

Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew.
— Cicely Tyson

NEWS-STAR

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

FREE

VOL. 117, NO. 8

NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

insideonline.com



Happy anniversary, Honeybear Café
Story on page 3



Snow memories haunted by ice dams from Hell, See page 5

'Armed and dangerous' robbery team targeting businesses

BY CWBCHICAGO

Police are warning about an armed robbery team that is robbing businesses, forcing employees into back rooms over the last month. They have struck stores from Lakeview to Dunning and even fired a warning shot during one recent robbery.

Last week we reported about the crew after smoke shops were robbed by offenders in Lakeview and Logan Square Feb. 9.

Those crimes appear to be some of the earliest hold-ups that police are now linking to the team, which includes one member who carries a distinctive yellow backpack.

Police said in a community alert that two men are pulling out handguns and ordering employees to open registers before forc-

ing them into back rooms where the offenders access safes.

Most recently, one of the robbers fired a round into the ceiling after an employee refused to follow their instructions in the back room of Dunkin', 6200 W. Belmont, around 7 a.m. on Feb. 16.

The robbers left their car outside the Dunkin' and ran away westbound on Belmont after the hold-up, according to a CPD report.

Two hours before that robbery, the team held-up the Subway at 3551 N. Central.

The men are suspected of committing a number of robberies, but police are publicly linking them to three more: Ray's Smoke and Vape, 2947 W. Armitage at 3:55 p.m. Feb. 9; Buy Low Liquor,

ROBBERY see p. 8

Join the pothole patrol

Potholes are caused by the freeze-thaw cycle that we experiences every winter, which means that you will likely see more potholes over the next few weeks as our large piles of snow melt and freeze in the coming weeks.

If your block has potholes that need to be filled, whether they're new or left over from the winter of 2019-20, call your local ward office or City Hall [dial 3-1-1] with the addresses where the potholes exist. Be sure to include the exact address(es) that the potholes are in front of, rather than just a block number.

State Sen. Simmons plans to pursue aggressive agenda

BY BOB KITSOS

Springfield's newest senator, Mike Simmons, laid out more of his political agenda at a Feb. 17 virtual meeting chaired by Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th] and hosted by 40th Ward Democratic Committeewoman Maggie O'Keefe. The recently appointed senator succeeded former state Sen. Heather Steans [7th], who resigned in January after 12 years in office.

Simmons' office will be located at 5533 N. Broadway, the former office of Sen. Steans, and longtime district offices of U. S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky [9th], Ald. Harry Osterman [48th], and State Rep Kelly Cassidy [14th].

The 7th District Democratic Committee met Feb. 6 to interview six candidates for the post, and settled on Simmons. The

votes were weighted by the number of votes cast in the Nov. 3 election, with Ald. Osterman holding the greatest vote share, followed by O'Keefe and Cassidy. Other North Side committeemen had fewer weighted votes in the outcome. Candidates needed 45,005 votes to clinch the seat. Simmons ended up with 67,516 votes, Cassidy came in second with 22,493.

Born in Chicago, the 38-year-old Simmons - who currently lives in Uptown - was raised in public housing in the Lincoln Square neighborhood said he has been on the front lines of social justice and wants to be accessible to the district. The 7th District covers portions of Rogers Park, West Ridge, Edgewater, Uptown Andersonville, Bowmanville and Ravenswood.

SIMMONS see p. 8



New state Senator Mike Simmons now represents the 7th District. Born in Chicago and raised in the Lincoln Square neighborhood, he was appointed by Democrat Party to the Illinois Senate on Feb. 6 succeeding Heather Steans.

Is Land of Lincoln being cancelled?



Forty one monuments, sculptures, commemorative plaques and artworks on the public way in Chicago - 27 on the North Side - are now being considered for cancellation by City Hall bureaucrats and social justice activists.

Chicago activists say some public art is 'over-simplified, one-sided view of history'

A group of community activists and city officials are now dedicating their time and experience to lead an effort to determine what public art is appropriate to display in Chicago.

This group calls their effort the "The Chicago Monuments Project [CMP]," and they hope to engage with various communities to question the appropriateness of public art on display in Chicago. Their website claims they hope to "bring the perspectives required to do this work on behalf of all Chicago's people."

As many saw last summer, monuments, plaques and memorials have become a focal point for conversation, protest, violence and activism in Chicago.

Almost all the objects selected for consideration by the CMP were created between 1893 and the late 1930s. Their origins can be traced to the World's Columbian Exposition, which brought hundreds of sculptors, architects, and artisans to Chicago to design and construct an image of Chicago that aligned with the culture of the day.

City Hall has now created a 30-person committee to review the city's collection of monuments and recommend solutions. Co-chairs include Cmsr. Mark Kelly, Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, Bonnie McDonald, CEO of Landmarks Illinois, and Jennifer Scott, a public historian and curator.

Out of a collection of over 500 monumental sculptures, commemorative plaques and artworks on the public way and in Chicago parks, 41-pieces of public art have been identified for public debate. Twenty-seven are located on Chicago's North Side.

The committee is inviting local citizens to review the artworks that have been identified, suggest others, and share opinions on the role of monuments in Chicago's public spaces.

These sculptures have been criticized by some activists for their romanticized and reductive images, or are considered prime figures for reaching back centu-

CANCELLED? see p. 8

History is not about mind reading or the judgments of thoughts



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Is anyone asking themselves why Mayor Lightfingers is still mayor of Chicago?

I was no fan of Rahm Emanuel, but looking back, he's lookin' good. China will be lucky to have him.

What is it that makes our current mayor so appealing? Is it the quality of her live press conferences? Her brilliant strategies for handling the pandemic? Her defensive bridge raising to dispel rioters? Her uncanny ability to resolve any issue regarding Chicago Public School teachers? Her quick denials that her staff continue to run out her office door to the private sector?

Or her spending over \$280 million in federal COVID-19 money on the Chicago Police payroll?

Her savvy resolve to topple historical statues of American statesmen and military heroes who lived outside our present cultural and historical context?

What a colossal failure she has been.

What a tragic political low-watt bulb she has turned out to be.

Did she really work as a federal attorney?

Chicagoans recently were told that among the 41 public statues awaiting "comfortability" votes, four were American presidents. Abraham Lincoln (16), George Washington (1), Ulysses S. Grant (18), and William McKinley (25).

Yes, that's right. Two favorite sons from Illinois who saved the Union when all seemed lost. Lincoln and Grant.

And Lincoln then doubled up to save the 14th amendment, forbidding slavery by the Constitu-

tion, itself. Lincoln worried that his Emancipation Proclamation could be undone by a post war Congress. He insisted that the issue of slavery had to be ended by the Constitution, once and for all.

His getting the amendment passed was his greatest triumph.

So I am uncomfortable letting any committee be judge as to Lincoln's suitability for heroic remembrance.

My fear is that there is no suitable "intelligentsia" here in Chicago to knowledgeably act on the issue. Just Lightfinger's stooges and hacks.

We have only those infected with "Lightfootitis." That's an acute widening of the feet and a narrowing of the mind at the same time.

It makes fair judgments difficult to render. And cannot much withstand the off-kilter understanding of history in our post-modern world. History is not about mind reading or the judgments of thoughts.

Sculptor Augustus Saint-Gauden's statue of Lincoln in Lincoln Park, near the Chicago History Museum, is among the singular artistic treasures of Chicago. And the nation.

Made from life-casts of the dead president's hands and face. You see, art is as profound a judge as history can be. As unrelenting. As unforgiving. The Lightfinger brigade doesn't get this.

With all this pseudo-turmoil spinning, I turn the saga around to Larry Hoover. The infamous convicted Disciples street gang leader. Hoover has been in prison for some 50 years. Some say that he led a busy life on the inside as a gang don orchestrating power beyond his prison confines. His influence was mighty, as if he never left the West Side of Chicago. Allies stress that he was often in isolation. That prison for him was unfair. Imagine the good he could have done from the other side of the cell door. The fact he was in a Supermax prison does not obscure the fact that the 70-

year-old 'capo tutti capo' was a brilliant gangland kingpin.

I'm wondering when Hoover will be proposed for inclusion into Chicago's monument boys?

Could Hoover stay on one of sculptor Ivan Mestrovic's bare-backed horses who guard the entrance to Ida B. Wells Dr.? Does he have the gym-body to display equestrian nudity? Perhaps the long prison stretch has given Hoover a deeper artistic aesthetic. Is this what reformer columnist Mary Mitchell has in mind when she raises the "unfairness" issue? Or does she want him to simply walk out of the prison yard, free of what crime has cost him in personal freedom?

Is this something more than the Sun-Times trying to increase subscriptions among the incarcerated set? For some time the Sun-Times has followed Hoover's career choices, saying perhaps he deserves a fairer shake. Brutes are often misjudged. Their intentionality is often suspiciously suspect.

Hoover reminds me a lot of my pal Prince Ernst of Hanover. The Hanover family could easily be sitting on the throne in Britain today if they weren't Roman Catholic. Prince Ernst is currently suing his son, another Prince Ernst, because he made some tax deal on some castle his father gave him. The deal forgives a 27 million Euro tax bill still owed the German government.

The senior Prince Ernst doesn't like deals with Chancellor Angela Merkel's government. So he's out to stop junior.

The senior prince is still married to Princess Caroline of Monaco. Grace Kelly's daughter. The Prince is a direct descendant of King George III of England. "Mad King George."

Prince Ernst is said to have received the "madness" gift from grand-grand-papa. "Porphyria." A royals-only malady. Bats in your belfry. Sheer madness. The stuff that makes Prince Ernst feel he can just pee in public whenever he likes. Or start fist-fights in saloons or on airplanes. Or punch-ups with his princess. Or even shoot at a few folk. He's a hard man to control. So suing his son over paying back taxes on family property seems a fresh madness, even for him.

What I like about Prince Ernst

is he's very tough. Very German. Butch. He's no namby-pamby British royal letting his mum lead him around by his crumpets.

The Brit royals are always trying to act with some kind of threadbare decorum out of an expired Miss Porter's School manual. But not the Deutscher Royals. They knock you down first. Punch you out. Ruin your manhood.

This is not Prince Edward giving you a snobby tongue lashing and a giggle. Or not brushing his teeth. This is a man-prince knocking you down on your fanny. Spilling his drink on you. Kicking you out of the way.

You wouldn't want to tear down a statue of Prince Ernst. Your home might mysteriously burn down. Ernst doesn't shy away from drama or judgment. Or responsive action. I suppose he's like Hoover in that respect. But half a century of prison never sounds like a well-thought out plan, no matter how soft the mattresses. Or how many meals you get a day.

And good old Abe Lincoln, a one-time Chicago lawyer at Isham, Lincoln & Beale, deserves better than he's gonna get from Mayor Lightfinger and her crowd of woke Millennials, whose names are hardly known by most of the public they claim to speak for.

Our mayor's modus operandi appears to be good old-fashioned, constant secrecy. And deflecting any negative judgement on her at all costs. Skillfully casting blame on others for all the commotion and damage she causes in city life. Isn't that what politicians do?

Just ask business owners on N. Michigan Ave.

We need an election before the mayor blows up Lincoln like he's Kaiser Bill on a horse.

And Grant becomes a dead ringer for a Japanese war criminal, Tojo.

George Washington might want to make other plans than actually fighting battles against 'Mad King George' only to wind up the victim of the King's ability to survive mental illness and outlive his foes. He lived, after all, until 1820. But the "Father of our Country," Washington, gets no such break. His prison sentence is more severe than Larry Hoover's.

FORM AND FUNCTION: Edward S. Weil, Jr., was the Auditorium Theater's longest serving Life-Time Trustee. As it should be. He was also Dankmar Adler's great grandson. Weil's death was announced last week at 93. Adler and architect Louis Sullivan built the Auditorium complex with evolutionary style and revolutionary technology. Adler was the tech genius that reinvented urban architectural design and functionality in Chi-

cago, America's hottest home for championship architecture. Until

Adler and Sullivan's Auditorium Complex rose up no one had ever seen such a multipurpose, high tech design of an urban office/theater center. It was the talk of the nation. So too were their plans for Temple Kehilath Anshe Ma'ariv Synagogue, 3300 S. Indiana. Later it would be converted into a cel-

ebrated Baptist church noted for its musical precision. All thanks to Adler's engineering. The perfect union of beauty and function. Weil demonstrated an enormous embrace of Chicago and the efforts of his great grandfather. He is survived by his wife, the very gracious, beloved

Dia Weil.

LEE PHILLIP BELL: She once was the first lady of local television. **Lee Phillip Bell.** Her noon time show on CBS was short, just 15 minutes, but she accomplished much. An interview, a plug or two, a guest visit and she was done.

That was the signal for children home for lunch that they'd better head back to school. She would go on to run some big time national television dramas. For our family she was always a woman of elegance and poise who took everything in her stride. She was



Edward Weil



Lee Phillip Bell

RESILIENCE see p. 6

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The Faklaris family, owners of Honeybear Cafe at 7036 N. Clark St.



Prudence Faklaris and her niece, Ella.



The RP Strong Biscuit.

Happy one year anniversary to Honeybear Café

Despite pandemic restaurant survives and gives back



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

When Prudence Faklaris and her husband, George, opened the Honeybear Café in East Rogers Park in Feb. 2020, getting a table was nearly impossible due to the crowds waiting to get a taste. It was exactly what the neighborhood had desperately needed, a place serving a hot, fresh and delicious breakfast and lunch. Neighbors, including me, were jumping for joy.

The Faklaris' had begun to renovate the restaurant the prior November, yet they decided not to advertise their plan but to open "quietly" to introduce themselves "organically."

However, Rogers Parkers had a different plan and showed up to support them and check them out the moment they opened, which was on a Wednesday, said Prudence Faklaris.

"We were embraced almost immediately and by the time the weekend came word spread like wildfire and we had lines out the door. We ran out of food. It was electric and magical," she said.

"It was so exciting to see something you have worked so hard to achieve take off right out of the gate. We will never forget how lucky we were to have landed in Rogers Park because if not for this awesome community... because what came next was terrifying."

You can all probably guess what Faklaris is talking about. The "terrifying" COVID virus that has caused restaurants to shutter and close throughout the city for almost a year now.

Four-and-a-half weeks after opening they were told to close up. "It felt like a joke at the time but as we all know now it was anything but," she said. "However, Rogers Park showed up for us again and rallied behind us and have been oh-so supportive."

The couple had settled on the site at 7036 N. Clark St. after being approached by the previous owners, Pete & Mary Frominos, who had owned A&T Grill for 40 years. They had raised their own family there, and one of their sons was a childhood friend of George's so there was a decades-long tie to the restaurant.

"We didn't have too much knowledge of the neighborhood prior to taking over the restaurant but we were very intrigued by the charm of the location," said Faklaris. "The restaurant spoke to both of us and it just felt right."

Prudence and George had met in a restaurant setting, and it was their passion and dream to own a place together and watch it grow. "We got to work on the remodel immediately and poured our blood, sweat and tears into it. It needed a facelift which we gave it and put our own spin on it by incorporating things we both like."

The makeover resulted in a clean, inviting, and homey place where folks like me can relax and enjoy either a regular meal like bacon and eggs, or something far more fancy or unusual such as the crazy-delish sounding RP Strong Biscuit, a hearty loaf biscuit stuffed with Andouille sausage and crumbled chorizo, griddled with jalapeño and onions then topped with two eggs over easy, smothered in house-made chorizo gravy and sliced avocado atop crispy hash browns.

And the charm really doesn't stop at the food and décor because Honeybear is truly a family affair, which adds to its appeal. If you happen to be there on a morning when the adorable Faklaris children are hanging around, you might meet nine-year-old Dimitri, seven-year-old Nick, or Olivia, who is five. It sets Honeybear apart from the few other breakfast/lunch joints in the 'hood.

So they're open just a month, and the pandemic lockdown hits. We've seen what the economic lockdown has done across the city, destroying long-standing businesses. Can you imagine just opening a place and then having that ton of bricks fall on you?

But that didn't stop the Faklaris'. They sprang into action. Although they had obviously just

undertaken a huge responsibility and had bills to pay and a family to support, shortly after COVID hit, they began feeding the people on the front lines.

They first started with the staff at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston on a weekly sometimes bi-weekly basis. "We wanted to do more so we partnered with a company called Off Their Plate who worked with restaurants to get food to other front line workers," Faklaris said. "We filled several orders multiple times a week."

Since then, with the help of the Rogers Park community, Honeybear Café has donated more than 24,000 meals to organizations and hospitals such as Evanston Family Health Center, Helping Hands and St. Mary's Little Sisters of the Poor, Mercy Hospital, Lawndale Christian health centers, Jessie Brown VA Medical Center, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Sarah's Circle and Breakthrough Urban Ministries, to name a few.

"We are constantly in fear of closing and it's been a real struggle but we try to remain hopeful and positive that we can weather the storm and make it," said Faklaris. "It's like a game of Chess. We just try to maintain giving high quality food for a fair price and kids always eat free to help our families during this time."

Pretty generous for a restaurant that was only open a month when a pandemic struck, don't you think? This was not an already established eatery doing all this giving. This was and thankfully still is a mom-and-pop shop, newly opened.

Many thanks to Honeybear Café. Really.

Faklaris said there's one person in particular that she doesn't know how to thank enough, Belia Rodriguez, president of the Rogers Park Business Alliance. Rodriguez made sure that Honeybear had a website and built one

for them in a day. "She truly is an angel on Earth," said Faklaris. "She made sure we could sell e-gift cards and just was there for us and still is."

These days, Honeybear continues to give back to its community. The restaurant just launched a Rewards Program to encourage people to use their website when ordering as opposed to Grubhub and Uber. For every dollar spent you earn a Honey buck. Once 100 Honey bucks are collected, you receive a code for \$10 off. You also get \$10 off for birthdays and \$3 off for liking and following its social media pages. They are also collaborating with artist Kristianna Jacques and collecting for a kid's art supply donation drive for the children of Rogers Park. There is a contactless donation box in Honeybear's entryway and supplies can be dropped between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday through Monday.

There are a lot of restaurants out there but Honeybear seems so intent on giving back even when they too have challenges. It's heartwarming to see someone being so generous when they are faced with their own set of circumstances.

"Honeybear is truly a labor of love and sometimes that's all you need," said Faklaris. "We have poured everything we have into it and it is an extension of our family, our livelihood, and we love it so much. We hope that comes across. Our goals are to keep fighting to make it to the warmer months so we can have indoor and outdoor seating again. We

are working with the Love Fridge Chicago to set up a refrigerator outside in our parking lot to help keep the community that is less fortunate fed -- it's like those free libraries you see except with food. Take what you need, leave what you can type of thing. We are really excited about that."

"We can't believe a year has passed by already, so much has happened in the year it feels longer, but we are truly blessed to have made it to the year mark especially with the challenges 2020 has brought," continued Faklaris. "We love our family-run operation and hope to be a staple in Rogers Park for many years."

We hope so too. Here's wishing Honeybear Café a long and successful Rogers Park run. We thank them for all they continue to do in our community.

Get over there and check out their savory food, their welcoming ambiance, and their friendly, big-hearted owners if you can.





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Police Beat...

Cops seek 2 men in River West apartment party slaying



On Feb. 21 Chicago police detectives released surveillance images of two men and a vehicle that they've linked to a Sept. 2020 murder at a short-term rental apartment party in River West.

According to the police, the two men in the images and Patrick Clinton, 34, attended a party in a nightly rental unit at 728 N. Morgan until around 3:20 a.m. on Sept. 12.

Police said the suspect seen dressed in a black hoodie with a gold Air Jordan logo pointed a gun at Clinton as he left the party and the suspect seen wearing all black clothing tried to grab Clinton

When Clinton pulled away from the second man, the suspect in the Air Jordan sweatshirt fired two rounds, killing him, according to police.

The two offenders then drove away in a gray or silver sedan, investigators said.

Anyone with information about the men or the murder can contact Area Three violent crime detectives at 312-744-8261 about case number JD-364523.

Shoplifter pretended to be cop, threatened to shoot security

A man who's been convicted seven times of felony shoplifting is now facing robbery charges after he allegedly posed as a Chicago cop and threatened to shoot two loss prevention agents who tried to stop him from stealing \$215 worth of booze from a Target store in the Loop.



Kenneth Hall

Prosecutors charged Kenneth Hall, 54, with two counts of aggravated robbery and false impersonation of police during a bond hearing Jan. 18.

Around 2:15 p.m. Jan. 17, a Target security guard intercepted Hall as he tried to leave the store at 1 S. State with stolen alcohol inside two Target shopping bags, according to a CPD report.

Hall pulled down his sweatshirt to reveal a sweater bearing a CPD insignia and told the security agent that one of his "officers" paid for the booze, prosecutors said. Hall, who allegedly didn't have a receipt, then turned away and tried to walk out a different door.

When another Target employee confronted him at the second exit, Hall put his hand in his sweatshirt, indicated that he had a gun, and threatened to shoot the security guard, prosecutors said. The first loss prevention agent arrived as that was happening and both guards backed away thinking that Hall had a gun.

The confrontations were allegedly captured on store surveillance video.

Police found Hall at the Roosevelt Red Line CTA station with Target shopping bags containing liquor nearby, according to CPD and pros-

ecutors. A Chicago Police Dept. uniform shirt was also found discarded in the area.

Hall allegedly told cops that he got the insignia and sweater from either a thrift store or his grandfather. He has never been a police officer.

Judge Susana Ortiz set his bail at \$5,000. He is required to go onto electronic monitoring after he posts the \$500 deposit required for his release from jail.

Two men charged in September shooting



Jaylen Brown

Rojaih Williams

On Feb. 18 Rojai Williams, 21, and Jaylen Brown, 21, both of the 600 block of W. Oakdale Ave., have been charged with one felony count - Attempt - Murder - First Degree and one felony count - Aggravated Battery/Discharge Firearm.

Williams and Brown were both arrested by the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Apprehension Task Force 2:30 p.m. Feb. 17, in the 600 block of W. Oakdale Ave.

They were identified as the offenders involved in an Sept. 12, 2020 incident in which a 27-year-old male victim was shot in the chest in the 3600 block of S. Rhodes. The offenders were placed into custody without incident and charged accordingly.

Catalytic converter thefts skyrocket as precious metal values soar

Catalytic converter thieves, the scourge of car owners across Chicago, have been a problem for years. And reports indicate the crime is becoming more popular and more lucrative thanks to skyrocketing precious metal prices.

No you haven't arrived at a CNBC business report in error.

Here's what's up.

You probably already know that converter thieves use saws to remove catalytic converters from under vehicles and then sell the devices at scrapyards or on the black market for \$100 to \$200 each. The converters, which reduce harmful emissions, are especially valuable because they contain small amounts of expensive metals.

The price of one of those metals, palladium, is currently selling for nearly \$2,400 per ounce. Five years ago, it was trading for \$500.

Another metal inside the devices, rhodium, is even more expensive: \$23,400 per ounce currently, up from less than \$2,000 per ounce five years ago. Last year alone, rhodium prices increased more than 3000%, according to Hagerty, an automotive news site.

Legitimate scrapyards operators are required to get identifying information from people who sell catalytic converters, so thieves typically turn to the black market to move their inventory. And the prices being paid are rising along with the precious metal prices.

SUVs have been popular targets in Chicago because the vehicles' high clearance makes it easier for thieves to crawl underneath with a saw.

Hagerty reports the Toyota Prius is "particularly attractive" to thieves because the cars run cleaner than most vehicles, so the precious metals in their converters are less depleted than standard cars.

The odds of being hit by catalytic converter thieves are still relatively low, but the cost of replacing a stolen one is increasing. Hagerty ballparks

the current repair price at between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Lakeview package thieves charged with burglary



Demetrius Robinson (L) Malik Shaw (R)

Two men are facing burglary charges after police caught them with stolen packages in Lakeview on Feb. 13, according to prosecutors.

A man who lives in an apartment building on the 700 block of W. Belmont called police after seeing two men opening packages in the mailroom and taking contents from the boxes, prosecutors said.

Police searched the area for men who matched descriptions provided by the witness. Cops arrested Demetrius Robinson, 19, and Malik Shaw, 22, nearby about 10 minutes later. The witness allegedly identified them as the two people he saw stealing packages in the mailroom.

Robinson was carrying a backpack that contained items missing from open packages cops found in the mailroom, prosecutors said. According to the state, Robinson ripped through boxes and took their contents while Shaw worked as a lookout.

Prosecutors said Robinson has no adult felony convictions, but he was found guilty of robbery as a juvenile. Judge Charles Beach set his bail at \$5,000 and ordered him to stay in the house from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. if he can post a \$500 bond to get out of jail.

Shaw has a pending gun case, according to prosecutors. Beach ordered him held without bail for violating the terms of bail in that case. The judge set his bail on the burglary charge at \$10,000 and ordered him to observe the same curfew if he becomes eligible to post bond.

Man gets 6 years for robbery while on electronic monitoring for another robbery



Ayuub Ararsa (L) Sean Rosario (R)

A Lincoln Square man has pleaded guilty to committing an armed robbery in Uptown while he was supposed to be on 24/7 electronic monitoring for another armed robbery.

In Nov. 2017, Ayuub Ararsa was accused of committing an armed robbery in West Ridge. Prosecutors charged him with two Class X felony charges of armed robbery, two felony counts of burglary, two felony counts of unlawful restraint, and two felony counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. A judge initially ordered him held without bail.

Just two months later, though, Judge Mary Brosnahan allowed him to go home on electronic monitoring by posting a \$10,000 deposit.

Then, in Aug. 2018, Ararsa was still on electronic monitoring when he and Sean Rosario allegedly robbed a 17-year-old at gunpoint of \$130 cash and a pair of Beats headphones in Uptown.

"Give me everything you got," Ararsa allegedly told the boy while taking the headphones from around the victim's neck.

Rosario, with a handgun at his side, warned, "Don't try to follow us. We'll shoot you," police said.

Rosario was 18 and Ararsa was 19 at

Driver of stolen car jumps into Chicago River to escape cops, gets rescued by CFD

A Hickory Hills man sped away from cops on the Mag Mile in a stolen car Feb. 20, crashed, and then tried to escape from police by swimming across the icy Chicago River, according to a CPD report.

"But for the actions of the Chicago Fire Dept., he probably would have drowned in the cold water," Judge Charles Beach said during a bond court hearing Sunday.

Omar Al-Shamali, 22, is charged with felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Police said they tried to stop a car for a minor traffic violation on the 800 block of N. Michigan around 9:30 a.m. But the driver sped away, struck another car, sped west on Chicago Ave., and eventually out-distanced officers who were following it, prosecutors said.

CPD officers continued to track the stolen car via the city's sprawling surveillance camera network until it crashed into an embankment just



Omar Al-Shamali

east of Goose Island.

Prosecutors said Al-Shamali jumped out of the crashed car, hopped into the nearby Chicago River, and tried to swim across. Police called in the fire department and marine units to pluck Al-Shamali from the frigid waters.

According to police, the owner of the stolen car left it running while she ran into a grocery store recently. It was gone when she came back out. Cops said they found the keys and a prescription bottle bearing Al-Shamali's name inside the crashed car. A BB-gun pistol was in a holster on the back seat.

Al-Shamali spoke up during his bond court hearing to say the BB-gun wasn't his, it just happened to be on the back seat.

"Sir, I don't need any help, thank you," his assistant public defender, Courtney Smallwood, cautioned.

After being advised of his right to remain silent, Al-Shamali told officers, "Why don't you shut the f*ck up?" But he didn't offer any further insights, according to prosecutors.

Judge Beach set bail his bail at \$5,000. Al-Shamali will need to post \$500 to get out of jail before trial.

the time of the second robbery.

Police responded to the boy's 911 call and immediately located Ararsa and Rosario in Ararsa's backyard. Ararsa was arrested on the spot, his ankle monitor still attached to his right leg. Rosario ran from the yard but was arrested nearby. Police said they found the victim's headphones in an alley close to Rosario and \$250 in Rosario's sock.

Prosecutors charged Ararsa and Rosario with one count of Class X felony armed robbery with a firearm each.

Ararsa has now pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery in both crimes. Judge Brosnahan sentenced him to four years for the first hold-up and six years for the one he committed while on electronic monitoring.

But the sentences will be served concurrently and reduced by 50% for good behavior. Plus, he'll receive 1,041 days credit for time spent in jail and on electronic monitoring before entering his plea.

With all discounts applied, Ararsa is scheduled to walk out of prison on Nov. 12.

Rosario also pleaded guilty to his role in the second robbery. Brosnahan sentenced him to six years, too. He'll also receive a 50% sentence reduction plus 933 days credit for time spent in jail. Rosario remains in Cook County custody, so the state has not yet estimated his parole date.

Attempted robbery charge filed in Streeterville attack

A man who's charged with stealing a woman's phone and kicking an arresting officer in his groin a week before Christmas was charged Wednesday with battering another woman in a robbery attempt in Streeterville that same week.

"When I get out of these handcuffs," James Killingsworth allegedly told an officer who arrested him on Dec. 19, "I'm going to beat your b*tch ass." He then kicked the cop in his personal parts, according to prosecutors.

Now, Killingsworth is charged with punching a woman in the face during a robbery attempt in Streeterville two days before the incident that landed him in jail.

On Wednesday, prosecutors said a Chicago police officer who had "previous interactions" with Killingsworth identified him as the assailant from surveillance photos that detectives circulated recently as they investigated the newly-charged crime.

According to prosecutors and police, a woman was walking in the



James Killingsworth

400 block of E. Ontario when Killingsworth ran up, punched her in the face, and tried to take her phone around 3:15 p.m. on Dec. 17.

The victim wrestled with Killingsworth, 26, and managed to maintain control of her property, prosecutors said. She then allegedly watched as he ran into a nearby Buena Beef and then a 7-Eleven store.

Detectives later obtained surveillance video from the two businesses and sent images of the attacker to cops in a "seeking to identify" bulletin. At least one officer identified Killingsworth from the footage. But, prosecutors said, the victim was unable to identify Killingsworth in a photo line-up last month.

Killingsworth has been held in lieu of \$25,000 bail since prosecutors charged him on Dec. 20 with trying to steal a woman's phone and battering the cop.

In that incident, a witness stuck out her foot and tripped Killingsworth as he ran away with a woman's phone on the 1000 block of N. State, according to prosecutors.

A CPD sergeant who happened to be across the street saw what happened and intervened.

That's when Killingsworth allegedly threatened to beat the cop and then kicked him in his groin, Assistant State's Attorney Bob Groebner said during a December bail hearing.

When Judge David Navarro listened to the state's allegations in December, he noted that the alleged crime "seems different than just a theft." The judge suggested that the incident might be properly classified as a more serious robbery offense.

On Feb. 17, Judge Susan Ortiz gave Killingsworth a recognizance bond in the Streeterville attempted robbery case.

Killingsworth remains jailed on the case that was charged in December.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Snow memories haunted by ice dams from Hell



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicagoans lamenting about the “Blizzard of 2021” burying our streets, alleys and yards should turn the clock back to their childhoods, when the white stuff was considered a gift from the gods.

In the 1950s and early 1960s on Halsted St. in Old Town, a big January snow was a chance to build a snow fort crowned with a roof of recently discarded Christmas trees. My fort was made from rectangular snow blocks cast from wooden orange crates. The fort even had a window.

If the snow was wet and heavy, it was considered “good packing,” which meant it was easy to make great snowballs. Once enough snowballs were stockpiled in the fort, battles could last for days. If you ran out of ammo, the victors rubbed your face in the white stuff.

Halsted St. brats also would volley snowballs from their sunken front yards into the open doors of the “Red Devil” electric street cars that rumbled down that busy street. Occasionally, the conductor would jump off the streetcar, cuss at us, and throw a snowball back.

As a young teenager, “skitch-



(Left) Launched like a torpedo, during a previous winter a giant nine-foot “Widowmaker” icicle fell off the corner of this building, penetrating porch decking and continuing on through the roof of a storage room on the basement level. (Right) Thirty-feet long, and two feet wide icicles cascading down the corner gutter had frozen the porch door closed last week.

ing” was considered a great urban sport, especially when side streets were ankle-deep in unplowed snow.

Teen boys would hide behind parked cars on Dayton St. and when a car skidded to a stop at Willow St., two or three lads would stay low and grab a handful of auto bumper and go for a ride without skis that sometimes lasted a half block.

Snow pranks included tying a home-made cloth dummy to a street-light pole and swinging it out into the snow bound street in front of a slowly moving car. Those nasty pranksters probably grew up to be cops, corporate executives, or newspaper writers.

Fast forward to 2021, when



Chicago is reeling from more than 40 inches of snow over the past few weeks. After nine consecutive days of snowfall, the city came within a snowflake of beating the 78-year record established in 1943.

Yet 2021 is no match for the Great Snow of 1967, when cars and buses were frozen in time for days on the Outer Drive. Nor 1979, when Mayor Michael Bilandic’s snow crews fell asleep at the wheel. That snow-job debacle led to the election of Mayor Jane Byrne in 1980.

Today, our problems include no U.S. Postal Service mail delivery for up to 10 days, or the controver-

SNOW see p. 6



Notre Dame senior forward and Harvard recruit, Louis Lesmond, defense St. Patrick’s Caleb Corro.

CPS basketball games start Feb. 26

BY JACK LYDON

The Chicago Public Schools will have a basketball season. The coaches have held tryouts. The required seven team practices are underway. Lane Tech is scheduled to play its first game against Farragut on Feb. 26. Nine leagues games are scheduled for both girls and boys teams. Coaches and athletic directors are working to schedule other games as well. CPS basketball season ends on March 20.

New Lincoln Park coach Antwon Jennings has his hands full getting ready for the season. Tryouts have been challenging because of the lack of staff; he is down to only two assistant coaches. But he has worked through that and the practices are getting in. The Lions’ first game is Feb. 26 at Whitney Young.

Former New Trier and Fenwick

boys basketball coach and current WCIU basketball analyst Rick Malnati (of the pizzeria owning family) announced Feb. 8 that he is organizing an invitational basketball tournament to be played on the last two days of the season, March 12 and 13. The eight elite teams invited are DePaul Prep, Evanston, Fenwick, Mundelein, Notre Dame, Simeon, St. Patrick and Whitney Young.

St. Patrick boys’ basketball coach Mike Bailey told this reporter that he is honored and excited to get an opportunity for his team to play in the tournament with such high level competition. “It says a lot about our program and the success we have had over the years to be included.”

Bailey says that the opening round games will be played at the higher seed’s gym and the semi-final and final will be played at Notre Dame High School.

Why is state trying to hide public notices?

Commentary

BY RONALD ROENIGK
Publisher

Do you want to know what the city is planning for down your block? Is it senior housing, a mental health center or liquor store? A nightclub, fight club or drug rehab center? Or perhaps a taxpayer-funded development? You’ll find out first by reading the public notices in the newspaper.

Every year an Illinois legislator proposes a bill to stop public notices from being published in your friendly neighborhood newspapers, and allow units of government to post them to their websites instead.

They must think they are saving taxpayers money, and that this newspaper you’re reading is no longer relevant.

This year is no different. House Bill 811 has been filed but not yet been assigned to a committee. As other bills that have come and gone before it, HB 811 is a bad idea. Lawmakers should reject it, as they have in the past.

This newspaper’s publisher has put in calls to each State Rep. in our coverage area and written personal letters asking that they

oppose HB 811.

Newspapers have played a vital role in providing transparency about government through the publication of public notices. It’s worked for more than 150 years.

Now, in addition to print editions, the digital reach of newspapers through their websites and the statewide public notice site run by Illinois newspapers, notifying the public has never been more efficient, effective and impactful. Posting notices to newspaper websites and the statewide site are at no additional cost to government, nor the voter, and is intended to provide even greater transparency and greater public access to these notices.

Depending on the notice type, posting them in this newspaper costs between \$35 and \$41 per week. In total, state and township spending on public notices is about 00.005% of their budget. No that’s not a typo, it’s a very small amount they pay to be transparent to the voters. And for that money the state gets a certified, 3rd-party independent guarantee that their public actions are being seen by the general public.

The Illinois state government wants to take public notices away from newspapers.

There are nearly 7,000 units

of government in Illinois. Only about half of those units have a website. How efficient and effective would the government be at reaching the general population of Illinois with a record like that?

Be honest, when was the last time you visited a government website you weren’t forced to visit to conduct some obligatory or mandated task? These are not well-read websites; unlike most newspapers and their own news sites that do draw very high traffic.

Units of government are required by statute to post meeting dates, agendas and minutes. Yet, many don’t. There are more

than 1,400 townships in Illinois, and the vast majority don’t have a website. For the ones that do only

Newspapers have played a vital role in providing transparency about government through the publication of public notices. It’s worked for more than 150 years.

53% comply with the required posting of meeting dates, agendas and minutes. Why would different results be expected from the same government units if they control the posting of public notices?

And what do you suppose the additional costs would be for our governmental bodies to put on new staff and added resources to

get 100% compliance? We think it might be more than \$41 a week.

We all know there is money to be saved by being more efficient. How about taking a realistic look at eliminating the seemingly redundant units of government? Illinois has far more units of government than any other state.

Florida has more than 7 million more residents than Illinois but fewer than a quarter the number of government units. Drainage districts, road districts and mosquito abatement districts could and should become part of the function of county governments.

NOTICES see p. 6

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SNOW from p. 5

sial issue of “Dibs,”—ownership of a parking space personally dug out by a snow warrior.

And where do we dump the snow when parkways and corner intersections are filled? In 1979, the city dumped the excessive snow in the Chicago River. Today, some of it is headed to the parking lots around Sox Park.

The iceman cometh

Then, there is the dreaded threat of “Gutter Ice Dams and Killer Icicles.” A diligent Old-Town renter called her landlord to report water dripping from the roof into the third-floor hallway. An hour later the handyman reported: “Mr. Don, You have big icicles hanging from your gutter.”

About 20 years ago, a giant nine-foot-long icicle fell off the corner of the same building. It was launched like a torpedo, penetrating the old porch decking and continuing on through the roof of a storage room on the basement level. Result: a \$9,000 insurance claim.

The new monster icicles of 2021 are only about seven-feet long, but they nearly blocked rear access doors.

The brave handyman knocked down the icicles, opened the roof hatch and shoveled snow off the edge. Then, he poured ice melt crystals into the gutter and onto the edge of the roof.

The next day, this landlord received cell-phone photos from his firefighter neighbor on yet another building. This North Side rental property was plagued with the same ice dam problem, only worse.

The gutter ice dams flowing down the side of the back porch looked like the Tower Fall Waterfall at Yellowstone National Park. They were 30’ long, and two feet wide. Ice cascading down the corner gutter had frozen the porch door closed. If there was a fire, the exit would have been inaccessible.

Again, the handyman went up on the roof to attack the ice.

Chicagoans will survive the “Blizzard of 2021.” The big melt down has already started. But this writer still wishes he had reservations in Cabo.

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.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Jake Arrieta



Julia Jacobs with Belva Lahart and Lauren Rundle.



Brian White and Jim Kinney.



Neil Green, Anna Doudnikova with Catherine O'Connell.



Lynn Graham and Meg Nagel.

NOTICES from p. 5

The largest mosquito abatement district in Illinois is the South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District and it spent less than \$100 in 2020 on public notices, which is far less than the \$25,000 it spent on memberships and conferences. The cost of public notices is one of the smallest expenses of government entities.

It isn't surprising that eliminating public notices from newspa-

Allowing the government to remove public notices from newspapers will make it even harder for newspapers to do what they do best - serve and inform their communities.

pers won't reduce taxes. Realistically no unit of government is going to lower its tax levy. So, if the Legislature really wants to lower public notice expense, and ultimately property taxes, it should address the number of governmental entities in the state. For over 150 years now, local newspapers across Illinois have provided access to public notices and verify compliance by government units. They also serve as a permanent record, in print, of public notices that cannot be altered by a government entity sometime down the road like some Orwellian nightmare.

Like this newspaper you're reading, the majority of the more than 400 newspapers in Illinois are small businesses. Like every other small business, newspapers have been hit hard by the pandemic. Allowing the government to remove public notices from newspapers will make it even harder for newspapers to do what they do best - serve and inform their communities.

Call your State Rep. and tell them you oppose HB 811.

RESILIENCE from p. 2

15 minutes for moms. Her death just about one year ago, in her 90s, took away a great friend of Chicago. Her three children, long ago, picking up her baton.

THE BRIDGERTON TEA: Congratulations to **Shaun Rajah** and **Joseph Szymczak** on the sweet success of the lockdown's “Bridgerton” inspired Valentine Tea from the Drake Hotel. Lady Whistledown highly approved.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: From New York, **Julius DeBruhl Lewis** whispers that **Jay Harding**, the former manager at **Arnie Morton's** restaurant/disco Zorine's during its heyday, just turned 95. His Chicago friends and special customers from Zorine's send their best birthday wishes. What a larger-than-life career and social life Harding enjoyed in Chicago in an era in which Arnie Morton was reinventing Chicago dining. In New York, Harding was the man to know at the 21 Club. He brought his special know how and grace with him to Chicago where he was friends with many of the city's best known celebrities, including the late **Dori Wilson**, whom he adored.

SLAN LAT: **Mary Kathleen “Kay” Lennon** was a woman of the world. She was professionally at home with long years in Manhattan and Boston. But her heart was always on Chicago's South

Side where her enormous brood of Lençons, the oldest of 10 sibs, occupied a large slice of hilarious space. Her advanced degrees shone a bright light for all her brood to follow. They've never stopped, especially in matters political and artistic. Adored by the generations that followed her path, she will be missed “at every Irish wake and wedding and at every fancy ball.” Love and peace to all who were hers.

NEW YORK TRIUMPH: Artist **Adam Scott Umbach's** Sag Harbor, NY, exhibition this week was triumph of New York celebrity and Hampton sales. The granddaughter of one of America's greatest modern painters even purchased one of Umbach's works. His career, Chicago-based, has skyrocketed.

HAPPY AND GLORIOUS: **HM the Queen, Elizabeth II**, just celebrated the 69th anniversary of her accession to the throne upon the death of her father, **King George VI**. Her reign has been filled with every conceivable challenge and opportunity in government and history. She is now Britain's longest serving monarch.

WHO'S WHERE: **Edmund Lester** is with **Caroline Lester** at University Club of Chicago, with daughter, sweet **Caroline**... **Shelley Howard** with **Angela Milan** for Sushi Saturday at Kamehachi on Wells St. ... **Candace** and **Chuck Jordan** soaking up the sun and botanicals in Palm Beach, and at the Leopard Lounge where they connected to **Leslie Hindman** ... Maestro **Stanley Paul** hanging out with **Greyson**, the most handsome canine ... **Christopher Kennedy** and wife, **Sheila Berners Kennedy** in Hinnisport ... **Mamie Walton** always out and about ... artist **Rosemary Fanti** and husband, **Richard Koranda**, out on the

town ... a chilly Yacht Club lunch for lovely **Peggy Snorf**, **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White**... **Paul Malarik III** and I missed our special Valentine's lunch celebration cuz of quarantine, but remembered how fab **Lynn Graham** and **Meg Nagel** always look in red at the RL feast ... **Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill Captain Christopher Lum** giving extra love to wife, **Jacqueline Lum** ... **Dr. Joaquin Brieva** and wife, **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** dining with birthday boy publisher **Dan Uslan** and wife, **Sharon Gitle Uslan**... **James Staples** with **Betsy Blanchard Grenzabeck**, up from Antigua, Guatemala, Sacatepequez ... **Julia Jacobs** with **Belva Lahart** and **Lauren Rundle** out lunching... **Zurich Esposito** and his wonder pooch, **Jack**, reclining amid the palms in Palm Desert, CA ... Happy anniversary to architect **Lucien Lagrange** and **Melinda Jakovich-Lagrange**... Congratulations to **Neil Green** and **Anna Doudnikova** on their recent marriage and to mother of the groom, songstress **Catherine O'Connell** who's doing “Green in February”... Welcome back **Jake Arrieta** to the Cubs for “a year”... **Mark Olley** getting squeezable with **Sherry Lea Fox** and **Frances Renk**.

SNOWBIRDS: **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** safely back in snowy, cold Chicago in time to get their second shots of the vaccine and enjoy winter at home, writing a slew of thank you notes to all friends who hosted them in Florida.

INSIDE THE STUDIO: Artist **David Cook** displays his massive work, “Studio Floor,” a mixed media creation.

I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night. - Sarah Williams

tog515@gmail.com

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

242424

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF Cook County, Illinois, County Department, Chancery Division. Nationstar HECM Acquisition Trust 2015-2, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not individually, but solely as Trustee Plaintiff, vs. Sandra Graff; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendants, Case #2017CH5204 Sheriff's # 210007-001F F17030262 CPN Pursuant to a Judgment made and entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will on March 23rd, 2021, at 1pm in room LL06 of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction the following described premises and real estate mentioned in said Judgment: Common Address: 6749 North Rockwell Street, Chicago, Illinois 60645 P.I.N: 10-36-404-037-0000 Improvements: This property consist of a Single Family Home. Sale shall be under the following terms: payment of not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the successful and highest bid to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier's check or certified funds at the sale; and the full remaining balance to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier's check or certified funds within twenty-four (24) hours after the sale. Sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments. Premise will NOT be open for inspection. Firm Information: Plaintiff's Attorney DIAZ ANSELMO LINDBERG, LLC 1771 W. DIEHL, Ste 120 Naperville, IL 60563 Sales Department foreclosurenotice@fal-illinois.com 866-402-8661 fax 630-428-4620 For bidding instructions, visit www.fal-illinois.com This is an attempt to collect a debt pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

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SIMMONS from p. 1

His agenda includes dealing with economic insecurity – especially for small business owners – and the state’s budget deficit, currently at almost \$3 billion. He emphasized closing the state’s corporate loopholes that may increase taxes on small business. “We can’t balance the budget on the backs of workers,” he said. He supports a higher minimum wage of \$15 and a more aggressive tax line. The state’s current minimum hourly wage is \$11.

The son of a Black American mother and Ethiopian-American immigrant father, Simmons also said that cannabis equity has not succeeded in the state. He pointed out that 75 licenses were granted and 22 went to one advocate; therefore, a broader distribution is necessary.

Arts, criminal justice and health care

Simmons, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Amherst

College, is an arts advocate. He said, “We should be creating economic opportunities to support young artists. We need a robust infrastructure around that.”

Simmons is a strong supporter of a controversial criminal justice reform bill that Gov. JB Pritzker was expected to sign this week. The bill eliminates cash bail by 2023, limits the use of force and requires every officer to wear body cameras by 2025.

He said he supports civilian oversight of police and is willing to work with civilian groups on police/civilian issues.

As the first openly gay member of the Illinois Senate and the first person of color to serve as state Senator from Illinois’ 7th District, Simmons reached out to the LG-BTQIA community. “This is our time,” he said. “We’re in every corner of the state, not just the city. Get engaged with the political process.”

More funding for mental health and improvement in the health care system for women of color are additional issues he said he will bring to Springfield. “I want

to help people that have fallen through the cracks of the state’s health care system,” Simmons said.

Since 2017, Simmons has operated Blue Sky Strategies, a public policy and consulting firm. Simmons also served as policy director in the mayor’s office from 2011 to 2013 and deputy commissioner in the city’s Dept. of Planning and Development from 2013 to 2016, under Mayor Rahm Emanuel. He served as policy director for Cook County Cmsr. Bridget Gainer [10th] from 2009 to 2011 and a staff assistant and legislative correspondent for U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin from 2007 to 2009.

In June 2020, Simmons became deputy director of My Brother’s Keeper Alliance, an initiative to build safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color; it’s managed by the Obama Foundation. Simmons said he plans to be a full-time legislator and is now working to transition out of his role as deputy director of the My Brother’s Keeper Alliance.

ROBBERY from p. 1

3360 W. Montrose at 4:47 p.m. Feb. 9, and a robbery on the street at 3632 N. Kedzie 9:45 p.m. Feb. 15.

The SmokePost at 905 W. Belmont in Lakeview was robbed at gunpoint by two men, including one who wore a yellow backpack, around 6 p.m. Feb. 9, but that case is not included in the list of crimes that Area Five detectives announced. Lakeview robberies are investigated by Area Three detectives.

Police are urging people to comply with their demands “to ensure the safety of all workers and customers.” The men “are considered armed and dangerous,” according to the CPD alert.

According to CPD, the suspects are two Black men between 18- and 25-years-old who stand 6’ to 6’-2” tall and weigh 150 to 160 lbs. The men wear dark hoodies, jeans, gloves, masks, and one wears a white hat. And, of course, there’s the yellow backpack.

CANCELLED? from p. 1

ries to a symbol of the country’s non-native origins. The CMP is asking city residents to consider monuments and memorials that promote incomplete, distorted, or harmful views of history, and consider having them removed from public spaces.

Their website claims that the CMP “is calling out the hard truths of our history – especially as they relate to racism and oppression. Histories and stories shown in many of our monuments are false and harmful representations that are offensive to many people.”

CMP feels telling a “true and inclusive history is important, as is addressing who gets to tell those stories in public space.” Their priority now is to address “ignored, forgotten and distorted histories.”

“This is an opportunity to recontextualize the existing public art collection and create new work that embraces the stories, people and narratives that have been overlooked. New commissions should embrace a variety of creative approaches including temporary installations, performance, earthworks and artist-driven public engagement.”

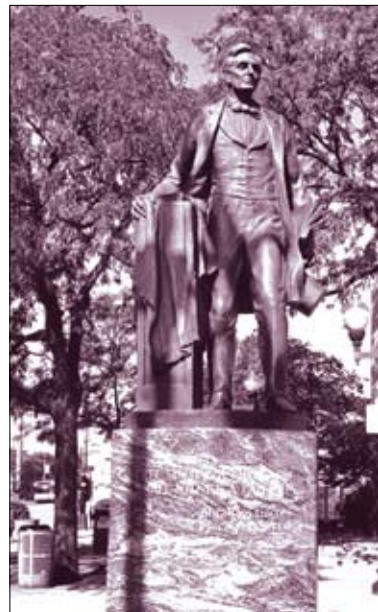
“The city’s public art collection should provide accessible platforms for ongoing dialogue and community building that are sensitive to the diverse needs of audiences that will come into contact with the work. The city’s approach to developing new work should prioritize communities with a history of disinvestment, and connect to other initiatives and programs that aim to uplift and celebrate Chicago’s neighborhoods.”

CPM claims their mission is to “grapple with the often unacknowledged – or forgotten – history associated with the City’s various municipal art collections and provides a vehicle to address the hard truths of Chicago’s racial history, confront the ways in which that history has and has not been memorialized, and develop a framework for marking public space that elevates new ways to memorialize Chicago’s history.”

The project plans to catalogue monuments and public art on City or Park District property; appointing an advisory committee to determine which pieces warrant attention or action; make recommendations for new monuments or public art that could be commissioned; and create a platform for the public to engage in a civic dialogue about Chicago’s history.

The committee says they will publish their recommendations on the existing monuments and new work to be developed.

Some activists feel these pieces of public art reveal the realities of living in a rapidly growing 19th-century industrial metropolis, and presented a highly idealized and



Lincoln Square’s Abe Lincoln sculpture (1956) by Lloyd Ostendorf / Avarad Fairbanks, is being considered for cancellation by Mayor Lightfoot and her committee of 30-social justice activists. So too is the Indian Boundary Lines plaque (1937) located at Rogers Ave. and Clark St.



orderly vision for Chicago in which traditional neo-classical architecture and sculpture was integrated into a well-manicured, natural setting.

Constructed on a heroic scale and designed to overwhelm, the buildings and sculptures paid tribute to an idea of Progress, placing the Western tradition, Western Europe, and America at the apex of world civilization.

Today, many activists have a different in-

terpretation of progress.

Some members of the CMP committee think the art from the World’s Columbian Exposition attempts to align itself with great European empires, past and present, that set the terms for monuments for the next 50 years. They claim that many of Chicago’s monuments were based on mythologies of the City’s founding that posed white explorers, missionaries, armed forces, and settlers against the indigenous tribes and

Among the 27 pieces of public art - and artists - located on the North Side that have been targeted for review and debate by CMP are:

- **Standing Lincoln**, 1887, in Lincoln Park, by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.
- **The Alarm**, 1884, in Lincoln Park, by John J. Boyle.
- **Robert Cavalier de La Salle**, 1889, in Lincoln Park by Count Jacques de la Laing.
- **A Signal of Peace**, 1890, installed in Lincoln Park 1894, by Cyrus Edwin Dallin.
- Artwork at the DuSable Bridge are all being questioned including the tablet dedicated to **Joliet and Marquette** (1925) artist unknown. Chicago River Plaque (1953). Tablet dedicated to **Cavelier de La Salle** (1925) artist unknown. **The Defense** relief (1928) and **Regeneration** relief (1929) by Henry Hering, and **The Pioneers** relief (1929) and **Discoverers** relief (1930), by James Earl Fraser.
- **Indians** (The Bowman and the Spearman), 1928, in Grant Park, (modeled 1926) by Ivan Mestrovic.
- **General John Logan Monument** (1897) by Augustus Saint-Gaudens / Alexander Phimister Proctor in Grant Park.
- **Augustus Saint-Gaudens** (1848-1907) by Alexander Phimister Proctor in Grant Park.
- **Ulysses S. Grant Monument** (1891) by Louis T. Rebisso; Frances B. Whitehouse, architect, in Lincoln Park.
- **Abe Lincoln** (1956) by Lloyd Ostendorf / Avarad Fairbanks, in Lincoln Square.
- **Young Lincoln** (1951, installed 1997) by Charles Keck, in Senn Park.
- **Benjamin Franklin** (1895, installed 1896, relocated from site near zoo in 1966) by Richard Henry Park, in Lincoln Park.
- **Indian Boundary Lines** plaque (1937) at Rogers Ave. and Clark St.
- **Jean Baptiste Beaubien** plaque (1937) at Chicago Cultural Center.

nations of the region. They claim that art patrons of that time were also responsible for an “idealized representation of American statesmen and military heroes.”

CMP has identified for public discussion art pieces they feel promote a narrative of white supremacy presenting inaccurate and/or demeaning characterizations of American Indians, memorializing individuals with connections to racist acts, slavery, and genocide. They think some pieces present a “selective, over-simplified, one-sided views of history,” and do “not sufficiently include other stories, in particular those of women, people of color, and themes of labor, migration, and community building.”

They blame the art pieces for creating tension between people who see value in these artworks and those who do not.



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