

Police said all of the suspects are Black males between 15- and 20-years-old. One wore a red hoodie, another wore a black hoodie, and a third wore a dark vest with a red hoodie. CPD did not release further information about the other four suspects.

Anyone with information about the robberies can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263.

Lakeview High student charged with killing man during December carjacking

A Lakeview High School student chased down and fatally shot a man after he could not operate the victim's SUV during a carjacking attempt in Bridgeport last month, prosecutors said on Jan. 13.

Denroy Garcia, 16, is charged with first-degree murder, murder while committing a forcible felony, and aggravated vehicular hijacking in connection with Shuai Guan's death during a carjacking on the 3000 block of S. Union in Bridgeport on Dec. 21.

Police arrested Garcia shortly after the murder, and prosecutors subsequently charged him with committing three other armed vehicular hijackings and vehicle thefts in November and December, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.

During the bond hearing, Guan, 33, parked his Jeep Cherokee near his home around 6:10 p.m. to check his mailbox. While he was at the box, a Subaru Outback and an Audi A3 pulled up. Garcia got out of one of the cars, approached Guan, and demand-

ed his keys, Murphy said.

Guan complied and went into a nearby alley, where he called 911. Murphy said Guan remained on the phone with a 911 operator until after he was fatally shot.

Garcia got into the Jeep, and the engine revved because he didn't know how to put the SUV into drive. Unable to operate Guan's car, Garcia returned to the Subaru, put it in drive, and chased Guan down the alley, followed by the Audi, Murphy said.

Guan told the 911 operator that he was being chased. A "large crashing noise" is then heard on a recording of the call before Guan begins pleading for help, Murphy said. Three shots rang out. One struck Guan, who fell to the ground and died a short time later. Police found Guan in the alley, face-up, with his pants pockets turned inside-out.

Later that night, cops saw the Subaru parked and running with Garcia behind the wheel and a second person in the passenger seat. Police arrested him after a short foot chase. The Audi was also recovered at the scene.

Data from Garcia's phone shows he had a habit of putting the device into airplane mode before he committed carjackings and other crimes, Murphy said. Despite those alleged efforts to cover his tracks, police were able to use cellular data to put him in the area of Guan's murder, according to Murphy.

Investigators reportedly tested the hoodie Garcia was wearing at the time of his arrest, and it came back positive for gunshot residue. Murphy said the hoodie also matches the one that Guan's killer is seen wearing on surveillance video of the crime. A DNA test allegedly matched Garcia to genetic material found on an iced tea can recovered from the Audi.

Police warn of suspicious man near Welles Park

Police are warning people about a man who made lewd remarks and followed a group of teenage girls near Welles Park on Jan. 12. The man did not touch any of the girls and no crime was committed, police said.

According to CPD, the man approached the girls near the park at 2333 W. Sunnyside around 4:54 p.m. and then followed them to the 2200 block of W. Cullom while making "lewd and inappropriate comments."

When the girls entered a building to get help, he stayed outside for a short time.

Police described him as White and in his mid-20's. He wore a green winter hat with a ball on top, a multi-colored scarf, puffy down jacket, and red and black checkered pants.

Anyone with information about him can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8261 about case JE-110915.

Woman carjacked at Moody Bible Institute; suspect detained

One suspect is in custody after a 20-year-old woman was carjacked at gunpoint on a parking lot at Moody Bible Institute on the Near North Side Jan. 13. A second offender remains at large.

Two men approached the woman while displaying a handgun on the parking lot at 300 W. Walton around 8:30 p.m., according to a CPD report. They ordered her to get out of her Honda CR-V and drove away.

But, they also took the woman's phone and police were able to track pings from the device to locate her car about 30 minutes later in the Englewood neighborhood.

Police conducted a traffic stop on the car and took the lone occupant into custody. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Armed carjackings reported in Gold Coast, Lincoln Park, Edgewater

Armed carjackers stole five cars in four separate crimes stretching from the Gold Coast to West Town and Lincoln Park to Edgewater Jan. 12. Three of the five hijacked vehicles are Dodge Chargers, most are rental cars, and at least three have out-of-state license plates.

The night's first carjacking was reported around 6 p.m. on the 1400 block of N. Dearborn in the Gold Coast. Four men arrived in two vehicles and took the victim's dark gray Dodge Charger rental car bearing New York plates at gunpoint, according to a CPD report.

One of the two cars that the offenders arrived in was located a few minutes later on the first block of W. Schiller. The orange Volkswagen, which had a flat tire and a Florida license plate, was previously reported stolen.

About 30 minutes later, a 61-year-old man was carjacked in the 2700 block of N. Pine Grove in Lincoln Park, according to police. The victim told police he was sitting in his car in the alley when three masked men walked up on both sides of his car and ordered him out. According to the victim, one of the offenders exposed an AR15-style rifle that he had concealed under his coat. The victim said a white sedan followed his car as the hijackers drove away.

Then, around 7:40 p.m., two men exited a silver or gray Dodge Charger and ordered a 50-year-old man and a 35-year-old woman out of their brand new 2020 Range Rover Velar in the 1500 block of W. Huron. Both carjackers displayed handguns, one of which had a green laser sight attached, the victims said. The offenders took the victims' wallets and cellphones before driving away with the luxury SUV, which bears Michigan temporary plates.

Finally, at 8:40 p.m., a group of hijackers took two cars from a couple on the 1000 block of W. Hollywood in Edgewater. Once again, the victims said the hijackers displayed an assault-style rifle and handguns.

The 27-year-olds were sitting in a black 2021 Dodge Charger rental car when three offenders stepped out of a Jeep Cherokee and forced them from the vehicle, according to CPD.

Police said the robbers collected valuables from the victims, including keys to the woman's orange 2020 Dodge Charger rental car, which was nearby. The hijackers then drove away with both cars and left the Jeep Cherokee behind.

Unlock the phone robber

Police are warning residents of Rogers Park and Edgewater about recent robberies, where the offender approaches the victim as the victim is walking, displays a handgun and demands money from the victim. The offender then demands the victim's phone and orders the victim to unlock his or her phone or change the password.

Recent incidents include one on the 1200 block of W. Thorndale Ave. 7 p.m. Jan. 13, and a second on the 1600 block of W. Jarvis Ave. on 6:45 p.m. Jan. 15.

The offender is described as a male, Black, 20-30 years old, 5'-11" to 6'-1" in height, medium complexion, wearing a black mask and dark jacket.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Woman charged in 7-Eleven robbery spree, male suspect at large

A two-person robbery team scored nearly \$10,000 worth of tobacco products, alcohol, and cash as they robbed four convenience stores in under an hour Jan. 14, prosecutors said Saturday.

The one-hour crime spree is part of a larger pattern involving 7-Eleven store robberies in the Loop, West Loop, River North, and Avondale.

On Thursday evening, a Ford Expedition that detectives linked to the crime spree was spotted in traffic by police officers near Halsted and Monroe. Cops stopped the vehicle and arrested its driver, Jessica Short, 21.

Short is now charged with two counts of aggravated robbery and two counts of felony robbery in connection with the hold-ups. Her alleged co-offender remains, but prosecutors said Short identified him for detectives.

Around 7:50 a.m., a man and woman entered the 7-Eleven at 343 N. LaSalle. As the woman, allegedly Short, talked to the clerk about pizza options, a man went behind the counter and filled a large bag with \$2,300 worth of cigarettes, cigars, and liquor, prosecutors said.

About 20 minutes later, the same duo allegedly entered the 7-Eleven at 567 W. Lake. The man forced his way behind the



During a one-hour crime spree, Jessica Short, 21, and her companion allegedly robbed four convenience stores in under an hour Jan. 14.

register, directed the employee into a back room, and ordered the worker not to push the alarm. He then collected \$564 worth of cigarettes that he placed into a grocery bag.

The duo popped up again at 8:30 a.m. in Avondale, where they targeted two stores in about 15 minutes.

At the 3600 W. Belmont location, the man pushed a clerk and claimed to have a firearm when the employee tried to stop him from taking \$2,800 worth of cigarettes and alcohol from behind the counter. Short is accused of taking a money bag containing cash, too.

Then, at 3005 N. Pulaski, the male offender took \$3,800 worth of cigarettes and alcohol as Short brandished a knife, prosecutors said. Short's defense attorney,

Courtney Smallwood, said Short denies having a weapon.

When police stopped Short in traffic Thursday, she reversed the SUV into a CPD squad car, but she did not get away. She has never received a driver's license, according to prosecutors.

Smallwood said Short moved to Chicago when she became involved with the Dept. of Children and Family Services at age 13. She never attended high school, Smallwood said.

Judge Susana Ortiz set Short's bail at \$50,000 and ordered her to go onto electronic monitoring if she can post a 10% deposit bond. She also ordered Short held in lieu of \$5,000 bond for violating the terms of bail in a pending misdemeanor battery case.



Commentary

Carjacking alert, community meeting Jan. 23

COMMENTARY BY
ALD. BRIAN HOPKINS [2ND]

Like many of you, I am shocked by this recent surge in vehicular hijackings. Residents have reached out to my office in concern over these incidents, which have been widespread and occurring in many of the bordering wards and police districts. I have personally talked with some of the victims, and I genuinely understand how traumatizing these crimes can be.

The Chicago Police Dept. continues to update us on efforts to apprehend groups of young men who have been forcing residents out of their vehicles through threats of violence. The CPD have activated the Vehicular Hijacking Task Force, which has just made four recent arrests of one adult and three teenagers.

[Our office] has been monitoring this activity, along with our area detectives, trying to understand how to best help address these brazen acts of violence. [We] have added resources to help detectives crackdown on these groups of vehicular hijackers, with adding to the network of cameras that now exist and additional equipment that reads license plates. These new cameras and plate readers can aid in searching for stolen cars and track criminal suspects, and have already helped catch some of these criminals.

I also work closely with District Commanders to understand their operation, what I can do to help, and how I can best inform

Anti-carjacking webinar Jan. 23

Police and city officials will be on hand for a virtual anti-carjacking webinar 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23. Topics will include what is carjacking and how to prevent being carjacked, and what to do if you are carjacked.

The Zoom meeting ID is 822 5240 6823 and the passcode is 053223. For more information call 312-742-5778.

residents and keep them safe. In addition, my staff regularly attends Police CAPS meetings to give updates and hear from the community on pressing safety issues that need attention.

If you have a security camera on your home or building near those locations [where carjackings are occurring], it may assist police with their investigation. Please contact my office if you have any information or evidence to share.

My ongoing effort is to help police connect with neighbors, provide additional technology to assist the detectives, and to help coordinate safety efforts with area businesses. My staff and I are available to give updates and answer any additional questions you might have.

Please consider attending Saturday's online webinar addressing the recent surge in Vehicular Hijackings.

Second City Cop goes dark, says they feared being exposed

One of Chicago's most well-read online news blogs has gone dark. And on Dec. 12 they issued a statement though another online blog - HeyJackass.com - saying it was to protect the blog owners from being exposed by Google.

Second City Cop [SCC], a long-running and widely-read blog about Chicago policing and politics, confirmed that they independently decided to cease publication over the weekend.

SCC's writers cited concerns about information security and other issues in a final message for their readers.

According to the bloggers, who claimed to be current and former Chicago police officers, online rumors and reports that the site had been "de-platformed" by Google are not true. On Tuesday morning, WGN-TV reporter Ben Bradley tweeted that a Google representative told the station that the company had "taken no action" regarding SCC.

Access to the site, which was hosted on a Google-owned publishing platform called Blogger, had been set to "private" by its owners, the company said.

SCC has been published online for 15 years, with over 22,000 posts and over 2 million comments.

In their statement they said that they had "received information from a contact at Google that internal chat/e-mails led them to believe that certain precautions we had taken over the years had been breached by Google. We had gotten similar warnings from oth-

ers in the past, and we dealt with or ignored them as the situation warranted. But this one was different."

As the SCC was believed to be staffed by working Chicago police officers, they may have felt their livelihoods were threatened.

They credited their fears on "Big Tech's wholesale attack on President Trump, Parler and center-right to right-leaning authors, politicians and voices. The blacklisting has begun, even if you

won't see it. You should."

After 15 years of 'must-read' coverage of policing and city politics their statements claim they "aren't really good at compliance."

SCC said that they do not yet know if they'll ever return. "We don't know what Big Tech has in store for us and the political winds are not fortuitous. We are exploring options and we'll leave it at that."

Fraud seminar Jan 21

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office is hosting a virtual seminar on protecting consumers from fraud during COVID-19, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21.

Throughout the pandemic in Chicago there has been an increase in violent and non-violent criminal activity, including fraud related to unemployment claims, in-demand products and fictitious cures for the virus, identity theft,

phishing, amongst other scams.

This free webinar will discuss the ways criminals have targeted and defrauded people during the COVID-19 pandemic; protocol for victims of consumer fraud, safety tips, and available resources and how citizens can prevent themselves from being victims of consumer fraud.

For more information or to register call 312-603-8600.

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(1) Carrie Lannon with "Constellation." (2) Gloria Groom (3) Candace Jordan with Paco, Po and Posey. Photo by Hope Sayre (4) John Fornengo

WISE from p. 2

visited the beautiful sculpture, Constellation, by world renowned Spanish-Swiss architect **Santiago Calatrava**, now with a new Chicago home thanks to River Point Chicago, a glass tower along the Chicago River. "At 29' high," she says, "the sculpture reminds me of a massive dragon rising upwards. What an impressive addition to Chicago's River Walk."

PHOTO AWARD: Fabulous **Linda Matlow's** photo, "Painterly Fog in Chicago" shot last year was a nominee in the nature category in the 13th International Color Awards. She's one of our town's top shooters.

BAGBOY: Are talks underway for a Super Target with grocery store to move into some of the former Macy's at Water Tower Place? Just asking. Also heard deals are underway with the new grocery chain by **Bob Mariano**.

G-L-O-R-I-A: The charming and erudite **Gloria Groom** adding another birthday, her elegant hands still hard at work as the Art Institute's David and Mary Winton Green Curator of 19th-Century European Painting and Sculpture and Chair of European Painting and Sculpture. She may hold Chicago's longest and most precise title.

WELL DONE: No, the smoke pouring out of Gibson's Wednesday night was not grilling steaks for rogue indoor diners, that smoke was from a fire set in a second floor fireplace with its flue still shut.

NO MORE, PLEASE: Is there a steady but heavy growth in the number of Chicagoans majorly dissatisfied with the efforts of **Mayor Lori Lightfoot** as the city's chief executive? The times are certainly challenging

and unique, but with the recent announcement that Macy's will be shuttering their Water Tower Place, Michigan Ave., multi-level department store, has she reached the limits of everyone's endurance? Her lukewarm plans for the enormous space's future use as a youth training facility appear foolish and poorly advised. It's all people are talking about. Chicagoans are forced to watch the mayor dismantle Chicago's reputation as a cosmopolitan urban leader in business and become the crime capital of America. Time for a new and fresh political strategy that sadly no longer includes the surly Mayor Lightfoot. Perhaps there might be room in **Joseph Biden's** administration? Chicagoans have had enough, so ship her to a place where failure is rewarded: Washington DC.

DOG GONE: Downtown Dogs, 804 N. Rush., has proudly served classic Chicago in every bite since 1994. Sadly, the pandemic has caused them to lose their lease and permanently close their doors effective Jan. 30. Look for them to pop up again soon.

VIVE LE DIFFERENCE: Venteux, a French Brasserie, set to open in the elegant Carbide and Carbon building spring 2021. A Michelin star chef is looking to ratchet the tastebuds along Boul Mich.

CATHEDRAL SQUARE: **Gardenia Hung** reports progress is being made on construction surrounding Holy Name Cathedral, a historic landmark on State St., across the street from the new

One Chicago Towers. Construction is well underway by Sotheby's International, on the 4th and 5th tallest structures in the city's Gold Coast district.

FINE ART PORTRAIT: Christie's **Steven Zick** has recently received a lovely, unexpected gift portrait from a most talented artist friend. It reminds us of the work of **Jean Philippe -delhomme** un peu.



Zurich Esposito

DELIVERED: Andersonville, Uptown and Wrigleyville, all falling within one UPS delivery zone, had more packages delivered on one day last December than any other area in the entire country. Way to go UPS man **Anthony**.

PRINT IT: My colleague, **Candace Jordan**, has been chosen for the upcoming cover of Felix Magazine (shot by **Hope Sayre**), a lifestyle magazine where all proceeds benefit the Aparecio Foundation. Candace is spotlighting a nonprofit close to her heart, PAWS Chicago. These 2 month-old Chihuahua mix pups, **Paco, Po** and **Posey**, are available for adoption now too.

BOOKBEAT: Thanks to **Dame Charlene** and **Scott Seaman** for the gift of **Tom Dreesen's** "Still Standing... My Journey from Streets and Saloons to the Stage and Sinatra" (written with **Darren Grubb** and **Johnny Russo** with a forward by **David Letterman**). The photos are priceless as is the extraordinary life of this amazing man and great Chicagoan.

WHO'S WHERE: **Susie Forttsmann Kealy** at Canyon Ranch in Arizona getting some desert therapy... **Shelley Howard** and **Jim Costen** at Tavern on Rush on Thursday ... **Shannon Bartlett** is with **Venanzio Arquilla** at Riviera Maya, Cancun, Mexico, enjoying the sunshine and ocean. ... **Lucia Adams** on Captiva Island, FL, at the Mucky Duck, English Pub ... **Brian White** and **Jim Kinney** entertained in their pickled pine dinning room with **Courtney G. Pitt**, **William Parke**, **Todd Schwebel**, **William Beggs IV**, **Brian Hollander** and **Annie Hambleton**... Congratulations to **Bruce Trivett**, buying his first home in West Palm Beach, FL... A short and sweet trip to Arizona, but there is no place like home, say architect **Lucien** and **Melinda Jakovich LaGrange**...

is Chicago architecture guru **Zurich Esposito** on the short list to replace **Blair Kamin**? ... New York gallery powerhouse, **Larry Gagosian**, has closed his San Francisco Gallery, a sign of the Apocalypse surely... **Connie Genteroles Lasco** cared for **Will** and **Sam Skinner**, **Sam** and **Honey Jacobs Skinner**, for the last 27 years. Her recent death is a great loss to all, so sorry... Congrats to Chicago media maven, **Dori Wilson**, on her inclusion in "Start TV" focusing on amazing American women whose success makes a real difference in the lives of others.

RIP POET DEAR: **Jean Valentine**, a former New York State Poet whose minimalist, dreamlike poetry was distinguished by crystalline imagery followed by an unexpected stab of emotion, died on Dec. 29 in Manhattan. She was 86.

NOUVELLE CUISINE: The New Soul Food of Paris. Black chefs are exploring "Afropean" identity and building on American soul food's long history in the European dining capital.

AUCTION HOUSE: Hindman Auctions is now featuring treasures from the estate of the late **John Fornengo**. John and his late wife, **Dee Dee Fornengo**, were beloved Gold Coasters of warm hospitality and superb taste. Deeply beloved by so many friends and neighbors who still feel their loss deeply.

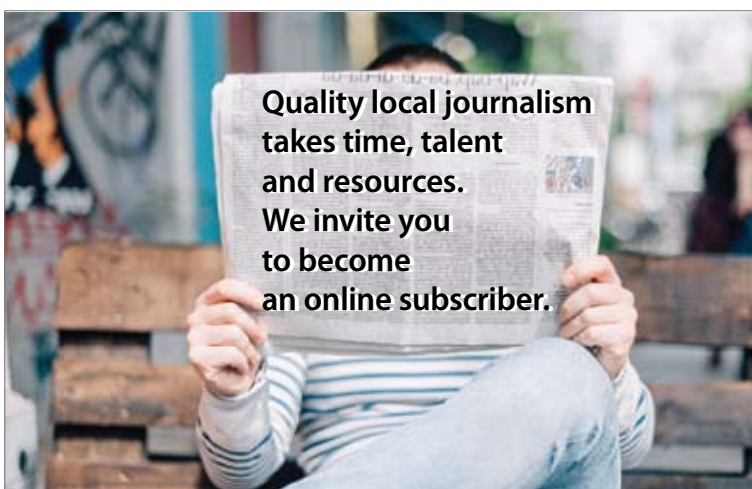
CHANGE THE GUARD: U.S. Capitol Police have a new acting chief after the chief announced he would resign in the wake of the Capitol riot. **Assistant Chief Yogananda Pittman** will be the acting chief, the department said. She joined the department in 2001, rose through the ranks and is Assistant Chief for Protective and Intelligence Operations. Pittman was one of the first African-American female supervisors to attain the rank of captain. **Chief Steven Sund** has already left.

As for politics, I'm an anarchist. I hate governments and rules and fetters. Can't stand caged animals. People must be free.

-- Charlie Chaplin

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

19 CH 000349 (Jointly Administered with Case No. 19 CH 000352) 1847 W. WARNER AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE

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

Commonly known as 1847 W. WARNER AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-18-417-003-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence being used as a commercial investment property.

The judgment amount was \$910,534.94. Sale terms: 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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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).

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For information, Ryan W. Chapin, POLSINELLI PC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 150 N. Riverside Plaza, Suite 3000, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 819-1900. Please refer to file number 083357-610146. 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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

Ryan W. Chapin POLSINELLI PC 150 N. Riverside Plaza, Suite 3000 Chicago IL, 60606 312-819-1900 Fax #: 312-819-1910 E-Mail: rchapin@polsinelli.com Attorney File No. 083357-610146 Firm Number: 47375 Case Number: 19 CH 000349 TJSC#: 40-2526

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This sale is to be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Cash only.

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EXPO Chicago postpones 2021 schedule

Virtual Exposition April 8-11

Citing pandemic fears, EXPO Chicago announced Monday that it is rescheduling its 2021 in-person exposition and has secured a series of dates at Navy Pier from July 2021 on—including its traditional dates Sep. 23 – 26, in order to ensure the safety of participating exhibitors and patrons of

the ninth edition.

EXPO Chicago will organize a virtual exposition during its previously scheduled in-person dates of April 8 – 11. Details on the virtual exposition's programmatic themes and participants will be announced in the coming weeks.

"We are deeply committed exhibitors in collaborating with us on finding the right

time to mount the fair," said Tony Karman, EXPO president. "We have decided to produce a digital experience this coming April, while simultaneously preparing for an in-person fair as soon as it is safe to do so," he said. "Fortunately, thanks to Navy Pier we have several options to consider, including our [traditional] September dates. We will carefully monitor the prog-

ress with vaccines and protocols in order to make the announcement with ample time for our participating galleries, patrons, and institutional partners to prepare."

Navy Pier has been home to EXPO Chicago for nearly a decade. The show brings guests from around the world to Chicago for an opportunity to enjoy large-scale exposition of contemporary art and culture.

OPPOSE from p. 1

As most who have attended community meetings before the lockdown was established know, there is a certain zeitgeist to attending community meetings in person, where crowd dynamics can quickly change opinions and temper quick decision-making. None of that real in-person democratic debate occurs these days when only one person at a time can speak on a streamed meeting, that many times also only allows for a limited number of attendees.

This particular TOD project seems to have been broadly rejected by much of the community, but that has not slowed the process. The lack of any live public protests by neighbors may be a big part of the plan's pace of approval.

Several nearby block clubs have officially spoken on this project and the results included 36 petition signatures against it by residents and businesses located within 250 feet of the proposed development site; 54 "no" votes against the up-zoning request, with four votes in favor, and some 75 properties owners and tenants who say they think they may be directly impacted by the requested up-zoning, claiming that they were not allowed input into the alderman's zoning change approval process.

This particular TOD project seems to have been broadly rejected by much of the community, but that has not slowed the process. The lack of any live public protests by neighbors may be a big part of the plan's pace of approval.

At a Dec. 15 virtual City Hall Zoning Committee meeting, 18 letters were offered objecting to the project with one letter in support. During that online meeting eight neighbors also verbally opposed the project.

A motion was presented by a member of the committee to delay the vote, but that measure was rejected by a 15 to 8 vote. The motion to up-zone to B1-3TOD resulted in an approval vote of 15 to 7, with one abstention. When committee members asked Ald. Cappleman if the notification requirements were followed, his simple one-word answer was, "yes."

In December the alderman told the community that over half the buildings on the four-block stretch of Clark St. near the site have been listed for sale in recent years.

DSNA members say he told them that that's a sign of a retail corridor in serious trouble. That could be said of every commercial corridor in the city these days from Michigan Ave. on down.

Today the 4500 block has 80% of its retail storefront occupied, and 4511 N. Clark St. is being currently rented and occupied with leases by four minority-owned retail stores. The plan going forward would mean those businesses would have to be displaced by the development, even through there is no new plan for relocating these business-

es. Some Uptown neighbors now ask how businesses that serve predominantly minority communities could be forced out in a year when social and minority equity is supposedly so vital?

Rick Ofman, a real estate broker with Kiser Group, told Block Club Chicago that retail business along that stretch of Clark St. is indeed down, and that property values are dropping. "To justify the price point, an upzone would be necessary. To get retail thriving in that area, adding density is best," he said.

CARJACKINGS from p. 1

jacked in Wicker Park

On Sunday, police again warned about the practice after three Uber and Lyft drivers were carjacked in Wicker Park and Bucktown over the weekend.

"This carjacking surge is unacceptable," Lincoln Park Ald. Michele Smith told her constituents in an email around 5 p.m. Friday. By 8 p.m., her ward recorded two more hijackings.

"Since Dec. 15, we have received 12 police alerts about 58 carjackings occurring in every corner of the city," Smith said. "While I have my differences with some of the policies of the Cook County State's

Attorney, the Juvenile Division is working closely with police to develop cases that will result in successful prosecutions. More, however, needs to be done to discourage juvenile involvement in these violent crimes."

She also announced that her office will host an online community forum about carjackings at 6 p.m. Feb. 2. The CPD's chief of detectives, the 18th and 19th police districts' commanders, and a representative from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office will be participating, the alderman said. To join in the virtual meeting call 773-348-9500 or write to yourvoice@ward43.org.

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