

If you think you have it tough,
read history books.

— Bill Maher

NEWS-STAR

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

**Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth
faces crucial decision on
Broadway upzoning, page 12**

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DCASE commissioner criticized as bully leaving “void”

Cmsr. Hedspeth seeks to put taxpayer money in artists’ pockets

BY BOB ZULEY

Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events [DCASE] Cmsr. Clinee Hedspeth is facing new criticism from appointees of past administrations who say she is leaving a “void” in the struggling arts industry, according to the Chicago Tribune.

After canceling a meeting with the Cultural Advisory Council’s [CAC] meeting with some of Chicago’s top cultural minds just days before it was set to occur, the decision “continues a pattern” of non-communication with arts leaders left in the dark about her vision for Chicago culture, according to council member Amina Dickerson.

Hedspeth is also facing bullying allegations from several staffers, records obtained by the Tribune show. Around a quarter of DCASE’s staff has resigned or been fired since Mayor Brandon Johnson appointed Hedspeth in March of 2024.

Hedspeth served as Johnson’s legislative director for over two years when he was a Cook County commissioner. While the current CAC includes only members appointed by other mayors, Johnson is expected to add some of his own members at the groups’ next meeting.

But some on the CAC argue the cancellations are both a cause and a sign of the “void” Hedspeth’s tenure has left in the city’s struggling arts industry.

DCASE’s many functions include working with the high-dollar film and TV industries, sharing grants with artists and arts organizations, organizing public art and permitting special events like Lollapalooza or the NA-SCAR Chicago Street Race.

Advisory council member Tonika Johnson Lewis, an appointee of Lightfoot, echoed Dickerson’s non-communication with the group. She said there has been “absolutely no effort” to engage the CAC and an “absolute lack of effort to really learn.”

Hedspeth faced at least four formal complaints primarily alleging staff mistreatment since Johnson appointed Hedspeth. The staff departures are “due to the leadership of Hedspeth,” reported one complainant, who alleged Hedspeth shouted at them across the office and cursed them out in front of strangers.

In each complaint obtained by the Tribune, the Human Resources staff determined the investigations should not move forward,



DCASE Cmsr. Clinee Hedspeth and her boss Mayor Brandon Johnson. Image courtesy LinkedIn

though in one case, they decided the allegations warranted escalation to Johnson’s chief of staff, Cristina Pacione-Zayas.

Asked about the complaints and the department’s high turnover, Hedspeth said that the city doesn’t comment on “personnel matters” but said that staffing changes are “common and expected.”

Hedspeth drew attention to DCASE practices when it was learned by this newspaper that she expended taxpayer funds through a DCASE proxy, Chicago Public Art Group, after \$100,000 was paid to a Brooklyn-based artist, Tomakazu Matsuyama.

The artist created the mural, “Our Way Bloom,” mounted on the east exterior wall of the Edgewater Branch Public Library by fiat, with little or no transparency or input from the community.

She similarly spent taxpayer funds in order to pay Chicago-based artist Max Sansing for “Under One Roof,” a mural at the Uptown Branch Public Library that pays tribute to House artist Frankie Knuckles.

The advisory council chair, Coya Paz, told the Tribune that Hedspeth came into a difficult situation where many industry leaders had close relationships with former Cmsr. Erin Harkey, whom Johnson fired.

Hedspeth’s relationship with Johnson helped secure a \$1 million increase in the amount of money the city will spend on grants this year, despite Johnson’s struggles to pass a 2025 budget.

The city will now spend \$7 million on grants, a \$1 million increase over Johnson’s 2024 budget, but a decrease from the \$10 million in Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s 2023 budget.

Hedspeth told ABC7 one of her biggest goals is putting taxpayer money directly into artists’ pockets. Apparently city residency isn’t a prerequisite to collect city

DCASE see p. 12

City Plan Commission approves Broadway upzoning framework

Alderman opposed upzoning plan that she voted to approve

BY BOB ZULEY

As expected, the Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] approved the Broadway Land Use Framework at City Hall on Friday. More than 40 people gathered to present opinions with about two-thirds against the framework proposal and one-third in support.

The CPC is a 23 member body established in 1909 responsible for the review of proposals involving Planned Developments, Lakefront Protection Ordinance, Planned Manufacturing Districts, Industrial Corridors, and Tax Increment Financing Districts.

In addition to the nine appointed members, an additional 14 serve as ex-officio voting members assuring that any city-sponsored proposal is warmly received. Ex-officio members include Mayor Brandon Johnson, CTA Chairman Lester Barclay, Planning Cmsr. Ciere Boatright, Transportation Cmsr. Tom Carney, Housing Cmsr. Lissette Casteneda, Park District Cmsr. Rosa Escareno, and Zoning Administrator Patrick Murphey. Additionally, six city aldermen sit on the CPC.

The most recent Broadway Land Use Framework policy document published by the Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] dated Feb. 20, openly thanked Aldermen Leni Manaa-

Hoppenworth [48th], Matt Martin [47th], and Angela Clay [46th] for working together to develop and execute the Broadway upzoning planning process.

A newsletter from Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth dated Feb. 20, noted that she, “... spoke in favor of the Broadway Land Use Framework, a plan which translates community priorities for a pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use corridor into a tool for future decision-making on Broadway from Devon to Montrose.”

However, one week earlier on Feb. 13, Manaa-Hoppenworth announced on her official blog that she had heard concerns from neighbors on the west side of

APPROVES see p. 12

Kindred Hospital on Sheridan closing, put up for sale

157 employees laid off

BY BOB ZULEY

The Kindred Hospital, 6130 N. Sheridan Rd. in Edgewater, is no longer accepting new admissions and is listed for sale as the hospital is slated for closure in March leaving 157 staff being out-of-work.

According to a document submitted to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board [IHFSRB] in Springfield, notice was given by Louisville, KY-based Kindred Healthcare Operating, LLC to discontinue its 103-bed long-term acute care at Kindred Chicago Lakeshore on Sheridan Rd.

A similar notice from the IHFSRB site disclosed that a 64-bed LTAC located at 225 Edward St. in Sycamore, IL, will be closing in the same time frame.

Media reports say that 157 staff will be laid off effective Mar. 19, and plan to close by Apr. 30 at the latest. Kindred believes in closing down the Sheridan Rd. site and another one in Sycamore, IL, will help them serve the greater Chicago area better through the facilities they have remaining.

The report claims that management came to the decision to close these two facilities since they only have an occupancy rate of around 36% which is below the state standard of 85% that they had hoped for.

The site serves ventilator-dependent patients and are not traditional hospitals and do not offer services such as emergency departments or labor and delivery. Kindred specializes in the treatment and rehabilitation of post-intensive care and complex medical patients requiring an acute



Kindred Hospital site for sale is shaded in pink [above] and in yellow [below]. Courtesy Jones Lang LaSalle

hospital setting.

Kindred had previously said they planned to offer positions at other Kindred facilities such as 2544 W. Montrose in Lincoln Square and another site in Northlake.

Many Chicagoans may remember the Kindred Hospitals by another name, Vencor. Kindred maintains a presence in not only Illinois but also in 15 other states.

The hospital site on N. Sheridan Rd. was previously known as Sheridan Road Hospital and was

slated to be sold to developers according to its owners at the time, Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center, according to a July, 1989 Chicago Tribune story.

Rush, which had run the hospital since 1976 announced the date of closure. Then Ald. Mary Ann Smith (48th) said her community might support a rehabilitation center but discounted the suggestion of a nursing-care center as there were too many in the community.

KINDRED see p. 12

City lacking equilibrium



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Chicago has always been a place that understands the significance of balance. Its citizens have always trusted the significance of its urban equilibrium and level-headedness.

An equalized sense of vision, well-thought-out judgements. Intelligent, harmonious decisions and conscious pacing used to bring plans and tasks to well-wrought conclusions.

That's why our trains and buses run on time, the garbage is disposed of in well-organized and timely fashion. That's also why the snow is plowed with thorough efficiency and why the streetlights go on.

Only today we are not seeing these traits in City Hall, where the balance and equilibrium of our heartland virtues born of our Prairie living and Great Lakes identity are missing. Judgement possessed of highly buffed polit-

ish, well-manicured political understanding and refined architectural appreciation for the modern construct of our urban design.

Balance and equilibrium have always been the principal resources of our ability to reinvent the American city with expansive dignity and enlivened spirit. How else could Chicago reverse the flow of the Chicago River, fashion a 90-mile canal to connect us to all the waterways of the world? And along the way invent the skyscraper, Cracker Jack Caramel Corn, deep dish pizza, the zipper, and Wrigley Chewing Gum.

Recalibrating our creativity and sense of American adventure to include the refining of art, science and urban design.

Some of this refinement, taste and urban muscle comes from our great inland sea, Lake Michigan. The waves and the winds focus our imagination by their vastness and ability to shape the seasons with drama, power and lasting resourcefulness.

But most of all the balance and equilibrium is found in the people who have made this geography home. From the age of trappers and traders to the era of American pioneers, frontiersmen and immigrant arrivals. Chicago's robust growth and development were the wonder of the 19th century.

Chicago was a landscape too fertile and resource-rich not to become the capitol of the American Heartland. Doubling its population every 10 years between 1840 and 1910. Growing from 40,000 to over a million souls in just 70 years.

Balance and equilibrium opened the door for America's finest occupants of the White House from Abraham Lincoln to John Fitzgerald Kennedy. That raised America's most able urban leaders and politicians, whose sense of political direction made them national leaders of pragmatic American political thought.

From William Butler Ogden, Chicago's first Mayor through larger-than-life Americans like "Long John" Wentworth, Joseph Medill, Tribune owner and post Chicago Fire leader, to Carter Harrison III, the World's Fair

Mayor to Anton Cermak killed by Al Capone. To Edward Kelly, Martin Kennelly, Richard J. Daley, Jane Burke Byrne, Harold Washington, Richard M. Daley and Rahm Emanuel, all leaders whose political engagement of Chicago and its neighborhoods was always the story of balance and equilibrium.

People who understood the functions, policies and products of highly-functioning urban government.

That's why it's so difficult to reason the antics and failure of the regime of Mayor "Teachers Pet" Johnson. A man melting in the failure of imbalance and lost equilibrium.

We now see it everywhere. The sound of unbalance is spreading. Whispered in restaurants and in grocery stores, at the gym and on the block from Downtown to Uptown. This town is out of sorts.

The Mayor's recent hysterics about "disloyal" mayoral staff and co-workers demonstrate just how broken the administration finds itself. Leaving the city broken and demoralized. With President Donald Trump looking at our mayor with well-earned scorn and distaste.

So the mayor's outrage is contagious, and seems to know no bounds. "If you ain't with us, you gotta go," he recently screamed. This warning would appear a sad way to view his own failure to listen, organize and take charge. And it's part of what ails this city.

"Teachers Pet" long ago gave up any chance of success, abdicating authority and political sense to the Chicago Teachers Union. With no sense of balance, he has lost any chance at equilibrium. Insisting, vapidly, he's going to "clean house."

We'll believe that bluster is real when he tosses the Teachers Union bums off the fifth floor. Until then, this stance just serves to afflict us.

So is it likely that we will see a critical political purge of the miscreants and engorged salary earners that circle around him? Hardly. What can he do when he has a minuscule 14% approval rating? What cards of reckoning can he possibly hold, having already been forced to jettison "political confidants" in his office?

And across the nation the people all say, "at least it's not as bad here as it is in Chicago."

The forcefield of disillusionment, and the discovery of just how inept and unprepared Mayor "Teachers Pet" is, has resulted in the recent resignations of three mayoral political insiders.

The departing employees are significant members of what

once passed for a team. Jose Tirado, director of the city's Office of Emergency Management and Communications; Jamie Rhee, commissioner of the city's Dept. of Aviation; and Andrea Kersten, chief administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability. They were all members of the mayor's cabinet who remained from past administrations.

Perhaps the mayor is suffering from a serious bout of political paranoia, a malady that afflicts Marxists worldwide.

He would like to make it seem like he lowered the boom on these folk. But many believe they just had enough of bad leadership, bad manners and inside shenanigans.

In the meantime, such employees of true balance and sound equilibrium, are already set for escape, seeing everything in their rearview mirrors and bolting out the gate. Perhaps relieved to be excused from the table, out the door and away from this feast of incompetence. Brainstorming for their replacements, and the mayor's. Even now, at the mid-term mark in his tragic tale, when there are perhaps a dozen people planning to run against him.

While the mayor continues to bungle and squander any chance for political redemption, his lack of common sense and strategic intelligence is removing the last of the political goodwill that he once possessed at election.

The time has come to bite the political bullet and ask the Illinois State Legislature to help resolve this fiasco of urban imbalance and mayoral ineptitude fast-approaching as Chi-town's worst disaster since the Great Fire of 1871. The Trump era is no time to coddle weak, incompetent and paranoid mayors. Perhaps Trump can loan us Elon Musk and his 20 wonderkids for a week or two?

Chicago, like Paris, is a moveable feast. "If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast." - Ernest Hemingway.

And today, there appears to be fewer and fewer people willing to show up at the mayor's table for his feast.

CHICAGO PARADE: Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. Saturday, March 15. Columbus Dr. from Balbo St. to Monroe St., 12:30 p.m., marking the 70th year

since Mayor **Richard J. Daley** brought the parade back downtown. The Grand Marshall is **Mark McManus**, General President, United Association, Guest of Honor **Mary Ellen Caron**, CEO After School Matters and **Cara Walsh**, the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen.

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: Great anticipation surrounds the arrival of former President of Ireland **Mary Robinson**, (1990-1997), making an appearance at Chicago's 25th Annual Irish Film Festival. They're showing the film "Mrs. Robinson" followed with



Mary Robinson

Q&A. Her past visits to Chicago were moments of deep cultural revelations and awakenings.

IN VERITAS: Fred Rosen, the sharp-shooting visionary behind Sam's Wine & Liquor, has died. Rosen allowed his staff to shine, establishing Sam's as an influential player in the wine world. He reshaped Chicago's taste and ability to select good wine. Many recall a visit to Sam's basement, digging for gold



Fred Rosen

in the mines where the good stuff was hidden. Seems like so long ago.

STEPHENWOLF: The queen is coming. **Kelli O'Hara** will be performing April 18 and 19 for three performances only. While the Chicago premiere of *The Book of Grace* will play March 27 - May 18. It's an incendiary family portrait by Pulitzer Prize winner **Suzan-Lori Parks**, and directed by **Steve H. Broadnax III**.

MEATBALLS: Executive

LACKING see p. 8

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Police oversight chief quit because she was about to be recommended for firing, CPD union boss claims

BY CWBCHICAGO

The head of the agency that investigates allegations of significant wrongdoing by Chicago police officers, including cops involved in shootings, quit last week because the city's police oversight commission was planning to recommend she be fired.

John Catanzara, the head of the union that represents the city's front-line cops, made that stunning claim in a YouTube video on Feb. 15.

"The reality is this," Catanzara claimed. "The Community Commission [for Public Safety and Accountability - CCPSA], we know, took a vote to recommend her for a termination hearing at the City Council."

"She knew her days were numbered, so she left before having to face that termination and absolutely was not going to have her contract renewed at the very least, or at least not approved," the union boss continued.



Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 President John Catanzara and former COPA Chief Administrator Andrea Kersten (inset).

Andrea Kersten has been under fire for months from forces within and without the Civilian Office of Police Accountability [COPA]. Critics claim COPA has a baked-in anti-police bias that results in shoddy investigations and inappropriate disciplinary recommendations.

Last July, the CCPSA voted unanimously to ask the city's Of-

fice of Inspector General to investigate the "quality and integrity" of COPA's investigations and COPA's disciplinary recommendations.

In September, 16 former COPA employees urged the CCPSA to take a "no confidence" vote on Kersten. That was followed by a pair of lawsuits by once high-ranking COPA employees who

claimed they were fired for blowing the whistle on the agency's problems.

Catanzara claimed a lawsuit filed by the union on behalf of eight cops against Kersten, COPA, and the city "got this ball rolling" and "triggered a series of events" that ultimately led to Kersten's resignation.

He also stressed that while Mayor Brandon Johnson can weigh in on who will replace Kersten, CCPSA ultimately conducts the talent search and decides who to submit to the City Council for approval.

"So, that should be a little more fair and equal kind of decision," Catanzara said.

Last April, CPD Larry Snelling publicly expressed his concerns about COPA's investigations during a town hall meeting that came in the days after officers killed Dexter Reed, a driver who opened fire on cops, shooting one, during a traffic stop.

After the shooting, Kersten

toured local and national media outlets, suggesting that the officers who pulled Reed over might have lied about the reason for the traffic stop. Yet, Snelling noted, COPA investigators had not even spoken with the officers Kersten suggested had been untruthful.

"You will not find me on the Stephen A. Smith show," Snelling cracked.

The top cop also argued that COPA released a letter Kersten wrote to him about Reed's case to media outlets under the Freedom of Information Act. Illinois's FOIA law allows government bodies to withhold information that could interfere with an ongoing investigation or anticipated administrative or criminal proceedings.

In November, this reporter reported that COPA investigators had recommended a cop be fired for, primarily, posting a picture to Facebook of former Mayor Lori Lightfoot in "blackface."

After nearly five years of investigation, the agency sent its recommendation for termination to Snelling in April 2024. He rejected COPA's recommendation, calling its recommendation of termination "egregious" and noting that the image did not show Lightfoot, who is Black, in blackface. It showed her in clown makeup.

The investigation began days after Lightfoot, presiding over a City Council meeting, was

CHIEF see p. 4

Website offers easy way to update property tax bill name, address information

BY MARIA PAPPAS

You may not look forward to receiving your property tax bill, but it's crucial that you get it. Not getting it can lead to missing the payment due date, which can cost you money. That's exactly what happened to a taxpayer who didn't update her mailing address after buying a home in Cook County. By the time she discovered the issue, her bill had ballooned by an additional \$800 due to interest for late payments.



Maria Pappas

address. Results will show a picture of the property. Then, under "Mailing Information" on the right, click on the highlighted text that says, "Update Your Information." Fill out the form with the correct name and address and provide a telephone number and email address, then submit the form electronically. You will then receive an email from my office with a link which you must click on to confirm your changes.

You may also request a change of address in person on the first floor of the Cook County Building downtown at 118 N. Clark St., Room 112.

Note: address changes are not processed by phone to prevent the growing problem of identity

theft.

To use mail, just download a pdf copy of the change of mailing address form from our website, print it, fill it out and put it into a mailbox. Remember, this method requires notarization.

There are several reasons why people request address changes. Your name on your bill may be misspelled or the address may be incorrect. Some people want to update their information due to marriage or divorce.

Others tell us they didn't receive a tax bill in the mail during the first billing cycle after purchasing a property. Check your mailing address on our website and submit a request to update the information.

When an owner pays through escrow, the Treasurer's Office mails the original tax bill to the owner. We don't mail tax bills to mortgage companies.


Although we sympathized with her predicament, my office was bound by law to collect what was owed. The Illinois Property Tax Code, 35 ILCS 200/20-15, states even if you don't receive your bill, you're still responsible for payment and any interest.

Fortunately, our website, cookcountytreasurer.com, offers an easy way to correct, change or update name and address information about where property tax bills should be mailed so you can try to ensure that doesn't happen to you.

You can download your bill online and check for accuracy before the nearly 1.8 million letters are mailed out. The first installment bill is posted the prior November for people that live out of state for part of the year. The second installment bill is posted in late June although it arrives in mailboxes around July 1.

If something must be changed, the best option is to request the change online on my website by checking a box that certifies you own the property or are authorized to act on behalf of the owner. On the homepage, go to the purple box that says, "Your Property Tax Overview." Find your property with your 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN) or property

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The bill we send alerts you to delinquency, refunds or changes in assessed value allowing you to monitor your mortgage company to see whether you've received all tax exemptions that reduce what you owe.

There can be a distinction between mailing address and property location address. Tax bills are commonly mailed to addresses other than that of the property. Vacant land is one example.

Visit cookcountytreasurer.com to learn more about verifying and updating mailing address information. Sign up for electronic tax billing, or eBilling, to receive your bill via email instead of having it mailed to you.

While receiving your tax bill can be unwelcome, not receiving it can be more costly and ultimately even worse.

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Savor Lincoln Park food fest returns March 19

27 participating restaurants

The Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce has announced the return of Savor Lincoln Park, featuring 27 participating restaurants and bars. This indoor food festival will take over the entire Theater on the Lake, 2401 N. DuSable Lake Shore Dr., 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, offering a wide array of foods in a culinary tour of Lincoln Park.

Attendees will have the opportunity to sample bites, sips, and samples from some of Lincoln Park's favorite eateries, as well as six new additions to the neighborhood dining scene including The

Bad Apple, Candlelite Chicago Lincoln Park, Ceiba, Lunch Heroes, Roggenart European Bakery, Bistro and Café, and Sushi Nova.

"[This] is the perfect opportunity to experience Lincoln Park's best bites and sips all in one night," says Kim Schilf, the chamber's CEO. "This year, we're [taking] things up a notch with a bigger space and an incredible lineup of Lincoln Park restaurants."

Tickets range from \$60 to \$70, for more information visit lincolnparkchamber.com. Tickets include food from each participating restaurant, drink tastings from local breweries and wine shops, as well as complimentary beer, wine, and soft drinks at the bar.

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Heartland's pantries, clinics saved by bailout

BY BOB ZULEY

Updating a story from just last week, Heartland Alliance Health [HAH] has postponed their impending closure of their Chicago food pantries and clinics after a Michigan benefactor agency bailed them out.

While the food pantries' last day was to be Feb. 22, Cook County Cmsr. Stanley Moore helped connect HAH with OneHealth, a Michigan-based nonprofit sharing the same type of mission in inner-city Detroit and across Genesee County, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Moore was able to connect Heartland HAH to OneHealth, which provided a multimillion-dollar grant, Michael Brieschke, chairperson of the Heartland Alliance Health union told the media.

With Heartland's pantries, clinics and other services to remain open, all notices of layoffs will be rescinded, according to Brieschke. "Trust has been breached on many levels during the last few weeks, but we hope the partnership with OneHealth will be sustainable and bring some much needed positive change to HAH."

It is unknown if the new partnership between the two agencies will bring a change of management to HAH so that conditions behind the chaotic closure will not return after the infusion of money.

Less than a year ago, Heartland Health, the parent organization, split into four separate entities including HAH in a money-saving attempt at survival.

HAH Groceryland food pantry founder Lori Cannon described the funding bailout as a "Last min-

ute stay of execution. All Heartland services will remain open... Dodged a bullet this time." Cannon's pantry is located at 5543 N. Broadway in Edgewater.

Times are much different than in the mid-'80s when the Open Hand pantry was begun by Cannon and her colleagues. Today, people living with HIV live normal lives with everyday jobs, sometimes just taking a periodic injection or one pill a day rather than the cocktail of meds that were the rule of the day.

If you or someone you know needs the location of a food pantry in your zip code, contact the Greater Chicago Food Depository at 773-247-3663 or search // www.chicagofoodbank.org/find-food/#find-food.

CHIEF from p. 3

heard on a hot mic referring to the police union president as a "clown." Lightfoot acknowledged that she was sorry she "said it out loud" during the July 24, 2019, meeting.

Four days later, Chicago Police Officer Andres Barrezueta posted a photo of Lightfoot to a private Facebook group called "City Workers Past and Present."

"She called my representative a clown, so I made her into a clown," Barrezueta said in a follow-up post.

The image "depicts Lightfoot's head with a red clown nose, white eyebrows, a white mouth and bright red lips super-imposed on her face, with the head is [sic] placed atop a man's torso that is clad in a tuxedo, standing outside the entrance of the Mayor's Office in Chicago's City Hall," Kersten and COPA's Deputy Chief Administrator Matthew Haynam wrote in their termination recommendation.

Snelling slammed the COPA investigation as "not thorough," noting that, despite taking years to investigate a seemingly simple matter, its investigators never even spoke to the person who filed the initial complaint.

A second image, which COPA never received a complaint about, was posted to the city worker page even before the Lightfoot clown picture. According to COPA, the image "depicts former Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, dressed up in a leotard with a rainbow-colored, phallic-shaped object protruding from the center of his forehead with a caption reading, 'FEAR ME, I AM A UNICORN.'"

According to COPA, Barrezueta told investigators the Emanuel image was "about unicorns and not an attempt to insult Emanuel by employing homophobic imagery."

COPA's investigators, however, determined that the image of Emanuel, who graduated from ballet school and studied at a dance center, was "homophobic and disparaging." The agency called the Lightfoot clown image "racially offensive" and the Emanuel graphic "gender biased."

Snelling noted that COPA

never received a complaint about the Emmanuel image but tacked it onto the Lightfoot "blackface" investigation after "scouring through the old posts made by Officer Barrezueta."

Snelling ended his response to COPA's investigation by suggesting that Barrezueta receive a 10-day suspension but not be terminated as the agency recommended. COPA accepted Snelling's recommendation.

Matthew Haynam one of Kersten's top deputies, who signed off on the Barrezueta investigation and recommendation, was fired by the agency last year. He and another high-ranking COPA investigator quickly filed nearly identical whistleblower lawsuits against the city in September, claiming they were fired for speaking out about an anti-police bias that they believe is tainting investigations at the agency.

Haynam's suit claims Kersten knowingly made false statements that questioned the honesty of the officers involved in the Dexter Reed shooting, even though there was nothing in the record to support her claims.

He also cited a pattern within COPA investigations of "mischaracterization of evidence [and a] failure to interview key witnesses motivated, in whole or part, by improper political considerations."

Days before Haynam filed the lawsuit, 16 current or former COPA employees urged the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, which oversees COPA and CPD, to take a "no confidence" vote on COPA Chief Administrator Andrea Kersten.

The Sun-Times reported that the alleged Kersten "manipulated investigations to align with her own policy agenda" and retaliated against employees who have complained about "bias and mismanagement."

We reported on two COPA investigations that seemed to demonstrate the lack of thoroughness that some critics see in the agency's investigations:

In April 2023, COPA determined that a Chicago police sergeant unreasonably used "excessive force, akin to deadly force" by putting his knee on the neck of

a person he was trying to arrest. COPA's deputy chief investigator recommended that CPD fire the sergeant or suspend him for 270 days.

But then-Interim CPD Supt. Fred Waller blasted the agency's findings, saying its investigators "chose not to interview any of the other officers on scene or the civilian witness" to the alleged behavior.

In fact, Waller said, the accused sergeant "was the only individual interviewed by COPA, and a proper investigation cannot be completed without statements from the complainant, other Department members on scene, specifically the officers who assisted in placing [the arrestee] into custody, and a civilian witness."

Last summer, Kersten signed off on a supplemental finding that the allegation of excessive force was "not sustained." In her memo, she maintained that there was "sufficient evidence to sustain the allegation," but "various factors, including the age of this case, the requirements of the collective bargaining agreement, and the attendant procedural issues in this case significantly reduce the likelihood of success at an evidentiary hearing."

Last February, COPA's chief investigator recommended a 30-day suspension for another CPD sergeant due to comments she allegedly made about migrants living inside the Albany Park 17th District police station.

Specifically, the sergeant was accused of telling someone that, if they wanted to help the migrants, they should "pick out one of them, and take it home like they do at the [dog] pound."

The sergeant vehemently denied the allegations.

Snelling rejected COPA's findings and recommendations. Among other concerns, Snelling said COPA investigators made "no attempts to interview any additional witnesses that were working at the District desk during the alleged incident," even though the complainant said it occurred directly next to a detective and up to three officers working the station's front desk.

The sergeant retired before COPA responded to Snelling's "nonconcurrence" letter.

Controversial high-rise passed with full orchestration



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

“What we have here is failure to communicate,” said actor Strother Martin in the 1967 movie “Cool Hand Luke. The famous quote truly exemplifies the on-going high-rise controversy in Old Town.

On Feb. 20, the Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] approved the 37-story, 359-unit Fern Hill high-rise deal with “full orchestration,” according to Timothy J. Carew, an eloquently outspoken opponent of the project.

Carew, a retired banker and financial consultant who resides in Old Town, is miffed about the approval along with the vast majority of Old Town residents.

“From the start, this \$225-million high-rise deal, which includes 333 parking spaces, has been “a carefully crafted, master narrative, a scripted performance disguised as public process,” Carew charged. “We were told at the CPC meeting that Chicago only has a handful of active high-rise construction cranes. So, we must stop that trend.”

In Carew’s opinion, the era of big towers as a solution to the city’s affordable housing crisis has long passed.

“We have tried to tell our politicians that high-rises are not the answer,” Carew said. “But they won’t listen—just like they refused to listen to the Old Town community during those 10 so-called public meetings on the Fern Hill project.”

Indeed despite the developer’s best efforts, they were never able to wear out the community opposition. In fact that opposition only grew more stronger the longer Fern Hill’s sale job dragged on.

Despite the opposition, Fern Hill developer Nick Anderson said: “We will remain vigilant in moving forward with this development, which will revitalize vacant properties, brighten an uninviting block, improve walkability, increase safety through the closure of two area gas stations that have been riddled by violent crime, expanding much-needed affordable housing, invest in traffic improvements and expand revenue opportunities for local businesses and the City of Chicago.”

This writer advocates that part of those “affordable rental units” in Fern Hill’s planned high-rise be set aside on a “golden list” for Old Town’s long-term low-income senior citizens so they can avoid being gentrified out of Old Town.

The building’s floor plan for 349 apartments now calls for 105 studios with 400 square feet of living space, 126 one-bedroom units with 700 square feet, and 42 two-bedroom units with 1,400 square feet.

There also will be 42 three-bedroom units with 1,850 square feet, 30 four-bedroom layouts with 2,113 square feet, and four penthouse units each encompassing an expansive 3,170 square

feet.

With Old Town and Lincoln Park apartment rents now more than \$3 per square foot each month, you don’t have to be a math expert to see market rents ranging from an estimated \$1,200 for a tiny studio to \$6,339 for a four-bedroom layout. Penthouses likely would run \$9,510.

High-Rise Protection Ordinance?

Meanwhile, critics say Fern Hill is hiding behind the Lakefront Protection Ordinance that was designed to protect people’s access to parks and the lakefront—not to ensure rights to develop high-rises.

“The city should rename it the Lakefront High-rise Protection Ordinance,” Carew said. “No

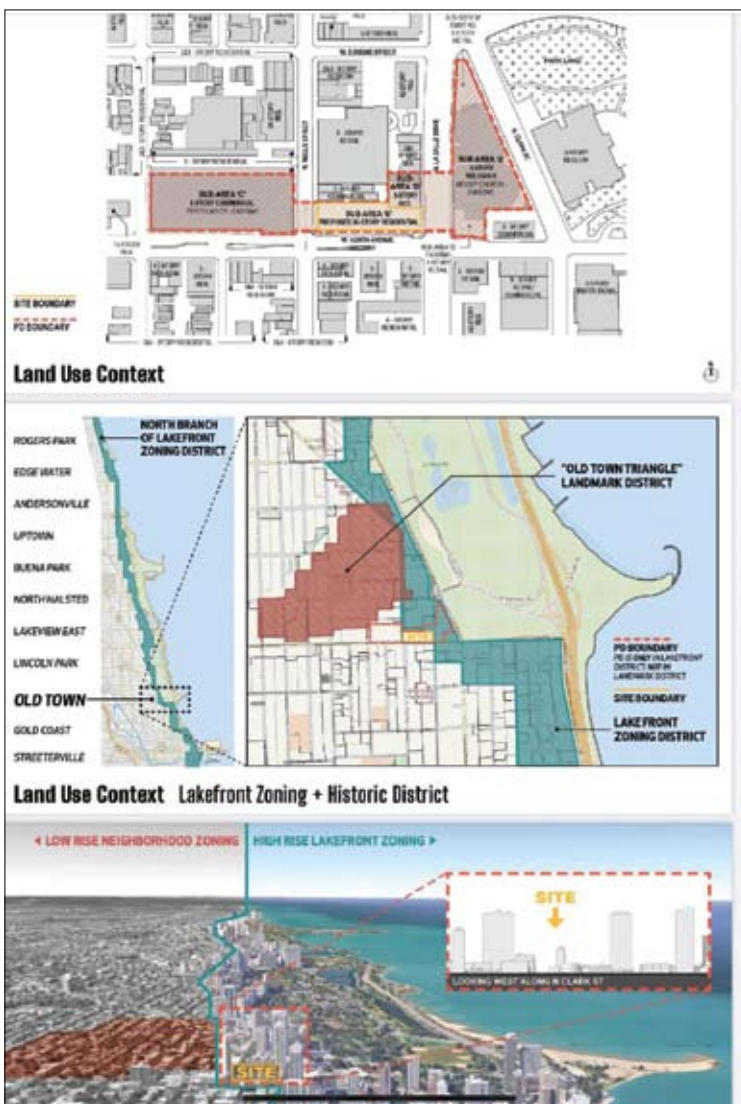


Nick Anderson, Fern Hill Co.

one on the CPC took issue with this obvious ploy to bend a longstanding ordinance to fit their development gambit.”

In the opinion of the Home Front column, this high-rise approval is only the tip of the iceberg in what will be unveiled in the future of Old Town, which may eventually be renamed “High-Rise Town.”

Several major Old Town rezoning requests were quietly approved in January and February of 2024, and currently are includ-



Old Town Triangle Landmark District.

reporter: “The Manhattanizing of Chicago is underway.”

Rosenberg’s true talent was rising investment capital, so he moved to Hollywood to produce dozens of bombshell movie hits, including the “Million Dollar Baby,” which won him the 2004 Academy Award for Best Picture.

If you check out the new rezoning map for Old Town, you now know the once gracious and charming landmark neighborhood is doomed to be “Manhattanized” into the next River North—a high-rise infested neighborhood.

Critics say Fern Hill worked in the shadows for months to quietly engineer a completely new high-rise zoning map for Old Town, and apparently the city is going along with the plan.

Through a new entity, Old Town Triangle Partners I LLC, the revised 2024 Old Town high-rise zoning application calls for much more than rezoning of the original proposed vacant Moody Church parking lot into an apartment tower.

The partnership also includes the Moody Church, and Walgreens, which despite its recent financial problems is planning a

HIGH-RISE see p. 10

ed in a new amended zoning ordinance that will change the face of the neighborhood forever.

All of this high-rise banter reminds this writer of a 1980s Chicago Sun-Times interview with apartment developer Thomas

Rosenberg, who was busy developing several tall Gold Coast projects along LaSalle St. south of Division St. Rosenberg, a smart guy, omnisciently told this

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Police Beat...

Man was part of 4-person armed robbery crew that struck in Old Town

Prosecutors have charged a man with committing an armed robbery in Old Town last month. The holdup was one of many that occurred in a short time, but Darian Taylor, 19, is only accused of participating in one of them. He is, however, charged with possessing items that belong to a second robbery victim.



Darian Taylor

Starting around 6 p.m. on Jan. 18, Chicago police began receiving calls about a string of robberies occurring across the Near West Side and the West Loop.

At 6:35 p.m., four masked men jumped out of a dark Hyundai in the 1400 block of N. Cleveland in Old Town. They all pointed guns at a man and took his wallet and keys, officials said.

Detectives issued a community alert a few days later in which they said they believed the Cleveland robbery was the last of six committed in 45 minutes by the same crew.

Earlier this month, a CPD report said, cops were patrolling the area of Ohio and Christiana because cars used in armed robberies have been dumped there frequently. They saw Darian Taylor, 19, and others walking through a gangway, matching the descriptions of suspects from multiple robberies, the report said.

The officers stopped the group and found a credit card under Taylor's foot that belonged to a woman, the report stated. Another card belonging to the same woman was found inside a Kia Sportage that had been abandoned nearby.

Ultimately, prosecutors charged Taylor with armed robbery for last month's holdup in Old Town and misdemeanor theft of lost or mislaid property.

Judge Deidre Dyer agreed to keep Taylor in jail as a safety risk. She said he was already on probation for another matter, which reduced her confidence in his ability to follow the court's instructions.

Man dies after being shot in Rogers Park

The man who was shot while inside a vehicle in Rogers Park Feb. 17 has died. Cook County Medical Examiner records indicate he succumbed to his injuries around 5:20 a.m. Monday, about five hours after the shooting occurred in the 1300 block of W. Estes. Authorities have not released his name.

Chicago police said the 28-year-old "was in a vehicle when he sustained a [gunshot wound] to the torso and shoulder." While he initially told officers that someone in a blue vehicle shot him on nearby Sheridan Rd., cops found shell casings on Estes Ave. Bullets had also hit his car.

He is the second person to be shot on the 1300 block of Estes in the past

year. On March 19, a 45-year-old man suffered a gunshot wound to the back as he walked down the street. He was seriously injured but survived.

The Feb. 17 shooting is the first murder in Rogers Park this year, a neighborhood that had eight murders in 2024. Three of last year's slayings involved separate incidents along a one-block stretch of Howard Street immediately east of the CTA station.

Prosecutors have filed charges in two of last year's murders, one that occurred in March and one from October.

Man charged in Rogers Park stabbing

Ronald Patrick, 42, of the 6900 block of S. Jeffery Blvd., has been charged with one felony count - Aggravated Battery/Use Deadly Weapon after he was arrested on Feb. 19, in the 6900 block of S. Chappel Ave. He was identified as the offender who, on Jan. 9, stabbed and injured a 28-year-old male in the 7600 block of N. Greenview Ave.



Ronald Patrick

Patrick was placed into custody and subsequently charged accordingly.

North Side man gets arrested for package theft twice in 18 hours



Sammy Batom is seen in mugshots taken after his arrests on Feb. 10 and 11.

An Edgewater man managed to get arrested for package theft last week and then get arrested for package theft again barely 12 hours after he walked out of the police station.

Cops arrested Sammy Batom, 60, around 7:51 p.m. on Feb. 10 after a witness recognized him as the person who stole items from their building, not far from Batom's home in the 5700 block of N. Sheridan, according to Chicago police records.

The police released him about five hours later after filing misdemeanor charges of theft, criminal trespassing, and criminal damage to property.

Just over 12 hours later, cops arrested Batom again after another building manager allegedly saw him stealing packages from their Edgewater apartment complex. Cops responded to the building in the 5700 block of N. Sheridan and spoke with the manager. She told them she saw him stealing packages, prompting him to identify himself as "Michael Jackson" as he dropped the packages and walked away, a CPD report said.

Officers arrested Batom nearby. The building manager told the police she had surveillance video of Batom stealing packages on Jan. 6 and Feb. 3, too, the report said. She told officers that Batom uses a screwdriver to pry his way into buildings.

Prosecutors asked Judge Luciano Panici, Jr. to keep Batom in jail, but he opted to send him home on electronic monitoring instead.

Court records show Batom has faced 96 separate criminal cases in Cook County since 1987, including 14

felony matters.

Most recently, he received three months of court supervision for retail theft in July 2023. Prosecutors dropped another retail theft case last November and a criminal trespass to vehicle charge in December.

His felony convictions include a 1987 burglary, a 1988 robbery, and narcotics-related charges in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 2002, 2004, and 2006.

Man pleads guilty to illegally importing suicide drug into U.S.

A man pleaded guilty Feb. 21 in Chicago to a federal drug charge for illegally importing the drug Pentobarbital into the U.S. from Mexico for use in committing suicide.

Daniel Gonzales-Munguia also known as "Alejandro Vasquez," 41, of Puebla, Mexico, pleaded guilty in federal court in Chicago to one count of importing a controlled substance into the U.S. The charge is punishable by a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison. U.S. District Judge Sara L. Ellis set sentencing for Sept. 9.

Pentobarbital, also known as Nembutal, is a drug sold in Mexico for the purpose of euthanizing animals. In the U.S., Pentobarbital is a controlled substance and has been used in state-sponsored executions. Gonzalez-Munguia admitted in a plea agreement that from 2012 to 2021, he operated an online drug business that sold and distributed bottles of Pentobarbital to hundreds of individuals in the U.S. and throughout the world, including individuals in Illinois.

Many of the buyers consumed the product and died, the plea agreement states.

The investigation, led by Homeland Security Investigations and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, began after a parcel of the drug was intercepted in a Chicago suburb in 2016.

Authorities in the U.S. and several foreign countries conducted well-being checks and recovered Pentobarbital from numerous individuals who admitted to being despondent and ordering the suicide drug online from Gonzalez-Munguia. Law enforcement provided assistance to those individuals.

Gonzalez-Munguia admitted that he initially shipped bottles of the drug directly from Mexico and in the manufacturer's packaging, but thereafter disguised it as a cosmetic product and used intermediaries to transport it into the U.S. before shipping to customers around the world.

The guilty plea was announced by Morris Pasqual, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, Daniel Johnsen, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago office of HSI, and Ruth Mendonça, Inspector-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Man gets over seven years for manufacturing, using counterfeit cash

A Chicago man has been sentenced to more than seven years in federal prison for manufacturing counterfeit \$100 bills and using them in retail stores.

Marquise Shores used chemicals and a printer in his Chicago residence to manufacture approximately \$92,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills. Shores then used Facebook Messenger to recruit young women, including girls as young as 16 years old, to use the counterfeit bills to buy merchandise at retail stores, while Shores waited outside. He later instructed the young women to return the merchandise for genuine currency, with Shores retaining most of the illicit proceeds.

On Feb. 7, Shores, 28, pleaded guilty last year to a federal counterfeiting charge. U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Kendall sentenced Shores to seven years and three months in prison.

For his 66th arrest, he's charged with stealing packages from a building where he's been caught three times before



Errick Shambley

A six-time convicted felon has been arrested for at least the 66th time in his adult life, charged with stealing packages from a Lincoln Park apartment building. He's also on pretrial release for allegedly stealing packages from the same building last fall while he was on parole for stealing packages in Lakeview.

Errick Shambley, 55, now has two felony burglary cases pending.

Last September, officials said Shambley stole packages belonging to two residents of a building in the 2900 block of N. Halsted. Chicago cops arrested him about two months after the burglary when the building's property manager saw Shambley at a nearby Starbucks and flagged down a passing patrol car. Records show Shambley has been charged with stealing packages in the 2900 block of N. Halsted at least three other times since 2018.

After his arrest in September, the state revoked his parole (also for stealing packages during a burglary), and he returned to the Stateville Correctional Center. He was back on the street within weeks because his previous prison sentence expired.

Earlier this month, the same building manager who flagged down a patrol car to have Shambley arrested in September called 911 to report that Shambley was breaking into the same apartment building in the 2900 block of N. Halsted, a CPD report says.

The cops arrested Shambley nearby and charged him with a Jan. 20 break-in at the building. He allegedly stole a package from the mailroom containing a bottle of alcohol-free gin.

Judge Ankur Srivastava detained Shambley for violating the pretrial release conditions in the September case. Shambley will be in jail until at least early March, when he is due in court again.

His most recent prison sentence was for burglarizing a building in the 3300 block of N. Ashland. Prosecutors said he posed as an Amazon worker and rang the building's buzzers until someone let him in.

Police arrested Shambley in 2019 after identifying him as the burglar responsible for package thefts from the 2900 block of N. Racine and the 1100 block of W. Wolfram during Christmas 2018. Police also accused him of stealing three packages from a building in the 2900 block of N. Halsted the previous summer.

Shambley received a 60-day jail sentence in September 2018 for stealing packages from the 2900 block of N. Halsted and the 3700 block of North Bosworth. That year, he also received probation for stealing a package from the 800 block of W. Buckingham.

His previous prison sentences include a pair of 2-year sentences for theft in 2016, 3 years for burglary in 2007, one year for narcotics in 2005, and three years for manufacture-delivery of a controlled substance in 1994.

Rash of commercial burglaries in Old Town

Police are warning citizens about a string of related commercial burglary and criminal damage to property incidents in the Near North Side and Old Town neighborhoods.

In each incident below, a lone offender forcibly entered the businesses through the front glass windows or doors. Once inside, the offender rummaged through the businesses and, in one incident, took possession of property located inside.

Incidents were all on Feb. 19, and include one on the 100 block of W. North Ave., between 12 a.m. and 7

a.m.; the 1400 block of N. Wells St at 3 a.m.; 1500 block of N. Wells St. at 3:59 a.m.; 1200 block of N. La Salle Dr. at 4:13 a.m., and the 1500 block of N. Wells St at 5:21 a.m.

The offender is described as an African American male, 20-45 years of age, wearing a light green hooded sweatshirt, khaki colored cargo pants, black ski mask, black gym shoes, and black gloves.

Police are asking anyone with information to contact Area Three Detectives at 312-744-8263 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use Reference # 25-3-014.

Two shot in Rogers Park, one dead

Police are searching for four assailants who fled after the shooting around 9:45 p.m. Feb. 23 in the 7500 block of N. Damen Ave. in Rogers Park. Two victims were found shot.

One person only identified as a male was shot in the neck and head and was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston where he was pronounced dead, police said.

A 31-year-old man was shot in the chest and in each leg and was taken to the same hospital in critical condition.

Two colleges warn of sexual abuse attacks as viral videos show women confronting possible suspect



Screenshots of videos recorded by two different women at two different CTA stations in which they accuse this man of touching them inappropriately.

Image courtesy Chicago_Goofies

Students at two colleges are being warned about a man who is sexually abusing women on or near their campuses in the Loop and Rogers Park. The alerts issued by Loyola Univ. and Columbia College come as two women separately posted videos of a man they said sexually abused them at CTA stations—one in the Loop and the other in Lincoln Park.

Loyola officials said three female students reported that a man grabbed them on Feb. 17. He first grabbed a woman at the front entrance of Mertz Hall, 1125 W. Loyola, around 8:37 p.m., according to the school.

The man proceeded to the building's north stairs and touched another woman about a minute later. A third student reported that he touched her on the corner of Loyola and Sheridan around 8:41 p.m.

Loyola, which does not include the race of crime suspects in its community alerts, said he "was last seen wearing a grey and black puffy coat, khaki color pants, white shoes, and carrying a brightly colored shopping bag."

Columbia College told its community of a similar incident in the Loop on Feb. 18. The school said Chicago police are investigating an incident in which a man grabbed a woman's "lower body" outside the Harold Washington Library around 9:30 a.m. Columbia did not provide a description of the offender.

On Feb. 19, @Chicago_Goofies tweeted two videos in which women confront the same man for grabbing their private areas: one at the Fullerton CTA station in Lincoln Park and the other at State-Lake CTA station in the Loop.

Notably, the Fullerton station is located in the middle of the DePaul Univ. campus. However, that school has not announced any incidents in-

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Wayne Messmer [left], well-known for singing the national anthem at pro games, will give a special performance of the one-man play “Damien” about Father Damien De Veuster, a 19th Century Belgian priest, by the late Honolulu-based playwright, Aldyth Morris, at Holy Name Cathedral on March 2.

Letters to the Editor

Ald. Hopkins should look in the mirror

I wish to commend Don DeBat for his sharp analysis in Spin in Old Town is Part of Developer’s Game. His article raises important questions about development, transparency, and political accountability in Old Town.

What struck me most was Ald. Brian Hopkins’ apparent indignation at criticism of the Fern Hill project. He has positioned himself as a champion of responsible development, yet, when confronted with valid concerns about density, traffic, and transparency, he dismisses them as spin and misinformation. The irony is rich! Instead of deflecting blame, the Alderman should acknowledge that the concerns Don DeBat outlined are real and that many Old Town residents are simply asking for a fair, open, and honest process when it comes to major developments in their neighborhood.

Corinne Svoboda
Old Town

Don’t pick on Don, ensure transparency

Last week, in his own Letter to the Editor, Ald. Brian Hopkins dismissed writer Don DeBat and his own constituents for daring to ask reasonable questions about the Mighty Fern Hill Tower, also known as Old Town Canvas. Yet, for 10 community meetings, Hopkins has taken a back seat, letting developer Nick Anderson drive the bus.

Instead of ensuring transparency, Hopkins allowed months of vague designs, shielded disclosures, and dragged the process on—only to stage a last-minute theatrical revision that ultimately confirmed what we already knew: a luxury high-rise that does not fit Old Town.

If Hopkins truly values transparency and public engagement, he should tell us what we need to know. Or maybe he already has—and his silence says it all. Or is he waiting until it’s too late for the community to push back?

Tim Carew
Old Town

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Father Damien comes alive as Wayne Messmer performs one-man play for 175th Anniversary of Holy Name

BY PETER VON BUOL

On the evening of March 2, Wayne Messmer, well-known for his performances of the national anthem at professional athletic games, will give a special performance at 7:30 p.m. of the one-man play “Damien” by the late Honolulu-based playwright, Aldyth Morris, at Holy Name Cathedral, 730 N. Wabash Ave.

Admission to the play is free and is being presented as part of the Roman Catholic cathedral’s 175th anniversary celebration. Preferred seating is available for \$15 and includes a pre-play light dinner with refreshments. The reception starts after the cathedral’s 5:15 p.m. Sunday Mass. “Damien” is the poignant real-life story of Father Damien De Veuster, a 19th Century Belgian priest had died in 1889 after having spent the last 16 years of life having served those banished to a remote peninsula on the Hawaiian island of Molokai for having been diagnosed with Hansen’s Disease, then known as leprosy. Dreaded since Biblical times, the bacterial disease mainly affects skin, peripheral nerves, the upper respiratory tract and eyes. It is spread through droplets of the nose and mouth, through prolonged contact. Today, through treatment, it is curable.

“The play has a recurring theme. Damien wanted the people to know God had not forgotten them. Many of the people had literally been thrown overboard from a ship, towards a landing. The seas were often too rough to

land a boat. I have visited the peninsula with Kathleen, my wife, (with whom Messmer often sings the national anthem at Wrigley Field). We rode down the mule path, the original land route. Just being there, we knew it was hallowed ground,” said Messmer.

In addition to being a priest, Damien also treated their medical needs and built many homes for them to keep them out of the rain. He also enforced the kingdom’s laws and buried the dead. Damien wanted peninsula residents to have as normal a life as possible and he lobbied the royal government to improve living conditions.

“His battles with the kingdom’s board of health were often quite fierce. They really had some battles back and forth. If there was ever anytime you needed someone on your side, it was Damien. He was a fighter. He didn’t care if he annoyed his bishop or the government. He wanted the peo-

“His battles with the kingdom’s board of health were often quite fierce. They really had some battles back and forth. If there was ever anytime you needed someone on your side, it was Damien. He was a fighter. He didn’t care if he annoyed his bishop or the government. He wanted the people to get the help they deserved,” said Wayne Messmer.

ple to get the help they deserved,” said Messmer.

In late 1884, after having lived on Kalaupapa for 11 years, Damien was diagnosed with the disease. Today, it is known many people exposed to it will not

develop it. Unfortunately, Damien was among those who were susceptible.

Messmer said he first heard about Father Damien and his life of sacrifice while attending Five Holy Martyrs School in the Brighton Park neighborhood.

“We were taught by the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, the same order as Mother Marianne Cope, who had also gone to Molokai to assist Father Damien,” said Messmer.

Father Damien was canonized as St. Damien of Molokai in 2009. Mother Marianne was canonized in 2012 and is now known as St. Marianne Cope of Molokai. The play is a special presentation of the Knights of Columbus. The Daughters of Isabella are sponsoring the pre-play reception. For more information, email Deacon Dan Welter at dwelter@holynamecathedral.org.

State seeking summer instructors for urban fishing program clinics

The Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources [DNR] is seeking applications for instructors for 2025 summer fishing clinics at locations throughout Illinois and in Chicago for the department’s Urban Fishing Program.

Fishing instructors are the department’s boots on the ground at free clinics. These are temporary positions not to

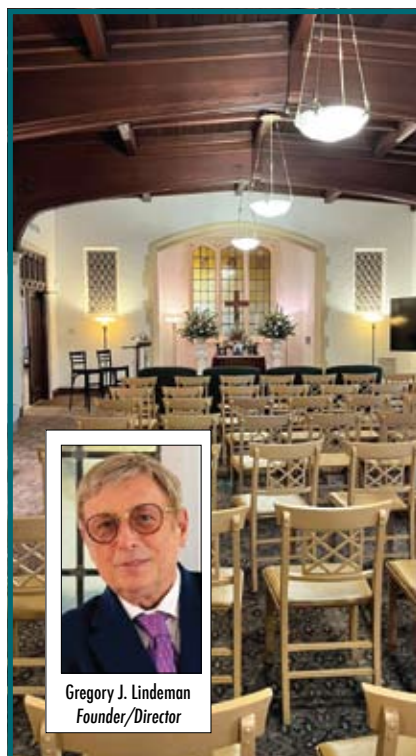
exceed six months, making them perfect for teachers, retirees, students, and others who are eager to help people learn about fishing skills and ecology.

The deadline to apply is approaching quickly, to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/IDNRjobs>. Look for positions titled “conservation education representative.”

“There’s no better way to spend the summer than teaching chil-

dren and adults about the joys of fishing and the importance of conservation.” said Mike McClelland, chief of fisheries for IDNR.

The Illinois Urban Fishing Program was established in 1985 to teach people of all ages to fish, and to provide better local fishing opportunities.



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The Chez Paree

The proposed site of a controversial Streeterville-area marijuana dispensary was once the site of The Chez Paree nightclub, known for its dance numbers, and top entertainers. It was open from 1932 until 1960 in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago at 610 N. Fairbanks Ct. The club was a thriving example of golden age entertainment, and it hosted singers to comedians to vaudeville acts. Lines formed around the block to see the likes of Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Milton Berle, So-phie Tucker, Jimmy Durante, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Bob Hope performing at the Chez Paree supper club. By law, the location is too close to a nearby grade school but the City's Zoning Board of Appeal still voted to approve the site as a recreational pot seller.

Photo courtesy Allan Zirlin

LACKING from p. 2

chef/partner **Fred Ramos** of Bar Roma in Andersonville has announced the launch of his first cookbook, *The Bar Roma Cookbook*. It takes readers on a flavorful journey through his culinary evolution, from childhood dreams to his rise in the restaurant world. The book blends inspiration, practical wisdom, and over 50 delectable recipes, offering insights into creating a signature menu and the art of crafting memorable dishes. He helped open Bar Roma in 2016, which quickly gained acclaim for its famed meatball dishes, house-made pastas, and Roman-inspired dishes.



Jonathan Goldsmith

PIZZA ROYALTY: **Jonathan Goldsmith**, the genius who brought the finest pizza to Chicago at Spacca Napoli, is doctoring with some serious maladies, so keep him in thoughts and prayers.

LYRIC OPERA: The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, Lyric Opera of Chicago's renowned artist-development program, will present its annual *Rising Stars in Concert* on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at the Lyric Opera House.

REAL: Secretary of State **Alexi Giannoulias** reminds us to get a REAL ID ahead of federal deadline, now less than three months away. People over the age of 18 will need a REAL ID to fly domestically on a commercial aircraft after May 7.

AU REVOIR: **Sister Agnes Cunningham SSCM** has died at 101 years. A simple nun. A complex thinker. A doctor of Theology from Institute Catholique in Lyon, France. An intellectual. A theologian. Her field of expertise being the Fathers of the early Church, those wise saintly teachers from the first four centuries of Christian history. **Ambrose, Augustine** et al. She even took a term as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America back in the 1970s where she educated bishops and cardinals alike.

Her reputation was built on a rare scholarly expertise teaching at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Where she taught for decades the future clergy of Chicago. The first woman to do so. Creating a reservoir of theological thinkers and savvy intellects. Beloved. Befriended. And imposing to generations of pastoral ministers manning the parishes of Chicago Catholics.

Sister Agnes was born in England and came to Chicago's South Side as a child. Attending Visitation Grammar School alongside fellow classmate, TV's **Steve Allen**, founder of the "Tonight Show." Many decades later Mr. Allen welcomed her to his appearance in a Chicago venue, I was happy to arrange.

Sister Agnes was also a French scholar, a language that was second nature to her vision of the world. God gave her more than a century of vivid life and good health,

helping the Catholic Church to thrive best when in touch with the vision and scholarship of its bright problem solvers of ancient times and faith filled modern believers. She loved to quote the famed 2nd century St. Irenaeus of Lyon. "The glory of God is man fully alive. And the life of man is the vision of God." Rest in peace dear friend.

THE DAMIEN PLAY: A special production of "Damien," a one-man play by **Aldyth Morris**, starring Chicago sports personality **Wayne Messmer**, recounting the heroic humanity and sanctity of the 19th century Belgian priest **St. Damien of Molokai**, Hawaii will be featured at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State. Tickets are free, but must be reserved ahead of time.

SERVICE CLUB: The Valentine's Tea at the Ritz was a masterful success. A sea of red beauties filled the event. This tea was started by **Myra Reilly** and **Bobbi Panter** in tribute to **Bunky Cushing's** famous Valentine's Day tea at the Ritz. This tea is now a fundraiser for Service Club and held in the atrium of the Ritz Carlton. It was attended by 65 festively dressed in pink and

gant stepping out to black tie dinner... **Dan Kirk** just back from a fabulous week at the **Kirk Family** reunion... **Karen Zupko** and **Mr. Mike** visiting the markets and food stalls of Bogota, Columbia following **Karen's** birthday festivities... **Candace Jordan** with the Giordano Dance Chicago at their very successful Studio 62 Gala... **Rick** and **Deann Bayless** front and center for the reopening of Lookingglass Theater and premier of "Circus Quixote"... **Irene Mojica** "twinning" at the Grammys with musical genius **will.i.am** of the Black Eyed Peas... **Libby Lamb Lucas** with Chicago gal pals at John's Island Club at Indian River Shores, FL... **Jackie Jackson, Rev. Jesse Jackson's** wife, lunching at Greek Islands... fabulous **Susan Gohl** thriving in Naples, FL, but very missed here... the approach of St. Patrick's Day always revs up my interest in watching "The Quiet Man" with **John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara** and **Barry Fitzgerald** for the thousandth time... **Tom McGuire** and **Tom Hackett** with **Don Wiener**, Colombier Beach St. Barth... **Eamonn Cummins** with his fa-



(L) Mayor Richard J. Daley brought St. Patrick's Day Parade Downtown in 1956. (R) The 2025 Grand Marshall Mark McManus, General President, United Association, Guest of Honor Mary Ellen Caron, CEO After School Matters and Cara Walsh, the 2025 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen.



Rick and Deann Bayless.



will.i.am with Irene Mojica.

red guests and raised money for Service Club's important mission of helping other nonprofits throughout Chicago

BAEZ TRIBUTE: **Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, Lucinda Williams, Margo Price, Linda Ronstadt, Roseanne Cash** and **Emmylou Harris** paid tribute to **Joan Baez** at a three-hour tribute concert in San Francisco recently. She's earning new fans these days in part from the movie "A Complete Unknown."

RELIGIOUS: March 5 is Ash Wednesday and marks the start of Lent for Christians. Passover begins April 12 for the Jewish People. Palm Sunday is April 13. And Easter Sunday will be April 20.

IRISH FESTIVAL: Orland Park is excited to add additional outstanding entertainment to their regular Irish Music and Dance celebration kicking off St. Patrick's month. A program of traditional music will feature famed Irish violinist **Patricia Treacy**, among others, on Feb. 28 at Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Rd. Tickets are only \$20.

REMEMBER HER: Remembering **Sister Candida Lund OP**, long time president of Rosary College (now Dominican Univ.) in River Forest, a grand lady intellectual.

WHO'S WHERE: Happy 98th Birthday to the famed international opera star and the nation's first African American superstar soprano, **Leontyne Price**... **Helma Wardenaar** is in Santiago, Chile... **Janet** and **Rodger Owen** looked particularly ele-

ther, **Larry Cummins**, making a visit to Old St. Patrick's Church.

AFTER-PARTY: **Cynthia Olson** still in the mountains of Mexico, in San Miguel, at the after-party for the Opera "Figaro" dining with the founder of the Writers Symposium, the most important literary symposium in Mexico where their keynote speaker this week was writer **John Irving**.

REPORTER: **Sherrill Bodine** has arrived in Singapore where the winds were both wild and exotic while residing at the Marina Bay Sands Hotel embracing the mercerizing sites of Singaporean culture. Then preparing for further travel to Phuket, Thailand for dinner and performance of Siam Niramit.

REBEL: Remembering **Samuel Cardinal Stritch**, Chicago's Archbishop 1939 to 1958, whose father, County Kerry-born **Garrett Stritch**, was a rebel Fenian patriot in the 1848 Revolt in Ireland... remembering also the poverty, hunger and death that neighboring Britain inflicted on the Irish for centuries, enslaved tragically until freed by independence.

Inflation is just like alcoholism; In both cases, when you start drinking or when you start printing too much money, the good effects come first, and the bad effects only come later.

- Milton Friedman

tog515@gmail.com

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Legends of Hawaiian music return to Old Town School just in time for winter

BY PETER VON BUOL

It's a cold cold wind blowing, and the snow flies... that means it's time for legendary Hawaiian slack key guitarist George Kahumoku Jr., to arrive in Chicago from his warmer, sunnier climes.

Along with him is second-generation ukulele virtuoso Herb Ohta, Jr. and multi-instrumentalist Sonny Lim, who are. All returning 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 4 to perform at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave.

The trio will be bringing a little bit of their Hawaiian warmth to the Chicago stage as they regularly perform together Wednesday evenings at Maui's Napili Kai Beach Resort.

Tickets for the show are \$28 for the general public, and the Mai Tai's go for \$14 at The Getaway bar down the block.

Slack-key guitar, known as kīhōʻalu in the Hawaiian language, uses unique guitar-tunings modified from standard guitar tunings that originated in Hawai'i. By either raising or lowering the tunings of the individual strings, slack-key guitarists achieve a sound recognizable as distinctly native Hawaiian.

The style originated during the 1830s among native Hawaiian cowboys (paniolo in Hawaiian). Until recently, many of these tunings were considered family secrets and not shared with anyone from outside the family.

These tunings originate with the first native Hawaiian cowboys who had been taught cattle-ranching techniques by Spanish-speaking cowboys (vaquero in Spanish) from Mexico. Those vaqueros had better sense to do their ranching in sunny Hawaii rather than work in Chicago's winter gloom.

At the behest of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, they had come to Hawai'i under contract to teach cattle-ranching techniques. Cattle had been introduced decades earlier by the British and by the 1830s had become a dangerous nuisance. Many vaquero were also skilled musicians. Not only did the Vaquero teach the native Hawaiians about cattle-ranching, they also shared their music.

Prior to returning home to Mexico, many of these Vaquero showed their appreciation to their Hawaiian hosts by giving them their guitars. As a tribute to the Vaquero, native Hawaiian cowboys are today known in the Hawaiian language as paniolo.

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

"Hawaiians combined the sound of these three into one. They slackened or loosened the strings, picking bass, rhythm and lead all at once, and the art of slack key guitar was born. Families developed their own tunings and incorporated old Hawaiian-language chants into modern songs with melodies," Kahumoku says, who has co-produced four Grammy Award winning albums



Legendary Hawaiian guitarist George Kahumoku Jr. [right], will perform at the Old Town School of Folk Music March 4 along with Herb Ohta, Jr. and multi-instrumentalist Sonny Lim.

of Hawaiian music. Kahumoku was also recently honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Hawaii's Academy of Recording Arts

Known for sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of traditional slack key songs from the 19th and 20th century with his audiences, Kahumoku also enjoys playing his own compositions and continues composing new songs. Many of these are inspired by his work as a traditional farmer.

"I enjoy creating new songs based on Hawaiian traditions of the past. These songs are reflective of everyday life and what's happening in the [present]," Kahumoku said.

Ohta will be returning with Kahumoku to showcase his skills once again as one of Hawai'i's premier ukulele virtuosos. Being able to do so gives him an opportunity to carry on the legacy of his father. In 1955, Ohta's father, professionally known as Ohta-San, astounded television viewers with his ukulele virtuosity when he appeared on the Ed Sullivan variety show.

For more than 60 years, the elder Ohta has had a successful career as a recording artist. The younger Ohta is known now for his unsurpassed speed and meticulous technique.

Ohta is also student of Hawaiian musical history and uses the ukulele to musically transport concertgoers to a past in which most visitors arrived in Hawai'i by passenger steamships.

Joining Kahumoku and Ohta will be Elmer "Sonny" Lim, Jr.,

once the steel guitarist for the Makaha Sons of Ni'ihau band which featured the haunting vocals and ukulele playing of the late Hawaiian musical legend, Israel Kamakawiwo'ole.

Slack-key guitar, known as kīhōʻalu in the Hawaiian language, uses unique guitar-tunings modified from standard guitar tunings that originated in Hawai'i. Slack-key guitarists achieve a sound recognizable as distinctly native Hawaiian.

Lim, who retired a few years ago from being a professional paniolo for Hawai'i Island's Parker Ranch (the largest cattle ranch in the state), is a member of one of the most influential families in traditional Hawaiian music.

Growing up in a family known for its abilities in music and dance, Sonny Lim was surrounded by music. Support from his family allowed him to develop his own style of lap steel and slack key guitar. At the age of 12, he started to perform professionally with his family at Laurence Rockefeller's luxurious Mauna Kea Beach Resort.

By the age of 15, he became a featured lap steel guitarist with the Makaha Sons of Ni'ihau. They were already one of the most in-demand live bands in the islands. While still in high school,

he would leave his home island of Hawai'i to fly to Honolulu to perform.

For more than a quarter of a century, Kahumoku, 74, has been bringing the Masters of Hawaiian Music tour to the mainland. Not only do the tours provide Kahumoku a chance to wear a winter coat, thick socks and sturdy boots, it provides an opportunity to personally connect with his fans on the mainland, many of whom have even traveled to Maui to see his weekly live show.

In addition to his musical career, Kahumoku has also spent decades in education, both as an administrator and as a classroom instructor. While he is proud of his work in the classroom, he also appreciates the education he received from his parents, grandparents and ancestors. His father, George Kahumoku, Sr. quit school after eighth grade and broke horses for McCandless Ranch in South Kona (on the Big Island of Hawaii).

"My great-grandfather, Willy Kahumoku, was instrumental in building the stone walls that contained the cattle [on the Big Island]. My parents, grandparents, great grandparents all played kī hōʻalu guitar. I've been playing and performing slack key guitar as well as farming, and ranching all of my life," he said.

Throughout much of the 20th century, slack-key guitar was overshadowed in popular music by the more commercial-sounding Hawaiian steel-guitar. By the late 1960s, interest in traditional Hawaiian folk music rebounded and slack key guitar achieved recognition as a lead instrument.

Leading the way was The Sons of Hawaii, which featured the collaborative musical interplay between the late Gabby Pahinui on slack key guitar and the late Eddie Kamae on ukulele. Skilled as an on-stage performer, Kamae's interest in learning everything he could about a song helped spark a cultural revival in traditional Hawaiian music. He sought out old songwriters and other experts in the Hawaiian culture, and scoured archives, sometimes only finding fragments of old songs.

Civic Literacy March 15 event helps residents reach government representatives

Understanding how to effectively engage with government representatives is crucial for civic participation. To help community members navigate this process, the Edgewater Branch of the Chicago Public Library will host a nonpartisan program titled "Civic Literacy – Reach Your Government Representatives," 10 a.m. March 15, at 6000 N. Broadway.

The event, held in partnership with Friends of the Edgewater Library, aims to equip attendees with the knowledge to determine which government representatives to contact based on their specific needs. The session will also provide insights into the complexities of local, state, and federal government, offering practical guidance on when and how to communicate with officials, what to say, and why civic engagement matters.

Leading the discussion will be Meghan Leonard, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State Univ. With expertise in political systems and public policy, Dr. Leonard will offer valuable insights to help residents become more active participants in democracy.

This public program provides an opportunity for community members to strengthen their understanding of government processes and be heard.

For more information, call 312-742-1945 or write to edgewater@chipublib.org.

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Union Pacific North Line bridge work getting underway

On Monday, a contractor hired by Metra began removing select trees and other vegetation in the Union Pacific Railroad right of way to make way the first segments of the UP North bridge replacement project, running from Fullerton to Addison St.

The tree removal work will start on the east side of the tracks from Fullerton to Schubert, then on the east side from Belmont to Addison, then on the west side from Addison to Belmont, and finally on the west side from Schubert to Fullerton. It will not include any work between Diversey and Belmont.

The work will be done Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is expected to be completed by April 1. No trees or vegetation on private property will be removed, but there will be some limited removal on the public right of way where needed to facilitate access to the work area on the railroad right of way.

The UP North Rebuild: Fullerton to Addison project will replace 11 bridges and several sections of retaining walls between Fullerton and Addison. Construction on the first segment, covering the bridges over Fullerton, Clybourn, and Wrightwood, is expected to start this spring.

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“More Than March” March 2 celebration for Women’s History Month

Chicago is set to shine on March 2, as Let’s Talk Womxn Chicago hosts its highly anticipated fifth annual Women’s History Month celebration, “More Than March,” at Moe’s Cantina in 155 W. Kinzie St., from 4 to 8 p.m. With over 30 leading women-owned restaurants and food and beverage businesses, promoters claim this event is a call to action, a celebration, and a display of women’s strength in the culinary industry.

This year’s theme, Shimmer & Shine, invites attendees to participate in a night filled with tasting stations, craft cocktails, live entertainment, and a lineup of speakers. The evening will feature a female DJ accompanied by a viola performance, a drag show, and a dance floor ready for celebration. The promoters say this is more than just a gathering, “More Than March is a movement—an assertion that women’s voices, contributions, and leadership deserve more than just a single

month of recognition,” according to their press release.

Founded by restaurateur Rohini Dey, Ph.D., Let’s Talk Womxn is a national initiative uniting over 900 women-owned food and beverage businesses across 15 cities. The Chicago chapter, the heart of this action-driven union, is bringing together a roster of culinary talent, including Stephanie Hart of Brown Sugar Bakery, Deann Bayless of Frontera Grill, Mara Smith of Inspiro Tequila, and many more. The event is designed to showcase the strength and creativity of women entrepreneurs while fostering a space for all allies who believe in gender parity.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in fancy attire and immerse themselves in an evening of food, drinks, and empowerment.

Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-talk-womxn-more-than-march-bash-shimmer-shine-tickets-1208016242099>.

HIGH-RISE from p. 5

new store at North and Wells.

The secret 11-page zoning document obtained by this newspaper further includes the Piper’s Alley tract, now owned by Old Town Development Associates, LLC, a partnership headed by politically connected Thomas M. Tully, who served as Cook County Assessor from 1974 through 1978.

The Old Town Canvas

Insiders say Fern Hill’s original proposed 500-unit Old Town Canvas high-rise—now reduced to 349 units—apparently is planning through various partnerships to stretch the “land-canvas” for at least two additional towers on the north side of North Ave., west of Wells.

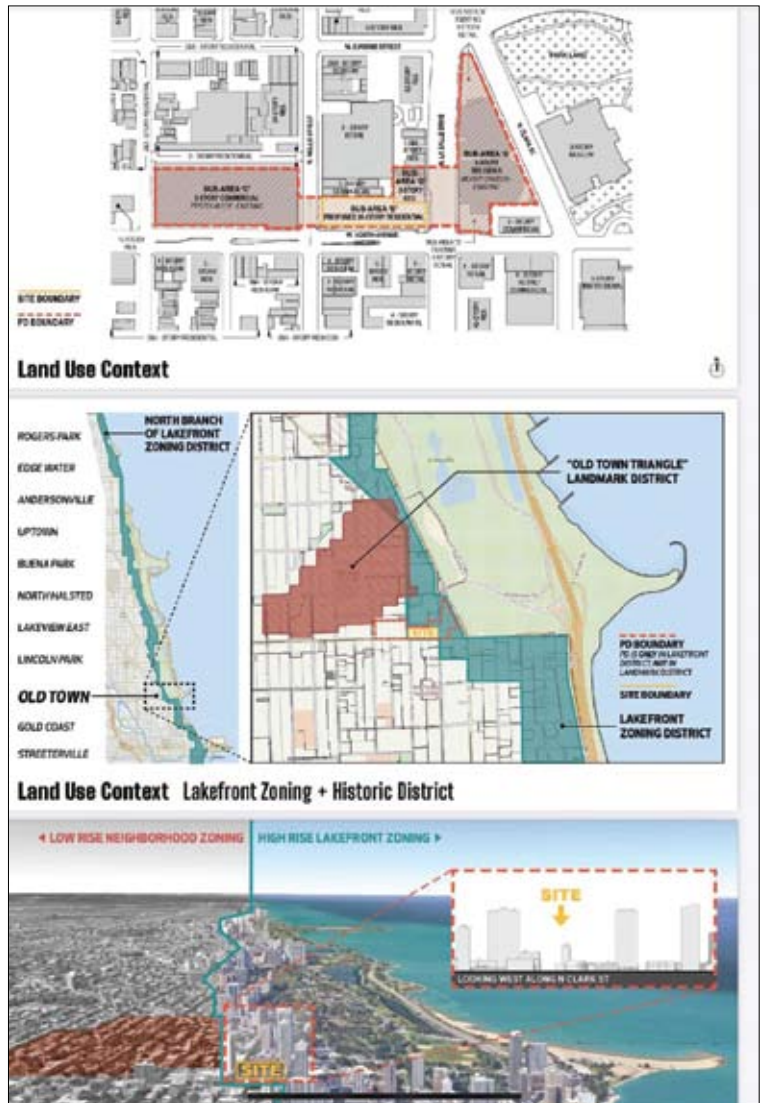
In play in the long-range rezoning chess game is the Piper’s Alley complex, including the X-sport Fitness Club, Starbuck’s, Second City Theater, and more than a dozen commercial properties that ring the northwest corner of North and Wells running west to North Park.

Zoning experts say the rezoning of the 84,078-square-foot Piper’s Alley site to allow a floor-area-ratio of 420,390 square feet could eventually pave the way for two additional high-rise towers on the north side of North Ave. between Wells St. and North Park Ave.

As proposed, the sweeping zoning changes under Fern Hill’s expanded planned development partnership could result in up to 1,400 new units for 4,000 to 5,000 people along a two-block stretch of North Ave. between LaSalle and North Park.

Although Fern Hill’s rezoning application does not immediately allow residential units on the Piper’s Alley commercial site, that likely will happen in the future.

The rezoning application also provides that the 392 parking spaces in the deteriorating Piper’s Alley garage could be removed at the time of that parcel’s “site-plan



Old Town Canvas rezoning map.

approval,” resulting in a sharp reduction in the area’s much-needed parking.

Earlier, Anderson said Piper’s Alley owners recently signed a new long-term lease for the Second City Theater and have “assured him that they have no future plans for high-rises.”

“If another development proposal for Piper’s Alley comes along it will be judged on its own merits,” Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] said.

If the city’s road map to boost its billion-dollar budget shortfall is raising hundreds of millions of dollars in high-rise development cash by transforming Old Town and Chicago’s lakefront into

Manhattan, long-time neighborhood resident and housing expert Dan Baldwin suggests an alternative.

“Chicago needs to create a Dept. of Governmental Efficiency to cut pay-roller waste and streamline budget costs to hold real estate taxes down,” Baldwin said. “Then the city wouldn’t have to allow developers to build endless rows of high-rises to generate tax dollars.”

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

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POLICE BEAT from p. 6

volving its community. In both videos, the man is wearing clothing similar to the description provided by Loyola. It’s unclear if this is the man responsible for the Loyola incidents. Opinion: The school’s policy of not releasing a suspect’s race does neither it nor the public any favors here.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	
<p>262626</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. Plaintiff, -v- MARILYN CROSS, ARTHUR L. CROSS, CITIFINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MALIBU EAST CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 17 CH 001326 6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #37H CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 19, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 20, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #37H, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-215-017-1399 The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse. 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</p>	<p>taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. 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),</p>	<p>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, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-17-00498 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 17 CH 001326 TJS# 45-359 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 17 CH 001326</p>	<p>13260915</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff, -v- ANITA VELJI, AZIZ VELJI, SHORELINE TOWERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2024 CH 06879 6301 N SHERIDAN RD APT 3R CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 13, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 17, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6301 N SHERIDAN RD APT 3R, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-203-011-1019 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS</p>	<p>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, 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</p>	<p>One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-24-04495 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2024 CH 06879 TJS# 45-50 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 06879 13260839 191919 121212</p>	<p>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We’ll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</p>

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Teen opportunities at Lincoln Park Zoo

The Lincoln Park Zoo is offering a variety of programs geared specifically to teens. Applications for the following 2025 summer programs are due Monday, March 10: the Malott Family Zoo Intern Program, the Malott Family Research Apprenticeship Program, and the Camp Teen Volunteer.

The zoo will be offering virtual workshops for any teen to participate in regarding the application process. For more information and to submit an application, visit <https://www.lpzoo.org/about-the-zoo/join-our-team/jobs-for-teens/>.

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Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth faces crucial decision on Broadway upzoning

BY PATRICIA SHARKEY
President, ENN-NEON Block Club

An uproar at the February Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] meeting last week highlighted a significant moment for Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th]. Dozens of her constituents flooded the CPC meeting to voice their objections to a City proposal to radically upzone all of Broadway in Edgewater – a proposal supported by the Alderwoman.

On one side, she faces fierce opposition from thousands of Edgewater residents whose neighborhoods include and border Broadway and who are calling for more study. On the other side is the Johnson Administration and affordable housing advocates from outside the community pushing a city-wide agenda that could reshape Edgewater's character forever.

The ball is now in the Alderwoman's court to decide whether she will listen to the voices of her constituents or continue to push forward with an outside agenda that may cause long-term harm to the Edgewater community.

The Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development's [DPD] proposal calls for upzoning every property in Edgewater's Broadway business district, stretching from Foster to Devon, to the highest possible business height and

density classification in the City Zoning Code: B3-5. This would allow the construction of buildings up to eight stories tall on both sides of Broadway and with up to 5 to 7 times more residential units than current zoning allows on the West side.

Proponents argue that this change is necessary to increase affordable housing in the area, but residents point out that Broadway is primarily a business district and cite substantial construction of mixed use commercial and residential buildings on both sides of Broadway over the last 20 years under the existing zoning and with the existing community input process.

In fact, Edgewater is one of the densest and most diverse communities in the City, with a diverse housing stock. It is also one of the most affordable communities on the north lakefront.

Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth's unwavering support for the proposal, despite the overwhelming opposition from her constituents, raises concerns about her priorities. Edgewater residents do not oppose the idea of more housing, but they have called for a more thoughtful, community-driven process that includes a comprehensive study and a plan to address the impacts of such a drastic upzoning.

Unfortunately, the DPD has failed to conduct such a study, and

the lack of proper planning for this major change has left many questioning the city's motives in Edgewater.

It is estimated that the proposed zoning change could spur over 10,000 new housing units on

Commentary

Broadway in Edgewater, but there is no data to show how this will affect the local economy, property values, or the quality of life. Residents contend that unbridled development encouraged by B3-5 zoning could drive up property values and taxes, displace iconic small businesses and over 45 heritage buildings, and flood the street with high-rise buildings that create a "canyon" effect.

The lack of planning for this significant change isn't the City's normal mode of operation. In fact, residents pointed out to the CPC that the DPD has spent far more time studying and providing community input for proposals to upzone other areas of the city, such as Western Ave. and 95th Street, before recommending lower levels of upzoning. Indeed, the City undertook Comprehensive planning for both of those business corridors and in the end only upzoned those corridors to a "-3" height and density level which is the existing zoning on the East side of Broadway.

Moreover, the facts on the ground cast doubt on the contention that B3-5 upzoning will solve the affordability crisis. Local realtor John Charmelo presented the CPC with figures showing that rents in Edgewater are already below the citywide median, including those in Uptown. In fact, Charmelo found that rents in Uptown skyrocketed after the 2,000 unit Cedar Flats development was built under B3-5 zoning.

Equally troubling is the DPD's lack of engagement with the community. Residents have criticized the department's public input process as superficial, accusing the DPD of deliberately excluding affected community groups like local Block Clubs. While the DPD held a few "Open Houses," residents argue that these events were superficial, did not reflect the community's past visioning work, and failed to provide complete data or address the impacts of the upzoning.

The absence of a meaningful dialogue between the city and Edgewater residents raises questions about whether the DPD "top down" proposal for Broadway is truly designed to address local needs or rather is an experiment in radical upzoning.

After the CPC meeting, City Zoning Administrator Patrick Murphey and Cmsr. Boatright reassured residents that the approval of the Framework is not a final

approval of upzoning. However, the DPD has already signaled that they plan to move forward with the B3-5 proposal in early 2025, leaving Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth with a critical decision to make right now.

It's time for Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth to take responsibility and represent the interests of her constituents, not the citywide development agenda pushed by outside advocates. She must hit the pause button on this radical upzoning proposal and work with Edgewater residents to ensure that any changes to Broadway are carefully planned, thoroughly studied, and take into account the concerns of the people who live and work here.

The future of Edgewater is at a crossroads, and the decisions made in the coming weeks will determine whether the neighborhood remains a vibrant, community-centered area or is irreparably changed by unchecked development.

The ball is now in Alderwoman's court. Will she prioritize the voices of her constituents or forge ahead with a plan that could drastically alter Edgewater's future? The time for indecision is over. It's time for the Alderwoman to act responsibly and protect the interests of the community she represents.

APPROVES from p. 1

Broadway north of Foster about '-5' zoning, "...and am pushing back on the recommendation to zone both sides of Broadway as a -5. I have requested a plan from the [DPD] that differentiates between the east and west sides of the street, and will keep everyone informed as the zoning ordinance develops."

"Once we have a zoning plan to attract activity and investment that reflects our values and aligns with our goals, we'll submit an ordinance to update zoning along Broadway. This is expected to

happen in the coming months," she wrote.

So not only is Manaa-Hoppenworth on record for approving the upzoning framework as she anticipates new investment in a matter of months, she is also on record for opposing the one-size-fits-all upzoning framework for west side of Broadway between Foster and Devon that she acknowledges her resident constituents oppose.

Patricia Sharkey, an Edgewater resident and president of the Edgewater North Neighbors/North Edgewater Neighbors Organization block club emailed this reporter with a statement on the

Alderman's apparent flip-flop.

"Leni's statement about pushing back on the [DPD] regarding different upzoning for the West side [of Broadway] was in her blog before the CPC meeting. Those of us watching this carefully had hoped it meant that DPD would be modifying its proposal before the CPC meeting – but they didn't," Sharkey wrote.

"It looks like this is another instance in which [the Alderman] either doesn't understand her power or actually doesn't want to use it... [any] responsible Alder would have put the brakes on this long ago. Leni should be telling DPD that she will not support DPD's proposal without a plan that addresses her constituents concerns, including no greater than four stories on the West side. If she doesn't stop the train wreck coming for Broadway, she's going to own it," Sharkey concluded.

Only one CPC commissioner, Ald. Gilbert Villegas [36th], voted in opposition of the upzoning plan, stating that the Broadway upzoning plan should be decided on the ward level. "I'm a huge proponent of community engagement," Villegas declared.

Villegas then asked DPD Deputy Cmsr. Cindy Chan Roubik, "What is the difference between a framework and a plan?" The question referred to "plan" for upzoning 95th St. and a "plan" for upzoning Western Ave. while Broadway is referred to as a "framework."

"Roubik replied, "This is a framework plan."

According to the city's website, a "plan" is a specific action item, while a "framework" is a planning tool that guides the review of

plans. "The DPD uses both plans and frameworks to promote the city's growth and sustainability."

The concern about the west side of Broadway north of Foster is important to the community due to the depth of the lots. Lots on the west side of Broadway are approximately 125 feet deep while lots on the east side are approx. 250 feet deep – from Broadway to the CTA's Red/Purple line train tracks, with the tracks providing a buffer to the east.

So a newly constructed eight-story mid-rise residential building on the west side built under the new "B3-5" zoning code would be literally towering over the back yard of a single-family home on the west side of Magno-

DCASE from p. 1

funds.

Hedspeth said her vision is largely data-driven, and that DCASE was intentional about asking residents what they wanted to see more of in the city. Based on the Edgewater Branch Library mural, Hedspeth has room for improvement in involving residents in the decision-making process.

Hedspeth might begin by forming a rudimentary in-house team

KINDRED from p. 1

Sheridan Road Hospital, a medical, surgical, and psychiatric facility was reported to be serving a dwindling number of patients since the 1986 closing announcement. It was to empty the remaining 19 psych patients and transfer them to other Rush facilities including Skokie Valley Hospital, 9600 Gross Point Rd in Skokie.

lia with only an alley separating the properties.

Opponents of the upzoning framework ask the DPD to conduct a number of fundamental analyses such as Economic Impact Study, a Traffic and Transportation Study, an Infrastructure Analysis, and a Land Use Impact Study, all of which haven't been conducted to date.

What local residents are finding out is that this current version of City Hall doesn't much care what the community thinks about community issues.

Next week, we'll delve into the arguments both in favor and in opposition to the approved Broadway upzoning framework.

at DCASE to answer legitimate email questions from interested parties, especially as DCASE is notoriously difficult to contact. Everything doesn't have to be accomplished through filing a Freedom of Information Act Request, but this newspaper and several North Side community groups and block clubs we've heard from are finding out that FOIA requests are perhaps the only way to get legitimate information from City Hall.

The Kindred Hospital site is listed for sale by Jones Lang LaSalle Americas (Illinois), L.P. on behalf of Kindred and has been exclusively retained. The property is listed by several addresses: 6130 N. Sheridan, 6118 N. Kenmore and 6130 N. Kenmore, Chicago.

The attributes include a 91,255 sf building net area and 85,801 sf of land area.

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