

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.

— Dalai Lama

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Simmons appointed to fill out Steans' State Senate seat

BY BOB KITSOS

In what many people thought was an unexpected decision, members of the Cook County Democratic Party appointed Michael Simmons, a community activist, to fill the Illinois State Senate District 7 seat vacated Jan. 31 by Heather Steans.

The 7th District covers portions of Rogers Park, West Ridge, Edgewater, Uptown, Andersonville, Bowmanville and Ravenswood.

The frontrunner for the position appeared to be State Rep. Kelly Cassidy whose 14th district is part of Senate District 7. Cassidy threw her hat in the ring early on; she was met with challengers that included Simmons and four other candidates.

Meet the candidates

The Feb. 6 virtual meeting with the nine-member 7th District State Senate Appointment Com-

mittee and candidates followed numerous candidate forums held throughout the district.

In Illinois, when faced with a statehouse political vacancy in the middle of a term, that position is filled by a vote of all ward committeemen in accordance with their relative share of the total vote in that district.

Community residents were able to attend the meeting via video conference which was chaired by Alderman Harry Osterman [48th] at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St.

The committee reviewed candidate credentials – all said they

SENATE see p. 12



Michael Simmons



Fifth Third Bank is slated to return to a portion of the site where a large grocery store would occupy nearly 39,000 square feet. Its architectural drawings resemble a scaled-down version of the Whole Foods store at Lincoln, Belmont and Ashland Ave.

Busy North Center intersection may be transformed by mystery development

BY PETER VON BUOL

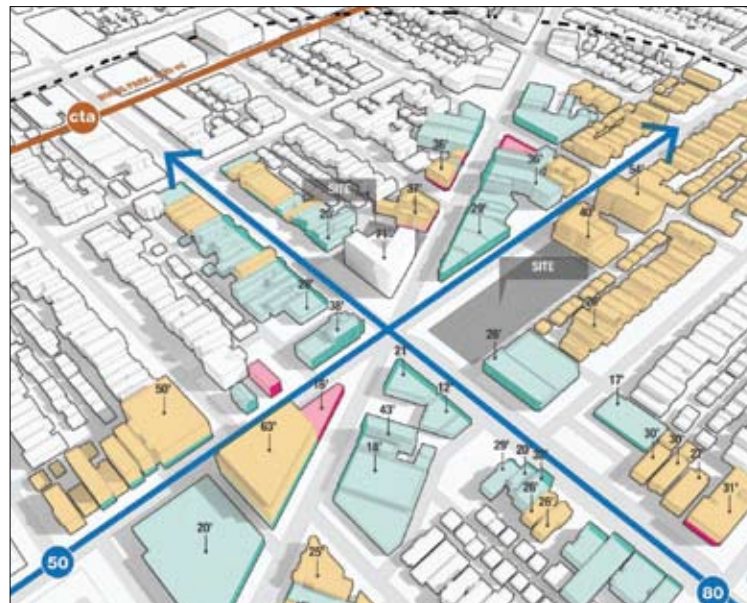
A large grocery store may soon be coming to one of the busiest intersections in North Center - Irving Park Rd., Lincoln and Damen avenues - if the city of Chicago approves amending the Planned Development 665 zoning designation which applies to the Fifth Third Bank properties at 3950 N. Damen Ave. and 3959 N. Lincoln Ave.

While Fifth Third Bank is slated to return to a portion of the site, a large grocery store (its architectural drawings resemble a scaled-down version of the Whole Foods store at Lincoln, Belmont and Ashland Ave.) would occupy nearly 39,000 square feet. A parking lot will occupy most of the roof of the building.

Irving Park Rd. is a state highway [Illinois Route 19] and experiences heavy traffic seven days a week. That six-point intersection is one of the busiest on the North Side.

Due to Irving Park having both an on/off-ramp for the Kennedy Expy. and Lake Shore Dr., traffic is especially busy on days the Chicago Cubs are playing in town.

The current planned development includes the bank building on the southwest corner of Irving Park and Lincoln Ave., as well as the adjoining parking lot on Irving Park and Damen. The developers have described plans to build a commercial building with a height of 45' on what today is a parking lot. The building will include a total of 45,000 square feet of retail space and will have 153 parking spots. Construction of the building is scheduled to begin in June and would replace the exist-



The six-point intersection of Lincoln, Damen and Irving Park is one of the busiest on Chicago's North Side. As a State Highway, Irving Park Rd. [Route 19] experiences heavy east-west traffic seven days a week. The mystery grocer will be located where the gray box is at center.

ing small bank drive-thru building and the surface parking lot.

Jay Case, operating partner for CRG, a subsidiary of St. Louis-based Clayco, has told this newspaper he cannot provide any comment about the possible anchor tenant due to a "non-disclosure agreement" and added he would be able to provide more details after 30 days.

What is known is that the submitted renderings resemble a nearby Whole Foods and Case's company has completed large buildings for Amazon, the parent company of Whole Foods.

On the other hand, Clayco is based in St. Louis and Schnuck's, a St. Louis-based grocery store company, has bought and operated stores in Rockford. They are another possibility.

While the developers have presented a copy of the proposal

to Ald. Matt Martin [47th], the alderman was disappointed by the non-disclosure agreement. A statement posted on the 47th Ward's website shows that the members of his zoning advisory committee also expressed their disappointment with the non-disclosure agreement.

Ald. Martin is now wrestling with his ward on three fronts that may dramatically change the character of the community. They are this North Center project, a similar grocery development proposed for Western and Lawrence avenues, and also over a scheme to give away a public parking lot at Western and Leland avenues to a private developer to build an affordable housing project on the site.

With people banned from hold-

DEVELOPMENT see p. 12

Ainslie Arts Plaza to get \$57,000 from City Hall

A new public arts plaza in Lincoln Square will be partly funded through a financial plan approved Jan. 27 by City Council.

The Ainslie Arts Plaza will use \$57,000 in Open Space Impact taxes to enhance an underutilized, half block-stretch of Lincoln Ave. between Gunnison and Ainslie streets. The plaza will include

planters, a festival tent, storage shed, fencing, picnic tables, murals, movable seating, hammocks, landscaping, lighting and other features.

The balance of the \$87,000 project will be funded by the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, which will maintain the site for use by local residents.

Hitting is in full swing

Nothing says baseball like a foot of snow and sub zero temperatures. But it's now time to sign up to play ball.

At the Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club [NBGC], 2501 W. Irving Park Rd., batting by boys and girls is back.

Club athletics programs are in full swing, they are now accepting registrations for the NBGC Hitting Lab.

In the Hitting Lab, participants will have the opportunity each week to spend time working on their swing in the batting cage. And when not in the batting cage, participants will be building fundamental skills including baseball grip, batting stance and

swing, hitting off a tee, throwing, catching, target throwing, fielding, hand-eye coordination, and soft-toss coach pitching.

This new program is designed with safety as a first priority. All NBGC athletic programs follow all protocols and best practices to protect against COVID-19.

Hitting Lab registration is now open and will close on March 5. The season runs March 8 - April 24, and is open to participants K-8th grade.

Registration is \$60 per participant and includes seven practices. For more information write to athletics@nbgc.org to secure a spot.



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She knew how to make the light shine



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

For many Chicagoans, the regular world of safety and comfort, you know, the one where our hair is brushed and our teeth are too, came to a shattering halt with the death of our friend Dori Wilson.

The former fashion model, a favorite subject of famed photographer Victor Skrebneski, died at her Uptown home, alone, in her sleep after returning home from another friend's funeral. Discovering this on Facebook at 4 a.m. wasn't helpful. Who do you call at that hour to check out Facebook? Where are the fact checkers when we really need them?

There was no time to investigate. Or barter with the Almighty over some mistake that had been made in heaven.

Not our Dori. Hadn't I talked to her four times on Thursday on the phone?

And four times on Friday?

Her emails were still fresh on my laptop, items she needed run. For Dori, we'd do anything. She knew how to shine the light.

When we spoke on the phone, we got the business out of the way quickly. The rest of the time we talked about the pandemic and food. Laying low and eating high. We spoke of dinners recently cooked, none better than with the gift box of Cassoulet ingredients. She had wanted to order a box for herself.

Post-pandemic I will cook it again, I told her. She'd be at the head of the table in a bib. We roared. Nothing like food to level the playing field. We both loved the way in which fragrant warm aromas lull you hypnotically in the kitchen.

And I loved just having dinner out with Dori, with no mess or dishes to clean up. Gibson's was a favorite spot. She loved that plank of whitefish. Me too. Dinners were always happy, humorous and filled with interesting tidbits.

Dori got lots of celebrity attention in public places, gave lots of hellos to others or big waves across the room.

She always managed a generous smooch across the tabletops to friends and admirers no matter where she was.

Wherever we ate, she managed to order a carry-out for nephew Travis. She knew all his favorites.

And, of course, Dori always looked so good. So stylish, nonchalant, armed with her extraordinary cuff bracelets, like my buddy Diana Vreeland. The two did have a lot in common. Dori not as eccentric. And way more easy.

I was trying to figure out what it was about Dori that so captivated my heart and I was able to come up with this much. Dori and I were two separate food groups. By that I mean that we did not have the common baggage that often draws people together.

She wasn't Irish, Catholic, a City Hall politico or a heavy card-carrying Democrat. All the social cultural forces that shaped my life and blinded my vision were basically foreign to her. She knew how things worked. But she was not controlled by such forces. She was a free soul. An unvanquished spirit. Two bright forces that normally are crushed by my cultural baggage.

That's why she was welcomed everywhere she went.

That's why people were always so happy to see her. From her first footstep down the runway to the circle of Chicago celebrity with elegance and ease.

Chicago has never had a shortage of citizens whose character and humanity are a much revered mirrored image of the city itself. You know, from Kate O'Leary



Dori Wilson



Jackie Taylor Holsten

and Bertha Palmer to Kate Buckingham, Ann Landers, Hortensia Swift, Edith Rockefeller McCormick, Dorsey Connors, Jack Brickhouse, Ida B. Wells, Long John Wentworth, Richard J. Daley, Cardinal George Mundelein, Heather Bilandic, Ardis Kranik, Sir Georg Solti and Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM. Quintessential Chicagoans who from buckboards to limousines helped to civilize the soil of our Prairie capitol. People whose very lives were the drumbeat of the city. People who thrived on the very public display of our American quirkiness and Midwestern chic-nerery.

What is it about this little landscape where the Prairie meets the lake? From the stockade compound of Fort Dearborn to the thin air atop the John Hancock Center, Chicago has challenged the Prairie dust with reason, urbane intelligence and colorful fashion for all the world to see. We go our own splendid American way of stunning style, and enviable social manners. Thanks to the style setters, like dashing Dori, chic as anyone in New York. As sweet and homespun as any soul in Mayberry, Oyster Bay or Beverly Hills.

Of course, I fear that the team is not refilling open spaces as room becomes available. It's indispensable that the bench be filled with

the hymns of friendship and the choruses of genuine affection that came so naturally to Dori and her long line of Chi-town pals. They spill over far beyond the 27 miles of the lakefront shoreline.

Dori sweetened life for us all.

As sweet as a Blommer's Chocolate, Fanny May or as savory as a canister of Garrett's caramel and cheddar popcorn. Faster than you can say White Castle, Gibson's Steak or a Coq d'or Brandy Alexander.

Good God Dori, look what you've made me say.

But true as a prayer said at Temple Shalom and trusting as the hopes of a White Sox fan. As clear an image as when Skrebneski first laid eyes on you, she knew how to make the light shine.

A dieu mon cher.

LOYOLA MEDAL: Jackie Taylor Holsten, first African-American woman to receive the Medal of Excellence from the Loyola School of Law. Holsten is Senior VP and General Counsel of Holsten Real Estate Development Corp., where she spearheads its property management and administration divisions. She also is

Board Chair and Executive Director of HHCD, a not-for-profit social service agency providing social services to over 3,000 residents of 12 sites throughout Metropolitan Chicago. It is through her commitments to Holsten and Loyola Univ. as a trustee, that she has found her purpose serving people and building communities.

BIG THANKS: Chen Price sending much gratitude to **Steve Lombardo** and Gibson's Steakhouse for sending 100 meals to feed the homeless and needy families in January. "God bless you from **Chanquanta Price** and Staff.

CITEES CLOSING: We're sad to announce the closing of Citees collection. Before these products are gone shop for huge discounts now.

MORE MASKS: Don't leave the house and travel around Chicago without knowing what is expected of you during the changes of protocols during the pandemic. Things have gotten more serious and new policies are in force. Be masked.

SI SE PUEDE: President Joe Biden's bust of migrant workers'

leader and civil rights advocate **Cesar Chavez** in the Oval Office signals a new era for Latinos and all other Americans, activists hope: 'It shows that he's authentic,' a spokesperson said.

THREATENED see p. 6

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Broken-hearted over loss of beloved Chicagoan



Heart of the 'Hood By Felicia Dechter

Dori Wilson was a lot of things to a lot of people. For one, she was good to this newspaper.

She was also a loving and beloved sister, aunt and cousin, an adored friend, a treasured boss, a cherished mentor, and more.

Dori was “so much to so many,” said her longtime assistant Melinda Guerra. And when Dori unexpectedly passed away in her sleep on Feb. 1, the loss resonated throughout the city.

“Dori was a close friend, a brilliant mentor, an unmatched networker, a powerhouse of a publicist,” said Guerra. “I saw behind the scenes as she worked her magic day in and day out across 11 years.”

“More than listening to her friends’ concerns, she took the afternoon to get manicures together or drop off something special to cheer them up; more than mentoring people, she grilled them about their next steps and gave valuable direction and introductions; more than networking, she developed personal relationships with everyone so she wasn’t connecting ‘contacts’ but friends,” said Guerra. “And more than publicizing clients, she found, shaped, and shared their most compelling stories—often in a way that let clients rediscover who they were.”

For the last 25 years I enjoyed working with Dori. Some publicists strive to make our job easier when putting together a story, Dori was one of them. And I was one of those people that Dori had dropped something off to for some cheer.

Dori repped America’s Beauty Show, an event usually held annually at McCormick Place that’s super fun to attend and filled with all sorts of cool beauty products that attendees can buy at a discount. Dori knew I enjoyed going and she always invited me.

I was going through cancer treatment one year and just couldn’t muster up the energy to go. So what did Dori do? She gathered together some wonderful goodies from the show and personally delivered a shopping bag full of them to me. Her thoughtfulness (and all the great stuff) really did cheer me up! I’ll never forget her kindness.

And just this past October, Dori sent me a pretty lilac-colored orchid, which sits in my kitchen window in a shiny white pot. I was totally surprised, pleasantly of course, the day it was delivered. The orchid to me will always be a wonderful reminder of Dori, strong yet delicately beautiful, colorful, and, lovely to look at.

According to a press release, Dori was born to Fannie Brown Wilson and William Wilson on Oct. 15, 1943, in Winona, MS. As a young child, she loved smelling the honeysuckle bush on the side of the house and walking uphill to school each morning, and she even developed a fondness for fishing and listening to the crickets as she lay in bed each night.

When she was seven, the family relocated to Chicago, where she found a passion for reading, tumbling, and playing Double Dutch. Later in life, Dori was always working -- reupholstering chairs, finishing her homework early to draw and create art. At the age of nine she was doing the neighborhood ladies’ hair! Her keen eye for beauty and strong work ethic was natural for Dori, who as a 14-year-old high school freshman at Hyde Park High School caught the bus to Woolworth’s at 43rd and Ellis, lied about her age saying she was 16, and landed herself a gig.

After high school, she attended Roosevelt



Dori Wilson Photo by Victor Skrebneski

Univ., started working at Goldblatt’s on State St., and then at Compton Advertising as a secretary and assistant producer. One day, while at a commercial photo shoot, Dori met a talent agent who told her she shouldn’t just be behind the camera—she should be in front of it as she was tall, thin and beautiful.

At the time, few models looked like Dori, yet she saw her uniqueness as an asset -- breaking barriers for other Black girls and women. As a dark-skinned Black woman, Dori felt that she always had to work harder, try harder, and aim higher than many of her peers.

Longtime friend and Ariel Investments co-CEO and President Mellody Hobson first saw Dori from afar as a teen working in a stock room on Oak St.

“When I raved about her to my mother, she told me that Dori was helping to change old-fashioned and highly conventional definitions of beauty,” said Hobson. “When I later met her as a young professional, we became instant friends. I often told her that when I looked at her face, I saw the face of my own mother. She was quite special to many, including me.”

In 1964, Dori became the first Black runway model in Chicago, opening shows for Bonwit Teller, Marshall Field’s, I. Magnin, Carson Pirie Scott, and Saks. She worked with her friend, acclaimed photographer Victor Skrebneski. Although people in the business suggested she quit advertising and model full time, Dori had other ideas. She joined Foote, Cone & Belding to work on their advertising project with Sears, Roebuck & Co, and in 1970, she became director of fashion and casting.

That same year, Dori was a contestant on TV’s “The Dating Game,” which landed her a trip to Italy and England. She continued to split her time, modeling in numerous events, including Gucci’s Fall 1970 campaign. Get this -- Dori even served as the prototype for the first Black mannequin in Marshall Field’s!

In 1980, Dori launched Dori Wilson & Assoc., which is how we met. Her impressive client list included the City of Chicago, Tiffany & Co., the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, America’s Beauty Show and many more. She was so committed to giving back to the community that she served on the board of many organizations including the Harris Theater, PAWS Chicago, the Chicago International Film Festival, Columbia College and more.

Dori was a trailblazing woman and icon who brought a larger than life status to the many fundraising efforts and charitable organizations she touched, said philanthropist Lee Blackwell, who has also announced the formation of a foundation in



Photo by Babak for America’s Beauty Show

Dori’s honor.

“Her stunning beauty and unbridled energy put her in a distinctive category, touching so many lives, including my own,” said Blackwell. “Our 20-year friendship was one of mutual respect and undying love. We will honor Dori’s life with the creation of the Dori Wilson Foundation, which will support those organizations to which Dori so intimately gave her heart and soul.”

Dori was a force of nature, said her longtime friend, columnist and former model Candace Jordan. “She was a brilliant people person and had friends in every part of the city and beyond,” said Jordan. “She was

a success at everything she touched, including being a mother to her beloved nephew Travis, who she raised, and to her pair of feisty Chihuahuas, Taco and Belle.

“She was always a champion for her friends and underdogs, too,” added Jordan. “A shining light has been extinguished way too soon. Her passing will leave a hole in many, many hearts.”

In interviews with The History Makers organization (which I’m proud to say that this newspaper helped launch) Dori noted that while she got her father’s work ethic, she also got her mother’s kindness—a quality she prized even more. She was asked many questions, but when asked how she’d like to be remembered, she said: “Dori was good and kind and did her best to help others.”

I think that she will get her wish.

“Dori demanded the very best from every one of us and let us know if she felt we were giving her any less than that,” said Guerra. “We rose to meet her standards, surprising ourselves but never her. Chicago has lost an inimitable professional and personality. [She] left a legacy in those she shaped with her love, attention, correction, and loyalty.”

Dori is survived by her nephew Travis Wilson, her brother William Thomas Wilson, Sr. and his spouse Joanna; her nephew Wil Wilson and his wife Kathy, and many other family members. She was preceded in death by parents Fannie Laura Brown and William (Willie) Wilson, sister Mamie Augusta Wilson, and half-sisters Georgia Jones and Dorothy Edwards.

LOSS see p. 4



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Home design trends changing due to 'shelter-at-home' pandemic



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

New housing design preferences in Chicago and across the nation are shifting as a result of the virus pandemic.

"Single-family homes and small apartment buildings with leafy outdoor space are in great demand, and architects and builders are taking notice because these residences are gaining more traction in the market," noted broker Sara Benson, president of Benson Stanley Realty based in Chicago.

"People are isolated now, and they're making real estate decisions that isolate themselves further," said JC Chi, a co-founder and principal at Atlanta-based Kuo Diedrich Chi Architects.

Builders and developers also are reconsidering whether the boom in downtown urban city



"Quartz is the hardest non-precious stone on earth, making it the most sanitary countertop surface to use—as well as the most scratch- and stain-resistant," said Doris Pearlman.

centers will be on pause until the pandemic threat is over, experts say.

There is no doubt that the attraction of swank high-rise apartments with roof-top swimming pools, communal decks, fancy workout rooms and high-speed elevators may be losing some of their glitter because of the novel pandemic.

Imagine what the "shelter-at-home" lifestyle is like in a high-rise tower with little or no outdoor space and long elevator rides while wearing a protective mask? During those elevator rides residents reportedly are required to face the walls in a six-foot-square box.

With homes, condominiums and rental apartments becoming office spaces for many workers, more Millennials are looking to buy or rent larger homes with private outdoor space, and an extra quiet space for work.

"We do see folks that are in the building industry going back to the drawing board," said John Hunt, the principal

at MarketNlight.

Developers are redesigning the layout of new homes and apartments to better accommodate the pandemic lifestyle, Hunt said. For example, what was formerly designed as a living room or a second bedroom could be transformed into a home office or flex space.

Additional private outdoor space also will better cater to the pandemic and post-pandemic lifestyle.

"Demand for homes and low-density walk-up buildings is at an all-time high, especially in Old Town, Lincoln Park and Lakeview. There is something magical about outdoor space and the fresh air of a private garden in a single-family home or walk-up apartment," Benson said.

Interior design trends also are shifting because of the pandemic.

One of the biggest post-COVID-19 trends will be an emphasis on "antimicrobial" surfaces especially in kitchens and family-room areas where residents gather, predicted Doris Pearlman, president



"There is something magical about outdoor space and the fresh air of a private garden in a single-family home or walk-up apartment," Sara Benson said.

and founder of Possibilities for Design based in Denver.

Granite counter tops and islands are losing popularity because the material is porous, Pearlman noted. "Quartz is the hardest non-precious stone on earth, making it the most sanitary countertop surface to use—as well as the most scratch- and stain-resistant."

Quartz countertops are made from quartz chips or quartz dust bound together with resin.

The ever-popular stainless-steel kitchen appliance package also may soon be as extinct as the do-do bird.

"Bronze, copper and brass have more antimicrobial properties than stainless steel," Pearlman said. "We are seeing that those warmer tones are being brought to market and are part of the antimicrobial conversation."

Home-loan rates hold steady

On Feb. 4, benchmark 30-year-

fixed mortgage interest rates held steady at 2.73%, reported Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey. A year ago, the 30-year loan averaged 3.45% nationwide.

Lenders were charging an average of 2.21% on 15-year-fixed loans. A year ago, the 15-year fixed mortgages averaged 2.97%. On Feb. 4, Gateway Capital Mortgage was quoting 2.77% on 30-year loans and 2.125% on 15-year mortgages, reported RateSeeker.com.

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

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

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LOSS from p. 3

A celebration of Dori's life is being planned for approximately October, though that may change due to COVID restrictions. Please reach out to melinda@doriwilson-pr.com to receive more information when details are available.

More about the Dori Wilson Foundation at doriwilsonfoundation.org.

How can you mend a broken heart? ...We all know it has been a rough year. We've lost loved ones, businesses that were our dreams, our freedom. Our children and grandchildren have lost the ability to be in a classroom, safely and normally. So I asked Licensed Clinical Social Worker Kelley Kitley a question I thought was apropos for losing someone you love, no matter how.

How can you mend a broken heart?

"Mending a broken heart is difficult to do and many clients I work with report that when they lose someone close to them they feel as if they lost a piece of themselves," said Kitley, also an author who has appeared on live radio and TV shows, including, "Dr. Oz."

"Many people also report to me

years after they have lost someone that it doesn't get easier it gets different," added Kitley. "Meaning, the trauma of losing someone, especially when suddenly, the result can be pure shock versus the process one goes through leading up to the death of someone who might be ill."

There is no one way to grieve and everyone should honor their individual process, said Kitley. For every few steps forward someone might take, recognize that it's a dance and you may take a couple of steps back. Don't judge yourself and be patient with yourself, she said.

Grief can resemble some symptoms of depression including low mood, lack of motivation, wanting to withdraw and or isolate, difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much, crying often, said Kitley.

Some ideas to work through grief and loss is to honor the person you have lost.

"Spend time looking through pictures or writing about memories," said Kitley. "Light a candle, give yourself permission to feel sad, talk to someone about your feelings. Some people find comfort in support groups, there are many more options now with everything being virtual. Having an opportunity to share stories

and experiences can be healing," she said.

"Additionally, they can learn from and find hope in people who might be further in their grieving process and share what has worked best for them," said Kitley.

Everyone grieves differently, so don't put a time limit on your loss, she said. If, however, someone is noticing the loss is greatly impacting their daily functioning for a period of time, they may want to consider seeking professional help.

"I like to say that we can 'tend to' a broken heart and as a result we may find gratitude for this one and only precious life," said Kitley. "Having a broken heart doesn't make us defective, but it does make us feel very deeply and sometimes that can feel extremely overwhelming."

"We do heal but the loss of someone can have lasting effects," said Kitley. "I try to empower my clients to live that person's legacy so they will forever be in their hearts."

Valentine's Day is Sunday and I hope we can all send a little love to those we cherish. And while you're at it, be sure to give yourself a little care too.

When will the guests come back?

Local hotel workers seek the right to return to their former jobs

While Chicago's bureaucrats and teachers are getting paid to stay home, area hotel workers who were cast off during the pandemic economic lockdown are now struggling to survive.

And they are now calling for the city to protect their right to return to work when business resumes and travelers return to Chicago.

UNITE HERE Local 1, which represents more than 50% of all hotel workers in Chicago, is calling on City Council to pass job protections for unemployed hotel workers who lost their positions due to the pandemic. Their proposed "Hotel Worker Right to Return to Work Ordinance" was introduced last November and has been assigned to the City Council's Committee on Workforce Development.

The Illinois Hotel & Lodging Assoc. [IHLA] recently released its 2021 State of the Hotel Industry report, examining the economics of recovery.

At last count 23 hotels have shut down in downtown Chicago alone. Those that are still open and operating have laid off workers. In Illinois, 26,124 direct hotel-related jobs have been lost, and 119,408 total jobs supporting the local hotel industry were lost.

Disruption caused by the coro-



Maria Delgado was fired from Marriott Magnificent Mile, 540 N. Michigan Ave., after 8 years with the hotel.

navirus pandemic and economic lockdown resulted in historically low room occupancy in Chicago, with concurrent massive job losses and hotel closures.

Occupancy rates in Chicago have dropped as low as 35% and room rates are down over 54% year-over-year.

While the industry expects to recover, it will take several years to fully rebound. Business travel is expected to be down 85% compared to 2019. This is meager level is expected to last through April 2021, and then may only

tick up slightly.

The hotel industry has been one of the most severely impacted sectors of Chicago's economy since the COVID-19 pandemic had local politicians shutting down the economy. According to the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, at least 62 Chicago-area hotels have laid off as many as 13,000 employees.

The union's proposed new ordinance hopes to ensure that when guests return to Chicago hotels, hotel workers can return to the jobs they held pre-pandemic.

"When I received the phone call saying that I was fired, I didn't have any words. I began to cry but it didn't matter to them. It feels like I am being thrown out like a bag of trash," said Teresa Hernandez, a single mom of three who for 20 years worked as a banquet server for Swissotel, 323 E. Wacker Dr.

"I think about all the years of loyalty I gave to the company. All the sacrifices. All of the missed time with my children. I don't deserve being treated this way. It's not okay."

Business and group travel - and full hotels - will be largely contingent on widespread vaccine distribution and is not expected to begin to return until the latter part

of the 2021. The industry does not expect pre-pandemic travel levels to return until 2024. Additionally, IHLA predicts that pre-pandemic employment levels won't return until at least 2023.

So this effort to protect hotel workers comes as Chicago looks to gradually emerge from the pandemic, rolling out strategic vaccination plans that eventually would allow for travel to resume.

The union's ordinance, if adopted, would help see that as the City recovers, the people who were fired during the pandemic are not left behind.

"I am an older person. I am 60 years old. I raised seven children," said Maria Delgado, a housekeeper who was fired from Marriott Magnificent Mile, 540 N. Michigan Ave., after 8 years with the hotel. "I don't know if I can find another job. When the guests come back to the city, we deserve to come back to work."

Few local industry have been hit harder by the economic lockdown than the hospitality industry. "These women have worked years, and often decades, at the same hotel," said Karen Kent, President of UNITE HERE Local 1. "They deserve the right to come back to work when the guests come back."

In Dec. 2020 alone, nationwide,



Teresa Hernandez, a single mom of three who for 20 years worked as a banquet server for Swissotel, 323 E. Wacker Dr.

the leisure and hospitality industry lost nearly half a million jobs with women accounting for a disproportionate share of those losses. The unemployment rate for women stands at 6.3% but there's an even harsher reality for women of color - 8.4% of Black women are unemployed and that number is even higher for Latina women at 9.1%. Older women workers have a more difficult time finding employment: a 50-year-old woman is 29% less likely to receive a job interview for an administrative job than a 30-year-old woman; while a 65-year-old woman is 47% less likely.

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Raven Theatre cancels full season

Last week the Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St., announced it will cancel its full 2020-21 season due the COVID-9 pandemic.

Cancelled productions include Beautiful Thing by Jonathan Harvey, directed by Mikael Burke; the world premiere of Eden Prairie, 1971 by Mat Smart, directed by Henry Wishcamper and the Chicago premiere of The Luckiest by Melissa Ross, directed by Artistic Director Cody Estle.

The Edgewater theatre hopes to resume live programming in Fall 2021, launching its 2021-22 season with the world premiere of Joshua Allen's The Last Pair of Earlies, directed by Tyla Abercrombie.

"We continue to miss having artists and patrons in our theatre. Please know that this is simply a pause, one that will ensure another show will play on our stages," said Managing Director Markie Gray. "We are hopeful we can safely return to programming this fall."

While many local museums and cultural institutions are now reopening to the public, most theater companies on the North Side are staying dark or sticking with virtual programming to start 2021.



Chelsea Carr Rectanus and family at Heirloom Books on Clark St.



Tom Demetrio



Virginie Viard



Chanel 2021



James Rondeau



Jim and Sylda Hickey

THREATENED from p. 2

CLOSING: Toys 'R' Us is closing its only two stores roughly a year after a highly anticipated relaunch. Fair ye well, Toys 'R' Us. The world is too cruel.

LEGAL BEAT: Chicago mega attorney **Tom Demetrio**, a co-founder at Corboy and Demetrio, just garnered a Five-Peat recognition as the top lawyer in Illinois. A man of wit and talent.

HEIRLOOM BOOKS: Have you visited Heirloom Books up on 6239 N. Clark St., just north of our publishing office? It's the brainchild of **Chelsea Carr Rectanus**, whose bright, young life was lost

to illness this past August. Since her death the bookshop has been run by a remarkable volunteer staff led by **Eric Graff** and **Eric Badger**, the volunteer managers. Do yourself a favor and visit Heirloom. Bookstores are always more than shops for reading materials. They're really about the aesthetical relationship between the reader and the curator of the works for sale. There's nothing like a used vintage book shop to bring out the best in everyone. Stop by and meet the Erics. Tell them I sent you. 239-595-7426.

COCO CHANEL: Have you seen the new Chanel Spring-Summer 2021 Haute Couture show, a celebration of Paris' highest fashion? Imagined by **Virginie Viard**, the collection was filmed by photographer, filmmaker and graphic designer **Anton Corbijn**.

GOOD WISHES: **Rev. Jesse Jackson** is recuperating, surrounded by his loving family, after undergoing emergency surgery. He is expected to make a full recovery.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM: The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center has snagged **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** as its keynote speaker for its March 10 Humanitarian Awards Dinner.

The virtual (and in-person) event will honor **Scott Swanson**, Exelon Corp., and **Zev and Shifra Karkomi**.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY: For the second year in a row, Chicago's celebration of St. Patrick's Day must take place without the downtown parade and the South Side Irish parade due to the seriousness of the COVID pandemic. Wash your kilt instead.

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO: **James Rondeau**, President of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the museum's membership and staff are thrilled that they will be reopening Thursday



Rev. Jesse Jackson

with "Monet and Chicago," and "Bisa Butler: Portraits" viewings extended.

ROCK AND ROLL RIP: A moment to mourn the passing of **Jimmie Rodgers**, a once young singer, guitarist and Korean War veteran, discovered by **Arthur Godfrey**, who recorded a version of the 1954 pop single "Honkycomb." His 1957 cover became a hit, soaring to No. 1 and stayed there. His subsequent 1950s hits included "Kisses Sweeter than Wine."

W H O ' S

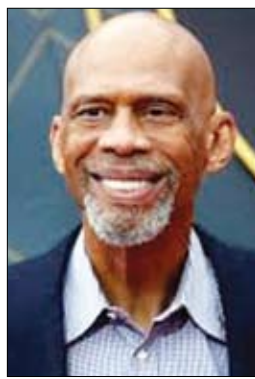
WHERE: **Dan Balinoff** delivering PPE to seniors on the South Side of Chicago with **Jahmal Cole** and **My Block, My Hood, My City**, for their MLK Day of Service. Only by working together can we make a better future for us all... **Janet and Rodger Owen** just returned from Naples, FL, the Escalante boutique hotel. Heaven on earth



Rose O'Neill

... the **Countess Botegga** and **Petros** enwrapped in the blizzard on Rush St. ... **Sherry Lea Fox** and **Frances Renk** brightening up the winter in Naples, FL, at Third Street South and Campiello Naples... **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** missing the blizzard while in balmy Florida din-

ing at Chops in Buckhead with **Joe and Eileen... Rose O'Neill** dining at **Matt O'Malley's** Firehouse Restaurant in the South Loop with twin, **Mark O'Malley** and Presidential Irish fiddler, **Patricia Treacy**, fresh from the inauguration and getting all the details... Canine defender supreme **Bobbi Panter** getting some big time heavy lifting from rapper **BigBoi** assisting in getting ready for doggy time... columnist **Candace Jordan** and hubby, **Chuck Jordan**, have headed south to Palm Beach ... A heartfelt loss to all my **Hickey Cousins** on the death of their father, **Jim Hickey**, 93, whose arrival in American



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

from Ireland when I was just a wee boy sparked great excitement and marriage to their beautiful mother, **Sylda Crowe**. Jim was a great reader of this column and we hated being in quarantine for his funeral. He will always be that young lad, a sweet Tipperary Green Horn, through and through.

MASKED MAN: He may be covered-up, but no one can dispute the healing from the hands of Northwestern's **Dr. Joaquin Brieva**, whose latest triumph is Bond Girl **Diane O'Connell**.

PAINT AND PIANO: Artist **David Cook** is joining pianist **Sarah Priest Lockwood** on stage, playing Bohemian Rhapsody after practicing for their collaboration. She will also be playing Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Debussy while David paints on large canvases at the Hastings Art Center in Minneapolis. Magic will happen.

Happy Valentines Day, we love all our readers.

Age does not protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age.

—Anais Nin

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Basketball begins without CPS



By Jack Lydon

The City and the Suburbs entered Phase 4 on Monday, Feb. 1. High school basketball games can begin. However, Chicago Public School [CPS] teams have not even started practicing. CPS remains in limbo.

The labor unrest with the Chicago Teachers Union and the lack of direction from the City and State health departments have indefinitely delayed the start of “in-person” leaning and sports activities.

Most North Side athletic directors have been not responded to this reporters’ inquires. One athletic director said that they were waiting for the health department to clear CPS to start practice and games. CPS won’t be able to play games until seven days after practices begin. No practices begun.

Most suburban, Chicago Catholic League [CCL] and other private schools have gotten in their seven practices required by IHSA rules and some games have taken place.

The CCL released its 15-game schedules which began on Feb. 8. The East Suburban Catholic Conference [ESCC] has an abbreviated seven-game schedule opting instead to leave dates open for non-conference games or potential tournament games.

The Central Suburban Conference and Mid-Suburban Conferred scheduled a full slate of games for Saturday, Feb 6.



Notre Dame Senior Forward Louis Lesmond blocks a shot in Feb. 4, 55-35 victory over Prospect.

Top ranked Notre Dame high school (Niles) played its first game on Feb. 4 defeating Prospect High School (Mt. Prospect) 55 to 35.

Notre Dame head coach Kevin Clancy told his players, “It’s good to get one under our belt. It’s been a long layoff. Even though we are a veteran team, we really haven’t played together since last March. We had seven days, 10 days of prep and that when by fairly quick. You saw that too on the offensive end.”

You did indeed. Although the Notre Dame Dons are a very talented team, they struggled on offense in the first quarter repeatedly missing many shots inside. Three-point shooting and dominating defense gave the Dons a 14-5 first quarter ad-

BASKETBALL see p. 10

Letter to the Editor

Twenty questions

Many questions arise in the way City of Chicago officials and Ald. Matt Martin [47th] are handling the give away of the Lincoln Square parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave.

1. How was an out-of-town developer, The Community Builders [TCB], chosen by Ald. Martin?
2. How can TCB be a true Not-For-Profit when it pays its CEO so extravagantly?
3. Why were no Chicago Not-For-Profits invited to bid?
4. How many apartments will be reserved for seniors, the differently-abled, veterans and low income families?
5. How can low income families with children be expected to live in small, cramped one- and two- bedroom apartments with no green space?
6. Why does Ald. Martin say that “Nothing has been decided,” when TCB distributed blue prints of its plans in 2020?
7. How much will taxpayers, by law, be required to reimburse Chicago Parking Meters, LLC, when it “loses control” of the 48 prime parking spots?
8. Where will the Maifest, Farmers Market and German Day Fest hold their events? Unlike what Ald. Martin says, these events used both parking lots AND the street?
9. Because the City of Chicago used Eminent Domain to assemble the parking lot, what legal ramifications will there be for taxpayers when the City conveys the property to a private entity?
10. What easements and right-of-ways do other businesses possess with regards to the parking lot?
11. How much will taxpayers be required

to pay to TCB every year in TIF monies, housing funds, tax credits and subsidies?

12. Why is TCB getting the property for \$1 instead of its fair market value of \$6 million dollars?
13. What political contributions have been made by TCB, its subsidiaries, officers, employees or family members?
14. What future political contributions or quid pro quo have been promised, hinted or implied? This IS Chicago, after all.
15. Why haven’t smaller properties in surrounding neighborhoods been gut rehabbed for low income use and eventual ownership?
16. Who is really pulling the strings in this deal?
17. When will we finally get transparency?
18. When will the thousands of signatures collected and submitted AGAINST this project be taken seriously?
19. Where will the replacement parking spots be located?
20. Why has Ald. Martin been silent on TCBs’ plans to include commercial space for three restaurants to compete with the one dozen restaurants and coffee houses whose patrons currently use the parking lot every day?

I would like the City of Chicago to publicly respond to these questions without resorting to name calling and accusing me of being racist, bigoted, homophobic, misogynistic, ugly and overweight.

OK you got me on the overweight. I’ll give you that one.

Michael Sullivan
Chicago

Keep medicines out of our water supply

BY MARIYANA SPYROPOULOS

The fish in Lake Michigan don’t need your old Zoloft, Yaz, Prozac or Nugenix.

In the past, many believed it was safe to dispose of unwanted medicines by flushing them down the toilet or pouring them down the drain.

But water treatment plants like those operated by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) simply are not designed to remove medicines from wastewater.

For years now we’ve known that these chemicals can end up in our waterways and have significant negative impacts on our water supply and marine environment.

A study by the Harvard Medical School found evidence of chemicals from medicines entering the water supply and impacting aquatic life. The study even noted that, “intersex fish – creatures with both male and female sex characteristics – have been found in heavily polluted sections of the Potomac River.”

If we continued this method of disposing of our unwanted medicine, the impact on our environment could be alarming.

So, what’s the best way to dispose of unwanted medications? At the MWRD, we’re asking you to “Think Inside the Box.”

In 2016, the MWRD installed drug collection boxes at several of our facilities. These 38-gallon boxes – located at water reclamation plants in Chicago, Cicero, Skokie and in our Chicago office at 100 E. Erie – provide the public with a safe way



The best way to dispose of unwanted prescription medications is to take them to a proper, contained, disposal receptacle.

to dispose of their medications. Working with the U.S. DEA, the MWRD has collected nearly 1,000 pounds of unwanted medicines in recent years.

In addition to the MWRD’s drug collection boxes, the Cook County Sheriff offers a Prescription Drug Take Back Program that operates throughout the county. Those outside of Cook County can find disposal locations on the DEA’s website.

There are plenty of ways to safely dispose of unwanted medicines, and safe drug disposal means safe water. So, the next time you clean out your medicine cabinet, think twice about how you’re getting rid of those old medicines and remember that the easiest thing we can all do to protect our environment is to watch what we put into our water supply.

Mariyana Spyropoulos is a member of the MWRD Board of Commissioners.

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Police Beat...

Armed crew linked to 2 carjackings on Granville Ave.

Police have linked two recent carjackings on Granville Ave. in Edgewater to the same offenders in a newly-released community alert.

Area Three detectives said the hijacking team arrives in a white sedan, then walks up to victims and demands valuables at gunpoint.

First, they took a 29-year-old man's 2015 Subaru Crosstrek in the 1500 block of W. Granville around 8:30 p.m. Jan. 26. Two men pointed a gun at the victim, ordered him to hand over his keys, and drove away with his SUV.

On Feb. 1, the crew carjacked a woman as she talked on Facetime with a friend. The victim was sitting in a parked car on the 900 block of W. Granville when one of the hijackers interrupted her conversation to announce that she was being carjacked around 7:50 p.m., according to a CPD report.

Police said the 22-year-old driver got out of her car, surrendered her valuables, and watched as the carjacker drove away with her white 2007 Lexus RX350.

The woman's friend saw the carjacking unfold via Facetime and immediately called 911 to report the crime. She said she heard the gunman order her friend out of her car.

According to the CPD alert, the hijackers are two Black males between 14- and 25-years-old who stand 5'-6" to 5'-10" tall and weigh 120 to 160 pounds. They both wore black jackets or black hoodies and are armed with handguns, police said.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 about pattern P21-3-024.

Armed crew robs food delivery drivers in Edgewater and Uptown

Groups of armed robbers targeted two food delivery drivers within 15 minutes in Edgewater and nearby Uptown on Feb. 5, but neither victim was carjacked. One of the hold-ups took place a block from where two armed hijackings were reported on Feb. 4.

In Friday's first incident, police said a 28-year-old man was robbed as he prepared to make a delivery on the 1300 block of W. Thorndale around 6:50 p.m.

As he stepped to the back of his vehicle, a black SUV pulled up and five men got out. One of the men displayed a handgun and ordered the victim to hand over his property. The crew got away with his wallet, keys, phone, and cash, according to Officer Ronald Westbrooks, a CPD spokesperson.

The offenders got back into their SUV and drove away — only to come back down the block moments later. Westbrooks said the victim thought they were going to take his car, but they continued driving.

According to the victim, the robbers were five Black men between 5'-5" and 5'-8" tall who wore black ski masks and black clothing. Their vehicle may have been a Jeep Cherokee.

Then, just after 7 p.m., another food delivery driver was robbed by five men in the 1600 block of W. Carmen, Westbrooks said.

That driver, age 32, returned to his car after making a delivery when

the group walked up to him and two of the offenders displayed handguns. According to Westbrooks, the men threatened to kill him before taking his earbuds, eyeglasses, and car keys.

After the robbery, all five robbers got into a silver Chevy Equinox and drove westbound on Carmen. Once again, the victim's car was not taken. He told police the robbers were Black males in their late teens who weigh between 120- and 150 pounds and wore black clothing.

On Feb. 4, a group of four offenders carjacked two drivers just minutes apart on the 1200 block of W. Thornedale, about a block from where Friday's first hold-up was reported.

Five men in a black SUV robbed a man on the 5200 block of N. Lakewood in Andersonville around 7:50 p.m. Thursday, too.

No one is in custody for any of the crimes. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Uptown hijacking solved by Facebook carjacking victim message board

Facebook giveth and Facebook taketh away.

Don't believe it? Just ask Dumareah Taylor.

Prosecutors on Feb. 3 said Taylor carjacked a man in Uptown last month while taking the victim's Lexus on a test drive he arranged via Facebook Marketplace.



Dumareah Taylor

Police located Taylor after the victim shared details of the hijacking

on a Facebook discussion group and another user recognized him.

It all started Jan. 21 when the victim listed his 2004 Lexus RX300 for sale on the social media site. He was quickly contacted by an interested buyer. They exchanged contact information and arranged for a test drive the next day.

Prosecutors say the phone number that the prospective buyer used to arrange the fateful meeting belongs to Taylor.

Around 9 p.m. the next day, the victim met with the buyer outside Weiss Hospital in Uptown. It just so happens that hospitals have a lot of surveillance cameras, and Weiss' security system recorded everything that happened, according to Assistant State's Attorney Jocelyn Scaduto.

The victim, age 35, met with Taylor, who was wearing some distinctive clothes, including red and black shoes with a black and gray cross-body satchel, she said. Taylor climbed behind the wheel and the victim got into the passenger seat as they set off for the test drive, Scaduto said.

CPD surveillance cameras allegedly captured clear images of Taylor behind the wheel and the victim in the passenger seat as they traveled down Wilson Ave. a few moments later. The police footage clearly shows Taylor's red hat and distinctive cross-body bag, according to Scaduto.

As the men neared the 800 block of W. Wilson, Taylor accused the victim of being a cop — which the victim denied — and then grabbed a gun out of his cross-body bag, Scaduto said. He allegedly pointed the gun at the victim's head and ordered him out of the car. The vehicle's owner complied.

The next day, the victim posted details about his experience and screenshots of the Facebook account that arranged for the test drive to a message board for carjacking victims. Another group member recognized Taylor and told the victim there was a Lexus that looks exactly like his sitting outside Taylor's house in the Austin neighborhood, Scaduto said.

Police went to the area, staked out

An "arsenal" of weapons? That gets you probation in Chicago

A North Side man accused of having a trove of guns, ammunition, and steroids in his home during a police raid two years ago has reached a plea deal that will keep him out of prison.

Cops who executed a search warrant at James Mather's home in Bucktown on Aug. 8, 2019, allegedly found three pistols, three rifles, a silencer, fifteen loaded ammunition magazines, and boxes of ammunition, and anabolic steroids — while he was already on bail for domestic battery.

After that a judge allowed Mather to get out of jail by posting just \$500, the CPD's chief spokesperson called the gun seizure an "arsenal" and questioned if such low bail amounts are what Chicagoans really want.

Mather, now 34, was not home during the raid. Cops arrested him the next day.

Prosecutors charged him with felony possession of a firearm without a valid Firearm Owner ID (FOID) as well as five misdemeanor counts of unlawful use of a weapon, misdemeanor possession of exploding bullets, misdemeanor possession of anabolic ste-



James Mather (inset) and the items police said they seized from his home.

roid, and a city violation of possessing a firearm silencer.

The state agreed to drop all charges except one count of possessing a firearm while ineligible to hold a Firearm Owner's ID card. In return for his guilty plea, Mather received a sentence of two years probation and credit for 487 days he spent on electronic monitoring. He also paid \$974 in fines and court costs, records show.

Judge Catherine Haberkorn over-

the Lexus, and arrested Taylor Feb. 2. Officers also executed a search warrant at his home and recovered a red hat, shoes, and cross-body bag that match items worn by the carjacker, according to Scaduto. The victim also identified Taylor in a line-up, she said.

Prosecutors charged Taylor with Class X aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm. He also has an active warrant in DuPage County for burglary.

Scaduto said he has a pending retail theft case in DuPage County as well as juvenile adjudications for aggravated robbery, battery while carrying a knife, retail theft (twice), and battery (twice).

After hearing about how the victim managed to identify Taylor, Judge John Lyke declared, "Social media is undefeated!" He then ordered Taylor held without bail.

Eight shots fired, no one injured outside Wrigley Field

No one was reported injured after shots were fired near the Chicago Cubs players' parking lot in Wrigleyville on Feb. 3. The sound of the gunfire was captured on a nearby webcam that shows a Chicago police unit was just a block away when the shots were fired.

On the Near North Side, someone fired shots that struck a restaurant's window Feb. 4. Once again, no injuries were reported.

No arrests have been made in either incident.

Police responded to calls of shots fired near Wrigley Field around 5:25 p.m. Cops worked with Cubs security personnel who located security video footage that shows two men wearing black hoodies firing a gun in the 3700 block of N. Seminary — just steps from the stadium's left field bleachers.

CPD cameras showed the men walking north on Seminary and then west on Grace after they popped off the rounds.

An Earthcam web feed from the corner of Addison and Clark shows a CPD paddy wagon turning north onto Clark St. about 30 seconds before the gunshots.

The police unit can be seen sitting at the intersection of Clark and Waveland as four shots ring out at the 33-second mark in the video. Two more shots are heard at the 40-second mark, followed by another two at the 43-second mark.

No officers reported hearing shots fired at the time of the incident.

Then, around 2 a.m. Feb. 4, someone fired shots on the 800 block of N.

Orleans in the Near North neighborhood. Cops found five shell casings at the scene and discovered a window shot out at The Cafeteria, 840 N. Orleans. Police are investigating both incidents.

Carjackings in Lincoln Park, Wicker Park, and West Town

Armed carjackings were reported during daylight hours Feb. 4 in Wicker Park and Lincoln Park, police said. Two more cases were reported in West Town. No arrests have been made.

In Wicker Park, a 30-year-old man was carjacked at 7:25 a.m. as he sat in his vehicle on the 1400 block of N. Ashland — steps from the local alderman's office, according to Chicago police.

Three offenders walked up to the car and one of them ordered the driver out of his white 2013 Toyota Corolla at gunpoint. The victim complied and the hijackers headed northbound in the man's car, police said.

Less than 15 minutes later, the offenders tried to carjack another victim near the intersection of Grand and Leavitt in West Town. Their efforts failed, but the would-be victim gave police their license plate number. It matched the plate on the Toyota that was hijacked on Ashland.

Then, at 3:48 p.m., a gunman carjacked and robbed a 52-year-old woman as she returned to her parked car in the 800 block of W. Armitage in Lincoln Park, according to CPD Officer Steve Rusanov.

He was last seen heading westbound on Armitage in the woman's black Land Rover. A CPD license plate reader detected the stolen car traveling through the loop about 15 minutes later.

Back in West Town, a 50-year-old woman was carjacked at gunpoint on the parking lot of St. Mary's Hospital, 2233 W. Division, at 6:08 p.m.

Rusanov said the woman dropped her keys and ran from the parking lot after one of the hijackers pointed a handgun at her. When she returned to the lot a short time later, her white 2014 Land Rover was gone, he said.

Police did not release descriptions of any suspects. Detectives are investigating all of the reports.

Man slashed during confrontation with robber in Streeterville

A man was slashed in his face when he tussled with a knife-wielding robber in Streeterville on Feb. 3, police said. No one is in custody.

The man and a woman, both 32-years-old, were standing on the 300

saw the case.

At the time of the police raid, Mather was on bond for misdemeanor domestic battery and criminal damage to property. The domestic battery charge was later dropped, but he did a year of supervised release on the criminal damage case, which court records show also had a domestic element. A judge terminated the supervision satisfactorily in Sept. 2020.

block of E. Illinois when the offender walked up and demanded money at knifepoint around 9:50 p.m., according to dispatch records and a police statement.

A nearby resident captured video of the confrontation. Rather than surrender his wallet, the man pushed the offender's arm away, which caused the robber's arm to move upward. His knife then cut the victim's face, police said.

On a positive note, the robbery failed.

The offender ran away and the victim declined medical attention, according to police. In a statement, police described the suspect only as a White male.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Alleged carjacking victim refused to press charges because he felt bad for John Daniels — but Daniels' mom wasn't so generous last year

Maybe mother knows best?

John T. Daniels caught a break Feb. 3 when the owner of a freshly-carjacked Lexus police say he was driving declined to pursue charges.

According to court records, not everyone has been so generous with Daniels, who was arrested in Chicago five times last year — including once on a complaint signed by his own mother.

In an arrest report, police said that Daniels was driving the alleged carjacking victim's Lexus when they pulled it over on the West Side around 1:20 a.m. Wednesday.

The car's owner told police that a pair of carjackers pointed a gun at him and took his car along with his money and keys as he shoveled out a parking space on the 1400 block of N. Cleaver a few hours earlier. Records show the 27-year-old victim lives less than a block from the hijacking scene.

Cops detained Daniels for criminal trespass to a vehicle.

While police were processing him at the station, the victim's driver's license, debit card, and medical marijuana card fell out of his pants, according to a CPD arrest report.

But the victim reportedly told police that he "felt sorry for" the people who took his Lexus and said, "they probably need a car."

Cops released the other three people who were inside the Lexus

Hawaiian legend to host virtual Old Town School workshops

STORY AND PHOTO
BY PETER VON BUOL

For decades, Hawaiian musical legend George Kahumoku Jr. has traveled to Chicago in the winter to bring a little bit of the warmth from the Aloha State while he performed live (often with a few other legends of Hawaiian music) at the Old Town School of Folk Music [OTS], 4544 N. Lincoln Ave.

While Kahumoku is currently unable to tour due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, he will be teaching two separate 90-minute virtual workshops for ukulele and slack-key guitar on the evenings of Feb. 15 and Feb. 20 for the OTS.

In his ukulele workshop on Feb. 15 (7 to 8:30 p.m.) Kahumoku will cover the basics of ukulele open tunings and how to use the entirety of the ukulele fretboard. By examining finger picking, harmonics, and chord shapes in the key of C, Kahumoku will provide ways for students to expand both their technical abilities and self-expression. The cost for OTS members is \$25 and \$30 for non-members.

In his slack-key workshop on the evening of Feb. 20 (5 to 6:30 p.m.), Kahumoku will guide his students through the basics of slack key basic and its fundamentals. Students will learn what is known as taro patch tuning and some Hawaiian songs in the key of F. After covering the key of F, his students will learn how to modulate to the key of C, Bb, G, A, or D. (Students should know how to tune their guitar and be able to play at least one song). The cost for OTS members is \$25 and \$30 for non-members.

On his previous visits to Chicago, Kahumoku usually hosted in-person ukulele and slack-key guitar students. These classes will be his first virtual classes for the OTS, and he is looking forward to being able to work with Chicago students.

"There are a lot of students from different levels to work with at once. With a virtual class, I can see their work up close. One on one. With an in-person workshop class, there are times I can be in the back of the room and not see as well. I think of a virtual class as similar to going to a live concert and watching the performance on the big screen. You hear the music live, but you can see the musicians up close with the big screen," Kahumoku said.

The virtual format allows students to ask questions directly and Kahumoku is also able to monitor their progress. To reinforce his lessons, Kahumoku has also produced instructional DVDs.

"A student might want to go back to review one of the [unique] Hawaiian slack-key tunings so in that sense, the DVD is like a video recording of the workshop," Kahumoku said.

On Maui, Kahumoku has resumed his Wednesday evening slack-key and Hawaiian music

shows at the Napili Kai Beach Resort. Most Sunday mornings, he also performs live via Zoom.

For Kahumoku, Chicago audiences have been special. During every show, Kahumoku will meet with the audience during his show's intermission. That regular interaction provides him with a unique insight into Hawaiian music fans in Chicago.

"It is a special place for me. Maybe it is because the west coast cities are saturated with performers from Hawai'i. In Chicago, they are hungry for Hawaiian music. They really immerse themselves in the Hawaiian culture. I have had quite a few residents from Chicago come to my in-person workshops on Maui. They really want to learn," he said.

Kahumoku's teaching methods include full immersion in the life of a traditional Hawaiian farmer. His students are not just taught how to play ukulele, slack-key guitar, and Hawaiian steel guitar, they are also taught about the plants and animals which have inspired many songs.

In Chicago, students are hungry for Hawaiian music. They really immerse themselves in the Hawaiian culture. I have had quite a few residents from Chicago come to my in-person workshops on Maui. They really want to learn,"
George Kahumoku Jr. said.

"They come for the entire experience. I bring them to my farm, and we feed the animals and then have meals together," said Kahumoku.

Slack-key guitar, known as kiko'alu in the Hawaiian language, uses guitar-tunings modified from standard guitar tunings. By either raising or lowering the tunings of the individual strings, slack-key guitarists achieve a sound recognizable as distinctly Hawaiian. The style originated during the 1830s among native Hawaiian cowboys. Until recently, many of these tunings were considered family secrets and were not shared with those who were not family members.

The Hawaiians had been trained in cattle-ranching techniques by Spanish-speaking cowboys from Mexico (Vaqueros). Many of these visitors from Mexico were also skilled musicians. Not only did they teach the Hawaiians about cattle-ranching, they also had shared their music. Therefore, prior to returning home to Mexico, many of the Vaqueros showed their appreciation to their Hawaiian hosts by giving them their guitars.

According to Kahumoku, the 19th century Mexican vaqueros had played three types of guitars and had usually performed as a trio. These trios consisted of a four-string bass guitar; a six-string rhythm guitar; and a 4-string tenor lead guitar.

"Hawaiians combined the sound of these three into one. They slackened or loosened the



George Kahumoku Jr.

strings, picking bass, rhythm and lead all at once, and the art of slack key guitar was born. Families developed their own tunings and incorporated old Hawaiian-language chants into modern songs with melodies," Kahumoku says.

When asked to describe his own version of slack key, Kahumoku says he enjoys performing the traditional songs, but he also enjoys playing his own compositions. "I enjoy creating new songs based on Hawaiian Traditions of the past. These songs are reflective of everyday life and what's happening in the [present]," he said.

In addition to his illustrious career in Hawaiian music, Kahumoku has also spent decades in education, both as an administrator and as a classroom instructor. While he is proud of his work in the classroom, he also appreciates the education he received from his parents, grandparents and ancestors.

"My father, George Kahumoku, Sr. quit school after eighth-grade and broke horses for McCandless Ranch in South Kona (on the Big Island of Hawaii). My great-grandfather, Willy Kahumoku, was instrumental in building the stone walls that contained the cattle [on the Big Island]. My parents, grandparents, great grandparents all played Kih'olu guitar. I've been playing and performing slack key guitar farming, and ranching all of my life," Kahumoku said.

For most of the 20th century, slack-key guitar had been overshadowed by the music of the more commercial-sounding Hawaiian steel-guitar. By the late 1960s, interest in traditional Hawaiian folk music rebounded. Among those in the forefront in this revival was The Sons of Hawaii, a now legendary band which featured the late Gabby Pahinui on slack key guitar.

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High Speed Rail executive to discuss lessons learned in Chicago-St. Louis project

A virtual event exploring the lessons of the ongoing Chicago-St. Louis corridor 110 mph project will take place at noon Friday, Feb. 19.

During the virtual brown bag lunch, High Speed Rail Alliance [HSRA] executive director Rick Harnish will speak about the route, which has seen many improvements recently but still presents several challenges, according to the HSRA website.

The state of Illinois is upgrading the Chicago-St. Louis Lincoln Corridor, a shared-use line linking Chicago and St. Louis, with five daily trains, the HSRA website says.

The 300-mile trip traditionally takes about 5 hours and 30 minutes, according to the HSRA.

The goal is to take an hour off

of the current schedule through the recently completed reconstruction of the Joliet to East St. Louis portion, the HSRA said.

The work included rebuilding the roadbed and tracks, improving and rebuilding grade crossings, and remodeling and rebuilding train stations, the HSRA said.

In addition, the HSRA said trains are now pulled by brand-new locomotives, and all of the signals on the line have been replaced with state-of-the-art technology.

The HSRA says the state hopes to raise train speeds to 90 mph between Joliet and Alton soon, and there still are plans to reach 110 mph.

For more information call 773-334-6758.

Ravenswood church to host free concert for soup kitchen

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 4640 N. Ashland, is presenting a free online concert to raise money for their soup kitchen called "Awakening." The online concert is 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, on their YouTube page.

The main event is Rachmaninov's Concerto No. 2 which will be played by Pastor Michael Shanahan.

There will also be a premiere of a new piece by Colombian composer Julian Molina Abad, composed to support the "Awakening" theme of the program, performed by orchestral members who pre-recorded their respective parts to be mastered together by the conductor.

There's even a number performed with the music director of St. Agatha's Catholic Church, 3147 W. Douglas, as a tribute to Sam Cooke and his time spent as a member of The Soul Stirrers in the beginnings of his career.

Our Lady of Lourdes thinks it is important to continue on with the project despite the pandemic, as the soup kitchen team of volunteers continued to safely provide meals for many area people every week, even during the lockdown.

They church has already reached their fundraising goal of \$50,000 and currently has another matching challenge for up to \$2,500. For more information call 773-561-2141.

Virtual Curiosity Club begins this month at nature museum

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum's new bimonthly series, Curiosity Club begins this month, with the first session scheduled for Saturday.

The 60-minute virtual interactive sessions cover topics from snakes to turtles, bugs, and more. The classes are intended for scientists ages 5-9, but naturalists of all ages are welcome. Only pencil and paper are required.

The first session, "Bugs Up Close," is 12:30-1:30 p.m. Saturday. Using a special magnifying lens, participants will observe different features of insect specimens that aren't visible to the naked eye. The group will compare legs, wings, and even mouthparts to learn more about different bugs and their bodies.

"Turtle Traits" is 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24. Students

will observe the traits of the aquatic and terrestrial turtles at the museum and learn how those identifiers tell scientists where the animals live in the wild.

"Fantastic Fossils and More" is 12:30-1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13. The class will engage with some local fossils from the museum's collection in order to learn about the area's past, including what has changed and what has remained the same.

"Sensational Snakes" is 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 24. Students will learn about snake bodies, how snakes hunt and eat, and where snakes live. The class also will ask questions and record observations and ideas in a simple science notebook.

For more information about the upcoming series call 773-755-5100.

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ATM thieves strike again in Rogers Park

BY CWBCHICAGO

They did it again. For the second night this month and third night in 10 days, a slick ATM theft crew prowled the North Side early Feb. 4. And, once again, they got away with a small business' cash machine. Police followed one of the crew's cars for several miles after the burglary, but CPD supervisors ordered the cops to stop following the serial offenders — even though the officers said they weren't involved in a pursuit. The Feb. 4 break-in happened

around 1:30 a.m. at North Shore Food & Liquors, 6701 N. Clark St., in Rogers Park. A neighbor called police after they saw the burglary in progress. They even recorded much of the heist on video. The burglary followed the same pattern that police and witnesses described in previous incidents. Two cars, usually a couple of Jeep Cherokees, pulled up to the store with six men. Four of the men got out, broke into the business, and hauled away its ATM and cash register. Police spotted the two Jeeps —

one white, one gray — running red lights in the area. The SUVs split up and officers managed to trail one of them from Uptown all the way to Bucktown before supervisors ordered the cops to return to their district. On Feb. 1, the crew targeted two Mexican restaurants in Lakeview and another in Bucktown. On January 26, the thieves struck a series of stores across Lakeview and Lincoln Park during overnight hours. They wrapped up that spree by ripping the ATM out of an Old Town service station that was open for business.

Police issued two community alerts about the burglary team later the same day. In those bulletins, detectives linked the break-ins to a series of other retail break-ins reported in Lincoln Park on Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 20. According to CPD, the crew consisted of about six Black males between 18- and 30-years-old who wore masks, gloves, and dark clothing. Anyone with information about the burglars can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263.

BASKETBALL from p. 7

vantage despite the clunky start on offense. Prospect could not mount the offense necessary to make a game of it in the face of the Notre Dame defensive pressure. Anthony Sayles finished with

a game high 21 points. Troy D'Amico had nine and Lesmond had seven. Prospect Junior guard Owen Schneider carried the Knights with 18 points. With the addition of Evanstan transfer Louis Lesmond at the beginning of last year, the Dons core of Lesmond, senior guard/for-

ward D'Amico and senior guard Sayles is among the most talented in the Chicago area. They were still advancing in the playoffs toward the state championship last March when COVID shut down high school basketball.

In addition to the seven currently scheduled ESCC games, Coach Clancy said that Notre Dame is looking to add Streamwood, Batavia, Mundelein, Fenwick, Loyola, DePaul Prep, and possibly some CPS teams when they start playing. The Girls Catholic Athletic Assoc. is beginning play as well. DePaul Prep had girls head basketball coach Sarah Zarymbksi, a 2014 graduate of Gordon Tech (St. Benedict Prep elementary) lead the Rams to the school's

most successful year ever last winter, with a sectional championship and a 22-9 record. The Rams look to continue their historic run but that will be difficult with the graduation four seniors from last year and the transfer of a junior. The Rams opened the season on Feb. 8 at traditional rival Regina Dominican in Wilmette and will face Regina again on Thursday, Feb. 11, at DePaul's Tom Wienicki Gym. DePaul Prep moved from its "Father Gordon Campus," the former Gordon Tech High School building at Addison and California, to the DePaul's new campus on Rockwell St., behind Lane Tech High School, just south of Lane Stadium.



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POLICE BEAT from p. 8

with Daniels. Meanwhile, Daniels was hauled in front of a judge Feb. 7 for failing to appear in court on a pending felony retail theft case. Judge Edward Maloney released him. In that case, Daniels is charged with participating in a group retail theft from the Jordan Store, 32 S. State, on Aug. 5. Police said surveillance video showed a man wearing a multi-colored hoodie carrying a duffle bag containing six Jordan shoes out of the store along with other men. When police stopped Daniels nearby, he was wearing a multi-colored hoodie and was carrying a new box of Jordan shoes, according to CPD records. Last June, Daniels' own mother had him arrested for allegedly breaking out the front window of her home, according to police and court records. The case was dropped in November. Daniels was also arrested on June 1 by officers who were trying to protect the area around 59th St. and Ashland from looters. Cops said he was with a group of people who wandered in and out of traffic and refused to comply with orders to stay out of the street. The city dropped those charges on Nov. 5.

Armed men rob three North Side convenience stores

Police are investigating three armed robberies of 7-Eleven stores that unfolded in under an hour Feb. 5 on the North Side. The spree is part of a sharp increase in convenience store robberies that began last year as crews target the businesses for cigarettes and alcohol inventory as well as cash. Friday's robberies began around 10:20 p.m. when two gunmen men robbed the 7-Eleven at 2900 W. Montrose in Albany Park. They took cash and liquor, then fled down a nearby alley, according to a police report. About 20 minutes later, two men

with guns robbed the store at 1055 W. Bryn Mawr in Edgewater. The offenders reportedly forced the employees onto the floor, collected products and cash, then fled eastbound. Next up? Lincoln Park. Just after 11 p.m., two men displayed firearms and robbed the store at 2600 N. Lincoln. They were last seen heading southbound. The robbers were generally described as two slender men who stand 5'-5" to 5'-8" tall. One is Black and the other was variously described as White, Hispanic, or Black with a light complexion. They wore black masks and sweats. Video shows one man's pants were half-gray and half black. Earlier this week, two men pointed a rifle at employees as they robbed a 7-Eleven in Little Italy. Those offenders also took cigarettes and liquor, according to a CPD report. Three people have been charged with two separate convenience store robbery sprees during January. Dorian Skipper, 38, and Jessica Short, 21, were charged with robbing four stores in the Loop, West Loop, and Avondale on January 14. This week, prosecutors charged Ivan Weldon with repeatedly targeting a single 7-Eleven store in the Loop between December and January. Chicago Police Dept. data shows 186 convenience store robberies across the city last year, up from 104 in 2019. But the actual number of robberies is higher because convenience stores are often categorized as "small retail stores" or "grocery stores" in police records. Convenience stores, which have strict cash control policies designed to minimize their attractiveness to robbers, are growing in popularity among criminals who are now drawn to the shops high-value tobacco and liquor inventories.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
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LOWELL HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,
vs.
TRINITY GREEN LLC-88 W SCHILLER Defendants
19 CH 10492
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Unit #1038 Tonya

Free STEAM Kits at Northtown Library

The Northtown Branch of Chicago Public Library is giving away special STEAM kits for 2nd - 8th graders. (STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.)

Families can stop by the library at 6800 N. Western to pick up a kit while supplies last and complete it at home.

Engage your kids with age-appropriate projects, ranging from a sun print kit to building a joystick that can turn on a light.

Fifth to 8th graders who email photos and a description to Northtown@chicagopublic.org or bring in their creation to the Northtown Branch will win a prize, including a chance to win a Chromebook.

Warren Park Little League registration now open

Registration for the 2021 Warren Park Youth Baseball Little League [WPBLL] season is now open. To register your player visit <https://www.warrenparkyouthbaseball.org/>.

The plan for this season starts at the end of April when team activities begin. Games begin on May 10 and May 15 is the opening day picnic. The playoffs will wrap up the season's close on July 31.

WPBLL Major Division baseball is for children ages 11-12 as of Aug. 31.

Additionally, T-ball and Rookie (Basic Ball) games may begin later based on if Senn Field in Edgewater is available for play.

Last year's registration fee of \$205 will remain in place until Feb. 28, but will increase by \$25 beginning on March 1. Divi-

sions do sell out, so league managers recommend registering early to secure a spot.

Scholarships are available to help families that are struggling financially.

Adult volunteers are needed too, the majority of the volunteer needs are related to field maintenance and equipment.

For more information call 773-765-4959 or write to wpybadmin@gmail.com.

DEVELOPMENT from p. 1

ing any public meetings due to pandemic fears, many area residents and business owners now fear these big decisions are lacking in transparency. And that the decisions are being made at a very fast pace in City Hall without much input from the community.

"The applicant in this case has refused

on multiple occasions to provide certain pieces of information that our office has requested -- specifically regarding the type and operation of the proposed grocery store -- due to the existence of a non-disclosure agreement (NDA). We have informed the applicant that in other cases [the ward's zoning advisory committee] has looked dis-favorably upon applicants with incomplete information, and that neighbors will

likely have high interest in detail on this application due to the significance of the location," according to a statement posted online by the 47th Ward Zoning Advisory Council.

Martin has not yet made a decision about the project and says he is waiting on input from neighborhood organizations, including the Northcenter Chamber of Commerce.

SENATE from p. 1

were progressive -- interviewed them and then met in executive session to discuss and vote. The vote was determined by a weighted vote based on the number of votes in the ward for the 7th District State Senate seat in the 2020 general election.

The winner needed 45,006 votes. Simmons received 67,516 votes, and Cassidy garnered 22,443 votes. The committee appointed Simmons by acclamation to finish Steans' term in office until the 2022 mid-term elections. Simmons earlier stated that if he won, he would run for the full term in 2022.

In addition to Simmons and Cassidy, candidates included Angela Giles, a vice

president of investment banking and Andersonville resident; Joseph Alfe, a financial representative for Banker's Life and Budlong Woods resident; Justin Koziatek, an Edgewater Beach area resident and district director for Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison; and Joseph Struck a salesman for State Farm and board secretary for the Heart of Lincoln Square community group and Lincoln Square resident.

Members of the Illinois State Senate serve four-year terms. Sen. Steans just stood for - and won - re-election in Nov. 2020. If a vacancy by a member of the senate has more than 28 months remaining in the term, the appointment is interim until the next general election, when a

special election must be held to fill the balance of the unserved term.

Michael Simmons

Simmons is the deputy director for My Brother's Keeper (via the Obama Foundation), served as deputy commissioner of the Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development (2013-2016) and was a policy director for the Chicago Mayor's Office during the Rahm Emanuel administration (2011-2013). The 38-year-old is a lifelong resident of the district. He also served as a legislative staffer on Capital Hill for Senator Dick Durbin.

In 2018, he founded Blue Sky Strategies, an organization that focuses on racial justice and inclusion in public policy,

equitable urban planning and youth empowerment. He also has worked for a number grassroots organizations and charities.

The oath of office was administered by Osterman's Chief-of-Staff, Dan Luna, at the Swedish American Museum. Following the oath, Simmons kept his appointment speech short and to-the-point. "I promise to work hard," he said. "I promise to be really progressive -- and I'm just looking forward to doing the work for our community."

Rep. Cassidy was magnanimous and later issued a statement congratulating Simmons on his appointment.



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