

Politicians and diapers
must be changed often,
and for the same reason.

— Mark Twain

Dept. of Planning and Dev. must explain reasons for hiding dope deal documents

**Appeal filed
with Illinois Attorney
General moves forward**

This newspaper received some love from the Attorney General's office on Valentine's Day. On Feb. 14, they agreed to press the Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] to release public documents related to a proposed recreational cannabis license issued in Streeterville.

In a letter signed by Teresa Lim, Deputy Bureau Chief Public Access Bureau, Office of the Attorney General, they said, "We have determined that further action is warranted."

"As required under section 9.5(c) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/9.5(c) (West 2023 Supp.)), please provide copies of the records (unredacted and redacted, in a manner suitable for comparison) responsive to the two requests for this office's confidential review. Please also provide a detailed explanation of the factual and legal bases for the applicability of the asserted exemptions to the redacted information."

The DPD must now comply with the state's request by Feb. 21. This newspaper hopes the state rules in our favor, as a positive sign toward open governance, standards of ethical behavior by public officials and transparency. We will report on this matter as actions progress.

The deal this newspaper has reported on exposes cracks in the Illinois Cannabis Social Equity Loan Program. Through this program the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity [DCEO] tries to connect people

and communities that have been historically impacted by arrests and imprisonment for cannabis offenses to opportunities to participate in the sale of legal pot.

The mission of the Program is "to promote equitable ownership and employment opportunities in the cannabis industry in order to decrease disparities in life outcomes for marginalized communities, and to address the disproportionate impacts of the War on Drugs in those communities."

On Aug. 16, 2024, the Zoning Board of Appeal [ZBA] met to hear an appeal from Aymen Haswah and his chosen Social Equity partner, the 'disproportionately-impacted' Ahman Shaban, complaining that the Zoning Administrator's prior ruling that they couldn't set up shop less than 500-feet from an existing elementary school was unfair, even though it is both common sense and strictly prohibited in the Chicago Zoning Ordinance.

It was under the cover of the Illinois Cannabis Social Equity License Program that a "disadvantage" candidate is trying to bypass existing law. The proposed location for G.P. Greenhouse LLC, doing business as Guaranteed Dispensary [GP] at 620 Fairbanks Ct., was within the 500-foot proximity of Guidepost Montessori School at Magnificent Mile, 226 E. Illinois St.

Only the operators - through their lawyer - argue that Guidepost Montessori School at Magnificent Mile was not really a school, but a day care center, and therefore not protected by the rules prohibiting legal, licensed pot sales within 500-feet of a school.

The original denial resulting from the city to GP seeking approval to proceed with the special use filing was dated Sept. 6, 2022. The Zoning Administrator had determined that Guidepost's curriculum included "elementary education for children up to 12 years old."

The same Chicago Zoning Ordinance also explicitly requires that anyone complaining about a decision of the Zoning Administrator has the burden to make the case that they are right: "The Zoning Administrator's decision must be granted a presumption of correctness by the ZBA, placing the burden of persuasion of error on the Appellant. CZO § 17-13-1207. An appeal may only be sustained if the ZBA finds that the Zoning Administrator erred. CZO § 17-13-1208."

A reading of the regulations shows that the criteria to overturn the Zoning Administrator is clear. So it was perplexing for this newspaper to see that the finding of the ZBA stated "neither the Appellant nor the Zoning Administrator, were able to produce direct or testimonial evidence from Guidepost itself about its curriculum, operations, and importantly, whether or not it provides state-mandated basic education." Yet, somehow last year GP Greenhouse's ability to persuade was sufficient to overturn the Zoning Administrator.

Right now, Guidepost Montessori is soliciting registrations for elementary age students 6-12, both in-person and online. Besides the school on Illinois St.,

EXPLAIN see p. 12



Permanent, floating docks are being installed at Navy Pier.

Photos by John Furlong

New Navy Pier Marina underway

New In-Water Boat Show coming this summer

NPM Venture LLC, has begun construction at Navy Pier in anticipation of its grand opening this summer during boating season. The new Navy Pier Marina will provide downtown slips for transient boaters looking for overnight moorings, and for day-trippers out for a good time in the city.

Rebel Republic, producer of the Newport Beach International Boat Show and San Diego International Boat Show, recently announced plans to expand its successful In-Water Boat Show Series to include a new Chicago International Boat Show at Navy Pier Marina from August 21 to 24. The event will feature a lineup of luxury boats, yachts, and watercraft.

NPM Venture LLC was formed by Chicago native Randy Podolsky. Since he started his boating adventures in 1983, Podolsky has envisioned a recreational marina

at Navy Pier, which would provide waterborne access to the people's pier at Navy Pier.

Podolsky has been an active member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary since 1991 and served as the elected District Commodore of the Ninth District Western Region in 2009 and 2010, overseeing the operations of more than 1,100 uniformed volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary members.

To provide financial and physical resources for local Auxiliary units, Randy formed the NFP Waukegan Water Safety Assoc. in 2001. Podolsky has been an active member of the Chicago-area commercial real estate scene since 1976 when we started his career at Arthur Rubloff & Co. He has been working on the development of Navy Pier Marina since 2016 and is says he is now "excited to turn [his] vision into a reality for all recreational boaters interested in an easy-to-reserve transient mooring in the heart of Chicago."

Remembering 18th District Commander Paul Bauer

BY ALD. BRIAN HOPKINS

It was an honor to attend the annual memorial on the anniversary of the murder of Cmdr. Paul Bauer, who was killed in the line of duty on Feb. 13, 2018. Cmdr. Bauer was shot and killed while assisting officers in a foot pursuit of an armed offender near the Thompson Center. He is survived by his wife, daughter, parents, and siblings.

We are forever touched by his humble leadership and legacy. Thank you to 18th District Commander Mike Barz, Sergeant Chris Schenk, the entire CAPS team, and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation for honoring our beloved peace officer.

Join Cmdr. Mike Barz and the 18th District CAPS team to hear the latest community updates from the Chicago Police Dept. This month's event will be held at Wintrust Bank, 100 W. North Ave., 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20.

Public safety remains a top priority on Chicago's North Side, and these events are great opportunities to connect with our community police and make our neighborhoods safer. I'll be there, and will be looking forward to seeing others there as well.



The anniversary of the death of Cmdr. Paul Bauer was observed by the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation.



Cabrini-Green rebirth funded with \$14-million in TIF funds, page 5

Bite the bullet and do your duty



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

My mother, Eileen O'Connor O'Gorman, was like a skilled physician. I never ceased to tell her so. These many decades later I realize that was largely due to her skills for diagnosis.

She could smell all the phony symptoms of fake disease. You know, spelling tests at school. Homework assignments left incomplete. Serving early morning Mass at 6:30 a.m. Or a piano lesson unpracticed for.

She knew all the tell-tale signs. She only had one treatment for such maladies: Bite the bullet and do your duty.

But when temperatures really did rise or night sweats soaked the sheets. Or when there was an aching tooth from too much candy. Or when there was trouble below decks in the tummy, she was spot on, Mayo Clinic style.

She had a full dispensary in her Eisenhower era medicine chest next to the iodine. Or on a pantry shelf next to the flour. She might frequently consult her older sister, our Aunt Mary O'Connor Curran, who with six children had three times as many children as we did. They really had it tough. She'd send her brood out however they felt. She was a skeptical physician.

Staying home from school was always a big moment. After finally waking up, you'd have the comfy chair in front of the television, and mom, all to yourself for the day. She'd place a large oak table leaf from the dining room across the arms of the chair, creating a mini-intensive care unit for

recovery. It was perfect for eating a good breakfast enjoying soft boiled eggs and buttered toast, with mugs of sweet and creamy Irish tea.

Getting the tea down was the essential miracle drug that broke fevers, aches and pains, scrapes, cuts and bruises.

However if medical conditions warranted, as a last resort, a steaming John Powers Irish whiskey hot toddy with lots of honey, clove and lemon would be prescribed. It warmed the very soul and guaranteed a speedy recovery once you woke up from the sleep it would quickly induce.

My lasting catalogue of sickbed memories includes bouts of Chicken Pox, German Measles, Poison Ivy, stomach flu, winter colds, a broken wrist and stepping barefoot on a tack. Oh the wonder and mystery of my mom's clinic. All that was left was a note to a nun.

We're thinking about that now after examining the latest round of urban disease that is infecting an otherwise healthy Chicago. Symptoms would, of course, be the place to start.

Is Chicago's current malady, first of all, for real?

Sure. No fake illnesses here. No wanting to avoid something just because it's difficult or challenging. The health of the city should be responsibly attended to. No room for sleeping in. Copping out or attempting to put off what urgently must be attended to. Like paying the bills. Spending responsibly. Learning the lessons of competent governance. Maintaining healthy political awareness and having action plans.

The out-of-control financial intelligence of low grade, would-be political leaders only digs an urban pathway of crumbling destruction. Injecting missed opportunities



Getting the tea down was the essential miracle drug that broke fevers, aches and pains, scrapes, cuts and bruises.

for growth and fiscal health and downgraded bond ratings.

Shattered abilities for increasing employment and the failed expansion of urban safety to protect neighborhoods, furthering any chance for harmonious living.

You only have to have a walk around N. Michigan Ave. to see all too painfully the ghost town that has replaced a once showcase of commerce and economic success. Not one inch of the street level along the Drake Hotel has a shop that is open and functioning. There is trouble up and down Boul Mich. Both sides of the street. A tragic tale of neglect and decline.

But the nightmare of pitting the vengeful and vindictive against the best intentions of well-meaning public leadership creates a fatal diagnosis for present city government. It's the dark shade of urban decay when you pay your Assistant Press newbie \$192,000 a year.

A city shattered by unstable poor leadership forces Chicago Police to be armed guards at the mayor's City Hall unreported Treasure Room. The fever and night sweats of tragic disfigurement spread when you permit the Chicago Teachers Union to set your shabby political agenda.

The death-knell of the once proud capital of the American heartland sounds when secrets, scandals and political ineptitude tries to vanquish all moral responsibilities.

The door has already slammed on Ken Griffin's Citadel Finance and United Airlines is looking at 1,000 acres outside Denver for their new headquarters.

Sick as Chicago's current leadership turns out to be, crippling us in a stomach flu of political heaving and municipal governmental nausea, there is one bright spot. The distant sign of a tell-tale healing still possible.

There's a poll showing Mayor "Teachers Pet" Johnson has an approval rating of barely 12%. Which means almost 90% of Chicago citizens are now sick of Johnson.

It's definitely time to pull the plug on

Teacher's Pet. There are no signs of life.

But Chicago isn't dead yet. Time for a Powers hot toddy and a snooze. And then just a note to a nun.

NEW ARTS CEO: Former Chicago Cultural Affairs and Special Events chief has been picked to lead the national arts advocacy organization. **Erin Harkey**, who was in charge under former Mayor **Lori Lightfoot**, has been named CEO of Americans for the Arts.

WINTER JAZZ: **Michael**

Lerich on his way to Winter's Jazz Club. There's always a great crowd but could always love to see more. Two shows 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., 465 N. McClurg on the Riverwalk. Join us.

DA-DA: We hear rumblings that someone high up on the down-low has been doing the secret baby thing, keeping the latest swaddled babe far away from the other set of bambinos at daddy's Chi-town home. And baby mama duties, like food and water and diaper brigade, are handled strictly by the pale-faced gal-pal who delivered the goods and collects child support at another zip code.



On November 1, 1983, a day after the death of George Halas, Virginia Halas McCaskey, took over as the majority owner of the team. *Image courtesy Sports Team History*

BEAR DOWN: **Virginia Halas McCaskey**, 102, was a great soul. Her death removes from Chicago football its most humble of fans. Amazingly she was also, perhaps, the team's most dynamic of fans, the very blood-tie to the great innovator and soulful sport pioneer, her father, **George Halas**.

Could Chicago's NFL franchise have had a more earth-bound, yet heaven-focused soul cheering from the owner's box? She conducted her life, on the playing field and off, with dignity, respect and intelligence. She truly was her father's dearest and truest offspring. A super mom of 11 who rolled with confidence and discipline in a household of creative, mannered children. Not what you might expect. She is now wrapped in the full beauty of her confident faith where the scoreboard is always her's

BITE see p. 8

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Heartland Alliance implosion affecting 8,000 people, closing food pantries, health clinics

Groceryland's Lori Cannon vows to continue to "fight back"

BY BOB ZULEY

The slow-motion disintegration of Heartland Alliance continues as it was announced last week that the agency said its three food pantries will close Feb. 22 and its other remaining operations will close by April 7, Michael Brieschke, chairperson of the Heartland Alliance Union told WBEZ reporter Kaitlin Washburn.

The news affects roughly 8,000 Chicagoans who depend on the organization for food and health services. It comes less than a year after Heartland Alliance split up into four separate entities: Heartland Human Care Services, Heartland Alliance Health, Heartland Alliance International, and the National Immigrant Justice Center.

Brieschke said the union got the news Feb. 5 from Heartland Alliance Health leadership. The organization employs 113 people, 50 of whom are union members. The employees have not been told when their last day will be, Brieschke said.

"Not only are they losing their jobs, but they're also devastated for the 8,000 people



Lori Cannon, founder of Groceryland Food Pantry. Photo by Neil Steinberg

who are served by Heartland Health Alliance each year. This will have a big impact on them," he said.

The health clinics at 4009 N. Broadway and 5001 S. Halsted St. are no longer taking patients, according to their website. Food pantries are located at 4121 W. Lake

St. in Garfield Park and 151 W. 75th St. in Greater Grand Crossing. Its location at 5543 N. Broadway in Edgewater is where pantry founder Lori Cannon still serves as director.

Cannon, 74, a lifelong Rogers Park resident, joined by social justice warriors and AIDS activists Greg Harris, Tom Tunney, James Cappleman, Arthur Johnston, and Matthew Hamilton created Open Hand Chicago in 1988 to feed those in the LG-BTQ community affected by HIV/AIDS in an era when the Reagan administration turned its back on these people.

"We had one thing in common," Cannon told Chicago Sun-Times columnist Neil Steinberg last December of the situation back then. "Everyone we knew was either dead, dying or struggling to help someone who was heading there. We were tired. We were scared. We were angry. And we needed to do something other than sew AIDS quilt panels."

"You can't buy shampoo, toothpaste or toilet paper with food stamps. An echo of tightfisted Dickensian notions of charity, making sure the shiftless poor won't be living it up on their dime, washing their hair and brushing their teeth and similar

displays of wild extravagance," Steinberg wrote in his Dec. 23 opening of his column on the GroceryLand food pantry on Broadway.

For many years, Cannon's Open Hand operation delivered daily meals to homebound People Living With HIV and with AIDS [PLWH/A]. The meals were prepared in restaurants like Tunney's Ann Sather's and others as well as in local hospital kitchens, such as Thorek Memorial Hospital, 850 W. Irving Park Rd.

But as the mission shifted to allowing people to visit the pantry and prepare their own meals, the need arose to offer PLWH/A products that couldn't be purchased with governmental assistance. What Cannon received from donation nights at venues such as Sidetrack on Halsted and December holiday collections at area gay taverns allowed distribution of personal care items.

But the writing was on the wall concerning the viability of Heartland to survive. As Heartland imploded in early 2024, this reporter asked Cannon if she wished to talk about the situation. She declined, possibly wishing not to tempt fate or invite the in-

HEARTLAND see p. 10

As Chicago strengthens immigrant protections for illegal aliens, downstate officials split on sanctuary laws

BY LILY CAREY
Illinois News Bureau

As the Trump administration has begun enacting mass deportations in recent weeks, activists and public officials in Chicago have been scaling up protections for illegal aliens.

Mayor Brandon Johnson and Gov. JB Pritzker have both vowed to leverage state law to limit such arrests, leading the Trump administration to sue the state, Cook county and Chicago over their respective sanctuary laws. The state's TRUSY Act, enacted in 2017, prevents local authorities from assisting Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] with civil immigration enforcement or asking people about their immigration status.

But beyond the Chicago area, the landscape of local immigration laws is more mixed, and some lawmakers in downstate Illinois are trying to block those protections.

In 2023 and 2024, over a dozen Illinois counties and cities passed non-sanctuary laws or resolutions, explicitly stating that they don't intend to welcome illegal aliens — and many of these municipalities are doubling down on their non-sanctuary approach in the wake of President Donald

Trump's push for mass deportations.

"We had a clear mandate from our voters that they wanted us to react with the more 'Trump way' of handling these immigration issues," Drew Muffler, chairman of the Grundy County Board, said in an interview. "We didn't want to find ourselves financially on the hook to have to provide accommodations (for incoming illegals)."

Grundy County was the first municipality in the state to enact a non-sanctuary ordinance in Dec. 2023. Muffler said the move was sparked by voter feedback on a 2020 referendum, where 64% of county residents said they preferred a more conservative approach to immigration law.

Like Grundy County, the counties that have enacted non-sanctuary laws did so when Texas began sending buses of illegal aliens to Illinois. Local officials hoped to send a message that they wouldn't welcome these buses after some began dropping them off in the suburbs with no warning, rather than a drop-off site in Chicago.

But with the TRUST Act in place state-wide, non-sanctuary resolutions in Grundy County and throughout the state have little legal power, even in the wake of Trump's changes to federal immigration policy.

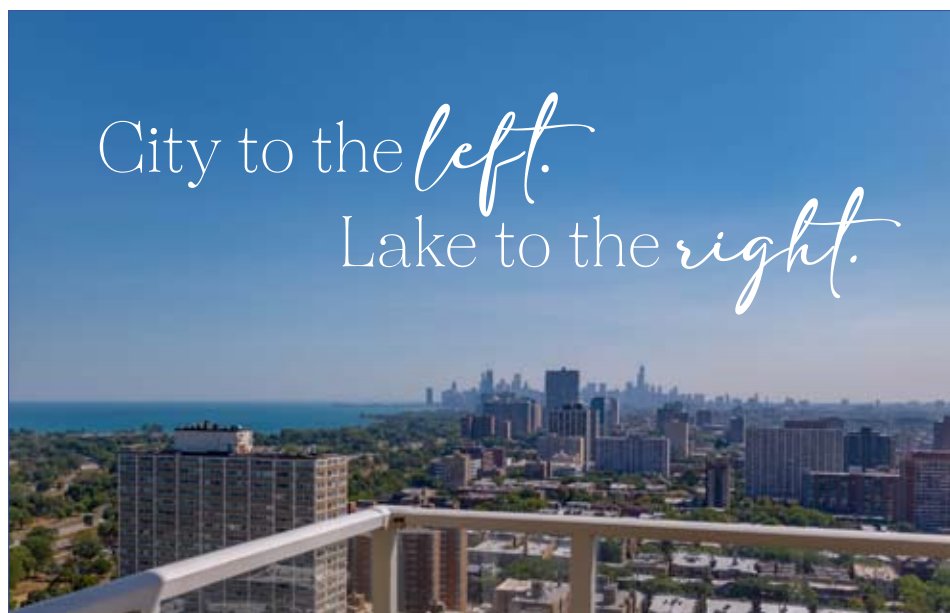
"People have been asking, what is Grundy County going to do with the new facts

on the table? And obviously we leaned on the sheriff for that question, and his answer is very simple: we have to, as of right now, follow the TRUST Act," Muffler said.

Under this law, state and local police are legally not allowed to assist ICE in federal

civil immigration enforcement, as long as they don't prevent federal forces from doing their job. It applies to the entire state, even in communities that align more close-

PROTECTIONS see p. 4



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PROTECTIONS from p. 3

ly with Trump's approach to immigration law.

"Counties or cities or villages where, say, the local government may not be so inclined to resist immigration enforcement, they still cannot participate in immigration enforcement activities," Fred Tsao, senior policy counsel from the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, said in an interview.

In the first few weeks of the Trump administration, this issue has mainly impacted the greater Chicago area, where the immigrant population is much higher. According to the ACLU of Illinois, there had been about 1,000 arrests nationally as of Feb. 7, with about 100 of these taking place in Chicago and its suburbs. The ACLU and local law enforcement officials said that they aren't aware of any ICE arrests outside the Chicago area.

Still, partisan opposition to the TRUST Act has become louder in Springfield. In January, Republican lawmakers introduced a bill that would overturn the TRUST Act, requiring local law enforcement to comply with ICE if necessary.

"It's my view that public safety is at greater risk when you restrict the ability for federal and state authorities to communicate with one another," said Sen. Andrew Chesney, lead sponsor of the Immigration Enforcement Act. "We have a responsibility to make sure that people are here legally, and that those that are not are quickly removed."

The Democratic supermajority in the state legislature — led by Senate President Don Harmon, and House Speaker

Emanuel "Chris" Welch, both of whom supported the TRUST Act in 2017 — is unlikely to support any challenge to the sanctuary law, Tsao said. The Immigration Enforcement Act is sponsored by three Republican senators and has yet to gain Democratic backing.

The strongest local sanctuary laws in the state are mostly in the greater Chicago area, in towns like Skokie, Berwyn and Oak Park. In Evanston, the city council recently signed off on additional protections for the city's sanctuary ordinance. It includes several additional protections for immigrants and city data on residents' immigration statuses, making it "perhaps one of the strongest (sanctuary laws) in the entire country," Tsao said.

"By taking these steps, the City of Evanston aims to uphold its values of community trust and safety while ensuring every resident has the opportunity to thrive," the city said in a statement. "Together, we are building a vibrant, inclusive community for all."

A handful of other municipalities in downstate Illinois have joined Chicago and some suburbs in their push for sanctuary laws. In 2017 and 2018, cities such as Normal and Urbana enacted local ordinances declaring that their communities welcomed illegal immigrants. These came in response to stricter immigration policies during Trump's first term.

In Normal, which has had a Welcoming Community Ordinance since 2018, Police Chief Stephen Petrilli said the police department's policy is to comply with the TRUST Act during any interactions with ICE and not to ask individuals about their immigration status during routine investigations.

Petrilli said his office has seen an influx of questions about immigration policy in the weeks since mass deportations began in Chicago.

"We've held several meetings with different community stakeholders," Petrilli said. "We're really just assuring the public that we are adhering to the state law."

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Border protection: 'These are solvable problems'

Former Customs Cmsr. speaks on immigration, public safety

STORY AND PHOTO BY ADRIANA FOUSTANOU

Dinner guests did a deep dive into immigration enforcement on Feb. 13, during the City Club of Chicago hosted dinner conversation featuring former U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner, R. Gil Kerlikowske. The discussion, held in collaboration with the Univ. of Chicago Crime Lab, focused on the topic of immigration, the role of law enforcement at both state and local levels, and the broader implications for public policy.

City Club, through this event, brought together leaders from government, law enforcement, academia, and the nonprofit sector, fostering a critical dialogue on how to approach one of the most pressing issues facing the United States today.

Kerlikowske, who has held leadership roles in law enforcement for over four decades, including serving as chief of police in Seattle and drug policy advisor under the Obama administration, offered a nuanced perspective on immigration enforcement. Addressing a key misconception about crime and alien migrants, he stated, "Well, actually, your numbers [on undocumented immigrants] are about 37% lower than theirs [US citizens] is. And for people that are here legally in the country, they are 57% lower." He cited research from the Cato Institute, a conservative think tank, which found that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born citizens.

One of the key themes of the discussion was the failure of Congress to enact meaningful immigration reform. Kerlikowske criticized lawmakers for their inaction, explaining, "whenever you have a complex problem and somebody issued a simple answer, you can be assured of one thing that that's the wrong answer." He pointed out that past bipartisan efforts to pass comprehensive immigration legislation have repeatedly failed, leaving the executive branch to handle the issue through temporary policies.

The conversation moved onto



R. Gil Kerlikowske speaks to the City Club at The Library.

economic issues and impacts on immigration. Kerlikowske highlighted the essential role that immigrant labor plays in the American workforce, noting, "We need these people in the country. We need that work. If you're in South Carolina in the middle of summer, look who's working on a roof in 100 degrees or 110 degrees. They don't take jobs from Americans."

He said the demand for immigrant labor spans both skilled and unskilled sectors and current policies are failing to meet the needs of the U.S. economy.

"The last thing we should do is make people afraid to send their children to school, afraid to go to church, afraid to go get medical care at a hospital, because they're concerned that immigration agents are going to apprehend them," Kerlikowske said.

The role of local law enforcement in immigration enforcement is a significant concept, and Kerlikowske warned against using state and local police to enforce federal immigration laws, arguing that it damages community trust and ultimately makes cities less safe.

Beyond immigration, the discussion also covered gun violence and public safety in Chicago. The City Club and the Univ. of Chicago Crime Lab have worked extensively to find data-driven solutions to crime in the city, and the event emphasized how policing strategies can improve without resorting to over-policing.

"The academy built our research showing that improving management and practices in policing improved public safety without driving up arrests or using force," said Dan Gibbons, CEO of Chicago City Club, highlighting the importance of effective leadership in law enforcement.

The City Club continues to be an essential space for civic dia-

logue, bringing together policy-makers, academics, and business leaders to address the city's most pressing challenges. By hosting conversations like this one, it fosters meaningful discussions that go beyond partisan talking points.

The participation of young people, including students—some of whom are immigrants themselves—adds fresh perspectives to these discussions. As a migrant myself, this reporter found the conversation both enlightening and necessary, especially for youth. Misconceptions about the immigration system remain widespread among native-born citizens, often blurring the line between truth and misinformation. The more citizens engage in open discussions, the more we can all uncover the realities of immigration.

The insights shared by Kerlikowske underscore the importance of fact-based policymaking, community trust, and pragmatic leadership in addressing immigration and public safety.

As Chicago and other cities grapple with these challenges, the conversation reaffirmed that "these are solvable problems" and that "it does come back to being able to see each other as communities." With immigration and law enforcement remaining critical issues on the national stage, the need for informed, collaborative, and compassionate solutions has never been more urgent.

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INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications
6221 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 465-9700
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On Feb. 11, the City Hall Committee on Finance approved \$14 million in Tax-Increment Financing to launch a planned 78-unit affordable housing project near the site of the long-razed Cabrini-Green (photo left). (Center) Ald. Walter Burnett Jr. said the lot at 547 W. Oak (right) has remained vacant for more than 50 years.

Cabrini-Green rebirth funded with \$14-million in TIF funds



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Despite the overall failure of Cabrini-Green, and the eventual demolition of the once-notorious public-housing project, the Chicago Housing Authority [CHA] is on its way to repeating its mistake.

On Feb. 11, the City Hall Committee on Finance approved \$14 million in Tax-Increment Financing [TIF] to launch a planned 78-unit affordable housing project near the site of the long-razed Cabrini-Green.

The \$52.9 million mixed-income housing development is targeted for construction at 547 W. Oak St., a vacant lot owned by the CHA. Demolition of Cabrini-Green started in 2000 and was completed in 2011.

Although city officials approved the new low-income housing project in 2021, it still needs the City Council's approval. The TIF funding now heads to the full City Council for a final decision.

If TIF allocation is approved, the project will be fully funded. Financing secured for the complex includes a mix of CHA loan funds, state grants and low-income housing tax credits. A timeline for the completion of the project has not been provided.

Across Chicago, there are 124 TIF districts that are primarily utilized to spur development. When a TIF district is established, the property-tax revenue for government agencies is capped at the current level, as the baseline. As property values rise within the TIF, any additional tax dollars get scraped off into a separate surplus fund.

"That money does not go to schools, does not go to the parks, etc. It's captured by the TIF district in a sort of slush fund," said author Tom Tresser, who has studied and written extensively about TIF's through his TIF Illumination Project.

That does not mean schools and parks budgets don't still grow, it just means the growing demand by taxing bodies must be made up by properties located outside of TIF district. The final result is that ever dollar taken for a TIF district should be considered a property tax increase as that dollar must now come from some other property.

Ald. Burnett's Neighborhood

Ald. Walter Burnett Jr. [27th] said the lot at 547 W. Oak has remained vacant for more than 50 years. Burnett, who grew up in Cabrini-Green, said he remembers walking past the lot as a child. Now, as alderman of the ward, he will get to see that lot developed.

"It's refreshing to see a beautiful building going up there. There's going to be mixed-income that's going to allow folks who lived in the area who may have had to move [out] over 25 years ago," Burnett said of those forced out by the CHA's failure and demolition of Cabrini-Green.

There are 88 families on CHA's list for "right-of- return," which refers to "families who were originally living at Cabrini, as well as CHA families who chose Cabrini as their first, second and third option to return to redevelop sites," said Ahlam Khouri, director of development for CHA.

Once completed, the 78-unit apartment building will have 54 affordable units available to people making 30%, 60% and 80% of the area's median income. The remaining 24 apartments will be leased at market-rate rents.

According to plans, the building will have 39 indoor parking spots, 45 bicycle spots, a community room, fitness center and an outdoor patio on the second floor with a grilling area.

However, this planned initial 78-unit apartment building at Cabrini-Green II is only the tip of

the iceberg.

The CHA wants to build a total of 4,080 new affordable units on the vacant Cabrini-Green land south of North Ave., and the apartments are not all proposed as low-rise buildings and row houses. Critics say that notorious high-rises and mid-rises are part of the plan. Most are affordable residences, and likely will include hundreds of Section-8 public-housing units.

It's as if we all forgot the government already tired this and failed spectacularly. The failure of Cabrini-Green was national news.

It's as if we all forgot the government already tired this and failed spectacularly. The failure of Cabrini-Green was national news.

Cabrini-Green a 'social experiment'

Cabrini-Green was launched in the late 1940s as a "social experiment," patterned after the federal government's Marshall Plan high-rise construction designed to rebuild Germany after World War II.

Over the next three decades, Cabrini-Green quickly became synonymous with poverty, violence and neglect. At its peak, the development consisted of 23 high-rise buildings that housed more than 15,000 low-income residents.

In the beginning, Elizabeth Wood, visionary head of CHA from 1937 through 1954, insisted on careful screening of the applicants. "In selecting tenants for public housing, the CHA looked particularly for former military officers with combat records, and wives known to be good housekeepers," wrote Adam Cohen and Elizabeth Taylor in "American Pharaoh," a book published by Little, Brown and Co. in 2000.

Unfortunately, the CHA abandoned Wood's careful attention to tenant selection. The principle behind Wood's tenant-selection process was that housing projects would only be healthy communities when careful thought was given to the tenants who would be allowed to move in.

"It only takes a very few, very antisocial people to make a building or a project unsatisfactory to parents who are concerned about their children," she once said.

Wood's tenant-selection process was abandoned not out of concern for civil liberties, but

because the CHA was no longer concerned about the kind of communities that were being created," Cohen and Taylor wrote.

"The biggest problem after 1954, housing project tenants told me, was the breakdown in tenant selection—no real belief that you had to select self-respecting families," an aide to Wood told the authors. "The chronically unemployed, convicted criminals, and gang members were all ushered into the projects, and hardworking tenants who wanted a healthier environment for their children moved out."

"Making matters worse, the CHA all but abandoned Wood's

CABRINI see p. 10



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Police Beat...

Counterfeit stamps



Photos show some of the counterfeit stamps seized over the weekend in Chicago. Courtesy U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protections [CBP] officers assigned to the Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team at the Chicago International Mail Branch stopped eight shipments containing a total of 161,860 counterfeit U.S. Forever stamps they announced on Feb. 13.

CBP claims there has been an uptick in counterfeit U.S. Postal Service postage stamps especially around the holidays to include high volume card holidays like Valentine's Day.

Authentic postage stamps are produced at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing in the United States, and while the print quality of the seized postage was poor, the counterfeit quality is improving, and the average consumer may not notice a difference from an authentic stamp.

All the parcels were arriving from China and if genuine, face value would be over \$118,000.

CBP seized the stamps for violating trademark laws. Often officers use their knowledge and expertise to find fraudulent shipments. These stamps were determined to be counterfeit based on the very low invoice value, the routing, and the extraordinary efforts undertaken to conceal the stamps.

"Counterfeiters only care about making a profit. They don't care about the effect that fake postage has on your ability to send important mail and overall impacts the U.S. economy," said LaFonda D. Sutton-Burke, Director, Field Operations-Chicago. "Our officers and specialists are some of the most highly trained in the nation, and their level of expertise is evident with these seizures. CBP officers were able to identify these very realistic counterfeits and stop them from reaching their destinations."

"While the print quality of the seized postage was poor, the counterfeit quality is improving, and the average consumer may not notice a difference from an authentic stamp."

Uber driver gets 13 years for sexually assaulting female passenger, seven more for assaulting a child

A judge on Feb. 11 sentenced a man to 13 years in prison for raping a woman he picked up from a Lakeview bar while working as an Uber driver. He received an additional seven years for sexually abusing a child in a separate case, court records show.

Christopher Molina, 34, pleaded

guilty to aggravated criminal sexual assault during the commission of another felony and criminal sexual abuse of a child younger than 13, according to court records. Judge Nicholas Kantas ordered him to serve the sentences consecutively.

In early June 2022, a 25-year-old woman told police she went out for a night of fun, stopping at Kirkwood Bar & Grill, then making her way to Jake's Pub, 2932 N. Clark, with co-workers. Video showed her leaving Jake's around 1:15 a.m.

The woman couldn't remember what happened until she woke up in the back seat of a car, her hands restrained by a Velcro-like tie. She noticed that she was in a well-lit residential parking garage with many other vehicles and personal property.



Christopher Molina

Prosecutors said a man entered the backseat, removed the woman's clothing, and raped her for about 15 minutes. The woman feared for her life during the assault and repeatedly told the man that she did not want to have sex with him and did not want it to happen, she said.

Following the assault, the man drove the victim to her parents' West Loop home. Prosecutors said he repeatedly told the victim that he was sorry, saying his behavior that night exposed his bad side and that his girlfriend was mean to him.

Chicago police traced the woman's Uber ride transactions, which showed her driver was named Christopher, and then spoke with the registered owner of the driver's car. The owner, who rents vehicles out, told police that Christopher Molina, 31, was the person who rented the car on the night of the attack.

Cops arrested Molina after the victim identified him in a photo lineup.

One year after charges were filed in the case, a grand jury indicted Molina on multiple counts of sexually assaulting and abusing a child in the 1700 block of N. Spaulding, according to court records.

A Chicago police database shows that the crime occurred in Feb. 2022, about four months before Molina allegedly attacked the woman in Lakeview.

Former Boystown security patrol officer will get at least 81 years in prison for sexually assaulting 13-year-old boy



Ronald Lye in a 2020 mugshot.

A suburban man who once worked as a security patrol officer on the streets of Boystown, even though he was a convicted felon, will soon be sentenced to a minimum of 81 years in prison for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old boy whom he met online.

We first reported on Ronald Lye's security work in 2015. Nearly five years later, in May 2020, Kane County prosecutors slapped him with the criminal assault charges.

Officials said Lye met with the boy repeatedly during five weeks in April and May 2020, driving to the teen's home and taking him to Lye's house in Aurora. He recorded his sexual con-

Holy Toledo! Migrant shoplifter with two active arrest warrants in Chicagoland heading to prison in Ohio

A Venezuelan migrant with two outstanding arrest warrants for failing to appear in court for two pending felony cases in the Chicago area has surfaced in Ohio. And by "surfaced," we mean he's been sent to prison in Ohio for shoplifting merchandise worth more than \$10,000 from a Kohl's in suburban Toledo.

We mentioned mentioned Jhombeker Martinez Quintero in Sept. 2023 after he was charged with shoplifting clothing and shoes worth \$1,102 from Macy's on State St. A warrant has been out for his arrest since he failed to appear in court (for the third time) on Oct. 1, 2024.

It turns out that, just 11 days after he failed to appear for the Macy's case, Martinez-Quintero, 22, and another man were arrested for stealing \$10,199.99 worth of merchandise from that Kohl's store in Perrysburg, OH, according to a local news outlet.

When Perrysburg Township cops spotted their getaway car, they pursued it across town until its three occupants bailed out, a twist no shoplifter would ever experience in pursuit-shy Chicago.

tact with the boy and knew the victim was 13, prosecutors claim.

In May 2020, shortly after We published a story about the sexual assault allegations, Lye submitted a lengthy email through the CWBChicago website in which he accused the 13-year-old boy of "lying...while being on a[n] adult dating website that requires you to be 18."

"He reached out to me, NOT me to him, he has an ID showing him to be of legal age and orders adult products etc with that ID and there is proof of it that will come out in court!!" Lye insisted in the message. "As far as anything we may have done, it was 100% consensual, nothing was forced, no abuse at all and he admitted too it with proof of such that will come out in along court ordered news article retractions."

Lye continued: "This person I was with is mature, manipulative [and] charming and he has been with multiple people NOT just me and lieing [sic] about his age etc again there is proof of that and will come out in court but unfortunately because he is a minor they have put all the blame on me." "He is very sexually active/experienced and he kept reaching out to me with his pushy manipulations, believable charm and lies during my week, depressing state of mind from social isolation/distancing/lack of work," Lye wrote.

None of those arguments held water last month when, after years of pre-trial maneuvering, Lye put his fate in the hands of Kane County Judge David Kliment.

At the end of the bench trial, Kliment found Lye guilty of 13 counts of criminal sexual abuse, 13 counts of manufacturing child pornography, and 19 counts of possessing child pornography, according to the Kane County State's Attorney's Office.

Kliment is expected to hand down Lye's sentence, which will be at least 81 years, on Feb. 28, the state's attorney's office said.

The Northalsted Business Alliance in 2015 said it was "reviewing its hiring process" when this reporter revealed that Lye was not authorized to work as a security guard after he was accused of taking people's money while posing as a police officer in Kane County in 1999.

Lye pleaded guilty to impersonating a police officer and illegal use of flashing blue lights in the case. Other charges, including armed robbery and armed violence, were dropped, according to his former attorney.

Lye and a co-worker allegedly extorted money from victims they encountered while posing as police when, in fact, they were security



(Inset) Mugshot of Jhombeker Martinez Quintero.

"Martinez-Quintero climbed several fences and fled into a heavily wooded area before being apprehended. The pursuing officer sustained several injuries and was transported from the scene by EMS," according to the Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune.

Last week, Martinez-Quintero received a one-year prison sentence on charges of grand theft and obstructing official business, the outlet reported.

Court records show that Martinez-Quintero has another arrest warrant

guards for a suburban motel.

One of Lye's alleged victims was an underage man from out of state who was caught drinking. The Beacon News, citing police reports, said the victim had been handcuffed and was told that he would be released in exchange for \$100. An adult who was accused by the cop impersonators of buying the 20-year-old's beer also paid a "fine" to the guards, the paper reported.

After our report, Lye asked the state to reissue his license to work as an unarmed security guard. The Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation agreed to give Lye a probationary permit the following year. Lye then returned to the Halsted St. patrol operation.

Woman who allegedly shot 'disrespectful' Red Line passenger gets 4 years



Erica Berry

A woman accused of shooting a man who became "disrespectful" on a Red Line train in downtown Chicago was given a four-year sentence on Monday.

Erica Berry, 39, pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated discharge of a firearm before Judge James Obbish. Prosecutors dropped four counts of attempted murder, a more serious charge that Berry faced.

In May 2023, prosecutors said Berry was sitting alone on a northbound train when a 35-year-old man strolled over and started a conversation around 8 p.m.

Berry later told police that the man was flirting with her and that she "tried to let him down nicely," according to prosecutors, who said CTA surveillance cameras captured much of the incident.

But the man persisted by sitting down next to Berry, who nudged him away twice before he got up and sat near two other women on the opposite side of the train. The verbal back-and-forth between Berry and the man dragged on, prompting the two women to get up and move away, officials said.

Eventually, Berry pulled a gun from her purse and shot toward the man. The man didn't move, so Berry fired another shot, then shot him again as he tried to run through the doors to the next train car, prosecutors alleged.

A CTA canine security officer at the Roosevelt station heard gunshots coming from the platform and looked down the stairs as Berry bolted to-

active in Cook County for a Morton Grove case in which he's charged with felony mob action and retail theft.

In addition to his two active cases in Chicagoland, Martinez-Quintero has failed to appear in two other cases that are now closed: an August 2023 misdemeanor battery case that he failed to appear for twice and a September 2024 retail theft in River Forest. Prosecutors dropped both cases.

ward him. The guard followed Berry until Chicago police officers caught up with her about a block from the station.

CPD officers said they found a .22 caliber revolver in Berry's purse.

The victim underwent surgery for gunshot wounds to his left hip and right elbow. One of Berry's defense attorneys argued that she may have been acting in self-defense of herself and in defense of the other women on the train.

Her four-year sentence will be reduced to two years for good behavior. It will be reduced by another 632 days for credits she has earned while in custody awaiting trial.

Member of Sinaloa Cartel charged with Drug Conspiracy

A federal grand jury in Chicago has indicted a high-ranking member of the Sinaloa Cartel in Mexico on a drug conspiracy charge for allegedly manufacturing and distributing fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, and other drugs and importing them into the United States.

According to an indictment returned Feb. 10 in the Northern District of Illinois, Ceferino Espinoza Angulo, 43, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico, employed dozens of gunmen in Mexico to protect and support the leadership of the Guzman faction of the Sinaloa Cartel, including Ivan Guzman-Salazar, Jesus Alfredo Guzman-Salazar, Ovidio Guzman-Lopez, and Joaquin Guzman-Lopez, collectively known as "the Chapitos."

The indictment alleges that Espinoza Angulo worked with others to obtain fentanyl precursor chemicals and to manufacture fentanyl for importation into the United States. Espinoza Angulo allegedly worked with others to transport the fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and ecstasy toward the U.S. border for importation into the country.

The indictment accuses Espinoza Angulo of illegally using a machine gun in furtherance of his drug trafficking crime.

The Chapitos are the sons of Joaquin Guzman Loera, also known as "El Chapo," who led the Sinaloa Cartel before being convicted by a federal jury in Brooklyn, N.Y., and sentenced to life in prison. The Chapitos allegedly assumed their father's role as leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel. The Chapitos have been charged with drug trafficking in other U.S. indictments.

The indictment against Espinoza

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Dog dies after stepping on electrified manhole cover in River North

BY CWBCHICAGO

A large dog was killed in River North on Feb. 15 when it apparently made contact with an electrified manhole cover, according to witnesses and other officials. People who work and live in the area believe other dogs have been shocked at the same location recently.

“We were inside working and heard several yelps. By the time we were notified a dog was deceased outside, it was too late to start CPR otherwise we would have,” said Kristen A., who also posted about the incident on Nextdoor. “Several bystanders were kind enough to stay with the young gentleman who owned the dog who was inconsolable.”

“We covered the dog with a sheet until the police arrived. The rest of the family arrived and were even more inconsolable, understandably,” Kristen explained. She said the police helped the family place the dog in their car.

Shortly after the dog was killed, the fire department responded to a report of an electrical pole fire across the street from where the incident occurred, but it is unclear if the incidents were related.

A ComEd spokesperson said the incident involved a “non-ComEd owned manhole,” but its crews responded to provide support while the incident was investigated.

Kristen said workers opened an electrical box, but she said she didn’t know what they did. People continued to come and go on the sidewalk, which was not closed to foot traffic.

“We ended up putting signs on the box since we are still unclear if the problem has been fixed.”

While Chicago police responded to the scene and requested a response from the city’s Bureau of Electricity, a CPD spokesperson said they had no information about the matter. We sent inquiries to other city departments over the weekend and await replies.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

Angulo charges him with drug conspiracy and a firearm offense, which are punishable by a maximum sentence of life in federal prison and a minimum of 30 years.

Espinoza Angulo is believed to be residing in Mexico. A U.S. warrant has been issued for his arrest.

The indictment was announced by multiple federal agents and officers with the Dept. of Justice, FBI, DEA and other law enforcement agencies.

The case is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force operation that identifies, disrupts, and dismantles drug trafficking organizations and other criminal networks that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach that leverages the strengths of federal, state, and local enforcement agencies.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Red Line attacker hit victim with two-foot pipe, had railroad spikes in his jacket

BY CWBCHICAGO

Prosecutors have charged a man with attacking a CTA passenger with a metal pipe as they rode the Red Line near Addison on Feb. 10. Perdido Cook, 44, of Harvey, still had the pipe as well as two railroad spikes when Chicago police officers arrested him on the train minutes later, officials said.

The 50-year-old victim boarded a northbound train at Belmont, grabbed a seat, and closed his eyes around 12:40 p.m., prosecutors said in a detention petition. Cook allegedly walked up to the man and struck him in the face with a two-foot metal pipe, striking him



Perdido Cook

beneath the right eye. Personnel at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center closed the wound, described by prosecutors as a “deep laceration,” with stitches.

Other passengers called 911 and police found Cook lying across the train seats when they arrived at the Addison station. CPD’s arrest report said Cook had two railroad spikes in his jacket and the metal

pipe. Judge Anthony Calabrese detained Cook on charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated battery of a transit passenger.

Calabrese noted in his detention order that Cook received a three-

year prison sentence in 2022 for aggravated battery of a peace officer. A River Forest Police Dept. crime blotter indicates Cook was arrested in their town on Feb. 2; however, no charges related to that arrest appeared in court records as of Feb. 16.

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Lakeview High choir to perform at St. James Cathedral

The Advanced Choir at Lake View High School has been engaging in a program this year called Emerging Voices with the William Ferris Chorale [WFC], and will put on a show at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the St. James Cathedral, 65 E. Huron St.

Students have had the opportunity to work with composer Cristian Larios to write a new piece of music that will be premiered at the WFC's Ready, Bright concert at St. James.

In addition to premiering this new work with the professional singers, the Advanced Choir will also perform their own set of three songs.

For more information, or show tickets, visit www.williamferrischorale.org/ready-bright.

BITE from p. 2

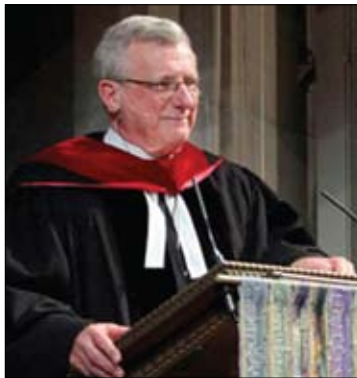
to cherish.

REST IN PEACE: Pastor Emeritus John M. Buchanan of Fourth Presbyterian Church has died. Dr. Buchanan's faith and faithful spirit guided this church family for nearly three decades, and as an unparalleled leader in the Presbyterian Church (USA), his ministry extended significantly beyond Fourth Church as well.

PEEL, STIR AND BLEND: Louis Briody was a true Renaissance man. His recent death, at 91, steals from Chicago a life that enhanced the living of others with grace and value. A companion of high honor and noble virtue. Lou was a fixer. A booster. A defender. An enabler. And a pure delight. A Domer. A Wildcat. He took pleasure in big Lincoln Continentals. Notre Dame football. The White Sox. Knowing the city's finest restaurateurs. Sir Georg Soltie's CSO. And the best recipes in the New York Times.

At home on the golf course where he excelled with skill and panache. From Beverly Country Club to the links at St. Andrew's in Scotland's Highlands. Thank goodness he had a deeply skilled head for numbers, mathematics and business success, not least of all at Briody Insurance.

He could shake the crystal in a chandelier with the Irish beauty of his tenor voice, bringing tears to even the cynical while crooning his "Danny Boy." But it was in the kitchen that he best excelled as the finest of domestic chefs. A graduate of the Dumas Pere School of culinary skills. For his brood of seven children he created famed evening meals. The only



John McCormick Buchanan



Judge Rhoda Sweeney and Tegan Sweeney.



Neal Zucker



Moor's brews at Diversey House.

man I knew who could galantine a turkey. Prepare mayonnaise from scratch. Fashion Chicken Vesuvius of singular design. Crowd pleasing Chicken Tetrazini. Spin a Cesar Salad just right. And prepare pates, tortes and cheesecakes that kept tongues wagging.

He knew life's wealth was far beyond a cash register or the bank. He knew, rather, it was in an elegant family meal every night for dinner where you had to taste and evaluate the quality of the mélange. Instilling values of fabled manners and wise courtesies in children of intellect, learning and faith.

Father of six sons and one daughter, Lou ran his household like a country Inn. In leafy Chicago's Beverly, lakeside Grand Breach or the desert in Arizona. The great virtue of Lou's living was always in hosting others to abundance, table-side, fireside, poolside, the church pew at Sunday Mass or celebrating the individuality of his children with a pedigree of love.

His laughter and song will always ring in my ears and soul. And the memory of his making everything from scratch will haunt the recipes of life in the harmony of hearts.

POLAR PLUNGE: It's two below zero, that means it's time to head to the beach. Beachgoers can make a splash on Sunday, March 2 at North Avenue Beach by joining in on the fun of swimming in Lake Michigan in wintertime during at Polar Plunge. This year's plunge benefits Special Olympics Illinois. This event allows guests to get freezing cold while supporting the event's 25th Anniversary with thousands of fellow warm-hearted people, helping to make a lasting difference for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Visit www.specialchildrenscharities.org to register.

HEAR IT ON THE RADIO: My dear friend, Candace Jordan, reminded me that WGN Radio's Rick Kogan is now back on the air. They're both back and so good. He has returned on Sundays, from 5-7 p.m. Candace appears from 6:30 - 7 p.m.

DANCE: The Joffrey Ballet's "Golden Hour," an enchanting mixed repertory that includes two world premieres alongside returning favorites, beginning Feb. 20 through March 2 at the Lyric Opera House.

MOOR'S BREWING: Logan

Square's Ravinia Brewing was forced to rebrand its name to Diversey House after a battle royal with the Ravinia Festival over their name. The brew pub now is open at 2601 W. Diversey.

What a treat, featuring beers from one of the city's few Black-owned brewers and a menu from a three-time "Chopped" champion from the popular TV show. The space will now serve as home to Moor's Brewing Co. and feature food from Marc Anthony Bynum. We visited in person for a fantastic dinner. With choice brews. I had the Patty Beer, named for a runaway slave famous for her home brew. Chicken wings were the best, brined and served with corn bread and honey. The Wagyu bacon burger was rare and delicious.

Owners Damon Patton and Chris Walker are swell fellows. Old-fashioned Chicago foodies and brewmasters. They were well managed, organized, efficient, comfortable and had lots of employees. We're going back.

TAKITO STREET: Takito Lincoln Park closed for good on Feb. 8, ending the Mini-Chain's 11 years in Chicago. Ownership of the Mexican restaurant closed locations in Wicker Park and West Loop in late 2024.

TAVERN-STYLE: Tavern-style pizza is now a household phrase, and Boka Restaurant Group is making the focus at Zarella Pizzeria & Taverna, 531 N. Wells, their new restaurant replacing GT Fish & Oyster.

CHICAGO ART: In Chicago's climate of reduced refinements and neighborly-like behavior, the Chicago City Council appears in anti-intellectual lock-step in trying to civilly resolve a fine arts question.

NEW EXHIBIT: In a few days, Palazzo Barberini will open "Caravaggio 2025," an exhibition that renews attention on one of the greatest artists of all time. And yet, if today Caravaggio plays a pivotal role in the history of art and his name is synonymous with revolution, the credit goes to another exhibition, the one that in 1951 marked his definitive rediscovery: the exhibition in Milan, in the halls of Palazzo Reale. Caravaggio was uncovered for the modern age. Don't miss this if you are in Rome.

WHO'S WHERE: Delighted Dr. Rose Gomez is back from Switzerland visiting her favor-

ite Chicago people and places... Happy Birthday to Neal Zucker celebrating a memorable occasion out in Palm Springs with the family... Eamonn Cummins and Pennie Taylor dining at Cafe Bionda, perfectly prepared by dear friend from Naples, Italy, Chef Cosimo Riccardi... Condolences and prayers to Mike Houlihan and family on the death of his bro-in-law John McCloskey... Judge Rhoda Sweeney having a "So Fun" lunch with Tegan Sweeney in Newport Beach, CA... Susie Fortsman Kealy lunching at Hank's Seafood Restaurant in Charleston, SC, with friend from Asheville, NC... Cyndie Lund is with Mike McCahon (Mr. Mike) celebrating with birthday girl Karen Zupko in Cartagena, Columbia... Cynthia Olson back in one of her favorite places, San Miguel de Allende, in the mountains of Mexico... Bobbi Panter is with Pet Food Express and Bobbi Panter Pet Products in Walnut Creek, CA, and celebrating Matt Arnoux's birthday... Maria Pappas having an unforgettable (but not in a good way) experience at the Ice Cream Museum in Chicago, later with the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce celebrating the Chinese New Year and then welcoming the St. Patrick's Parade Queen, Cara Walsh... Mark O'Malley and Patricia Tracey on their way back to Dublin for concerts and some literary business, meanwhile son, Patrick O'Malley and grandpa, Michael O'Malley, grabbed a Guinness while out on the town... Bravo to 40-year ABC veteran investigative newsman Chuck Goudie, now joining the team at NBC... Great to see the Eshaghy Family having Sunday dinner at Il Gerasole on Western under my painting... Jane Justic dining with son, Todd Justic, and grandson, Leo Justic visiting grandma on his 20th birthday at The Pub at the Mercota in Naples, FL... Sherry Lea Fox lunching at Cafe Marley at the Louvre in Paris.

MODIGLIANI DISCOVERY: Experts say a portrait bought at an antique market in France about 15 years ago is in fact an early painting by Amedeo Modigliani, according to Corriere Adriatico.

EXOTIQUE: Sherrill Bodine doing "around the world" rickshaw-style now in Ho-Chi-Minh City and Da Nang, Viet Nam.

THE LOUVRE: Laurence des Cars, president of the Louvre in Paris, is finalizing plans for the museum's massive renovations, providing expanded space for viewing the Mona Lisa.

If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

- President George Washington

tog515@gmail.com

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“Is the American Dream at the expense of the American Negro?”



(L-R) Eric T. Miller (William F. Buckley Jr.) and Teagle F. Bougere (James Baldwin) reenact the historic 1965 debate.
Photos by Brett Beiner Photography

Debate: Baldwin vs. Buckley, presented by TimeLine Theatre is currently playing inside Cortelyou Commons, 2324 N. Fremont St. The historic student gathering space built in 1929 on DePaul’s Lincoln Park campus is an academic setting with a beautiful Gothic Collegiate design that replicates Cambridge Union, where the original debate was held on February 18, 1965.

Once inside Cortelyou Commons, audiences will witness an epic confrontation that pitted Baldwin’s call for a moral revolution in race relations against Buckley’s unabashed elitism and implicit commitment to the status quo.

“Presenting this on the 60th anniversary of their debate will illuminate what prog-

ress has occurred in our country and what troubling comparisons still can be made with arguments from 1965,” said TimeLine Artistic Director PJ Powers.

“The objective of the american vicarious in restaging this historic debate is not to inhabit such monumental figures as James Baldwin or William F. Buckley, their shoes are too large to fill,” said Christopher McElroen, Founding Artistic Director of the american vicarious. “Rather, our objective is to simply place their words, which still resonate 60 years later, within the voice of contemporary artists.”

Debate: Baldwin vs. Buckley will end its five-week run March 2. For tickets visit timelinetheatre.com or call the TimeLine Box Office at (773) 281-8463 x6.

Upcoming events at Experimental Sound Studio in Ravenswood

Founded in 1986, Experimental Sound Studio [ESS] is one of the U.S.’s first non-profit cultural institutions dedicated entirely to sonic arts. It remains the only such organization in the Midwest, fostering innovative and experimental music where the unexpected is encouraged. ESS provides platforms for sound-based creation, presentation, documentation, and exploration.

Intro to Microsound, 4-part Max/MSP Gen course

Experimental Sound Studio [ESS], in partnership with the Center for Concrete and Abstract Machines, presents Intro to Microsound, a four-week course introducing students to the Gen~ programming environment inside MaxMSP. The course explores sound at the microscopic level, inspired by Curtis Roads’ groundbreaking work in Microsound (2001).

“Beneath the level of the note lies the realm of microsound, of sound particles,” Roads writes. “Recent technological advances let us probe and explore the beauties of this formerly unseen world.”

Led by instructors familiar with this technique, the workshop will examine how Gen~ enables the visual patching and coding of audio at the individual sample level—processing sound at rates exceeding 41,000 times per second. Over the four weeks, participants will progress from constructing sound one sample at a time to creating complex, dynamic sonic textures using microsound techniques such as granular and pulsar synthesis. The course will also introduce multichannel and hardware applications, including *mc.gen~* and *OopsyDaisy*.

Classes take place in person at ESS, 5925 N. Ravenswood Ave., on four Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m., Feb. 27, Mar. 6, Mar. 20, and Mar. 27. The workshop fee covers all four sessions, and due to the progressive nature of the course, individual session reservations will not be available.

For more details and to sign up, visit <https://experimentalsoundstudio.us1>.

Chicago Creative Machines Lecture & Performance Series returns Feb. 23

The Chicago Creative Machines lecture-performance series is back, featuring artists who integrate machine learning and

related tools into their creative work. This free series invites audiences to explore the intersections of AI, sound, and artistic experimentation through lectures and performances from leading practitioners.

The second installment of the series kicks off on Feb. 23, with a presentation by Patrícia Alves-Oliveira. On Mar. 2, Ted Moore will lead a workshop on FluCoMa, a toolkit for machine learning in creative music applications. The series continues on Mar. 9, with a talk by Caitlyn Min-ji Au, followed by Bryan Pardo on Mar. 16.

All events will take place in person at ESS, 5925 N. Ravenswood Ave. and will be streamed live online for remote viewing. For more information and to reserve a spot. Recordings from Chicago Creative Machines Series I (2024) are also available for viewing.

Patchbent Meetup: A Gathering for Gender-Expansive Artists in Sound

On Feb. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m., the Patchbent community will host a casual meetup at Dark Matter Coffee’s Star Lounge, 2521 W. Chicago Ave.

Patchbent is a learning community for women, trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive people in sound and related practices. This free meetup provides a space to connect, share work, and exchange ideas. Participants are welcome to present finished pieces, works in progress, or new ideas, with a suggested presentation time of 5-10 minutes. A simple stereo sound system, microphone, and projector will be available for use.

Attendees can RSVP and indicate whether they’d like to present their work via <https://ess.org/>.

All experience levels are welcome, and no prior experience is necessary.

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Roger and James Deakins will be appearing at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture Feb. 25-28.
Photo by James Brown

Meet Academy Award-winning cinematographer Feb. 25-28

BY BOB KITSOS

Movie fans may be familiar with the cinematography in “Shawshank Redemption,” “No Country for Old Men,” and “ Fargo.” It’s the work of Roger Deakins, winner of two Academy Awards and 16 nominations, and one of the most influential Western cinematographers. His films often are regarded as modern classics because of his ability to invoke old, artistic traditions in a modern context.

Deakins and his collaborator/wife, James, (aka Team Deakins) will be front and center during three film, photography and live podcast events this month to support Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, 2936 N. Southport.

The first event is a fundraising dinner on Feb. 25 with Roger and James Deakins that includes a live auction and Q&A with Lawrence Daufenbach, Athenaeum Center executive director. A film screening of “No Country for Old Men” will be shown on Feb. 27 with a separate, ticketed meet-

and-greet opportunity with Team Deakins prior to the screening that includes a signed copy of BYWAYS, Deakins’ photography monograph.

On Feb. 28, the pair will host a live recording of the Team Deakins podcast in conversation with Chicago-based location scout Stefan Nikolov. All events will be held at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture. More details and ticket information are at athenaeumcenter.org/special-events.

In addition to these events, the Rogers Deakins Photography Exhibition will be available for viewing at the Athenaeum Center. The five-decades exhibition is an expansive, curated selection of 43 portraits and landscapes from Deakins’ personal collection as well as two never-before-seen photographs that were taken in Chicago last fall. The exhibition will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. in the center’s Paradiso Gallery through April 30.

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CABRINI from p. 5

practice of investigating the backgrounds and qualifications of prospective tenants," the authors wrote. "By the time the last Robert Taylor Homes buildings were filled, there was almost no screening at all."

As could be expected, the government's social 'experiment' resulted in the unexpected consequences that planners never seem to see coming, but that Wood knew would occur.

The buildings that had the least tenant screening, at the southern extreme of the project, "ended up having some of the worst problems with delinquency and crime," the authors wrote.

Now, the new Cabrini-Green "finalized master plan," which the CHA says will be implemented starting in 2025 beginning with the 547 W. Oak project, essentially repeats the great 1950s landmark public-housing boondoggle drafted by planners at the request of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley, who falsely believed that stacking poor people in high-rises would solve the city's slum-housing problems. What the city got

Now, the new Cabrini-Green "finalized master plan," which the CHA says will be implemented starting in 2025 beginning with the 547 W. Oak project, essentially repeats the great 1950s landmark public-housing boondoggle drafted by planners at the request of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley, who falsely believed that stacking poor people in high-rises would solve the city's slum-housing problems.

were dangerous giant warehouses of poverty that were controlled by violent criminal street gangs, and impossible to police.

Ironically, Mayor Richard M. Daley, son of Richard J. Daley, was the visionary mayor who razed Cabrini-Green, Robert Taylor Homes and Ida B. Wells projects to correct his father's mistake.

LEGO-like structures

Old Town resident and real estate financial expert Timothy J. Carew made the following analysis of the new Cabrini-Green plans: "Relying solely on professional planners has its limits. While their proposals are often accompanied by colorful render-

ings of building sites and LEGO-like structures, they frequently lack a comprehensive vision."

Critics say clustering and stacking thousands of new CHA units on valuable land that developers now consider the West Gold Coast, South Old Town and River North neighborhoods will likely increase crime and traffic congestion, and set safe, market-rate and mixed-income residential development back decades. The only sane way to develop affordable housing in Chicago is to mix and sprinkle-in low-rise units in every city neighborhood, housing experts note.

The billion-dollar Cabrini-Green II land needs to be marketed for its highest and best use. Sell

it at top prices to luxury housing developers, and builders of market-rate apartments and affordable units. Only 20% of this land should be developed for Section-8 housing. The city does not need to experiment with warehousing poverty in high rises again.

If the land were sold at appraised prices today, imagine how many thousands more affordable and Section 8 units could be developed scattered across the city.

Looking forward with the new plan for the rebirth of Cabrini-Green, a veteran Old Town resident made the following suggestion: "Just like Chicago police and firefighters are required to live within the city limits, Chicago Housing Authority employees should be required to reside in a CHA project, which they and/or their superiors approve as safe and habitable."

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

HEARTLAND from p. 3

evitable.

"I just can't in good conscience walk away," Cannon told Steinberg in 2024. "People need to be fed. They need to be housed. Food is medicine, as it's always been..."

What will happen now with the closure of Heartland's food pantries and health clinics? Steinberg placed the blame squarely where it belongs in an email to this reporter. "Lori Cannon has always been a front-line fighter, back to the darkest days of AIDS, and it's sad that while she was busy hustling to get food into the mouths of hungry people, the people tasked with maintaining Heartland let it fall down around her."

"I can't pretend to be privy to the complexities of the collapse," Steinberg continued. "But a well-tended organization would not just implode like that. My heart breaks for Lori, because this is her life's work. But I also know she's a tough old bird, and that she and the team she has assembled around her will pick themselves up and continue the fight, alone if necessary, as they always have."

Cannon insists neither the implosion of Heartland nor the nation's lurch toward increasing intolerance will affect anything. Stay tuned for new pantry developments.

Full disclosure. This reporter volunteered at Lori's food pantry for eight years until 2012.

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North Township Real Estate For Sale

<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>191919 ----- 121212 -----</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>LINDA RAWLINGS, AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN REITER AKA CAROLYN T. REITER, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF PAUL REITER AKA PAUL M. REITER, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PAUL REITER AKA PAUL M. REITER, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PAUL REITER AKA PAUL M. REITER, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF CAROLYN REITER AKA CAROLYN T. REITER, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN REITER AKA CAROLYN T. REITER, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN REITER AKA CAROLYN T. REITER, DECEASED, BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, CITY OF CHICAGO, LINDA RAWLINGS, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>DEVISEES OF ALBERT WAYNE TOWNSEND, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ALBERT WAYNE TOWNSEND, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF ALBERT WAYNE TOWNSEND, DECEASED AND FIRST-KEY MORTGAGE, LLC Defendant</p> <p>TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST 2019-3, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>LINDA RAWLINGS AS THE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN A. REITER AKA CAROLYN T. REITER; LINDA RAWLINGS; BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, CITY OF CHICAGO; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ALBERT WAYNE TOWNSEND; UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.</p> <p>17 CH 386 consolidated with 22 CH 4438 Calendar 60 NOTICE OF SALE</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on March 12, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-33-206-018-0000. Commonly known as 2107 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614.</p> <p>The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.</p> <p>For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Altman, Strautins & Kromm, LLC d/b/a Kluever Law Group, 200 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1880, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (312) 236-0077. SPS001441-22FC1 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13259915</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION Parkway Bank and Trust Company Plaintiff vs.</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>LV Halsted, LLC, an Illinois Limited Liability Company, LV Halsted, LLC-Series A, an Illinois Limited Liability Company, LV Halsted, LLC-Series B, an Illinois Limited Liability Company; LV Halsted, LLC-Series C, an Illinois Limited Liability Company; LV Halsted, LLC-Series D, an Illinois Limited Liability Company; Logan Ventures Manager, LLC, an Illinois Limited Liability Company; Logan Ventures 1, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; Peter Smolenski; Stanley M. Pillman; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Defendant 24 CH 3002 NOTICE OF SALE</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on March 11, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: LOT 49 I PIN(S): 14-33-313-030-0000 1623 N. HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614 LOT 50 I PIN(S): 14-33-313-029-0000 1625 N. HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614 PIN(S): 14-33-313-028-0000 1629 N. HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>60614 LOT 52 PIN(S): 14-33-313-027-0000 1631 N. HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614. The properties may be made available for inspection by contacting Mr. Daniel Hyman, 312-338-3003.</p> <p>The real estate is: four separate buildings consisting of mixed use commercial and residential buildings. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.</p> <p>For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Latimer LeVay Fyock LLC, 55 West Monroe Street, Suite 1100, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 422-8000. 72001-716 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13259912</p> <p>050505 -----</p> <p>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</p>
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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. Plaintiff, -v.- MARILYN CROSS, ARTHUR L. CROSS, CITIFINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MALIBU EAST CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 17 CH 001326 6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #37H CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 19, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 20, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #37H, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-215-017-1399 The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse.</p> <p>Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale with-</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>out 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. 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</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>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, 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 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 Attorney File No. 14-17-00498 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 17 CH 001326 TJSC#: 45-359 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 # 17 CH 001326 13260915</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff, -v.- ANITA VELJI, AZIZ VELJI, SHORELINE TOWERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2024 CH 06879 6301 N SHERIDAN RD APT 3R CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 13, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 17, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6301 N SHERIDAN RD APT 3R, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-203-011-1019 The real estate is improved with a residence. 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 of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>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. 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CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-24-04495 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2024 CH 06879 TJSC#: 45-50 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 06879 13260839</p> <p>191919 ----- 121212 ----- 050505 -----</p> <p>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</p>
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Fundraising campaign underway for Trebes Park

The Trebes Park Advisory Council is now raising funds for Trebes Park, 2250 N. Clifton Ave., for the work that is now underway and on track to be completed by this Spring.

In preparation for the newly renovated park, the Advisory Council is kicking off a campaign to raise funds to support various initiatives, including more programming and supplemental maintenance not covered by the Park District.

This campaign is seeking donations of \$500 or \$1,000. All contributors will receive an engraved brick in the new walkway leading through the garden.

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Pet adoption event Feb. 22

Chicago Animal Care and Control [CACC] has announced the return of its annual "Love is in the Air" adoption event, offering fee-waived adoptions for all available pets, on Saturday, Feb. 22 at the CACC shelter located at 2741 S. Western. The dedicated staff and volunteers will be available to help adopters find the right match and ensure a successful transition for both pet and adopter.

Adoption fees are also being waived all month long for long-term residents who have been at the shelter for 30 days or more, giving these pets a chance of finding homes.

All adoptable pets are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and ready to go home the same day. Adoptions are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early.

make a donation via credit card and provide your desired inscription by visiting <https://trebespark.com/donate/> by March 1. The reason for the deadline is to install bricks before the grand opening. For more information write to trebespark@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

Back room, cigar smoking swipe



This Fern Hill building project has become a shell game between the community, Ald. Brian Hopkins and Fern Hill.

Ald. Hopkins invites the community to share thoughts, and meetings are held with masses turning out.

Fern Hill claims more housing is needed with less cars, and like a sheep in clothing it's all a deception.

The community expresses a compromise to add housing but on a smaller scale. Not good enough!

After the shells are moved for the last couple years the truth is, it was all planned out and fixed from the beginning. Winning ball goes to Fern Hill. Losers, the community of people that have kept Old Town amazing.

I'll just call it the demolition of our beloved Old Town.

Mary Jo Parks
Old Town

Spreading misinformation, presenting baseless rumors as facts are unacceptable

Recent news coverage of the proposed Old Town Canvas project has focused on the divergence of opinion within the community regarding the merits of the downsized compromise version that I now support. Unfortunately, two key points of emphasis in the Feb. 12 edition of this publication are simply untrue.

First, the notion that there exists a "secret plan" to redevelop the Piper's Alley site is nonsense, and it is highly irresponsible of the writers to include such an implication with no evidence to back it up, aside from baseless rumors they claim to have heard. In fact, the evidence points to the opposite conclusion.

Because Piper's Alley and the Fern Hill site happen to fall within the same Planned Development [PD] boundaries (as they have since PD89 was created in 1974) the owners of Piper's Alley could have sought additional development rights as part of the current Planned Development amendment, if that is what they wanted. But they did not attempt to do so, and have indicated they have no such plans for the future. Furthermore, the newly amended site plan under the revised PD explicitly states that the number of

residential units permitted on the Piper's Alley site is zero. Not only can they not build a tower, they can't add even a single apartment to the existing space.

The second point of misinformation is the demonstrably false claim that the revised proposal does not represent a significant reduction in the overall scope and density of the project. To arrive at this assumption, opponents claim to have knowledge that the reduced tower was what Fern Hill secretly wanted all along, and is therefore not really a compromise. Putting aside the absurdity of this straw man argument, I can assure you that Fern Hill had strong financial incentive to motivate their intention of attempting to gain approval of the larger plan that was

discussed in detail at the January 9, 2025 community meeting. For reference, the larger plan featured a 480' structure, 500 dwelling units, 450 parking spaces, and a net combined square footage of 596,000. It was only after I publicly announced my opposition to the scope of this plan that Fern Hill's architects had no choice but to return to the drawing board and redesign a 379' structure containing 349 units, 339 parking spaces, at a net combined square footage of 540,000.

These reductions will be locked in via the zoning amendment and are not negotiable. Together, they represent a significant reduction in the overall size of the project.

The project represents an investment of over \$225 million

into Chicago's economy, \$10 million in new annual tax revenue to help with our growing structural deficit, the creation of over 1,000 construction jobs, and a commitment by the developer to contribute significant sums toward traffic mitigation and other public benefits.

As we proceed through the City Council's review and approval process, I welcome continued public comments from opponents and supporters alike, but spreading misinformation and presenting baseless rumors as confirmed facts are unacceptable tactics that have no place in a reasonable debate.

Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd]

EXPLAIN from p. 1

Guidepost Montessori also operates schools in Lincoln Park, Old Town, Wicker Park and in Evanston. Guidepost Montessori schools are accredited by or in accreditation candidacy with Cognia, American Montessori Society, Middle States, National Assoc. of Education for the Young Children, and Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges.

Current City of Chicago regulations provide special limitations on school proximity, and there is no avenue for relief from the distance proximity requirements. The ZBA appears to have ignored that regulation in voting to approve the license.

Yet this newspaper secured certain documents, circulating among residents, that were released by the DPD on Dec. 10, 2024, that included an email from the Zoning Administrator, Patrick Murphy, dated April 18, 2024, where he asks: "Do we have definitive information affirming this facility qualifies as a school?" The respondent, Ranjeev Mohip, Assistant Corporate Counsel, Chicago Dept. of Law, replied "Yes."

The remaining entirety of that response is completely redacted.

This inexplicable decision allowed the subsequent hearing on Sept. 20, 2024, where ZBA Board member Helen Shiller cast the deciding vote to allow a cannabis dispensary to operate at what appeared to be an illegal location.

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That location employed the services of Shiller's son, Brendan Shiller. Appeals for an ethics investigation have gone unanswered.

The deciding vote allowed her son to move forward in working to establish a legally-licensed pot-selling retailer near an existing elementary school.

During a hearing on Aug. 16, 2024, as reported in the ZBA Report on Proceedings, Jim Banks, the attorney for GP Greenhouse, read from a letter from the City of Chicago dated Jan. 5, 2023, that "according to [the city's] records, and the information provided, with your request, there are no schools within 500 feet of 620 N. Fairbanks."

As a result of that letter, GP and Banks filed an appeal in response to the Zoning Administrator decision voiding their Special Use Application.

Banks testified that "the evidence shown is clear that [Guidepost Montessori] is in fact a day care, and not a school. Should you agree with us, it would allow us to then come back and present special use application to the [ZBA]."

One doesn't need a vast understanding of law to see the disregard for the Zoning Ordinance in the ZBA's decision. Perhaps that is why the DPD has withheld publishing their decision now for over five months - and counting - after they wrote it, perhaps hoping to avoid direct scrutiny and the ability to appeal.

As this newspaper has reported previously, the city attempted to cover-up information that definitively affirmed that this was an illegal location and endeavor.

Since we began reporting on this, the Zoning Board has also mysteriously removed all public record on their website regarding the August hearing.

Most recently this newspaper received official documents in a Freedom of Information Act request where the content in those notes were entirely blacked out.

Now the Illinois Attorney General has compelled the DPD to defend their actions and decisions under the intent of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. We and our readers now wait to see how the state rules once they review the facts in this matter.

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