

I think being a woman is like being Irish. Everyone says you're important and nice, but you take second place all the same.

— Iris Murdoch

NEWS-STAR

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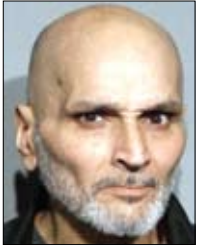
NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

insideonline.com

Burglar left backpack and driver's license at the crime scene

BY CWBCHICAGO

A 13-time convicted felon who is on probation—yes, probation—for burglary has been charged with burglary again after he allegedly broke into an Edgewater man's garage and forgetfully left a backpack containing his driver's license at the crime scene.



Eduardo Torres

Prosecutors say Eduardo Torres proceeded to file a false police report saying he had been robbed of the backpack to cover up the fact that his bag was inside the victim's garage.

Surveillance video allegedly showed the 54-year-old entering a garage in the 1300 block of W. Rosedale on Dec. 21 to steal a Weedwacker and a leaf blower. Unfortunately for Torres, he left his backpack behind and it contained his driver's license, bearing his name and current address,

a Chicago police report said.

Later the same day, Torres called police to report being robbed of the backpack in the 5600 block of N. Ridge, officials said. A cop who reviewed video from where the robbery allegedly occurred found nothing to indicate a crime occurred. They didn't even see Torres on the footage, the police report said.

Last April, Torres pleaded guilty to burglarizing a home in the 1900 block of N. Albany in exchange for a sentence of four years probation from Judge Michael Hood, according to court records.

Those records show his lengthy history includes a 13-year sentence for seven robberies in 2010; 13 years for armed violence and possessing a stolen vehicle and robbery and carjacking in 1997; and a five-year sentence for possessing a stolen car in 1995.

Calling Torres a "multi-time convicted felon," prosecutors asked Judge Antara Rivera to keep him in jail pending trial. Rivera agreed.

CHA sued over Rogers Park lead poisoning case

Jury awarded \$24M for children's lead paint injuries

BY BOB ZULEY

The Habitat Company, a property management firm that formerly oversaw 3,400 units of Chicago Housing Authority [CHA] residential units is suing the CHA and two of its attorneys for an alleged breach of contract and legal malpractice over the agency's handling of a lead poisoning lawsuit brought by two residents, according to media report.

The lawsuit, filed Feb. 27 in the Circuit Court of Cook County, states that the CHA failed to properly defend Habitat, including by neglecting to advise Habitat of a conflict of interest in CHA's representation of the real estate firm, during the lead paint trial.

Habitat's lawsuit follows a January jury decision that the CHA must pay more than \$24 million to the two residents who sued over alleged lead paint poisoning of their two children.

Habitat and East Lake Management, owned and founded by Elzie Higginbottom, were also sued as part of the lawsuit as they had managed the tenants CHA-owned property but were found not liable for the children's injuries.

The lawsuit comes at a time when the CHA is undergoing

what it calls a "significant transition" as numerous executive leaders have departed the agency in recent months, including one who was fired.

Shanna Jordan sued the CHA on behalf of her son, Jah'mir Collins, 10; and Jordan's daughter, Morgan Collins, who sued the CHA on behalf of her daughter, Amiah McGee Collins, 6, claiming the agency knew their apartment at 7715 N. Marshfield Ave. had lead-based paint, and that their children suffered from "severe lead poisoning" after living in the unit, according to the lawsuit.

The family's attorneys have said that both children were born healthy but both developed health problems in 2019 – with Jah'mir showing signs of hyperactivity and Amiah having trouble drinking from a cup and walking.

Both children were later found to have elevated blood lead levels.

The lawsuit claims the CHA was aware of lead-based paint as early as 1992 and faced city code violations in 2001 for unsafe conditions due to lead-based paint.

When Jordan and her family moved into the unit in 2014, and every year afterward, federally-required lead paint disclosure forms provided from the CHA claimed the agency was unaware

LEAD see p. 12

Privileged bike paths to spread further on Clark St., Montrose to Winnemac the next victim

Under the rubric of pedestrian and cyclist safety, the city has announced plans to expand privileged bike paths on Clark St. from Montrose north to Winnemac.

Privileged bike paths are portions of the public way that are cordoned off behind concrete barriers and reserved for the exclusive use of one privileged class of transportation, in this case bikes.

Concrete barriers include curb bump outs, lane blockers, islands and street narrowing which have become frequent tools used by Chicago city planners to intentionally create traffic congestion and slow travel times, as a part of the World Economic Forum's 15-Minute City concept.

Under the 15-Minute City concept, the aim is to systemically segregate communities by creat-

ing man-made barriers to travel, hoping residents can access most of their daily needs, like work, shopping, healthcare, and leisure, within a 15-minute walk or bike

Concrete barriers include curb bump outs, lane blockers, islands and street narrowing which have become frequent tools used by Chicago city planners to intentionally create traffic congestion and slow travel times.

ride from their home. Planners think this concept minimizes vehicle usage while promoting a more walkable, sustainable, and

community-oriented urban environment.

To make matters worse for drivers, the city is also removing metered commercial street parking at a heightened pace in favor in privileged bike paths and bus-only lanes. Metered street parking that turns over quickly is a critical need for commercial districts to survive.

When metered street parking is removed, that means potential customers must find parking elsewhere. And if they can't find parking, many times they go elsewhere and will avoid the area in future shopping trips.

As residents of urban areas know, not all neighborhoods offer equal and equitable options. In

BIKE PATHS see p. 12

What's coming to Under-L areas

Parking, salting, snow/trash removal and more explained

BY BOB ZULEY

While the CTA recently hosted two public meetings to share conceptual renderings of what the new community areas under the CTA's Red and Purple Lines may look like, we heard that design plans include a pedestrian trail, dog parks, playground, fitness areas, benches and a flexible-use plaza are being included.

We asked Andrew Gavrilos, CTA senior communications representative, what the day-to-day services community users of the new areas might encounter that are known at this early time. Gavrilos must be commended for his openness and willingness to answer questions; a vast and refreshing difference from some other city agencies.

The new Under-L public area is in the final design stages for the 10-block space under the new "L" tracks between Lawrence and Ardmore, as part of the \$2.1 billion Red and Purple Modernization [RPM] Phase One Project. The newly opened area runs between

two alleys to the immediate east and west of the CTA tracks. Construction of these spaces is expected to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027.

Regarding concerns over homeless campers portions of the area, they have "recently expanded our partnership with the city and social service agencies, which conduct outreach" to the homeless and "provide options and access to service," Andrew Gavrilos wrote.

Gavrilos said the new area is CTA property and will remain CTA property with no plans to relinquish it to the Chicago Park District. The Under-L activation will offer managed parking opportunities for visitors, residents and businesses on the west side at the south end that could be rented for customers or for parking platforms like SpotHero. Similar to metered parking, the CTA intends for these parking spaces to be

turned over throughout the day.

The Chicago Police Dept. [CPD] will be responsible for site security of the Under-L area. There will be no police emergency signal boxes. "The CTA [and] the CPD regard public safety as our highest priority. We understand the concerns of our customers, employees and local residents related to safety and security on and around the CTA rail and bus system. We will continue to work closely with the CPD in coordination with the local aldermanic offices to keep the areas safe for the community.

Regarding concerns over homeless campers portions of the area, they have "recently expanded our partnership with the city and social service agencies, which conduct outreach" to the homeless and "provide options and access to service," Gavrilos wrote.

Asked about periodic maintenance, trash/snow removal and salting, Gavrilos replied, "The CTA is exploring working with an outside property management firm for the basic upkeep of the area under the "L", as well as possibly working with local stake-

UNDER-L see p. 12

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It's important to hold on to recollections and memories



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

The nearness of St. Patrick's Feast is a natural catalyst for memory and nostalgia. We fall back on the past thousands of cozy family celebrations and a lot of recurring over-the-top social festivities all meant to mark the grandeur of this day.

At this moment I long for those cozy family occasions so filled with harmony and tasty vittles. All those wintry March gatherings in which my grandmother ran her kitchen like a steel mill with ovens cranking out sublime meals of savory Irish character.

The St. Patrick's Day air in that kitchen will always be remembered best in the aroma of a leg of lamb roasting on aromatic vegetables with perfumed scents from roasting fresh rosemary as pungent and poignant still as a Christmas tree.

We thrived on the creamed onions that always made an appearance. And special for that day, a buttery batch of "Colcannon." An Irish version of mashed potatoes with savory cabbage, chopped and crunchy, added to the Irish butter and heavy cream that really was a hold over to Grandma's growing up at Reagoulawn, the Crowe Family's Tipperary dairy farm. Of course the sauce from pan drippings were the perfect accompaniment for the lamb meat and spuds. Often roasted carrots were plentiful and charred just right.

But later in life you'd often find me at the Irish Fellowship Dinner at the Conrad Hilton where a thousand fancy Irish dined and kicked up their heels.

Local Irish notables, politicians, judges, clergy, visiting Irish

diplomats and Chicago celebrities encircled the Grand Ballroom surrounded by an army of bagpipers.

The occasion was always made more grand with a wondrous collection of the Bridgeport Daleys, especially during the decades of those celebrated mayoral administrations. Both father and son Daley mayors served as presidents of the Irish Fellowship over the decades. Beginning with the great man, himself, Richard J. Daley. He really helped to expand the membership and the scope of the club, first founded in 1901 with Mayor Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne as the first president. The only person to later serve as Governor of Illinois as well.

Back in 1956, Mayor Daley brought young Massachusetts Sen. John Fitzgerald Kennedy to the club's black tie dinner with hopes of getting him on the Democratic ticket as vice president at the upcoming convention. Kennedy met all the necessary power folk and wowed them. When he was not selected at the convention, Mayor Daley set his goal for larger plans and was instrumental in getting JFK elected to the office of president in 1960.

But for me, while celebrating St. Patrick with 1,000 friends is festive, it doesn't hold a candle to the family coming together around that leg of lamb, or a big juicy prime rib.

There was always an abundance of fresh homemade Irish soda bread. And buttery apple tarts for dessert. That was as predictable as the Irish music my aunt would play on her hi-fi stereo, as big as a piano. A most important piece of electronic furniture back in the 1950s.

My father would always have his squeezebox nearby and add a live music performance sing-singing Irish tunes. Of course grandchildren were expected to do their favorite jigs and reels through the sitting rooms and parlors of the house. The dances, like the grandchildren, came in all shapes and sizes.

Grandma O'Gorman would always join in, as light on her feet



Mayor Richard J. Daley and dignitaries marching in the 1958 St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Saint Patrick by TJ O'Gorman.

as a young girl.

It was truly an O'Gorman festival down to the Irish linen and the polished silver, thanks to the added work of grandchildren days in advance. They were expected to help in preparation for a day as big as Christmas.

It's important to hold on to such recollections and memories in which the grandeur and pageantry of the past is able to add meaning, purpose, clarity and cultural identity through to the present. It is as the Irish poet, W.B. Yeats, wrote, "How many loved your moments of glad grace."

These moments add light to our present. Is that "glad grace" not the glory of a life well lived? Knowing that our parents and grandparents had embraced such moments of glad grace truly redeems the times we live in now.

I take comfort in the hope that



Jennifer Carroll MacNeill

such memories can give us today the courage to sustain America's freedom and liberty. In our crumbling Chicago of tragic urban incompetent government, it provides the hope to create a better future after all.

That's what I see in celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Not a moment of mindless Irish bragging, soaked in green beer and shamrocks. But the authentic cultural understanding of who we Irish really are. And what is necessary for us to do. That's what the Colcannon taught us, and the creamed onions heralded for human hope. The strength of our family. People of ancient faith and custom. People filled with "great moments of glad grace."

GREEN RIVER: The Chicago River will be dyed green this Saturday, March 15, at 10 a.m.

The dyeing is part of Chicago's annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Head to the river to see the boats spread the dye on the river cruise.

CHICAGO PARADE: Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 15. Columbus Dr. from Balbo St. to Monroe St., 12:30 p.m., marking the 70th year since Mayor **Richard J. Daley** brought the parade back downtown. The 2025 Grand Marshall **Mark McManus**, General President, United Associates, Guest of Honor **Mary Ellen Caron**, CEO After School Matters and **Cara Walsh**, the 2025 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen. Irish Minister for Health **Jennifer Carroll MacNeill**, UN Commission on the Status of Women, will represent the government in Chicago, as well as **Brian Cahalane**, the Irish Consul General.

HOLY COW: The 27th Annual Worldwide Toast to **Harry Caray** will take place at Harry Caray's Tavern, Navy Pier on Tuesday, March 18, commemorating the legendary baseball announcer's passing in 1998.



Harry Caray

Fans and sports legends will gather to pay tribute to the iconic broadcaster who helped define Chicago baseball. This year's event will feature a special ceremony to break the White Sox

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Aldermen decry VA outreach program shutdown

VA cuts hit ordinary Chicago veterans across city

BY BOB ZULEY

The U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs [VA] will cut tens of thousands of jobs and shut down an important outreach program that serves armed forces veterans in several Chicago wards.

Ald. Matt Martin [47th], told WGN News that he received a notice from the VA office March 5 saying that the VA outreach program will not be able to serve veterans in his ward and surrounding wards that utilize his Lincoln Ave. ward office for meetings. The program is geared toward connecting veterans to healthcare, housing needs, employment, disability pay and other veteran benefits.

“To ensure we provide the highest level of care where needed most, we must temporarily pause our comprehensive outreach program,” a letter sent to the aldermen said.

“We understand this is short notice and sincerely wish there was more time to prepare for this transition. However, after careful evaluation, it became clear that immediate action was necessary to ensure that our Veterans receive the highest level of care in the areas where they need it most. This decision was not made lightly,” the letter read.

On March 5, the VA announced plans to cut about 80,000 jobs across the agency as part of a Trump administration restructuring to begin in August.

This would require firing thousands of employees hired after the VA expanded under the Biden administration. More than one quarter of VA staff positions are veterans themselves.

The VA requested a budget of \$369.3 billion for fiscal year 2025. This is a 9.8% in-

crease from the 2024 budget. This includes \$134 billion in discretionary funding. Additionally, there is \$235.3 billion in mandatory funding, an increase of \$41.8 billion or 21.6%, above 2024 for benefit programs, inclusive of Compensation and Pensions, Readjustment Benefits, Housing and Insurance, and continued funding for the Toxic Exposures Fund.

“There’s nothing wasteful or inefficient about how the VA has been endeavoring to serve members of the armed forces who have given so much to our country,” Martin said.

“I get completely the desire to make government work better and more efficiently at all levels, including at the city level. But we don’t need to take a bus to our critical programs. That’s exactly what has [been] done here. We are going to have thousands of people across Chicago who are hurt because of it,” said Martin.

On March 5, Ald. Matt O’Shea [19th] said he saw five veterans in line waiting for one-on-one support from the VA. “Veterans served their country,” O’Shea said. “And they didn’t turn their back on us. They were there, protecting the freedom we all enjoy. Now, the government is turning their back on veterans.”

“It really pisses me off, because the fact is you have Republicans and Trump talking about patriotism, America First,” Ald. Gilbert Villegas [36th] said. “It goes contrary to the message you’re trying to deliver. Are you America First and patriots, or are you just a fraud listening to a billionaire trying to make cuts.”



Ald. Gilbert Villegas

Villegas is a Marine Corps veteran who helped spread the outreach program that he said took place across more than a dozen ward offices.

In a released statement, the mayor’s office said that “we should be adding an additional 80,000 positions to the VA, not cutting them. [We are] steadfast in our belief that our veterans deserve the best we have to offer.”

“It really pisses me off, because the fact is you have Republicans and Trump talking about patriotism, America First,” Ald. Gilbert Villegas said. “It goes contrary to the message you’re trying to deliver. Are you America First and patriots, or are you just a fraud listening to a billionaire trying to make cuts.”

Mayor adding 50 new speed cameras to city streets

By ticketing drivers, Johnson hopes to balance budget

BY BOB ZULEY

Chicago will add 50 new speed cameras to city streets as part of Mayor Brandon Johnson’s plan to try and balance the 2025 budget. The new cameras increase the city’s stock by 30% to 212 cameras in total.

The city’s Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] confirmed in late February that it is “actively working” to install the 50 cameras but declined to share the locations saying they have yet to be finalized.

Multiple aldermen told the Chicago Tribune that CDOT officials called them recently to float addresses in their wards for a new speed camera, all of which were at intersections where residents had raised concerns when it came to speeding and crashes, though the city never provided the media evidence of those residents’ concerns.

The cameras are controversial. While some believe they are a useful traffic enforcement aide and revenue enhancing tool, others note the supposed ‘historical’ racial disparities in ticketing although automated enforcement would appear to be race-neutral.

Others say the burden the tickets place on speeding working-class drivers make the cameras a regressive method of raising money. The mayor and CDOT counts among their progressive base of supporters many residents who prioritize cycling and scooting, while promoting ways to tax wealthier people by using technology to issue tickets.

While Chicago has aggressively pursued automated ticket-writing, down the road in Ohio, a decade ago the Ohio House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation that likely sounds utopian to Chicago drivers, they prohibited municipalities, counties, townships and the state highway patrol from using red-light cameras and speed cameras to assist in the enforcement of traffic laws.

Each new camera will have an initial 30-day grace period, during which speeding drivers will be left off with a warning notice in the mail. After that, those caught going 6-to-10 mph too fast will get \$35 tickets, while those going 11 mph or over will receive a \$100 ticket, as is the standard citywide.

Chicago’s automated ticketing systems, including speed cameras, red-light cameras, and parking meters, generated over



Those caught going 6-to-10 mph too fast will get \$35 tickets, while those going 11 mph or over will receive a \$100 ticket, as is the standard citywide.

\$102 million in fines in 2023. The city’s budget for 2024 relies on \$348 million in fines and fees from these sources.

Johnson isn’t the first mayor to realize a financial windfall from ticketing Chicago drivers. Mayor Rahm Emanuel turned on speed cameras in 2013 and they brought in more money than expected. That began the

Others say the burden the tickets place on speeding working-class drivers make the cameras a regressive method of raising money.

trend of using the devices to raise funds.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot lowered the ticket threshold in 2021 from 10 mph over the speed limit to 6 mph to help close a \$1.2 billion budget deficit.

The city operates but does not own the cameras. They are leased from vendor Verra Mobility, formerly American Traffic Solutions. The devices utilize a 3D radar to capture video and license plates.

Only cameras in designated “Safety Zones,” or 660 feet from a park or school are considered, per state law.

Local Chiropractor Helps Chicago Legend



Retired Chicago Bears Super Bowl-winning quarterback Jim McMahon had right ankle surgery to get spurs removed about 2 1/2 years ago.

A few days later his ankle got badly infected.

“He couldn’t move his ankle for seven months. The joint calcified. His Achilles tendon shrunk. He couldn’t point his toes up or down.

“McMahon recently started seeing

Chicago chiropractor Pete Petrovas, who used electronic stimulation, ultrasound, acupuncture and manipulation to restore function in the joint.

“Finally, there is movement. Finally, mercy. He wears a brace on his ankle and walks with a cane. But somehow, Jim McMahon has made another improbable comeback.

— Dan Pompei, *The Athletic*, June 21, 2024



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Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway.

Courtesy Thomas Hawk

Lecture on early history of the Green Mill, March 27

The early history of the famous Green Mill Lounge will be presented 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, by the Ravenswood Lake View Historical Assoc. in the Lerner Auditorium, Conrad Sulzer Regional Library at 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.

Author Robert Loerzel has been delving deep into the early years of the Green Mill — and related things, like the development of the Uptown neighborhood — in a history posted in chapters on his website, robertloerzel.com. Loerzel has also reported on this topic for WBEZ's Curious City show.

The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway, began its life in 1907 as Pop Morse's Gardens, alternatively known as Pop Morse's Roadhouse. It originally was meant to serve locals visiting St. Boniface's Cemetery at Clark and Lawrence. In 1910, Tom Chamales bought the establishment from Pop Morse, who added outdoor dancing and entertainment in an enlarged sunken garden. He installed the "Rhumba Room" on

the second floor, and constructed a large green windmill on the roof to go along with its new name, the "Green Mill Gardens."

The Green Mill is best known for serving as a gangster hangout and speakeasy during Prohibition. During this time, it was leased by the Chamales Brothers to the mob, including James Vincenzo (Gebardi) DeMora — better known as Jack "Machine Gun" McGurn — who held a stake in the club.

Now over 100 years old, the Green Mill Cocktail Lounge is the crown jewel of the local jazz scene and Uptown neighborhood.

Guests will find out some of the secrets he has uncovered on the beginnings of this beloved Uptown jazz club.

Loerzel, a freelance journalist, wrote the book *Alchemy of Bones: Chicago's Luetgert Murder Case of 1897* and co-wrote two episodes of WTTW's *Chicago Stories* series ("The Union Stockyards" and "The Race to Reverse the River").

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Bally's Casino Chicago struggles with run of bad luck



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Professional gamblers are rolling their eyes at Bally's run of bad luck while trying to build its \$1.7-billion casino in Chicago.

Bally's initial \$250 million public offering for women and minority investors failed to close as planned in early February after it stalled at the Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC].

Bally's Chairman Soo Kim, said: "We're going to update our financials and resubmit, but we don't know why the SEC didn't respond the first time, and they may not respond the second time."

Meanwhile, unlucky Bally's also has been plagued with construction mishaps while razing the former Chicago Tribune printing plant on 30 acres at 777 W. Chicago Ave.

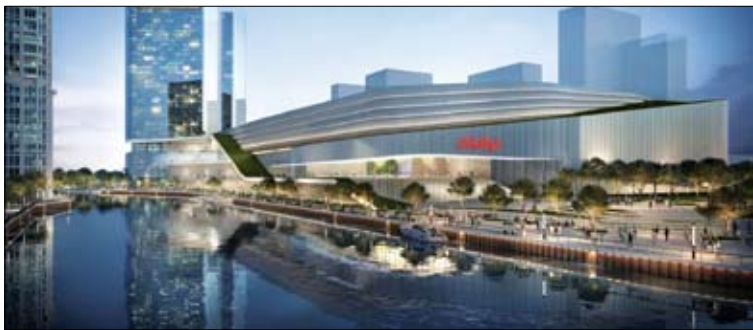
Demolition was delayed for nearly a month after a Dec. 14 accident spilled tons of construction debris into the adjacent Chicago River. Earlier, a deep-tunnel water pipe was "discovered" under the site of the 500-room high-rise hotel planned at Chicago Ave. and Halsted St.

Following a finalized site redesign—which moved the 34-story hotel tower from north of the casino to the south—Bally's began driving foundation caissons into the ground last month.

In addition to the casino's 3,400 slot machines and 173 gaming tables, Bally's plan also includes, an entertainment complex, a food hall, four bars, an outdoor park and an amenity terrace. The casino is targeted to open in Sept. 2026, according to Bally's.

Bally's temporary Medinah Temple facility posted adjusted gross receipts of only \$9.2 million in January, a slight year-over-year decline, according to Gaming Board Data.

Overall, Rivers Casino Des Plaines topped the list of Illinois casinos with \$39 million in ad-



Following a finalized site redesign—which moved the 34-story hotel tower from north of the casino to the south—Bally's Casino Chicago began driving foundation caissons into the ground last month.

justed gross receipts in January. The new Wind Creek Chicago Southland casino in East Hazel Crest raked in \$13.3 million in January, capturing second place in revenue among the state's 16 casinos.

"Bally's temporary casino at Medina Temple is not pulling the numbers that were expected," Mr. Zak, a veteran professional gambling consultant, told The Home Front column.

Despite opening the Medina Temple location 24/7, picking up the private parking tab for tens of thousands of gamers, and bussing hundreds of Chinese and Asian gamblers to the temporary casino, the revenue stream there over the past few months has pumped only a few million dollars into the City of Chicago tax coffers.

That's \$10 million short of what former Mayor Lori Lightfoot's administration projected and earmarked to fund the city's police and firefighter pensions.

Financial experts say casino revenue theoretically is a great source to use for city pensions because it exports the tax burden. Hopefully at least a portion of the tax revenue generated from Bally's casino operations would come from individuals who do not live in the city. However, if casino revenues fall short, the city may need to increase real estate taxes or find alternative sources of revenue.

In 2022, Bally's predicted the casino would inject \$200 million annually into city pension coffers. However, Bally's is not contractually required by the city to actually deliver that amount.

Earlier, Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] also has expressed doubts about the expected Sept. 2026

opening date for the permanent Bally's casino. "The target date for construction of the new permanent casino seems optimistic at best," he said.

"If Bally's meets its funding and construction deadlines and actually opens in Sept. 2026, imagine what a nightmare the congested corner of Chicago Ave. and Halsted St. will be," said Mr. Zak.

"Bally's bought the deal with a \$40-million upfront bribe to the Lightfoot administration," observed Mr. Zak. "The Chicago-and-Halsted site is the most horrendous place they could put it. I would have preferred that the Chicago casino be built by Rush Street Gaming at 'The 78', the 62-acre vacant mega site on the Chicago River at Roosevelt Rd."

However, Bally's casino and hotel is targeted for the bustling intersection of Chicago and Halsted. It is boxed in by the Chicago River, vehicular bridges and Metra railroad tracks—not an ideal site for a mega casino development.

Traffic congestion on Chicago west of Halsted also includes a steady flow of trucks from a cement plant on Goose Island.

City bus boosters and bike enthusiasts also are up in arms about the Chicago Dept. of Transportation's plans for widening Chicago Ave. at Halsted St. near the proposed casino site. The CTA's No. 66 Chicago route is one of the city's busiest bus lines.

In 2024, the Plan Commission also recently approved the multi-phase "Halsted Landing" development at 700 W. Chicago Ave. just east of Halsted St. Later phases are proposed further west on Goose Island.

Plans of the developer, Onni Group, call for four high-rises and two mid-rises with 2,451 residential units, including 490 affordable units. One of the high-rises will rise to 600 feet and contain 688 residential units, including 138 affordable units.

The Halsted Landing plan also calls for 280 hotel rooms, more than 55,000 square feet of commercial space and 1,950 parking spaces.

In comparison, the development will be almost as large as Sandburg Village—one of the nation's biggest urban renewal projects.

Let's roll the dice and look into the future. When 4,000 new, mostly low-income housing units are completed at the reborn Cabrini-Green project, Bally's likely will run free shuttle buses down Chicago Ave. to the casino, and the boulevard will resemble the Las Vegas Strip.

Looks like the River West

STRUGGLES see p. 10

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Property Tax Exemptions:

How homeowners and seniors can save on taxes

BY MARIA PAPPAS

Property taxes can be a financial burden, but exemptions can help reduce those costs by offering significant savings to property owners. There are three exemptions that do the most good for the most people.

They are the Homeowner Exemption, the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption and the Senior Freeze Exemption. The Cook County Treasurer's Office is dedicated to helping residents apply for these exemptions to lower their property tax bills.

First, check the exemptions you're receiving by visiting cookcountytreasurer.com and clicking on the purple box labeled Your Property Tax Overview. Search using your address or 14-digit Property Index Number.

If you use your address, simply enter your house number and street name. Do not include north,

south, east or west. A picture of your property – home, business or land should appear, so you know you've found the right place. Scroll down and you should also see a grid with your exemptions.

If the word "No" appears, as seen in this example grid, you could be leaving significant money on the table.

To turn some of those "Nos" into yeses, let's look at our major exemptions.



Maria Pappas

Homeowner Exemption:

This is the granddaddy of exemptions, with most property owners qualifying. This lowers property taxes for homeowners who occupy their home as their primary residence for at least a year. First-time applicants must have lived in the property as of Jan. 1 of the tax year in question. The exemption renews automatically each year unless the property is sold. Check your status online and apply for any missed

Have You Received Your Exemptions in These Tax Years?

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Homeowner Exemption:	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Senior Citizen Exemption:	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Senior Freeze Exemption:	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Returning Veteran Exemption:	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Disabled Person Exemption:	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Disabled Veteran Exemption:	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

In Cook County there is a Homeowner Exemption, the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption and the Senior Freeze Exemption.

Homeowner exemptions from the past four years.

Senior Citizen Exemption:

Homeowners applying for Senior Citizen Homestead Exemptions for the first time are eligible if they're 65 or older and own and occupy their property as their principal place of residence. If a married couple jointly owns a home, they're eligible when the older partner is 65. To receive this exemption, the applicant must have owned and occupied the property as of January 1 and must have been 65 years of age or older during the tax year in question. That means many homeowners who turned 65 in 2023 are now

eligible for this tax break for the first time. They should apply now so the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption savings can be reflected on their 2024 Second Installment bills due later this year.

Senior Freeze Exemption:

Applicants must meet age and income requirements to qualify for the Senior Freeze Exemption. Seniors aged 65 and older with an annual household income of \$65,000 or less are eligible. You must have owned and occupied the home on Jan. 1 of the tax year in question. This exemption "freezes" the equalized assessed valuation [EAV] of the property the year that the senior citizen

qualifies for the benefit, insulating the senior from soaring property taxes that come with rising EAVs. Unlike other exemptions, you must re-apply for the Senior Freeze every year since income levels can change.

How to apply for exemptions and refunds:

Apply for these exemptions online at cookcountytreasurer.com where you can search for yourself or anyone else. Verify that you're receiving the exemptions you're entitled to and apply for any you've missed. Remember, you can apply for any missed exemptions going back four years.

Don't miss out on valuable tax breaks. Homeowners and seniors who qualify can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars annually. Visit the Cook County Treasurer's website to start the application process today as it might lessen your financial burden.

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Illinois residents stick with the current state flag

Nearly 385,000 votes cast statewide in flag design contest

BY BOB ZULEY

Illinois voters overwhelmingly prefer the current state flag over twelve other competing flag designs, according to Alexi Giannoulas, Illinois Secretary of State. The current state flag received more than 165,000 votes, or about 43%, out of nearly 365,000 votes cast.

The current flag, colloquially known as an SOB – a seal on a bedsheet – features the Seal of the State of Illinois on a plain white background with the word, "ILLINOIS," printed under the seal.

"The results are, let's just say, overwhelming," Giannoulas said in an Instagram video announcing the news on March 6. Earlier this year, voters were given an option to vote over a five-week voting period.

The contest comes after a bill sponsored by State Sen. Doris Turner and signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker in 2023 created a state-wide commission to explore the creation of a new flag. While the people have voted, the commission will now send a report detailing its findings to the Illinois General Assembly who will ultimately be responsible for deciding on whether to keep the current flag or jettison it.

Like many other states, the current Illinois state flag was the result of a contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR].

During a 1911 visit to Washington, D.C., Ella Park Lawrence, then State Regent of DAR, noticed that no flag of Illinois was on display in the Continental Memorial Hall.

Eager to create a flag, she offered a \$25 prize to the Illinois DAR chapter submitting the best

1. Current State Flag
165,602 votes

2. Design #2246
32,898 votes

3. Design #3679
29,478 votes

4. Design #896
26,559 votes

5. Design #4129
25,653 votes

6. Design #4220
21,981 votes

7. Design #4321
18,574 votes

The top seven prospective Illinois flags from the design contest.
Courtesy IL Secretary of State

design for the flag. In those days, \$25 was extraordinarily generous, equivalent to about \$600 today. The winner, Lucy Derwent, of the Rockford chapter, submitted the winning design.

The flag remained the same until 1968 when U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Bruce McDaniel of Waverly, then serving in South Vietnam, noted that unlike other state flags displayed in the mess

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Police Beat...

Man charged with stabbing on CTA train

David Davis, 31, of the 1600 block of S. Singer Dr. In Freeport, IL, was arrested and charged March 7 with felony counts for aggravated battery/use deadly weapon; aggravated battery/transit employee; attempted robbery while armed with a dangerous weapon on the CTA.

Davis was identified as the offender who stabbed and injured a 31-year-old male at 1:25 a.m., in the 100 block of N. State St. while riding a train. Responding officers quickly located the offender and he was placed into custody and subsequently charged accordingly.

Witnesses uncooperative after gunman kills victim on River North sidewalk

Witnesses were uncooperative after a man was shot and killed during an argument on a River North sidewalk March 9. The gunman remains at large.

Chicago cops were less than a block away when the shooting occurred in the 500 block of N. Franklin at 3:15 a.m. They immediately called out shots fired and quickly found the 31-year-old victim. He had suffered seven gunshot wounds, according to an officer at the scene.

In a media statement, CPD said the victim and another man had an argument that turned physical before the offender pulled out a gun and fired several shots, striking the victim in the chest.

The gunman escaped on foot, police said, but CPD did not release a suspect description.

Officers stopped four men about two blocks from the shooting scene, but witnesses refused to cooperate with the investigation by verifying if any of the men were involved in the shooting, police said. One of the four men was arrested for a warrant. Police released the other three after collecting their identifying information.

The victim is the third person shot in River North this year and the second to die from their injuries. Both of the previous victims were shot during a single incident at a hotel in the 300 block of W. Grand on Feb. 22. Charges have been filed in that case.

Man shot by ‘known offender’ inside Roscoe Village home

Police are looking for a known suspect after a man was shot inside his Roscoe Village home March 8.

The 53-year-old victim was at home in the 1900 block of W. Roscoe when the man shot him around 8:18 a.m., according to Chicago police.

A 911 caller reported that the shooter was her ex-boyfriend and that he came to the house and shot her roommate in the shoulder, according to police radio traffic. The suspect, who has two felony gun convictions in Cook County, fled the scene on foot.

Officers at the scene said he is Middle Eastern, 35 years old, 5’-8”

tall and 145 lbs. He may have been wearing khaki pants and a jacket with two colors.

Saturday’s shooting is the first in Roscoe Village since Dec. 2021.

Lakeview migrant awaits extradition, accused of killing 2, injuring 3 while driving high in rural Iowa

A Venezuelan migrant who has been living at a Lakeview shelter is now in custody, awaiting extradition to Iowa, where he is charged with killing two people in a car crash while driving with THC in his system. Renzo Jose Sira Parra, 27, and two other people were also injured in the Dec. 11, 2024 collision, which occurred at a rural intersection in the northwest corner of the state.

Iowa authorities said Sira ran a stop sign as he headed north and collided with a local woman’s car as she headed east, about three miles west of Sioux Center.

Two men riding the back seat of Sira’s Honda Fit were ejected from the vehicle, officials said: Maikol Segobia, 28, and Alfredo Lira, 24. Both men, who listed Chicago addresses, died at the scene. A third man in Sira’s vehicle was taken to Sioux Falls for advanced medical treatment. None of them were wearing seatbelts.

Sira, the 28-year-old woman, and a 43-year-old man in her car were all wearing seatbelts, according to police. They were injured, but survived the crash, which totaled both vehicles.

After the crash, officials said Sira showed signs of impairment and smelled of marijuana. Toxicology tests allegedly revealed the presence of THC and its metabolites in his system. He admitted to smoking marijuana after waking up on the morning of the crash and before driving, according to Iowa court filings.

Sira returned to the shelter at 640 W. Irving Park shortly after the crash, according to a Chicago police report. When Chicago police went to the shelter recently to arrest Sira on behalf of the Iowa State Patrol, an employee denied knowing his whereabouts, the report said.

Ultimately, Town Hall 19th District tactical officers worked with Sira’s wife to bring him into the district station near Wrigley Field.

He is being held on an Iowa warrant for two counts of homicide by vehicle while under the influence, according to a Cook County court filing.

Sira’s only other arrest in Chicago came last fall when employees at the Uptown Target store accused him of shoplifting about \$30 worth of baby clothing. Prosecutors dropped the charges on his first court date.

He attacked a 74-year-old with wire cutters at Fullerton CTA station

Prosecutors have charged a man with using wire cutters to viciously attack a 74-year-old man on a Red Line CTA train in Lincoln Park.

Maurice Rocquemoire, 38, pulled out the wire cutters and began striking the senior in the face and body at the Fullerton station around 10:45 p.m. Feb. 17, officials said. Rocquemoire escaped after the attack, which prosecutors said was completely random.

The victim received staples and



Maurice Rocquemoire

wearing the same clothing as on the day of the attack and had the same wire cutters, Judge Shauna Boliker wrote in a detention order.

In his arrest report, officers said Rocquemoire was also suspected of another attack at the Fullerton station on the day before the 74-year-old was targeted.

Bolker ordered Rocquemoire to remain in jail pending trial on two counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Man who help robbed victim during Grindr meet-ups gets 7 years

One of the men accused of robbing a victim at gunpoint after arranging to meet him for a bit of fun via Grindr, the gay dating app, has been given a seven-year prison sentence. Andre Mhoon, 30, and Antoine Perteet, 35, went to the victim’s home in the 1900 block of W. Morse on June 28, 2023.

In court filings, prosecutors said Perteet met the man on a dating app, and the victim agreed to let Perteet and Mhoon come to his home. They arrived at the victim’s house around 11:30 p.m. and, once inside, pulled out guns. They robbed the man, forced him to lie down in the bedroom, and took his cash and phone, prosecutors alleged.

The complaint said Perteet forced the man to unlock the device and then accessed his digital wallet. While Mhoon held the victim at gunpoint, Perteet allegedly went to an ATM and tried to make a withdrawal with the phone.

Prosecutors said Perteet and Mhoon collected the man’s jewelry and credit cards, then left.

The next day, Chase notified the victim that someone tried to use his debit card at one of their branches in Rogers Park. The victim also learned that one of his cards was used at a gas station on the Far North Side and a liquor store in Waukegan.

Perteet, who was a teacher at a Christian school in Waukegan at the time of the allegations, continues to fight the charge as well as a second, similar robbery.

On March 4, Mhoon pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery before Judge Maria Kuriakos-Ciesel, according to court records. She handed him seven years, which will be reduced by 50% with good behavior. The remaining time will be reduced by another 590 days of credit Mhoon earned since being arrested.

Prosecutors claimed last year that Chicago police evidence technicians found Mhoon’s fingerprint at the scene of a “similar” armed robbery, which allowed investigators to link him to the Rogers Park case. He was never charged with any other robberies, though.

River North robber was wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet — for another attempted robbery

A man on probation for trying to rob a woman on the CTA Red Line is now accused of trying to rob a man in River North—while wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet. Robert Snell, 35, has been detained to await trial by Judge Anthony Calabrese.

Chicago police responded to the 400 block of N. State around 8:45 p.m. Feb. 24 after a Michigan man called 911 to report the robbery attempt, officials said. The victim reported that a

man approached him, indicated that he had a weapon, and demanded money, Snell’s arrest report said.

Armed with a description of the would-be robber, cops detained Snell in a nearby alley and then arrested him after the victim confirmed they had the right guy. In Snell’s arrest report, officers noted that he was wearing an ankle monitor on his left leg.



Robert Snell

According to court records, Snell is on probation for trying to rob a woman on the Red Line at Loyola in Dec. 2023. In that case, he allegedly confronted the victim and warned, “You have 10 seconds to give me your bag or else. I know you have lots of money.” He proceeded to grab her bag and try to pull it away, a CPD report said. The robbery failed when bystanders intervened and called police.

He pleaded guilty on November 18 in exchange for a two-year probation sentence from Judge Sharon Kanter.

Case against protestors blocking O’Hare entry

A group of pro-Hamas and anti-Israel activists hope to toss a class action lawsuit seeking to make them pay for blockading the main road into O’Hare International Airport for three hours last spring, allegedly “imprisoning” innocent bystander “hostages” in the resulting traffic snarl and upending countless travel plans and other life and work events in the process, to stage what plaintiffs called an illegal protest in support of a terrorist Islamic regime.

In their filings, the activists say the lawsuit amounts to a frivolous lawsuit attempting to silence their speech and allegedly falsely label them as supporters of terrorism.

The legal action first landed in Chicago federal court in Sept. 2024, when attorney Theodore “Ted” Frank, M. Frank Bednarz, Neville S. Hedley and others with the Hamilton Lincoln Law Institute filed suit against the activist organizations.

The lawsuit seeks to expand the action to include potentially thousands of others who were caught in the hours-long traffic jam caused when members of the activist organizations blocked Interstate 1-90 ramp into O’Hare Airport last April.

The blockade was intended by the activists to not only disrupt traffic leading into the airport, but to maximize economic and societal disruption in an effort to protest the Israeli military actions against Hamas in Gaza in response to the Oct. 7, 2023 terrorist attacks Hamas launched in Israel.

The complaint asserts the Chicago blockade was part of a nationwide coordinated effort, known as A15, “to disrupt major economic centers” in the U.S. in an effort to support efforts by Hamas to rally international support in the U.S. and elsewhere to pressure Israel to halt their military operations in Gaza.

The blockade lasted for three hours and resulted in thousands of people missing flights, leaving people scrambling and missing important events at their intended destinations. The complaint is seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, plus attorney fees.

The plaintiffs are also seeking a court order forbidding the activists from attempting such an action again. Organizations named as defendants in the action include the National Students for Justice in Palestine; WESPAC Foundation; Dissenters; Jewish Voice for Peace; and The Tides Center, which does business as the Community Justice Exchange.

Individual defendants are identified as activists Jinan Chehade, identified as a primary organizer of the O’Hare blockade; Superior Murphy, who filmed the blockade; Rifqa Falaneh,

identified as present of the SJP’s DePaul University affiliate in Chicago and an organizer of the blockade; and Simone Tucker, identified as a JVP organizer and organizer of the blockade.

In response, the activists and their organizations have urged the court to dismiss the lawsuit. They have also moved for sanctions against the plaintiffs.

The case is being heard by U.S. District Judge Mary M. Rowland.

Clerk convicted of sexually assaulting teen in downtown convenience store disappears before sentencing

A convenience store clerk convicted in January of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old runaway boy in the Loop has disappeared after the judge refused a prosecution request to keep him in jail to await sentencing.



Bharath Simha

ed less than 90 minutes to find Bharath Simha, 22, guilty of criminal sexual assault during the commission of a felony and two counts of kidnapping in connection with the December 2023 attack at 7-Eleven, 4 E. Jackson.

But Judge Peggy Chiampas denied the state’s request to revoke Simha’s electronic monitoring status and have him jailed so he didn’t flee to escape prison time, according to court records.

Those records show Simha failed to appear for his next court date on Feb. 14 and yet another date on February 21. During the second hearing, Chiampas decided to sentence Simha in absentia, saying he “willfully absconded.”

She gave him 10 years for the sexual assault, of which he must serve 85%, and seven years for the kidnapping charges. The judge also issued a nationwide arrest warrant for Simha, who is now facing a new charge of escaping electronic monitoring.

Shortly after Simha was arrested in Dec. 2023, prosecutors said a 15-year-old boy who ran away from home after arguing with his mother stopped into the convenience store, only to be sexually assaulted by the cashier.

Upset with his mother, the boy left home on Dec. 7, 2023, and walked for three or four hours before going to the store around 9 p.m., officials said. After Simha buzzed the boy in, the teen asked Simha if he could do some work, such as cleaning, in exchange for food because he had no money.

Simha agreed and gave him a cookie and directed the boy to the store’s single-stall bathroom, according to a transcript of Simha’s initial detention hearing. The boy entered the restroom, thinking Simha wanted him to clean it in exchange for food.

Instead, Simha allegedly grabbed the boy’s shoulders and forced him to his knees inside the bathroom. Simha exposed himself and forced his private part into the boy’s mouth for “a few seconds,” the transcript said. The teen cried as it happened, and Simha allegedly placed \$6 in the boy’s hand.

Prosecutors said the boy fought Simha off and tried to run out of the store, but Simha chased him and blocked his path. Simha struggled with the boy and told him not to tell anyone, but the boy managed to escape.

Once he was out of the store, the boy ran until he saw a Chicago police car and then reported the attack to the officers.

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Lakeview YMCA killer receives 888 year sentence

Second suspect killed by Ohio Highway Patrol

BY BOB ZULEY

For Chicago area residents complaining about Cook County judges being soft on crime, they better hope they don't meet Judge James Obbish in the courtrooms of the Leighton Criminal Courthouse at 26th St. and California Ave.

Judge Obbish sentenced George A. Field, 64, to 888 years in prison on Feb. 28 for the Jan. 2, 2018 murder of his neighbor, Arthur Cannon, then 83, in the residential housing area of the Lakeview YMCA, 3333 N. Marshfield Ave., in Lakeview, according to a CWBChicago report by Tim Hecke.

Field was convicted in a bench trial for killing Cannon in Cannon's fourth floor residence as the octogenarian begged for his life, Assistant Cook County State's Attorney Julia Ramirez testified during the initial bond hearing.

Building security found Field holding a hand truck that he used to batter Cannon about the head before gouging Cannon's eyes out of his skull. The security officer called for Chicago Police who arrived and found Field on top of Cannon. Cannon died at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center 10 days later. Cannon suffered broken ribs and multiple facial fractures from Field's attack.

Cannon was able to tell officers that he and Field engaged in a heated argument before Field

struck Cannon multiple times with a closed fist. His condition gradually deteriorated before Cannon finally succumbed to his injuries.

Field was previously sentenced to the custody of the Illinois Dept. of Corrections [IDOC] in 1985 following a murder conviction. Before being released on parole in 2006, Field was convicted of aggravated battery of a corrections officer while in prison.

Field's court-appointed attorney said at the time that Field suffered from "various mental conditions" and took "many medications."

In the most recent murder trial, Field was found guilty of seven counts of murder and one count of home invasion by Judge Obbish on Jan. 29.

On Feb. 28, Obbish handed down the sentence of 888 years for murder and eight years for home invasion to be served concurrently.

Field was transferred to IDOC custody on Feb. 4 and is currently at the Northern Reception Center [NRC] of Stateville Correctional Center, Crest Hill, IL. The NRC functions as the major adult male intake and processing unit for the entire state. It is a maximum security unit.

The NRC contains 1,800 beds in 24-units. Five percent of the



George A. Field. Courtesy IDOC

population are convicted of murder. The population demographics by race are 64% black, 21% white, 14% Hispanic, and 1% Asian. Field will eventually be transferred to a permanent institution.

In another violent death on the fourth floor of the Lakeview YMCA on Sept. 2, 2023, police discovered YMCA tenant Michael L. "Jake" Lyerla, 27, unresponsive on the floor with a handgun nearby in a unit belonging to another tenant, Danny E. Berry, 45.

Lyerla had suffered a gunshot wound to his head and succumbed the following day at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Berry had absconded from the building.

Chicago Police, tracking Berry's cellphone, notified Ohio State Highway Patrol that Berry was wanted for a homicide in Chicago and was traveling southbound on Interstate 75.

Following a high-speed pursuit through three counties, Berry's Chrysler Pacifica van was forcibly stopped after stop sticks were deployed and police forced the vehicle to crash. Berry was fatally shot after he alighted from his burning van and began walking down the Interstate toward people while armed and vowing 'not to go back to jail and he was going to kill himself.'

Berry had been previously employed as a security guard at suburban hotels but was recently hired as a doorman at a high-rise along Chicago's lakefront.



Mugshot of Abdulkarim Hussein, inset, and surveillance images of the suspects provided by CPD.

to the men, who escaped on a northbound train, officials said.

Nearly a month later, investigators released four CTA surveillance images of the suspects and asked the public to help identify them. As it turned out, the break came from another CPD officer who recognized one of the men as Abdulkarim Hussein, 29, of Des Plaines, according to prosecutors.

The police arrested Hussein when he recently appeared at the Skokie courthouse for a pending retail theft case. He also has two misdemeanor retail theft cases pending, court records show.

Letters to the Editor

Tenant screening

[Regarding Don Debat's story, and Larry Pusateri's March 5 letter, "Private management of low-income housing provide incentive for good management"...] Every society has rules for its members, whether for people who wish to dwell in a given home, or for those who wish to be part of that society. There are rules for owners as well as renters.

Landlords of housing which would be built where Cabrini Green once stood may not have "every incentive to run these properties as well as possible," even though "they are certainly allowed to screen all their tenant candidates before renting to them."

Landlords who don't physically live on the premises of their rental buildings have one less incentive to screen tenants well enough. There have been news stories throughout the decades of renters who fall so far from society's rules that they forfeit their privilege of living in any given building. In earlier times, such people might be banished from that society. Today, their 'housing of last resort' might be space in a jail, prison, or mental hospital. Ability to pay isn't the only criterion.

I'm sure Don DeBat knows all this too.

Jean SmilingCoyote
West Ridge

Write a Letter To The Editor
at insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com

Left unsaid: more context

Kudos to [the Feb. 26 newspapers] for alerting the citizenry, via Alexi Giannoulis's reminder, as to the upcoming federal deadline for acquiring the REAL ID. The alert might have been better served, however, if featured in a more prominent way, instead of buried near the end of Thomas J. O'Gorman's weekly diatribe, on page 8.

Even more helpful would have been to convey more accuracy and context as to the requirements for acquiring the REAL ID. As printed, anyone over the age of 18 is required to obtain the REAL ID. Left unsaid was that there is no need for anyone already in possession of a valid U.S. passport to acquire the REAL ID. This is an important distinction.

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POLICE BEAT from p. 6

Simha initially denied that he assaulted the boy, but then changed his story to say the boy tried to rob the store, prosecutors claimed. He allegedly told the police that the store didn't have security video, but investigators found the video and showed him images from the footage.

Officials said Simha changed his story several times during interviews with detectives. After initially claiming nothing sexual happened, he allegedly said something sexual did happen, but it was the boy's idea. That story evolved again and again, prosecutors stated.

As Simha's trial was about to begin, his attorney agreed to a prosecution stipulation that the defense could not mention Simha's immigration status during the trial or raise the possibility that he could be deported, according to court filings.

But when Simha heard that, he "strongly disagreed" and asked his attorney to reverse his position, the filing said.

"The very essence of the Defendant's defense is that he was afraid that he would be deported as a result

of his involvement of any kind with the police since he was working while on a student visa (and not on a work visa)," his attorney wrote in a follow-up motion. The lawyer also said Simha believed that his fear of deportation would explain his behavior during police interviews.

Simha's attorney during the first court hearing said he grew up in India and earned an engineering degree there.

Man charged with North Side train robbery after cop recognizes him in 'wanted' poster

One of two men wanted for robbing a Red Line passenger on the North Side in November has been arrested after a Chicago cop recognized him in a "seeking to identify bulletin."

The robbery occurred around 12:24 a.m. Nov. 1 on the Sheridan Red Line platform, 3940 N. Sheridan, police said. Two men approached the victim, claimed they had a gun, and stated something to the effect of, "Don't move. Give me everything you got, I have a pistol," according to prosecutors.

The 37-year-old victim handed over his backpack, phone, and other items

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MEMORIES from p. 2

“Curse of the Black Sox Ball,” an effort to reverse the team’s recent struggles.

Special guests include White Sox 1983 AL Rookie of the Year **Ron Kittle**, Chicago Bears Hall of Famer **Richard Dent**, Blackhawks Hall of Famers **Chris Chelios** and **Jeremy Roenick**, former White Sox outfielder **Mike Huff**, White Sox mascot **Southpaw** along with the Sox Pride Crew, and more.

FIND A HOME: State Sen. **Sarah Feigenholtz** and the **Noreen Heron** Agency in Lincoln Park are helping Let It Be Us, a foster care and adoption agency led by adoptive parent, **Dr. Susan McConnell**. Illinois ranks as one of the lowest in placement rates in the US for children awaiting adoption. Now Let It Be Us wants to make progressive change by revolutionizing the way children find homes in Illinois, through a combination of new high-end technology, and their engaged and experienced team. Look for their “Heart Gallery” on their website,

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picturing local children that are waiting to be adopted. Adoption rates should be vastly improved this year. To help out visit www.letitbeus.org or call (847-764-5428).

NEW IRELAND HOUSE: A new Ireland House is scheduled to open for Spring 2025 on Michigan Ave. Ireland House will be the new location of the Consulate General of Ireland as well as representatives of Ireland’s economic and trade promotion agencies. Ireland has had a diplomatic presence in Chicago since 1933. The opening of Ireland House will coincide with the centenary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ireland and the U.S. The facility will expand Ireland’s outreach in the Midwest with a population of over 50 million, including five million Irish Americans. The region is home to over 100 Irish companies employing almost 25,000 people.

REQUIEM: Rev. **Martin Marty**, formerly of Riverside, has died at 97. A theologian of great intellect and faith, he spent his life in service to the larger understanding of faith and shared Christian values here in Chicago. His refined humanity opened the door for many to a deep sense of divinity. He was relied on not just among his Protestant community, but exercised a healing and restorative wisdom among people of every faith. He was a rare gift to Chicago.

GOBBLE, GOBBLE: Go visit Chef **Mark** at the Drake Hotel and order one of his fine turkey

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS dinners. Last week he gave the good news: It’s back for good at Coq D’Or. Run don’t walk. Best, juicy turkey you’ll ever eat.

WEEGEE: **Alex Hueber** and **Lynne Mars** opened Weegee Lounge two decades ago growing it to one of Chicago’s great neighborhood saloons at 3659 W. Armitage. They have recently sold it to **Jeff Hoffman**, owner of Roscoe Village’s cozy Village Tap. Hueber and Mars will soon pull up anchor and set sail for new adventures in Portland, Maine, welcoming new owner on March 15.

STOCKYARD MAGIC: A historic and long-abandoned building on the edge of the former Union Stock Yards site will soon be entering a new chapter. A proposal by the City of Chicago aims to transform the former Stock Yards Bank Building at 4150 S. Halsted St. at Exchange Ave., into a state-of-the-art recording complex. It would be the first of its kind in the Midwest.

FAREWELL: **Dennis J. Wolkowicz** better known as “**Jay Warren**,” loving husband of **Linda Stagner** died this month at 74. His passion was silent films. “As a kid ... he’d watch them. He thought they were cool,” said his wife Linda. “He played the accordion like all good Polish boys” but eventually learned the organ and in the mid-1980s he gave his first performance at the former Gateway Theater inside the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., in Jefferson Park. Wolkowicz helped manage the theater for 18 years.

The theater included a 17-rank (sets of pipes) pipe organ that Wolkowicz had acquired, with most of the pipe sets coming from a church. He used the name “Jay Warren” when he performed because of the difficulty some had pronouncing his last name.

Wolkowicz was the founder of the Silent Film Society of Chicago, and he performed at theaters, churches and other locations, including City News Cafe, 4018 N. Cicero Ave. He was about to head to the cafe on Sunday, but he passed away a short time before the scheduled performance.

PUMPKIN: New this year is a state-wide Pumpkin Weigh Off, a competition showcasing giant and field grown pumpkins at the Illi-

nois Product Fall Market on, Saturday, Oct. 11. Got room in your back yard? Three divisions will be offered including youth up to 14 years. Trophies and prizes will be awarded in each category. Email questions to Nicole.Moore@illinois.gov.

WHO’S WHERE: **Cynthia Olson** has returned from winter headquarters in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, dining with Chicago Film Festival’s **Michael Kutza** at Il Girasole on Western Ave. with delighted owner **Christian Hernandez**, only to discover they were his former favorites from Riccardo’s... **James Staples** had a great dinner with friends at Ocean Seafood at Setai in Miami... **Maria Pappas** enjoying the magnificent pageantry at the Asian American Coalition Gala, 1500 strong, at Hyatt Regency... **Bruce Trivett** dining at the Drake’s Coq D’Or... **Leo** and **Mary Anne O’Rourke** heading to St. Augustine, FL... **Linda Robin** and friends cheering on husband, Broadway producer **Richard Robin**, on his musical, “A Sign of the Times”... former VP candidate **Tim Walz** visiting the house of **Anne Frank**... **Sean Eshaghy** and entourage sipping cool ones in Mexico... **Jim Kinney** marking another year with elegant celebration... **Dan Balanoff** made it to South Beach, FL... **Sherry Lea Fox**, **Paul Iacona**, **Paula Borg** and **Mark Olley** celebrating the birthday of lovely **Kathleen Haines-Finley** at Gibson’s Italia... **Mark Howard** and his Trinity Academy of Irish Dance in full swing rehearsals... **Karen Zupko** in the deep snow of Aspen where she schusseshes with grace... former ABC newsy, now BGA boss, **Andy Shaw** and wife, **Mary**, 52 years wed, in sunny Mexico hitting that small ball around the greens... **Elizabeth Gorecki**, still fresh from her Dublin medical school was wedding dress shopping with her mom, **Joanne**, Aunt **Kathy Taylor**, sisters **Sarah**, **Caitie Geren** and **Taylor Gorecki** and in the end the bride found her dress... **Sherry Lea Fox** with **Patricia Maxwell** at La Veneta’s al Paraiso, Cabo, Mexico... **Melanie O’Brien** festooned all the outdoors in green lights after recent weather delay... lovely **Elizabeth Bertucci** hosted



The late Mary Carol Daley Vanecko with sister, the late Patricia Daley Martino.

a sweet birthday party for her pal **Kelly Uihlein** with ladies from Service Club, all friends, at Le Petit Marcel, yum... **Dan Kirk** and hubby, **Brian Wolff**, continue on their journey to all the earth’s continents, finding adventure and wonder in the Antarctica Peninsula.

PAX TIBI: The **Daley Clan** is mourning the sad passing of **Mary Carol Daley Vanecko**, daughter of Mayor **Richard J. Daley** and wife **Eleanor “Sis” Daley**. Cherished wife of the late **Dr. Robert Vanecko**. Fabulous mom and sister, late of Chicago and Grand Beach. She was treasured friend to all who knew her.

TRAVEL: Around the World in 140 days, roving reporter **Sherill Bodine** filed this report. “Sri Lanka from the Hindu Shrine dedicated to Siva to the many Buddhist temples in impressive Colombo... a dawn game drive in between with young elephants playing... a leopard crossing the road too quick to get a picture.” She did the next best tourist thing when she stopped for brunch at a Game Lodge.

*When you are old and grey
and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire,
take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream
of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and
of their shadows deep;
How many loved your moments
of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love
false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim
soul in you,
And loved the sorrows
of your changing face;
And bending down beside
the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly,
how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains
overhead
And hid his face
amid a crowd of stars.
~W.B. Yeats, When you are old.*

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Blessing sought abroad; Chicago is home for Lakeview writer

Author and her mother were big fans of *The Song of Bernadette*

BY JANE LAWICKI

Chicago native Carla Knorowski knows how to bring France's famous cities home. Having received in 2022 the French government's Order of Merit for raising \$500,000 toward rebuilding Paris' fire-torn Notre Dame Cathedral, she now shares the story of Lourdes and the role of a beloved keepsake.

In her new book, *Blessing My Mother's Rosary*, Knorowski tells the tender story of her mother's life, sorrow at her death, and how – decades apart – two visits to the Catholic shrine of St. Bernadette led her through heartache to healing.

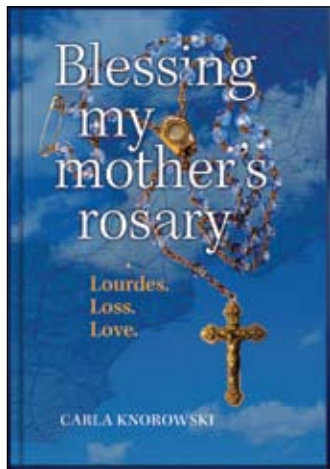
The biography is at once deeply personal yet accessible to all experiencing grief.

"I was very close to my mother," Knorowski explained. "One of the things that happened, when cleaning out her personal effects, was that I came across my mother's favorite rosary.... The rosary was part of her, one [item] that was quintessentially Mom."

Knorowski recalls that her mother had asked to have the circular strand of indigo blue beads blessed at Lourdes during her initial trip when she was a young backpacker in the 1980's. Now in her 60's and coming across the beloved, worn keepsake – with a safety pin replacing a bead – Knorowski knew there was yet unfinished business.

The story tells of the initial Lourdes journey and an epilogue that brings resolution and peace.

"Finally, as odd and even absurd as it seems, I realized that grief, like my mother, is a precious gift that propels me to honor her in all I do. Her death was not the end



Carla Knorowski (right), author of *Blessing my mother's rosary*, in front of Notre Dame in France.



of our relationship; rather, it was the beginning of a richer, more complete one," Knorowski writes.

For more than 20 years, Knorowski has lived in Lakeview, seven blocks from Wrigley Field. Growing up in Cragin, attending St. Genevieve parish and school, she had a typical 1960's childhood. She, along with her best friend, Mary Jo Wenmouth, rode bicycles to Wrigley and researched sports stars' biographies at the Chicago Public Library.

She was also a big fan of *The Song of Bernadette*, the 1943 film based on the novel of the same name by Franz Werfel, a Jewish intellectual who had found refuge from the Nazis in Lourdes. The movie starred actress Jennifer Jones and loosely details the story of Bernadette Soubirous, the young girl who sees the Virgin Mary in the Lourdes grotto as a spring spontaneously opens. Bernadette was canonized as a saint in 1933, and the film had a great influence on Knorowski's devout mother.

"Jennifer Jones was the spitting image of my mother," Knorowski said as she

explained that she and her Mom watched the film whenever they could. Watching it together, Knorowski understood how if further fed her mother's love and admiration for the Virgin Mary, St. Bernadette, and Lourdes.

"Finally, as odd and even absurd as it seems, I realized that grief, like my mother, is a precious gift that propels me to honor her in all I do," said Carla Knorowski

"Carla and I were close to her Mom," said Wenmouth. "Always her parting words were, 'God love you.' We say the same to each other because we knew each other so well."

"Carla was always up for anything...always up for a challenge," she added. "Her love of France doesn't surprise me. She goes where she feels called," said Wenmouth.

Bill Bike, a former colleague from the

Univ. of Illinois at Chicago, where Knorowski earned her Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. degrees and worked in alumni relations, describes Knorowski as "very Chicago."

"She came from a typical Chicago background and accomplished so much," Bike explained. "She's easy to work with, down to earth, no pretension," he added.

For more than 35 years, Knorowski has been a leader in the non-profit sector. She currently serves as Senior Advancement Advisor for The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. She has also held leadership positions at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and the Naval War College Foundation. She co-authored *Under Lincoln's Hat: 100 Objects that Tell the Story of His Life and Legacy* and *Gettysburg Replies: The World Responds to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*.

Knorowski also contributes her talents to various Chicago organizations including the Chicago Humanities Festival, Northwestern Illinois Univ. and its Foundation, and the Illinois Alumni Assoc. She also serves on the board of directors of the University Club of Chicago, Dehkoda Educational Foundation, and Friends of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

A current writing project focuses on fun travels to cities, towns, and villages around the world named "Paris."

"There are 28 [Chicago] Sister Cities in the world," Knorowski said. "Paris [France] beats them all. The reason I love Paris so much is because it reminds me so much of Chicago. I'm so proud of our skyline, our city. When I was in Paris, I could see similarities. Everywhere you look, you see beauty. I see the same in Chicago.... I can't imagine living anywhere else."

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121212 -----
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
-v.-
MARTHA C PIETRZYKOWSKI A/K/A MARTA C PIETRZYKOWSKI; NORI LAIDI; PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO NATIONAL CITY BANK; PRATT-RIDGE CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. 24 CH 02630
1939 WEST PRATT BOULEVARD #3, 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 1/15/2025, an agent of Auction.com LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on April 16, 2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60606, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as

Real Estate For Sale

set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 1939 WEST PRATT BOULEVARD #3, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-31-402-088-1007
The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$184,578.38 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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

Real Estate For Sale

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)(l) 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.
For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 24-17958IL.
Auction.com LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 - 872-225-4985 You can also

Real Estate For Sale

visit www.auction.com.
Attorney File No. 24-17958IL Case Number: 24 CH 02630
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.
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
OLD SECOND NATIONAL BANK, A NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,
-v.-
3015 SOUTHPORT LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 1356 WELLINGTON, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIABILITY COMPANY, NON-RECORD AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS Defendants
2024 CH 00323
1352-1356 W WELLINGTON AVE CHICAGO, IL 60657
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 24, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 3, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1352-1356 W WELLINGTON AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60657
Property Index No. 14-29-114-026-0000, 14-29-114-027-0000
The real estate is improved with a mixed use commercial and residential property.
The judgment amount was \$7,787,506.87.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale 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, the Cook County Clerk Records,

Real Estate For Sale

the Cook County Treasurer's Office and all other relevant records to verify all information. 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 Joel A. Stein, SCHOENBERG FINKEL BEEDERMAN BELL & GLAZER, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 300 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 1500, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 648-2300.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
Joel A. Stein
SCHOENBERG FINKEL BEEDERMAN BELL & GLAZER, LLC
300 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 1500 CHICAGO IL, 60606
312-648-2300
E-Mail: joel.stein@sfbbg.com
Attorney Code. 64807
Case Number: 2024 CH 00323
TJSC#: 45-603
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney may be deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
13262264

121212 -----
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
SELENE FINANCE, LP Plaintiff,
-v.-

Real Estate For Sale

WILLIAM ALLEN TAYLOR, JR. A/K/A WILLIAM A TAYLOR, JR., THE CORONADO CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants
24 CH 05843
3900 NORTH PINE GROVE AVENUE UNIT 614 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 January 8, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 9, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 3900 NORTH PINE GROVE AVENUE UNIT 614, CHICAGO, IL 60613
Property Index No. 14-21-100-021-1063; 14-21-100-021-1105
The real estate is improved with a condominium. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale 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

Real Estate For Sale

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.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602
312-346-9088
E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com
Attorney File No. 24-18560IL_1077792
Attorney Code. 61256
Case Number: 24 CH 05843
TJSC#: 45-170
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 # 24 CH 05843
13261495

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST Plaintiff,
-v.-
XINXIN WU, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, 3600 CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIA-

STRUGGLES from p. 4

neighborhood may have just rolled snake eyes.

Mr. Zak, an Old Town resident who resides 10 minutes from the proposed Bally's casino, says he prefers to drive 45 minutes to gamble at the swank new Wind Creek Chicago casino in East Hazel Crest.

Wind Creek, owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, opened its 70,000-square-foot casino on Nov. 11. The facility features 1,400 slot machines, 56 table games, and other attractions. A hotel built at the casino is scheduled to open there soon.

“Regular patrons at Wind Creek are offered comps of \$200 to play the poker machines, and the casino has a polite professional staff,” said Mr. Zak.

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.

Real Estate For Sale

TION Defendants
22 CH 04939
3600 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 1821 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 January 6, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 8, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 3600 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 1821, CHICAGO, IL 60613
Property Index No. 14-21-110-020-1395
The real estate is improved with a condominium. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale 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 POS-

Real Estate For Sale

SESSION 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.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602
312-346-9088
E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com
Attorney File No. 22-10284IL_804029
Attorney Code. 61256
Case Number: 22 CH 04939
TJSC#: 45-169
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 # 22 CH 04939
13261493

050505 -----
262626 -----

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North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
AMS MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. Plaintiff,
v.
TREMONT CHICAGO, LLC, LMREC IV NOTE HOLDER, INC., LMREC IV HOLDINGS I, INC., UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
LMREC IV NOTE HOLDER, INC., a Delaware corporation, Plaintiff,
v.
TREMONT CHICAGO, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, SELINA OPERATIONS CHICAGO, LLC, AMS MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC., ANCHOR MECHANICAL, INC., an Illinois corporation, TRAVELZOO USA a/k/a TRAVELZOO INC., a Delaware corporation, SOHO OUTDOOR CHICAGO LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, MIKE DITKAS - CHICAGO, LLC f/k/a IRON MIKE'S L.L.C., an Illinois limited liability company, BERNA GROUP LLC f/k/a PRECISION PLUMBERS, LLC, FLANAGAN/BILTON LLC, the CITY OF CHICAGO, EAST COAST INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, 64 E CHESTNUT LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, and UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
Case No. 22-CH-08076 Consolidated with Case No. 23-CH-08380
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Default and Summary Judgment and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale (the "Judgment") entered in the above cause on
February 27, 2025, Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will, on April 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., outside room LL06 of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60602, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate mentioned in such Judgment, commonly known as the Tremont Hotel, 100-108 E. Chestnut Street & 830 N. Ernst Court, Chicago, IL, Illinois, 60611:
PINS: 17-03-218-009, 17-03-218-017 And 17-03-218-019
ADDRESS: 100-108 E. CHESTNUT STREET & 839 N. ERNST COURT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611
Sale terms: At the time of the sale, 10% earnest money in the form of a cashier's check or certified bank check (no personal checks) at the time of sale, with the balance due by certified funds within twenty-four (24) hours after the sale. The subject property is subject to 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. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the

Real Estate For Sale

Court file to verify all information.
For information: Examine the Court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Keith E. Edeus, Jr., Nixon Peabody LLP, 70 West Madison, Suite 5200, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 977-4394.
13262357
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE WAMU MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2003-AR10 Plaintiff,
-v.-
STEVEN SCHULTZ, TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2021-SJ1, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, NORTH STAR TRUST COMPANY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO POPULAR BANK FKA BANCO POPULAR NORTH AMERICA, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A CERTAIN TRUST AGREEMENT, DATED 5-7-99, AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 26821 Defendants
2023 CH 07043
1252 NORTH STATE PARKWAY CHICAGO, IL 60610
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 16, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 17, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1252 NORTH STATE PARKWAY, CHICAGO, IL 60610
Property Index No. 17-04-224-024-0000
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was \$1,034,776.95.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale 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

Real Estate For Sale

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 MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 22-030486.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 Chicago IL, 60601
E-Mail: AMPs@manleydeas.com
Attorney File No. 22-030486
Attorney Code. 48928
Case Number: 2023 CH 07043
TJSC#: 45-204
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 # 2023 CH 07043
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust Plaintiff
vs.
Gregg R. Aleman; 1543 North Hudson Condominium Association; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants; Defendant
23 CH 1960
CALENDAR 64
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 16, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 17-04-111-050-1002.
Commonly known as 1543 North Hudson Ave., Unit 2, Chicago, IL 60610.

Real Estate For Sale

The real estate is: 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: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirblich Law Group LLC, 33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1540, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455. W22-0298
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13262086

121212 -----
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION
HEARTLAND BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, Plaintiff,
v.
KENNETH COURTRIGHT III; KERRI COURTRIGHT; 405 N. WABASH 5109-10, LLC; RAYMOND H. CHRISTENSEN IRREVOCABLE TRUST DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1919; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION; TODAY'S GROWTH CONSULTANT, INC., d/b/a THE INCOME STORE; RIVER PLAZA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, n/k/a RIVER PLAZA OFFICE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; "UNKNOWN OWNERS" and "NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS," Defendants.
Case No. 2023 CH 07632
Sheriff's No. 250013
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, 2024, the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will at 1:00 p.m. on March 26, 2025, outside of Room LL06 in the RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Common Address: 405 N. Wabash Ave., Unit 5109-10
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Permanent Index No: 17-10-132-037-1675
17-10-132-040-1036
The real estate is improved a residential condominium unit.
The judgment amount was \$739,320.92.
Sale terms: Ten Percent (10%) down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within 24 hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes or special assessments and is offered for sale without recourse to Plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court

file to verify all information.
For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney, Tina M. Jacobs, JACOBS & PINTA, 77 West Washington Street, Suite 1005, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (telephone: (312) 263-1005).
HEARTLAND BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
JACOBS & PINTA
One of Its Attorneys
Tina M. Jacobs, Esq.
Joy Pinta, Esq.
JACOBS & PINTA
77 West Washington Street, Suite 1005 Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 263-1005
Attorney No. 48951
officeadmin@jacobsandpinta.com
13261601

050505 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff,
-v.-
LINDSAY WOOLERY, CHARLES WOOLERY, RIVERBEND LOFTS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants
2024 CH 03430
2614 NORTH CLYBOURN CHICAGO, IL 60614
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 18, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 21, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 2614 NORTH CLYBOURN, CHICAGO, IL 60614
Property Index No. 14-30-400-075-1028; 14-30-400-075-1123
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was \$341,447.88.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale 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.

Real Estate For 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 CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 24-198096.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
CHAD LEWIS
ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810 CHICAGO IL, 60601
561-241-6901
E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM
Attorney File No. 24-198096
Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
Attorney Code. 65582
Case Number: 2024 CH 03430
TJSC#: 44-3360
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2024 CH 03430
13261096

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4C4257 (Ramona Hernandez),
3F3662 (Brett Lewandowski),
3F3629 (Tiffany McCaskill),
3D3353 (Christian Northington),
and 4C4269 (Agnes Tropp)
for public sale of miscellaneous items.
This sale is to be held on
Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

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Chicago Park District 9th annual event for Teen Opportunity Fairs on March

As summer approaches, the Chicago Park District [CPD] is once again opening doors for local teens through its 9th annual Teen Opportunity Fair. Taking place throughout March, the fairs offer young people, ages 13-19, the chance to explore summer job opportunities, participate in hands-on activities, and connect with mentors who can help them take the next step toward their future.

"The CPD is committed to building community," said CEO, Rosa Escareño. "I encourage young people to get active in their local park, learn about our array of opportunities, and take advantage of them."

This year, the CPD is expanding its reach by introducing a fourth location dedicated to Deaf and Hard of Hearing teens. Hosted at Brighton Park Community Campus, 4830 S. Western Ave., this fair is specifically designed for high school students enrolled in transition programs. Attendees will have access to resources on college, career training, and employment, with Deaf and Hard of Hearing mentors available to provide guidance.

Beyond job opportunities, the fairs will also provide one-on-one support for teens interested in applying for the Rec Leader in Training and Counselor in Training stipend-based programs. Additionally, students will have the chance to join local teen centers, explore summer camps, and sign up for upcoming seasonal activities.

Teen Opportunity Fairs will be held at three locations: Warren Park at 6601 N. Western Ave., Mar. 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Brighton Park Community Campus at 4830 S. Western Ave., Mar. 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Each fair will offer a variety of resources and unique experiences tailored to help teens develop skills, gain confidence, and prepare for their future.

For more information, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312/742.PLAY or 312/747.2001 (TTY).

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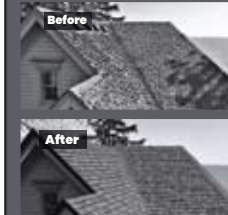
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Letter to the Editor

Edgewater Senior Center

The Edgewater Senior Center inside the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway, is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can be reached at 312-742-5323. Some services provided include virtual and in-person programming, free legal aid, computer and tech support, fitness classes, craft groups, and a free lunch everyday.

Free kidney testing March 20

Weiss Hosp. will also be hosting the National Kidney Foundation for free kidney and diabetes screenings 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 20 at 4700 N. Marine Dr.

Patients must be 18-years and older, visit www.mobilescreening.nkfi.org/preregistration to pre-register and complete your questionnaire prior to screening. Walk ins are welcome the day of screenings.

For more information call 312-321-1500.

I appreciate my neighbors who have engaged in discussions about the Broadway upzoning process. Even when I disagree with certain viewpoints, public debate is fundamental to our democracy. I look forward to working with those I disagree with to build a diverse, resilient, and inclusive Edgewater and Uptown.

A small vocal group has held outsized influence in the 48th Ward for decades and is now struggling to adjust to a new reality. Chicago is changing, and city leadership is working to ensure all voices are heard, not just the loudest ones. The Broadway Land Use Framework is not about a handful of individuals—it's about shaping the future of Edgewater and Uptown in a way that benefits the ward, the city, and future generations.

Opponents claim this process was rushed and lacked transparency. That could not be further from the truth. Over the past several months, the Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] hosted

The Chicago I want to live in

three community meetings—two in person and one via Zoom—to ensure accessibility. The DPD website provides recordings, notes, and presentations. A public feedback form was available for months, and 1,500 people filled it out, with the majority supporting the plan. The Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] received over 450 letters, 300 in support. All written feedback is publicly available.

Ald. Leni Mana-Hoppenworth and her staff have gone above and beyond to engage the community, meeting with block clubs, listening to concerns, and fielding calls and emails. Every week, she has shared updates on the project and ways to engage.

Yet, somehow, this is not enough. At the CPC's in-person hearing, where 40 people spoke, a select few vocal opponents resorted to disruptive behavior, rudely interrupting city officials. Their strategy was not about civil discourse but about shouting down progress.

This plan reflects a democratic process in action, incorporating

input from over 1,500 engaged residents, the majority of whom want a more vibrant, welcoming Broadway that supports housing, businesses, and future generations. Cities across the country are adopting processes like those used by the DPD because, historically, planning decisions were often influenced by a small but vocal minority resistant to any change. Chicago is moving toward a more equitable, transparent process where all voices are considered, not just those with historical influence.

The city has done the right thing by weighing all voices—not just the loudest, most entrenched ones. The question now is whether we move forward as a city that values inclusivity, growth, and opportunity or allow the same voices that have long resisted progress to hold us back.

I know what kind of Chicago I want to live in.

Neville Hemming
Edgewater

BIKE PATHS from p. 1

large swaths of the city commercial deserts exist. So by intentionally making it difficult to access other communities, city planners limit commercial choices and service options to consumers from historically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Traveling outside one person's 15-minute neighborhood is made more difficult through the systemic segregation augmented by taxpayer-funded man-made barriers.

In 2023, the Dept. of Planning and Development completed the Clark Street Crossroads plan that removed parking from Clark St. and narrowed the roadway from Irving Park north to Montrose.

Prior to that, the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] butchered the Clark St. commercial corridor in Edgewater between Rosehill and Devon Ave. by removing commercial street parking in favor of narrowed and blocked roadway for privileged

Traveling outside one person's 15-minute neighborhood is made more difficult through the systemic segregation augmented by taxpayer-funded man-made barriers.

bike lanes that have since resulted in massive traffic problems.

The next victim of the bike and scooter lobby will apparently be those who use Clark St. between Montrose and Winnemac.

The 46th Ward is working with CDOT and the 47th Ward to conduct outreach to businesses and collect feedback from neighbors to inform the design work.

Those who wish to provide feedback can write to CompleteStreets@cityofchicago.org and info@46thward.com.

UNDER-L from p. 1

holder groups on agreements for use and upkeep of certain areas. There will not be trash or recycling bins. We encourage people to carry out their trash and use public receptacles on city streets or at CTA stations."

It has yet to be determined if local Special Service Areas will perform a role in this area.

When asked about tent encampments and after-school gatherings by adolescents, Gavrilos said the areas are patrolled by the CPD and the CTA is working with local aldermanic offices and city social service providers to best service people in need and to keep people in the community safe.

There are no public restrooms included in the Under-L area nor are there plans to include signs prohibiting firearms in the Under-L area. The CTA is furnishing a pedestrian trail, not a bicycle pathway, Gavrilos clarified. There will be Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] approved crosswalks at all intersections with side streets from Lawrence to Bryn Mawr. All crosswalks will follow CDOT standards and will not be raised.

When asked about public artwork on the support posts under the overhead "L" tracks, Gavrilos explained, "CTA must be able to inspect and maintain all structures. Covering any of the structures in any way including with public art will not allow proper inspection and maintenance so therefore is not an option. Graffiti is against the law. Public art is not part of the concept but could be something that is funded and added by [the community] at a later time."

When asked about hours of operation or possible closing time, Gavrilos stated, "It has yet to be determined if hours of operation will be posted. Under 'L' are public spaces and subject to the same law that applies to other public spaces. There are no specific hours for this area."

LEAD from p. 1

of any lead-based paint hazards.

A design firm conducted an inspection of the unit and found the presence of lead-based paint on the premises but the CHA continued to tell the family it had no knowledge of lead-based paint in the apartment.

The family's attorneys claimed at least three other children suffered from lead poisoning though the CHA kept telling the family that it had no knowledge of lead in the apartment.

In January, a jury found the CHA liable for the children's injuries including past and future medical care and awarded a total of \$24,141,000 to Amiah and \$3,500,000 to Jah'mir.

The family also sued the Habitat Company, which managed the building from 2016 to 2019, and East Lake Management Group, which managed the building from 2019 to 2022, but the jury found they were not liable for the children's injuries.

The current lawsuit seeks to recover damages for Habitat's fee and costs.

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