

The heart has its reasons  
which reason knows not.

— Blaise Pascal

# NEWS-STAR

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## Loyola buys local mid-rise by Red Line as teardown

**Displacing beloved Archie's Cafe, residents, local businesses**

BY HAILEY GATES  
*The Loyola Phoenix*

Loyola purchased the property at 1226-1234 W. Loyola Ave. Dec 19, 2023, adding the triangle-shaped 4-story building to their list of properties owned in the surrounding area.

Michael Loftsgaarden, Loyola's vice president of capital planning, said there are currently no construction plans, but the building will be torn down once the leases run out in Sept. 2025.

"The reality of the situation was we felt like, 'Hey, we got this for a good price that makes sense to us,'" Loftsgaarden said of the \$3 million purchase. "Its assemblage value is the primary driver here for a future development, whatever, it just makes total sense for that. But again, there's nothing on the board right now."

Loftsgaarden said he was approached by a broker representing Mark Gerb — the building's previous owner — April 29. After months of negotiations and reviewing the legal terms of purchase, the university officially bought the property.



Loyola Univ. of Chicago purchased the property at 1226-1234 W. Loyola Ave. with plans to tear down the building once all the tenants vacated the site.

Loftsgaarden said the price Loyola paid was far below the previous owner's asking price due to the poor state of the building, which he said isn't functionally or fiscally sustainable.

"Our plan is to let all our leases run out in the building," Loftsgaarden said. "As leases come available, we're not renewing, and the plan will be to vacate the building and after that try to get it demolished."

Nathan Abhalter-Smith and his partner Kristin, who own the non-profit art gallery Roman Susan, 1224 W. Loyola Ave., have notified others throughout the com-

munity of the purchase. Since their lease ends Sept. 2025 — a year after all other leases in the building end — they said their extended time prompted them to advocate for other tenants.

The Abhalter-Smiths said they became aware the building was for sale in June after overhearing people outside speculating about selling the building. They then received a certificate verifying the current terms of their lease Sept. 22, followed by an official notice Loyola had bought the property on Dec. 22.

LOYOLA see p. 12

## Heartland Health blames their looming collapse on migrants

**Lack of federal support may doom social service agencies**

BY BOB ZULEY

*Part one of a two-part series*

The Heartland Alliance was once robust and a major player among Chicago's social service agencies and performed much of its work through multiple companies — Heartland Alliance, Heartland Alliance International, Heartland Human Care Services, Heartland Alliance Health, and Heartland Housing.

Michael Brieschke, a Heartland Alliance case manager and union leader, told the Chicago Tribune, "Heartland Alliance as an entity will cease to exist. It will be broken up into pieces. It's a fact now."

The trouble is neither new nor unforeseen. In 2022, Heartland Health Center's 16 site locations rebranded itself Tapestry 360 in order to avoid confusion with Heartland Alliance — which it split from in 2003.

Since splitting from its Heartland Health / Tapestry 360, Heartland Alliance has announced its own health care operation, Heartland Alliance Health.

One of the missions Heartland has tasked itself with is welcoming and underwriting some of

the 35,000 migrants in Illinois who arrived by bus from Texas through its National Immigrant Justice Center, after illegally crossing the southern border. It also provides information to migrants from Venezuela about the process of applying for Temporary Protected Status.

With the absence of federal financial assistance in caring for migrants, Heartland's Health division struggled to cover increasing costs associated with the surge of migrants.

***In late 2023, Heartland Health indefinitely furloughed over 150 employees and reduced programming.***

In late 2023, Heartland Health indefinitely furloughed over 150 employees and reduced programming. It's now considering spinning off into an independent organization, according to a written statement from Mary Ann Gilbert, interim executive director of Heartland Alliance Health, and Ed Stellon, chief external affairs officer, sent to Tribune reporter Brian J. Rogal.

Despite financial accounting ostensibly in place, it wasn't un-

HEARTLAND see p. 12

## Fifty-seven years ago a small plane struck two Sheridan Rd. high-rises

**Dense fog behind 1967 crash that killed two**

BY BOB ZULEY

The dense fog that has recently inundated the Chicagoland area was reminiscent of the fog that one pilot and his passenger found themselves in on Feb. 15, 1967.

On Feb. 14, 1967, pilot Clarence J. Elliott, 32, of Kiel, WI, and Charles A. Brickner, 39, of Sheboygan Falls, WI, flew their leased 1966 single-engine Piper Cherokee 235 from Cleveland, OH, into Meigs Field, an airport then located on Northerly Island at 13th St. on the lakefront, with plans to layover for the night.

The two men were employed in sales by the cheese marketing division of Lake to Lake Dairy, a Wisconsin farm cooperative begun in 1946 and later acquired by Land O' Lakes in 1981.

The crash, detailed in a Chicago Tribune inquiry by reporter Wayne Thomis, described the two men arriving at Butler Aviation's

Meigs Field office at approximately 6:30 a.m. and phoned the FAA control tower and requested a special visual flight rule take-off clearance.

The request was granted, although local conditions at Meigs were below visual flight minimums.

It is normal and standard to grant such visual special departures when traffic is light and better weather presumably nearby.

Elliott's worries of impending harsh winter conditions were lulled by 7 a.m. local weather reports which gave a 500-foot ceiling and 2½ mile visibility at Meigs and 1,100 foot ceiling and 12 mile visibility at Milwaukee.

However, Elliott didn't check the weather report at Glenview Naval Air Station which had only half a mile visibility in fog and 800 feet ceiling. Turbulence and icing were also forecast for Illinois and Indiana, with snow moving southward from northern Wisconsin.

The Piper 9347J lifted off



On Feb. 14, 1967, a plane crashed in Edgewater near Sheridan Rd. Pilot Clarence J. Elliott of Kiel, WI, and his passenger Charles A. Brickner, of Sheboygan Falls, WI, both died in the crash.

Meigs at 7:23 a.m. and bore northward along the lakeshore, with his employer noting that Elliott frequently made the flight by "hugging the shoreline and staying low in marginal weather."

At 7:26 a.m., Elliott reported clearing the Meigs control zone and indicated no weather difficulties. The crash, two minutes afterward, found the plane boring along only 160 feet above the

shore level, and penetrating curtains of fog that extended even lower.

The nine-mile flight ended with the plane's left wing shattering the glass 16th floor apartment wall of the northeast corner of Hollywood Towers, 5701 N. Sheridan Rd., before bouncing into the 16th floor of the south wall of Horizon House, 5733 N. Sheridan Rd.

The wreckage then careened across Sheridan Rd. into a vacant lot located at 5730 N. Sheridan Rd.

In an appellate court opinion pertaining to this crash filed in 1979, the testimony of expert witness Jesse W. Stonecipher, a professor and associate director of the Institute of Aviation of the Univ. of Illinois was cited.

Stonecipher testified that a takeoff and flight executed in the weather conditions existing at the time Elliott took off and the route he flew could not be conducted with a reasonable degree of safety.

In Stonecipher's opinion, a non-instrument-rated pilot should not have attempted the flight. The pilot in this instance should have either executed a 180 degree turn and returned to Meigs Field or contacted air traffic control by radio, declared an emergency and requested radio guidance to a nearby airport for landing.



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# Is Chicago a shadow of its past?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

If you're like a lot of Chicagoans you're already looking for the next season of your favorite cable series. Pick your best ones.

I remember a much less frenetic era when it was Sunday nights at PBS that we fussed over like that.

Remember Alistair Cooke, the effete, erudite British journalist who came to America to report and never went home? His reflections primed and prepped us for those huge dramatic series like "The First Churchills," "The Forsyth Saga," "Upstairs Downstairs" and "The Wives of Henry VIII." WTTW's PBS shows became a way to measure the unfolding of the start of a new week. Long before softer Americans wanted to move into "Downton Abbey."

Downton Abbey is far removed from "The Bear," Chicago's latest white hot, smash hit TV show

about restaurant royalty.

Half a century later viewers now await the further goings on for the Ton, late 18th century London, as the "Bridgerton" crowds anticipate Season 3. What can we expect from tell-all Lady Whistledown? Word now comes we must wait until May.

And then there's the dark mystery of the 3rd Season of "White Lotus" to contend with. And the sad certainty that without Tanya McQuoid (Jennifer Coolidge) we'll have some big idiosyncrasies to fill in this HBO hit. The next series is supposed to take place in Thailand.

How can anyone keep track of the many cliff-hanger moments we were left with after Season 3 of "Emily in Paris?" The show is working wonders with my Parisian French accent, as well as my sense of fashion and commitment to French cookery. Am I drinking the right "aperitif?" But we are told Season 4 is in production at the moment.

I am ready for more of those fancy New Yorkers in Season 3 of Julian Fellowes' "The Gilded Age." Word is it will be back. There is no denying I dislike the clothing and confining social formulas, but delight in the characters of all descriptions. From Mrs. Astor to Jack Trotter.

It really was the age of the "robber barons." Funny, in real life some of those industrialists' offspring still spend their summers in the great houses they call "cottages," in coastal Maine. Like Islesboro, where we had our art gallery. It's nothing, there, to have a great-great-grandfather who was a Republican vice president of the U.S. Once at our lively front porch cocktail get-togethers there were four in attendance. And a splattering of Marshall Field's progeny. Add in Mrs. Auchincloss and we had our own gilded age.

Series aren't really my favorite viewing, but "binge-watching" makes it easy. Have you seen "Atlantique"? It's kind of a take on the story of how Peggy Guggenheim rescued the great Jewish Modernist artists and intellectu-

als from France after the Nazis entered Paris and partitioned the nation. She brought a huge group of them to New York City and altered the artistic environment of America with their creations on canvas.

No binge-watching for Season 3 of The Bear, the show that devoured the Golden Globes, taking home five awards, including best comedy. Most locals will be watching that one every week once it starts up again.

The show's star, Jeremy Allen White, told the Today Show that they're going to start filming Season 3 soon. Can't wait.

Watching a series means making a commitment to stay faithful to the unfolding of facts and details. Persons and personalities.

At the start of the new year we re-calibrate our process of marking time. The measure of our day. The distance of events. Responsibilities. The pace of our living. The climate of a new season. Anxious for new judgments. Better. More refined.

The Illinois Primary, for instance. While Mayor "Teachers' Pet" Johnson's name won't appear on the ballot, it might as well be. Might the vote over his proposed real estate tax increase be considered his vote of no-confidence? That defining feature of parliamentary democracy which allows the elected parliament to either affirm their support or force the ousting, followed by a collapse of a failed government?

You don't need to stare for long at the garbage-strewn streets of the city to realize this "ham sandwich" doesn't have a clue. How can he expect a ruinous homeless policy not to affect the small scale life of Chicago? Damaging simple outdoor health conditions. Have you seen what it's like under the viaducts?

That's not even counting the political fiascos that large-scale ineptitude has triggered. The "Johnson Era" appears to be a 'how not to administrate a city' textbook. Our honorable mayor doesn't have the skill set to successfully bus tables or wash dishes on The Bear.

Now we wait for the next season. The further episodes of messed up politics on the grand scale. With literally no effective political strategy for resolving the urban damage underway. I'm not sure anyone understands the difference. When was the last time Chicago faced such disastrous ineptitude? The Great Fire of 1871? Back then McCormick heir and Tribune founder Joseph Medill ran for mayor in the aftermath of the city burning down. On the "Fireproof" ticket.

He won in a landslide. A victory that ultimately saved Chicago, creating the nation's most modern city. The capitol of the American Heartland.

Well, we have the political and social destruction now, not dissimilar from the Great Fire.

I cannot imagine America's historic Democratic Party leadership arriving in August for its National Convention where they get to see the damage that Mayor "Teachers' Pet" has permitted to unfold neighborhood by neighborhood.

It's the start of the presidential season. The anticipation of the Democratic National Convention coming to town at the end of summer to re-organize what's possible in Washington D.C.

Do we have any real expectation for healthy change or growth in our urban consciousness? Has the disparity in the political conscience of Chicagoans been enlarged or has it become a shadow of its past refinement?

Yes, we know, he'll blame it on the wife and kids... City Hall success today is measured by getting home in time to wash the dishes.

Former Mayor Ed Kelly and super-politico Pat Nash had some advantages in the 1930s when they began their "political renaissance" in Chicago. Make no mistake about it. Their support for Franklin Delano Roosevelt not only unleashed a political genius on the nation when we needed it most. It also set in motion reasoned solutions to America's rational political sensibilities. That not only got the garbage off the streets but rescued American

agriculture. America's military character. The arts. American science and education. And split the atom under the bleachers at the Univ. of Chicago.

It's about common allies. Common justice. And an intellectual vision to alter the disintegration of our metropolis.

That's how we measure time here. Beyond the tea times at Downton. Or Mrs. Bridges' succulent menu when the King comes to Eaton Place for dinner. That strategy will really "Bring Chicago Home."

**ENOUGH:** Overall, that Palestinian protest was yet another divisive city hall process, says **Ald. Scott Waguespack** [32nd]. "One of the worst instances was the heckling and jeering of our one Jewish colleague when she spoke about women being raped on Oct. 7."

That's what a real man does, he stands up for his friend and colleague, Ald. Debra Silverstein [50th], who was being attacked by a mob. Bravo Scott.

"Such demeaning behavior cannot be tolerated in the City Council chambers. Calls for violence against anyone, including threats to those of us who voted no, should not be allowed to continue," he said. "This process has led to hostility on the council floor that we have not seen in decades and has alienated many Chicago residents who feel that this resolution does not adequately address their concerns and lived experience. Aldermen who voted no on this resolution have received death threats, with posts on social media singling out some of us in particular."

"Throughout this time, City elected officials have lost focus on the unacceptable violence in our streets that led to the recent deaths of several students and

## SHADOW see p. 8

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# 2023 was a boom year for pot sales

Illinois' adult-use recreational and medical pot retailers sold a record \$1.6 billion worth of cannabis products in 2023, according to data from the Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation [IDFPR].

However, total tax revenue from the industry dropped in fiscal year 2023, falling to \$420.9 million from a record \$435.1 the previous year. But the total still surpassed the state's tax collections from alcohol sales, which brought in about \$316.3 million during the same period.

With the opening of 28 new retailers in 2023, much of those sales, and tax revenue, came out of Chicago and Cook County.

In the city of Chicago, despite our comparatively steep retail prices, the strongest drug sales were in the Near West and Near North West sides, in Lincoln Park, North Lakeview and Uptown, East Edgewater and East Rogers Park.

All 28 of the newly opened pot retailers, the state says, were majority owned by veterans. Five of those licenses are also majority owned by women, and 15 are majority owned by people of color, according to voluntary self-reporting.

State officials also claim that the sales record coincides with a year-over-year decline in out-of-state sales. In total, about \$1.2 billion worth of pot products were sold last year to Illinois residents, which is a 14% increase from 2022 and is also higher than the growth of resident sales experienced in 2021, the report said.

The report also shows that in 2022, Illinois made \$36 million in tax revenue off of people from Wisconsin who traveled to Illinois to buy drugs. In total, about a quarter of all Illinois cannabis sales went to out-of-state residents.

Fiscal Year 2023 saw unprecedented growth in the cannabis market not seen since the start of the medical program in 2015 and adult use cannabis was legalized in 2020, according to the IDFPR report. "Looking towards the future and Fiscal Year 2024, IDFPR anticipates continued growth of the regulated market."

Illinois residents can have 30 grams of cannabis flower, five grams of cannabis concentrate and no more than 500 milligrams of THC contained in a cannabis-infused product. Residents in the medical cannabis pilot program may have more than 30 grams of flower, but only if it is grown and secured in their residence under certain conditions.

Non-Illinois residents can have 15 grams of cannabis flower, 2.5 grams of cannabis, and no more than 250 milligrams of THC contained in a cannabis-infused product.

On the same day that Illinois announced 2023's record marijuana sales, The Wall Street Journal published a report that found doctors nationwide are reporting a rising number of young adults experiencing psychosis brought on by pot use.

A doctor quoted in the report attributed the rise in psychotic disorder to the potency of modern dope strains.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Admin., the average content of THC, the active substance in marijuana, is up considerably, with many legal products boasting THC concentrations of up to 90%.

According to a 2017 study in

*According to Crain's Chicago, Chicago is home to four of the cannabis industry's leading players, which dominate this year's list of Chicago's Largest Cannabis Companies. Publicly traded Cresco Labs, Verano and Green Thumb Industries, and privately held PharmaCann employ nearly 2,000 workers in the city combined.*

the American Journal of Psychiatry, one psychotic episode following cannabis use was associated with a 47% chance of a person developing schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

So drug use is fraught with risk, especially for young people.

"These statistics show encour-

aging progress that is a testament to the hard work [of] lawmakers, and stakeholders in ensuring we create a process that's accessible to everyone, no matter their gender, race, or where in Illinois they call home," said IDFPR Secretary Mario Treto, Jr.

The total number of marijuana products sold in fiscal year 2023 also rose, climbing to nearly 45 million, the report says. Most product categories saw growth, with the only exceptions being infused liquids and infused topicals.

Illinois taxes any cannabis

product at a rate of 20% of the purchase price, with tax rates increasing by product potency. Effective rates can exceed 40% if local governments tack on an additional tax. In Chicago, customers will pay up to 41.25% in taxes on some marijuana products, after factoring in a soon-to-be-passed Cook County excise tax.

Of the 10 states with legal recreational marijuana regimes, Illinois is home to the second-highest tax burden on retail sales, according to a review of state and local statutes.

Compare that with neighboring Michigan - which now has a supply glut, and therefore some of the most affordable pot prices - where the total tax on recreational marijuana is 16% across the board.

States with high tax rates on pot lose a great deal of sales to more traditional black market sale. California legalized recreational marijuana in 2018, yet

80% of cannabis sold in California comes from the black market, due to the high cost and taxes. Illinois' pot buyers face taxes that are even higher than California's.

Besides buying low priced dope in Michigan, or from an illegal black market dealer, there is an-

SALES see p. 10



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# George Kahumoku: Maui's Renaissance man

Playing live this month  
at Old Town School



BY PETER VON BUOL

Despite turning 73 in January, legendary Hawaiian slack key guitarist George Kahumoku will be returning to Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music on Feb. 29 to perform at the school's Gary and Laura Maurer Concert Hall, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave.

It is an annual tour for Kahumoku, who for some reason's leaves all the warmth and sun at home for the dreary gray mainland, and his winter tour.

Eager to share the spotlight, Kahumoku's current tour includes two-time Grammy winner Tia Carrere (who besides being an accomplished singer has also been an in-demand actress in Hollywood where she starred in the Wayne's World movies set in Chicago) and six-time Grammy winner Daniel Ho, a multi-instrumentalist known for his virtuosity on the ukulele and slack-key guitar. Ho's film scores have been featured in film and television

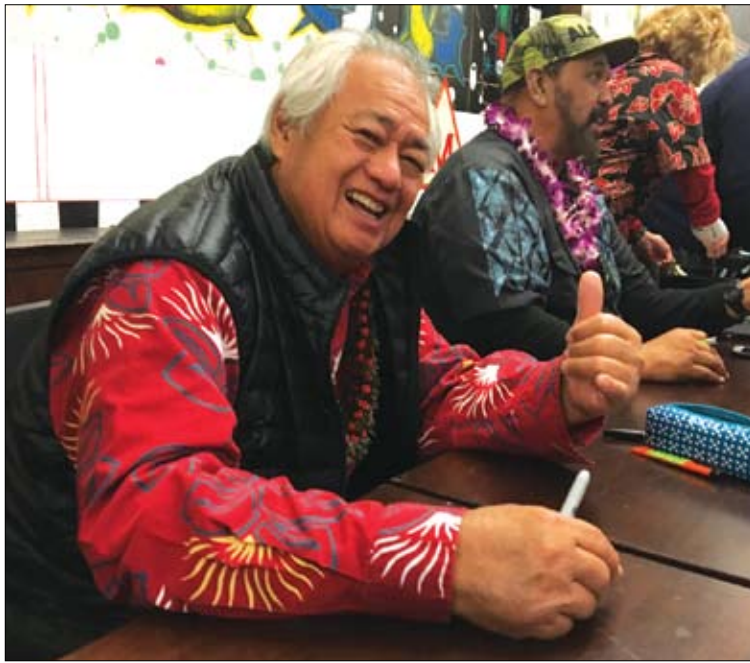
in projects such as The Descendants, Soul Surfer, the TV series Hawai'i Five-O.

Kahumoku is known for his distinctive style of 12-string slack key guitar playing which he traces back to George Kuluwaimaka Kaleohano Kauila Mahikoa, a direct ancestor.

In the mid-19th century, Mahikoa had been among those trained by the Mexican Vaqueros who had come to the Kingdom of Hawai'i to teach ranching skills to Hawaiians. In their free time, the Vaquero enjoyed performing music and introduced native Hawaiians to Spanish-style guitars and their singing style. Their Hawaiian students enjoyed the music and prior to returning home to Mexico, some Vaquero gave their instruments to Hawaiians.

In the early 20th century, Hawaiian music swept the world. However, it was two other instruments, the steel guitar (a Hawaiian invention) and the ukulele (an adaptation of a Portuguese instrument) which took center stage, and which caused slack key guitarists to perform background accompaniment.

Steel guitar became so popular mainland radio stations, including Chicago, hired authentic Hawaiian musicians. In 1933, Hawaii's Jim Holstein and Bob Pauole, known professionally as Jim and Bob, the Genial Hawaiians, were the house band of WBBM-AM 780 and earlier, WENR AM-890 (which merged with WLS in 1954). They recorded an influen-



George Kahumoku, one of the leading voices of the Hawaiian Renaissance, will be returning to Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music on Feb. 29.

tial record for Chicago's Bluebird record label.

While Holstein died in 1936, Pauole remained in Chicago and continued to perform as a soloist. Pauole died in 1952 and is buried in Graceland Cemetery under his professional name, Bob Panole.

After World War II, Hawaii began to experience an increased interest in the Hawaiian language and culture. Born in 1951 and having grown up on his grandparents' South Kona cattle ranch on Hawai'i Island, Kahumoku had grown up surrounded by slack-key guitar music.

"We all attended the Kamehameha Schools at the Kapalama Campus. George was an upper-class man. Dennis Kamakahi, and I were classmates in the class of '71. Kamakahi, Aaron Mahi, Kalena Silva and I were in a group playing mainly Hawaiian music. Jerry Santos, who like George, was an upper-class man, also formed a group which played a mix of Hawaiian and popular contemporary folk music.

It was truly the beginning of what we now know as the renaissance of Hawaiian music. [Today] George Kahumoku has now become a great exponent of Ki Ho'alu, Hawaiian Slack Key and like all of us who carry Hawaiian music within our hearts, we share it with aloha," said Akaka, who serves at the Hawaiian cultural advisor at the Mauna Lani Aulberge Resort on Hawai'i Island.

By the early 1970s, the Hawaiian Renaissance had fully blossomed and there was a renewed interest in traditional Hawaiian arts and traditions, including language, crafts, farming, fishing, hula, history, and literature.

Having grown up in an extended family connected to the past and present, Kahumoku was well-positioned to make an impact as one of the leading voices of the Hawaiian Renaissance.

In the mid-1970s, Kahumoku

also teamed up with his brother, Moses Kahumoku, to perform evenings at the luxurious Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. The pair released albums as The Kahumoku Brothers.

Due to their authenticity, in 1979, the Kahumoku brothers accompanied the late Edith Kanaka'ole on her groundbreaking album Hi'ipoi I Ka'Aina Aloha, which would win the 1980 Na Hoku Hanohano Award for best traditional album. The first track on the album Ka Uluwehi O Ke Ka (the plants of the Sea), which featured the Kahumoku brothers on guitar and background vocals, became an instant classic.

**George Kahumoku is known for his distinctive style of 12-string slack key guitar playing which he traces back to George Kuluwaimaka Kaleohano Kauila Mahikoa, a direct ancestor.**

In the mid-1990s, Hawaii's slack key guitarists gained prominence on the mainland when the late George Winston, a platinum-selling jazz musician with a major distribution deal for his Dancing Cat Records label, began an ambitious project to record a series of Hawaiian slack key artists on solo and duo acoustic recordings.

Winston had fallen in love with slack key years earlier when he had picked up a copy of the Sons of Hawaii's 1971 Five Faces LP. Winston wanted to do the same thing with more of Hawaii's slack key guitarists.

At the beginning of his project, Winston contacted the slack key guitarists whose recordings he already had in his collection. Those became the first recordings he made for the Dancing Cat label.

Then, he asked these guitarists for their recommendations. Many, he said, recommended George. So Winston added Kahumoku.

"He has also been one of Hawaii's most accomplished composers as well and being a great interpreter of traditional songs and songs by other composers," said Winston adds.

As of 2023, Dancing Cat has released 39 recordings in its still-ongoing Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Masters series.

While there has long been some mainland interest in Hawaiian music, the increased visibility of Dancing Cat Records had made it much easier for the label's artists to secure bookings. After Dancing Cat released Kahumoku's Drenched by Music album in 1997, he joined the Masters of Hawaiian Music tour and has continued to tour mainland cities ever since.

Among the stops on his annual tour is Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music and a spokesperson for the venerable institution said it is obvious why Kahumoku has had good fortune in Chicago.

"Old Town of Folk Music has always been a strong supporter of musical artists from Hawai'i, and George Kahumoku, Jr. is one of the island's leading ambassadors of that distinctive and enticing slack key guitar sound. We are always happy when George comes around with his Masters of Hawaiian Music show, especially as it usually comes through Chicago in the depths of our winter, when we can use some Hawaiian charm and warmth the most," said Nick Macri, marketing manager for concerts and events.

At each of his shows, Kahumoku acts as the show's emcee and plays the first set. His style as a storyteller is low-key, but effective. Kahumoku tells each story about the song as if was the first time. He also treats the audience as if he was talking to a friend or relative. It's an approach that works for Kahumoku, and it has helped forge a strong bond with his audience.

Being first on stage throughout his career has enabled him to leave the stage and meet those who attend the concerts. This also has given him an opportunity to connect with his audience. During the tours, at intermission, all performers join Kahumoku at a table to meet concert attendees.

The cross-country tour usually sells out at concert halls across the mainland. When not touring, George hosts his weekly eponymous Masters of Hawaiian Music show at the Napili Kai Beach Resort.

Slack key guitarist David Kahiapo, who was mentored by Gabby Pahinui, Sonny Chillingworth and Ray Kane and who has also performed at Old Town with Kahumoku, said there is no better description for Kahumoku than

KAHUMOKU see p. 9

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The Home Front  
by Don DeBat

Chicago's Game—16-inch slow-pitch softball—is hanging on by its bruised and battered finger tips in the Windy City.

Last year, the NASCAR street race effectively shut down softball at Grant Park for most of the summer.

This year, there is a new threat. The Chicago Park District [CPD] is planning a redesign of the 345-acre Washington Park, bounded by 51st St., Martin Luther King Dr., 60th St. and Cottage Grove Ave. on the South Side, that likely will impact softball play.

Earlier this month, the park district sought feedback on six key areas of park space—including plans for bike circulation paths, athletic areas, the Morgan Dr. entrance, the field house, the pool and lagoon.

Some softball advocates are wondering if the long-range plan is to transform Washington Park into an entertainment venue for blues, jazz and rock concerts, similar to Grant Park's "Festival Field"—formerly a downtown recreational area devoted to 16-inch softball.

According to the CPD, proposed changes are crafted to protect the historic nature of the park, designed in 1871, but also build on community needs, and attract people throughout the city to use the space.

Immediately west, along King Dr., is a pond overlooked by the Barack Obama Presidential Center. On the south end of the proposed site plan, a "cultural ribbon"



"Softball is the biggest use of the park," said Wilbert King, a South Side native who works in violence prevention. King credits the Washington Park fields and softball in general for pointing his own life in the right direction, and says he wants to see this historic sport continue in Chicago for other generations.

or walking trail, appears to run directly through at least two existing softball fields. The trail would connect the Du Sable Museum with the Obama Center, which currently is under construction.

According to the Hyde Park Herald, the Washington Park plan is guided by six objectives as required by an agreement related to the Obama Presidential Center. These include prioritizing people over cars, creating new experiences for park visitors, enhancing natural areas, and celebrating the park's history, CPD officials said.

"Washington Park has been the Mecca of our sport on the South Side for decades. It was named a 'Field of Dreams' by the HOF a few years ago," noted Al Maag, co-founder of the Chicago 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame.

About 50 teams currently play 16-inch softball in the park on Sundays, plus the 14 Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] teams who have been competing there for 50 years, Maag said.

"The results have been outstanding, as different levels of play and age have been

earning national titles in different categories, including the Major SSA National Champs High Y in 2023. So, it's vital they build on their recent success and not go backwards," Maag said.

Tony Ward, HOF board member and inductee whose team—BTA—was the first African-American team to win the SSA Major Nationals in history in 2022, said: "The plans that have been shared with the softball community have been received favorably because we are losing only two fields to the exciting overall development of the area. That is a fair compromise."

However, the planners could hit a home run if they budgeted for better lights for Washington Park's 19 fields and especially the parking lots, Ward said.

"Our softball fields are community assets that should be used. Unfortunately, no games are played during the week," said Ward, who noted that Washington Park's motto is: "Lights Save Lives!"

Ward said Washington Park would attract more participants of all ages playing softball on fields that are currently going

to waste after sunset. "We know the sport of softball is an investment that pays dividends in a positive environment that builds a respect for life," he said.

The game of softball was invented in Chicago in 1887, and the first indoor game was played at the Farragut Boat Club at Lake Park Ave. and 31st St.—only a couple of miles from Washington Park.

Washington Park has been a South Side softball anchor since the Great Depression, when the game took off as a popular, affordable, spring and summer sport. It blossomed in the alleys, gravel school yards and parks across the city because all kids and young blue-collar adults needed to play was a bat, a ball and cardboard boxes or a street sewer cover for bases.

"Softball is the biggest use of the park," Wilbert King, a South Side native who works in violence prevention, told the Chicago Tribune. King credits the fields and Chicago's Game for pointing his own life in the right direction, and says he wants

WASHINGTON see p. 9

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# Police Beat...

## Driver pistol-whipped, carjacked on the Magnificent Mile

Chicago police are investigating after a driver was pistol-whipped and carjacked on the Magnificent Mile Feb. 7. It happened around 5:09 a.m. outside the Westin Hotel, 909 N. Michigan.

A 37-year-old man told officers he was getting into his red Toyota Camry when the hijacker walked up behind him, a CPD spokesperson said. The carjacker hit the victim in the back of the head with a gun and drove away with his car.

The victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment of minor injuries, the spokesperson said. He was unable to give the police a description because the carjacker wore a mask.

A city license plate reader pinged the hijacked car near Ashland and Chicago avenues shortly after it was taken. So far, though, no arrests have been announced.

## Woman claims she was shot while riding in a car in Roscoe Village

Chicago police are investigating a woman's claim that she was shot while riding in a car in Roscoe Village Feb. 8.

The 18-year-old showed up at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center with six gunshot wounds to her thigh and hand around 2 a.m., according to a CPD media statement. She told police she was shot while riding in a white Audi in the 2000 block of W. Belmont moments earlier.

However, no calls of shots fired came from that area, and officers who went to the scene did not find any shell casings or other evidence of gunfire. A CPD surveillance camera operator radioed that they reviewed video footage of the area where the woman said the shooting occurred, and not a single white Audi passed through the area.

Several 911 callers reported shots fired in the 5100 block of N. Kildare on the Northwest Side around 1:40 a.m. Police were exploring the possibility that she may have been injured there.

## Driver gets nine years for fleeing the scene of fatal crash that killed beloved hospital employee

A Humboldt Park man was handed a nine-year sentence on Feb. 6 for leaving the scene after killing a Northwestern Memorial Hospital employee in a traffic crash in the Loop.



Marcel Windham

Christine Campbell was a month from retirement when she left work around 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 2, 2020. About 15 minutes later, Marcel Windham ran a red light at Lower Wacker Dr. and Columbus Dr. and slammed into the side of her car.

Prosecutors said his car was traveling 53 MPH at impact. Campbell was pronounced dead at Northwestern.

Windham and his female passenger climbed out of the wreckage and asked the driver of a car traveling behind Campbell for a ride. That driver, who happened to be Campbell's co-worker, refused. Surveillance video allegedly showed Windham and his passenger entering another vehicle and leaving the area.

Investigators tested DNA on the steering wheel airbag of the car that struck Campbell's vehicle. Prosecutors said it matched Windham, proving that he was the driver at the time of the crash. His phone location records allegedly put him at the scene, too.

On Feb. 7, Windham pleaded guilty to the most serious charge he faced, failure to report a fatal accident, a Class 1 felony. Prosecutors dropped two lesser charges, including reckless homicide with a motor vehicle.



Christine Campbell

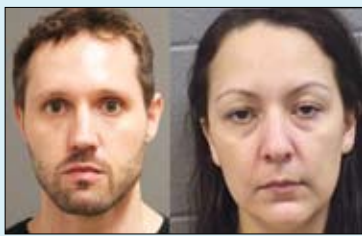
After Campbell's death, her son, Herman, told WGN that his mom was "the greatest person I ever knew."

"The world is at a loss since she's gone, I can guarantee you that one. She gave a lot of love and a lot of knowledge. Everybody she came in contact with, she always left them with something."

Windham's sentence will be reduced to 4½ years with good behavior. It will be reduced by another 984 days of credits he earned since being charged.

Judge Peggy Chiampas oversaw the case and sentenced Windham.

## Mail thieves plead guilty, one gets probation, the other three years



(L-R) Alex Petik and Amanda Solis.

While law enforcement agencies and many Chicagoans seem to think mail theft and the financial crimes fueled by stolen mail are big deals, people who carry out the schemes are being let off pretty lightly.

A man-woman team recently pleaded guilty to engaging in mail theft on the North Side and in the South Loop. One received probation, and the other received three years, although he'll be released in a fraction of that time.

Alex Petik, 36, was charged last spring with burglarizing a mailroom in the 4800 block of N. Bell four times in October and November 2022. Two days after the last break-in, one of the residents learned that someone was trying to open multiple credit card accounts in their name.

A Lincolnwood Police Dept. sergeant and a U.S. postal inspector recognized the thief as Petik, prosecutors said.

A backpack he was carrying when police arrested him last year allegedly contained a Russian passport, two fake IDs with his photo but other people's personal information, four credit cards with different names, five checks issued to various businesses and individuals, and 14.2 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine.

Petik got out on electronic monitoring but failed to show up in court a couple of months later. Cops found him in the suburbs.

Officials said he had used a fake driver's license with someone else's name and birthday on it to rent a U-Haul in Chicago, which he drove to an Infiniti dealership in Hoffman Estates with 36-year-old Amanda Solis.

Petik parked the truck behind the

dealership, and Solis went inside, using a fake ID bearing her picture and another woman's personal information to apply for a car loan, Hoffman Estates police said in criminal complaints.

According to court records, postal inspectors, working with surveillance footage, determined that Petik and Solis teamed up to burglarize the mailrooms of two residential complexes in Dec. 2021. Officials said the duo used postal service master keys, known as "arrow keys," to break into mailrooms in the 1900 block of S. Michigan and the 2100 block of W. Wellington.

Petik recently cut a deal with prosecutors, pleading guilty to two counts of burglary, one count of burglary without causing damage, and one count of knowingly possessing a fictitious ID, according to court records. Prosecutors dropped an escape from electronic monitoring charge.

Judge Peggy Chiampas handed him three years on each burglary count and one year for the fake ID charge. The sentences will be served concurrently and reduced by 395 days of credit he earned in jail and on electronic monitoring, giving him an anticipated parole date of May 15.

Solis pleaded guilty before Chiampas to burglary and burglary without causing damage in exchange for a 30-month probation sentence and 128 days of time served.

## Two groups of armed men are robbing North Side businesses

Two groups of armed robbers are targeting businesses on the North Side, with at least 13 holdups reported since late December, including several in the past week, according to Chicago police. We first learned about the robbery teams this week when they happened to rob three stores in the same neighborhood, prompting a local alderman to tell her constituents about the crime pattern.

On Feb. 7, a two-man team robbed the CVS at 5204 N. Broadway around 7:55 p.m. and then held up the McDonald's at 1004 W. Wilson around 8:40 p.m., officials said. The police say the men displayed guns and demanded money from the registers.

Officials initially said one man was responsible for both robberies, but CPD updated that information in a community alert on Saturday afternoon. The alert said the duo also robbed two stores on Dec. 30: in the 3200 block of W. Lawrence at 6:04 p.m. and the 5600 block of N. Ridge at 7:45 p.m.

CPD said the suspects are Black men between 20 and 30 years old. One wears a black puffy coat, a black hat with a Nike logo, and black jeans. The other wears a black puffy coat with the Guess logo on the sleeve, a black ski mask, and black pants. They're armed with a silver handgun.

The second group involves up to four men armed with pistols and knives that target Walgreens locations and other "convenient establishments," according to a separate alert CPD released on Saturday. Police said these men took money from registers and forced employees to access the store's safe.

They robbed the Walgreens at 6121 N. Broadway around 9:47 p.m. and are responsible for holdups in the 1400 block of W. Devon at 3:15 p.m. on Jan. 19 and at 6:07 p.m. on Jan. 23; the 1900 block of W. Foster on Jan. 23 at 12:17 a.m.; the 6200 block of N. Western on Jan. 28 at 8:15 p.m.; the 6100 block of N. Western on Jan. 30 at 8:40 p.m. and at 6:01 p.m. on Feb. 2; the 4300 block of N. Kedzie on Feb. 2 at 5:39 p.m., and in the 900 block of W. Irving Park Rd on Feb. 6 at 8:30 p.m.

CPD's alert described the suspects as Hispanic men dressed entirely in black clothing.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263. The first crime pattern number is P24-3-011, and the second is P24-3-012BA.



Chicago police officers recovered a safe that Timothy Jackson (inset) ditched outside Tribune Tower in 2022.

Images courtesy Captured News; Chicago Police Dept.

## Eight-time felon burglarized River North restaurant while on probation for burglarizing Streeterville nail salon

The last time we reported on Timothy Jackson was after he ran down the Magnificent Mile with a safe he stole from a Streeterville nail salon while on parole for three felonies. He's on probation for that.

Jackson's back in jail. Prosecutors say he burglarized a River North restaurant. It's familiar territory for Jackson, an eight-time convicted felon.

Chicago cops arrested him around 2:15 a.m. Jan. 31 after responding to a burglar alarm at Coco Pazzo, 300 W. Hubbard. They said they found the 32-year-old lying down next to a stairwell on the fourth floor.

Surveillance video from the restaurant showed Jackson forcing the restaurant doors open, according to his CPD arrest report. Once inside, the report said, he grabbed some Hennessy from the bar, tried to open the cash register, and checked out the basement. He's been charged with burglary.

Judge Charles Beach detained Jackson the next day for violating the two-year probation sentence he received in September for the nail salon break-in.

That crime occurred in April 2022 at Bedazzled, 221 E. Grand. The owner told police she saw a man force the door open around 5 a.m., remove a safe from the office, and head west, according to police and prosecutors.

Officers spotted Jackson strolling down Michigan Ave. near Tribune Tower a few minutes later. He was carrying a safe. When he saw the cops, he dropped the safe and ran. He didn't

get far.

Jackson was on parole for three felonies at the time.

In one case, he punched a man in the face on the 800 block of S. Wabash, causing the victim to suffer facial and brain injuries, according to police records. He received 7½ years for aggravated battery causing great bodily harm. He also received two four-year sentences for a pair of Loop burglaries.

Just three months before sentencing, police detained Jackson when he ran away from them as they tried to cite him for smoking at the Jackson Red Line CTA station. He was wearing his electronic monitoring bracelet at the time. He allegedly wrapped it in aluminum foil to keep authorities from tracking his whereabouts. Prosecutors charged him with escape but later dropped the case.

Jackson also received two sentences of 4½ years for felony thefts in the Loop in 2014. He got two years for theft from a person in 2013 and four years for theft in 2011. Prosecutors said he was also convicted of burglary as a juvenile.

Police have issued several community alerts to warn restaurants and bars about late-night burglars. A bulletin issued last month warned that a pair of men were prying open patio doors to gain access to restaurants in River North. Another alert in November focused on similar crimes on the North Side.

## Thieves are stealing cars at Chicago gas stations, one Lakeview incident was caught on camera

Just two months ago, a North Side alderman warned residents about a string of carjackings and auto thefts that occurred while victims were filling up at a Costco gas station. Now, video shows a car thief in action as he tries, but fortunately fails, to steal a woman's car at a Lakeview gas station last week.

The footage was recorded around 11:12 a.m. Feb. 5 as a woman filled her car's tank at Shell, 2801 N. Ashland.

As she tends to the gas pump, the thief gets low and crawls up to the driver's door on the opposite side of her vehicle. He watches her through the car's windows and then slips into the driver's seat after she removes the nozzle from the tank.

The woman jogs around the back of the car, apparently in a hurry to get back on the road. She reaches for the driver's door handle and quickly jumps back in fear upon discovering the masked stranger sitting behind the wheel.

She runs away, screaming. The thief gets out of her car and enters the passenger side of a gray Acura MDX sitting nearby. That SUV speeds away, heading north on Ashland Ave.

Chicago cops responded to the scene, but they said the woman was gone when they arrived. Nobody reported the Acura stolen from the gas station, so it appears the thief arrived and escaped in that vehicle, possibly

with an accomplice.

In December, Lakeview Ald. Bennett Lawson [44th] told his constituents that car thieves were routinely stealing cars from a neighborhood Costco's service station.

"If you shop at the Costco located at 2746 N. Clybourn Ave, please be aware that there has been a recent string of carjackings taking place at that location when customers have gone to the gas station in the Costco parking lot," Lawson wrote in the December email.

"The Chicago Police Department recommends—no matter what gas station you stop at—to turn off your vehicle, remove your keys and keep them on your person, and lock your vehicle," the alderman continued. "Many instances of carjacking at this Costco location and other gas stations have taken place when keys have been left in the vehicle. Please continue to remain safe and vigilant!"

An Uber driver contacted CWB-Chicago in October after a Costco attendant warned him about thefts.

"He told me a group in a black BMW came at 4 p.m. [Oct. 17] and a guy got out in a hoodie and face mask and stole a car as a woman pumped the gas, she had left her keys in the car."

"He told me the same group attempted [Oct. 19] but were unsuccessful, and that they also went to Oakbrook to try it there in be-

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# Chicago's top cop claims CPD solved 20 of 26 murders in January; actually solved three

BY CWBCHICAGO

In two separate public appearances, Chicago Police Supt. Larry Snelling made a remarkable claim: The department's detectives had already solved over 70% of 2024's murders.

He said it once during an appearance at the Economic Club of Chicago. He repeated it at a town hall hosted by the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, the city agency that selected him last year as a finalist for the top cop job.

Depending on which meeting you were at, he said the department had solved either 19 out of 25 or 20 out of 26.

Newspapers, TV stations, and online news outlets published Snelling's claim without an ounce of skepticism.

And that's too bad. Because the Chicago Police Dept. had not solved 19 or 20 of this year's murders. As of Jan. 25, it had solved three. Our source? The Chicago Police Dept.

Asked about the mind-blowing discrepancy on Feb. 8, two Chicago Police Dept. executives confirmed that Snelling's statements were inaccurate. They said Snelling did not intend to mislead the public.

Instead, there had been a "miscommunication" about the arrest figures, and the matter will be addressed internally.

But the headlines have been written, and you can bet that all the media outlets that parroted Snelling's inflated claims without verification will not take even a moment to set the record straight.

Like the Sun-Times. Reporting on Snelling's appearance at the town hall, the paper included his murder clearance rate claim directly under the story's headline: "Nineteen of 25 homicides in 2024 have been cleared by CPD, the chief says at a meeting of the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, where questions of open cases and youth violence were raised."

Block Club Chicago spread Snelling's misinformation too: "Snelling said the murder clearance rate for January is about 70%, with 19 of the 25 homicides committed this year cleared."

The Chicago Crusader got in on the action: "But later, Snelling provided some clarification for that statistic, saying that the 74% represents the first 30 days in January, where the Chicago police solved 20 out of 26 homicide cases so far this year."

CBS2 also copy-pasted the superinten-

dent's misinformation: "In a conversation last week at the Economic Club of Chicago, Chicago Police Supt. Larry Snelling gave the black-and-white numbers. 'Right now, our clearance rate for homicides is at 74%,' Snelling said. 'These are cases where individuals have been arrested and charged.' But that 74% represents just the month of January - in which the Chicago Police solved 20 out of 26 homicide cases."

Upon hearing Snelling's claims, we were pretty skeptical. Anyone with a basic understanding of CPD's historically abysmal murder arrest rate would be.

So, we submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for this year's murder clearances. Exactly why none of the "professional journalists" in this town didn't do the same thing is a mystery.

CPD sent the records to us on Feb. 7. It shows that the department had cleared three of this year's murders as of Jan. 25, all by arresting and charging the suspects.

The department also cleared six murders from previous years during January "exceptionally" by "bar to prosecution." That means CPD thinks they know who committed the murder, but they can't convince the Cook County state's attorney's office to file charges.

According to the data, detectives in January also cleared nine cases from 2022 and 2023 with arrests.

But Snelling made it clear during both appearances that he was claiming the department had already solved 19 or 20 of the murders committed during Jan. 2024.

During the Economic Club luncheon, both the moderator, Sun-Times reporter Tom Schuba, and an audience member asked Snelling if he was sure about the January figures. Snelling not only stood by the figures but also told Schuba he was actually expecting people to doubt the data.

Schuba: So you were talking, touting the homicide clearance rate, um, you said it's somewhere in the 70s. Now that includes the exceptional clearances, correct?

Snelling: No. I knew that question was coming...these are arrests that have been made, uh, this year.

Schuba: And none were exceptionally closed because the prime suspect died or ...

Snelling: No, because these, these are, these, there's a couple that have happened from last year when we talk about those, uh, exceptionally clear closed cases, but these are cases where individuals have been arrested and charged.

And the audience member:

Question: Yes, the clearance rate on the murders over what period of time are you coming up with a 74% clearance rate?

Snelling: The past 30 days. So out of out of, uh, 26 murders we've, we've, uh, cleared 20 of them.

Coincidentally, the CBS2 story that cited Snelling's incorrect information was about a piece of legislation that State Rep. Kam Buckner recently introduced: the Homicide Data Transparency Act.

CLAIMS see p. 10

## Another fail for cashless bail; Man charged with 'brutal attack' at Chicago Union Station after being released

BY CWBCHICAGO

After prosecutors charged Diashun Dixon with randomly attacking two men, including a 64-year-old, at the Chicago French Market in May, a judge ordered him to pay a \$10,000 bail deposit to be released on electronic monitoring.

Unable to post bail, he stayed in jail until December. That's when his attorney, citing the Sept. 18, 2023, elimination of cash bail in Illinois, filed a motion and won his release.

Barely a month later, Dixon walked up to a 19-year-old female college student at the Union Station food court and punched her in the face so hard that the impact fractured her nose and caused immediate swelling to her face, prosecutors allege.

He's back in jail now. Dixon, 20, was arrested for assault at the Harold Washington Library in the Loop on May 4 and was released from the

police station on his own recognizance the next day.

What Chicago cops didn't know at the time is that, according to prosecutors, Dixon randomly attacked two men at Metra's Chicago French Market, 117 N. Clinton, two days earlier. But he hadn't been arrested for those attacks yet.

When Metra Police did catch up with Dixon, prosecutors charged him with three felonies: two counts of aggravated battery in a public place and aggravated battery of a victim older than 60.

They said he struck a 44-year-old man in the back of the head at the market on May 2. Also at the market that day, Dixon allegedly struck a 64-year-old man in the back of the head, knocking him to the ground. Once the man was down, Dixon kicked him in the head, prosecutors said.

A judge set bail at \$100,000, meaning Dixon would have to pay \$10,000 to get out on an ankle monitor.

He stayed in jail until Dec. 19. That's when his public defender filed a motion

CASHLESS see p. 10



Diashun Dixon

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**SHADOW** from p. 2

on the ongoing migrant crisis that continues to be inadequately managed. I hope to see an end to this toxic approach to governing the City and instead demand an approach to local governance that emphasizes efficacy and consensus-building.”

What he said.

**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY:** March 16 Parade. Green River. Bagpipes. Corned Beef. Green beer. Drunk teens. All the things that make the Irish proud. Just one month 'til Saint Patrick's Day. Try going to Mass if you're Irish, it will do you more good. Don't forget the Irish painting studio sale at the O'Gorman Studio on the two Saturdays and Sundays before the parade. Great prices.

**TWO AND ZERO:** Two aldermen and zero ankle monitors. Perhaps a rarity in this town, with the two long-serving aldermen who got in and out clean, with no corruption in their combined careers in City Hall. Seen together at Ann Sather Restaurant on Belmont Feb. 7. Former alderman **Gene Schuller** dining on Swedish meatballs with the Lake View Kiwanis Club while **Tom Tunney** - with chef's apron on - at the grill flipping Swedish pancakes, and serving lunch. And then busing tables. Yes, hauling away the dirty plates. Not kidding. Tunney knows how to do the dishes, and proves it every day. His only stains are those from the lunch dishes he helps clean off the tables.

**WILLKOMMEN:** Go meet **Daniel Ralph** in Lincoln Square. He is the new Executive Director of the DANK Haus German American Cultural Center. Originating from Hannover, his commitment to fostering a vibrant German and German-American cultural experience is at the core

of his role there. But take a cab, parking is suddenly a huge problem in Lincoln Square. Save the date, April 27, for their annual gala.

**WFMT:** Longtime WFMT program host **Don Tait** died in December 2023 at age 82. Only just learned of this. Back in the early 1970s I bought my first car in Oak Park, an Alfa Romeo Giulia Super. Used. It was boxy. Red. Five forward gears. I chose it over a well-worn BMW because I liked the sound of its remarkable FM radio. On my test drive WFMT was playing Johann Sebastian Bach. It was like hearing him for the first time.

Then the soft sophisticated voice of the station's Tait entered the scene with beauty and soft grandeur. Intelligence and a refinement I never wanted to end.

I bought the car on the spot and for the most part rarely turned the station off. Under any circumstance. A lot of that was Tait's elegant influence. He shaped so much of WFMT's character. He made the experience of listening like a visit to the Music Department at Cornell or Brown.

Even long after his departure from daily WFMT broadcasting his presence is felt. He would be saddened at the nonsense currently in vogue at the station. But his classical music acumen allowed him to embrace Chicago in the grandest of heart-strengthening styles. How lucky we were to have him. I never turn the station off. Now in tribute to him.

**JUNIOR LEAGUE:** Junior League of Chicago's 110th anniversary gala is Saturday, March 2, at The St. Regis Chicago. Big celebration. Reserve now. The Junior League of NorthShore-Evanston celebrates 100 years this summer. Gala on Saturday, June 1 at Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest.

**VATICAN ART:** **Antonio Paolucci**, former director of the Vatican Museums has died. He was a leading art historian and well liked. **Pope Francis** acknowledged his enormous contributions to vast collections of historic art and its understanding.

**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** Working musicians and crowd pleasing symphonic members of Chicago's famed symphony all had emo-

## INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Demetrius Ivory



Don Tait



Debbie Rappaport Pickus, Catherine Johns and Bill Garcia.



Candace Jordan with Bill Murray.



Donna Black Miller with Samantha Steele and Bridget Degnan.

tional opportunities to say farewell to Maestro **Riccardo Muti**. As Chicago musicians prepared to fly home from their rounds of Viennese concerts, via Milan, the Maestro readied himself to return to Milan entering a new relationship with the Chicago orchestra. Together they performed twice at LaScala, where Muti remains their longest-serving Music Director, 1986-2005. They performed twice a program of Strauss and Prokofiev for a standing-room only crowd. CSO flautist **Emma Gerstein** kept an emotional and musical diary of this last series of foreign concerts together.

**WGN WEATHER:** Everyone is elated that WGN's afternoon weatherman, **Demetrius Ivory** will be Chief Meteorologist starting Feb. 28, replacing **Tom Skilling** who is retiring. Skilling is a shoe-in, first ballot member of the Chicago Media Hall of Fame.

**GOODMAN THEATER:** Director **Mary Zimmerman** describes what makes "The Matchbox Magic Flute" a unique Mozartian operatic experience. On stage starting Feb. 10.

**HAIL TO THE CHIEF:** The Illinois State Museum's newest exhibition, Presidential Illinois, is now on view at its Springfield museum on the Capitol Complex. The exhibition displays significant artifacts highlighting the four U.S. presidents who have called Illinois home: **Abraham Lincoln**, **Ulysses S. Grant**, **Ronald Reagan**, and **Barack Obama**. For the first time, the public will have the opportunity to see the furniture Obama used in his office and his chamber chair from when he served in the Illinois State Senate. These items are on loan from the Illinois State Senate. Visitors can expect to see Lincoln's inkwell that he used in his Springfield law office. A campaign ribbon from

Grant's third presidential run in 1880, on loan from David Joens, is also on display, and Reagan campaign buttons worn by an Illinois delegate to the 1984 Republican National Convention.

**GERSHWIN:** **Michael Lerich** announced his Winter's Jazz Club **George Gershwin** tribute. Proof that a great song can last 100 years. February 12th will mark the 100th anniversary of "Rhapsody in Blue"... it gave meaning for jazz to become accepted in classical music concert halls the whole world over.

**WHO'S WHERE:** Welcome back to your home zip code, **Dr. Rose Gomez**, one of Skyline's most faithful readers in the snow and alpine sun of Switzerland back for some R&R... **Victoria Dal Santo** and **John Dombrowski** in deep powder skiing with daughter, new U of Wisconsin grad, **Christina Dombrowski**, and **Colleen Dal Santo Ryan**, in Steamboat Springs, CO... Attorney **Paula Borg** getting her **Madonna** ration on at the star's "Celebration" tour and still singing out loud... **Debbie Rappaport Pickus** dining with **Catherine Johns** and **Bill Garcia** at Carlos & Carlos catching up... **Ed Lester**, **Brian White** (in his straw boater), **Jim Kinney** and friends at the Palm Beach Polo Club divot stomping, and dinner at the exquisite Renato's... **Desirée Glapion Rogers** at Fashion Flair Cosmetics, raising the profile of their products and their engaging Black Women's workforce... Sweet as pie, **Whitney Reynolds** with husband, **David Heiner**, with the children in Galena... **Jane Justic** thrilled to receive a copy of grandson, **Tom John's**, latest efforts at publishing a beautifully made book called "Godspeed," with deep thoughts and images, I want to see this... **Bobbi Panter**

and Birthday Boy **Matt Arnoux** surprised their friend, **Larry Meacham**, by flying down to see his production of "Oklahoma" at the Manatee Performing Arts Center in Bradenton, FL... newsy **Rich Samuels** grabbing a cappuccino at Forward on Willy St. in Madison, WI... **Brit Scott** very busy at Limelight Catering... French film director **Julien Landais** at the Royal Palace of Caserta near Naples, Italy... Former White House Chief **Sam Skinner** with **Honey Jacobs Skinner** in Boca Grande, FL, working out details of plans for friendship, aging and dogwalking... **Andy Pierce** at Indian Boundary Park Cultural Center... **Donna Black Miller** attending the Equality Illinois Gala with Samantha Steele and **Bridget Degnan**... **Candace** and **Chuck Jordan** at Navy Pier hanging out at Chef **Art Smith's** Reunion, and Harry Caray's Tavern with **Bill Murray**.

**CHRISTIE'S AUCTION:** **David Hockney's** rare 'California' pool painting, unseen for 40 years, heads to Christie's auction. London Evening Sale on March 7 suggestion \$20 million.

**AGRARIAN RESPONSE:** Tens of thousands of European farmers are protesting poor conditions brought on by falling incomes, high costs, and competition from cheap imports. The E.U. wants more strict green policies that threaten to make things worse. Farmers are blocking streets to protest subsidy cuts and phased out tax cuts in Germany. In Belgium, farmers threw eggs and stones and set off fireworks at the European Parliament. Farmers in the Netherlands are revolting against a requirement to reduce nitrogen emissions. And in France, farmers' unions are fighting for improved pay, less bureaucracy and protection from foreign competition. Isn't there a notion that you don't anger the people that make your food?

**FREE FEBRUARY MUSEUM DAYS:** The Shedd Aquarium is free Feb. 14-15, Feb. 20-22 and Feb. 27-29. Field Museum admission will be free on Wednesdays, throughout 2024 for Illinois residents. Locals can visit the Museum of Contemporary Art for free every Tuesday. Additionally, always free for visitors under 18, and has a pay-what-you-can policy. The Chicago History Museum- Feb. 14-16, 19-23, 27-29.

**NOT FREE:** See cars, gadgets and artifacts from decades of James Bond films and the International Spy Museum, test your spy abilities in a lab inspired by "Q" and learn how the fields of science were employed to create iconic stunts and action sequences, coming to the Museum of Science and Industry. Tickets for 007 Science are \$18 for adults and \$14 for children in addition to museum entry.

**WRIGLEY CONCERTS:** The Chicago Cubs will return to Wrigley Field this spring, but a group of musical acts will also take the field for concerts this summer. The first show on July 15 is Def Leppard and Journey, joined by the Steve Miller Band.

**You would better educate 10 women into the practice of liberal principles than to organize a thousand on a platform of intolerance and bigotry.**

-- Susan B. Anthony  
tog515@gmail.com

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Democratic Party trying to elect Trump**

Compliments once again to Thomas O’Gorman on your [Feb. 7] column. You are the only writer left in this city who reports the truth. I truly admire your fantastic writing ability and your immense courage in using your City Hall knowledge to educate the voters.

Having spent over 34 years in government, I have never seen the incompetence and lack of moral fiber than the individuals that now run our City, County and State. Washington is worse, if I did not know better I would think the Democratic Party is trying to elect Trump!

John Chambers

**Thanks to O’Gorman**

A giant thank you to Tom O’Gorman for his insightful and measured [Feb. 7] account of Mayor Johnson and his fatuous support of a cease-fire recommended by the City Council’s Know-Nothings, spurred on by loudmouth victims-by-osmosis of supposed Palestinian “genocide.” Johnson is deservedly a one-termer.

O’Gorman’s closing remark about Chicago children, unable to read, mirrors the illiteracy of the protesting adults, all of whom are suddenly wise to a disordered version of Gaza and Hamas, had a wry and pawky touch.

Brenda Rossini  
Streeterville

**KAHUMOKU** from p. 4

Renaissance Man.

Despite his success as a musician, educator, and artist, Kahumoku is perhaps most proud of his accomplishments as a traditional farmer. Now retired from farming, he saw his primary role to be a steward of the land. Often, he says, his success as a musician enabled him to pay for a lot of his farming endeavors. Until recently, Kahumoku raised crops and pigs on a two-and-a-half-acre farm located in the West Maui Cliffs at Kahakuloa agricultural subdivision.

“I have always introduced George as a Renaissance Man, which means he is good in many things, and not only in music. He is able to survive off the land and sea. He is always encouraging others but most importantly, he loves to share what he knows. That is true aloha,” said Nathan Aweau, who has been among those who have performed with Kahumoku at Old Town.

Tickets for the show are \$28 for the general public and \$26 for Old Town members. For more information call 773-728-6000.

**WASHINGTON** from p. 5

this historic sport to continue for other youthful generations.

Retired CTA mechanic Donald Hendrix runs a Sunday morning softball league at the park that involves more than 1,000 players spread out over five diamonds. “We get players, and all of their families come to watch us, too,” Hendrix said.

Back in the mid-1970s, this

**Referendums that should be on the 2024 Chicago ballot**

Yes, it’s here again, elections season. As we all know, our public servants and political office holders serve at the consent of the governed. That’s us, voters. And here are 10 items we’d like to see on this year ballot:

1. Shall Chicago cut the size of its City Council down to only 25 elected members?
2. Shall Chicago set a mandatory term limit for elected officials?
3. Shall Chicago public school teachers be paid according to a merit based scale?
4. Shall Chicago give tuition vouchers to all students?
5. Shall Chicago remain a Sanctuary City?
6. Shall Chicago establish an Office of City Attorney to prosecute violent criminals that the Cook County States Attorney refuses to?

7. Shall Police manpower be distributed according to property taxes paid?
8. Shall all police districts be required to be staffed equally?
9. Shall all violent crimes committed on CTA buses and trains be automatically upgraded to felonies?
10. Shall all crimes involving a firearm receive mandatory sentences?

My guess is that our beloved leaders will not care to put any of these questions before the governed.

It’s Valentines Day neighbors, so this year let’s dodge our own special history and not get caught in a massacre.

Mike Sullivan  
Avondale

**No smoking!**

I’ve been hearing the CTA’s PA announcing no smoking on many ‘L’ platforms, and think it’s just performative. The regular CTA employees we see on platforms don’t do anything to help enforce the rules.

Last week I was on a Howard Red Line platform, listening to the announcement on the PA - as I watched a man on the other platform smoking. The sequence would have made a good video for some local TV news program. I’d sooner expect to see a skunk strolling the platform, than CTA employees enforcing the smoking ban.

We can push big shiny buttons requesting “Customer Assistance” on the platforms, but I’ve never ever seen a CTA employee respond. If you pushed it three times fast, would the CTA worker in the station booth be able to hear it and recognize it’s for a real emergency, and come help? I think that *three* button calls can serve as “9-1-1.”

When I notified a CTA vehicle

operator about an offense which really required police to handle it, he told me it would take 20 minutes for help to arrive. Do we train passengers really want to wait that long?

We’d like those CTA surveillance cameras to be monitored by people in real time who can dispatch police to the scene promptly. Someone could put together a series of videos of CTA’s Greatest Unsolved Crimes on the ‘L’ in the time it would take help to arrive.

Public transportation is a critical need in large urban areas. We need for every ‘L’ line to be made a police beat, with the expected constant patrolling of trains, stations and platforms. We just spent \$3 billion on the Red Line, so where’s the money to pay for this? Only rarely do I see police on ‘L’ lines anywhere. And I always thank them for being there and working for our safety when I do.

Jean SmilingCoyote  
West Ridge

writer played in a major Washington Park softball tournament with Mike Royko’s Raiders, a North Side saloon team comprised of Chicago Daily News players and several AA-ringers, who now are Hall of Famers.

In one memorable game, Royko’s team was crushed by Safari, an all-Black Hall-of-Fame team sponsored by South Side Liquors. After the game, our all-white team was invited to join the neighborhood ribs-and-beer fest, and a great time was had by all.

Even in the turbulent 1970s, there was no racial tension in the park. However, the manager for Safari advised Royko that it might be a good idea for his players to be out of Washington Park before sunset.

In 1979, Royko’s Hall of Fame Chicago Sun-Times team played the Black CTA team in the Tournament of Champions in Grant Park while the late Mayor Jane Byrne cheered for her city employees. The great CTA team, nicknamed “The Family,” won 10-7 in a tight, well-played contest.

**NASCAR 2024 revving up**

In 2023, NASCAR, the red-

neck racing sport, drove 16-inch softball—out of Grant Park, once one of the biggest slow-pitch venues in the Windy City with 16 diamonds. Now, plans are shaping up to do it again in 2024.

The second NASCAR Chicago Street Race Weekend is scheduled for July 6-7 at Grant Park. Headlining music artists include Keith Urban, the Chainsmokers, the Black Keys and Lauren Alaina.

**Grand Prix Chicago next?**

On Jan. 19, the Formula One international racing series filed trademarks with the U.S. patent office that indicate it could be planning a Chicago grand prix less than a year after NASCAR held its first street race in Grant Park.

Let’s hope the pot holes on the Du Sable Lake Shore Dr. are filled and sewer covers on the downtown streets are welded good and tight.

For more housing news, visit [www.dondebat.biz](http://www.dondebat.biz). Don DeBat is co-author of “Escaping Condo Jail,” the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit [www.escapingcondojail.com](http://www.escapingcondojail.com).

**Early Voting starts Feb. 15**

Early Voting in Downtown Chicago for the March 19 Presidential Primary Election will open at the Board Supersite, 191 N. Clark St., 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 15.

Early Voting in all 50 Wards will begin 9 a.m. March 4. All 50 Ward Early Voting sites and the Board Supersite will also be open as vote centers on Election Day. All locations are ADA-compliant and fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

For voter registration services, including name and address changes, voters may go to [chicagoelections.gov](http://chicagoelections.gov) or call 312-269-7936.

**Insect pinning 101 at Science Academy**

Take a piece of tropical nature home with you from an expert-led workshop at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Dr. Guests will learn the ins and outs of insect pinning with a demonstration and guided instruction. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22.



Using giant butterflies and cockroaches, guests will focus on pinning procedure and techniques. Most insects are dry preserved. Once dry the specimens will keep indefinitely as long as they’re properly cared for and stored. All materials will be provided.

Participants 12-18 years old are may registering online or by email at [programs@naturemuseum.org](mailto:programs@naturemuseum.org).

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# Armed robbery crew caught on video minutes before their crime spree was terminated by a concealed carry holder

BY CWBCHICAGO

A newly acquired surveillance video shows a group of armed men robbing a cab driver as they carried out a crime spree across the North Side last week.

Barely 10 minutes after the footage was recorded, the same group of criminals' night of crime came to a quick end when they tried to rob a concealed-carry holder nearby. He got into a gunfight with them.

Chicago police believe the men in the video committed nine robberies in less than an hour on the morning of Jan. 30. Each of the victims reported that the robbers had guns and arrived in two cars: an SUV and a white sedan.

They started their crime spree around 3:30 a.m. in the 2000 block of W. Granville. After that, they struck again in the 2100 block of W. Lunt, the 6600 block of N. Clark, the 6100 block of N. Wolcott, and the 2000 block of W. Farwell.



Armed men rob a taxi driver in the 5900 block of N. Broadway on Jan. 30.

Their next robbery was recorded by a Chicago police surveillance camera in Edgewater.

The footage shows a 68-year-old cabbie pulling over in the 5900 block of N. Broadway around 4:12 a.m. Moments later, the robbers, driving a silver SUV and a white sedan, pull onto Broadway from Elmdale Ave.

They speed up behind the cabbie and quickly box him in, with the sedan nudging up against the taxi's rear bumper and the SUV cutting in front of the cab to keep the victim from driving away.

The victim told police the men displayed guns and demanded his property, a CPD spokesperson said, adding that he was not injured. The spokesperson described the

robbers' vehicles as a gray Kia Seltos and a silver Kia Forte.

Barely two minutes later, the men struck again in the 5400 block of N. Kenmore and again in the 1100 block of W. Balmoral. Finally, at 4:22 a.m., they unwisely targeted an armed concealed-carry license holder in the 5400 block of N. Winthrop.

One gunman stepped out of one of the vehicles to demand the victim's valuables. The victim countered by pulling out his firearm and engaging the robber in a gunfight, according to a CPD statement. No injuries were reported. And no more robberies were reported that morning, either.

Chicago cops found the robbers' SUV on fire in the 8500 block of S. Mackinaw later that day, according to an internal CPD bulletin shared with this reporter. In a community alert released to the public last week, police described the robbers as Black males between 18 and 25 years old. No arrests have been announced.

## CASHLESS from p. 7

for release under the new Pretrial Fairness Act. The lawyer argued that Dixon was being jailed on charges not considered detainable offenses in Illinois' new era of cashless bail.

The attorney also argued that the state had not filed a petition

for detention since cash bail was eliminated, something they were required to do.

And the lawyer wrote, "Upon information and belief, Mr. Dixon has no misdemeanor or felony convictions."

That's not true. Cook County court records show he pleaded guilty to two counts of misde-

meanor battery and four counts of aggravated assault on Nov. 16, 2022, in exchange for a six-day jail sentence. Records show those allegations involved his behavior at the Roosevelt CTA station in the Loop.

Regardless, Judge Ursula Walowski agreed with Dixon's lawyer and released him from jail.

Back on the streets, Dixon made his way to Union Station on the evening of Jan. 28. A 19-year-old college student was sitting in the food court, doing homework, talking to her dad on the phone, and waiting for a bus to take her back to Madison, prosecutors say.

Without any provocation or

warning, Dixon walked up to the woman and plowed his fist into her face, fracturing her nose and causing her to bleed profusely, according to prosecutors. He turned and ran away after the attack. But a Metra police officer saw it happen and chased him down, prosecutors said.

The woman was taken to Rush Univ. Medical Center for treat-

ment.

In a detention petition, prosecutors called it a "brutal attack." They asked Judge William Fahy to keep Dixon in jail on charges of aggravated battery in a public place and aggravated battery causing great bodily harm Fahy agreed.

Dixon is due in court again on Feb. 20.

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## CLAIMS from p. 7

If passed, the law would require the state's police departments to publish their arrest and charging information, not including "exceptionally cleared" cases that artificially run up the score.

As we reported last week, CPD touted a 51.7% murder clearance rate in a press release recapping its 2023 successes. In fact, only 18% of last year's murders have been solved with a suspect charged. The rest of the 51.7% was padding: cases "cleared exceptionally" or arrests for cases that occurred in previous years.

## SALES from p. 3

other tax-avoidance option for Chicagoans... going medical.

Illinois greatly expanded conditions for which a patient may be prescribed medical marijuana

## POLICE BEAT from p. 6

tween," the man continued. "They didn't pull into the gas line area, and the cameras didn't pick up the plates. Very brazen."

Residents noticed some changes at Costco after an auto theft on Nov. 9.

"I noticed 2-3 security guards with large revolvers walking all around the cars pumping gas and in line," a woman wrote on Nextdoor.

She said a "wonderful" Costco employee "told me to go back to my car, close the door and lock [the] car while I pumped gas. She said two cars were stolen this week while people pumped gas with unlocked cars."

in 2019. And at least one Chicago dispensary was encouraging new customers to use a list of nearby doctors to get a medical card in order to skip the long lines and avoid high taxes.

"The criminals came through the shrubs that line Clybourn at the gas station," the woman continued. "She recommended when getting fuel use pumps 2, 3, 4, 5 so that you are not on the end where it is easy to steal cars."

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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### North Township Real Estate For Sale

#### Real Estate For Sale

141414  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Plaintiff, -v- WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEASED MORTGAGOR, DONALD KNIGHT, FORTY EAST DELAWARE PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2023 CH 00533 40 E DELAWARE PLACE UNIT 1303 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 June 13, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 8, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 40 E DELAWARE PLACE UNIT 1303, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-03-209-019-1056 The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse. 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/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

#### Real Estate For Sale

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. Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the Internal Revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. 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

#### Real Estate For Sale

identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.jscc.com](http://www.jscc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: [pleadings@il.cslegal.com](mailto:pleadings@il.cslegal.com) Attorney File No. 14-22-08551 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2023 CH 00533 TJS# #: 44-188 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 # 2023 CH 00533 13237697 070707 313131 Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700

### Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

#### Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- UNKNOWN SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE RICHARD J. O'CONNOR DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED OCTOBER 12, 2001, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR UNITED PACIFIC FUNDING CORP., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2023 CH 06772 1791 WEST ESTES AVENUE, UNIT D CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 11, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 7, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1791 WEST ESTES AVENUE, UNIT D, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-31-205-041-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$141,217.29. 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/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The

#### Real Estate For Sale

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

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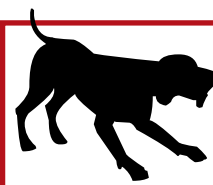
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**LOYOLA** from p. 1

After receiving the lease confirmation, the Abhalter-Smiths said they received a buyout offer from Realty & Mortgage Co. — the third-party company hired to communicate with tenants — Sept. 25, 2023. The Abhalter-Smiths said Realty & Mortgage Co. asked them to shorten their lease by 12 months, which they declined on the same day.

Realty & Mortgage Co. denied a request for comment.

Attorneys from Bielski Chapman, Ltd., contacted the Abhalter-Smiths Oct. 6, asking them for a buyout counteroffer or an estimate of their moving expenses. The attorneys represented Gerb and were hired to negotiate with the Abhalter-Smiths at Loyola's request, according to Loftsgaarden.

The Abhalter-Smiths said they were contacted by the attorneys five times from Oct. 6 through 30, 2023, encouraging them to engage in negotiations and submit counteroffers.

Despite these attempts, the Abhalter-Smiths said they had no interest in negotiating their lease, saying they felt accepting a buyout would set a move-out date for the whole building.

"We realized that we had agency that other people in the building didn't have," Nathan Abhalter-Smith said. "And we felt some amount — not some amount, a real amount of responsibility to our neighbors."

The residential tenants were unaware the building was up for sale, according to the Abhalter-Smiths, who spoke with tenants they saw in the building after being contacted by attorneys.

Grady Hamilton, who has lived in the building for nearly 24 years, received notification of non-renewal for his lease Jan. 26. This was the first official notice of non-renewal the Abhalter-Smiths are aware of, as Hamilton's lease ends May 21.

Hamilton, a native of Chicago's South Side who moved to Rogers Park in 1991, said he and other tenants are surprised Loyola would remove long-term residents, many of whom — including Hamilton — receive social security.

"This is home, you know?" Hamilton said. "Most people don't want to go, but we have no other choice."

Along with Hamilton and the Abhalter-Smiths, Maggie Roche, the owner of Edge Art is also being affected by the building closure.

Roche is a class of 1966 Loyola alumni who has lived in Edgewater since the 1970s and rented 1230 W. Loyola Ave. since 2011, selling art purchased from Mexican artists.

Roche said she is frustrated by Loyola's lack of consideration for locals.

"I feel like Loyola Univ. looks at this little strip, this little wild child strip of creative thinking people sustaining a living in this simple building, as just riff-raff," Roche said.

Roche's frustration reflects neighborhood dissatisfaction with Loyola's anchor mission, a commitment adopted by the university to contribute to the local community through economic development, local capacity building, neighborhood revitalization and community partnerships.

Despite this mission, Roche said Loyola's treatment of the building and its tenants proves it views them as unimportant.

"That's not very Jesuit," Roche said. "It's not just about what you do for yourself. Yes, we want to do well for ourselves, we want to do well for our families. But there's a lot of other people, when you zoom way out here, that you also have to be good for."

Loftsgaarden said the purchase of 1226-1234 W. Loyola Ave. is probably not contributing to the university's anchor mission.

Gerb declined to comment on why he put the building up for purchase saying

only that he was sure the university would do a good job.

Jennifer Clark, assistant vice president of neighborhood initiatives, said she firmly believes the neighborhood and the university are inseparable.

"The needs and wants of the Rogers Park and Edgewater community are not dissimilar from the needs and wants of the university," Clark said. "We love the neighborhood that our university is in, it's the reason our students choose to come to Loyola, so we're not trying to change the neighborhood in any way."

Roberta Schmatz, who said she has operated Archie's Cafe for the last six years, also said partnership between Loyola and the community is important. She works with the Urban Agriculture Dept., WLUW and Students for Reproductive Justice in addition to employing and hosting Loyola students as performers, bartenders and patrons.

Schmatz said she found out the building was going to be put up for sale last summer while trying to negotiate her lease with the previous landlord. She reached out to Loftsgaarden after receiving the sale notice, asking if her lease could be extended to Sept. 2025, matching the Abhalter-Smiths.

Loftsgaarden seemed open to this but gave no confirmation, according to Schmatz.

Although Schmatz said she understands the university is growing, she hopes Loyola will try to include spaces and room for community, imploring them to consider the neighbors outside of the university.

Schmatz is working on a petition to show Loyola that people would like to see more community spaces. It will be available to all community members online via her Instagram and in-person at Archie's Cafe.

The Abhalter-Smiths have also been working to engage the university with the community, from sending letters to community members to speaking on WBEZ. They said many residential tenants are vulnerable to becoming unhoused and Loyola's extensive resources could help them find affordable housing.

"They're talking about honoring leases, which they legally have to do, but they could honor the people that live here too, and actually help them find housing in the area that they can afford," Nathan Abhalter-Smith said.

This possibility to help the tenants is why the Abhalter-Smiths said they feel their extended amount of time in the building is more valuable than capital or cash, saying the building and its businesses are idiosyncratic and intergenerational.

Roche echoed the long-held community significance of 1226-1234 W. Loyola Ave. "This is authentic," she said. "This is Rogers Park."

**HEARTLAND** from p. 1

til last fall that Heartland Alliance leaders realized their health care group faced a financial crisis according to Stellan's statement.

The health care and housing divisions are separate entities within the non-profit so their troubles are unrelated although both faced the same tide of migrants seeking care.

According to Gilbert and Stellan, the health care operation was hit with escalating costs and staff vacancies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and government-imposed shutdown.

They simultaneously faced the surge of migrants which strained Heartland's shelters, and the non-profit's contracts with agencies such as the Chicago Dept. of Public Health required huge up-front costs

to run shelters.

"For instance, we had to reduce the scope of our shelter-based care program and enact a furlough of staff in order to preserve cash. Neither of these choices were easy, especially the decision to furlough staff," Gilbert and Stellan wrote.

"There was acknowledgement by leadership that there could be unfortunate consequences for our participants," Brieschke told the Tribune, "but I do think they want to see as much preserved as possible. I will give them credit for that."

*Part two of this story will deal with the court-ordered receivership for Heartland Housing's portfolio of 1,178 affordable housing units in the summer of 2023, many of which are on the North Side.*

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