

To shorten winter,
borrow some money due in spring.
— W. J. Vogel

NEWS-STAR

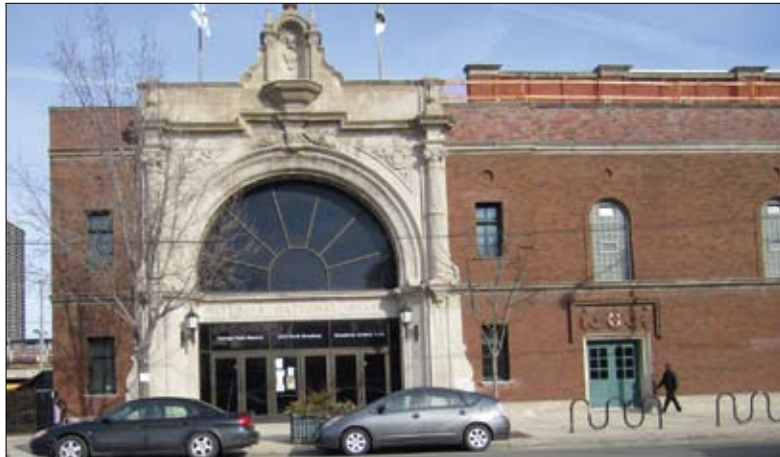
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NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

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(L) Last July 48th Ward residents rallied against the city's decision to remove programs and activities from the Broadway Armory. (R) Located along Broadway and Thorndale Ave. in Edgewater the Armory spans 2.33 acres and is the Chicago Park District's largest indoor recreational facility. In 2023, it was one of CPD's most active field houses serving over 1,000 residents every week and the only field house serving Edgewater residents.

Residents fed up, seek return of Broadway Armory public programs

Food service contract over, is city emptying facility prior to six-month review?

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY BOB KITSOS

Many North Side residents and Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] want to see the 'pilfered' programs and services returned to the Broadway Armory Park, 5917 N. Broadway. Against citizen's wishes, the programs came to a halt last August when the iconic armory became a migrant shelter. At the time, City Hall officials had promised park users a six-month evaluation by city officials. That evaluation has not yet taken place. The six-month period passed on Feb. 1.

Meanwhile, there is broad opacity as to how many migrants are still housed at the Broadway Armory. Rumors coming from on site staff claim that the Armory is now being emptied out of migrants, and that less than 100 remain on site now, while others say there are still about 350 on

site. The local alderman recently told one source the number stands at 356.

The last published food service contract ran from Dec. 1, 2023 to Jan. 15, 2024, and called for 350 people getting two meals and a snack every day. The city has not said if that contract has been renewed.

The restoration of programs at Broadway Armory, a Chicago Park District [CPD] facility, is spearheaded by the 48th Ward Work Group on the Broadway Armory Park, which was formed at the request of Edgewater block clubs and resident associations. The Work Group is composed of representatives of the Edgewater community and Broadway Park users and coordinated with the 48th ward staff and Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth.

Troy McMillan, a work group participant, said, "The goal of the Work Group is to return the Broadway Armory Park field house to its Edgewater community residents. [This would offer] the recreation, education, cultural

enrichment, and community engagement activities, classes, programs, and regional events that the fieldhouse provided prior to the abrupt shutdown of the Broadway Armory Park."

Last summer Edgewater residents pushed back against city leaders when they canceled park district programs almost at a moment's notice to make way for hundreds of migrants pouring into Chicago. And now with the lack of a promised six-month evaluation, residents and park users are losing patience.

Impact report

A report by the 48th Ward Work Group finds that the city's decision to take the Broadway Armory Park out of public use affected over 1,000 weekly park users and shut down an important community center in the heart of the North Side.

The Work Group's analysis of CPD programs and enrollment data, which was provided

ARMORY see p. 12

Alderman OK's new homeless shelter on Wilson

What's old is new: Uptown is back to concentrated poverty

Ald. Angela Clay [46th] announced on Feb. 16 that she is supporting the effort to open up a new homeless men's shelter at 1140 W. Wilson Ave. in Uptown.

The public announcement was made in her weekly newsletter almost at the last minute before the plan would go before the city Zoning Board of Appeal [ZBA].

The homeless shelter will be housed in the FLATS Bachelor Hotel at Wilson and Clifton. Once open, it would be the fourth homeless shelter located in the direct vicinity, fostering concerns that public officials are once again warehousing homeless in Uptown, and concentrating poverty in the vicinity of Wilson and Broadway.

The idea gained broad oppo-

sition by nearby residents when not even one of the surrounding neighborhood block clubs supported the proposal.

But a public legal notice of the published agenda of the ZBA showed that the requested zoning change may have been a done deal from the start. Items that show up on the ZBA agenda ahead of meetings are typically set for approval.

Under Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration, the aldermanic prerogative is back, big as ever. That prerogative gives broad powers to aldermen to manage by fiat zoning decisions within their wards. So nothing lands on the ZBA agenda, or in the City Council, without first gaining the support of the local aldermen.

There are still further milestones for the new shelter to clear, including receiving a special use

SHELTER see p. 12

Preview party Feb. 24 for new Rogers Park food co-op

Wild Onion Market is ready to show themselves off to the community, and they're hosting a preview party Feb. 24 to prove it.

Just a few months from opening for business, the Wild Onion Market grocery co-op has invited the public to their Preview Party on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Board member Lisa Gibbons will be on hand to show off the new full-service grocery co-op at 7007 N. Clark St.

Wild Onion Market is a locally-owned grocery will serve communities in the Rogers Park area

and in Evanston.

Their Preview Party is a free event open to all. Due to limited space, however, registering ahead of time is requested.

The event will feature a presentation about the co-op, tours of the store, and a chance to meet prospective local vendors. Refreshments will be provided.

The store is now fully equipped with all its shelving, refrigeration units and cashier counters in place. It also features distinctive

CO-OP see p. 12

Some Heartland Housing sites find new owners

Hollywood House, Town Hall, and San Miguel properties saved

BY BOB ZULEY

Part two of a two-part series

As has been broadly reported in Chicago, Heartland Housing - a division of the Heartland Alliance - has fallen on hard times. Last week we reported on how the sudden arrival of tens of thousands of illegal immigrants in Chicago, most lacking in resources to pay for their housing, healthcare or even nutrition, overwhelmed some charity-driven organizations with a dramatic increase in new expenses but no new revenue.

When the federal government chose to open America's southern border in early 2021, while at the same time providing little to no resources to help pay service

providers for providing care and housing to recent arrivals, it created a financial crunch for local governments and non-for-profit agencies. And service providers like Heartland Alliance were caught in the middle. Today, the broad failure of the federal government to properly manage the border, immigration and customs - as delineated in the U.S. Constitution - has now created a broad matrix of problems in America's urban areas.

In Chicago, city officials worried that a major provider of affordable housing stock in the city was in dire financial trouble, and oversaw a court-ordered receivership for Heartland Housing's portfolio of 1,178 affordable housing units in the summer of 2023.

A receiver is a court-appointed entity responsible for the property of others.

Receiverships are a remedy of

last resort involving agencies that fail to comply with statutory obligations to populations that rely on those agencies for their basic human rights.

Some of their North Side housing sites include Hollywood House, 5700 N. Sheridan Rd.; The Leland, 1207 W. Leland Ave.; Parkway Apartments, 712 W. Diversey Pkwy; San Miguel Apartments, 907 W. Argyle St., and; Town Hall Apartments, 3600 N. Halsted St.

Those properties Heartland Housing has will soon be taken over by other affordable housing providers, reports The Chicago Tribune's Brian J. Rogal.

NHP Foundation, a New York City-based national housing provider with offices in Chicago, formed a partnership with Voice of the People Uptown Inc. to acquire the San Miguel Apartments and recapitalize it.

The 71-unit apartment building is described as a "gem in the market" by Voice of the People executive director Michael Rohrbeck, and one of the few still providing homes to very low-income people.

Full Circle Communities, an affordable housing provider based in Chicago owns and operates about 1,600 units throughout the midwest. Full Circle CEO Joshua Wilmoth told Rogal they are poised to take over Hollywood House as a general partner in the next 60 to 90 days.

Full Circle Communities also plans on taking over Town Hall Apartments, a 79-unit project including the former Town Hall police station, which is a landmark property.

Thresholds, a social service agency, owns and operates about 800 affordable housing units, many in former single-room

occupancy hotels and group homes. CEO Mark Ishaug said Thresholds may take over one of Heartland Health's properties.

Former 48th Ward Ald. Harry Osterman fielded many complaints about poor service from Hollywood House residents, saying Heartland Housing should have told city officials about the deficit much earlier. This newspaper reported on many of those problems, despite the broad denials from Heartland officials that the problems reported to this newspaper by their own tenant clients even existed.

"They were not forthcoming," Osterman told the Tribune. "Heartland Housing never came out and said, 'we're in trouble,' until it was too late."

Can someone of moral influence please open a door.. or window?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

There's a lot going on in Chicago. Can you feel the pull? There's a huge undertow. Don't let it sweep you up or suck you in.

None of this is meant to frighten the reader. But, rather, to warn, and to irritate and annoy the cleaver "wrong-doers." We'll be OK.

We have been receiving a strong response concerning our coverage of the Gestapo Art being held hostage by Art Institute President James Rondeau. Everyone seemed to agree that Mayor Richard J. Daley (back in the day) would have stepped up and intervened. But not before he would have shamed the Art Institute of Chicago [AIC] staff trying to assist Rondeau in his very "Vichy-like" response to their seized Nazi art.

Perhaps the time has come for us to catalogue the cast of AIC enablers who make this Teutonic

response possible. Shouldn't we keep our eyes peeled, so as AIC people start to abandon ship we can make sure that they won't easily erase their goose-stepping past? We hear clearing a guilty conscience can provide better sleep.

There 's always room for 'mistakes were made' and misunderstandings. But don't we have to draw the line with the known Nazi art theft deniers? It's all too Wagnerian.

Just caught a film last week about Adolf Eichmann, the German-Austrian official of the Nazi Party, an officer of the Schutzstaffel, and one of the major organizers of the Holocaust. He made it all the way to Buenos Aires, Argentina after World War II. Until he was discovered by the Israelis who put together a brilliant plan to get him out of Argentina.

It worked. He was brought to Israel and put on trial. Found guilty, he was then executed.

The AIC can't simply bluster their way through the litany of thefts from the art collections of murdered Jews of the Holocaust. How can we expect the ordinary civility of everyday life to be extended across Chicago's zip codes by its people who do not see this reflected in our public institutions?

After all, this is not some greasy ward committeeman's office. The AIC is [was?] a world-renowned institution. As the kids say, "WTF?"

Some have suggested that leaders of wide moral conscience might be asked to intervene. Not as art experts, but as experts in living the moral life. Leaders of the heart whose living reflects the moral way of Qur'an, Torah, or Gospels. Maybe Chicago's Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington D.C., would be good convening such a commission. So too would Rabbi David Saperstein of Beverly Hills, CA, and Hasan Minhaj, Senior Correspondent from the Daily Show, they're brilliant, and have a wide awareness of culture and character.

Can the leadership at the AIC not expand the struggle to allow

our actions to brim more with reason and intelligence? Free our intellects from the tired evils of the past? Can we not nourish each other by neutralizing the dark dangers of the human past through the freedom of generous living? By doing right?

No one in Chicago should be proud because the museum leadership is ignoring the financial balance of surrendering Nazi art. Can we put a moral price tag on the restoration of art that was once the cause of some of the most diabolical murders in human history?

Who at the AIC can look Chicago's Jews in the eye? Who can ever restore our righteousness before the face of God?

Perhaps the rest of Chicago could stand firm on our American soil and act as patriots, if the AIC leadership won't.

Does AIC membership necessarily have to be about the financial dichotomy that goes back to the death camps?

Can someone of moral influence please open a door or window through which this soul-crippling human brokenness might pass?

Can we not struggle for solutions, say for the next for 40 days and nights?

Can the homeless not lead us? Can those hungry for bread not lift us across the vicious hungers for a lost family's lost treasure?

Can the struggle to let go the egregious art thefts of Hitler's damaged humanity not energize AIC workers to expunge the brutal war crimes they get shackled to by the world, and do the right thing?

Cold coffee can be no more bitter. A salted fish no more hard. The absence of sugar no more sour. And the stabbing wound no more painful than the last train to Treblinka or Auschwitz.

There's a huge undertow. Don't let it sweep you up or suck you in.

DEPAUL LIBRARY: Former President of Ireland, **Mary Robinson**, will now have her treasured personal library in Ireland transferred to DePaul University's Library. DePaul, with the assistance of some local financial support from the Irish Fellowship Club and the St. Patrick's Day Parade Organization, generously helped to fund the acquisition. DePaul operates the largest Irish Studies Program in the nation.

DONE: With enrollment dwindling and facing a bleak balance sheet, last week the Columbia College President resigned. **Kwang-Wu Kim** had to fall on the sword in no small part due to the elimination and reduction of programs and classes in its media programs. Kim announced he will be leav-

ing his post early, on July 1. On Feb. 9, the college said its deficit is so bad that even tenured faculty are facing the axe, so resumés are being freshened up.

Kim, a classically-trained musician, never understood the school was a leader in training generations of media professionals, many of whom worked behind the scenes in film, TV and radio. In 2019 he had proudly opened the college's first-ever student center. The project cost \$50 million and the interest alone on that project has been strangling the school ever since. Prior to his tenure, enrollment had peaked at more than 12,000 students. It has now crashed to less than half. The college is the largest non-government property owner in the South Loop and is sitting on lots of valuable real estate. The finance sharks are circling.

Among those who attended Columbia were Inside Publications' **Pat Butler**, former Tribune columnist **John Kass**, WGN's **Dean Richards**, TV/Radio legend **Bob Sirott**, CBS News national radio reporter **Jennifer Keiper** and even **Pat Sajak** and journalist **Megyn Kelly**.

JACK HIGGINS RIP: Pulitzer Prize-winning Sun-Times cartoonist **Jack Higgins** has died at 69. He was a Chicago treasure from the era when newspapers believed their readers were worth the cost of art and humor and truth. You can't sketch a lie. He had wit and artistry. A relic from the era of **Royko**, **Siskel** and **Ebert**. And the Billy Goat. **St. Thomas More**, pray for us.

BERGHOFF: Congratulations to Berghoff on 125 years feeding Chicago and brewing beers of distinction. My father, **Mossey O'Gorman**, loved the Berghoff when we were children. Our family ate there often on Saturdays for lunch. My father loved the beers. We went to be swallowed up in the wonder of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 of which the Berghoff was a Chicago expression. The Berghoff Family is still with us.

CARTIER: Famed international jeweler Cartier has moved into the former renovated Barney's at Oak and Rush streets, in fresh elegance and delightfully renewed architecture. **Todd S. Davis** and his adorable pooch must have been the first customers. And we are promised that **Balenciaga** will be opening soon just next door.

TREASURE ALL: Architectural Artifacts after 40 years has announced it is closing, relocating to Texas. Owner **Stuart Grannen** says he'd like to sell everything before April 1. Long a Chicago enterprise of expansive

proportions and fresh ideas, its junk shop persona taught Chicago how to be imaginative and artistically creative in DIY decorating.

RESTAURANTS OPEN: 32-year-Old Mia Francesca, 3311 N. Clark, soon to reopen. Owner **Scott Harris** is back in the kitchen, thrilled to re-introduce it to the neighborhood with a new menu and new interior. Further north it's "Cheezborger, Cheezborger, Cheezborger," as The Billy Goat is set to open its doors in Wrigleyville! Their new location will be at 3724 N. Clark. No Coke, Pepsi.

PAY UP: Since Mayor **Brandon Johnson's** inauguration in May 2023, his motorcade has accumulated eight speeding tickets and six red-light tickets. Only two have been paid. Tickets for thee and not for me? Will he blame his wife and kid's for not paying the tab?

THE IRISH NETWORK: The 20th Gala Irish Network Ball was standing room only in the Drake's Gold Coast Room with a curious collection of entrepreneurial Irish, including Chicago Cut's **Matt Moore**, **Tim Pickett**, **Pennie Taylor**, **Eamonn Cummins** and 2024 Honoree Michael Clune.

CORNED BEEF: Eamonn Cummins and St. Patrick's Parade Queen, **Grace O'Connor**, were front and center at the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with our friends, Park Ridge Police Officer and President of The Illinois Emerald Society **Daniel Kearns** and the lovely **Paula Curtin Svadlena** of Aer Lingus. Also present Parade Grand Marshal **Peter O'Brien**, Irish Consul General **Kevin Byrne** and Irish Fellowship President **James F. Coyne**.

SEIJI OZAWA: I could never

MORAL see p. 8

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Columbia College president resigning, school enrollment tanks, finances crash

Columbia College President Kwang-Wu Kim has informed the school's Board of Trustees he will step down as President and CEO on July 1.

Additionally, during Kim's President's State of the College address he announced \$19 million in administrative cuts for the upcoming fiscal year, after projections that anticipate a smaller enrollment in Fall 2024.

This newspaper was provided with several copies of the school's official announcement memo to faculty, students and staff by a noted school alum during an unrelated media event at Navy Pier.

This source - who is a well-known member of Chicago media - noted that prior to Kim's tenure, enrollment had peaked at more than 12,000 students. It has now fallen to less than half that.

A Feb. 15 email from Derek Brinkley,

assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions, stated that Columbia's Census Day was Feb. 6 and that Columbia's spring enrollment stands at 5,757 students - a 12% decrease from their fall 2023 enrollment of 6,529.

"Our overall fall-to-spring persistence (undergraduate and graduate students combined) went from 85.6% in Spring 2023 to 84.7% this spring," says Brinkley.

The Office of the Provost has been asked to cut its budget substantially. "I am working with my team on proposals that address the seriousness of our fiscal circumstances," said Marcella David, Senior Vice President and Provost. "I look forward to discussions within the Budgetary Advisory Board on the planning we are developing."

The loss of student tuition has created a financial crisis that will require a work out plan, similar perhaps to one that would

be instituted by a receiver on a financially insolvent company or organization. That plan, expected to be submitted by President Kim to the school's Board by Feb. 28, would be intended to return the organization to solvency.

On Feb. 15, the Columbia Faculty Union (CFAC Local 6602), announced that the Provost has directed Deans to reduce 304 course sections over the fall, spring, and J-term of the '24-25 academic year. The distribution of reductions is as follows: School of Media Arts, 97 sections; the School of Fine and Performing Arts, 126 sections, and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 81 sections.

The union said they will be in budget meetings with the chairman of the board to negotiate new terms. "Our union is actively reviewing contractual language, pursuing impact bargaining, and considering

all legal avenues related to these proposed changes."

The Columbia Board has appointed Jerry Tarrer, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, to serve as Interim President and CEO on July 2, upon President Kim's departure.

"President Kim has been a steady and exemplary leader of Columbia for more than a decade," said Board Chair John Holmes. "We are fortunate that he has agreed to lead the work developing the plan to forge an even brighter future for the college. President Kim's many accomplishments include dramatically improving student outcomes and support services, building the Student Center and setting the stage for the next chapter in our College's strong history."

But it is the \$50 million in debt taken

COLUMBIA see p. 10

Pay your property tax bill online to avoid risk of check-washing fraud

BY MARIA PAPPAS

As the March 1 due date approaches for Cook County property owners to pay their First Installment 2023 tax bills, I encourage people to pay online. It's more convenient - and much safer.

People who still pay their bills by mailing a check are at risk of falling prey to check-washing fraud. That's when thieves intercept checks from the mail and alter them to steal money from bank accounts.



Maria Pappas

Paying your taxes online at cookcountytreasurer.com is easy - and free. There is no fee to pay online.

My office collects about \$18 billion a year in property taxes from owners of 1.8 million parcels. We've embraced technological advancements, including adding the option to pay online at no cost, during my 25 years leading this office.

When I first walked into the office, \$30 million in unopened checks sat in cardboard boxes on the floor. Some were there for 12 weeks. The undeposited funds earned no interest for Cook County. I immediately set up a lockbox at a bank and within the first year interest earned went

from \$4.8 million to nearly \$19 million.

I thought of that box or uncashed checks when I saw recent reports about a surge in check-washing fraud in Cook County and across the country. This newspaper and several other news outlets have reported on recent incidents of thieves stealing checks from mailboxes. Those reports should serve as a warning to those who still mail checks to pay bills.

Those thieves typically soak checks in chemicals. That allows them to remove names and increase dollar amounts. Then they cash the checks.

That's what happened to Pedro and Dinah Zaragoza of Cicero, CBS2 Chicago recently reported. Dinah, 88, wrote and mailed a \$62 check to Nicor July 15. The check was stolen and \$4,200 was withdrawn from their bank account. Their bank eventually refunded the money after reporters inquired on the couple's behalf.

Police and the U.S. Postal Service Inspection Service recently warned residents of Winnetka and Glenview to take caution after dozens of residents were scammed by check-washing incidents, the Chicago Tribune reported. The Postal Inspection Service provides information on ways to protect yourself from check-washing fraud.

You can avoid the risk of check-washing fraud by transferring funds electronically to pay your property tax bill. Simply visit cookcountytreasurer.com and click on the blue box that says Pay Online for Free. When you search using your address or

Property Index Number, a picture of your property should appear. That tells you that you've found the correct parcel.

You should see amounts due for Tax Year 2023 that are billed in 2024. Click on a small blue box that says "Pay Now." You can pay for free from a checking or savings account using E-Check, an Automated Clearing House debit.

You'll be prompted to provide your bank routing number and bank account number. You will also be asked to provide contact

information, including a phone number and email address. You should receive an email acknowledging the transaction.

The website offers a secure way to pay your tax bills and avoid the risk of check-washing fraud. You can also use the website to discover if you're eligible for a refund because of previous overpayments or missed exemptions. Visit cookcountytreasurer.com to learn more.

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Optimism for North Side market rebound fizzles



The Home Front
by Don DeBat

With mortgage rates inching upwards towards 7% again, a forecasted rebound in Chicago's North Side resale-home market may have been premature, according to a new Baird & Warner report.

That's the cloudy pre-spring 2024 forecast from Baird & Warner's February Market Analysis, co-authored by Realtors John Irwin and Jackie Lafferty.

"Positive economic news of the past two months—including the possible stabilizing and lowering of interest rates—had many North Side real estate brokers optimistic about the market in 2024," said Baird & Warner Realtor Irwin.

"The influx of showing requests and growing attendance at open houses is a sign that the market is beginning to turn. However, we still have a way to go before we can expect a full rebound," Irwin said.

On Feb. 15, the Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgages nationwide averaged 6.77%, up from 6.64% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-loan average was 6.32%.

The average rate on a 15-year fixed-rate loan rose to 6.12% on Feb. 15, up from 5.90% a week earlier. A year ago, 15-year fixed loan average was 5.51%.

"Consumer prices rose more than expected, and mortgage rates increased last week," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "The economy has been performing well and rates may stay higher for longer, potentially slowing the spring home-buying season."

According to Freddie Mac data, mortgage applications to buy a home so far in 2024 are down in more than half of all states in the U.S. compared to a year earlier, Khater said.

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

Baird & Warner's January monthly market analysis detailed real estate compar-

tives in four neighborhood areas—the Near North Side, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center.

• **Home sales.** Transaction volume rose for the second consecutive month by 9.5% in Jan., 2024. For the first time in two years, all four neighborhood areas reported sales increases from 1.7% to 15.8%.

"Higher January sales volume was driven primarily by homes priced under \$500,000 and luxury residences priced from \$1 million to \$2 million," Irwin said. There was no change in homes priced over \$2 million, and a 6.5% decrease for dwellings priced between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

• **Home prices.** In Jan., 2024, home prices rose by 7.8% over the same month in 2023. Three of the four neighborhood areas reported price increases. Only Lakeview reporting a -9.2% decrease. Homes priced

over \$500,000 showed increases, while prices on homes priced under \$500,000 fell -2.7%.

"Traditionally, low-inventory levels significantly drive-up prices, but this has not been the case on Chicago's North Side in 2024," Irwin said. City numbers are lower than the Chicago suburbs and many cities across the country, he noted.

"As we head into the spring residential real-estate season, sellers should be careful not to fall victim to perceived market momentum," Irwin advised. "Homes need to be priced competitively to avoid extended market times and lower offers."

• **Listings.** In addition to interest-rate creep, historically low inventory levels are now the main obstacle to a real estate rebound. Inventory levels dropped 18.4% in



John Irwin and Jackie Lafferty.

FIZZLES see p. 10

Sale of school building, parking lot seems to have curbed attendance, doomed Our Lady of Lourdes

BY PETER VON BUOL

Whether visiting the homes of friends and family, going to Cubs games or other public events, even church services, the question always comes up: 'where can we park?'

The sale of the former school building of Our Lady of Lourdes, located across the street from the church at 4641 N. Ashland Ave., seems to have contributed to the upcoming closure of the church building itself, according to information posted on the website of St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Indeed, if you're tired of those pesky unannounced drops-ins by your nosy in-laws, an easy fix is moving to an area that has no easily accessible nearby public parking.

On its web-site, saintmarys.org, the parish posted a question about restrictions placed on the use of the former parking lot having an effect on attendance. However, the response did not even answer the question and instead gave reasons for the reduction of Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, 4640 N. Ashland Ave.

"Our Lady of Lourdes is a large church and can accommodate many worshippers. Historically, attendance at many Sunday Masses was rather low, and therefore, with limited priest help between the two worship



The sale of the former school building and adjacent parking lot located across the street from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, at 4641 N. Ashland Ave., seems to have contributed to the upcoming closure of the church building itself.

sites, it was necessary to consolidate Mass times. Despite numerous efforts to increase participation at the Sunday Masses over the last few years, Mass attendance has steadily dropped," according to a written statement posted on the site.

Dropping more dramatically is the broad disparity in the sale prices of two similar

North Side Archdioceses of Chicago properties.

South of Our Lady of Lourdes, at 1641-51 W. Diversey is the St. Bonaventure Cardinal Bernardin School. The Archdioceses of Chicago shows that late last year that property was sold by the Baum Realty Group for \$15 million. It included about two acres of property and two large buildings.

In Ravenswood, the former convent at 4637 N. Ashland, and the school building and parking lot at 4641 N. Ashland and 1519-1539 W. Leland Ave., we believe, appears to have sold to the same Limited Liability Corporation for about \$6.5 million. So it appears that there was an \$8 million premium paid for the Archdioceses' Diversey location over Ashland.

Due to the historic grotto on site, over the years Our Lady of Lourdes has become a pilgrimage site of sorts. The grotto was designed as a replica of the Grotto in

Lourdes, France, and also hence the reason for the church's name. It draws visitors from all-across the entire region. And the parking lot is a critical part of that pilgrimage.

Last year, the Archdiocese of Chicago sold the .74 acre site which included the former parish school and an adjacent 21,000 square foot parking lot to Honore Properties, 1038 N. Ashland Ave.

No-one with the best long-term interests of the church at heart would sell off the parking lot.

Honore Properties describes itself as a company that specializes in adaptive reuse of long-vacant properties into residences and commercial units. Company officials expect they will begin leasing residences at the old school in the summer.

"Our Lady of Lourdes needs over \$2 million in immediate repairs. There is no viable plan to raise that amount of money from our parishioners and still be able to maintain the church building for future capital needs," according to the written statement at the parish website.

"Our latest project in Ravenswood is set to breathe new life into the iconic Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, transforming it into a 42-unit residential apartments. Units will feature open floor plans, high ceilings, natural light, stainless steel appliances, front-loading laundry, smart thermostats, roller shades, and more," according to the website.

The drop-off in attendance resulted in fewer donations and have caused a significant operating deficit and which doomed the Lourdes building.

"Our Lady of Lourdes needs over \$2 million in immediate repairs. There is no viable plan to raise that amount of money from our parishioners and still be able to maintain the church building for future capital needs. According to last year's parish report, Lourdes incurred \$480,000 in operating expenses (which does include shared expenses of the entire parish) and

LOURDES see p. 10



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Tax fraud, IRS backlog

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Chicago consultant has been convicted of federal tax offenses for underreporting and failing to file federal income taxes.

On Feb. 12, a jury in U.S. District Court in Chicago convicted Annazette Collins, 61, of Chicago, on four tax counts, including two counts of willfully filing a false individual income tax return, one count of willfully failing to file a corporate income tax return, and one count of willfully failing to file an individual income tax return. The jury acquitted Collins on two other tax counts.



Annazette Collins

sentencing for June 21, 2024. Each felony count of filing a false individual income tax return is punishable by up to three years in federal prison. The misdemeanor counts of willfully failing to file individual or corporate income tax returns each carry a maximum sentence of one year in federal prison.

Evidence presented at trial revealed that Collins willfully filed a false individual tax return for the calendar years 2014 and 2015, and willfully failed to file an individual income tax return for the calendar year 2016.

Collins also willfully failed to file a corporate income tax return for the calendar year 2016 on behalf of her consult-

ing and lobbying business, Chicago-based Kournie Nicole Corp. Prior to operating her consulting business, Collins served in the Illinois General Assembly as a Representative and Senator.

The conduct for which Collins was convicted resulted in a federal tax loss of approximately \$86,000.

Meanwhile, in a blockbuster report that came out last week, the IRS admitted to having an unprocessed backlog of around 1 billion documents. Yes, that's billion with a 'B.'

Those documents include but aren't limited to Income Tax Returns, Payroll Tax Returns including W-2's, W-3's, 941's and 940's, 1099's, 1098's, and 1097's and amended or corrected returns.

We heard they had a ridiculously large backlog, but no one ever expected it to be

this large. But wait. There's more.

IRS Agents still process returns manually. They don't scan them in the way a normal company would to digitize a document. They still sit at computers and type in everything you put on a return.

IRS agents are complaining that it takes up to four weeks to process a paper return. And if they're going to type it in, one number at a time, it's no wonder. This does nothing but reinforce what some accountants have suggested now for years. While not encouraging filers to commit any tax-filing crimes, some tax preparers now suggest filers not file their taxes electronically. Taxpayers may just die of old age before an error is discovered by the IRS for those who file paper returns via the US mail.

Local COVID-19 lockdown resulted in 254% increase in Chicago babies born with syphilis

BY PETER VON BUOL

According to data compiled by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], Chicago experienced a dramatic increase in the number of reported cases of babies born with syphilis over the course of the five year period from 2018-2022.

In most instances, syphilis is a curable sexually-transmitted bacterial infection. However, when the infection is passed on to developing babies, the result can be fatal or can cause long-term health problems, including cognitive disabilities.

In 2022, there were 46 reported cases of babies born with the disease, a 254% since

2018 in which there were 13 reported cases. Syphilis was once thought to be cured in America.

The increase coincides with the COVID-19 lockdown, a time period in which patients were discouraged from seeing their medical doctors for routine check-ups. While expectant mothers are tested for syphilis, the lockdown and the fear which accompanied it caused many to skip routine doctor visits, only seeking medical help for emergencies.

During the lockdown, federal, state and local public health officials focused nearly all of its public health efforts on COVID-19, ignoring the possibility that a highly-treatable disease such as syphilis could

explode and have devastating effects on newborn babies.

The expectation of unintended consequences due to keeping people away from other medical services and exams during the lockdown was discussed, but local public officials never instituted any plan to deal with this known problem.

This sudden increase reversed the efforts of a 2015-2019 campaign by the Chicago Dept. of Public Health [CDPH] which had sought to eliminate congenital syphilis. Through surveillance and treatment, syphilis cases had steadily decreased throughout Chicago, despite an increase of cases reported nationally.

According to a report released by the

CDPH in December, the COVID-19 lockdown seems to be the primary culprit.

"The pandemic-associated increase in the number of congenital syphilis cases was likely not caused solely by an increase in cases of syphilis in females of reproductive age, and that the relative contribution of the different missed opportunities changed," according to the CDPH.

During a time period during which medical professionals encouraged telemedicine visits as a substitute for in-person visits, patients were also not having their blood drawn for blood tests which would have tested for syphilis.

SYPHILIS see p. 9

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Police Beat...

Robbery crews sweep across North Side, attacking some victims with clubs

Carloads of armed robbers swept across the North Side on Feb. 18, attacking victims and taking valuables, according to Chicago police reports. Some victims reported that the offenders struck them with club-like anti-theft devices car owners use to lock steering wheels.

The robberies began around 6:15 p.m. in the 6200 block of N. Leavitt. Two men were robbed of about \$2,000 in cash at that location. Minutes later, another robbery was reported in the 1500 block of W. Ardmore.

Around 7:20 p.m., a woman was struck in the head with a club-like object by a man who stole her phone in the 4500 block of N. Leavitt. Several witnesses, including an off-duty police officer, reported the attack. They described the robbers as two Black males wearing bandanas on their faces. Both stood 5'-8" to 5'-10" tall.

Another victim was robbed around the same time in the 5500 block of N. Rockwell. They said the offenders were three Black males wearing ski masks and black coats who fled in a black sedan. One of the black coats had red and white elements.

According to dispatch records, a woman called 911 to report that her daughter and her daughter's friend escaped a robbery attempt as they walked to the store near Cullom and Lincoln at about 7:45 p.m. Officers met with the girls, but the mother decided not to file a police report.

Before long, Chicago cops found a stolen Kia Rio abandoned in the 1700 block of W. Ainslie. Investigators believe the vehicle was used in at least some of the earlier robberies.

The robberies resumed a couple of hours later.

At about 9:45 p.m., a driver was parking in the 3300 block of N. Lamont when a white Kia Soul occupied by masked men tried to block him in. The driver, believing that they were about to be robbed or carjacked, sped away.

But a 66-year-old woman was not so lucky around 10:39 p.m. She was at the Chase Bank, 3225 W. Addison, when two men opened her driver's door and struck her with an object. They took her property and fled in a car, according to CPD. She was treated at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

Two more robberies were reported before the spree ended.

In the 2900 block of W. Peterson, two men drove up on a victim with guns around 11:30 p.m. He realized what was about to happen and ran away before they even got out of their car. At about the same time, two people were robbed at gunpoint by four men who displayed weapons, including a club-like object, at Rockwell and Lincoln.

While robberies soared 23% in Chicago last year, incidents are down 8% in 2024, according to CPD

records.

That's not the case in the four police districts where these robberies occurred. The police department's latest statistics report shows robberies are up 19% in the Albany Park 17th District; up 34% in the Town Hall 19th District; up 67% in the Lincoln 20th District; and up 105% in the Rogers Park 24th District.

Armed robberies

Chicago police issued a business alert about burglaries and robberies on the North Side. Four robberies occurred in which the offenders entered the business display a handgun and demand money out of the cash registers then flee the scene.

Incidents include one on the 3200 Block of W. Lawrence Ave., 6:04 p.m. Dec. 30, 2023; the 5600 Block of N. Ridge Ave., 7:45 p.m. Dec. 30, 2023; 5200 Block of N. Broadway Ave., 7:55 p.m. Feb. 7, and on the 1000 Block of W. Wilson Ave., 8:40 p.m. Feb. 7.

The offenders are two male, blacks 20-30 years of age, one wearing a black puffy coat, black hat with Nike swoosh, black jeans. The other is wearing black puffy coat with "Guess" emblem on the sleeve, black ski mask and black pants. The weapon used was a silver handgun.

Armed robbery suspect

tried to rob man while under police surveillance

A man suspected of committing a string of robberies in Chicago and Franklin Park tried to rob another victim while undercover surveillance officers were watching him in West Rogers Park last week.

Kevin Hodges, 35, of Hammond, was arrested in the 2200 block of W. Pratt on Feb. 13, moments after he allegedly tried to rob a 60-year-old man at a nearby gas station.

Chicago detectives recently attached a GPS tracker to Hodges' car after narrowing him down as a suspect in two other armed robberies, according to his CPD arrest report.

In one case, an armed robber took cash at gunpoint from a man at the BP gas station, 3159 W. Chicago Ave., on Nov. 11. The crime was caught on video, the report said. The other robbery also occurred at a gas station: the Citgo at 2959 W. Fulton around 8:45 p.m. on New Year's Eve. This time, surveillance video showed a gunman taking money from two victims.

The GPS tracker on Hodges' Chevy Malibu allegedly showed the vehicle was at a Burger King in Franklin Park when a gunman robbed two of the restaurant's patrons on Feb. 4. And, the report said, Hodges received a traffic citation from a Cook County sheriff's police officer a few blocks from the restaurant shortly before the robbery.

CPD and Franklin Park cops began a physical surveillance operation.

On Tuesday, Franklin Park police followed Hodges to a gas station in the 6800 block of N. Western Ave. and saw him walk up to a 60-year-old man, the report said. The man went "running away in fear," and the cops moved in.

According to Hodges' arrest report, the man told the officers that a stranger displayed a gun and ordered him to hand over his wallet. The cops detained Hodges nearby. He was wearing the same clothing as the Burger King robber. Police said they found a plastic toy gun wrapped in



Left to right: Carlos Carreno-Carreno, Yonnier Guasamucare Garcia, Fernando Loyo-Rodriguez, and Wilker Gutierrez Sierra.

Four migrants robbed and strangled a man on the Pink Line

Four men who live at a migrant shelter in downtown Chicago have been charged with robbing and strangling a passenger on the CTA Pink Line, officials say.

The foursome attacked and robbed the 48-year-old man while riding a train near the Kostner station around 4:45 p.m. Feb. 17, a CPD news release said. Chicago cops swooped in and arrested the suspects about 45 minutes later at the Pulaski station.

They were scheduled for detention hearings at the Leighton Criminal

tape next to his car.

So far, prosecutors have only charged Hodges with the attempted robbery of the Feb. 13th victim, according to court records. Judge Kelly McCarthy detained Hodges at the state's request.

Rash of commercial burglaries at plumbing, electrical businesses

Police are warning local businesses of a rash of robberies at plumbing and electrical businesses on the North Side. In each incident, multiple subjects forcibly enter into Plumbing and/or Electrical businesses and work vans/vehicles by breaking doors and windows to gain access.

Once inside, the offenders remove property contained therein, including plumbing and electrical tools/equipment. Incidents include work vehicles parked at location of business and on residential streets. These incidents have occurred during the early morning hours.

Incidents include one on the 4300 block of N. Lincoln 6 a.m. Jan. 18; 1100 block of W. Webster on Jan. 18-Feb. 13, from 6 p.m. to 12:55 p.m.; 1100 block of W. Webster 12:30 p.m. Feb. 6; 3900 block of N. Central 2:02 a.m. Feb. 7; 4300 block of N. Lincoln on 6 a.m. Feb. 7; 4300 block of N. Lincoln 4:16 a.m. Feb. 12; 4200 block of W. Hirsh 1:28 a.m. Feb. 14; 1700 block of W. Hirsh 2:02 a.m. Feb. 14; 3800 block of W. Chicago 2:15 a.m. Feb. 14; 800 block of N. Keystone 2:30 a.m. Feb. 14, and on the 1100 block of W. Webster 3:14 a.m. Feb. 14.

The offenders are described as one to three African American males, wearing dark clothing.

Anyone with information on these crimes may contact the Bureau of Detectives-Property Crimes Area Three at 312-744-8263, Area Four at 312-746-8253 and Area Five 312-746-7394. Refer to pattern # 24-CWP-011.

Two men charged with robbing victims during social media marketplace meet-ups

Prosecutors have accused two more Chicago men of robbing people during meet-ups where the victims were expecting to complete an online transaction. The men, charged separately for different holdups, are the fourth and fifth people charged this month with robbing people during social media meet-ups.

Travelle Logan, 19, and an accomplice who remains at large robbed a 19-year-old man after they went to his home to buy a PlayStation 5 [PS5] he offered on Facebook, prosecutors alleged.

Logan told the victim he wanted to go into the victim's West Side home to see how the gaming system worked, officials said. The victim allowed the men inside but asked them to return the PS5 after he realized Logan had

Courthouse after this newspaper's deadline.

CPD identified the men as Fernando Loyo-Rodriguez, 22, Wilker Gutierrez Sierra, 21, Carlos Carreno-Carreno, 20, and 18-year-old Yonnier Guasamucare Garcia. They all list home addresses in the 300 block of S. Plymouth, home to the Standard Club migrant shelter.

Prosecutors charged each man with robbery and aggravated battery by strangulation.



Travelle Logan (left) and Jabari O'Connor.

lied to him about having sent payment by Zelle, according to a Chicago police report.

At that point, prosecutors said, Logan pulled out a gun and pressed it into the man's neck.

"Do you want to die tonight?" Logan allegedly asked as he took the man's phone and the PlayStation. Officials said he returned moments later to force the victim to reveal his phone PIN.

Chicago police officers arrested Logan after they saw him leaving a laundromat near the victim's home without any laundry, the police report said. He didn't have a gun, but the cops said he did have 19 bullets in a Jewel-Osco bag.

On Feb. 13, a 24-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint when he showed up to the 2900 block of N. Lincoln to buy a phone offered for sale online. When he arrived, a woman emerged from a building, displayed a gun, and robbed him, officials said. Police did not release a suspect description, and no arrests have been announced.

Armed man who robbed two Rogers Park businesses worked for the local business alliance

A four-time convicted felon who worked on a Rogers Park business group's street clean-up crew has been charged with robbing two Rogers Park businesses at gunpoint, according to a Chicago police report.



Joshua Brown

Joshua Brown, 30, was detained as a public safety threat by Judge Susana Ortiz. State records show he is on parole for armed robbery.

His arrest report said that CPD detectives collected Ventra card records and video from the CTA, private businesses, and its own surveillance cameras to build the case against Brown.

According to court records, the first robbery occurred just after 10 a.m. on Jan. 10 at Morse Convenient, 1442 W. Morse Ave. An armed man displayed a gun, demanded cash, and ordered the 22-year-old clerk to open the back door. But a customer entered the store, and the robber exited the front and headed to the Morse Red Line, the police report said.

Cops pulled video that showed the

robber swipe a Ventra card at the station and board a southbound train to 79th St., according to the report. They learned that the same Ventra card was used frequently at Morse, including on Jan. 31, the date of the second robbery.

In that case, an armed man with a yellow safety vest draped around his neck robbed Lian's Liquor and Grocery, 6507 N. Clark, shortly after 2 p.m. The store's 56-year-old cashier suffered a broken finger and facial injuries during a struggle with the offender, CPD's report said.

CPD's report said officers found a video of the robber pushing a trash can belonging to a local business group down the street. They contacted the group and learned that the man was an employee, the report said.

Cops arrested the man, identified as Brown, in the 1200 block of W. Morse when he reported for work last week. When officers arrested Brown, he was carrying a loaded firearm that was stolen from an apartment in the 4900 block of W. Addison last year, officials said.

He also had the Ventra card that the robber used, as well as a yellow safety vest and a black face mask, according to the police report.

He is charged with two counts of armed robbery with a firearm and Class X armed habitual criminal. State officials are reviewing his parole status in light of the new allegations.

Charges filed in 2022 Lakeview carjacking after DNA tests finally came back with a match

Laboratory tests on genetic material Chicago cops found inside a

carjacked Toyota in 2022 recently came back with a hit, prosecutors said as they charged a Rogers Park man with the crime. Michael Porter, 20,

is also charged

with shooting a gun at someone in Rogers Park about three weeks before the hijacking.

According to court records, he has been AWOL from another stolen motor vehicle case for more than a year.

Porter, who prosecutors said was convicted of carjacking, robbery, and burglary as a juvenile, was arrested in Streeterville on Oct. 25, 2022, after Chicago cops allegedly saw him crash a stolen Mitsubishi Outlander on Lake Shore Dr. and bolt from the scene wearing one shoe and a ski mask.

He was only charged with misdemeanors in that case, and he walked out of the station on his own recognition, according to CPD records. He never showed up in court for that case, according to records.

About a week later, prosecutors said this weekend, Porter was caught on video shooting at another person in the 1600 block of W. Juneway Terrace on Nov. 2, 2022. But he had never been arrested to face charges.

Two weeks ago, prosecutors charged him with that case and with carjacking a woman at gunpoint in Lakeview about three weeks later.

During his detention hearing before Judge Charles Beach, prosecutors said the carjacking occurred as a woman and her female roommate were parking a 2012 Toyota Camry in the 1100 block of W. George around 7 p.m. on Nov. 27, 2022.

Porter, wearing a mask and pointing a gun toward the women, ordered the driver to surrender her keys and then grabbed them from her hand, prosecutors alleged. He got into the driver's seat and promptly struck another car as he tried to drive away.

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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All crime is local, so give people the information now

Yes, we know, many of our readers use the Citizen app. Our reporters do too. Like you, it helps us stay safe informed, by providing instant notifications and live broadcasts of reported crimes and incidents near you.

Or perhaps we all used to use it... seems those reports are a little less fresh now. Chicago police are joining the national wave of encrypting radio communication, raising transparency concerns.

Citizen launched in Chicago in May 2020 and due to our systemic problems with crime and punishment, Chicago is one of the app's fastest-growing markets behind New York City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and San Francisco, according to a spokesperson for the company.

Yes, those markets all suffer from the same societal maladies, growing crime problems and a lack of any political or cultural backbone to do something about it.

Under former mayor Lori Lightfoot, in 2022 Chicago began migrating public safety radios from clear analog dispatch channels to secure, encrypted digital channels. The Chicago Police Department then instituted a program designed to encrypt police scanner transmissions across all police districts in the city.

In our Orwellian world of today, it seems like the more we

hear about transparency, the less of it we get.

Now Illinois State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford [8th] has introduced legislation which would require any law enforcement agency in Illinois which encrypts police scanner transmissions to provide real time access to those transmissions to accredited media in the state.

Opinion

House Bill 4339 amends the Public Records Act to require that any law enforcement agency that encrypts radio transmissions

"I understand the desire to prevent members of the public from using real time police scanner information to commit crimes or to evade law enforcement," said Rep. LaShawn K. Ford. "However, the media has an obligation to report on events in a timely manner and its use of real time information from police scanners is essential.

provide, by license or otherwise, access to those transmissions to FCC licensed broadcasters and accredited newspapers as defined in the Act.

"I understand the desire to prevent members of the public from using real time police scanner information to commit crimes or to evade law enforcement," said Rep.

Ford. "However, the media has an obligation to report on events in a timely manner and its use of real time information from police scanners is essential. Blocking accredited media from real time access is counter to governmental transparency and does not lend itself to the original stated purpose of the encryption program."

Rep. Ford noted that his proposed legislation would apply to jurisdictions across Illinois. Several downstate law enforcement departments have also instituted encryption programs.

We back this effort by Rep. Ford, and hope in time that our leaders will again treat Illinois citizens like adults, and allow them to know what's going on down their blocks, first hand, as it's being reported.

Yes, we know you listen to the Citizen app, just as our reporters do. We get it. And we believe an informed citizen is an engaged citizen who can make personal decisions based on the most recent and pertinent information

available about what's happening outside their front door. When it gets down to what really is critical information for you and your family, it's usually info on what's happening out on the sidewalk in front of your own home or workplace. As the saying goes, 'all politics is local.' And we think that is true about all crime too.

DePaul warns scammers are hijacking electronic payment apps near its Loop campus

BY CWBCHICAGO

DePaul Univ. is warning its community that at least three people affiliated with the school have had their electronic payment apps hijacked by street performers around its Loop campus.

The alert said victims are targeted by "people soliciting for donations to a drumming program" After handing the victim a flyer on the sidewalk, they ask for money.

When the victim agrees to donate with a cash application, the

scammers either take the victim's phone or convince them to hand it over. The school said the thief then sends transfers of far more money than the victim intended themselves.

The school, which is the nation's largest Catholic university, also claimed that many solicitors are legitimate but advised caution for charitable souls: "We are always considerate of the Vincen-tian mission. To avoid becoming a victim of this type of scam do not give your phone to someone you do not know."

Letters to the Editor

Kudos to O'Gorman and Chambers

A lyric in the Irish drinking song "Mountain Dew" starts "When learned men who use the pen, have sung your praises high..."

That is exactly what happened when John Chambers praised Mr. O'Gorman in a letter to the editor last week.

Astute readers will recognize

Mr. Chambers as the gentleman who expertly handled Cook County's finances as comptroller back when property taxes were much lower than they are today.

Long life and many years to both Mr. O'Gorman and Mr. Chambers.

Mike Sullivan, Avondale

Fly the L

ShotSpotter gone? Our city's front line detector of shots fired? In America's most 'shots fired' friendly city? The system the Chicago Police use every single day, as it's quicker to react than 911 calls?

Oh, but not until after the Democrat National Convention leaves town, ahh yes, got it. What are the odds that during the week of the DNC convention, Cook County Jail will be filled to the brim with gangsters and thugs for the only time in all of 2024?

With another one in the loss column (too many to count), perhaps City Hall should replace the blue bars and red stars with another flag; the one that adorns the Wrigley Field scoreboard after a loss. At this rate, Mayor Brandon Johnson will fit right in with the historic seasons of ineptitude that Chicago sports

fans have suffered through. One can only hope the Cubs and Sox rack up some wins this spring to offset what is surely to be more embarrassing L's by City Hall's 5th Floor.

Tom Wisniewski, Gold Coast

Man on parole for two murder cases tried to kill ex-girlfriend's beau with a machete

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Chicago man on parole for two separate murder cases forced his way into his ex-girlfriend's North Side apartment and attacked her new boyfriend with a machete, prosecutors said as they charged him with a fresh attempted murder case.

Marcos Gray, 47, has been detained to await trial by Judge William Fahy, who deemed him a public safety threat, according to court records. State officials are also reviewing Gray's parole status in light of allegations that he nearly committed his third murder.

Court records show that Gray was sentenced to life in prison for one of his previous murder cases, but that was reduced on appeal after other courts determined that it is unconstitutional to sentence people to life in prison for crimes committed as juveniles.

In Gray's case, he was convicted of two murders as a juvenile.

First, he was convicted in 1995 of murdering and robbing a Tennessee man who was visiting the Chicago area in March 1993. Prosecutors say Gray shot 20-year-old Edwin Carlock as Carlock dropped off a friend, Melvin Slaughter, on the South Side. There were two women and three children in Carlock's vehicle when he was killed, according to appellate court records.

During sentencing for that case, officials noted that Gray had previously been arrested for shooting another man. A judge handed him 55 years for the murder and 30 years for the robbery.

Gray was later convicted of participating in the July 3, 1993,

murder of Sheilah Doyle, a suburban nurse and mother, during a botched carjacking. He received a life sentence for the murder, but that was later reduced to 60 years, plus 15 years for attempted robbery.

MACHETE see p. 10



Marcos Gray

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Janet and Rodger Owen.



Consul General Kevin Byrne, Patricia Anne Tracey, Irish Deputy Prime Minister Michael Martin.



Eamonn Cummins and Grace O'Connor.

MORAL from p. 2

smell the fragrance off the greens of the Ravinia musical summer season without thinking of the young, renaissance genius from Japan, **Seiji Ozawa**. The Maestro, 88, was a man of mystery and in the 1960s, when he whirled his hands in a divine tempo as music director, he made Chicago dance and weep. His continued appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra over the decades secured him a history of the City's heart. We recognize how he transformed Boston, over his 29 years. But for Chicago he fashioned always a new divine presence and artistic stature lifting our beauty and musical leadership. May peace fill the beauty you have shaped.

DANCE: In celebration of this 61st "Unlimited" year, Giordano Dance Chicago hosts "Studio 61," a gala benefit patterned after New York City's legendary 1970s nightclub Studio 54, to support the Giordano Dance Chicago Dancer Fund, at the Ravenswood Event Center, on Saturday, Feb. 24. The evening will provide the chance to mix and mingle with GDC dancers and eat, drink and dance the night away to music spun by DJ **Madrid Perry**. Host committee are **Paula** and **Tim Friedman**. The gala event precedes Giordano's final performance of their "Season 61 | UNLIMITED!" at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6. The program will feature the world premiere of Emmy Award-winning chore-

ographer **Al Blackstone's** one act "Gershwin in B," plus popular selections from GDC's repertoire.

WHO'S WHERE: **Dr. Rose Gomez** and **Lilli Fetsch-Wenzel** were in town from Switzerland, **Dr. Sharon Cottrell** from Lake Forest, **Gale Gottlieb** and **Patricia Schmalz** virtually, and **Mimi Pezzuto** and **Cheryl Evans** from Dune Acres, IN, for their investment club lunch at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill...

bility... **Sherrill Bodine** rubbing aprons with her seaboard chefs and celebrating Mardi Gras (Carnival in Rio) Brazil... **Patricia Bidwill** in sunny picturesque San Miguel de Allende, Mexico... Barrister **Bernard Dunleavy** at White Friar Street Church, Dublin, the tomb of St. Valentine... Chicago's beloved-one, restaurateur **Gordon Sinclair** safe and healthy in Fort Lauderdale after a bad car crash at 50 mph.

their enormous brood of boys in Winnetka.

To the stability and beauty of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish. Perfect for six handsome, advantaged preppy boys whose dad, the prosperous **Larkin Flanagan**, died too young. Joe was just 2 years old. Most of the brothers found very fine careers in medicine, like his brother, **Dr. Malachi Flanagan**. Joe went on to be the consummate promo-



Jack Higgins



Seiji Ozawa



Matt Moore and Tim Pickett.

Mark Olley, Julie Barrish, Rochelle Trotter, Paula Borg, Nina Mariano, and Kathy O'Malley Piccone all sporting a touch of red at the Drake Hotel Valentine Party... **Irene Michaels** in LA hanging with 2024 MusiCares Person of the year **Jon Bon Jovi**... At Lilliput Press in Dublin, **Robert O'Byrne** is now the official Irish aesthete at headquarters... The Golden Triangle's **Doug Van Tress** was delighted with the production that Windy City Rehab put together on his Grand Ave. headquarters... Service Club's Valentine's Day Luncheon at the Ritz was a smash hit and a reminder to many of the dear friend who used to bring us all together, **Bunky Cushing**, he is not forgotten... **Janet and Rodger Owen** doing white tie and tails in Palm Beach... **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** regaled in their white tie and tails, sashes and medals of nobility in Palm Beach for the annual gala for American Revolutionary no-

IRELAND HOUSE: The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ireland, **Micheal Martin**, spoke at The City Club of Chicago Luncheon last week. He was joined by Irish Consul Kevin Byrne and Irish violinist **Patricia Treacy** and a sell-out audience.

He shared poignant sentiments, emphasizing that the imprint the Irish have made in Chicago - "Irish fingerprints are on the railways, the canals and skyline." He also serves as Defense Minister of Ireland and formerly served as The Prime Minister of Ireland.

During his speech he announced that the Irish government is opening an Irish House in Chicago to serve as a cultural and civic outpost for Ireland in the Midwest on N. Michigan Ave., opening this Autumn.

JOSEPH FLANAGAN RIP: Chicago and Palm Beach. **Joseph Flanagan**, 86, was a silver-spoon Irish lad. Of the old South Shore variety. St. Phillip Neri Parish-born. Before later settling with

tions executive who was refined, artistic, with an eye for beauty.

He raised five fine children of his own. At some point during the **Sir George Solti** days, a gaggle of Flanagans had the row of seats behind us at Orchestra Hall. I wish Joe a swift and comfortable ride home to the heart of God, confident that his tens of thousands acts of charity and kindness will be graced and rewarded. He will continue to validate the importance of enhanced education and its skill at teaching a young boy of possessions and intelligence to climb through the eye of a needle by grace. Requiescat in Pace.

FINE ART: See a wide variety of great Irish paintings in our pre-St. Patrick's Day studio sale for perfect Irish gift to last a lifetime., at 1059 N. Winchester St., Sat. & Sun. Feb. 23-24 and March 2-3, 11 a.m. Have an Irish Coffee with us. 312-735-8101.

CHILD-PROOF MAYO: It's a well-known fact that the great French chef, **Julia Child**, always preferred making her mayonnaise from scratch, but she is on record with having one prepared brand suitable for use in her kitchen. And that was Hellmann's. She often relied on it for tuna salad made in her own kitchen. Good for all cooks to recall.

I think every woman should have a blowtorch. - Julia Child

tog515@gmail.com

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Youth programming at Edgewater Library

STORY AND PHOTO
BY JOANNE KITSOS

There's a new lineup of children's programs at the Edgewater Library, 6000 N. Broadway, that Children's Librarians Dana Kaput and Chris Othic have arranged.

Children ages 8-13 are invited to bring their family, meet new friends and challenge librarians during the "Saturday (Board) Game Stop." Each month different board games will be featured; the next game day is Saturday, Feb. 24, from noon to 2 p.m. on the first floor. Each month they will feature different board games—classic games like checkers, group games like Uno, and other new games.

"Stories Come Alive" is a free program with Lifeline Theatre for children ages 4 to 10. Teaching artists from Lifeline Theatre in Rogers Park will read the book, Skunk and Badger, and play drama games at the library 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25.

On the last Tuesday of each month, kids ages 8-13 are in-

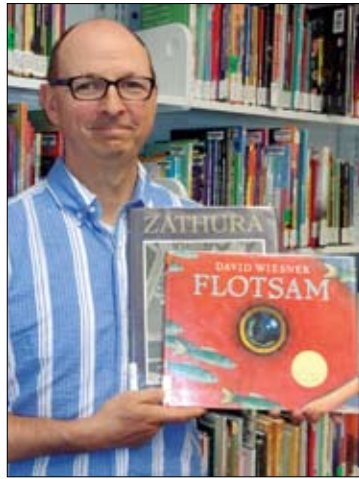
cluded to participate in the Tween Book Club, discuss a particular book and make new friends. On Feb. 27, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. the group will discuss *New Kid* by Jerry Craft; copies of the book are available at the Children's Dept. Desk on the first floor.

The novel tells the story of a 12-year-old African American boy named Jordan Banks who experiences culture shock when he enrolls at a private school.

Preschool children and their caregivers are invited to "Story-palooza!" every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. During this story time activity, there will be songs, rhymes and fingerplays followed by open play time. The next session will be on Feb. 28.

For children ages 6 and older who enjoy making crafts or working on art projects, there's a new "Crafty Kids" activity. The next session will be 11 a.m.-noon on Saturday, March 2.

Youth, ages 13-19, are invited to a special College and Career Saturdays program to explore options after high school and



Children's Librarian Chris Othic has planned a series of interactive reading, play and science programs and activities at the Edgewater Branch library, 6000 N. Broadway.

network with industry professionals. The next program will be 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. March 16 with a discussion about careers in writing, communications, and media; lunch will be provided. Online registration is encouraged; email frice@chipublib.org.

Rogers Park, West Ridge historical archive available at Sulzer Library March 3

After five years of effort, the materials, documents and historical records kept by the Rogers Park West Ridge Historical Society [RPWRHS] are now archived at the Northside Neighborhood History Center in the Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave., and will be open to the public starting March 3.

Materials are cataloged and

stored in preservation-friendly gray boxes that fill 135 linear feet of library shelf space, ready for use by anyone interested in researching the history of Rogers Park and West Ridge. An advance appointment is required.

An annual report on the RPWRHS to the neighborhood will be presented at Sulzer Regional Library, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday,

March 3.

Following that, archivist Allyson Smalley and librarian Julie Lynch will explain how to use this new resource, while showing examples from the collection. The afternoon will include light refreshments and an opportunity to view a selection of material from the collection on display in the Adult Reading Room.

SYPHILIS from p. 5

"The increase in late identification of [the development of the specific antibodies in the blood serum as a result of infection] during pregnancy that occurred only in 2020 could be explained by a decrease in testing for and treatment of syphilis because of pandemic-associated declines in clinic visits and closures of sexually transmitted infection clinics, as well as increased use of telemedicine rather than in-person prenatal care, which precludes the use of phlebotomy," claims the CDPH report.

The report's authors admit expectant mothers who had been diagnosed with syphilis often had received inadequate medical treatment [during the government-imposed lockdown] because nearly all of public health's attention had been diverted to "COVID-19 mitigation efforts." The pregnant mothers with syphilis were collateral damage.

"[The focus on COVID-19] resulted in increased challenges in contacting pregnant mothers and ensuring continued treatment," claims the CDPH report.

If the infection had been treated, the mother would have been cured and syphilis would not have been passed on to their developing child.

"This increase in inadequate maternal syphilis treatment might have resulted in a disproportionate increase in congenital syphilis cases relative to the more modest increase in syphilis cases among females of reproductive

age. The decrease in syphilis diagnosis among females of reproductive age during 2022 could represent an actual reduction in cases resulting from improved

testing and treatment services, or a decrease in diagnosis and underreporting of cases," claims the report.

shortly after birth.

The CDPH is studying these cases to determine what factors may have led to the increase, and much more research and prevention efforts are needed to adequately curb the resurgence of this epidemic – especially in at risk communities, and among young, sexually promiscuous and gender-confused minorities.

In 2022, the highest rates of syphilis in the United States were reported among the American Indian/Alaska Native population with men having a rate of 75 per 100,000 population; Blacks nationwide stand at 70.9; women a rate of 60 per 100,000 population, Hispanic 30 per 100,000.

But most recently, the rise has disproportionately impacted Black Chicago, as 86% (75 of 87) of cases in Chicago between 2020-2022, were among Black Chicagoans.

Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (Doxy-PEP), an antibiotic which can be taken after sex to prevent bacterial STIs, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, is available at CDPH's STI Specialty Clinics in Roseland, Austin, and Lakeview. DoxyPEP is currently offered to cisgender men or transgender women aged 18 years or older.

age. The decrease in syphilis diagnosis among females of reproductive age during 2022 could represent an actual reduction in cases resulting from improved

testing and treatment services, or a decrease in diagnosis and underreporting of cases," claims the report.

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POLICE BEAT from p. 6

At that point, the car owner's roommate, who was still in the back seat, began struggling with Porter, officials said. An accomplice suddenly appeared. The two men pulled the roommate from the car and threw her to the ground, then drove away with the Toyota, according to the allegations.

Cops found the vehicle later that day and swabbed the interior for DNA. In Nov. 2023, the lab test results showed that some recovered DNA matched Porter, prosecutors said. Detectives subsequently placed Porter's picture in a photo line-up, and the Toyota's owner allegedly identified him as the carjacker who first ap-

proached her with the gun.

On Feb. 9, Chicago police officers who were "actively looking for" Porter found him in the 4400 block of N. Sheridan and took him into custody, his arrest report said.

He is charged with aggravated vehicular hijacking and aggravated discharge of a firearm into an occupied vehicle. Judge Beach granted the state's detention petition.

— *Compiled by CWBChicago.com*

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North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

212121
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC
Plaintiff,
-v-
WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEASED MORTGAGOR, DONALD KNIGHT, FORTY EAST DELAWARE PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
2023 CH 00533
40 E DELAWARE PLACE UNIT 1303
CHICAGO, IL 60611
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 13, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 8, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 40 E DELAWARE PLACE UNIT 1303, CHICAGO, IL 60611
Property Index No. 17-03-209-019-1056
The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes

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levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.)

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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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
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Attorney File No. 14-22-09551
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code: 21762
Case Number: 2023 CH 00533
TJSC#: 44-188
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COLUMBIA from p. 3

on to build the Student Center that has reportedly helped to put the school in financial distress, now that tuition income has dropped.

President Kim stated, "I came to Columbia because of my belief that the world needs creatives and my determination that Columbia could be the leading educational institution dedicated to preparing creatives for real-world success," said Kim in a released statement. "While the prospect of leaving is bittersweet, as a life-long traveler I am looking forward to my next journey, and I am encouraged to know that the college is in such capable hands."

FIZZLES from p. 4

Jan., 2024, Irwin said.

"Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center only have between 1.0 and 1.5 months of inventory supply, which is now at a critically low level with sales rising. These inventory decreases were consistent in all four neighborhood areas and price points," Irwin said. "We will need a significant infusion of new listings in order to sustain a long-term real estate turn around."

• **Under contract.** Homes generally take between 30 and 45 days to close after going under contract. A total of 362 homes went under contract in Jan., 2024, which was a 23.6% decrease compared with Jan., 2023.

"Many of these homes will close in February, and this indicates that there could

LOURDES from p. 4

[only] received \$260,000 through Sunday and Holy Day collections, donations from the Grotto, and other income. There was a \$220,000 shortfall to operate Our Lady of Lourdes Church. This is sadly, not sustainable," according to the written statement at the parish website.

Parish officials said proceeds from the sale of the former school building and its parking cannot be used to save the historic sanctuary. They have not yet announced what they do plan to use this money for.

"For many years, throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago, the use of property sales and lease/income was used to fill the budget gap. This has proven to be a poor use of our resources," according to the parish website.

Under the leadership of Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, the Archdiocese of Chicago will not allow proceeds from the sale of parish property to be used for building repairs.

"Archdiocesan policy is that using the proceeds of the sale of a property cannot be used to simply repair buildings with no plan for future sustenance of that building. The property sale proceeds are deposited [in banks] earning income until the parish administration determines how the funds should be used or invested for future use," according to the parish website.

Our Lady of Lourdes commemorates

MACHETE from p. 7

Doyle's survivors formed a charitable foundation that supports children whose lives are affected by homicide.

And Gray was released from prison on May 27, 2022.

Just last month, on January 22, a state appellate court affirmed Gray's conviction in the Carlock case. Two days later, on Jan. 24, Gray allegedly tried to kill his ex's boyfriend with a machete.

The victim, 38, and his girlfriend were sleeping at the girlfriend's home in the 4800 block of N. Monticello when they heard footsteps and the bedroom door swung open around 4 a.m., a CPD report said. Prosecutors say the intruder was Gray, who knew the home's passcode and used it to get inside.

After kicking in the bedroom door, he lunged at the victim and attacked him with a "large machete" while yelling, "I'm going

Due to the drop in student population, and falling finances, on Feb. 8 the Board asked Kim and his staff to develop a plan that will "better align program offerings and streamline degree requirements so students can focus more fully on their chosen creative fields, persist towards graduation, and achieve career success." Kim was tasked with creating a draft Advisory Report containing his recommendations by Feb. 28.

That Advisory Report will be considered by the Board at its May 2 Board meeting. If approved, the plan will be implemented throughout the institution shortly thereafter.

be a decrease in home sales in February," Irwin said. "This is a direct result of drastically low inventory levels."

Gazing into Baird & Warner's crystal ball, Irwin said it is still too early to predict the direction of the 2024 resale-home market, but unlike 2023, there are positive indicators.

"Buyers and sellers need to stay updated on a regular basis for market changes in their specific neighborhood and property types," Irwin advised. "This is going to be a very interesting year in real estate."

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.

one of France's most popular sites religious pilgrimage sites and is associated with healing miracles. In 1858, Bernadette Soubirousa, a young teenager who lived near Lourdes, France, began seeing visions of a person who appeared to be the mother of Jesus Christ.

Under the leadership of Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, the Archdiocese of Chicago will not allow proceeds from the sale of parish property to be used for building repairs.

Despite initial skepticism by local church officials, the young girl's visions were eventually accepted "worthy of belief." Soubirousa's story was the subject of a 1941 best-selling historical novel Song of Bernadette and which was the basis for a popular 1943 movie of the same name.

Chicago's Our Lady of Lourdes has been the designated national shrine of the French pilgrimage site and includes a replica of the grotto in Lourdes. The official history of the archdiocese of Chicago, in 2006, described the grotto as "a jewel-box of stained glass and statuary."

The grotto at Lourdes will close May 19, at the same time as the main church building will close.

to kill you," prosecutors said in court filings. The man grabbed the machete blade and struggled with Gray as the girlfriend called 911.

Gray ended the assault upon hearing the sound of approaching sirens, officials said. The first Chicago police officers on the scene saw him through the kitchen window, covered in blood with his hands in the air, according to their report. They arrested him without further incident.

According to court filings, the victim suffered severe cuts to his hands that required stitches. A tendon in his left pinky finger was also severed.

Prosecutors have charged Gray with attempted first-degree murder, attempted murder during the commission of a forcible felony, home invasion with a dangerous weapon, and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

He is due in court again on Feb. 20.

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
THIRD BIRCH, LLC
Plaintiff,
-v-
PRINCE OROGBU, BELL TERRACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Defendants
21 CH 5422
7324 N. BELL AVENUE, UNIT 2
CHICAGO, IL 60645
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 28, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 20, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 7324 N. BELL AVENUE, UNIT 2, CHICAGO, IL 60645
Property Index No. 11-30-306-027-1002
The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$220,444.05.
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

Real Estate For Sale

in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 357-

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175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201
CHICAGO IL, 60606
312-357-1125
E-Mail: pleadings@nevellaw.com
Attorney File No. 21-01901
Attorney Code: 18837
Case Number: 21 CH 5422
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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

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

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Notice of Public Sale

Honore Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 28th of February, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at www.storageasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m. 007 Lenny Garcia 573C Earl Henry Lim 583 Marilee Rutherford This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

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MAD Science Club meeting Feb. 26

Budding scientists may join the Near North Library Branch, 310 W. Division St., on select Mondays from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. for stories, crafts, experiments and science lessons as part of their MAD Science Club.

The program is recommended for children ages 6-13. Registration is recommended but not required. For more information contact the Near North Library at 312-744-0991.

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Little Sisters Trivia night March 2

The Little Sisters of the Poor are hosting Travinia Trivia With a Twist fundraiser, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at St. Mary's Home, at 2325 N. Lakewood Ave.

Bring your picnic, gather your team of friends, and enjoy an outdoor evening of trivia fun.

Trivia questions will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance, prices will increase to \$50 at the door. So make a reservation.

Trivia night Feb. 24 to fund school trip

Pilgrim Lutheran School's is hosting their annual Trivia Night 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at 4300 N. Winchester Ave.

There will be a 50-50 raffle and a \$500 cash prize for the winning team. To reserve a table, pre-order beer and pizza, and more, visit <https://pilgrimlutheran.schoolauktion.net>. Proceeds go towards the Pilgrim School 7th Grade Class to fund their educational trip to Washington, D.C. next year.

ARMORY from p. 1

by CPD, made the following key findings about Broadway Armory Park: Only 33% of programs were offered at other Park District locations in the fall of 2023. This is a decrease of 67% of programs. Only 27% of prior Broadway Armory users were served by those alternative CPD programs in the fall of 2023; this is a decrease of 73%.

The report states that this dramatic decrease in programs and enrollment stands in stark contrast to the narrative that CPD programs offered at other locations have

mitigated the adverse impact on the Edgewater community caused by the closing of the Broadway Park field house.

The report also finds that the CPD bears responsibility for allowing taxpayer-funded CPD property dedicated to park use to be converted to non-park use as a migrant shelter.

Furthermore, the Park District's "all or nothing" program policy has led to the unnecessary and complete discontinuation of CPD programs at the Armory -- even in rooms that are not being used for shelter purposes. "The youth in the community

have no idea what's going on, so we really want answers," Hussain Mohammed, president of the Park District Advisory Board, told ABC7 news.

In a Jan. 23 letter to the mayor's office Pat Sharkey, chair of the 48th Ward Work Group, wrote, "This has been a serious and unnecessary blow to the Edgewater community and the 48th Ward. Yet city and Park District officials recently refused a request by Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth to begin winding down the Broadway Armory Park Field House shelter and to restart Park District programming as soon as

possible."

In response, a letter from Beatriz Ponce de Leon (Office of Immigrant, Migrant, Refugee Rights) and other city officials read: "We recognize the disruption of the Broadway Armory Park has posed for residents, particularly the distribution to Park District programs and the impact on the daily lives of residents. We are committed to keeping you and Ald. Leni-Manaa-Hoppenworth informed about the status of the new arrivals' mission and the use of this facility."

SHELTER from p. 1

permit, passage through the Tax Increment Financing [TIF] application process and City Council, and finalization of the grant agreement with the Dept. of Housing.

Last Friday Ald. Clay said she decided to "issue a letter of contingent support for the proposal at 1140 W. Wilson." She was "supporting this project moving to the next phase."

For decades, Uptown has been a refuge for hardship, including laborers from Appalachia, returning soldiers and war refugees, ex-convicts, the mentally ill, known sexual predators, substance abusers and the homeless. "I am proud to come out of this rich history, where neighbors genuinely care for the success of one another, and I am proud to continue to live up to these values," said Ald. Clay.

The primary concerns expressed by residents were safety, security, the impact on existing businesses, and a return to an official policy of concentrating poverty in Uptown.

"I have required a written security plan that includes 24/7 security staff onsite, alarm systems, camera systems, and fire safety measures," said Clay. "We have also recommended that a curfew and no guest

policy be implemented, and these suggestions have been approved by [City Hall] and Cornerstone."

Cornerstone Community Outreach [CCO] is an Uptown-based homeless shelter and non-profit organization that is part of the Jesus People USA. For decades they have provided shelter for single women, single men, intact families and single parent/guardian families. Their services include casework, three meals a day, food pantry, and a free store with donated clothes, baby and household items.

CCO is also applying for \$4.5 million in TIF to operate the shelter. TIF funds are generated by property taxes collected in a designated district. The financial support for the shelter will actually be coming from nearby property owners and tenant leaseholders.

When Clay ran for alderman, she identified homelessness as one of her priorities. "I believe that addressing this crisis includes support for homeless neighbors to live and grow in our ward," she said. "I recognize that the 46th Ward alone cannot solve our City's homeless crisis, and it is my commitment to continue working with colleagues to advocate for and implement citywide solutions. Our City's homeless

issue... cannot solely be the responsibility of the 46th Ward."

The shelter will be opening in the middle of a burgeoning business district, where existing local businesses may be affected.

Community concerns include a return to a former policy of concentrating poverty in Uptown. Right now Uptown has four other homeless shelters receiving city funding in the same general area, and six in total.

Of Chicago's 77 community areas, only 25 of them have shelters funded by the city. Of the 52 communities with no city-funded shelters, they include all North Side communities but for Rogers Park, the Near North Side, Edgewater and Lake View, who all have only one each. The Uptown community has the most city-funded homeless shelters in the entire city.

In the 1960s, the blocks in central Uptown between Montrose and Lawrence, east of Clark St., were among the most densely-populated in Chicago. For much of the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s poor White migrants from Appalachia and the South were the most visible population of the neighborhood.

While early research on concentrated poverty often focused mainly on Black inner-city poverty, in Uptown, highly concentrated areas of urban poverty had become more ethnically diverse.

In post World War II America, concentrated poverty became an issue of concurrent problems of crime, welfare, substance abuse and dependency, non-marital childbearing, unfavorable healthcare, poor education, and a lack of available jobs and work that are most prevalent in high-poverty areas.

Planning theories on poverty over the post-war eras had partly revolved

around an examination of people's social networks, and in geographically-rooted issues for those who lived in high poverty neighborhoods. It was believed that areas of concentrated poverty provided less social capital to link people in need to good jobs, education, and other public and private resources. Poor people living in disadvantaged neighborhoods often have to cope not only with their own poverty, but also with the problems that accompany poverty of so many of their neighbors.

And in response, over multiple generations, politicians have many times exploited the poor and destitute by tying their daily subsistence, housing and health care to government-provided resources, thereby creating a solid political base of those who had become overly dependent on government-managed and funded benevolence.

GO-OP from p. 1

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