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If you're not confused, you're not paying attention.
— *Tom Peters*

INSIDE-BOOSTER

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Alderman holds secret emergency meeting with Commissioners to discuss fate of Lincoln Square parking lot

BY PETER VON BUOL

There is something afoot with the deal to gift a Lincoln Square parking lot - and its parking spots - to a private developer, but as usual, nobody's talking to the community, the greater 47th Ward, or taxpayers, about what's really going on.

This newspaper has learned Ald. Matt Martin [47th] called a secret, emergency meeting with a pair of city commissioners on March 8 to discuss the fate of the city-owned parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave.

Among those scheduled to attend the secret meeting were Cmsr. Marisa Novara, of the Dept. of Housing, and Cmsr. Maurice D. Cox, of Planning and Development.

The real estate the parking lot sits on is now owned by the city, and the actual parking spaces, and the income they generate are now owned by LAZ Parking Chicago, LLC. The proposed developer - Boston-based TCB, Inc. - wants all of that gifted to them to do this deal.

A March 4 memo, written by Laura Reimers, Ald. Martin's Chief of Staff, was leaked to this newspaper from a source in City Hall. It states: "Mi Fogata [4322 N. Western Ave.], has offered to let us use their large, private backroom that evening. Late this week, our office received the detailed parking utilization data that we requested in early 2021. While frustrating that it took a year for LAZ to provide this data, the city's Dept. of Finance has informed us that this is the most detailed data request that LAZ has fulfilled in their memory. We hope this data can be used to help us have informed conversations about how much the parking lot is/isn't utilized. Because LAZ views this data as proprietary, I am not able to share the raw data, but in this email, I include materials that summarize important points."

TCB is asking to be gifted the LAZ's parking spots - that sit on the real estate the city is gifting to them, as well as asking for financial support from the city's Tax Increment Financing

"LAZ's more detailed hourly data does reinforce the point many small businesses have made: the parking tends to be well-utilized at certain peak business hours, but not well-utilized at other times. I included a copy of our own analysis which includes average utilization rate by hour and day of the week. Using this data, we were also able to estimate what the utilization rate would have been if we adjusted parking lot capacity to DPD/DOH's proposal that includes 11 public parking spaces. This calculation assumes that the same number of cars would attempt to visit the smaller lot."

While Ald. Martin and his staff continue to ignore the community's questions about the give-away and redevelopment of a parking lot, which serves as critical infrastructure for Lincoln Square's businesses, we hope a source working within the 47th Ward office will share information about the meeting with this newspaper.

If the city gifts the parking space to the developer, City Hall will need to pay off the balance due on the lease to make whole LAZ's loss of that property. Or City Hall would have to replace those lost spots with parking spots of equal value at another location.

TCB is slated to build a 51-unit apartment building on the site of the parking lot. Financing for this project includes federal low-income housing tax credits. Typically, TCB uses creative financing mechanisms to fund their projects, so as to minimize any risk to their own assets. TCB is also now asking to be gifted the LAZ's parking spots - that sit on the real estate the city is gifting to them, as well as asking for financial support from the city's Tax Increment Financing [TIF] Pro-

PARKING LOT *see p. 16*

Chicago police are trying to identify these three people connected with the March 1 robberies and batteries aboard the Red Line CTA train downtown.

At last, CTA recognizes it has a problem

CPD releases photos of Red Line attack suspects

Those with addictions are told that the first step in fixing a problem is admitting that you have a problem.

The CTA today is being gobsmacked with their problem… CTA trains and buses have a major crime problem. Last week the CTA finally admitted they have a problem, when they boosted the presence of security guards on some of its busiest train lines to address both an increase in criminal violence and rider and staff safety concerns.

CTA security guards began patrolling targeted locations during the day and overnight on the Red and Blue lines, which both run 24 hours. CTA riders, bus drivers, and train engineers have demanded more protections against the growing number of attacks against staff and riders. The new security guards are intended to be a deterrent and can enforce CTA rules.

Right now, the CPD's Mass Transit Unit is trying to identify suspects connected to the robbery and physical attacks of two men aboard Red Line trains downtown.

Police released CTA surveil-

SUSPECTS *see p. 11*

Western Ave. to be closed at Berteau for two weeks, traffic nightmare expected

Today there may be no worse stretch of roadway on the North Side to travel down than that located on Western Ave. in North Center and Lincoln Square.

Between delayed maintenance by the city and state, and the high load levels of traffic that use the street, those brave enough to drive into that minefield often regret it.

And now it's about to get worse for the near term.

The Dept. of Water Management [DWM] is moving forward with a full closure of the intersection of Western and Berteau starting March 8.

The intersection will be closed in all directions for at minimum two weeks. Western Ave. is a major commercial thoroughfare on the North Side, and traffic problems will surely spread into abutting residential streets while that work progresses.

That backed-up traffic will include the full load of school and CTA buses, city emergency and work vehicles, 18-wheel semi-tractor trailers, Ubers, Amazon, postal, UPS, DoorDash and commuter vehicles. That through traffic will be rerouted at Irving Park and at Montrose. Residents will still be able to access or exit side streets (Cuyler, Belle Plaine, and Warner coming from Irving – Hutchinson, Cullom, and Pensacola coming from Montrose).

Because the entire intersection of Western and Berteau is closed, Berteau between Western and Campbell will have to be accessed via alleys parallel to Western. Residents exiting the 2100 block of Claremont and the 2300 block of Berteau will also have to use the alley south of Berteau.

This final stage in the water main replacement project is not expected to require any water shutoffs.

100-mile-a-week CTA Red Line rider offers safety advice on Reddit: "No eye contact, ever"

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Chicago Reddit user who says they travel 100 miles per week on the CTA Red Line hit a home run when they recently offered advice for people traveling on the city's rail system.

"GMOcorn" offered their insights after another user posted about being assaulted by "two drunk guys" on the train line between Chicago Ave. and North-Clybourn. The travel suggestions scored 1,386 points from other Reddit users — far more than the original post from the user who got assaulted.

Shootings and robberies on the CTA Red Line have made headlines since GMOcorn posted their advice last month. And, with more and more people returning to public transit after COVID, GMOcorn's ideas are timely and worth considering. Here's what they wrote:

Red Line advice from a 100-mile-a-week rider:

"No eye contact, ever. First car only. If I'm [getting] in some sh*t, the operator's getting in it with me."

"If it looks sketchy, it's sketchy. If a physical confrontation is imminent, be first in the exchange."

"If someone's smoking or playing loud music, keep your mouth shut. You're just trying to get home, this is not the place you go to chill so you do not deserve comfort, mind your own business. No one is coming to save you if you run your mouth."

"You would think it shouldn't be this way, and it should not, but it is this way because of the way that it is. Travel safe and take care."

Ukrainians and Russians can live side-by-side in peace in Chicago, cheering the Cubs

By Thomas J. O'Gorman

A weekly column is not the place to discuss or contemplate fluid, fast-moving current events, like a Russian war in Ukraine.

In our media-glutted age things not only happen fast, they are reported fast, for weal or woe. By the time you read today's column, who knows what will have transpired in that war zone.

We all have some strong feelings about Russian aggression. And the nobility of Ukraine and its people.

As an alum of the Catholic Univ. of Lublin, in Poland, I had firsthand experience living and learning in close proximity to the Ukrainian border in the 1970s. And with the former Polish city of Lodz, renamed Lvov when the Polish border was redrawn after World War II, by Stalin.

Living in the strange atmosphere of a Soviet satellite nation, I recall as if it were yesterday, the political and cultural hybrid that was Poland under General Wojciech Jaruzelski. How we had to buy goods with blackmarket money, drink bad Bulgarian wines, and experience the Catholic Church act as a second nation for the Soviet-bullied Poles. Krakow Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, later Pope St. John Paul II, was a good friend and ally of American students. A true sign of hope, as the Soviet Union rule began to disintegrate in the era of the Solidarity trade union and leadership of union leader Lech Walesa.

Even then, Poland was a better place to live than all other Soviet satellites.

Poles at least could travel out of the country to other places in Europe. Citizens of other countries like Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, could not.

Poles, because of their many American relatives, could accumulate US Dollars, giving them access to economic advantages.

Who could have really predicted the downfall of the Soviet State back then? The soon to come independence of the Soviet satellite states? The fall of the Berlin Wall, or the election of a young Polish Pope? It was a different world 50 years ago.

We had a rather pampered life in the world of Poland's premier University. More freedom than most folk. Provided with expansive travel from one end of the country to the other. A deep emersion into the culture and beauty of its people who had suffered so much during the years of World War II.

I listened to President Richard Nixon resign over Radio Free Europe there. That was a disturbing experience. Back home we were part of the movement to rid America of him.

Behind the Iron Curtain, his departure from office seemed dangerous to us. Unsettling being away from home.

Here in Chicago, I live a half block from the onion-domed beauty of the Ukrainian Village.

We have no crystal ball to predict the aggression of Putin, but as I hear the Orthodox bells of Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cathedral ringing down the street from me, I feel a sense of fresh global hope.

An antique neighborhood of spacious bungalows and splendid churches. Cathedral-like centers of Easter Rite Divine Liturgies. Like St. Nicholas Ukrainian Uniate Cathedral on Oakley Blvd., under the authority of the pope.

The sounds of the Ukrainian language dance on the sidewalks. In churches. In the shops. In the taverns and deli-butcher shops. So events in war-torn Ukraine are very tactile and present.

Pain on the faces of our neighbors is very real.

We have no crystal ball to predict the aggression of Putin, the psycho-president for life. But as I hear the Orthodox bells of Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cathedral ringing down the street, I feel a sense of fresh global hope.

This Russian cathedral is just three blocks from its Ukrainian neighbors. It's the work of famed Chicago architect Louis Sullivan, from back in the early 1900s.

Inside there is a chandelier, sent to the neighborhood's Russian residents from Tsar Nicholas II. Beautiful, but for me a macabre reminder of the Tsar and his family's slaughter by the Soviets.

But Sullivan's architecture, his pure Prairie-design, flat wood and stucco, is pure All-American.

Frank Lloyd Wright was Sullivan's young apprentice back then. Their celebration of America's character was without equal.

The cathedral does have some Russian touches in the domes and layout of the structure. But this building, I realize, is truly a sign of hope that stills lives today.

Ukrainians and Russians living in peace. Side by side in Chicago. Cheering the Cubs.

Sullivan's design is a marriage between the flavor of the old country, wedded to the shape of the American Republic. A shimmering sign that here in the USA, not only is there room for immigrants, but we believe we will work well together. In harmony. The nearby Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral is just two blocks north. And very near Sts. Vladamir and Olga Ukrainian Church near Chicago Ave.

I'm making homemade Chicken Kyiv for dinner tonight. Ingredients are all on hand. Beside loving the savoriness of the butter and the chive stuffing, I feel a comfort in my neighbors and unity with the people of Ukraine who I pray will bring the madman to a table for peace. And an end to the old refuge of violence.

RUSSIAN BASKETBALL: Georgian basketball star, **Tornike Shengelia**, walked out on his team CSKA Moscow, (Russian Army Club team) changed his social media image to Ukraine's flag and fled Russia in an anti-war protest.

OUR OLD PAL: Gold Coast resident, and local financier **Peter Fasseas** died Feb. 24 at his home in Laguna Beach. He was a dear friend to this newspaper over the years. It's not an exaggeration to say that without him, this newspaper may not exist today.

Peter Fasseas

Services will be held in Arizona March 19, and a remembrance will be held later this year in Chicago.

Peter had a booming baritone voice, and you knew when he entered a room. He frequently held court at the Parthenon Restaurant in Greektown, and it was old school all the way, men on one side of the table, wives and women on the other. They're setting the table in Heaven just that way right now.

SUNSETS AND SAGANAKI: The best Greek kitchen on the North Side is in the home of Cook County Treasurer **Maria Pappas**, where she cooked a six-course meal for longtime friends from German Lincoln Square, who arrived just in time to see a spectacular sunset from her 48th floor home. Her office these days is the only one open in City Hall and The County Building that is fully staffed. Attendance is being taken, and taxpayers are getting their money's worth from her staff. Six courses after a full day's work? How does she do it? And how does her husband **Peter** stay so thin? Yassou!

ACT EXAM: Mario Hoover, Providence-St. Mel High School junior is the first in his Chicago school's history to get a perfect ACT score. Bravo.

TOP CHEFS: James Beard Award semifinalists for Best Chef in the Great Lakes region have been announced that include **Rodolfo Cuadros** at Amaru and Bloom Plant Based Kitchen, **Diana Dávila Boldin** at Mi Tocaya Antojería, **Paul Fehribach** at Big Jones, **Jason Hammel** at Lula Cafe. **Dave Park** at Jeong, **Darnell Reed** at Luella's Southern Kitchen, **Noah Sandoval** at Oriole, **John Shields** and **Karen Urie Shields** at Smyth and **Erick Williams** at Virtue Restaurant and Bar.

THE CLIPPER: The California Clipper reopened this week under new ownership. Dark for two years. The Clipper, a Chicago favorite since the 1930s, is back with the same look and feel as the original. California and Augusta Blvd. Stop in.

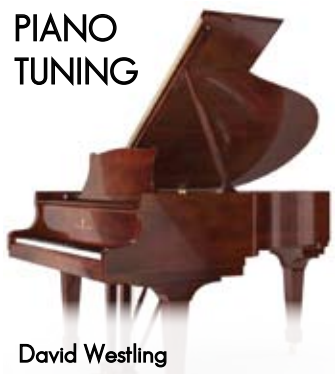
ELINA'S: Had dinner last Wednesday at Elina's, where chef owners **Ian Rusnak** and **Eric Safin** are creating Chicago's most refined Italian cuisine. Named an official "buzz-worthy" restaurant at 1220 W. Grand.

SILVER LINING: Dr. Sandy Goldberg of A Silver Lining Foundation expressing gratitude and appreciation to The Peninsula Hotel Chicago for their ongoing support. Dr. Goldberg was beaming from ear to ear while accepting a check from **Maria Zac**, Regional Vice President and General Manager of the hotel. Each October, during Breast Cancer Awareness month, The Peninsula Hotel Chicago highlights the mission of ASLF and raises money to help fund their mission.

PAX TIBI: John Kinsella was a grand man, now gone to God at 93. Illinois Prairie reared. Univ.

PEACE *see p. 10*

PIANO TUNING



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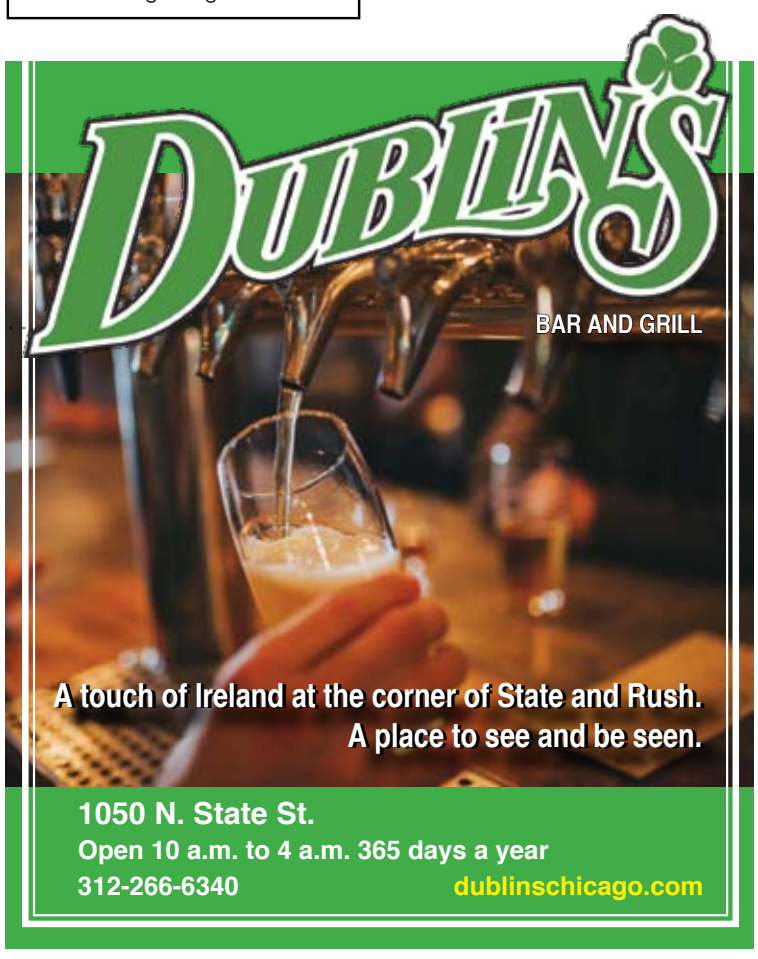

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No blarney, the Trinity Irish Dancers are shamrockin'

Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

I don't know if Lizzie O'Brien has a nickname, but I'm going to give her an affectionate moniker: Busy Lizzie.

This Saturday, the 18-year-old Rogers Park resident will perform for the 14th time with the Trinity Irish Dancers in the St. Patrick's Day parade. After so many years she's an old hat at that, so these days, the performance is more of an "adrenaline rush" than a challenge, said O'Brien.

But then there's also the Irish dance coaching that O'Brien does from 4 to 9 p.m., two-to-three times a week, with wee lads and lassies who are prepping for the exciting, jam-packed-with-performances, season. O'Brien has her own Irish dance practices, which are two-to-three times a week too.

In addition to all of the above, Busy Lizzie is also part of an ensemble program with the dancers that this summer will perform in Belgium, so she's gearing up for that. Then there's high school -- she's a senior at Jones College Prep.

As you can see, Lizzie is very busy!

"I practice for the summer tour and I teach littles for St. Paddy's season, but at the end of the day, it all pays off," said O'Brien, who performed in Germany in 2019 with the ensemble but unfortunately, a 2020 Poland performance was COVID cancelled. "My goal is always to give that excitement to my dancers and make sure they are loving what they are doing."

O'Brien has been doing just that -- loving what she is doing -- since the age of five, when she attended the South Side Irish Parade and after seeing the Trinity dancers perform, "begged and begged," her mom to sign her up for Irish dancing. As the luck of the Irish would have it, her mother's friend danced at Trinity so they were familiar with the renowned Trinity Academy of Irish Dance. She stopped taking ballet lessons, "And Irish dancing became our sport," said O'Brien, whose 15-year-old sister, Anna, has been dancing since she was three, making it a family affair.

"It's always been my passion, my great love," said O'Brien, who dances and teaches at the academy's Lakeview location and is head of one of the school's teams. "It's not always easy, sometimes you don't learn a step, sometimes you get tired, but at the end of the day it brings joy to do."

"I think my favorite thing about Irish dancing, next to performing, is teaching," said O'Brien. "If it's been a long school day, my littles give me so much joy in what they're doing. I love seeing them shine on stage."

So did I last Friday night, when I went to see the dancers at the Irish American Heritage Center [IAHC], 4626 N. Knox St. The littles -- and the bigs -- were just so darn talented and cute. Of course, that included my six-year-old granddaughter, Sydney, who joined the Trinity Irish Dancers in September (her mother, Megan, danced with Trinity also).

My family and I headed to the center's annual fish fry, which was a really nice, community-feeling, kid-friendly event, to check out Sydney and join in the fun. What I saw made my heart burst with happiness, as Sydney's little Irish eyes were smiling the entire time. And same with the others -- kids of all ages and sizes performed the dances with self-assurance and obvious pride.

For nearly 40 years, the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance has become the most widely-recognized Irish dance program in the world. They've set numerous competitive records, with the academy winning its first world title in 1987. That, I'm told, catapulted it to national and international stardom, which significantly helped to raise awareness of Irish Dance.

(L) Trinity Irish Dancers Lizzie O'Brien, left, and her sister Anna. (R) Lizzie O'Brien teaches Irish dance moves to one of her "Littles."

(L) The Schimmel kids, left to right: Connor, Alana, Sierra and Kaitlin. Connor is headed to the World Competition of Irish Dance in Belfast this spring as a Team Dancer. (R) This columnist's granddaughter, six-year-old Sydney, joined the Trinity Irish Dancers in September.

The academy has a unique philosophy dedicated to helping students achieve both on and off the dance floor. From their first class, the dancers are taught poise, confidence, discipline and balance through teamwork and leadership and mentoring. They determine their own level of participation, whether it be competitive or strictly recreational.

The folks at Trinity say that despite their success and innovation on the competitive and performing arts stage, their most notable achievement is accomplishing the mission to "elevate children, the community and the world through the power and grace of Irish dance." They strive to teach students life lessons both on and off the dance floor.

Perhaps that's why the Trinity dancers have appeared in movies and on national TV including six Tonight Shows, CONAN, The Today Show and Good Morning America, to name a few. The school has the prestigious, unrivaled distinction of winning more world titles than all other American Irish dance schools.

I learned from Meggie Heilman, the academy's managing director, that there are five academy locations in Illinois including: Chicago Northwest at the IAHC, Lakeview, Elmhurst, Palatine, and Western Springs. In total, there are close to 600 dancers across Illinois and Wisconsin, with about 80% signed up for the St. Patrick's Day season events. The IAHC is the most robust location that will have about 110 dancers out performing for St. Paddy's Day happenings, Heilman said.

Practices begin in December leading up to the hundreds of shows in March, Heilman said. The academy takes great pride on the leadership and other things taught through mentorship at the shows, and partnering little dancers with big ones, she said.

"Everybody puts in that time and effort and they keep having the energy to keep going and going," said Heilman.

"The kids faced the challenge of learning Irish dance in their living rooms," added Heilman, who has two young redheaded daughter dancers, ages four and six. "We're so excited about what's to come."

(Just an FYI: Dates are being finalized for dance camp for kids ages three-and-a-half to eight, which will have locations, among others, at the IAHC, and at the academy's Lakeview location, 2936 N. Southport Ave.).

This month, the dancers do about 300 shows across Illinois and Wisconsin and last weekend, they did a full day of community outreach focused on senior living and nursing homes (O'Brien said those performances made "her heart full.").

"With COVID restrictions, we're excited to get back and kick off the season," said Heilman.

And so are others. Super exciting is the fact that the Trinity Irish Dancers will be on the road again, and headed to the world championships in Ireland this Easter.

Sixteen-year-old Northwest Sider Connor Schimmel is one of those dancers. Connor teaches at IAHC and will compete in the World Competition of Irish Dance in Belfast this spring as a Team Dancer.

He started Irish dancing in Sept. 2017, when his mother, Nadia, signed up all of her four kids, with Connor being the oldest and only boy among his sisters Sierra, 13, Alana, 11 and Kaitlin, nine.

"I was waiting to see how long they stuck with it," said Schimmel. "Here we are four years later. They love it."

Schimmel said that last August, Connor had to choose between playing on a volleyball team and Irish dancing.

"He chose Irish dance," she said.

Schimmel and her kids really love the different aspects of Irish dance. There are the solo competitions, but then the opportunity to also compete on a team. "And then there is the performance aspect, which we all love," including St. Paddy's Day events and Irish fests in the summer. There's an ensemble program for teens, which travels around the country and they also have an international group, she said, that travels to fests to perform.

"It's what sets them apart from other schools," said Schimmel.

And then there's the mentoring, which both Schimmel and Lizzie raved about.

"The younger kids learn from older kids, assistant teachers (like Connor) are called "Drillers" and it's so neat to see this transformation," said Schimmel. "It's so cool to watch. During the St. Patrick's season they all help," said Schimmel. "It makes the younger kids comfortable and gives the older kids responsibility. They are working very hard."

And as for the upcoming competition in Belfast, here's wishing her son the best of luck!

"Connor is over the moon with excitement," said Schimmel.

Funny, but I felt the same way, just watching my little sweetheart Sydney perform her Irish dance.

For a full performance schedule go to Trinityirishdance.com.

MARIA PAPPAS
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‘1920s Berlin’ theme of DANK fundraiser

Tickets are now available for the DANKHaus Chicago’s fundraiser, called Gin & Jazz.

The 1920s era Berlin-themed fundraising gala will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 19, in their ballroom, 4740 N. Western Ave.

DANKHaus German American Cultural Center is taking inspiration from the history of their home in Lincoln Square for their annual fundraiser. The gala will have a 1920s theme, hearkening back to when their building was first constructed in 1927 by German architect Paul Gerhardt.

The dinner will be catered by Food Network’s The Hearty Boys!, and the bar will feature gin provided by Letherbee Distillers and beer provided by Dovetail Brewery. The gala features live performances by the Gin & Jazz All Star Musicians.

This is their annual in-house fundraiser and all proceeds go toward cultural and educational programming at the DANKHaus. for more information or tickets visit www.dankhaus.com/gala.

Chicagoans need getaways in the winter to survive

The Home Front

by Don DeBat

This writer escapes to Highlands, NC, in a tranquil community of 3,000 people that resembles Mayberry.

HIGHLANDS, NC—Chicago the “world-class city,” is a delightful place to live, if you can overlook the riots, looting, expressway shootings and carjackings.

Hot lead flew through the streets last year and took the lives of 800 souls. In 2021, expressway shootings skyrocketed three times higher than 2018. Once more, there was an astounding 2,100 carjackings last year.

Despite these interesting statistics that rival the Ukrainian war zone, many Windy City residents believe Chicago is not the place they want to reside in January, February and March during the “Polar Vortex.”

These are the winter getaway months, where this writer escapes to Highlands, NC, a tranquil community of 3,000 people that resembles Mayberry. Aptly named, Highlands is situated 4,018 feet above sea level—the highest incorporated town in the Smokey Mountains.

The biggest police event in the town, located in the extreme southwest corner of North Carolina, is a two-car fender bender on Main St.

In this magical place, which travel agents call the “Aspen of the South,” winter temperatures rise to the 50s and 60s, the sun is bright and it hardly ever snows, so don’t bring your skis.

Highlands, located within the Appalachian temperate rain forest, sits on a plateau surrounded by National Forests on three sides and rushing waterfalls, mountain streams and pristine lakes abound. Politically, it may be Trump territory, but most of the residents are very nice, friendly and welcoming.

After two complete knee-replacement surgeries in 2020 and 2021, this pandemic-weary writer dreamed of the ultimate European romantic getaway, a slow-boat cruise on the Rhine or Danube rivers.

After two complete knee-replacement surgeries by the renowned Dr. Dennis Nam at Rush Univ. Hospital in 2020 and 2021, this pandemic-weary writer dreamed of the ultimate getaway—Europe.

The vision was a romantic, slow-boat cruise on the Rhine or Danube rivers, sipping wine with my beautiful wife, viewing ancient castles and absorbing the great architectural history of Europe.

“History is full of important lessons,” said lifelong traveler Rick Steves last week in his latest Public Broadcasting Service epic to peddle DVDs and books about decades of European and world-wide history and travel to pandemic-numbed Americans.

You can buy the entire package, which includes a book on Steves’ first Hippy Trip around the world when he was 23 years old. Because of the pandemic, travel-addict Steves was not allowed to travel.

So, bookish Steves went into his attic where he found dozens of his dusty travel legders and notebooks, which turned into a treasure trove of copy for his new travel books.

> ***In March of 2022, when the Russians are invading the Ukraine and thousands of people are dying, Europe is the last place sane Americans want to be vacationing.***

Don’t get me wrong. This writer loves Rick Steves, one of the best travel reporters and tourers on the globe. However, Steves’ new PBS package of books and DVDs, now available for $240, are being pitched in the wrong time zone.

In March of 2022, when the Russians are invading the Ukraine and thousands of people are dying, Europe is the last place sane Americans want to be vacationing.

Meanwhile, we are being bombarded with emails to take Viking River Cruises, and discounts are rampant.

Fly to Europe for free—take a river cruise for $1,999.

One alluring deal is a 15-day Grand European Tour, a cruise on the Rhine and Danube rivers from Amsterdam to Budapest with dockings in four countries—The Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

The perks are free international airfare from dozens of U.S. cities—a $1,499 value—and a $400 shipboard credit for first-time guests.

“Our most iconic itinerary traces the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers between the windmill-dotted waterways of Holland and the stunning landscapes of Hungary, with engaging encounters at every bend,” the Viking Cruise travel pitch chirps.

Depending on which email pitch you read the price per person for the Grand European Tour trip with basic accommodations ranges from $4,299 to $5,499. A three-day side-trip to Prague in the Czech Republic also is offered for $799.

The problem is Budapest, Hungary is only 700 miles by car from Kyiv, the capitol of the Ukraine.

With President Vladimir Putin already bombing a nuclear reactor plant in south Ukraine, and threatening to utilize tactical atomic weapons in this senseless war, chances are the radioactive fallout could reach the restful banks of the Danube, depending on the wind.

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.

ComEd scandal, the true cost of taxpayer-funded political corruption

More than 4 million homes and businesses – 70% of Illinois' population – have already paid the price for ComEd's bribery scandal. This is how the public corruption scheme has affected your wallet.

BY ALEX KEFE
WBEZ

Political scandals make for great TV. And the unfolding corruption scheme involving utility giant Commonwealth Edison seems ready-made for a dramatically scored Netflix documentary. There's the all-knowing political boss, wiretaps, bribes and a massive, faceless corporation reaping the benefits – at the cost of the regular Joe.

But actual legal cases can be pretty boring.

The Nov. 2020 indictment against four former top ComEd executives and lobbyists is a slog for even the most earnest citizen. Weighing in at 50 pages, the charging document is leaden with legalese and less-than-clever nicknames for its cast of anonymous players. (Try not to confuse "Individual 13W-3" with "Individual 23W-1" or "Individual BM-1.")

The feds say the four defendants orchestrated a scheme to influence the man who has long been Springfield's most powerful politician – House Speaker and state Democratic Party Chair Michael Madigan, who last week was indicted for racketeering. He and the four defendants also say they've done nothing wrong.

Madigan wore many hats, including the Illinois House Speaker, Representative of Illinois's 22nd District, Committeeman for Chicago's 13th Ward, Chairman of both the Illinois Democratic Party and the 13th Ward Democratic Organization, and partner at the Chicago law firm of Madigan & Getzendanner.

According to the indictment, Madigan is alleged to have used these positions over many years to further the goals of the criminal enterprise. The indictment includes counts of racketeering conspiracy and individual counts of using interstate facilities in aid of bribery, wire fraud, and attempted extortion. Others in his circle were also nailed, including ComEd.

ComEd has already admitted to hiring Madigan's political allies and paying them to do little or no work. What's more, the company admits it did that all to please the speaker, so he'd back lucrative Springfield legislation benefiting ComEd, including electricity rate hikes.

Alas, this isn't fiction, and it has real-world consequences. Here's how this larger-than-life scandal has directly touched your lives – and your pocketbooks.

Yes, it has affected your monthly ComEd bill

ComEd is a state-regulated utility, which means lawmakers and bureaucrats decide how much the power company is allowed to charge for delivering your electricity. Thanks to ComEd's state-granted near-monopoly, more than 4 million homes and businesses – 70% of Illinois' population – largely don't have a choice when it comes to paying a monthly bill to the company.

That includes North Siders. If you pay a ComEd bill, then you were ripped off.

ComEd has long employed an army of influential lobbyists to advance its interests in Springfield – many of them with ties to Madigan. The feds say the utility's agents arranged the bribery scheme to influence Madigan from 2011 until 2019, when agents raided the homes and offices of several people with ties to the speaker.

During that stretch, ComEd also had some big legislative wins in the statehouse. They were wins that increased the utility's profits – and your monthly costs. Now federal prosecutors are highlighting those measures in their corruption cases against ComEd, its former executives and its lobbyists.

In 2011, state lawmakers approved so-called Smart Grid legislation. ComEd says that has increased reliability and service, and expanded energy efficiency programs. It also baked in rate increases for customers, which affects the "delivery" section on page 2 of your ComEd bill.

Not coincidentally, the state-approved revenue that ComEd gets from providing electricity to you has risen dramatically in the past decade. The feds said as much in the new indictment, noting that the law "helped improve ComEd's financial stability."

Then in 2016, ComEd won approval for another piece of lucrative Springfield legislation called the Future Energy Jobs Act, or FEJA. According to the power company's agreement with the feds, FEJA represented "a renewal of the regulatory process that was beneficial to ComEd."

It also let ComEd's parent company, Exelon, take in another $235 million a year from customers to bail out its financially ailing nuclear power plants in downstate Illinois. The subsidy from ratepayers is supposed to last for a decade and will provide more than $2 billion to Exelon.

You can find that line-item on your monthly bill, labeled "Zero Emission Standard."

Prosecutors allege ComEd's point-person on ushering FEJA through the legislature also was told to help ensure the utility renewed its contract with a law firm run by a Madigan political ally.

ComEd's parent company, Exelon, took in another $235 million a year from customers to bail out its financially ailing nuclear power plants in downstate Illinois. The subsidy from rate-payers is supposed to last for a decade and will provide more than $2 billion to Exelon. You can find that line-item on your monthly bill, labeled "Zero Emission Standard."

Both bills were passed at the same time ComEd's long-running bribery scheme was going on – a scheme ComEd itself has admitted was an "effort to influence and reward [Madigan's] efforts, as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, to assist ComEd with respect to legislation concerning ComEd and its business."

So how exactly are you, a normal Illinoisan, paying for this scheme? In a few ways.

First off, public officials get paid with your tax dollars. House Speaker Michael Madigan – who denies wrongdoing and says he knew nothing about ComEd's scheme to influence him – makes nearly $97,000 a year for being a state representative and legislative leader. The base salary for Illinois state lawmakers is a little less than $70,000 a year.

Secondly, ComEd has admitted to paying big money to politically-connected subcontractors with ties to Madigan, even though they performed "little or no work for ComEd." While it's illegal to use ratepayer money for political expenses, such as lobbying, it's not illegal to use ratepayer money to hire contractors.

To cover up the scheme and make it look like these payments were for legit contracts (not political bribery), the feds allege that ComEd funneled the money to Madigan's allies through a consultancy run by a prominent Chicagoan – former City Club President Jay Doherty – sometimes to the tune of nearly $70,000 a month. Last week's indictment alleges some of that money was allotted to two unnamed former Chicago aldermen, Frank Olivo and Michael R. Zalewski.

Finally, political corruption schemes like the one ComEd copped to come with a third, in-

COMED *see p. 14*

With crime on the rise, CPD scrambling to rebuild tactical teams disbanded just weeks ago "in anticipation for the upcoming months"

BY CWBCHICAGO

On second thought…

Less than two months after top Chicago police leaders disbanded nearly half of their district tactical teams, on March 1 the police department announced that it wants to "fully staff" all 22 district tactical units "in anticipation for the upcoming months."

The department is also reconstituting its Community Safety Team [CST], a pet project of CPD Supt. David Brown that drew hundreds of cops out of local patrol districts to serve on a citywide violence reduction unit.

CST recently shed hundreds of officers as aldermen pressured department leaders about sharp declines in district-level staffing.

Discussions with the Superintendent

CPD administrators said last week that the tactical team and CST changes are coming "after discussions with the superintendent."

Each of CPD's five areas will now have a Community Safety Team, the admin's email said. The Bureau of Patrol "would like to have all tactical/area teams fully staffed" in preparation for "the upcoming months and events," the message continued.

In January, police leaders provided no explanation when they ordered 40% of district tactical teams to start working as uniformed "rapid response" units. Well-placed sources told this reporter that the move was a stopgap measure to shore up the department during a time when more than 20% of its officers were on medical leave due to COVID.

But, lacking an explanation, some tactical officers suspected that Brown was up to something more sinister. Entire district teams submitted resignations from their positions in protest, multiple sources said.

Rather than manage the situation, CPD leaders accepted the resignations and then forced some tactical unit partners to work on separate shifts in their new assignments as punishment for leaving the teams.

Now, with the city's murder rate slightly outpacing last year's bloodbath and every other major crime category seeing significant increases, CPD finds itself trying to attract cops to join tactical teams again — at the risk of being treated similarly in the future.

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St. Patricks Day Parade and dyeing of the river this weekend

The annual downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held 12:15 p.m. Saturday, March 12.

All are invited to join in the march in the parade.

Another must see is the annual dyeing green of the Chicago River. Since 1962, the dyeing of the river has been a tradition, started by representatives of Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130. The dyeing takes place between Columbus Dr. and State St. and usually keeps the normally murky river bright Kelly green for a couple of days.

They achieve this tradition by dumping 40 lbs of environmentally friendly dye right into the River.

The idea originated when the business manager for the Union noticed that a plumber's white overalls had bright green stains all over it, seemingly matching the emerald green often associated with Ireland, due to the dye used by the Plumbers to find leaks in pipes. Then, in 1962, the Plumbers Local Union decided to use 100 lbs of that dye in the river to turn it green for St. Patrick's Day - and it stayed that way for a week.

Since the whole river takes on this iconic color, there are a lot of great spots to view the dyeing on St. Patrick's Day. We recommend trying to find room on any of the bridges crossing the Chicago River, but you might have to get there early to snag a prime spot. But, of course, any spot along the river edge will give you a wonderful view of this one-of-a-kind visual treat.

Due to street closures for the parade, marchers should try to arrive by 11:15 a.m. to ensure a spot in the parade.

New "Chicago Made" initiative underway to strengthen Chicago's TV, film industry

Workforce development program, public awareness campaign are outcomes of city's COVID-19 Recovery Task Force

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Chicago Film Office at the Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events [DCASE] have created a new initiative hoping to strengthen Chicago's TV and film industry.

The new "Chicago Made" workforce development program and public awareness campaign are based on recommendations from the City of Chicago's COVID-19 Recovery Task Force outlined in the Forward Together advisory report.

"This initiative will play an important role in the resurgence of our city's TV and film industry, which remains one of the largest and most diverse in the country," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Chicago's growing film industry not only ranks our city first in the Midwest for production, it also highlights the diverse culture and immense talent found throughout our 77 neighborhoods."

The Chicago Film Office at DCASE has partnered with management consulting firm XD-TECH to deliver an innovative workforce development program that aims to transform the region's TV and film workforce — by offering job training and placement to Chicago residents ages 24 to 50, primarily from underserved areas of our city, to help meet the industry's increasing demand for skilled workers. Many of the positions are entry-level and do not require a college degree including carpenter, costumer, grip, lighting tech, production assistant and set decorator. Twenty-five participants will be selected for the first cohort, across 12 career pathways.

"Chicago's growing film industry not only ranks our city first in the Midwest for production, it also highlights the diverse culture and immense talent found throughout our 77 neighborhoods," said Mayor Lightfoot.

More than 20 industry partners are providing training or other supports for the program. Participants with previous training and/or specific pre-requisite skillsets have been prioritized in order to maximize the effectiveness of the condensed training period.

"Chicago film production is on track to hit an all-time high this year," said Kwame Amoaku, Director of the Chicago Film Office. "The new 'Chicago Made' initiatives will increase our capacity to serve and accelerate the growth of the local industry — building our workforce while supporting residents in every neighborhood."

The Chicago Film Office led the City's efforts to bring a record 15 productions to Chicago this summer, at an estimated economic value of well over $700 million this year alone. In 2019, the Illinois film industry employed 20,000 people and 51% of local crew hires were women or minorities.

NBCUniversal, Netflix, The Walt Disney Company and WarnerMedia will provide on-set training for the workforce development program. The following partners consulted on the curriculum and will provide direct training support: Association of Independent Commercial Producers Midwest; Brittanni Perkins, production accountant; Chicago Filmmakers; Essanay Studio & Lighting Co.; IATSE Local 476; IATSE Local 600; IATSE TWU Local 769; Keslow Camera; Last Looks Chicago; The Mill; ONE at Optimus; Panavision Chicago; and Periscope Post & Audio. Additionally, BTECH Studios and Creative Cypher are working with XD-TECH on program outreach and implementation. Bloomberg Associates, Columbia College Chicago and Kennedy-King College provided consultation support.

Additionally, DCASE is launching an ongoing public awareness campaign using the "Chicago Made" brand to highlight the vital role Chicago's TV and film industry plays in the city — benefiting Chicago residents in all 50 wards (both residents affected by filming in their neighborhood and Chicagoans interested in film production jobs) as well as industry stakeholders.

The campaign will showcase the industry's enormous economic impact, introduce local film workers as neighbors and friends and highlight the diversity of "reel" jobs available across our city. The campaign's creative will emphasize the grit and authenticity of Chicago's film industry and its unique style of filmmaking — via digital billboards, advertising on CTA trains and busses, advertising at O'Hare, social media, community news and more. Learn more at ChicagoMade.us (launching soon; Music and other creative industries to be added in 2022) and join the conversation on social media using #ChicagoMade.

Paul Simon Institute calls for end of Zoom meetings

Better politics, smarter government, less tyranny and corruption with return of town halls

BY JOHN T. SHAW

Several years ago, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute was invited to join a dozen universities in the United States to promote bipartisan collaboration and productive discourse at the state and local level.

The Institute developed a plan to strengthen how town hall meetings are conducted in Illinois. Our recommendations outlined ways these meetings could be more informative, civil, respectful and productive. We sent our ideas to members of the Illinois congressional delegation and received encouraging responses. Then COVID-19 descended in 2020 and disrupted all our lives. In-person town hall meetings seemed ill-advised and unsafe during a pandemic.

This newspaper has been hearing complaints from dozens of North Side community groups for over a year now about how undemocratic, and unfulfilling virtual community meetings are. In a virtual meeting, one person literally has the power to mute 100 or more people. In-person meetings allow for booing bad ideas and applauding good ones, while online virtual meetings generally stifle debate, do not allow for lobbying and cajoling, and have set time limits.

It also denies the rotten tomatoes crowd the ability to ride a politician out of town on a rail when they're caught lying, cheating or scheming.

Even if COVID-19 and the government-imposed lockdowns had not battered our world, we were aware that in-person town halls are threatened by other pervasive and pernicious diseases in the United States — the rise in political polarization, the decline of civility, and the atrophy of our collective ability as Americans to discuss contentious issues constructively, without rancor or acrimony.

Chicago has been a one-party town for nearly a century and could be considered ground zero today for political polarization, as there is not one single republican in a position of power in this, the nations 3rd largest city.

The twin maladies of COVID-19 and political polarization upended in-person town hall meetings in Chicago, making political polarization even worse.

The institute is not giving up on its conviction that town hall meetings are an important instrument to revive our democracy.

Town hall meetings have been an important feature of America's culture of representative democracy for more than two centuries. In their ideal form, they allow lawmakers to describe their work and to listen to the concerns of their constituents. Open and vigorous dialogue benefits policymakers and the public.

However, the nature of the town hall meeting has changed dramatically in the last decade or so, driven by deepening political polarization and advances in technology, especially the revolution of social media. Both conservative and liberal activist groups often regard town hall meetings as opportunities to confront lawmakers they oppose and create embarrassing moments that can be captured on camera and then disseminated through social media. Even before COVID-19, many local politicians began to hold only virtual town hall meetings in which constituents attended via phone, internet or Zoom. These meetings are tightly controlled and often fuel public anger and skepticism about the political process, especially in a city like Chicago with a reputation for criminal behavior, systemic racism, election rigging and corruption.

Paul Simon powerfully summarized the value of in-person town hall meetings: "It's one thing to read about the farm problem, much different to talk to flesh-and-blood people whose agony is written on their faces and in what they say," he wrote. "It's one thing to know unemployment statistics, another to talk to a mother who is worried about the mental health of her son because he can't find a job. The people who took time to attend town meetings held in every corner of the state helped me to become a better senator."

Commentary

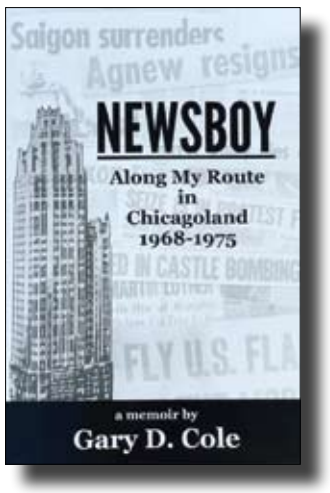
The lack of in-person town hall meetings is how rotten insider deals are done in Chicago, like the one in Lincoln Square that saw City Hall give away a multi-million dollar piece of critical commercial infrastructure to a connected out-of-town developer in a sweetheart real estate deal that stunk of old time politics. Pre-COVID, a city official who would have tried rigging that kind of deal would have been shouted down in a public meeting, then put to work filling potholes on Western Ave.

Even before COVID-19, many local politicians began to hold only virtual town hall meetings in which constituents attended via phone, internet or Zoom. These meetings are tightly controlled and often fuel public anger and skepticism about the political process.

The institute believes that in-person town hall meetings can again become a constructive part of our political discourse. We urge lawmakers and the public to approach them differently. Civility must be the coin of the realm. Town hall meetings should be restructured as listening and learning sessions that center on lawmakers hearing the views of constituents; no more monologues dominated by political figures, as most virtual meetings in Chicago have become. They should

ZOOM *see p. 8*

Sales of this book at the Book Cellar support THIS newspaper!



"Newsboy" is a childhood memoir that revolves around author Gary D. Cole's Chicagoland newspaper route during the 1960s and '70s.

The book is both a portrayal of the young narrator's community, paper route, and customers, as well as a chronicle of his efforts as a boy to process the dizzying news events that he tracked in the newspaper during this turbulent period, including the 1968 Democratic National Convention, the collapse of the 1969 Cubs, and the Chicago 7 trial.

Due to "Newsboy's" focus on neighborhood and news coverage, all net proceeds ($10 for every copy sold) from sales at The Book Cellar through July 1, 2022 will be donated to Inside Publications - this newspaper you're reading.

"Independent, community-based journalism is facing an existential crisis," said Cole. "A collaboration among a local bookstore, a publisher of neighborhood newspapers, and an author of a community-grounded memoir struck me as an ideal way to support this critical media source."

"Newsboy" has drawn rave reviews:

- Chicago Tribune columnist and WGN Radio host Rick Kogan called "*Newsboy" a "terrific book*."
- Rick Telander, senior sports columnist at the Chicago Sun-Times, said: "*Like a bike ride through a turbulent, unsettling, yet beautiful landscape, Cole's deceptively simple tale of a kid delivering newspapers on his trusty Schwinn is so much more than what it at first appears. In clear and concise language the tale propels us through the awakening of a happy but innocent and unworldly boy to the cultural changes occurring around him. The world is exploding, and, as the newsboy learns, so is he. The print he delivers--and reads in wonder--and the people he meets and listens to on his route become the education of a lifetime. By the end of "Newsboy" you'll marvel that this kid has taught you so much. I loved this book.*"
- Acclaimed television producer Mike Kelley described "Newsboy" as "*something truly special - a wholly compelling story that everyone can relate to but only one person could ever tell.*"
- One of the top book club leaders in the Chicago area, Judy Levin, has put Newsboy on her Recommended Reading List under the category "*Great Books with a Local Twist.*"

Buy the book at
The Book Cellar
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News tips? Call 773-465-9700

Free screening of documentary on art and Alzheimer's

Methodist Senior Services [CMSS], 1415 W. Foster Ave., is hosting a free screening of a documentary titled, "I Remember Better When I Paint," noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, followed by a panel discussion about Art and Alzheimer's.

The panel will be comprised of memory care experts, including Judy Holstein, a registered drama therapist and counselor; Jeanne Heid-Grubman, Director of Memory Care at CMSS; neurologist Daniel C. Potts, MD, and Berna G. Huebner, co-director of "I Remember Better When I Paint."

Those who cannot make the free screening may stream into the meeting, moderated by Constance Brasher, Director of CMSS Memory Care Program Development.

The film will be introduced by CBS News Correspondent Barry Petersen, who will pay tribute to the late Jo Minow.

Narrated by Olivia de Havilland, the movie may be the first international documentary about the positive impact of art and other creative therapies on people with Alzheimer's and how these approaches can change the way we look at the disease. Among those who are featured are noted doctors and Yasmin Aga Khan, president of Alzheimer's Disease International and daughter of Rita Hayworth, who had Alzheimer's.

for more information call 773-769-5500.

Are you ready to step in when the blood flows?

City installs more than 550 Stop The Bleed kits in more than 350 locations

Do you know how to stem the bleeding if you're suddenly part of, or witness to a shooting?

Nobody plans to be 'that person' but armed violence is so pervasive in Chicago now that there is always a chance you will be nearby when somebody is shot, and needs immediate attention. Yes, even quicker than police and rescue squads can arrive after a 911 call.

It is another sad reality of our lives now in Chicago. One that even City Hall has now recognized.

Chicago residents and visitors now have access to lifesaving Stop the Bleed kits at 350 buildings around the city as part of the City's Safe Chicago initiative, which includes the installation of more than 550 Stop the Bleed kits at these locations. Chicago is partnering with American College of Surgeons to elevate online training opportunities that are available for the public to learn the lifesaving techniques taught in a Stop the Bleed training course.

By taking a Stop the Bleed course, participants gain the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and intervene effectively. Through three simple techniques—applying direct pressure, packing a wound, or applying a tourniquet—anyone can become an immediate responder and potentially be the difference between life and death for someone who is bleeding.

Safe Chicago is a public safety program launched by Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications [OEMC] in partnership with the Chicago Fire [CFD] and Police departments [CPD], and Assets, Information & Services [AIS].

Through three simple techniques—applying direct pressure, packing a wound, or applying a tourniquet—anyone can become an immediate responder and potentially be the difference between life and death for someone who is bleeding.

The City has installed bleeding control kits at City facilities and is in the process of rolling out in-person training courses for City employees. This training will equip municipal employees with the safety information and resources they need to be better prepared in the event of a workplace incident and to act before help arrives.

The Safe Chicago program will provide bleeding control kits at every occupied, City-owned, or leased facility. Prominent locations with kits already in place include Navy Pier, City Hall, Chicago Public Library locations, the Chicago Cultural Center, and other sites. Each kit installed in the city is equipped with the following materials like a tourniquet, gauze, shears, gloves, and an instruction manual.

In addition to the widespread placement of bleeding control kits, the City is in the process of rolling out in-person training for all municipal employees. The course will include two components: a lecture portion and a hands-on skills portion.

For now, members of the public can take a virtual or interactive course to fulfill the lecture portion of the course. The interactive course—free to all and can be taken multiple times to learn and refresh knowledge—takes approximately 25 minutes to complete and guides individuals through the three methods of bleeding control using video demonstrations, interactive learning, and spontaneous quizzes.

"Everyone should learn how to stop the bleeding" in the event of being near a violent interaction. We need "to be prepared for an emergency and reduce the number of preventable deaths among its citizens and visitors," said Kenji Inaba, MD, Chair of the Steering Committee.

ZOOM *from p. 7*

be moderated by a nonpartisan community leader who sets the tone for a respectful discussion. The range of people who attend town halls should be widened so the audience is more diverse and includes both partisans and independents.

There is no magic solution to rescue and revive town hall meetings. Success ultimately depends on the goodwill and respect of both the public and policymakers.

Now that the pandemic lockdown is over, and those ridiculous vaccine ID's cast aside, hopefully we can soon contemplate in-person events.

We should take it as a sign of good health when we are able to revive our community town hall meetings that are both safe and civil … or even those that see bad ideas boo'd from the balcony seats. It is important to relearn that we can exchange views with public officials and fellow citizens in a spirited and civil way. We are all custodians of a remarkable country and state — and citizens of the same political community.

John T. Shaw is the director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale.

RAISE *from p. 9*

But Lilly, in a Feb. 14 news conference said that Valentine's Day is the highest grossing day of the year for restaurants, making the announcement of the effort to eliminate the sub-minimum wage poetic.

"This work comes from the heart," Lilly said. "This is the beginning of addressing poverty for each and every Illinois worker. Two years ago, we raised the minimum wage, but we left tip workers out. This is a way to address that."

In Illinois, since 2020 about 90,000 workers have left the industry since 2020. In Nov. 2021, the quit rate in the hospitality and leisure industry was 6.4% – more than double the average of all the combined industries.

The added challenges for Chicago area restaurant workers included enforcing COVID-19 mandates, as demanded by Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

In March 2020, one in four people in Illinois who lost their jobs was in the restaurant industry, but two-thirds of restaurant workers reported they couldn't access unemployment benefits because their wage was too low to qualify for benefits.

Alden Village North resident enjoying the Rotating Rainfall Panel.

Alden Village North resident looking at Bubbling Water Wall Panel.

Alden Village North resident sitting on Large Soft Rocker chair, watching Bubble Tubes.

Long-term care facility in Rogers Park builds multi-sensory room for intellectual and developmentally disabled

Improve behavior, cognitive functions through lighting, aroma and object stimulation

BY AJAH POLK

Alden Village North Long-Term Care for the Intellectually Disabled partnered with leading sensory room developer, Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Environments, to design and construct an optimal space for its residents to utilize based on their needs.

The long-term care facility is unique in that it is one of the only long-term care and skilled nursing facilities - located at 7464 N. Sheridan Rd. in Rogers Park - that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The addition of the sensory room enhances the level of care Alden Village North provides to its residents since sensory rooms have been shown to develop and improve behavior and cognitive functions through lighting, aroma, and object stimulation.

"The stimuli can be varied to meet an individual's needs for either increased or decreased stimulation. It is a space where the individual can control behavior," said Brittany Maglaya, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. "It can also improve focus, increase motor skills, as well as cognitive and social development."

With that in mind, Alden worked with Snoezelen to implement products that would be inclusive and accessible despite their age or type of disability.

"We worked together to build the Snoezelen room to include auditory, aroma, tactile, and visual components," said Diana Troller," Sensory Sales Consultant. "There is something to suit everybody, especially because of the range in age group, and because there are people in wheelchairs. We designed it so that it was an open space and easily accessible for everyone."

Notable products installed include bubble tubes, bubbling water wall panel, and a large soft rocker which have been proven to promote engagement and a calming effect on residents.

In the short time the sensory room has been opened, Alden Village North executives have seen improvements in some of their residents who suffer from more severe disabilities.

"We have a resident we've provided care for, for over 14 years who was born with a brain abnormality consisting of Dandy Walker Syndrome and Joubert Syndrome," said Christy Czajka, Alden Village North Administrator. "Both of these diagnoses are abnormalities in the formation of the cerebellum and as a consequence she has had fairly frequent apnea and cyanotic episodes early in life resulting in significant disability," continued Czajka. "Additionally, these diagnoses cause continuous self-injurious behaviors. Utilization of the sensory room has greatly helped reduce the frequency and severity of her self-injurious behaviors. The calming environment allows her to relax and refrain from self-injurious behaviors."

Licensed Psychologist and Behavioral Specialist, Dr. Michelle Hansen explains how sensory rooms assist in regulating erratic behavior and those unable to verbalize common daily stressors, such as tiredness or irritability.

> ***"The stimuli can be varied to meet an individual's needs for either increased or decreased stimulation. It is a space where the individual can control behavior," said Brittany Maglaya. "It can also improve focus, increase motor skills, as well as cognitive and social development."***

"I like to conceptualize our humanity or personality as a combination of our thoughts, behaviors, and our feelings, and when someone isn't verbal or has a hard time regulating their emotions, the senses can come into play much more often," said Hansen. When they can go into a room where there are different sounds, smells, objects, or visual elements, it gives them different opportunities to learn and grow with what they have available. Sensory rooms are a safe and therapeutic way to self-soothe which helps distract from other stimuli that's going on inside that may be bothering them."

Alden Village North's Administrator says she is excited her residents now have a fully functioning sensory room and is eager to see the positive impact it will continue to have on their lives.

For more than 50 years, The Alden Network has provided health care and residential solutions for seniors and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to help them function to the best of their ability and live life as independently as possible. For more information call 773-338-0200 or visit www.aldenvillagenorth.com.

Bill seeks pay raise for tipped workers

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER
Capitol News Illinois

A bill in the Illinois House would do away with the sub-minimum wage paid to waitresses, bartenders and other tipped service workers.

Rep. Camille Lilly [78th], introduced HB 5139 last month. If the bill becomes law, workers who supplement their wages with tips will receive the state's minimum wage starting on Jan. 1, 2025, in addition to their tips.

Its passage may be a tall order, however, as the Illinois Restaurant Assoc. [IRA] successfully lobbied when lawmakers overhauled the minimum wage schedule in 2019 to allow businesses to continue to pay less than minimum wage to employees who earn tips.

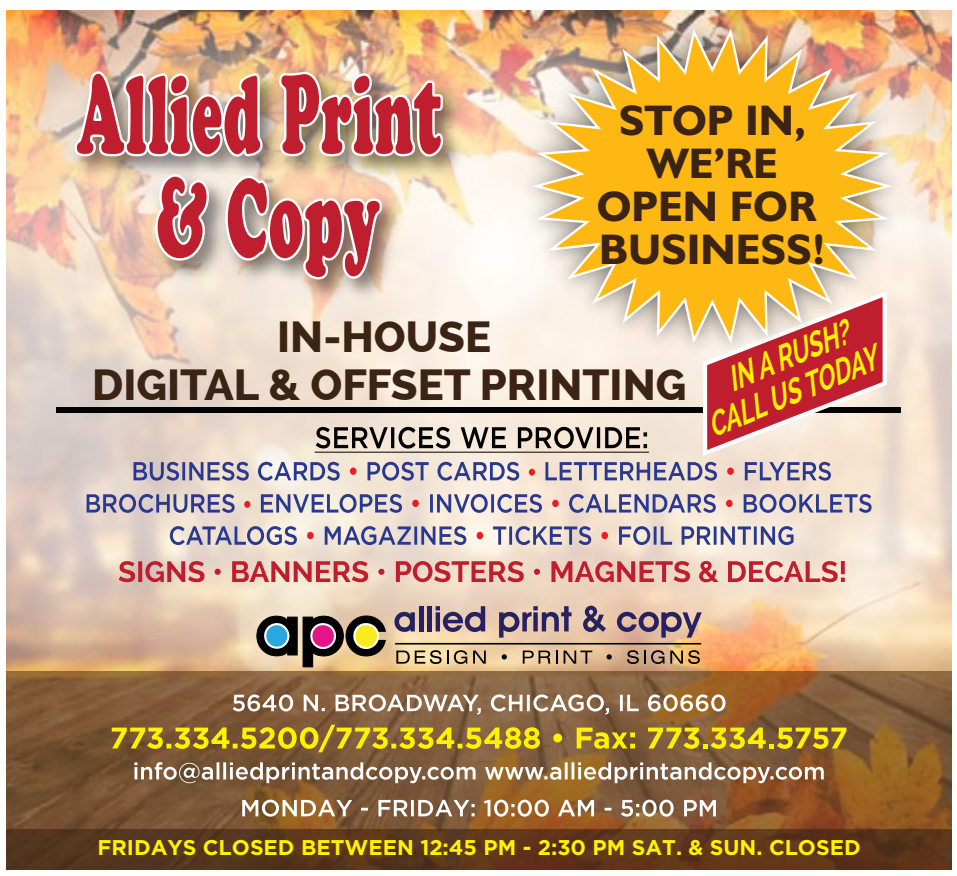
Lilly's bill has currently not received a full committee assignment and has no co-sponsors.

In 2019, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation into law providing a path to increase Illinois' minimum wage rate to $15 per hour and $9 for tipped workers by 2025. Servers and bartenders who receive tips are currently subject to a $7.20 an hour minimum wage.

At a bill signing for that 2019 law, IRA president Sam Toia appeared alongside Pritzker and praised the law for maintaining the credit which allows employers to pay tipped workers 60% of the minimum wage if tips make up the other 40%.

The IRA did not respond to a request for comment as of this publication.

RAISE *see p. 8*



Mario Hoover. *Photo credit WGCI*

Jim Kinney, Brian White and friends.

Takara Beathea Gudell

Mary Kay Touhy with Peggy Martay, Stacie McClane, Yolanda Stemer and Toni Canada.

PEACE *from p. 2*

of Notre Dame educated. Northwestern, too, for an MBA. The perfect fit at his first great job, the Leo Burnett Advertising firm. Then actually becoming the Leo Burnett Agency, truth be told. His savvy nobility rubbing off on everyone. That's where John made high-end clients lifelong friends. Especially when he became the agency's big boss. Beloved. Possessed of Irish charm, and bearing rugged good looks. Movie star material. Renaissance ingredients that came in handy when he lassoed famed American architects **Kevin Roche** and **John Dinkeloo** to create the new 50-story Leo Burnett Building at 35 W. Wacker. I was lucky enough to dine with John on many occasions with a rarified group of friends. Usually at Erie Cafe. John was a fastidious aficionado of good Irish whiskey. One night I told him that in my briefcase was one farmers market beefsteak tomato. What a smile that brought to his kisser. Producing the glorious tomato, I split it in two just in time as our Erie Cafe salad arrived. That was friendship with the great Kinsella. A chap you'd split your best tomato for.

John Kinsella

His death robs us of a great man. Not just because he built all those new homes in old Bridgeport. Or was so generous to the poor. But because he was the real deal from Father Hesburgh's school, becoming his greatest ally.

Peace, now, dear friend. And to all you loved. "Shake down the thunder from the sky."

CHICAGO JAZZ: Michael Lerich at Winter's Jazz Club was a blast. A wonderful turnout for a Wednesday night. An incredible amount of young people, many of whom walked in not knowing of **Artie Shaw** and his music. They were enthusiastic in their applause after each solo and song. Proof positive of the adage "what's old is new if you never experienced it before." Bravo to those great musicians who make up the Lerich band… **Jim Sellers**, **Joe Sonnefeldt**, **Cory Biggerstaff** and **Greg Fundis**.

ENDURE: Whitney Reynolds will receive the "I Am Woman Award" center court at the Chicago Bulls game March 12 from Endure Charities recognizing the Whitney Reynolds Show as a change agent dedicated to empowering stories.

CTA CRIME: Two men were robbed and assaulted by 5 or 6 men on a northbound Red Line CTA train at the Chicago Ave. station, near 800 N. State St. The vicinity of Holy Name Cathedral, a transit stop that has escalated in serious crime. Sadly, this kind of violence has become all too normal, on our new Dystopian CTA.

BIRTHDAY SOIREE: Cabaret Queen **Denise Tomasello** at Marchesa with **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh**, **Whynnis Mackie**, **Bobbi Panter**, **Rhonda J Liesenfelt**, **Sherrill Bodine**, **Karen Peters**, **Tom Cavanaugh** and **Myra Reilly**.

Tony Fitzpatrick

WHO'S WHERE: Rodney Alex with artist **Tony Fitzpatrick**, **Kevin Matthew Kenny** and **Frank Orrall** sharing a perfect medium rare all-American pan-seared steak dinner by Rodney for the Chicago luminaries… **Mary Kay Touhy** celebrating a birthday with **Peggy Martay**, **Stacie McClane**, **Yolanda Stemer**, and **Tony Canada** at Mon Ami Gabi… **Julia Jacobs** at Union League Club of Chicago… Christie's **Steven Zick** getting reports and examining the unusual snowfall in Brosna, Co Kerry, Ireland at the family homestead in the Old Country… **Russ Goeltenbodt** in Del Ray Beach, FL, for a quick get-away… **Christopher Clinton Conway** in Paris, the 8th Arrondissement… WGN radio lawyer **Karen Conti** at LaScarola on Grand for a fab dinner saying a reservation is essential… **Olive Godnik** sailing the seas off Florida… Happy Birthday to Little **Magdalin**, 6-year-old angel of **Flavia** and **Chris**… Fun times with Chicago WAC members in Naples, **Julie Harron**, **Lisa Moore Smith**, **Marian Jacobson**, **Elizabeth Foster**, **Lynne Considine Nieman**, **Mary Jeanne Kneen**, **Leslie Breed McLean**, **Peggy Swift White**, **Rebecca Besser** and **Kim Humphreys Theiss**... 90's Alumni at the bar on Wildcard Wednesday at Gibson's with **Dr. Glenn** and **Paul Karkula** and Old Town Mayor **Shelley Howard**… **Julie Barrish** and **Nina Mariano** at ZZ's Club, Miami, FL… **Julie Harron** and **Jessica Dunne Lagrange** with **Michael Kors** and **Aerin Lauder** at special presentation of the Spring/Summer 2022 Collection at the Colony Palm Beach, FL, Chicago's **Gregg Zgonena** and **Ramona Singer** there as well… CBS reporter **Jim Williams** happy to welcome back **Kris Habermehl** to CBS Chicago, a brilliant broadcaster and a great guy… **Jim Kinney**, celebrating his birthday, says he's getting a new neighbor on Lake Shore Dr., as he just sold the unit next door… **Kathy Wolter Mondelli** at the Broadway Pancake House with pancakes and bananas on her plate… Get ready, Whitney Reynolds interviewed **Mark Wahlberg** for her TV show… **Zurich Esposito** and **Brian McCormick** demonstrated their love for modern architecture at US Modernist party at Kirk Douglas House in Palm Springs… Chicago teen actor **Nate Beuscher** kicking up his heels on stage… Bobbi Panter celebrating birthday girl **Melissa Babcock** at the Ritz Carlton with Wynnis Mackie and Sherrill Bodine... **David Caldwell** of the Skibberean Eagle in Ukraine now reporting… A reunion with **Lori Parker** and **Michael LaPorta** at LaScarola, Italian, some 14 years in the making… Chicago's own, **Joan Lewis**, served as the lector at the jubilee mass at St. Patrick Church in Rome on the Paulist Order's 100th Anniversary… Maestro **Stanley Paul** is now master of the charcuterie platter in Palm Springs with helper **Linda Heister**… Crowds filled Grant Park marching to aid Ukraine… **Molly O'Malley** with **Patrick O'Malley** joining moms visiting their boys at the University of Iowa… **Victoria Dal Santo** and **John Dombrowski** did seaside yoga with sister, **Colleen Dal Santo Ryan** and nephew, NU's **Parker Ryan**, at Mallioubana, The Valley, Anguilla, in the Caribbean… Happy birthday to Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill's favorite, **Christopher Yum**, on his big day… Jewelry designer **Takara Beathea-Gudell** in NYC for Edge Designer Showcase.

Christopher Yum and pal.

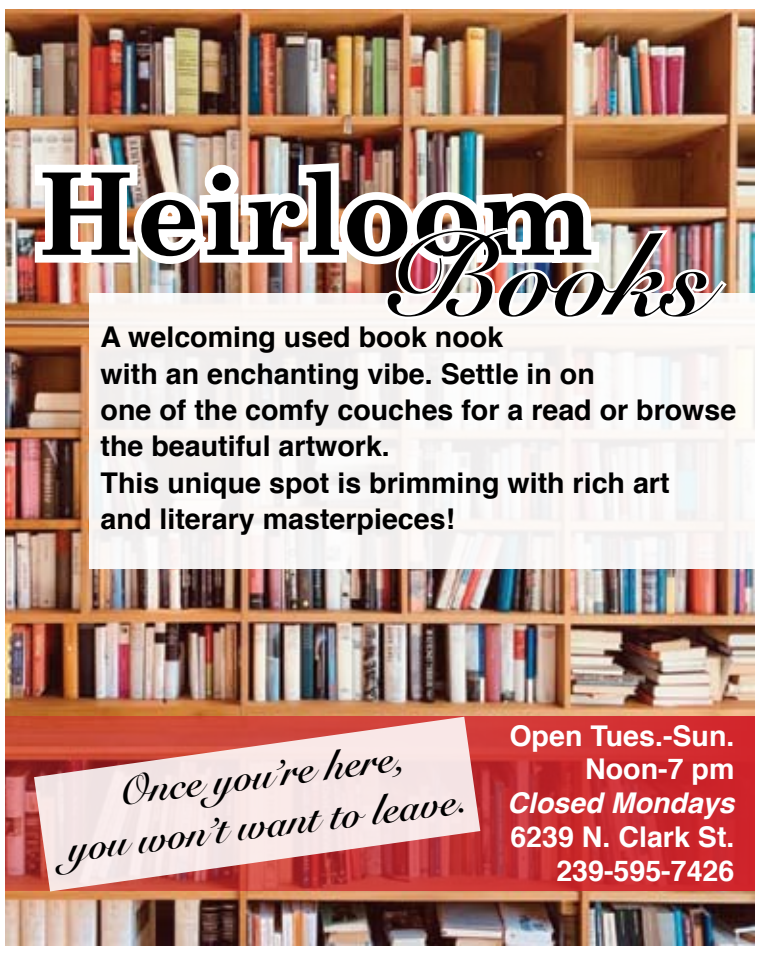
ARTS LUNCH: Melinda Jakovich-Lagrange with **Julie Doherty** and **Ash Wheater** at The Arts Club of Chicago accompanied by fellow co-chairs for the Joffrey Ballet Little Mermaid Luncheon.

RIP: Kenneth W. Nelson has died at 90… **Henry James** once wrote, "It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance… and I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of its process." Kenneth Nelson of Lake Forest was a storybook expression of a Univ. of Notre Dame alum. A man of dynamic renaissance gifts and talents. His life was a continuous curious dream of multiple professions and works, culminating in his becoming a sculptor of artistic international significance. A life of artistic success woven between academe was more than fulfilled. In the end, he was a brilliant artist. The art world has benefited greatly from his creative successes.

Frank Orrall

Where flowers bloom so does hope. — *Lady Bird Johnson*

tog515@gmail.com



Letters to the Editor

Deep pockets help, when help arrives late

Don Debat's recent column [March 4] referred to the rental relief program for tenants having financial difficulties. I am a "landlady" of a 3-flat in West Ridge, and have been most fortunate to have excellent, long-term tenants over the years.

However, one of my tenants with three children, living downstairs from me, applied for rental assistance through the City of Chicago last December and we are still waiting for a check.

She is now past-due nearly $8,000 which would have been a big help to me when I paid my property taxes last week.

We have been following up on her claim to no avail. It simply indicates "pending."

I contacted Ald. Andre Vasquez's 40th ward office who referred me to a contact to look into my tenant's "Emergency Rental Assistance Application."

I reached a helpful, knowledgeable woman who promptly found the case number I provided. She advised that everything was in order with information they required, but, unfortunately, they are backlogged since April, 2021 (nearly one year) in processing over 30,000 more applicants.

She had no idea when they would catch up, but I eventually will receive an e-mail advising me to reply within 48-hours to continue with the claim.

They certainly are not making it convenient.

As you mentioned, many "ma and pa" owners are not computer savvy enough (or at all) to deal with submitting all the information needed.

My tenant is a kind, wonderful person and I have no intention of evicting her, but, as you mentioned, I have an overhead in maintaining and heating this building (at much higher costs these days).

A management company would not be as considerate as I have been nor could they operate without the necessary rental income.

So, advise your readers, particularly of smaller properties, that, as you indicated, it is the landlord's responsibility and necessity to have "deep pockets" in order to pay their expenses until this government aid ever comes through.

I am fortunate that my other tenants have been able to pay their rents or I would eventually be in big trouble. Other landlords may not be as fortunate.

Bonnie Tracz
West Ridge

Live where you want, just help us

Regarding your article [March 2-8] on "CPD losing cops at 'unsustainable rate.'"

There is a simple solution to make being a Chicago Police Department officer more attractive - dump the residency requirement. If CPD officers could live someplace decent/affordable, i.e. the suburbs, then they would be willing to serve in the CPD. NYPD has no such requirement.

Sincerely,
Joshua Telser
Hyde Park

An amazing garden opportunity

In Bill Haderlein's Commentary [Feb. 23], he tells about a sudden replacement building for an old Chicago cottage: "The height of the building was not totally out of character with the block, but the new building extended farther back on the lot than any existing house, blocking scarce city sunlight."

Something similar has been done on Hermitage Ave., just south of Devon Ave. The three lots from 6351 through 6359 N. Hermitage include a borrow pit which had never been built on. This gave residents an exceptional opportunity for both beautiful, deep front gardens and keeping precipitation out of the sewer system. In summer 2020, 6351 and 6359 went up for sale.

This presented an opportunity to give the existing house on 6355, by the alley, new companions, while preserving the borrow pit. It wouldn't be hard: I quickly created preliminary floor plans for such houses (with included garages) on both lots for sale.

But an "investor" with more money bought 6351 - and built two very narrow single-family houses on it, with detached garages. Goodbye to its part of the borrow pit - and goodbye to the decades-established sun exposure for the houses on both north and south.

A vintage brick building by the alley on 6359 has already been removed. If a buyer with money mirrors what was done to 6351, the multi-family building at 6363 will lose some sun exposure along with the house at 6355. It doesn't have to happen. I think the amazing garden opportunity (with an already-established, well-tended garden which could be augmented) from the exceptionally deep front setback could be worth more on the market than a house which obliterated its part of the borrow pit.

Jean SmilingCoyote
West Ridge

SUSPECTS *from p. 1*

lance images of three people in the group that attacked and robbed a 44-year-old man and an 18-year-old man in a March 4 "seeking to identify" bulletin.

The bulletin specifically refers to one attack at the Grand and Chicago stations at 9:05 p.m. It said the group took a man's phone from his hand and then attacked him when he stood up and tried to get it back.

Earlier, CPD said the victims were on the CTA's Red Line when the offenders physically attacked them and went through their pockets to take valuables at the Chicago station. EMS took both victims to Northwestern Memorial Hospital to be treated for minor bruising and pain, according to CPD police.

The new bulletin offered detailed descriptions of the suspects as a Black male, 16- to 20-years-old, wearing a black hooded jacket, possibly with a white Nike logo on the top left and blue jean pants with ripped knees; a Black male, 16- to 20-years-old, wearing a black jacket, white hooded sweatshirt, and dark jeans, and a Black female 16- to 20-years-old, wearing a black SpongeBob sweatshirt and light-colored jeans

Police are trying to identify this man who allegedly punched and tried to rob a man at the Harrison Red Line station on March 3.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Mass Transit detectives at 312-745-4443 about case #JF-160319.

Shortly after the Chicago Red Line attacks, the same group attacked a man on the Clark-Division Red Line platform, 1200 N. Clark St. According to an officer who reviewed CTA surveillance footage, they boarded a southbound train after the attack and exited at 79th Street around 9:44 p.m.

Police try to identify man who attacked passenger on Red Line CTA platform

Police are trying to track down yet another person for attacking and trying to rob a passenger on the Red Line downtown.

CPD issued a "seeking to identify" bulletin with a surveillance photo of a man that they said tried to take a passenger's phone from their hand on the Harrison Red Line platform at 6:06 p.m. Thursday. The offender punched the victim twice in the face after the robbery attempt, prompting the victim to run away, police said.

Police said the suspect stands 6' to 6'-2" tall and is 20- to 25-years-old. Anyone with information about the crime can contact investigators at 312-745-4443 about case #JF-162446.

While ridership declined sharply during COVID, violent crime increased. In fact, there have been more robberies on CTA trains, platforms, and stations downtown this year than during pre-COVID years when commuters packed the trains system.

Co-authored by CWBChicago

Chicago Sings fundraiser May 23 at MCA

Jim Corti to receive Guy Adkins Award

Porchlight Music Theatre has announced Jim Corti as the recipient of the 2022 Guy Adkins Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Music Theatre. The award will be presented during this year's annual Chicago Sings fundraising concert, Chicago Sings Stephen Sondheim, Monday, May 23, at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), 220 E. Chicago Ave. This year's Chicago Sings concert offers two opportunities to experience Chicago's music theatre and cabaret performers saluting Stephen Sondheim. The first is "It's a Hit" Live Experience, for $150 per ticket, with benefits including a reserved seat in the Edlis Neeson Theater for the performance and pre-concert reception, and the "Color & Light" Lounge Experience, for $50 per ticket, hosted by the Porchlight Young Professionals, which includes a stream of the performance in a lively lounge created on the second floor of the museum. Tickets for both experiences are available now at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org.

Jim Corti

Corti is Paramount Theatre's artistic director and inaugurated Paramount's Broadway Series with President and CEO Tim Rater in fall 2011 with their critically acclaimed production of My Fair Lady and a subscriber base of 12,500 patrons. Since 2015, Paramount has garnered 68 nominations with 19 wins, including three consecutive Best Large Musical awards. Corti helmed all three, and won Best Director.

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Police Beat...

Drive-by shooting injures three near Howard CTA station

A drive-by shooter left three people injured near the Howard CTA station in Rogers Park the evening of March 2, police said. They were on a sidewalk in the 7600 block of N. Paulina when the gunman opened fire from a dark sedan around 9:31 p.m., police said.

EMS took three people to St. Francis Hospital for treatment. According to police, a 30-year-old woman with a gunshot wound to her left leg is in good condition; a 31-year-old woman is in critical condition with gunshots to her buttocks and right leg, and a 28-year-old man is in fair condition with a gunshot wound to his right leg.

Police believe the shooter's car, possibly a Nissan Altima, headed west on Howard St. after the shooting.

The victims are the fourth, fifth, and sixth persons shot in Rogers Park this year. By comparison, the neighborhood recorded one shooting victim at this point last year.

Teenager charged with Lincoln Park carjacking

A 16-year-old male was arrested 7:11 p.m. Feb. 27, in the 100 block of W. 87th St. He was identified as one of the offenders who, approximately 30 minutes earlier, took a vehicle at gunpoint from a 56-year-old female in the 2600 block of N. Clybourn.

Responding officers observed the offender inside the victim's vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. The offender attempted to flee on foot, but was placed into custody and subsequently charged accordingly. No additional information is available at this time.

Man is charged with hit-and-run that killed a beloved hospital worker in the Loop

(L-R) Marcel Windham and Christine Campbell.

A Humboldt Park man has been charged with killing a beloved 70-year-old Northwestern Memorial Hospital employee in a hit-and-run traffic crash on Lower Wacker Dr. in Dec. 2020.

Judge Mary Marubio ordered Marcel Windham, 21, held in lieu of $200,000 bail.

Christine Campbell was a month from retirement when she left work around 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 2, 2020. About 15 minutes later, Windham ran a red light at Lower Wacker and Columbus drives and slammed into the side of her car, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said. Windham's car was traveling 53 MPH at impact, according to Murphy.

Windham and his female passenger got out of their car and asked the driver of a vehicle traveling behind Campbell for a ride, Murphy said. That driver, who happened to be Campbell's co-worker, refused.

Murphy said surveillance video shows Windham and his passenger getting into another vehicle and leaving the area.

Campbell was pronounced dead at Northwestern.

DNA on the steering wheel airbag in Windham's car matches Windham, Murphy said, proving that he was the driver at the time of the crash. Windham's phone GPS records allegedly put him at the scene, too.

Windham's attorney said he is a high school graduate who lives with his girlfriend and their newborn baby.

He is charged with felony reckless homicide with a motor vehicle and felony leaving the scene of an accident involving death.

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

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

He also sent a message to the driver who killed his mother: "Just turn yourself in, 'cause you can't run and you can't hide "'cause the law got more time and more eyes than you do, and eventually you will get caught."

Teen committed four robberies on CTA trains, one victim was stabbed

On March 2, prosecutors charged a 17-year-old boy with participating in a series of violent robberies on the "L" system last year, including one in which a victim was stabbed at the Roosevelt CTA Red Line.

Two adults were also charged with some of the crimes in December.

The juvenile is charged with two counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, aggravated battery of a victim over the age of 60, two counts of armed robbery, robbery, and attempted armed robbery. Those are all felonies.

Two of the robberies took place on Dec. 23. The first robbery unfolded on a southbound Red Line train as it traveled through the Loop around 6:08 a.m.

A 49-year-old man told police that he was seated on the train when three men wearing face masks surrounded him and told him to surrender his belongings.

One of the offenders held the victim down while the other two went through his pockets and took his wallet and phone. The victim suffered two stab wounds during a struggle with the offenders.

Prosecutors said he tried to hold the train doors open to keep it from leaving the station with the men on board. But the offenders reportedly dragged the man across the platform and fled to the elevated Orange Line tracks.

While police were speaking with the victim, another CTA passenger reported that three masked men robbed him on an Orange Line train near Halsted. The second victim said an offender asked for money, and a second robber took his phone and removed items from his backpack.

After the robbery, the victim stood up on the train and approached the men to ask for his property back. He backed off when one of the offenders turned around and came toward the victim with a knife, prosecutors said.

Police used CTA surveillance camera feeds to locate three suspects at the Western Orange Line CTA station who matched the descriptions provided by both victims. All three suspects ran when patrol cars arrived at the station.

Officers caught Tyree Walker, 26, and Donta Thomas, 23, but the third person — allegedly the juvenile who was charged — got away.

Walker and Thomas were charged with armed robbery and aggravated battery during a court hearing on Christmas Eve. They both remained jailed without bail.

While Walker and Thomas were locked up, the juvenile allegedly returned to the Loop on the afternoon of New Year's Eve and robbed a 61-year-old woman on the Red Line at Jackson, according to police.

He is also charged with robbing a 54-year-old man at the 79th St. Red Line CTA station around 6:10 a.m. July 20, according to CPD. Police records show a second robbery was reported at the same station within four minutes of that crime, but no charges have been filed in that case.

No additional information is available about the 17-year-old because he is a juvenile.

15-year-old charged with carjacking woman in Old Town

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with carjacking a woman in Old Town late last year, police said.

The carjacking took place on the 1400 block of N. Wells around 2:30 p.m. Dec. 2.

Police said a man bumped into a 32-year-old woman as she stepped out of her Lexus SUV and took away her car keys. She then saw two other men getting into her car, and one of them tried to hit her, but the punch missed, a police spokesperson said at the time.

All three offenders fled with the woman's car.

Prosecutors charged the teen with vehicular hijacking. CPD's vehicular hijacking task force arrested him on the 1100 block of S. Hamilton, which is where the county's juvenile justice center is located. That usually indicates the arrestee has other criminal cases pending.

Carjacking reports increased 18% in February compared to the same month last year, according to the latest info from CPD. There were 147 hijackings last month — up from 125 during February 2021. By comparison, Feb. 2019 had just 30 cases.

There was a decline in carjackings during January compared to the one-month record set in Jan. 2021. As a result, hijacking cases are down 11% year-over-year even with February's increase.

Lakeview carjacker is on parole for seven armed robberies

A man on parole for seven armed robberies has been charged with cracking a woman in Lakeview one year ago. Prosecutors filed the charges March 5 after DNA testing allegedly linked Marquese Lance, 26, to a mask that police later found in the car.

At 5:20 p.m. Feb. 9, 2021, an armed man ordered a 31-year-old woman out of her black Mercedes as she waited for a parking spot to open up on a residential driveway in the 600 block of W. Irving Park, according to a CPD spokesperson.

Marquese Lance

Prosecutors said Lance approached the woman's passenger window with a handgun and motioned for her to get out of the car by moving the gun while pressing it against the glass. She got out, and he sped away with the vehicle, striking a fence on Frontier Ave. before heading toward Lake Shore Dr., according to the allegations.

Cops found the woman's car a few days later and recovered clothing and purse that did not belong to the victim. They sent it out for DNA testing. Lance's DNA allegedly came back on a gaiter-style mask. The victim also identified Lance in a photo lineup, prosecutors said.

Lance received seven concurrent 13½-year sentences for armed robberies in 2013. He was on parole for those at the time of the hijacking and is still on parole, according to Illinois Department of Corrections records.

Judge Charles Beach set bail at $150,000, meaning Lance must post $15,000 to get out of jail.

Teenager charged for possession of hijacked car

The Vehicular Hijacking Task Force arrested a 16-year-old offender on March 4, in the 2100 block of W. 21st PL. He was identified as the offender who, entered a vehicle that was previously taken by force on Feb. 26, from a 64-year-old in the 1400 block of N. Wells in Old Town. The offender was placed into custody and charged with four felony accounts.

Twice-convicted gun offender fired shots, threatened hospital guards while on bond for felony gun case

Prosecutors say a twice-convicted gun offender was on bond for a pending Class X felony gun case when he threatened a Swedish Hospital security guard with a pistol and fired shots in the hospital's Lincoln Square parking lot, narrowly missing a bystander.

The Lincoln 20th Police District praised its tactical team on Twitter for a "persistent and dedicated investigation" of the case which it said involved shots fired at the hospital guards. Charges were filed this week.

Two security guards escorted Justin Cortes, 31, from the hospital on Oct. 8 because he was acting erratically, Assistant State's Attorney Loukas Kalliantasis said.

Cortes allegedly drove up to the hospital a short time later, pointed a gun at one of the guards, and said something to the effect of, "I got something for you." A second guard witnessed the interaction.

Cortes then sped away and fired shots while heading through the parking lot, narrowly missing someone in the area, Kalliantasis said. He did not say Cortes shot at security guards.

Police recovered three shell casings at the scene and surveillance video footage of what happened. Both guards identified Cortes in photo line-ups and Cortes gave his ID to the hospital staff before he was asked to leave.

Cops arrested Cortes when he showed up for a routine court appearance in his pending Class X armed habitual criminal case on Feb. 28.

He is charged with a new count of Class X armed habitual criminal, reckless discharge of a firearm – endangering others, and aggravated assault of a peace officer with a firearm.

Cortes was convicted of unlawful use of a weapon by a felon in 2018, felony domestic battery in 2013, felony domestic battery by strangulation in 2013, and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon by a gang member in 2010.

Private defense attorney Edward Austin said Cortes has three children and is expecting his fourth in two weeks.

Judge David Navarro ordered Cortes held without bail on the new charges. He also ordered him held without bail for violating the bond terms in his pending case.

Group of teens rob two at Chicago Red Line station, attack another at Clark-Division

A group of teenagers attacked and robbed two people on a Red Line train at the Chicago Ave. station March 1, police said. About 30 minutes later, the same group attacked another man at the Clark-Division stop. CPD has not announced any arrests in connection with the incidents.

Police first responded to the Chicago station, 800 N. State, at 8:38 p.m. to handle a complaint of five men holding the train doors open.

When officers arrived, they found two victims who said they had been robbed by a group of five or six men.

Police said the victims, ages 44 and 18, were on the Red Line when the offenders physically attacked them and went through their pockets to take valuables. The group then fled from the train.

EMS took both victims to Northwestern Memorial Hospital to be treated for minor bruising and pain, according to a CPD statement.

Then, around 9:10 p.m., the same group attacked a man on the Clark-Division Red Line platform, 1200 N. Clark. According to an officer who reviewed CTA surveillance footage, they boarded a southbound train after the attack and exited at 79th St. around 9:44 p.m.

The officer described four suspects based on the video as a Black male wearing red shoes, skinny jeans, and a black coat with a graphic on the back over a hoodie; a Black male wearing skinny jeans and a winter coat with a graphic; a Black male dressed in all black clothing; a Black female wearing black shoes, blue jeans, and a black coat

CPD detectives are investigating the incidents.

As life begins to return to its post-COVID normal, more people are returning to the "L." Some of them are discovering that it has changed quite a bit while they were gone.

While ridership declined sharply during COVID, violent crime increased. In fact, there have been more robberies on CTA trains, platforms, and stations downtown this year than during pre-COVID years when commuters packed the trains system.

Last March, we reported that "violent crime reports along the … the CTA Red Line are significantly higher this year than during normal times." We shared city statistics that showed robberies were up 80% between the Roosevelt and Howard stations compared to 2020. Knife attacks were up markedly, too, we reported.

A local transit advocate called our story "alarmist."

They are singing a much different tune lately. In January, they wrote about an "epidemic of stabbing incidents" and an "urgent need" to "get serious about addressing the spike in violence against CTA passengers and workers."

Thieves steal Chicago Police Dept. patrol bike in the Loop

We don't write a lot of stories about bicycle thefts. But if the bike belongs to the Chicago Police Dept. and has the words "CHICAGO POLICE" written all over it, we're in.

It happened around 7:25 p.m. March 2 at 68 E. Wacker Pl. in the Loop, according to a CPD report. That's the address of Hampton Inn, across the street from Morton's Steakhouse.

"Officers secured their bicycles and entered an establishment," a CPD spokesperson said. "Upon exiting, it had been discovered that three unknown male offenders were able to un-secure one of the bicycles and flee westbound from the location."

The spokesperson would not say whether the officers were on break or handling a call when the thieves swiped the department's bike.

But the theft generated plenty of chatter on the local police radio frequency.

Asked for a description of the thief, a dispatcher said, "the clue

POLICE BEAT *see p. 14*

Charges filed in violent attacks, 72-year-old woman and her husband beaten near CTA station

BY CWBCHICAGO

Prosecutors have charged a man with violently attacking a 72-year-old couple as they walked home from a Blue Line CTA station after visiting the Art Institute of Chicago last month.

Bob Tataryn spoke with CBS2 on Feb. 22 while police were still investigating the attack. Prosecutors said Bob suffered a fractured nose and cuts while the attacker broke his wife Kitty's wrist and fractured both sides of her jaw.

On March 5, Assistant State's Attorney Loukas Kalliantasis said Chicago police detectives used a series of surveillance camera feeds to track the offender's movements before the attack. They caught a break when the attacker used his own Ventra card to enter a Blue Line station in the Loop. Data from that fare swipe eventually led cops to arrest and charge cardholder Tomatae Sipes, 28, with attacking the Tataryns and with an unrelated incident at a downtown bank last year.

Bob and Kitty exited the Blue Line at Irving Park around 3 p.m. on Feb. 17 and headed toward their car, which they parked on a nearby side street before taking the train downtown to visit the Art Institute earlier, Kalliantasis said.

"We're city people," Bob told CBS2 last month. "We take the Blue Line as much as we can."

Tomatae Sipes (L) is charged with attacking Bob Tataryn (R) and his wife.

The couple quickly realized a man was following them from the station. He continued to follow them across Irving Park and down another street, so the couple doubled back, fearing that he might be a carjacker.

The Tataryns tried to enter the back doors of nearby businesses to get away from the man, but they were locked. He caught up with them and immediately punched Kitty in the face, knocking her to the ground "instantly."

Then the attacker turned his attention to Bob, punching him in the face repeatedly until he fell to the ground. The attacker then kicked Bob in the face several times and left. A passerby called 911.

EMS took Kitty to a hospital for treatment. Bob drove himself to the hospital, according to Kalliantasis.

Police arrested Sipes at the Irving Park YMCA on Thursday after identifying him through video and Ventra records, according to CPD records. The couple could not identify him in photo line-ups, but he was wearing the same boots and pants and was carrying the same backpack as the attacker, Kalliantasis said. CTA surveillance cameras also recorded Sipes' identifiable facial features before the attack.

Sipes denied knowing about the attack.

Prosecutors also charged Sipes on March 5 with an incident at Fifth Third Bank, 33 W. Huron, in Nov. 2021.

Kalliantasis said Sipes became upset when the bank told him that there was no money in his account and that he should contact Social Security to resolve the issue.

Instead, Sipes allegedly threatened to "f*ck everyone up until I get my money."

He proceeded to tear up the bank, breaking three computer monitors, three phones, a money machine, the front door, and a window. Damage totaled over $3,600.

Prosecutors charged Sipes with two counts of aggravated battery of a victim over age 60, two felony counts of aggravated battery causing great bodily harm, felony criminal damage, and misdemeanor counts of criminal damage and battery.

His criminal background includes juvenile adjudications for armed robbery in 2009 and attempted residential burglary in 2010. As an adult, he received a 13-year sentence for home invasion in 2012. According to court records, Sipes was also wanted for failing to appear in court for a misdemeanor battery case on the same day that he allegedly attacked Bob and Kitty Tataryn.

Assistant Public Defender Suzin Farber said Sipes suffers from mental health conditions.

Judge Kelly McCarthy set bail at $750,000 on the new charges and ordered Sipes to go on electronic monitoring if he posts a 10% deposit to get out of jail. She set a separate $30,000 bail on the misdemeanor arrest warrant.

Serial burglar took liquor worth more than $100,000 from restaurants and nightclubs

BY CWBCHICAGO

Prosecutors have filed additional burglary charges against a man they accused in January of breaking into two River North nightclubs.

Prosecutors now say Traivon Dorsey is responsible for taking more than $100,000 worth of liquor during six burglaries of restaurants and bars, mainly in River North during December. They have also charged him with two residential burglaries on the North Side from 2019.

Chicago police arrested Dorsey, 27, at his home March 3 to face four additional counts of burglary and two counts of residential burglary.

Prosecutors on Friday said he is identified from surveillance videos as the man who burglarized Radio Room, 400 N. State, of 21 bottles of champagne worth $5,295 on Dec. 14; stole liquor worth $230 from Fireplace Inn, 1448 N. Wells, on Dec. 23; broke into Moe's Cantina, 155 W. Kinzie, and stole $28,000 worth of liquor on Christmas Day, and forced his way into Fremont, 15 W. Illinois, on Jan. 5 and stole $51,700 worth of alcohol

Traivon Dorsey burglarized restaurants and bars, but now he's busted.

Prosecutors charged Dorsey in January with stealing $24,000 worth of liquor from two River North nightclubs during burglaries in December.

CPD detectives also identified him as the burglar seen on surveillance videos from two 2019 residential break-ins, prosecutors said.

He's charged with entering a home on the 1300 block of West Diversey on July 12, 2019, to steal three watches and three tie clips worth $1,000. Prosecutors said he burglarized a home on the 2100 block of W. Warner three months later.

According to prosecutors, Dorsey's felony convictions included a 2016 theft and three residential burglaries in 2012 and 2013. He was adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile for theft in 2011, burglary in 2010, and aggravated battery in 2008.

Judge Kelly McCarthy set Dorsey's bail at $500,000 on the new charges. He must post 10% of that amount to get out of jail.

Teen opportunities offered at Park District fairs

The Chicago Park District is hosting three Teen Opportunity Fairs in March. These fairs focus on recreation, education and job readiness.

The fairs will be held on Saturday, March 5, at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.; Saturday, March 12, at Malcom X College, 1900 W. Jackson, and Saturday, March 19, at 740 W. 63rd St.

At the fairs youths will be encourage to apply for a summer job with the Chicago Park District – a variety of jobs are also available, learn about recreational programs, obtain job readiness skills, including interviewing and resume writing, and interact with professionals from a wide range of fields and vocations.

For more information and to register for a fair, visit https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/teen-opportunity-fairs

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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

090909 ----------

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
SHERWIN ON THE LAKE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, BOARD OF MANAGERS
Plaintiff,
-v.-
KENNETH L. FOX III, VIRGINIA M. FOX
Defendants
2021CH01752
1205 W. SHERWIN AVE UNIT 603 (A/K/A UNIT 604) CHICAGO, IL 60626
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 3, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 5, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1205 W. SHERWIN AVE UNIT 603 (A/K/A UNIT 604), CHICAGO, IL 60626
Property Index No. 11-29-318-014-1128
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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
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
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
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. 14-21-00574
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2021CH01752
TJSC#: 42-684
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 # 2021CH01752
I3188241

020202----------

232323 ----------

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North Township Real Estate For Sale

090909 ----------

020202 ----------

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR MEB LOAN TRUST IV;
Plaintiff,
vs.
SONIA ALVAREZ DEARBORN TERRACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS, GENERALLY AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendants,
21 CH 3251
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Monday, March 28, 2022 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 17-04-449-042-1001.
Commonly known as 818 N. Dearborn St., #BF, Chicago, IL 60610.
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act
Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Mr. Matthew C. Abad at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 236-0077. SPS000390-21FC2
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3187574

232323 ----------

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COMED *from p. 5*

valuable cost: your trust. That's supposed to be the foundation of government in America. Sure, that sounds sappy, but think about it: Once enough people stop trusting in our system of government, they'll stop abiding by it. And a government ignored is no government at all.

It's hard to overstate the mythology that's grown around Madigan in Illinois politics.

As speaker of the Illinois House, Madigan had the tremendous power to decide what bills do – or do not – get voted on. And as the chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois, he wielded authority over who can – or can't – get elected in this deeply blue state.

He's been able to work both of those levers in concert to exert extraordinary control over the government of America's sixth-most-populous state.

With nearly four decades gripping the gavel, he was the longest-serving speaker of any House – state or federal – in American history.

POLICE BEAT *from p. 12*

would be he does not have on a police uniform."

"Did he steal the uniform, too?" a cop asked.

"They are hiring just about everyone today, so who knows," replied another.

Later, in a nod to the department's ban on pursuits, an officer asked for some guidance: "Can we chase it if we see it?"

It seemed like he was joking. But maybe not.

The caper came to a happy conclusion March 3. Around 5:15 a.m., a man called 911 to report that a CPD bicycle and "other items" were on his company's deck near Adams and State streets in the Loop.

Cops went to the scene and recovered the wayward ride. Area Three detectives are investigating the theft, according to the spokesperson.

Reports of major crimes are soaring this year in the Central 1st Police District, which includes the Loop.

CPD's latest CompStat statistical report shows reports of seven crime categories monitored nationally are up 160% compared to this time last year.

Even worse: The district's crime numbers this year are 17% higher than 2018, 30% higher than 2019, and 47% higher than 2020, which had not been affected by COVID at this point.

Through Feb. 27, the Central District saw a 200% increase in murders, from 1 to 3; a 56% increase in criminal sexual assaults, from 9 to 14; an 80% increase in robberies, from 40 to 72; an 88% increase in aggravated batteries, from 17 to 32; a 155% increase in burglaries, from 11 to 26; a 192% increase in thefts, from 49 to 143, and a 233% increase in motor vehicle thefts, from 54 to 178.

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB5
Plaintiff,
-v.-
JOSEPH M. MALHAM, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF HOWELL J. MALHAM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MALIBU EAST CONDOMINIUM, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, WILLIAM P. BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR HOWELL J. MALHAM (DECEASED)
Defendants
2021CH04122
6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #6K
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 17, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 11, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #6K, CHICAGO, IL 60660
Property Index No. 14-05-215-017-1029
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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
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630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-20-06242
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2021CH04122
TJSC#: 41-3367
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 # 2021CH04122
I3189211

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
PARK PLACE TOWER I CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,
-v.-
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF SANDEE GILLIGAN, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF SANDEE GILLIGAN, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
2020 CH 695
655 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD, UNIT CO-07 A/K/A CZ-07
CHICAGO, IL 60613
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 23, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 5, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 655 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD, UNIT CO-07 A/K/A CZ-07, CHICAGO, IL 60613
Property Index No. 14-21-101-054-2128 (previously building PIN 14-21-101-047-2128)
The real estate is improved with a poolside cabana.
The judgment amount was $25,485.04.
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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact Sandra A. Aguilera, ARONBERG GOLDGEHN DAVIS & GARMISA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 330 N. WABASH AVE., SUITE 1700, Chicago, IL, 60611 (312) 755-3165.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
Sandra A. Aguilera
ARONBERG GOLDGEHN DAVIS & GARMISA
330 N. WABASH AVE., SUITE 1700
Chicago IL, 60611
312-755-3165
E-Mail: saguilera@agdglaw.com
Attorney Code. 30375
Case Number: 2020 CH 695
TJSC#: 42-909
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 # 2020 CH 695
I3189034

090909 ----------

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Plaintiff,
-v.-
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ESTELLE TERESE CHANDLER, 4240 NORTH CLARENDON CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CHICAGO, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, THOMAS P. QUINN, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ESTELLE TERESE CHANDLER (DECEASED)
Defendants
2020CH02572
4240 NORTH CLARENDON AVENUE, UNIT 408-S
CHICAGO, IL 60613
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 7, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 28, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 4240 NORTH CLARENDON AVENUE, UNIT 408-S, CHICAGO, IL 60613
Property Index No. 14-17-410-028-1029
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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
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
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
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CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-20-01871
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2020CH02572
TJSC#: 41-3308
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 # 2020CH02572
I3187906

020202 ----------

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
FIFTH THIRD BANK;
Plaintiff,
vs.
FIFTH THIRD BANK FKA FIFTH THIRD BANK (WESTERN MICHIGAN); UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; 3600 CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ALFREDA A. MENDELSOHN AKA ALFREDA MENDELSOHN, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF REBECCA A. THOMAN, DECEASED; JACQUELINE H. PASSARELLI; ARLENE J. BONAHOOM; WILLIAM P. BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALFREDA A. MENDELSOHN AKA ALFREDA MENDELSOHN DECEASED;
Defendants,
19 CH 9964
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 14-21-110-020-1278.
Commonly known as 3600 North Lake Shore Drive, Apartment 1324, Chicago, IL 60613.
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act
Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. 19-029116 F2
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3187588

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
TOORACK CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC;
Plaintiff,
vs.
5954 NORTH PAULINA LLC; COURTNEY RUSH; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendants,
19 CH 12379
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 14-06-401-060-0000.
Commonly known as 5954 North Paulina Street, Chicago, IL 60660.
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.
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New exhibit at Hist. Society examines Native history

The Edgewater Historical Society is hosting a new exhibit titled Indigenous Edgewater: Exploring Native History.

The exhibit documents Indigenous culture from 10,000 years ago to the present day.

The museum will host the show's opening on Sunday, March 20 at 4:00 p.m., at 5358 N. Ashland Ave. Marsha Holland and Marjorie Fritz-Birch will speak about their joint exhibit, and will join Les Begay, Diné Nation member, to discuss the historical significance of Indigenous culture.

For more information call 773-506-4849.

Newly sequenced Native genomes showcase a wealth of surprises, from previously unknown populations who arrived on North America perhaps 25,000 years ago.

According to Dr. Rochelle Lurie, a scholar, archaeologist and President of Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc., state laws enacted in 1990 require in many cases that archaeological surveys be conducted whenever land is to be developed on a large scale, and where municipal governments or state agencies are involved.

Federal laws also require surveys whenever Federal lands, money or permits are involved. These regulations have created opportunities to survey, excavate and study the artifacts of northern Illinois' earliest inhabitants, the PaleoIndians, who arrived in this area 10,000 to 12,000 years ago after the retreat of the Wisconsin ice sheet. Studying the remains of early human cultures provides archaeologists with information and insights into the lives of ancient peoples.

Have something on your mind about your community?
Write a Letter To The Editor at insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com

Near North Branch Library to be closed for a month

The Near North Branch of the Chicago Public Library, 310 W. Division, is scheduled to be closed for over a month for renovation.

Near North's last day to be open to the public will be Sunday, March 20, and the branch is expected to re-open at the end of April.

The branch will be painted and re-carpeted for the first time since its opening in 1997.

Clark, Sheffield, Roscoe to be closed to traffic for 10 days

In order to undertake track structure rehabilitation along the Red Line, the CTA is closing N. Sheffield Ave. between W. Roscoe and N. Clark streets to vehicular and bicycle traffic beginning Monday, March 14 through Friday, March 25.

Additionally, W. Roscoe St. between N. Sheffield Ave. and N. Clark St. will also be closed to vehicular and bicycle traffic

Dates are subject to change due to weather and construction schedule adjustments. Sidewalks within the work zone on N. Sheffield Ave. and W. Roscoe St. will be closed as needed.

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Cash payments only.

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East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312/644-2000), is opening lockers:
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3523X and 6619X (Edward Lahood)
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DePaul Prep Falls to Winnebago 66-47 in 2A Super-sectional

BY JACK LYDON

The DePaul Prep Rams girls' varsity basketball team fell to the Winnebago Indians 66-47 in the IHSA 2A Super-sectional at Elgin High School on Feb. 28. DePaul Prep coach Sarah Zarymbski and her Rams advanced to the Super-sectional, one win shy of the IHSA 2A State Finals for the second time in the last two playoffs.

There were no state playoffs in 2021.

Coming into the game with the No. 1 2A ranked Winnebago, the Rams gave away significant size to the Indians. What the Rams lacked in size, they made up for in three-point shooting ability. Twelve of the Rams 26 point at halftime came off of three-pointers.

"We knew [Winnebago] converged a lot when you break into the lane, so we knew the kickout [passes] would be there," said Zarymbski.

"They will randomly go double [team] you. So we emphasized to find the open player with quick movement to find the open shot." That they did and the three-point opportunities were there.

The Indians held a two-point lead at the half.

DePaul Prep senior Emma Moya lines up three-point shot early in Super-sectional against Winnebago.

Good teams make adjustments at half-time. And that was what the Indians and successful coach Winnebago coach Tracy Miller did. Coach Miller has been coaching since "the last century" as she puts it, which includes "four or five" sectional championships and a couple trips to the State Finals.

"We kicked up defense considerably. We made a few adjustments at half-time. We switched off people, changed up our defense a little bit and that helped. We have had rough starts for the last four or five games. We made a few adjustments but when they come out from half-time, [our players] wanted to prove something," said Miller.

The adjustments mattered. The Indians opened the third quarter with at 10-0 run putting the Rams down for good.

"The only way we were really scoring a lot in the first half was with the threes. And they took away the threes. So we knew we would struggle scoring inside just because of how big they were, how long," Zarymbski admitted.

DePaul Prep had eight returning players from the 2019-2020 sectional championship team.

"It meant a lot taking nine seniors to one of these. We had some pretty bad losses along the course of the season. At one point, the girls said, this is it, we need to step it up if we want to get back there. They really did. Taking them there means so much," DePaul Prep third year coach Sarah Zarymbski said when asked what it meant to return to a Super-sectional game.

The Indians opened a 21 point lead with under four minutes to play and that was it for the Rams. Final score: Indians 66, Rams 45.

PARKING LOT *from p. 1*

gram through the Western Avenue North Tax Financing District (which expires in 2024).

When an area is declared a TIF district, the amount of property tax the area generates is set as a base Equalized Assessed Valuation amount. As the area's property values increase, all property tax growth above that amount is used to fund redevelopment projects. The increase, or increment, is often used to pay back the bonds that had been issued to pay the upfront costs. Alternately the increase can be used on a pay-as-you-go basis.

When the project was first announced, TCB officials tried to ameliorate the public's concerns about losing a parking lot considered essential for the neighborhood's businesses by saying the spaces would eventually be replaced.

At a virtual public meeting hosted last year by the 47th Ward, Will Woodley, a TCB vice president, claimed only a few public parking spaces would be lost when the parking lot was replaced by the apartment building.

"[Our proposal] provides 40 public parking spaces to be preserved in the long run," Woodley said. The leaked memo now shows that only 11 spots may be available for public use.

The new building will also include only nine parking spaces for residents as it is being categorized as an "equitable transit-oriented development" [ETOD].

Last year, Woodley, who is not a registered lobbyist, exchanged emails with numerous city officials lobbying them over the possibility of having TCB taking over the operation of the parking spaces. These spots would provide his company with an additional source of income. If this request was granted, the city would be required to provide financial compensation to LAZ Parking, the current operator of the surface parking lot.

Last year, Woodley recognized the gifting of these public parking spaces to TCB would draw the ire of some within Mayor Lightfoot's administration.

"I'd be happy to explain our inclusion of business parking in this ETOD to anyone," wrote Woodley in an email to Deputy Mayor Samir Mayekar.

The secret meeting at Mi Fogata was held after this newspaper went to press, so we do not yet know what was being discussed. And neither do the majority of 47th Ward residents.

Based on Woodley's previous comment to Mayekar, it seems as if the city-owned parking lot has been causing a problem. Either someone within the mayoral administration does not want TCB to take over the operation of the parking lot, or perhaps, the inclusion of 40 public parking spaces has caused a problem among those with an anti-automobile agenda.

Anyone who attended the meeting who would like to speak with this newspaper, on background, without being identified, can call this newspaper, and be assured your identity will be protected. Call 773-465-9700.

Ald. Matt Martin likes secret meetings

The March 8 meeting at Mi Fogata is not the first secret meeting Ald. Matt Martin has held in the 47th Ward over the fate of the Lincoln Square parking lot.

The first official local meeting about the parking lot that this newspaper has been able to verify, hosted by Ald. Martin, was a secret meeting held in Fall of 2019 at the American Legion Tattler Post 973, 4355 N. Western Ave.

It was a meeting held with members of The Heart of Lincoln Square [HOLS], a political organization Martin co-founded, that positions and promotes itself as a community group. During that meeting HOLS went on record endorsing that project, before ever presenting it to any other residents in the Lincoln Square community, or any of the local businesses that utilize the parking lot.

Notes from that meeting were later leaked to this newspaper, by a meeting attendee, which was the first we had heard about the scheme.

Later, in notes released after a Freedom of Information request, we found a letter written by Paige Worthy, HOLS board president to Cmsr. Novara, that states:

"On Wednesday, Oct. 9, members of the Heart of Lincoln Square Planning & Advocacy committee met with Will Woodley of The Community Builders (TCB) to learn about its proposed redevelopment of the city-owned parking lot at 4715 N. Lincoln Ave. into a mixed-use, mixed-income transit-oriented development. We are encouraged by TCB's proposed intent to provide apartments that will remain affordable to households earning a range of incomes, which we believe would fill a deeply felt need in our community. TCB has not requested HOLS' wholesale support for this project; rather, it has requested that HOLS offer its support for the project to be invited by the city to proceed to Stage Two. We offer that support wholeheartedly."

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