

What good is the warmth of summer,
without the cold of winter
to give it sweetness.

— John Steinbeck

News-STAR

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Standing room only at Broadway upzoning meeting

Rush is on, controversial plan may go to City Plan Commission Feb. 20

BY BOB ZULEY

The Saturday afternoon community meeting on the Broadway Land Use upzoning plan at the Edgewater Public Library was a standing-room only affair... with a crowd that spilled out into the outer hallway.

The meeting's attendance success demonstrated that community stakeholders are eager to learn more about the plan, and not happy with the City Hall rush job being forced onto the community.

The meeting was called for by 10 Uptown and Edgewater block clubs and residential associations.

Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] stayed for the duration of the two-hour meeting while the Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] was invited but declined to attend.

The meeting featured local expert panelists Jack Markowski, Thom Greene, and Todd Baisch while Troy McMillan served as moderator. Pat Sharkey facilitated the meeting, as well.

The meeting stems from DPD's secretive plan to "upzone" Broadway from Devon to Foster in Edgewater. Work on the city's plan started in July 2024, however the first public information was shared by DPD at a charrette meeting in October at Furama Restaurant on Broadway. A sec-



Moderator Troy McMillan as Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth (48th) looks on.
Photo by Bob Zuley

ond meeting followed in December however no city representatives spoke of the details of the plan at either meeting.

And now the rush is on to seal the deal in City Hall. This reporter discovered an apparent new detail from DPD on their Broadway Land Use Planning document on the eve of the public meeting stating that, "The Chicago Plan Commission will consider the Broadway Land Use Framework for adoption on Feb. 20. Please note that further action must be taken to implement the zoning

recommendations, which will require public hearings, mailed public notices and ultimately City Council adoption."

Much community angst appears to have been created in the rush job by DPD to force this plan forward without benefit of community input, under cover of two simultaneous city projects currently underway in Edgewater.

These projects are the Red-Purple Modernization project of the adjacent CTA Red and Purple

BROADWAY see p. 12

Driver gets six years for hit-and-run that killed 69-year-old Uptown woman

BY CWBCHICAGO

The driver who struck and killed a 69-year-old woman as she crossed a street in Uptown two summers ago has been given a six-year prison sentence. Ricky Hernandez, 32, pleaded guilty to failing to report a fatal accident, according to court records.

Soyfa Athamanah was walking home when she entered a crosswalk in the 5100 block of N. Broadway around 10:30 p.m. July 25, 2023, officials said. Athamanah, who suffered a severe head injury, was pronounced dead at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Her family members told the Sun-Times that she was returning from a regular visit with friends at a Thai restaurant downtown.

Hernandez allegedly struck her with his black 2017 Honda Civic and kept driving.

"I didn't see brake lights," said Tyler Pasciak LaRiviere, a Sun-Times photojournalist who happened to be driving behind Hernandez. "I saw him swerve and speed up a bit. She then flew into



Ricky Hernandez and Soyfa Athamanah.
Images courtesy Chicago Police Dept., Sax-Tiedemann

the air."

"I cover this stuff a lot for the @Suntimes," Pasciak LaRiviere tweeted after the crash, "but it's a different perspective to actually witness it and be a part of the story... I can't detach myself like I'm normally able to do. I've seen a lot of s*** over the years but this might be something that sticks."

Chicago police released a stock image of the type of car that hit her and asked anyone with information to contact the depart-

ment's major accident investigation unit. The story faded from the headlines and seemed to go cold until officials unexpectedly announced charges one year ago.

Hernandez worked as a canine security officer for a CTA contractor, according to his arrest report. He had never been arrested in Illinois before.

Judge Angela Munari-Petrone oversaw the case and sentenced Hernandez. He is expected to be paroled in January 2027 after serving half of the six-year term.



Broadway land use meeting Jan. 30

The city is hosting a virtual Broadway Land Use planning meeting 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30. The meeting is with the Dept. of Planning and Development, who will present their draft land use

framework and zoning recommendations for Broadway from Devon to Montrose.

For reservations or more information visit www.Chicago.gov/Broadway.

Argyle Lunar New Year celebration Feb. 8

The 2025 Argyle Lunar New Year celebration will be all day on Saturday Feb. 8.

Festivities will take place centered around Argyle and Sheridan. The annual parade steps off at 1 p.m., and there will be

cultural events and performance activities throughout the day.

Multiple area roads will be closed to traffic and parking from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the festivities.

Drive-by shooter injures 17-year-old in Rogers Park

BY CWBCHICAGO

A 17-year-old boy was shot while standing outside in Rogers Park on Jan. 25, according to Chicago police. The gunman remains on the loose.

CPD said the boy was walking in the 7300 block of N. Ridge when the shooter opened fire from a gray SUV around 10:03 p.m. The victim, who suffered

a gunshot wound to his leg, was taken to St. Francis Hospital in fair condition.

He is the second person shot in Rogers Park this year. On Jan. 14, a 62-year-old man was grazed by a bullet when someone fired shots in the 7400 block of N. Damen. The neighborhood has seen 31 or 32 shooting victims every year since 2022. There were 24 victims in 2021.

Granville Greenway virtual meeting Feb. 13

The city will be hosting a virtual online meeting starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, to discuss traffic safety planning on Granville Ave.

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation has offered plans to create roadway blockages and one-way sections hoping to drive traffic off of Granville and onto other local roadways. At this meeting they plan to discuss the feedback

they received from the community, reveal their updated designs, and give an update on next steps and timeline.

The 48th Ward section (Sheridan to Clark) will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the 40th Ward section at 7 p.m. Interested parties may join in for part of, or for the entire meeting.

To register for the meeting, visit bit.ly/granville2025.

**Judges most likely to release
defendants are reassigned,
replacements named**

Story on page 5

A lesson in courage described as ‘taste’



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

“So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.”

You may recognize those words as the last sentence of the novel “The Great Gatsby.” They are also the words chiseled on the tombstone of the American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Rockland, MD. Not long ago I was walking through the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. with my friend Ben Mednick on a blistering hot day. Winding our way through the second floor we came upon a stunning portrait of Fitzgerald by David Silvette.

I had a small notebook in my pocket on which I had written that last line of Gatsby ages previously. So we had a kind of spontaneous ceremony as I read aloud Fitzgerald’s words while looking at the only known Fitzgerald life-sitting portrait, painted in 1935.

It was just a brief moment of art and literature touching (if somewhat eccentrically). Those are the best moments.

I have been thinking of Fitzgerald a lot recently, while I have been re-reading Hemingway. And I feel about him the way Hemingway did. A little too taken with himself, it is fair to say. But he’s a wonderful writer.

Say what you will, but Hemingway really was disciplined and hard-pressed in those Paris years in the 1920s in ways that Fitzgerald could not understand.

In those years Hemingway wrote, while he lived hand to mouth, waiting for a win at the track.

Fitzgerald had a totally different income and had been accustomed to more “ivy leagued”

creature comforts. Though he did write well, Hemingway seemed to find him a pest.

Anyway, I have been thinking about Fitzgerald and I may do my own portrait of him. “Boats against the current.”

I’ve also been presently obsessed with that crowd of American exiled artists living in Paris in the years after World War I. “The Lost Generation.” You know, the curmudgeonly writer and gadabout Gertrude Stein and her old-fashioned spinster-like lover, Alice B. Toklas, of chocolate brownie fame. One fat. One skinny. Presiding over America’s elite artistic exiles who went homeless for art.

Most were dirt poor, living off magazine articles they wrote for American publications.

That was true for Hemingway. But not so for Fitzgerald and his controversial wife, the famed, elegant, drunk Zelda. And neither was it true for Gerald and Nora Murphy, two wealthy Americans, headquartered in Paris and absorbing the emergence of the new post-war world of broader human rights and art for art’s sake.

And waiting out the foolishness of America’s fascination with the ban on alcoholic beverages... Prohibition, until 1933.

Gerald Murphy’s father was the owner of a refined leather goods company called Mark Cross. Elegant. Expensive. He was to the manner born, and always had plenty of financial support in his pocket.

So did his wife, Nora. Her papa in Cincinnati was golden. A huge business success. The two Murphys spent their time in the golden age of American exiles living very well in Paris, and traveled incessantly. All part of a luxurious population of well educated creative American artists. Gerald Murphy was an “avant garde” painter. I like his work. He so wanted to be a great American painter.

The exiles lived a “cafe life.” That is, creatively writing in pencil in the famed cafes of the French capitol. Sharing tables with other exiled American artists. Sharing ideas. Drinks. Dreams. And sug-

gestions for articles, books and friendships with modernist artists who populated the city.

I’m particularly interested these days in the Murphys. They were so substantive in sustaining and contributing to the survival of its residents. Gerald Murphy was a great friend and supporter of the American writer Archibald MacLeish.

This is also the Paris of Irish writer James Joyce, though his eccentricities placed him outside the social boundaries of many.

Joyce was almost an arch-enemy of Gertrude Stein. They did not care for each other one bit. Joyce was not willing to subject himself to her strong-willed criticisms or bossy tastes. They avoided each other when possible. That placed young bookseller Sylvia Beach in an odd position. Miss Stein was a powerful reader and customer of Beach’s Shakespeare Bookstore, the place for good books in English, easily available.

Beach’s father was a well-known American Protestant Chaplin at Princeton Univ. His daughter had many reasons for choosing Paris over collegiate New Jersey in which to live. Not least being her romances as a lesbian.

Beach’s great creation was well beyond the establishment of Shakespeare and Company. That, in point of fact, was her mentoring and influence over Joyce. He was writing and re-inventing the novel then. He created a complex language and syntax for his epic work “Ulysses.” A mysterious work of difficult to embrace “stream of consciousness” writing.

Beach encouraged Joyce in their common goal of completing the novel. She also took responsibility for getting the novel published. She even went so far as to physically arrange for it to be printed in the city of Lyon by French printers who spoke no English. Of course, further adding to the eccentricity of the work by the massive spelling mistakes and needed corrections in the first printing.

Hemingway recognized Joyce’s genius, and his singularity in the world of writing in the 1920s. Hemingway recounts a moment when he saw all the Joyce family out for dinner one Saturday night at the popular Le Procope.

Hemingway and his wife had been out after a day at the races where they had won a tidy sum. They longed for a steak dinner.



F. Scott Fitzgerald

When they spotted the table of the Joyces, wife, Nora Barnacle, son, Giorgio and daughter, Lucia, they were overwhelmed.

The Joyces were engaged in heavy conversation. Not in English, but rather Italian. Hemingway wrote about the incident in his posthumous memoir of Paris, “A Moveable Feast.” Joyce had once worked as a Berlitz teacher of Italian. An eccentricity needing no explanation.

Pablo Picasso was also in Paris then, painting, quite successful and reinventing modern art. Very much a part of the Gertrude Stein set.

He’d painted her in a 1909 portrait to much fanfare in the robust style of modernism. She was a powerful supporter of his and she was glib in her creative affections of his work and style. In fact she bought so much of his work and other modernists, that her Paris apartment is considered the world’s first museum of modern art.

The Murphys remained a steadfast component of the “Lost Generation,” as the population of

artist-exiles were known.

They would return to America following their extensive Parisian experience, many having found creative success and professional recognition. They were still young, fresh and shaping careers of lasting significance.

Gerald Murphy would return to America in the 1930s and embrace leadership at the family’s Mark Cross leather goods empire. His relationship with fellow Paris exiles would last the rest of his life. Particularly with MacLeish, the playwright, who became the toast of the Broadway stage.

Gerald was forever inspired and engulfed by the writing of Hemingway whose best days of fame, fortune and American literary success were yet to come. Gerald and Nora suffered tragically with the young deaths of their two sons. Hemingway famously said “A man can be destroyed but not defeated.”

MacLeish brought some American notoriety to Gerald helping to organize a retrospective of his paintings from the Paris years at the New York Museum of Modern Art [MOMA]. He even gave the museum’s director and chief curator, William Rubin, a Murphy painting.

Amazingly that 1974 exhibition of Murphy’s work was a huge success. Paintings were found and displayed from many places and private collections bringing a fresh look at the painter’s artistic world in the long ago era of the “Lost Generation.” MOMA’s Rubin called him “a major American artist.”

Murphy’s modernist paintings opened the door on a lost world significantly important to art. And America’s cultural history. A world, often described as “A lesson in courage described as

COURAGE see p. 8

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Expansion of Federally-funded Bus Rapid Transit lanes on Western Ave.

Bump outs added to slow down traffic; Metered parking spaces being removed

BY PETER VON BUOL

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] and the Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] are in the process of converting a lane of Western Ave. traffic north of Belmont in each direction to bus-only lanes during rush hour. CDOT has also been eliminating metered-parking spaces and business loading zones along the route.

The Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] lanes are being implemented at the request of aldermen Andre Vasquez [40th] and Matt Martin [47th] and are a continuation of what the CTA had implemented south of Belmont Ave. during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their request was also supported by 17 of the 18 aldermen who represent constituents along Western Ave.

"As the longest continuous street in the city, Western Ave. is uniquely situated to create an equitable transit-oriented corridor, thanks to its rapidly rising bus ridership, its connection with a variety of mass transit lines, and Chicago's explicit focus on increasing its residential density and affordability. With four different bus lines (three CTA and one suburban PACE) Western Ave. typically ranks in the top five highest ridership corridors in the city, averaging 22,000 daily riders. And these numbers continue to increase, with ridership in post-pandemic years outpacing the CTA systems's recovery as a whole by 10%," wrote Vasquez in the letter which had requested expansion of the BRT service.

Crews have been busy painting a single red lane for each direction of traffic and have also been adding white lettering to help facilitate traffic flow. Recently added traffic-blocking curb bump outs, including at Lane Tech College Prep High School, 2501 W. Addison, are being integrated to the bus-only lanes. These bump-outs already narrow the lanes of traffic in each



The Bus rapid Transit lanes are now being installed along Western Ave. at the request of Aldermen Andre Vasquez [40th] and Matt Martin [47th]. Their request is reportedly being supported by 17 of the 18 Aldermen who represent constituents along Western Ave.

direction and cause traffic tie-ups and congestion.

Once the lanes are fully operational, cars will not be allowed to use them during the hours of rush hour. While many residences and businesses are located on Western Ave. delivery vehicles will not be allowed to park curbside to make deliveries during the hours when the lanes are reserved for buses.

The CTA's Better Streets for Buses Plan, based on data compiled prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, had identified Western Ave. as one of its bus improvement corridors. According to data compiled by the CTA, many riders transfer to the Western Ave. bus from nearby Metra stations.

"Western Ave. connects to Metra's MD-N, MD-W, NCS and BNSF lines, in addition to five different CTA EL stations. These connections are vital, as Western Ave. runs through [sic] many communities with no direct access to rail service, from Chicago Lawn and Gage Park to Ukrainian Village and West Ridge," wrote Vasquez.

While Vasquez acknowledges Western Ave. has been a major transportation artery for cars and trucks, the addition of bus only lanes will not only speed up traffic for

the buses, he believes it will also discourage some drivers to stop driving and force them onto public transportation.

Left unaddressed is how much the removal of metered commercial parking spaces along Western Ave. will cost the city. City taxpayers are on the hook for buying those spaces back from LAZ Parking, LLC, and depending on the final length of the BRT, could end up costing hundreds of millions of dollars to take back.

The loss of commercial parking on Western Ave. will also hurt the businesses located along the street.

"Eliminating car trips by shifting riders to transit will help reduce congestion, as well as improving air quality and decreasing wear on our street infrastructure," wrote Vasquez, without providing any studies or data to support that position.

With a length of more than 24 miles, Western Ave. has been described as Chicago's longest street. The street runs from Chicago's northern boundary of Howard St. to the city's southern boundary at 119th St., according to the website of the Chicago Public Library.

According to sources familiar with the matter, Mayor Brandon Johnson has been

contemplating the addition of more speed and red light cameras all along Western Ave. on the North Side to generate additional revenue for the city. Drivers frustrated by sudden slow-downs in traffic are more likely to speed up to make up for lost time.

The extension of the Western Ave. BRT is also a reward to the political allies of Johnson, Vasquez and Martin. These include the special interest groups Active Transportation Alliance, Better Streets Chicago, Commuters Take Action, and the Sierra Club. Individuals from these groups not only donate money to campaigns but often provide vocal support for their favored candidates' positions at public meetings, usually without mentioning they are advocating on behalf of a group.

Western was the western boundary of the city between 1851 and 1869. Sections have had other names, including Asbury (its name in the northern suburbs), Blue Island, Robbins, Town Line Road, Union and 72nd Avenue. In 1924, an ordinance was passed, but quickly repealed, to officially change Western Ave.'s name to Woodrow Wilson Road, in honor of the recently-deceased 28th president.

Property Tax Pointers: 10 must-know tips for homeowners

BY MARIA PAPPAS

As Cook County Treasurer, I've learned the property tax system can be confusing and intimidating. Whether you're a new or longtime homeowner, or a senior citizen, I understand your frustrations. To help, I've created 10 tips to better understand your property taxes.

1. Familiarize yourself with the Cook County Treasurer's Office Website. Visit cookcountytreasurer.com, your one-stop shop for all things related to property taxes. That's where you can pay online for free, change your name and address and find out if any money is owed to you. It's also where you can access and download your bills and review the tax history of your property going back 20 years.

2. Know your PIN. Your 14-digit Property Identification Number or PIN is on your tax bill and property deed. It is unique to each of the 1.8 million properties in Cook County. You will need your PIN to pay your bill, so keep it handy!

3. Understand the billing cycle. Cook County property taxes are divided into two installments a year. The first installment covers 55 percent of the previous year's tax bill and is typically due in early March. The second installment covers the balance of your bill and includes your exemptions. It's usually due around Aug. 1.

4. Check for refunds and exemptions. My office has over \$150 million in un-

claimed property tax refunds. Check cookcountytreasurer.com to see if you've overpaid in the past 20 years. You also want to make sure you apply for all your qualified exemptions. Homeowners, senior citizens and disabled persons and veterans may be eligible for missing exemptions going back five years. No third-party assistance is needed to apply for refunds or missing exemptions.

5. Keep your information current. It's important to keep your information up to date to ensure that you receive your bill on time. If you moved or changed your name, please update your contact information at cookcountytreasurer.com.

6. Find 24/7 support in your language. It's a priority for my office to reach people in their own language. That's why our phone system operates 24/7 in English, Spanish and Polish at 312-443-5100.

Our cookcountytreasurer.com website support pages can be translated into 248

languages. We also offer informational brochures that can be downloaded in English and 27 other languages.

7. Decide how you want to pay. You can pay online through your bank account for free. If you pay with a credit card, there's a 2.1% convenience fee. Payments are also accepted at nearly 400 Chase Bank branches in Illinois or 160 community banks across the region. You can pay by dropping your bill into the mail for the cost of a stamp. If you want a face-to-face encounter while paying, stop by our offices located on the first floor of the County

building at 118 N. Clark St.

8. Determine if you need a payment plan. If you get behind on your taxes, you can set up a payment plan. Do so by using our free Payment Plan Calculator at cookcountytreasurer.com. This online tool helps you set up biweekly or monthly payments. If you set up a payment plan and opt in, we'll send you reminders via email or text.

9. Monitor your mortgage escrow account. If your property taxes are paid

TIPS see p. 4



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Gregory J. Lindeman
Founder/Director

Walk in the park

The Northtown Garden Society is hosting a nature walk and talk in the park at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 lead by guest presenter Matt Igleski, Executive Director of the Chicago Bird Alliance, who will speak on local bird wildlife.

This event will be at Warren Park, 6601 N. Western Ave.

Family Sweetheart Dance Feb. 7 at Loyola Park

Loyola Park will be holding a Sweetheart Dance 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, at Loyola Park Field-house, 1230 W. Greenleaf.

Guests and family may come out and dance the night away and capture a photo at the photo station, while enjoying a light dinner.

Tickets are \$5 per person and children under 3 are free.

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by Don DeBat

The Home Front

Chill Arctic winds may be blowing in Chicago in January, but Chicago's North Side housing market posted a hot and vibrant fourth quarter in 2024.

Despite the on-going shortage of homes for sale, and year-end mortgage-rate creep, both unit sales and the median sales price delivered double-digit gains. More than ever, locals are choosing to live on the North and Northwest sides, where 55% of Chicago's population stays on 35% of the land space.

During the fourth quarter of 2024, North Side home sales totaled 1,728 units—11.8% more than during the same quarter of the prior year. That led directly to an increase of 2.7% in unit sales for the full year, which saw a total of 8,539 units change hands.

The median sales price of North Side homes sold in the final quarter of 2024 rose a robust 13% to \$425,000, while for the full year, the median price climbed 7.7% to \$419,000, reported Mary Jo Nathan of Baird & Warner's North Center office at 4037 N. Damen Ave.

Nathan prepares the quarterly "Chicago North Side Market Report" which tracks sales of homes, condos and townhouses in the neighborhoods of Edgewater, Lake View, Lincoln Park,

Home and condo sales on North Side post muscular gains

Uptown median detached home prices rose a whopping 61.9% in the 4th quarter of 2024. Photo courtesy @christie's

Chicago North Side Market Report 4th Quarter 2024 VS. 4th Quarter 2023

	Q4 2024			Q4 2024			Q4 2024	
	Total	%		Detached	%		Attached	%
	Sales	Change		Sales	Change		Sales	Change
Total North Side	1,728	+11.8%		163	N.C.		1,565	+13.2%
Edgewater	171	+19.6%		15	+7.1%		156	+20.9%
Lake View	291	+6.2%		18	-21.7%		273	+8.8%
Lincoln Park	259	+25.1%		36	N.C.		221	+29.2%
Lincoln Square	78	+18.2%		21	+31.3%		57	+14.0%
Near North	532	+19.0%		6	+100%		526	+18.5%
North Center	74	-14.9%		26	-25.7%		48	-7.7%
Rogers Park	92	+13.6%		7	+16.7%		85	+13.3%
Uptown	133	+3.1%		12	+300%		121	-4.0%
West Ridge	100	-10.7%		22	-18.5%		78	-8.2%

Lincoln Square, Near North-Gold Coast, North Center, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Ridge.

"Certainly, a dearth of inventory continues to hobble market activity and frustrate home shoppers, but with interest rates falling during the second half of 2024, the North Side market was able to generate improved results," noted Nathan. "And that was true for Chicago as a whole. Citywide sales were up 6.6% in the fourth quarter to 4,841 units, and the median sales price gained a solid 9.4% to \$350,000."

However, over the past six weeks 30-year fixed mortgage rates have inched back up to the 7%-bracket, casting a future cloud over the early 2025 market.

On Jan. 23, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed-rate loans averaged 6.96% nationwide. A year ago, they averaged 6.69%. The survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully amortizing home-purchase loans for borrowers who place a 20% down payment and have excellent credit.

Condos and townhouses hot

Attached homes, which consist primarily of townhouses and condominiums, accounted for 90.3% of all North Side home sales in 2024 and 90.6% in the fourth quarter when 1,565 sales were completed, 13.2% more than during the same three months of 2023.

Citywide, sales of attached homes rose 9.8% to 2,844 units

for the fourth quarter. Attached sales on the North Side rose 2.1% for the full year, but were down -0.2% citywide.

"The median price of a North Side condo or townhouse rose 12.9% in the fourth quarter to \$395,000, which is the highest quarterly median price ever re-

Mary Jo Nathan of Baird & Warner.

ported for this market," Nathan said. The median sales price for all attached homes sold on the North Side in 2024 rose 6.9% to \$385,000. The average time an attached listing took to find a buyer was 63 days—five days more than in the comparable quarter of 2023.

Attached sales rose in six of the nine North-Side neighborhoods during the fourth quarter. Those gains were led by increases of 29.2% in Lincoln Park, 20.9% in Edgewater and 18.5% in Near North-Gold Coast, which is by far Chicago's largest market for attached homes. The largest sales

decline was -8.2% in West Ridge.

The median sales price for condos and townhouses rose in six of the nine community areas during the fourth quarter, including hefty gains of 38.3% in Lincoln Square and 21.9% in Edgewater. A 16.1% gain was posted in Uptown, 15.4% in Near North-Gold Coast, 11.4% in North Center and 7.5% in Lake View.

Detached single-family homes

There were 163 detached homes sold across the North Side in the fourth quarter, unchanged from the same period in both 2023 and 2022. The median sales price of \$1.22 million was 1.7% higher than the same quarter of 2023. The average market time was 66 days, up from 56 days a year earlier.

For all of 2024, sales of detached home sales totaled 825 units, a 9.4% increase from 2023, and the median sales price gained 1.8% to \$1.275 million.

Five neighborhoods recorded increases in detached home sales during the fourth quarter: Uptown saw sales rise a whopping 300% to 12 units, and Near North-Gold Coast posted a 100% increase to six units. Other gains were in Lincoln Square, up 31.3% to 21 units, Rogers Park, up 16.7% to seven units and Edgewater up 7.1% to 15 units.

Sales were unchanged in Lincoln Park at 36 units and fell -18.5% in West Ridge, -21.7% in Lake View and -25.7% in North Center.

Median sales prices for detached homes rose in six neighborhoods during the fourth quarter, but declined in what are traditionally the three most expensive communities for such properties.

The top median-price gainers were Uptown, up 61.9%, Rogers Park, up 22.5%, North Center, up 18%. The median was also up 16.5% in West Ridge, 8.5% in Lincoln Square and 5.5% in Edgewater.

The Near North-Gold Coast saw the sharpest decline, a whopping -40.1%, but prices there often fluctuate dramatically because of the low number of mansion and large home sales. Other median price declines for the quarter were -6.2% in Lincoln Park and -2.5% in Lake View.

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.

TIPS from p. 3

through an escrow account, ensure timely and accurate payments are being made by regularly checking on the account. Don't be afraid to contact your bank or mortgage company if payments are not being made.

10. See where your money goes. The first installment contains your taxing district debt

and shows whether obligations to the school district, town, village or other taxing districts are unfunded. The second installment has a taxing district breakdown that shows how much each agency is taxing your property and where those tax dollars are spent in your municipality. It also compares those numbers to the previous year. For a deeper dive, visit cookcountytreasurer.com

to access studies on property tax topics like referendums and voter participation. Explore the "Pappas Studies" section and subscribe to the Pappas Portal for valuable updates.

By following these tips, you'll be better equipped to navigate the Cook County property tax system and hopefully save some money.

Judges most likely to release defendants are reassigned, replacements named

One former prosecutor blasted Kim Foxx on his way out

BY CWBCHICAGO

People charged with serious crimes in Chicago may soon find it a little harder to get out of jail while they fight the charges. By this time next week, all three of the most lenient judges on the roster that sets pretrial conditions for defendants at the 26th and California courthouse will be working new assignments.

They're being replaced by recently elected judges, many of whom served as career prosecutors. One famously sent an email ripping former State's Attorney Kim Foxx when he resigned in 2022.

Starting Feb. 3, Judge William Fahy will be moving to the Bridgeview courthouse and Judge David Kelly will begin working in the Juvenile Justice Division, according to a spokes-

person for Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans. Last fall, our review of court records found that Kelly was the most lenient of the Pretrial Division's nine judges, approving just 46% of the detention petitions prosecutors gave him. Fahy approved only 59% of petitions, making him the third most lenient judge.

Fahy and Kelly have been assigned to pretrial work since Dec. 2022. Judges often rotate out of the position after two or three years.

Coincidentally, the second most lenient judge, Carline Glennon-Goodman, was booted out of the Pretrial Division two weeks ago after she mistakenly circulated an image of a fake toy called "My First Ankle Monitor" that included a rendering of a Black toddler wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet.

The chief judge's spokesperson said five judges are moving into the Pretrial Division, increasing the roster of judges handling

cases from nine to twelve. Court-house insiders say more judges have joined the division to prepare for unannounced operational changes.

Beginning Feb. 3, freshly-charged defendants may be appearing before these incoming judges, all of whom are transferring from the Traffic Division, according to the chief judge's office:

- Judge James V. Murphy was a career prosecutor and supervisor who personally handled pretrial hearings for murder, attempted murder, and sexual assault cases until he famously quit in 2022. In a lengthy goodbye email to colleagues, Murphy said he had "zero confidence" in the Foxx administration. He also voiced support for eliminating cash bail but questioned the "rush" to enact the state's version of cashless bail.

- Judge James "Jack" Costello was also a career prosecutor until being elected to the bench



(Top) From left: Judges James Costello, Rivanda Doss, John Hock, and Luciano Panici, Jr. (Bottom) Judge James V. Murphy.

Images courtesy Ballot Ready

last fall. He most recently worked on public corruption and complex financial crimes.

- Judge John Hock worked as

a Lake County public defender, then moved to the prosecution.

JUDGES see p. 7

Pharmacy benefit managers create crisis in patient care that demands immediate action

BY GARTH REYNOLDS
Executive Director, Illinois Pharmacists Association

The pharmacy profession is under siege. Community pharmacies (independent and chain) are closing at an alarming rate, leaving countless communities without access to essential medications and care. The culprits behind this crisis are pharmacy benefit managers [PBM], whose opaque and predatory practices are decimating the very foundation of our health care system.

A recent Health Affairs study revealed that nearly 30% of U.S. pharmacies have closed since 2010, with closures disproportionately affecting rural, urban, and underserved communities. Illinois has seen this crisis firsthand (more than 80 pharmacy closures just in 2024), with closures leaving countless residents in "pharmacy deserts," where access to medications, vaccinations, and chronic disease management is severely limited; particularly in minority neighborhoods, exacerbating health care disparities and leaving vulnerable populations stranded without necessary pharmaceutical services.



Garth Reynolds

The situation is dire. The Federal Trade Commission has intensified its investigation into PBM practices, acknowledging their anti-competitive behaviors that harm consumers and drive pharmacies out of business. The Illinois Auditor General's report provides a damning critique of PBM management of Medicaid dollars (\$200 million in just 2 years), revealing waste, inefficiency, and inflated costs to taxpayers. Attorney General Kwame Raoul has taken decisive action, filing lawsuits against PBMs for deceptive practices and antitrust violations (more than \$100 million in settlements). These steps, while commendable,

are insufficient to stem the tide of pharmacy closures and the resulting health care crisis.

Medicaid programs are particularly susceptible to PBM exploitation. Through a lack of transparency, PBMs siphon funds intended to support patients and providers, forcing pharmacies to operate at a loss for Medicaid prescriptions. This financial strain leads to closures, leaving patients in underserved areas with fewer care options. Commercial insurance is not immune; PBMs lever-

age their market dominance to eliminate competition, prioritize their own services, and restrict patient choice.

Opinion

Illinois stands at a pivotal moment. We must act decisively to halt this crisis:

- Enforce Transparency: Mandate full disclosure of PBM contracts, including pricing and rebate practices, to ensure accountability for taxpayer dollars and premiums.
- Implement Fair Reimbursement: Ensure pharmacy reimbursement reflects the actual cost of medications, preventing PBM manipulation.
- Expand State Oversight: Empower the attorney general and the departments of Healthcare and Family Services & Insurance to broaden investigations into PBM practices, and authorize the auditor general to audit PBM contracts for commercial plans (e.g. State Employees Plans).
- Support Federal Action:

Advocate for federal reforms to restrict PBM abuses nationwide, ensuring consistent standards across state lines.

- Protect Independent Pharmacies: Provide immediate financial relief and long-term policy support to preserve their vital role in communities.

The collapse of community pharmacies is a health care emergency. Patients rely on their pharmacists for more than medications; they depend on us for guidance, education, and access to the health care system. Every pharmacy closure represents a loss for patients and communities.

As executive director of the Illinois Pharmacists Assoc., I urge state and federal leaders to address this crisis with the

urgency it demands. PBMs must be held accountable, and pharmacies must be empowered to provide the care their patients need.

Our profession has stood strong through countless challenges, but the PBM crisis threatens to erode the foundation of pharmacist delivered patient-centered care. It is time to ensure that pharmacies are no longer treated as expendable casualties in a broken system but rather as vital partners in delivering healthcare to all.

Let's act now — before another pharmacy closure reminds us of what we have lost.

Garth K. Reynolds, BPharm, RPh, MBA, FAPhA, is a practicing community pharmacist and the executive director of the Illinois Pharmacists Association.

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Police Beat...

Armed robbers targeting bargoers outside clubs in Wrigleyville and Gold Coast

Armed robbers are targeting late-night bar hoppers while the victims wait for rideshares in two of Chicago's busiest nightlife districts. Police have linked five cases to the holdup crew so far this month, three in Wrigleyville and two in the Gold Coast.

According to CPD, bar-goers are being robbed while they wait outside for their Uber or Lyft to arrive. Three or four males approach them and either display a gun or use physical violence to take property from the victims, police said. In most cases, the robbers took the victims' phones and used them to access the victims' bank accounts.

CPD said the crew robbed victims in the 3500 block of N. Clark at 1:30 a.m. and again at 2:30 a.m. Jan. 5. They returned to the same block and robbed another victim around 1:10 a.m. Jan. 11.

In the Gold Coast, the robbers targeted a victim in the first block of W. Division at 3 a.m. Jan. 11 and in the first block of E. Elm at 2:16 a.m. January 12.

CPD described the robbers as Black males between 16 and 25 years old.

Detectives from Area Three are handling the investigation. You can reach them at 312-744-8263.

Burglar is kicking down apartment doors in Lincoln Park

Apartment renters in Lincoln Park may want to keep their eyes open. Chicago police say someone broke into a two-flat in the neighborhood and kicked down the apartment doors on Jan. 23.

According to CPD, the intruder pried their way into the building in the 2200 block of N. Racine around 2:30 p.m. Once inside the vestibule, they kicked down the two apartment doors and ransacked the residences, police said.

Unfortunately, police do not have a description of the burglar.

They are advising residents to tell their friends and family in the area about the incidents and to pay attention to suspicious people who seem to be lingering in the area.

Area Three detectives are investigating the break-ins. You can reach them at 312-744-8263.

Eight years for man who carjacked woman in River North

A man has been given an eight-year prison sentence for carjacking a woman in River North. Cedrick Johnson, 19, also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm in an Uber while on electronic monitoring while the hijacking case was pending.

On Dec. 23, 2023, a 55-year-old woman was outside her car in the first block of W. Hubbard when a man jumped behind the wheel and drove away, knocking her to the ground and causing a head injury, according to a Chicago police report. Less than an hour later, cops

found the woman's BMW X1 crashed near the 6300 block of S. Normal.

Two witnesses told cops they saw a man run from the BMW's driver's seat holding a firearm. Officers followed the driver's route and arrested Johnson on the rear porch of a boarded-up, abandoned home. The cops also found a loaded handgun with an extended ammunition magazine under the porch steps, prosecutors said.

What's more, CPD found a video showing Johnson standing across the street from the carjacking scene about two minutes before the BMW was taken, officials said.

Citing the violent nature of the carjacking, the allegations that police found a gun near Johnson, and the fact that Johnson was adjudicated delinquent for robbery as a juvenile, prosecutors asked Judge William Fahy to keep Johnson in custody. Fahy sent him home on an ankle monitor instead.

Less than six months later, on June 6, CPD officers stopped an Uber driver who was operating without a front plate and had a malfunctioning brake light. Johnson was the driver's back-seat passenger.

Police said they found a loaded handgun with an extended magazine under the rear of the driver's seat, close to where Johnson's feet had been. The seat design made it impossible for the gun to slide from the front of the seat to the back, leading the cops to conclude that Johnson had possession of the weapon, a CPD report said.

Records show Johnson has pleaded guilty to vehicular hijacking and unlawful possession of a weapon before Judge Alfredo Maldonado. The judge gave him eight years for the carjacking and a concurrent one-year sentence for the gun charge.

After receiving credit for time spent in jail and on an ankle monitor, plus the state's 50% sentence reduction for good behavior, Johnson is expected to be released on Dec. 17, 2027.

Man gets 10 years for dealing cocaine

A man has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for attempting to traffic cocaine that was shipped to Chicago from California.

In Feb. 2022, Jose Ramirez-Arellano arranged to receive a parcel containing approximately five kilograms of cocaine that was shipped to his residence in Chicago from southern California. Law enforcement intercepted the package, replaced the real cocaine with sham cocaine, and delivered it to Ramirez-Arellano's residence.

Upon receipt, Ramirez-Arellano took the package to a hotel in downtown Chicago, where he was arrested.

The federal investigation revealed that Ramirez-Arellano also received a second shipment of approximately five kilograms of cocaine that same month.

In addition, law enforcement seized two parcels of bulk cash linked to Ramirez-Arellano, which together contained approximately \$43,550.

Ramirez-Arellano, 33, pleaded guilty last year to a federal drug charge. U.S. District Judge Andrea R.

Wood imposed the prison sentence on Jan. 17, during a hearing in federal court in Chicago.

Burglary crew raids downtown Foot Locker, three other stores in crosstown spree

A group of burglars broke into at least four businesses Jan. 19, two in the Loop and one each in Lakeview and Lincoln Park, according to Chicago police. The five-person crew remains on the loose, CPD said.

They started their crime spree by breaking through the front entrance at Foot Locker, 26-28 S. State, in the Loop. After rummaging through the store, they escaped in a newer Kia Forte, according to a police bulletin.

Over the next hour or so, the group followed the same strategy at three other businesses, breaking through front windows or doors to access the interiors.

At Sheffield's Market & Deli, 2955 N. Sheffield, they broke the window around 2:03 a.m. and took items that were within reach without entering the store, a witness said.

About 20 minutes later, they were back in the Loop. This time, they hit South Loop Market in the 200 block of W. Van Buren.

Finally, they hit AJ Convenience and Tobacco, 3401 W. Fullerton, at 3:06 a.m.

CPD's bulletin said the burglars were five Black males wearing primarily dark clothing, black ski masks, and orange and black gloves. The car they used was reported stolen in the Loop later in the day.

Anyone with information that could help Area Three detectives can call 312-744-8263 about crime pattern #25-CWP-004.

Hijacker who allegedly slugged a 15-year-old while carjacking the boy's mom gets probation

A suburban man accused of punching a 15-year-old boy during a carjacking while an accomplice pulled the child's mother from the family car has been sentenced to four years of probation. Judge Carol Howard handed



Douglas Cluchey

34-year-old Douglas Cluchey the sentence Jan. 23 after he pleaded guilty to one count of vehicular hijacking, court records show.

In Oct. 2021, the boy drove his mother to a restaurant in the 800 block of W. Chicago Ave. and then went inside to pick up their food order. While he was in the restaurant, a woman dragged his 49-year-old mother out of their 2011 Honda Pilot, stomped on her foot, and claimed to have a gun, prosecutors said. Cluchey allegedly jumped into the driver's seat.

When the boy came outside to investigate the commotion, Cluchey punched him in the face twice, prosecutors claimed. He and his accomplice then drove away with the vehicle. A surveillance camera recorded the carjacking, and Cluchey's distinctive tattoos are visible in the footage, prosecutors said. But neither the boy nor his mother could identify Cluchey as the carjacker.

Doctors at St. Mary's Hospital treated the boy for a concussion and the mother for an injured ankle and contusions on her body.

Police located the SUV in a parking lot in suburban Hillside by tracking a GPS device. The car was "filled with drugs and used needles," and Cluchey was in the driver's seat, a prosecutor said during Cluchey's first court appearance a couple of days later.

According to information provided by prosecutors, the hijacking is Cluchey's fifth felony conviction since 2010. His previous cases include two burglaries, theft, and mob action.

The case remained active for over three years because Cluchey had not appeared in court since Dec. 2021. A

warrant was issued and the matter was put on hold until last June. The reason for Cluchey's absence is unclear.

Prosecutors dropped 11 other felonies he faced in the carjacking case, including the most serious charge of aggravated vehicular hijacking with a passenger younger than 16.

Uber passenger left phone in car, robbed driver when he returned it



Kenneth Floyd

drove away with his vehicle, prosecutors said.

The driver dropped Kenneth Floyd off on the evening of Jan. 8 but was soon contacted by Floyd, who said he left his phone behind, officials said. When the driver went to an apartment in the 6500 block of N. Glenwood to return the phone, Floyd answered the door, pushed him with both hands and stole his car keys, according to a Chicago police report.

Floyd hustled outside and drove away with the driver's 2013 Toyota Prius, prosecutors said. Cops located the car in traffic near Montrose and Sheridan a short time later. Floyd was behind the wheel.

While the Uber driver told police that the passenger who robbed him was female, he subsequently confirmed to police that Floyd was the correct person, the CPD report said. Floyd's latest arrest report said he identifies as male; however, his CPD mugshot history shows he has been arrested at least six times since 2014 while wearing wigs and clothing that made him appear female.

Floyd, 30, faces charges of robbery and possessing a stolen motor vehicle.

Prosecutors asked Judge Deidre Dyer to keep Floyd in jail pending trial. Dyer rejected the detention petition and decided Floyd should be released on an ankle monitor.

Armed robbery spree rolls from Wicker Park to Old Town; at least one more crew on the loose

Chicago police scored two arrests after another wave of armed robberies rocked neighborhoods from Wicker Park to Old Town on Jan. 18. However, the arrests were followed by another wave of robberies, suggesting that at least one holdup crew remains active.

In one robbery, a 21-year-old man who ordered an Uber to the 2100 block of W. Division got robbed by three armed men who arrived in a blue Honda Civic that looked like the rideshare he was expecting, according to preliminary information.

Three men exited the Honda, some armed with Draco-style firearms, around 3 p.m. They took the victim's book bag, MacBook, wallet, phone, and more.

We learned that a 54-year-old Uber driver was carjacked of her black Honda Civic in West Englewood early on Saturday, but it is unclear if the crimes are related.

At about 6 p.m., a robbery spree began when two men dressed in black clothing mugged a man near the corner of Randolph and Aberdeen in the West Loop.

A short time later, a similar robbery occurred in the 1600 block of N. Springfield. The victim reported that a group of masked men physically attacked him, took his valuables, and fled in a black Hyundai.

Reports indicated additional robberies near Pulaski and Iowa, in the first block of N. Hamlin, and the 4300 block of W. Thomas.

However, the robbers' luck ended when they targeted another victim near the intersection of Blackhawk and Cleveland in Old Town around 6:35 p.m.

Four masked men jumped out of a

dark Hyundai, pointed guns at the victim, and took his wallet and keys, according to initial information.

Cops located the Hyundai near the intersection of Sheffield and North Ave. in Lincoln Park about 15 minutes later. The last victim reportedly identified both of the detained suspects as part of the robbery team.

After further investigation involving the getaway cars and reports of recently stolen vehicles, cops concluded that the robbers arrested in Lincoln Park were involved in at least some of the earlier robberies. Detectives were working to build cases to support criminal charges.

Another wave of robberies began around 9:30 p.m. in the 1400 block of N. Bell. Two armed men took wallets and money from three victims and escaped in a car driven by a third suspect, according to initial information.

Over the next two hours, additional robberies were reported in the 1100 block of N. Wolcott, the 1800 block of W. Division, the 1200 block of W. Lake, and the first block of E. 16th St. The second spree did not result in any arrests.

Man scammed \$700K from casino

A federal jury has convicted a Chicago resident of stealing \$700,000 from a Potawatomi Indian casino in Michigan by tricking one of its employees to turn over the cash. Jesus Gaytan-Garcia, 44, found guilty of aiding and abetting interstate transportation of stolen property and theft from an Indian tribal organization, will be sentenced on April 25 in Kalamazoo.

On July 30, 2023, someone using a Cancun, Mexico, phone number called the Four Winds Casino Hartford and identified himself as "Charles Martinez," the tribal chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, an FBI agent said in a complaint against Gaytan-Garcia. "Martinez" was connected with a manager in the casino cage, the area where large amounts of cash are counted and secured.

The FBI agent alleged that while that conversation was underway, the cage manager began receiving text messages from a New Jersey phone number from a person who claimed to be her boss. The "boss" said they needed "discreet" assistance making an urgent payment within 20 minutes.

According to the FBI agent, the fake chairman and the phony boss convinced the cage manager to walk out of the casino cage with \$700,000 stuffed into a Michael Kors bag. Another employee immediately reported the cash removal to casino security.

As tribal police and the casino began investigating, the cage manager drove to Gary, Indiana, while speaking with and getting directions from the "chairman," officials said. At about 2:15 p.m., the manager stopped at a Citgo gas station in Gary and handed the money to two men who pulled up in a Chrysler Pacifica minivan.

The FBI agent's complaint explained how authorities tracked down Gaytan-Garcia. Investigators started by searching license plate reader data from around the area for Chrysler Pacificas. They eventually found one. It was registered to Gaytan-Garcia's wife at their home, the agent said.

Expanding their search, investigators learned the Pacifica had traveled from Chicago to California and back between Sept. 19 and 28, 2023. Along the way, Gaytan-Garcia and his wife were recorded on police body cameras when a Colorado State Patrol trooper stopped them for going 109 mph in a 75 mph zone.

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Plan to extend 606 trail east delayed, work may not start until late 2026

The plan to extend the 606 trail east to Elston Ave. has been delayed. The Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] says that the tricky engineering feat is now expected to begin sometime near the end of 2026, with a target finish date sometime by the end of 2027.

The city had hoped to complete the much-anticipated eastern extension of the 606's Bloomingdale Trail to Elston Ave. this year, but they have run into financial troubles tied to developer Sterling Bay.

Plans called for extending the 2.7-mile elevated bike and walking trail on a new bridge under the Kennedy Expy. to connect with Elston Ave., and eventually into and through the stalled Lincoln Yards development and over the Chicago River, eventually connecting to the lakefront through Lincoln Park.

Phase one of the project is budgeted for \$750,000, which reportedly has already been paid for by Sterling Bay.

Partial funding has been acquired for phase two, but more funds are still needed for the estimated \$30-\$40 million project.

A key component of that plan has always been the tricky pas-

sage across from where the trail now ends at Ashland. That passage would require a new bridge over Ashland Ave., then a path under the Kennedy Expy. and Metra railroad tracks, passage over Elston on an abandoned railroad bridge, then over a new bridge over the Chicago River and east into Lincoln Park.

For now, the existing plans call for trail extension to end on the eastern side of Elston Ave.

One big problem is the financial troubles Lincoln Yards and Sterling Bay now suffer under. One of the developer's main tasks as a part of the Tax Increment Financing deal with the city was building a new bridge over the Chicago River. The project now seems jeopardized due to financial difficulties.

The trail extension is being coordinated with the Lincoln Yards mixed-use development and includes land under the jurisdiction of CDOT, the Chicago Park District, Cook County, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the city, state and federal departments of transportation,

and Union Pacific Railroad.

The ultimate goal here was to create a multimodal transportation network incorporating boats, trains, cars, trucks, buses, bike and pedestrians.

Because it included an active walking and bike path, the trail was considered an "alternative transportation corridor" and the \$95 million project received two Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality grants from the U.S. taxpayers through the Dept. of Transportation, totaling \$50 million.

The remaining costs are being born by state, county and city taxpayers as well as some private philanthropic contributions.

In Aug. 2023, planners with CDOT unveiled detailed plans for the 606 extension, with construction then expected to begin in the third quarter of 2025 and finish by the end of 2026.

If Sterling Bay does not pull out of its financial death spiral, then another developer may have to come forward to quarterback the complicated engineering and construction project.

Local hotel industry sees positive growth, Chicago leading the way nationwide

BY HTRENDS

Among the Top 25 hotel markets, Chicago and Las Vegas saw the largest increases in key performance indicators, while San Francisco and New Orleans experienced the steepest declines.

According to the latest data from the leading real estate marketplace and analytics provider, CoStar, through Dec. 7, 2024, among the Top 25 Markets, Chicago led the way with the largest increases in occupancy and revenue per available room. Occupancy in Chicago rose by 17.8% to 67.6%, and revenue per available room skyrocketed by 42.9% to \$110.59.

Las Vegas also performed well, posting the highest lift in ADR

with a substantial 27.1% increase to \$261.33.

Nationwide the U.S. hotel industry saw favorable year-over-year performance comparisons. The occupancy rate for the period was 59.0%, a slight increase of 0.5% compared to the same week in 2023. The average daily rate also increased by 3.8% to \$159.77, and revenue per available room rose by 4.3% to \$94.31.

However, not all markets performed equally. San Francisco and New Orleans reported the steepest declines, with revenue falling by 16.7% to \$114.86 and 14.7% to \$83.16, respectively. These figures highlight the mixed fortunes within the U.S. hotel industry, with some cities thriving while others face challenges.

Theatre Week 2025 Kick-off party Feb. 3 at Black Ensemble Theater

Free and open to all

The League of Chicago Theatres has announced that their Theatre Week Kick-off party will be held 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St. The event will preview Chicago Theatre Week 2025, which is Feb. 6-16.

The party is free and open to the public with advance registration at: <https://leagueofchicagotheatres.org/event/2025-chicago-theatre-week-kick-off-party/>

The party begins with an hour-long program to include an announcement of Theatre Week events, performances by Young Peoples Theatre (Bob Marley's Three Little Bird), The Revival (Chicago Style) and one more to be announced. A reception will follow the performances.

Theatre Week tickets, all priced at \$15, \$30, or less, are now sale at ChicagoTheatreWeek.com. The

week is an annual celebration of the tradition of theatre-going in Chicago during which visitors and residents can access value-priced tickets.

Last year's Chicago Theatre Week saw massive ticket sales with more than 18,000 tickets sold to 81 participating productions for more than 446 performances. 64 theaters participated, with 29 neighborhoods and suburbs represented. The program brings in new audiences to area theatres with approximately 58% of patrons visiting their chosen theatre for the first time.

Chicago Theatre Week also raises the visibility of the industry, as evidenced by the 144,689 unique visitors to their web site.

Chicago theatre is the leader in the U.S. with more than 250 theatres throughout Chicago-land, comprising a varied community ranging from storefront, non-union theatres to the most renowned resident theatres in the country, including seven which have been honored with Regional Tony Awards, and the largest touring Broadway organization in the nation.

Chicago's theatres serve 5 million audience members annually and have a combined budget of more than \$250 million. Chicago produces and/or presents more world premieres annually than any other city in the nation.

Letter to the Editor

Grammatical errors

Tom O'Gorman you [and newspaper editors] must admit that both Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie would have dealt you a murderous blow for the grammatical errors in your [Jan. 22] preface: "Miss Marpole," "Midsummer," and "premiadiation." However, the context of your article was impeccable. You would have been spared an injury.

Brenda Rossini

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JUDGES from p. 5

tion side in Cook County. As an assistant state's attorney here, Hock handled criminal cases at the appellate level. Like Murphy and Costello, he was elected to the bench last fall.

• Judge Rivanda Doss retired as a supervisor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in 2021 after a career that included stops in the Trial Division, Grand Jury Unit, and Special Litigation Unit. She was appointed to an associate judgeship in April 2024 and won her unopposed campaign for a circuit judgeship in November.

• Judge Luciano Panici, Jr. also won a circuit judgeship in November. His legal career has been spent in private practice. His father, Luciano Panici, Sr., has been a Cook County associate judge since 2001.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

Through various other techniques, investigators determined that a phone and a Gmail account associated with Gaytan-Garcia were used near the Citgo gas station at the time of the cash hand-off, the FBI agent said.

Armed with that information, agents secured a search warrant for Gaytan-Garcia's home in Chicago. With the assistance of tribal law enforcement, agents raided the home last February and found a brick of \$100 bills inside a safe. According to the agent, the cash was wrapped in a band stamped with the word "Hartford" and the date of the casino heist.

The agent's complaint said Gaytan-Garcia is from Mexico and has been in the U.S. "without legal authorization." And, the agent noted, the Pokagon Band's tribal chairperson was named Rebecca Richards, not Charles Martinez.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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The 'Damien' Play on March 2 at Holy Name

Holy Name Cathedral will have a special presentation of "Damien," a one-man play by Aldyth Morris starring Chicago sports personality Wayne Messmer as Father (St.) Damien of Molokai, 7 p.m. Sunday, March 2. in the Cathedral, 735 N. State St.

The play tells a powerful true story of how a Belgium priest ministered to thousands of marginalized, abandoned men, women and children living with leprosy, which was an incurable and thought-to-be highly contagious disease in the 19th Century.

Damien arrived in Hawaii in March 1864. He worked on the island for nine years as a priest, leading a meaningful yet undistinguished life. In 1866, Hawaii established a leper colony on the Kalaupapa Peninsula on the island of Molokai.

It was still mistakenly believed that leprosy was highly contagious. This belief resulted in the forced quarantine of leprosy patients. These people still needed spiritual and medical care, so Damien discerned his call to serve them, and in 1873, Damien made the trip to care for these people in their colony.

Tickets are free, but need to be reserved ahead of time, visit <https://holyname.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/658/responses/new>. Preferred, reserved seating is available for \$15 and includes a pre-play dinner.

This reception starts after the 5:15 p.m. Mass and runs until the play begins at 7 p.m.

COURAGE from p. 2

taste."

Gerald died in 1969. His funeral took place in the Murphy's beloved East Hampton, NY, at the Little Episcopal Church on the Green. And buried in South End Cemetery, East Hampton, beside the graves of his two sons. Nora's ashes would, later, be entered in Gerald's grave in 1975.

Gerald was a deep reader and often quoted the English Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, when recalling the spirit and artistry of the Paris exiles. "Patience exquisite, which plumes to peace hereafter." He was a Gatsby.

"So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

TAXPAYER'S NIGHTMARE: This from the wise and savvy **Susana A. Mendoza**, Illinois Comptroller, concerning further ineptitude over Chicago's recent "credit downgrade" on City Hall's 5th floor. "Bad news for Chicago. This credit downgrade was an avoidable, self-inflicted wound that will increase costs for Chicago taxpayers. Ignoring credit rating agency warnings, an intransigence toward sensible cuts or responsible belt-tightening and irresponsible borrowing is a recipe for credit downgrades. The Chicago Mayor's office just led a master class on financial mismanagement. And they continue to spend wildly.

Unfortunately it will cost Chicago taxpayers substantially more in increased costs. As the economic engine of the state, this financial dysfunction in Chicago hurts all of us and needs to stop.

CHICAGO READER: How the mighty have fallen. The Chicago Reader is at imminent risk of closure, the paper's publisher announced last week. The Reader Institute for Community Journalism, which publishes the Chicago Reader, announced the layoffs of six non-union employee staff positions due to an "urgent need" to reduce costs to avoid shutting down the publication. They were once kings.

CENTURY: Congratulations to larger-than-life politico, the Park District's former boss - and longtime 47th Ward Committeeman, **Ed Kelly**, who turned 100



Hugh Jackman and Richard Paddor.



Molly and Matt Tully with Michael.



The Ikram Goldmans



Irene Michaels



Patty and Stormy Bidwill.



Dylan Trotter. Photo courtesy Colin Boyle

years. He was elected committeeman in 1968. He had run for committeeman at the request of Mayor **Richard Daley**. Kelly was considered the Democrat political boss of the ward. He built the ward's operation into one of the strongest Democratic ward operations in the city.

FLOWERS: On Jan. 24 **Beth Tarrant** and her wonderful team at Anna Held Florist in Edgewater celebrated 40 years of business. The "Anna" so many people refer to is **Anna Held**, the former proprietor of the shop in the Edgewater Beach Apartments building at the corner of Bryn Mawr and Sheridan Rd. Although Held passed away long ago, Tarrant, the store's current owner, felt that the shop's name shouldn't be changed. "It's been called that

for 50-some years." Held at one time was head of FTD. The flamboyant florist was also fond of dancing "and she would always wear a bird-of-paradise. That was her trademark"... Happy 40th!

LOOKINGGLASS: The long-awaited re-opening of Chicago's celebrated Lookingglass Theater has arrived. And the redesigned lobby, bar and cafe is resplendent at what will now be known as the Joan & Paul Theatre. Important cultural enterprise at 163 E. Pearson, at Michigan Ave. Company member **David Schwimmer** joined Lookingglass for the ribbon cutting.

HISTORIC: Fitzgerald's in suburban Berwyn, a cherished music venue that has operated for more than a century, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

CHARLIE TROTTER'S: **Dylan Trotter**, son of the late Chicago restaurateur **Charlie Trotter**, has announced that the famed restaurant bearing his father's name will reopen this year after first opening as a pop-up restaurant with Chef **Grant Achatz** following a two week dinner series at the Lincoln Park restaurant.

CHICAGO DANCE: Giordano Dance Chicago's "Studio 62" gala is almost sold out. I hope you have this fun-filled, dance-fueled party on your calendar. Sat., Feb. 1. Ravenswood Events Center.

SEX AND THE CITY GATE:

New York's Landmarks Preservation Commission approved an application for a gate Tuesday after **Barbara Lorber**, who has owned the building since 1978, lamented "the endless presence of interest in my celebrity staircase." The stately three-story building in Greenwich Village's historic district was used for exterior shots of the apartment occupied by Carrie Bradshaw, played by **Sarah Jessica Parker**.

GOT POPCORN?: Producer **Richard Paddor** and **Christopher Mejia** flying to LA from Sydney, Australia, discovered ac-



Giovanni Garelli and Gordon Sinclair.

tor **Hugh Jackman** sitting behind them and tried to interest him for their film, the musical version of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

WHO'S WHERE: Prayers and healing wishes to Gibson's **Peggy O'Ryan Lombardo** who broke her ankle while traveling and requires major recovery time... **Molly** and **Matt Tully** glowing over their new wee one, **Michael Danaher Tully**, with faces filled with Irish delight, so too grandpa and grandma, **Tom** and **Ellen Danaher Tully**... Friends of **Cynthia Olson** just sailed from the UK to NY on a magnificent ship, RMS Queen Anne, the newest jewel in the Cunard Crown... Get Well wishes to our buddy, law man **Rick Barrett**, recently rescued from nasty cranial melanoma... **Paul R Iacono** lunching in Paris at Les Antiquaires, home of the best Beef Bourguignon... the **Contessa Bottega** looking chic and elegant in the New Year... **Whitney Reynolds** kicking off her TV show's new season at CineCity Studios with guest star of "The Recruit" **Noah Centineo**... Chicago favorite **Jasper Lowell**, now in St. Petersburg FL, a big move... Congrats to **Jim Kinney** on the successful surgery for removal of his kidney stone with little grief and lot of joy, all prayers answered... the great **Gordon Sinclair**, restaurateur to the stars, pinched recently with **Giovanno Garelli**... Strong shouts

of praise to the sporting **Bidwill Family** for their benevolent actions donating their stadium and flying the LA Rams to Phoenix... **Christopher Clinton Conway** at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, CA, where they've reopened, offering free entry to the public providing not only access to world-class art but also a place of refuge... **Ikram Goldman** and her boys did New Year's Eve in Mexico, the family has certainly grown-up... **Dr. Rose Gomez** got to celebrate her birthday at the famed Beaux Rivage in Lausanne, Switzerland... **Bobbi Panter** and **Matt Arnoux**

sending needed health supplies from their pet supplies warehouse to Southern California to care for canines suffering in the fires there... **Beth Silverman** at the Green Mill

for Friday night Jazz... Word to **Maralyn Maralyn**, "Cheer up girl, you're the best"... **Philip Potempa** and **Luke Miller** at Chicago Shakespeare Theater with bad hair at the end of day, but the great stage escape about all things hair-apparent... **Bonnie Brennan** was recently named CEO of Christie's Auction House with **Guillaume Cerutti** remaining Board Chair... **Ken Norgan** enjoyed a delicious 82nd birthday dinner at home with **Pepe, Matt**, and **Adam** and at Gibson's with **Pepe** and **Helen**... **Susan Gohl** and **Jonathan Grabill** made it from Naples to Palm Beach where they connected to their "horsey" friends at the new hot spot, Henry's... Happy Birthday to art maven **Gloria Groom**, what's good and true at the Art Institute... **Irene Michaels** all gussied up in Washington, DC during inauguration and now off to Vegas for an Eagles concert.

IRIS APFEL COLLECTION: Christie's presents an online auction celebrating one of America's most iconic style-makers, **Iris Apfel**. Fashion, accessories and interior design is open for bidding through Feb. 13.

If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast. - **Ernest Hemingway**

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Hawaii’s Ukulele sensation Taimane live at Old Town School

BY PETER VON BUOL

Ukulele virtuoso Taimane Gardner, 35, whose unique repertoire blends traditional Hawaiian and Polynesian, classical, flamenco and rock (sometimes all in one song), will make her Chicago stage debut at the Old Town School of Folk Music’s Myron R. Szold Music & Dance Hall, 4545 N. Lincoln Ave., [OTS] on Jan. 30.

Gardner, whose first name of Taimane translates as the Samoan word for “diamond,” began playing the instrument at a very early age. Professionally, Gardner is known by her first name. She is currently touring with her band as Taimane and Her Trio.

Gardner’s father is a high school instructor and her late mother worked as a flight attendant. Her mother was Miss American Samoa at the 1978 Miss Universe Pageant.

“I have been playing ukulele since I was about five years old. I started to perform in public at local contests. I had attended the Roy Sakuma Ukulele School in Honolulu and enjoyed playing.” [Sakuma began his school in 1974. It revived the instrument as a lead instrument.] Her signature custom-made instrument is a five-string ukulele, not the usual four-stringed one.

“I loved performing. At about six to seven years of age, after having played at small coffee

shops, my dad took me to Waikiki Beach to play for [larger audiences],” said Gardner.

Afterwards, her family moved to New Zealand. While she and her family had enjoyed living in another part of Polynesia, and she never stopped playing ukulele, they did become homesick. Upon returning home to O’ahu, she was drawn by a desire to once again perform in public.

“We had missed Hawai’i, so we moved back. Then, I started busking again on the streets. I was about 13 years old when one of the performers in the Don Ho Show saw me performing and invited me to play for Ho [whose legendary musical career spanned four decades],” Gardner said.

In 2002, Ho was Waikiki’s top musical act, consistently attracting visitors and locals to his shows. After four decades in music and in Hollywood, Ho had remained the Aloha State’s most recognizable star. Throughout his entire career, Ho supported young musical performers and songwriters. After hearing Gardner perform, she quickly became one of his featured performers.

She first played at his restaurant at the Aloha Tower. Then, she was asked to perform with “Uncle Don” at his Waikiki show at his big and expensive nighttime show at the Beachcomber Hotel. “That is how I knew him, just as Uncle Don,” said Gardner, who as a teen



Ukulele virtuoso Taimane Gardner will perform Jan. 30 at Old Town School of Folk Music.

did not really understand Ho was an internationally-recognized performer.

“I had no clue how famous he was. He really took me under his wing, and introduced me to his show. I was just happy doing what I loved and it was a cool show. I started playing once a week and then it became three times a week. I learned a lot from him, especially about all that goes on behind the scenes and the people that put a show together,” said Gardner, who performed with Ho until his death in 2007.

Gardner also credits as a mentor Cha Thompson, operator of the 50th State’s biggest luau production company, Tihati Productions.

“Auntie Cha started having me

I was about 13 years old when one of the performers in the Don Ho Show saw me performing and invited me to play for Ho [whose legendary musical career spanned four decades],” Taimane Gardner said.

play at her luau shows. First, I played at the Waikiki hotels, and it grew from there. It was a launch pad to perform at corporate gigs and ukulele festivals. My career really blossomed, after that,” said Gardner.

Since her days with Ho, Gardner has recorded seven albums for different record labels. She

has also been a featured guest performer on others. Gardner has also found popularity on the internet, where she has more than 500,000 social media followers and 50 million video views.

In March, 2020, Taimane and her Trio recorded a nearly 20 minute live video performance for National Public Radio which remains popular.

Despite including the works of classical music composers such as Bach, Beethoven and Bizet into her song catalogue, she would not describe herself as having the ability to read music.

“I do it by listening to the songs. I do not read music. I can read notes, but I always get tripped up by the rhythm I have learned. I really just can’t connect the notes on the page with what I play. I feel like my ears just take over. My ears read faster than my eyes,” said Gardner.

While Gardner has been performing on the mainland since her days with Don Ho, she is looking forward to playing her first concert in Chicago and at the historic OTS. The OTS is one of the few institutions that stages performances like this.

“It is well-known as a venue for music professionals and considered a really good place to play and with a lot of history,” she said. Tickets are \$28 for the general public and \$26 for OTS members.

Authors to discuss strong female characters Feb. 16 at Chicago Loop Synagogue

Two strong female authors will talk about the strong female main characters of their novels when Charlene Wexler and Alina Rubin speak at the Chicago Loop Synagogue, 16 S. Clark St., 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16.

Wexler will discuss her latest book, Farewell to South Shore, and Rubin will speak about her latest novel, A Girl With a Knife.

Wexler’s Farewell to South Shore, about growing up and coming of age, taps into and articulates a woman’s emotions related to the changing world of the second half of the 20th Century,

particularly its expectations of women.

The book intones perseverance and determination to help take charge of one’s own life, as the protagonist, Sherrie, tackles a world vastly different than the idyllic South Shore community in which she grew up.

Farewell to South Shore was named a Bronze Award winner in the contemporary fiction category of the Global Book Awards, and a Four Seasons Book Award Fall Finalist in 2024.

Rubin’s A Girl With a Knife tells the story of Ella, a young

woman who wants to be a physician, which is not allowed in early 19th century England.

To fulfill her dream, Ella must disguise herself as a man. As she excels in medical school, dogged by fear of discovery Ella must choose between truth and lies, and distinguish between real and false friends, before her pretense is uncovered.

The public is invited, reservations are required. Register online at <http://www.chiloopsyn.org>.

Discounted parking is \$10 for 12 hours (ask for coupon at event) is available at the Madison-Wash-

ington-Wells Garage at 172 W. Madison St.

Audience members will be able to meet and ask questions, and autographed copies of both authors’ works will be available for purchase.

Author Wexler is the author of the novels Farewell to South Shore, Lori, Murder Across the Ocean, and Murder on Skid Row. Her books of essays and humor are Elephants in the Room and Milk and Oranges. Her work has also appeared in North Shore Magazine, Vision Magazine, Gazette Chicago, and many websites, visit

www.charlenewexler.com.

Rubin’s latest novel is A Girl With a Knife, which won the Illinois Soon to be Famous Author Competition of 2022. Her other work includes A Surgeon and a Spy, Hearts by the Sea, Abigail’s Song, and No Job for a Woman. She is now working on two historical fiction series with strong heroines. Her company Hearts and Sails Author Services is helping other indie authors publish books of their dreams. See www.alinarubinauthor.com.

North Township Real Estate For Sale					
Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CITEMORTGAGE, INC. Plaintiff, -v- CHANG H. KIM, MI HUI KIM, 1400 STATE PARKWAY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 22 CH 4269 1400 N. STATE PARKWAY, UNIT 10F CHICAGO, IL 60610 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 9, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 25, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1400 N. STATE PARKWAY, UNIT 10F, CHICAGO, IL 60610 Property Index No. 17-04-211-035-1089 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$398,997.99. 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, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 357-1125 Please refer calls to the sales department. 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. LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201 CHICAGO IL, 60606 312-357-1125 E-Mail: pleadings@nevellaw.com Attorney File No. 22-01310 Attorney Code. 18837 Case Number: 22 CH 4269 TJSC#: 45-153 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 22 CH 4269 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE NORTH TOWN VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION	Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 357-1125 Please refer calls to the sales department. 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. LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201 CHICAGO IL, 60606 312-357-1125 E-Mail: pleadings@nevellaw.com Attorney File No. 22-01310 Attorney Code. 18837 Case Number: 22 CH 4269 TJSC#: 45-153 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 22 CH 4269 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE NORTH TOWN VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff, -v- SHANA R. HUGHES, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2024 CH 07580 1333 NORTH BURLING STREET, UNIT B CHICAGO, IL 60610 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 13, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 A.M. on February 25, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: UNIT 1333 B IN THE NORTH TOWN VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM, AS DELINEATED ON A SURVEY OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND: LOTS 2, 4 THROUGH 30, AND 33 THROUGH 38 IN NORTH TOWN VILLAGE, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF VARIOUS LOTS, BLOCKS, STREETS, AND ALLEYS IN BUTTERFIELD'S ADDITION TO CHICAGO IN THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, WHICH SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "C" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP FOR NORTH TOWN VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 0010906035, AND AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, TOGETHER WITH ITS UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS. Commonly known as 1333 NORTH BURLING STREET, UNIT B, CHICAGO, IL 60610 Property Index No. 17-04-113-100-1030 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$121,726.24. 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, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of	title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact EGAN & ALAILY LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 20 South Clark Street, Suite 2120, Chicago, IL, 60603 (312) 253-8640. 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. EGAN & ALAILY LLC 20 South Clark Street, Suite 2120 Chicago IL, 60603 312-253-8640 E-Mail: clerk@ea-atty.com Attorney ARDC No. 59515 Attorney Code. 59515 Case Number: 2024 CH 07580	TJSC#: 45-156 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 07580 13259457 292929 ----- 222222 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION TRUIST BANK Plaintiff, -v- MOJTABA DIRBAZ; LAKE POINT TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants. 2024CH07699 505 N LAKE SHORE DR APT 508, CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 11/20/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on February 26, 2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60606, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 505 N LAKE SHORE DR APT 508, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-214-016-1852 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$191,793.90 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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. 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Arts of Life celebrates 25th anniversary with birthday bash book launch

Arts of Life, the Chicagoland nonprofit supporting artists with disabilities, is marking its 25th anniversary with a year of celebrations, starting with a Birthday Party & Book Launch on Feb. 22. The event will debut the new hardcover book *Twenty Five – Arts of Life 2000-2025*, a visual retrospective capturing the organization's journey since its found-

ing in 2000.

The celebration will take place at Seven Star Venue Space, 2017 W. Howard St. from 1 to 4 p.m. Guests will enjoy artist and leadership remarks, a birthday cake cutting, dancing, a raffle, and a paddle-raising session. The book, along with select prints, will also be available for purchase.

The 25th Anniversary celebra-

tions include a NYC Book Launch at the Outsider Art Fair from Feb. 27 to March 2, an exhibition at the Design Museum of Chicago from Aug. 11 to Sep. 30 with an Art on theMART projection from Sept. 11 to Oct. 6, and the Annual Benefit Art Auction on Oct. 3.

Tickets and more information can be found at artsoflife.org.

Arts of Life, founded in 2000,

is a nonprofit supporting artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing professional studio spaces and opportunities for creative and career growth. With two studios and over 60 artists, the organization fosters independence and leadership while ensuring artists earn 60% of art sales.

"We are overjoyed to mark Arts

of Life's silver anniversary" shares Arts of Life Executive Director Denny Fisher. "This milestone is a testament to the creativity and resilience of our community."

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PUBLICATION NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR DEKALB COUNTY, TENNESSEE, THIRTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT SMITHVILLE

FREDDY WAYNE BOWMAN,)
PETITIONER,)

VERSUS) DOCKET NO:
) 2022-CV-36

LINDA D. PAGE,)
RESPONDENT.) JUDGE KNIGHT

TO: LINDA D. PAGE, RESPONDENT
BY VIRTUE of an Order of the Court the Said Linda D. Page, whose address is unknown, is hereby notified that said Freddy Wayne Bowman has filed a Petition in said Court alleging that for a continuous period of more than two years, the parties have not cohabited in the same residence as husband and wife, and that there are no minor children of the parties. Freddy Wayne Bowman prays that he may be divorced from said Linda D. Page. Linda D. Page is required to answer Freddy Wayne Bowman's Petition on or before the 28th day of February, 2025, or judgment by default will be requested. The purpose of the said Petition is to obtain a decree of divorce, dissolving the marriage between the parties for the cause of desertion.

D. MICHAEL KRESS II
Attorney for Petitioner
8 East Bockman Way
Sparta, Tennessee 38583

Letter to the Editor

What's the rush, pause the Broadway plan

The Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development's [DPD] proposed Broadway upzoning plan needs more study and genuine community input. Aldermen Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th], Angela Clay [46th], and Matt Martin [47th] must slow down this process until additional study is done and more community input is obtained. There are many unanswered questions and concerns about this one-size-fits-all plan that would have a huge impact on Uptown and Edgewater.

At a Jan. 25 community forum at the Edgewater Public Library, three architectural and planning experts laid out many issues and questions about the proposed plan, which conflicts with the Edgewater zoning and visioning plans in 2006 and 2022 that received deep community input.

The existing zoning already allows for density, and there have been many dense residential projects completed, with more underway.

The existing zoning limits development on the west side of Broadway to 4-story buildings, while denser 5-6 story buildings are allowed on the east side of Broadway. Residents have big concerns particularly about the

proposed plan to give developers the right to build 6-8 story buildings on the west side.

Residents are worried about the impact on their alleys behind the proposed new dense buildings on the west side of Broadway; traffic volume and safety on side streets; parking, given the plan's sharp reduction in required on-site parking for new buildings; protection of architecturally significant "legacy" buildings, and protection of popular businesses such as Patio Beef. The city apparently has not conducted any study of the traffic impact of the proposed plan.

Also of concern are the 21 newly allowed and/or specially permitted uses under the proposed plan. Those uses would include liquor stores, pawn shops, gas stations, hotels, and entertainment venues.

The plan seeks to improve housing affordability by creating a large new supply of housing that would reduce rents and purchase prices overall. But the DPD has presented no evidence that the Broadway upzoning plan would actually achieve that goal.

At the forum, Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth questioned the "validity" of some of the experts' statements, without specifying which

she was questioning. She also did not acknowledge the strong community consensus in favor of delaying the upzoning plan pending more study and community input.

There have been no public forums so far at which DPD officials or the three alders have gotten up in front of community residents and explained and justified the plan, and where residents have gotten the opportunity to get up and voice their own views. DPD was invited to send a representative on Jan. 25 and declined.

DPD started the Broadway upzoning planning process last July,

then held two charrette-style forums. Now the city wants to ram this through the City Council in February.

In contrast, the DPD formulated the Clark Street Crossroads redevelopment plan with community input over 18 months, resulting in a well-thought-out, comprehensive plan that received community support.

Supporters of the Broadway upzoning plan falsely claim that community members who raise questions about it are opposed to more density and don't care about creating more affordable housing. That is false. We care a lot about

improving affordability. But we want a better, more inclusive process for developing a plan that considers a wide range of issues affecting quality of life in our community.

I urge the three Aldermen to tell DPD that it needs to pause this plan and reach out to block clubs and community groups to gather more input, and redraw this plan to address those well-founded community concerns.

Harris Meyer
Uptown

BROADWAY from p. 1

L train lines, and the Granville Greenway scheme by the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] to impede vehicular traffic on Granville between Kedzie and Sheridan while promoting scooter and bicycle usage.

In the Broadway upzoning plan, DPD planners seek a massive one-size-fits-all approach by upzoning Broadway to B3-5 which will allow for 80-foot in height buildings on both sides of Broadway from Devon to Foster.

Currently, buildings on the west side of Broadway are restricted to four floors unless the alderman approves projects on a case-by-case basis.

DPD's plans to create greater density along Broadway is by allowing for much smaller residential units. In one example given for a parcel near Broadway and Berwyn, the current zoning [B1-2] allows for a maximum height of 50 feet (or four stories). This would equate to 50 units of 1,000 sq. ft/unit, or; 75 units at 700 sq. ft/unit (efficiencies or SRO's).

Under the proposed DPD plans for this same parcel at new zoning [B3-5], builders could construct a 80-foot maximum height (7-8 stories). This equates to 262 units at 200 sq. ft/unit, or; 388 units at 135 sq. ft/unit (efficiencies), or; 525 units at 100 sq. ft/units (SRO's).

Nearby neighbors who own on the east side of Magnolia share an alley with lot owners on the west side of Broadway. With no new curb-cuts allowed on Broadway under the new zoning, residents would then share alleyways, mak-

ing a common route of egress for not only the new tenants in high density buildings, but movers, delivery trucks, ride share and waste haulers. Would alleyways become one-way traffic routes? Would one parked truck block the single-lane alley?

The discussion attempted to explain some of the repercussions from the zoning change and green light to high density development. They are explanations the city has so far chosen to withhold from citizen stakeholders.

Indeed, all the additional traffic that comes with a massive increase in density from an upzoned Broadway will be felt throughout the community from Sheridan Rd. to Clark St.

The discussion attempted to explain some of the repercussions from the zoning change and green light to high density development. They are explanations the city has so far chosen to withhold from citizen stakeholders.

An owner of an existing property on the west side of Broadway understands his current level of rental income. That may be affected by the proposed upzoning when greater heights and densities make the property more appealing to being sold to developers. A \$4 million property is suddenly realized to be valued at \$8 million by developers.

The 10 block clubs believe the DPD plan represents one broad-brush solution for the 15 blocks of

Broadway that are within the 48th Ward. The block clubs say they haven't been contacted by DPD or any agency. They raised questions about DPD's conclusion that Broadway is underutilized and that some businesses are incompatible with the City's new plans.

One example of DPD's duplicity is in concluding that bars and liquor stores are prohibited in the upzoned B3-5 businesses when such businesses are clearly permissible with a Special Use Permit.

DPD also failed to acknowledge the 75 architecturally significant buildings along Broadway in Edgewater that will be put at risk.

The meeting ended with a question and answer period that could have gone on for much longer that allowed. At the end the meeting grew vitriolic when three individuals who self-identified as "urban planners" and "experts" essentially threw-in with the DPD proposal, while negating the benefit of any further community stakeholder input.

All three called for an end to further study and meetings, and for the city to just move ahead without delay.

An earlier show of hands showed that nearly 90% of the 150 or more people in the room did want further study and discussions.

One urban planner, Michael Podgers, a member of the 48th Ward Zoning Advisory Council, said in essence that while he "saw a lot of gray hair in the meeting room," plans had to be made for the future.

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