

Plodding
wins the race.
— Aesop

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Alderman continues to push for housing development on parking lot

BY PETER VON BUOL

Aldermen Matt Martin [47th] and Andre Vasquez [40th] hosted a virtual community meeting March 18 to discuss the possibility of giving away for free a city-owned parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave. to a developer who would replace the parking lot with a multi-unit apartment building.

The parking lot provides critical parking infrastructure for nearby shops and restaurants in Lincoln Square, and, during festival season, it also serves as a key logistical component for the city's annual German Day, Mayfest and Applefest celebrations. Now celebrating its 100th year, the German Day Festivities are one of Chicago's oldest cultural celebrations.

Opponents of the plan say that losing that open space during and after construction of a development would also leave the popular and well-attended Lincoln Square Farmers Market struggling to survive, since the market itself fills the other parking lot adjacent to the site, leaving many market customers with no place left to park.

Those who are for retaining the parking lot say the parking lot is crucial to the survival of the area's businesses and institutions, many of which draw customers from other neighborhoods, the suburbs and other states.

One of the main advocates for the elimination of the parking lot are members of the Active Transportation Alliance, a government-funded public transportation advocacy group which encourages people to ride bikes, and discourages the use of private cars. Building Transit-Oriented Developments [TOD], they believe, will encourage people to use mass transit and to not drive, although they typically offer no evidence when making that claim.

As a TOD, the projected development would feature few parking spaces for building residents, and none for their guests, shared car services or delivery drivers, and its construction would not be undertaken without government subsidies like "affordable housing" tax credits.

Last year, Ald. Martin had presented a plan by an out of state developer - The Community Builders - who wanted to build just such a development on the site but, in the end, the project did not receive those city subsidies. Martin said last week's meeting was not about any specific proposal



(Inset) Ald. Matt Martin [47th] hosted a virtual meeting over the fate of a parking lot that some neighbors see as a critical part of their commercial districts' infrastructure. The area marked 2 on map, at the corner of Western and Leland avenues, is the parking lot in peril.

but was rather a further discussion about a future proposal.

"Although my office has not received a formal development proposal for the site, we're striving to proactively collect as much community input as possible regarding the potential development-related pros and cons. We welcome any input you have and, as with all other development matters, will keep residents apprised if we receive a formal application for the site," he said.

The effort to use the parking lot to build a housing project actually goes back to the summer of 2019, and several meetings were held in private as the plan was kept secret from the community for most of 2019.

Martin said he wanted to continue the discussions with the community because he wanted to be transparent. Martin cited a recent community push-poll survey, which included 1,700 respondents, that in its bias never even addressed the option to leave the parking lot as it is.

"We want to take advantage of having a TOD so close to public transportation [and] increasing the neighborhood's density. We've had really large support for affordability and senior housing and promoting quality development that keeps with architectural context," said Martin.

Martin conceded the survey did not provide a definition for affordability and it was difficult to gauge exactly what respondents meant by affordability. During the meeting, some said they had believed affordability meant lower property taxes. Others said

an official definition would be connected to the salaries of local government workers such as public school teachers. The city of Chicago defines affordable housing as 60% of the area's median income.

To those who were surprised by the speed of the changes coming to Lincoln Square, Martin added this was the third meeting held on the subject. But that's not entirely true. The effort to use the parking lot to build a housing project actually goes back to the summer of 2019, and several meetings were held in private as the plan was kept secret from the community for most of 2019.

This newspaper first heard rumors about it in a local tavern from a city worker in Nov. 2019.

But by then the Heart of Lincoln Square, a community group co-founded by Ald. Martin, and the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce had already written letters in support of the project to City Hall, while not notifying other area residents or hosting public meetings to solicit community feedback.

Like the earlier Jan. 21 virtual visioning meeting, most of the real debating on March 18 took place in the hundreds of comments and questions posed by area businesses and residents in the meeting's chatbox. The neighborhood is clearly divided on the value of keeping or disposing of the parking lot.

It is the nature of virtual meetings today to stifle open democracy by allowing only one person to control who can speak, allow-

PARKING LOT see p. 8



DePaul Prep Rams are winners of the Chipotle Clash of Champions.

Top ranked DePaul Prep defeats Evanston 51-36, wins Chipotle Clash of Champions

BY JACK LYDON

Almost four years ago, the favored DePaul College Prep Rams lost a 3A sectional final to North Chicago, and 14-year-old freshman Ram Brian Mathews took it hard. He was broken up over the loss, even well after the game.

Four years later, Mathews, a senior, would have none of that. In the biggest game of his young life, he played his best game ever. He did exactly what the Rams needed him to do, and then some.

The DePaul Prep Rams, 3333 N. Rockwell St., (14-2, 10-2) de-

feated the Evanston Township High School Wildkits (17-3, 8-2) by a score of 51-36 to win the Chipotle Clash of Champions end of the year high school basketball tournament on March 13, earning the Rams the Sun-Times number one ranking.

With no state playoffs this year, the only year-end prize was the Chipotle Clash. Eight of the top teams, at the season mid-point, won invitations from former New Trier and Fenwick coach Rick Malnati and the other organiz-

CHAMPIONS see p. 8

Mailbox theft crew targeting residential buildings in Uptown, Lincoln Square

BY CWBCHICAGO

A burglary crew is breaking into residential buildings to steal mailbox contents on the North Side, police said March 19. The crime is similar to patterns identified elsewhere in the city that involve organized crews that use stolen or duplicated postal service keys to access buildings and delivered mail.

"Basically, the entire U.S. Postal Service is riddled with fraud," a law enforcement source recently told this reporter.

Mail thieves are "part of a larger operation that uses stolen mail to open checking accounts and launder stolen checks," among other crimes, the source said.

According to the newly-released alert, mail thefts have been reported in four buildings across Uptown and Lincoln Square since March 9: on the 800 block of W. Argyle at 5:10 a.m. March 9; on the 2400 block of W. Foster at 2:30 a.m. March 10; on the 4900 block of N. Marine at 2:17 a.m. March 16, and on the 4900 block of N. Western at 2 a.m. March 19.

Police provided descriptions of five offenders:

- A White female with strawberry blond hair pulled in a ponytail who wears black and white gym

shoes

- A bald White male who wears a black jacket
- An individual with a light complexion and a tattoo on the left hand who wears a white panda hat
- A male of unknown race in his early- to mid-20's who wears a white baseball cap
- A White male in his early- to mid-20's who wears a gray baseball cap

Anyone with information about the thieves can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding crime pattern P21-3-036.

Two months ago, police issued a similar alert for the Lincoln Park and Ravenswood neighborhoods after a group of two men and two women stole mail and packages from residential buildings. Detectives said those thieves are two men and two women of unknown race with light complexions between 20- and 30-years-old.

In November, a woman was allegedly caught red-handed as she stole envelopes and parcels from mailboxes inside a Loop condo building. Prosecutors said she was carrying a U.S. Postal Service master key as they charged her with identity theft, forgery, burglary, possession of burglary tools, and possession of methamphetamine.

Don't be a jerk...Being a 'good sport' is about embracing a moral imperative



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

"Be a good sport."

Words that echoed through my childhood as a moral imperative.

When uttered by a parent, no higher challenge. No greater call to gentlemanly behavior.

Upon hearing this mannerly imperative, the course was always clear. The expectation was a call for action with honor. Dignity. Low on drama and high on behavior that was courteous, self-effacing and good humored.

It meant you took a deep breath, swallowed your pride and acted with a resource of fervent discipline.

In other words, "Do what is hard." Share. Forgive. Understand. Suck it up. Keep your composure.

Above all, don't be a jerk.

Those were words that always came in handy in adolescence, in times of teenage trouble, moments of mid-life outrage, and in cold flashes of adult hatred.

Or in hot episodes of mature rage.

"Be a good sport" was always the reminder of what was expected above and beyond the call of duty. When a moment proved to be unjust, or the actions of another were an obvious betrayal.

It was about disappointment, hushed judgment and not obliterating an opponent.

It was always about keeping balance on the moral high ground, and never the easy way out of some difficulty at another's expense or saving face. In our home it was always about preserving the "esprit de corps."

Ultimately "being a good sport," was about embracing a moral imperative. A serious life lesson, and doing the right thing instinctively for reward always in the future. For a payoff not immediate.

It meant commitment to some ideal of life bigger than yourself. Not always clear or certain, but a life choice shared with those who loved you. A code of tribal, family, honor that connected to your heart. Words that shape an important moral roadmap. Helping us find our direction and get back home.

When you don't know the way, you are just stumbling around with no plan. It's always dangerous to be without a roadmap for a safe return to stable living. Without it we are merely bumping around in the dark. Or at least life's shadows where people of shadowed-living always seem to be crowding around us, I'm sorry to say. They rarely help us reset our moral geography, and that has never been more important than in this present state of pandemic.

Have you discovered any new-found passage ways out of the shadows or any clarity in your life during the pandemic? Have you come up with any formulas for deepening meaning and purpose in your life? Especially while faced with the challenges of isolation, separation and loss during the pandemic? Many people have spoken of their new found understanding of what's really of value in their lives after months of life-altering changes in predictable living.

Don't forget the realities of everyday life. Maybe we have been rescued by people we never knew as a friend. By their courtesy, kindness and attention to our needs.

Maybe someone has reached out to us for assistance and we have become a part of their struggle for survival. Helping keep

someone's kitchen grocery-filled during COVID, for example, might have been the very thread that has given you the most hope. Chicagoans have always been people of great survival. In the primitive wilderness of the Prairie we have faced great physical storms and challenges. Like warfare with our neighbors. Or when the stockade of Fort Dearborn was burned and the residents slaughtered. Or catastrophes on the waterscape of Lake Michigan. Or epidemics in times of primitive medicine as when we lost one-fifth of the city's population during the plagues of Cholera during the 1840s. Or when three-fifths of the city burnt to the ground in the fire of 1871.

While improvements of technologies often made recovery more certain, it was really the sprit of Chicago's people that led us to recovery and new directions. We never stopped being the fastest growing city in the nation for the last half of the 19th century. We could always boast, in truth, about Chicago's great contributions to the growth of the American ideal.

Just look at the hope, today, that local commerce has produced by its ability to heal and sustain local businesses and whole neighborhoods.

Nowhere has that been truer than in the Gold Coast Triangle of the Gibson Group, Carmines, and Tavern on Rush. Their creative and unbroken commitment to sustain local commerce, protect workers' livelihood and literally feed those most in need is



Sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the Standing Lincoln.
Photo courtesy National Park Service

now a heroic new chapter of Chicago history.

The wise and sensitive management of these Chicago institutions not only provided great vittles to neighborhood customers, but kept local residents' spirits at an all time high. Careful to expand the protection of employees, ensuring their well-being and survival in a crushing period of hard times. All the details and humanity of everyday living shaping the successful formula for our city's achievement of survival as much as the development of any vaccine has.

It's enough to shine the light we need to find the path toward home, for a way out of the confinement of pandemic.

As well as out of the current crisis of Chicago's urban government. All the bitterness and suspicions that come when leadership is no longer respected or trusted, when leadership is seen as deeply flawed and hobbled.

Misplaced suspicions and politician's career fears do more to shape the picture of everyday Chicago politics than clear thinking about local needs.

Perhaps all is not lost. Maybe the time is ripe for us to "be good sports." Maybe there is still some moral high ground for us to achieve by our courage and behavior. Maybe there is still time to change the approaching disaster that surrounds this city in the ever increasing drama of violence and increased crime.

Perhaps Mayor Lightfoot can still salvage the tumbling failure of her squandered time in office. Perhaps the mayor can find a way out of the latest armed assaults of Lake Shore Dr. high-rises by thugs intent on civil unrest.

Perhaps there is still time to undo her failed perception by police to respect and sustain their daily sacrifices. Maybe there still is time to stop the shambles that is unfolding in our public schools. Though hardly time to become their friend. Yes it's hard to imagine there is any way out of the economic disaster of failed businesses and mass exodus of employers from the Gold Coast and City Center communities.

But Chicagoans' commitment to our Prairie dream continually saves the day and paves the way for the future as capitol of the American heartland.

Across the past, whenever Chicagoans worked together, we have thrived. We survived, redefining ourselves as good neighbors. A concept old Mayor Daley rekindled at every juncture. "We are a city of neighborhoods," he'd say, for all that was holy. More sustaining. More inventive. More committed. Emboldened by our resources. Confident in our talent. Transformed by our commercial know-how and the political skills.

Prayed for "at the church of our choice." What we excelled at was the courage to "be a good sport." To challenge ourselves to ride high on the moral landscape of fairness and hospitality. Welcome

and opportunity. Promise and blessing. For all that was holy.

Or as they say on the South Side, "Don't be a jerk."

FAVORITE STATUE: Chicago was supposed to form committees tasked with reviewing 'problematic' statues and monuments around town. But the clandestine and heavily secret goings-on is a guarantee that nothing more than a boondoggle is underway. Toss the statues out.

The issues involved in this are heavy and cannot be dismissed in a wave of woke-speak by Univ. of Chicago pals of **Mayor Lightfingers**. And as a painter let me say that the more "artists" that are a part of the process, the screwier the outcome will be.

Chicagoans must organize and stop the mayor - and others - from destroying the history and cultural significance of important works of art across the city. They're ripping us off.

The mayor will be out of office before the project can be completed, but she's doing the damage now. Let's start to organize. Do your own investigating and see what lunacy is planned. Most of the city appointees don't know their way around art or culture. But those with experience will get sandbagged by more aggressive Lightfinger operatives. Time to speak truth to power, neighbors, and don't let the woke dispatch us to Zoom Hell either, show up in person.

EMERALD LOAVES AND FISHES: Old St. Patrick's Church organized some Irish hospitality and love across Chicago this St. Patrick's Day by feeding those in need at some of the city's home-

GOOD SPORT see p. 6

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Chillin' on the iconic orange "Friends" couch, left to right: Amie Zander, Kallas, Violet and Gloria Szymanski.



Near North Sider Jerry Wunder's Great Horned Owl in flight photo.



Catch the Quantum Mirror exhibit at the Mag Mile gallery ArtSpace8.



Happy 2nd anniversary to Ald. Maria Hadden and Natalia Vera!

"Friends" experience fun for fans of all ages



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

How you doin'?

Ok, so maybe I don't say that famous catchphrase quite like Joey Tribbiani from the mega-hit TV series "Friends," but really, how you doin'? It has been a long year for us all.

In trying times like these TV sitcoms have helped to get me through life. When I broke my leg and ankle, watching "Frasier" reruns in the middle of the night was pretty much the one and only thing that got me laughing. When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, after my surgery and the 33 radiation treatments that followed, "Friends," was the show that helped keep my sense of humor intact. I realized if I didn't laugh, I would cry.

So I laughed my butt off with a little help from my "Friends," -- Monica, Chandler, Rachel, Ross, Phoebe and Joey. The show was a mental lifesaver for me.

That's why I can't wait to check out The FRIENDS Experience Chicago, which re-opened last week and runs through May 31 at the Shops of Northbridge, 540 N. Michigan Ave.

I want to see the 12 rooms of what I imagine to be funky set recreations, and the original props and costumes. I want to sit on the iconic orange couch or at Monica and Rachel's famed kitchen table. I can explore Joey and Chandler's apartment and Central Perk, take pix for social media and maybe even buy myself a little something from the limited-edition sale stuff. And I would even get to poke the Ugly Naked Guy.

My former Lerner Newspapers co-worker Amie Zander booked her appointment time last week and headed downtown with her pre-teen daughter Kallas and her friend, Violet, as well as Zander's mom, Gloria Szymanski.

"It was actually very fun," said Zander. "It was very well done, considering the pandemic -- lots of social distance, sanitizer, etc. The sets and costumes were cool to see up close and there was even an entire Central Perk made out of Legos. I really liked Monica's apartment. You could take pictures by the famous purple door and even sit at the kitchen table. It was all very interactive."

Seems Kallas and Violet had a great time too.

"They are nine-years-old," said Zander. "They both got into 'Friends' during the pandemic. They LOVED it!"

I'm betting the rest of us "Friends" fans will too. General admission is \$35. For more info, visit friendstheexperience.com.

Calling all young poets... what's your favorite poem? Since I was a young child, mine has always been Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, by Robert Frost.

Perhaps you have or know an aspiring poet? The Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards contest is open to kids in kindergarten through 12th grade across the state. The participating young person can be affiliated with any school (public, private, home, etc) but they can only submit one poem and it has to be written by only one author.

Poems can't be any longer than 25 lines for those submitted by kids in grades K through 5 and they can't exceed 50 lines for poems submitted by those in grades six to 12. All entries must be original work. For an entry form or questions, email Poetry@ilhumanities.org. Contest winners will be notified by Aug. 1.

Wonderful photo... many thanks to our eagle-eyed reader, Jerry Wunder, who sent in a National Geographic-worthy photo of a Great Horned Owl in flight taken while he was out for a recent stroll.

"I got this picture walking between the Chicago Historical Society (History Museum) on Clark and North just walking to the lake," said Wunder. "There was nobody around and I was just going for a walk from my house to North Avenue Beach.

Pretty cool."

Indeed it is, Mr. Wunder. Thanks for sharing.

Mirror, mirror, on the wall... artist Adrian Stein's trippy new exhibit opened last week, Quantum Mirror, a 300-square-foot immersive installation where the digital and physical worlds of art collide and multiply in a kaleidoscopic array created by more than 150 mirrored surfaces. The free display opened last week at the contemporary fine art gallery ArtSpace8, 900 N. Michigan Ave.

Quantum Mirror takes the viewer through a journey of self-awareness, exploring how different states of consciousness can create alternate means of self-perception. Stein incorporates floating holographic human figures, resonant frequencies and sounds of the body, the visitor's reflection in the engulfing mirrored-walls are juxtaposed by his animations. He speaks to our deep dependence on technology, and the installation, "lays inactive without its virtual core, in the same way as modern consciousness would be paralyzed without virtual connection -- representing how everyday human life has crossed over to become a spectrum between raw humanity and

cyborg consciousness."

Guatemalan-born but Chicago-based, Stein seeks to understand how humans view themselves through the many mirrors viewed in everyday life which reveal the borders, glass walls, and masks built between one another in the process.

"The opportunity to convey the concept behind Quantum Mirror is an exceptionally proud moment for me as an emerging Latino artist," said Stein. "In the wake of a fresh new year, I hope this timely installation brings light to the ways that social media affects our sense of self.

"As a Guatemalan native living in America, this piece en-

FRIENDS see p. 5

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City expands parking meters on North Side

Not only did they pave paradise and put up a parking lot, but now they're adding parking meters.

Yes, Montrose Harbor in Lincoln Park will now be host to the dreaded meter boxes.

All totaled, about 750 formerly free parking spaces will be metered, with the vast majority of those new metered spaces going on North Side Chicago streets.

Mayor Lightfoot has blamed her budget deficit for why the city will soon install new parking meters in Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lakeview, The Gold Coast, Bucktown and Uptown. She did not explain why the distribution is so sharply targeted to only the North Side, although curiously no new

parking meters will be placed north of Lawrence Ave.

New metered parking will also extend along part of Wilson Ave., N. Simonds Dr. and along a stretch of Lawrence that runs parallel to the lake near the dog beach. Other spots targeted by the mayor for new meters include Lincoln Ave. in Lincoln Park, on Elston Ave. near the Lincoln Yards project, Halsted St. north of North Ave.; Cullom Ave. near Lincoln Ave., on Southport Ave. near Diversey Pkwy., Belmont Ave. between Racine and Greenview, a long strip of Broadway in Uptown, N. Orleans, Wells, Kinzie, Larrabee and Dearborn streets, and along Clybourn Ave.

At Montrose Harbor, once operational the fee to park would be about \$10 for eight hours.

The mayor's \$12.8 billion spending plan relied on a 5¢ gas tax, a \$94 million property tax increase with a provision to raise them annually by an amount tied to the consumer price index, as well as a plan to refinance hundreds of millions in debt.

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Police Beat...

Concealed carry holder opened fire on "aggressive" man

A concealed carry holder opened fire on a man who approached him "in an aggressive manner" March 17, police said. But the other man, who was not struck by any bullets, never displayed a gun.

CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said a 37-year-old man was in an alley on the 2900 block of W. Belmont around 5:20 p.m. when the other man walked up while reaching into his pockets. The first man, who is licensed to carry a concealed handgun, fired several rounds because he thought the stranger had a gun, she said.

Initial information from the scene indicated that the concealed carry holder thought the other man was trying to take a catalytic converter from a vehicle, but police did not confirm that any theft was attempted.

The stranger ran eastbound, got into a white Ford F-150 truck, and sped away.

Bartoli said the concealed carry holder was not injured.

Area Five detectives are investigating.

Man charged with stealing car, speeding toward cops while on \$1,000 bond for robberies

A man who posted just \$1,000 to get out of jail in Aug. 2020 after he was charged with robbing a boy of his bike and then trying to mug a woman nearby is back in custody after he stole a car, crashed into police vehicles, and raced toward officers who were trying to stop him, prosecutors said.

Last summer Isaac Lacy, 23, ripped a 14-year-old's bike away outside a Logan Square cycle shop and told the kid, "You're a racist and you ain't gonna do sh*t."

Lacy then allegedly rode the stolen bike for about 30 minutes before stopping and trying to rob a 23-year-old woman. That hold-up



Isaac Lacy

failed when a CPD squad car just happened to roll down the street, prosecutors said at the time.

Judge Mary Marubio allowed him to walk out of jail by posting a \$1,000 bond.

Lacy wasn't so lucky when he returned to bond court March 18 to face the state's newest allegations.

Prosecutors said Lacy jumped into a car that was left running on a hotel parking lot in suburban Harvey on Monday. When the car's owner came out of her room, he allegedly told her to hop in. She didn't. And he allegedly drove off in her vehicle.

Police spotted the car and pursued it briefly, but they stopped after it sped through a few traffic lights, prosecutors said.

Cops successfully pulled the car over a short time later, and an officer got out of her squad car with her hand held up, indicating that the driver should stop.

Instead, Lacy allegedly accelerated toward her. She got out of the way and was not injured as the car sped past.

Cops stopped the car again. Again, Lacy drove toward the cops — forcing one of them to jump into a squad car for safety, prosecutors said. Lacy allegedly struck the police car, but the officer was not injured.

After being advised not to speak in bond court because prosecutors would use anything he said against him, Lacy told Judge Arthur Willis that he got out of the allegedly stolen car after the crash and "there was a little bit of damage."

Officers eventually arrested Lacy in Chicago. Prosecutors say hotel surveillance cameras recorded the initial auto theft.

Lacy is charged with felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle; and two felony counts each of aggravated assault of police; criminal damage to government property; and resisting police. Prosecutors also charged him with misdemeanor counts of resisting police, leaving the scene, fleeing police, and driving on a suspended license.

Man critical after stabbing near Millennium Park

Police are looking for the attacker who stabbed a man near Millennium Park March 19. The victim, age 23, is in critical condition, according to CPD.

He was walking on the sidewalk at Michigan and Randolph when the offender ran up and began stabbing him with a knife around 8:35 p.m., police said. The attacker ran westbound on the north side of Randolph St.

An ambulance transported the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Witnesses told police the suspect is a short, thin, younger Black male who wore a black winter cap and a black jacket. He may have come out of the Metra Millennium Station immediately before the attack, officers at the scene said.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

"Jail-eating man" back in custody after violating electronic monitoring rules

Chicago's jail-eating man, who has cost taxpayers at least \$2 million in medical bills by eating pieces of the detention facility, has been sent back to Cook County jail after he allegedly violated the terms of electronic monitoring in a pending identity theft case.

Undoubtedly, the sheriff's department would really like Lamont Cathey to be somewhere else.

Cathey was arrested Feb. 25 for allegedly stealing a man's wallet from a Lincoln Park gym locker and then using the victim's credit cards at nearby businesses, just eight days after he was released from prison.

It seems the Illinois Dept. of Corrections (IDOC) doesn't want Cathey back, either. They decided not to try to revoke his parole after he got arrested.

Just three days after deputies attached an electronic monitor to his ankle on Feb. 28, Cathey left his house and went to a South Side motel, prosecutors say. He then allegedly traveled to various locations throughout the city before returning home a few hours later.

The next day, on March 4, Cathey had permission to travel to Skokie for a court hearing in the identity theft case. He left his house at 7:30 a.m. and returned about 10 hours later — but he never went to court. So, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

When deputies arrested him, Cathey, 24, reportedly told them he didn't go to court because he didn't have any money to get there. He did, however, have money to drive to a bunch of other locations when he should have been in Skokie, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.

Another hotel party blamed after three arrested in Loop

Three people are in custody after shots were fired outside Harold Washington College in the Loop March 19. And, once again, the gunfire appears to be connected with people who were partying in a hotel.

No injuries were reported.

Police responded to calls of shots fired near the first block of E. Lake St. at 12:28 a.m. They quickly located two shell casings at 30 E. Lake, which is the entrance to Harold Washington.

A security guard from a nearby hotel saw a group of men involved in the shooting get into an Infiniti G35 and drive away, police said. Within minutes, cops found the car sitting outside another hotel — The LondonHouse, 75 E. Wacker — a few minutes later.

Police arrested the three men who were inside the car and seized a gun, police said. LondonHouse workers then asked cops to help them clear out a party that was apparently associated with the group police arrested.

Charges are pending against the occupants of the Infiniti.

Hotel parties

Downtown hotels have been offering sharply reduced rates for the past year as most people stopped traveling during the COVID pandemic. Entry-level guest rooms that would draw nightly rates of \$300 during ordinary

times have been offered for less than \$100.

And some people have been taking advantage of those rock-bottom prices by hosting large parties in guest rooms. City officials blamed hotel party attendees for a spike in violence along the river last summer, and incidents continue to be reported.

In some recent incidents:

- Police arrested six men and seized six guns when a traffic stop led them to a party in the Eurostars Magnificent Mile hotel, 660 N. State, on March 7.
- On Feb. 28, a man was charged with a gun violation after he fired a weapon into the air to break up a fight outside the LondonHouse.
- A man was shot with a rifle inside a room at the Hampton Inn River North, 33 W. Illinois, on Jan. 30.
- A shoot-out at the Swissotel, 323 E. Wacker, left a man injured on Nov. 7, 2020.

But, things are quickly returning to normal as people become vaccinated. Travel is increasing and hotel prices are on the way back up. LondonHouse, which offered rooms for as little as \$75 online just a couple of months ago, is charging at least \$150 for the same accommodations tonight.

from behind, said he had a gun, and forced her into the alley around 3:45 a.m., according to a community alert from Area Three detectives.

He sexually assaulted her in the alley and then walked away eastbound, police said.

The woman went to her home, which is near Wrigley Field, and outcried to her boyfriend, who called police. Officers drove her to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment.

Police said the offender is a Black male in his late-20's or early-30's who wore a black nylon covering on his head. He is about 5'10" tall and 175 pounds.

Anyone with information about the attack can contact detectives at 312-744-8261 regarding case JE-174962.

Burglars busted after stealing neighbor's camera-equipped doorbell

Two men burglarized their downstairs neighbor's apartment and stole his camera-equipped doorbell, prosecutors say.

You've probably already figured out how they got caught.

The alleged victim came home March 17 and realized items were missing from his apartment on the 3700 block of N. Albany. So, he pulled up footage from his surveillance camera network. Much to his surprise, the video showed his downstairs neighbors, Chad Palmer and Denué Kerr taking a laptop, iPads, and boxes of property from his residence, prosecutors say.

The system also allegedly recorded footage of Palmer literally stealing the victim's Ring doorbell, which is equipped with a camera.

Police went to the upstairs apartment that Kerr and Palmer share. Their roommate let officers in. Prosecutors say the cops found the victim's property inside the unit. Both men allegedly "made admissions" after police arrested them.

Judge Arthur Willis ordered Palmer held without bail for violating the terms of bail in a pending case and on an escape warrant. Willis said if Palmer becomes eligible for release, he'll need to post a \$5,000 deposit and go onto electronic monitoring. Kerr, who

has no adult background, was released on his own recognizance.

Teens mug CTA passenger at Belmont station

A 40-year-old man was beaten and robbed at the Belmont CTA station in Lakeview on March 19, police said. Four teenagers, four male and a female, attacked the victim as he left the platform shortly before 9 p.m., according to Officer Jose Jara, a CPD spokesperson.

Jara said the victim suffered a bloody nose and lip but did not want medical services. The offenders got away with the man's wallet, which contained about \$1,000 cash and a ring.

Officers reviewed CTA surveillance footage and saw the offenders board a northbound Brown Line train immediately after the attack. Cops who watched the video provided descriptions of four attackers:

- A Black male who wore a gray jacket, blue jeans, and Timberland boots
- A Black male who wore black and white-striped joggers
- A Black male who wore a blue hoodie under a black jacket
- A black male who wore a black jacket

Man had gun

at Uptown music video shoot

An Uptown man faces felony gun charges after police responded to calls of people filming a video with a handgun on the street March 18.

As it turns out, the video crew didn't have the only camera in the area.

Cops went to the 4400 block of N. Magnolia to investigate calls of people with a gang filming a music video, throwing up gang signs, and brandishing a gun around 5:30 p.m., according to prosecutors and CPD records.



James Sims

is strapped to a pole at a nearby intersection. The camera footage confirmed that there was a group filming a video there.

The video shoot broke up as police arrived, but CPD's camera crew continued to watch as James Sims carried a shirt with an object inside toward a nearby car, Assistant State's Attorney Brian Burkhardt said.

Sims allegedly placed the shirt and object on the car's passenger seat, then walked away. Police found a loaded gun inside the shirt, according to Burkhardt.

Sims, 22, has been on probation for multiple narcotics cases since Sept. 2020, according to his defense attorney.

Prosecutors charged Sims on Friday with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

Judge Arthur Willis ordered Sims held without bail for violating the conditions of probation. Willis set bail in the new gun case at \$5,000.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Rental experts say more young renters are opting for renting in the suburbs, searching for the wide-open spaces that make social distancing and quarantining easier. Demand for apartment living has declined in the downtown area which relies heavily on our mass transit system, a mode that has also fallen out of favor in the last year.

Apartment market in flux due to pandemic



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

A year ago, before the pandemic, Chicago renters were flocking to luxury downtown high-rise towers because apartment dwellers yearned to live in the urban heart of the city close to jobs, great restaurants, entertainment and high-end retail shops.

However, when the COVID-19 pandemic upended urban living last March, hundreds of restaurants, shops, bars and theaters shut down. At the same time, major corporations stressed a work-from-home business model, reducing the number of employees working from downtown offices during the day. And seeing that the New York City subway system was a major COVID-19 vector meant nobody in Chicago is yet willing to get on CTA buses and trains to travel downtown.

Realtors say there still is strong demand for rental units in walk-up buildings with outdoor space, especially in lakefront neighborhoods such as Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lakeview, Edgewater and Rogers Park.

FRIENDS from p. 3

compasses my experiences and analysis of a fractured identity, informed by an array of cultures within my single body."

That's amore!... raise your pizza slice to wish a very happy second wedding anniversary (and nine years together) to Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] and her wife, Natalia Vera. Apparently, these two lovebirds met at the Mayne Stage in Rogers Park and after hours of talking, they went next door to JB Alberto's Pizza to grab a bite and the rest is history. Every year since, they've ordered pizza on their anniversary.

Here's wishing a Happy Pass-over to all who celebrate. May your week be filled with loving family, savory noshing, good health, and much happiness.

In addition, more young renters also are opting for renting in the suburbs, searching for the wide-open spaces that make social distancing and quarantining easier, rental experts say.

Demand for apartment living has declined more in urban areas like downtown Chicago which relies heavily on our scary mass transit, noted multi-family lender Mike Dury, president and chief executive office at Merchants Capital, which makes apartment loans in Chicago, Indiana, Minnesota and New York City.

More young renters are opting for renting in the suburbs, rental experts say.

"Not everyone will want to work from home permanently, Dury told Midwest Real Estate News. "People will want to live close by their jobs again." However, the return to downtown rentals will be slow to return to normal, especially in Chicago, he said.

Demand is high for the suburban rental environment for apartment dwellers who can afford to make the move and who have kept their jobs during the pandemic, Dury noted.

Help from Uncle Sam

A whopping 10 million apartment dwellers fell behind on monthly rent payments as of Jan., 2021, reported the National Apartment Assoc.

However, help is on the way via

the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan which recently passed Congress and was signed into law by President Joe Biden.

The plan includes a range of measures which will have a major impact on both renters and landlords. These components include \$27.4 billion in rental housing assistance, an additional \$300 per week in unemployment assistance through Sept. 6, 2021 and one-time payments of \$1,400 to those earning less than \$75,000, and to couples earning below a \$150,000 threshold.

The question is how long will it take to get those bucks into the cash-strapped hands of the nation's apartment renters?

Home loan rates rising

On March 18, 30-year fixed loans averaged 3.09% nationwide, up from 3.05% a week earlier. A year ago, 30-year fixed mortgages averaged 3.65% Meanwhile, 15-year fixed home loans averaged 2.40%, up from 2.38% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed mortgage averaged 3.06%.

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

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.

U.S. Rep. Quigley to speak March 31

The Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce is hosting a legislative roundtable with U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 31.

Guests may submit questions for the Legislative Officials Update at the time of registration.

To register, call 773-880-5200.

With Illinois losing population, there is now speculation that Illinois may lose one or more seats in the House of Representatives, and that Quigley and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky could be pitted against, and forced to run against,

each other when the state redraws district maps based on the new U.S. Census tracts.

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State Police sued over Concealed Carry Licenses, groups claim delays infringe 2nd amendment rights

BY SARAH MANSUR
Capitol News Illinois

With armed violent assaults on the rise in Chicago at the same time that police, City Hall and Cook County prosecutors are in retreat, more people than ever are seeking the right to own and carry a concealed weapon in Chicago.

Now four Illinois residents who have been waiting for months for their state-issued Concealed Carry Licenses [CCL] are suing officials with the Illinois State Police for allegedly depriving them of their right to bear arms and right to due process.

The lawsuit, filed March 9 by the four individuals as well as the Illinois State Rifle Assoc. and the gun-rights group Second Amendment Foundation, claims the state's CCL is unconstitutional.

Under Illinois law, the Illinois State Police must either approve or deny an application for a CCL card within either 90 days if the application includes fingerprints or within 120 days if the application does not include fingerprints.

The law requires that an individual obtain a CCL from the state before he or she is able to carry a firearm concealed.

"But despite this statutory command, the ISP commonly does not approve qualified residents' CCL applications within 90 or 120 days," the lawsuit claims. "Instead, the ISP leaves applicants in limbo for months, with residents commonly waiting many additional months to receive a CCL. That has been true for some time, and it has only become worse as applications for CCLs have surged in the past twelve months."

The lawsuit argues that this delay by ISP in issuing denials or approvals for licenses amounts to an unconstitutional violation of the Second Amendment right to bear arms, as well as the 14th Amendment right to due process.

"Illinois cannot justify completely and indefinitely denying its residents their fundamental Second Amendment right to carry a functional concealed firearm in public to defend their lives and families while they wait for the ISP to approve their CCL applications," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit asks the federal court to find that ISP's failure to issue CCLs to qualified applicants within the required 90 or 120 days violates the Second and 14th Amendments.

It also asks the court to either

order the state to immediately issue CCLs or immediately process the CCL applications for the four individuals named in the lawsuit and for members of ISRA and SAF who applied for CCLs more than the required 90 or 120 days ago, who have not had their applications approved or denied.

"It was hoped that litigation could be avoided but these delays simply are unacceptable and there does not seem to be anything to suggest that the delays will end any time soon," ISRA Executive Director Richard Pearson said in a news release.

The lawsuit is against ISP Director Brendan Kelly and ISP Firearms Services Bureau Chief Jarod Ingebrigtsen, in their official capacities.

An ISP spokesperson said the agency does not comment on pending litigation.

In Dec. 2020, Kelly called the delays "unacceptable" in a news release. At that time, ISP estimated the average processing time as 145 days for new CCL applications.

ISP has sought to address the backlog and delays by hiring 21 Firearms Eligibility Analysts since March 2020, and adding 19 temporary contracted employees to the Firearms Services Bureau, the agency reported in December.

The latest lawsuit over concealed carry license delays comes after the ISRA and Second Amendment Foundation filed two similar federal lawsuits last year over Firearm Ownership Identification card delays. Those cases are "Bradley et al. v. Kelly et al." and "Thomas et al v. Kelly et al."

In the Bradley case, the two gun rights groups argue that individuals who apply for FOID cards face delays that exceed the 30-day requirement under the law.

In the Thomas case, the groups claim that the delays faced by individuals seeking to appeal the denial of their FOID card applications or the revocation of their card are infringing on their right to bear arms under the Second Amendment and right to due process under the 14th Amendment.

Those cases are still pending in federal district court in Chicago.

\$3

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Northside AARP to host U.S. Rep. Schakowsky April 6

The Northside AARP Community Group is hosting its monthly meeting 12:30 p.m. April 6, and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky is scheduled to speak.

This will be a virtual meeting and registration is required by writing to northsideaarpcommunitygroup@gmail.com. The meeting ID and password will be sent out the day prior to the meeting.

Schakowsky has been asked to speak about the American Res-

cue Plan and its implications for seniors.

With Illinois losing population, there is now speculation that Illinois may lose one or more seats in the House of Representatives, and that Schakowsky and U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley could be pitted against, and forced to run against, each other when the state redraws district maps based on the new U.S. Census tracts.

Royal George theater to close

The coronavirus continues to take its victims, this time felling the Royal George Theater, 1641 N. Halsted St., a fixture of Lincoln Park arts and entertainment since 1984.

Last weekend producers with shows at the Halsted St. rental venue told Chris Jones of the Chicago Tribune they have been told to make other plans for their productions — as the complex is expected to be sold for redevelopment in coming weeks.

Ronnie Marmo, whose show “I Am Not a Comedian ... I’m Lenny Bruce” occupied the cabaret theater at the time of the pandemic shutdown, told Jones he is now seeking another space for a likely fall reopening.

Mary Beidler Gearen, one of the producers of the upcoming “Skates the Musical,” also said that the production would not now be opening at the Royal George and that the show had been told it must load out its set by April 11.



Carrie Lannon



Lilia Chacon, Anne Kavanaugh and Peaches.



Ludwig Mies van der Rohe



Jack Sandner



Ken Norgan, Sean Eshaghy and John P. Walcher.

GOOD SPORT from p. 2

less shelters and food programs. They are truly doing the work of saints at these locations. Delicious Irish fare and treats were served to 2500 people in need. A special thank you to participating breweries, bars, pubs and restaurants: Guinness, Emerald Loop, Corcoran’s Grill and Pub, Kerryman Bar & Restaurant, The Gage, Kevin Vaughan, Eamonn Vaughan, Kristan Vaughan, Cassie and Joan.

RAMBLERS: NCAA TV star showing signs of March Happiness, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM, Loyola Basketball team chaplain, at 101 years old, traveled to watch her Ramblers beat two other teams the ‘experts’ said they wouldn’t. She had more on-air screen TV time last weekend than most of the players.



Sister Jean Schmidt, BVM

CHICAGO THEATER: Victory Gardens Theater has announced Ken-Matt Martin

as the next Artistic Director in the company’s 46-year history, following a nationwide search that began last fall in partnership with Arts Consulting Group.

GOLDEN DOME: The death of Jack Sandner at 79 last week caught many Chicagoans by surprise. The former longtime boss of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, who created so much of Chicago’s financial reputation and business character with his own hands, was first and foremost “a Domer,” as Notre Dame alum are known. Jack was also a pal to many across the corporate strongholds of Chicago life, but he was a man who always placed honor and hard work first. So he was relied on and trusted by political leaders, corporate gurus, financial prognosticators, as well as those in need and those most vulnerable. He took his Notre Dame ethos seriously and brought that sense of charity to life. Jack received a glorious funeral, observing COVID restrictions, in a place he was most comfortable,

from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Notre Dame’s campus. So much of his heart had always been there. So this last tribute put life and death in true Gospel perspective. What’s really important. And what’s not. Love and prayers to those who were his. Peace.

CHICAGO RADIO: Jackie Eigen was raised in Chicago, the only child of her adoring father, Jack Eigen, an early radio and television celebrity, spending 30 years interviewing famous people at Chicago’s famed Chez Paree night club. My Irish grandmothers listened to him most nights on WMAQ. He never shut up about his daughter. As a child at Holy Name Cathedral School, Jackie met all the stars of the day. Majoring in theatre in Florida, Jackie then made her way to California, engaged in her first career as both a Hollywood actress (even a part in Days of Our Lives) and in production. Her lifelong quest for spiritual fulfillment led her to Al-

buquerque, NM, Sedona, AZ and finally Napa Valley, CA. She was 64.

ZURICH ESPOSITO: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe is turning 135 and he’s still got it. Everyone is welcome to celebrate tomorrow, by tuning in to a special Mies Society virtual program and toasting his birthday.

ART BEAT: Carrie Lannon says “There’s magic nearby at your local art museum.” Museums are opening again. Carrie caught some stunning art at the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio, feeling transported to the Middle East. “Intersections,” by Pakistani-American artist Anila Quayyum Agha.

PANDEMIC: Attorney Adam Zebelian’s mom, Joe Zebelian, retired March 12 after 44 years as a research scientist, having delayed her retirement to help develop one of the COVID vaccines.

REPORTER CATCH UP: Former Fox Newsy, Lilia Chacon had an all too brief weekend visit to Chicago from new me-

dia job in New Mexico, stopping to see her pal, former Foxette Anne Kavanagh and new pooch, Peaches.

WHO’S WHERE: Rose O’Neill, Cynthia Olson, President Biden’s personal Irish fiddler Patricia Treacy, Irish Georgian Society Czar Michael Kerrigan and Mark O’Malley celebrating St. Patrick on his feast at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill for the best corned beef and cabbage in town ... also on hand were Colonel Paul Malarik III and Lynn Graham who presided in the famed Oprah corner booth and kept the Paddy’s Day pink bubbly ebbing and flowing... Heather Jane Johnston’s lavish St. Patrick’s party at the Women’s Athletic Club was a big smash hit with Irish dancers twirling the room and guests like society beauty author Irene Michaels, Paula Borg, Mark Olley, author Sherrill Bodine, Sherry Lea Fox tapping their toes to the music... Elaine Waxman, Jill Peet Saponaro, Melinda Jakovich-Lagrange and Dolores Connelly enjoying high tea on a low table... Toni Di Meola, April Schwartz, and Julie Barrish at the St. Regis, Bal Harbor, FL... Rosalind McEnroe Hack feeling grateful with Linda Robin and Stan Hack at Wally’s Desert Turtle in Palm Springs... Songstress Barb Bailey at Le Piano for some memorable jazz with Thaddeus Tukes and his young Lions. With galpal Katie Thayer McCammond ... Tom and Jane Justic moving to Naples, FL, after their life in Beverly and South Loop. Sorry to see them go... Maestro Rich and Kathy Daniels wearing their green... Lindy and Chris McGuire making the rounds with Brooke and Eleanor sporting fabulous green check fedoras... Ken Norgan, Sean Eshaghy and John P. Walcher hold a gabfest at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill ... Jim Ellsworth and Mark Olley paying their highest tribute on International Women’s Day to Mom Olley in FL.

No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere.

- Sherry Crow
tog515@gmail.com

Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)

Case No. 21-SC-003942

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Plaintiff(s):

BREWERY CREDIT UNION
1351 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

-vs-

Defendant(s):

MICHAEL LEWIS
856 E. 82nd St., Apt. 3
Chicago, IL 60619

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court:

Milwaukee County Courthouse
Telephone Number of clerk of court: (414) 278-4120
Courtroom/Room Number: 400
901 N. 9th St.
Milwaukee, State WI, 53233

on the following date and time: 4/9/21 Time: 9:30 a.m.

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call (414) 278-4120 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Plaintiff/Attorney

Michael A. Sosnay, date 3/23/21
Darnieder & Sosnay
735 N. Water St., Ste. 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Plaintiff’s/Attorney’s Telephone Number: (414) 277-1400
Attorney’s State Bar Number: 1059549

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PARKING LOT from p. 1

ing for little back and forth debating, or lobbying the opposition to switch sides. This reporter submitted several questions to the aldermen's office via emails, and by deadline we have received no response. This newspaper has heard dozens of complaints over the last year from community groups who are also unhappy with virtual meetings being the only outlet to question public officials over serious community issues.

Martin said his office is actively seeking to increase density in the ward and he lamented the sale of multi-family buildings that are either being converted into single family homes or are being torn down and replaced with single family homes. Not discussed was the growing trend of single-family homes being used for multi-generational housing. Many young adults and senior citizens are choosing to live with their parents or children.

During the meeting's question and answer section, Martin reiterated there is no current proposal under consideration at his office.

"When we receive a proposal, from either The Community Builders or someone else, that will kickstart our development process. We did feel though, based on questions that we were receiving from folks, that even though we didn't receive a formal proposal that we wanted to put up information on our website that folks could look to, just to make sure that they were up to speed. Look, we welcome anyone to apply to develop that parcel or any other parcel in the ward. We want to make sure our office is transparent in that regard. So, if we receive a proposal from a developer, we will be sure to put that online, make the community aware and then we will kickstart the formal process," Martin said.

Martin was also asked about the possibility of retaining the parking lot and having affordable housing built elsewhere in the ward. "Developers have been interested in the site because it is consistent with the city's current approach for development,"

CHAMPIONS from p. 1

ers. Simeon, Whitney Young, Mundelein, Notre Dame, Evanston, Fenwick, DePaul Prep and St. Patrick played in the tournament with the semi-finals and final games being broadcast nationally on ESPN. It had the feeling of a state championship, even if it wasn't.

No. 19 Evanston (tournament six seed) upset No. 2 Simeon in first semi. No. 19 DePaul Prep faced Fenwick in the second semi-final game on March 13. The Rams had a rematch with the Friars who had beaten them only eight days earlier and dashed the Rams plans for a Chicago Catholic League championship.

Years of following the Chicago Catholic League has taught me one thing; records mean little when the top teams like Loyola, DePaul Prep, Fenwick and Brother Rice face off. Any team can win no matter the records. And it's hard, really hard to beat a team twice in a season. And so it was. In a tense back and forth affair, DePaul Prep edged Fenwick 45-42.

The final was set. The Evanston Wildkits would face the DePaul Prep.

It had been years since the Rams faced the Kits, dating to an early season matchup in the Battle of the Bridge Tournament in 2015 when a whole different generation of Kits defeated the Rams 55-32.

The Rams opened the final with their characteristic control of the tempo, opening and early 10-2 lead behind the eight first quarter points by Brian Mathews, who controlled the paint. Evanston center Ola Ajiboye, a transfer from Von Steuben, had no answer for Mathews. Ajiboye could not stop Mathews and could not score against him.

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he said. They are surely also interested in it because they'd likely get the multi-million-dollar lot for free from the city.

The parking lot itself was actually created by the city in 1975 using an eminent domain action to seize the property to support the commercial district with a metered off-street parking lot. Many now think that turning that property over for free to a private developer is a disservice to those people who gave up their properties for a greater community need over 40 years ago.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot last year outlined her plans for an expansion of TODs. She wants developers to build what she has described as equitable transit-oriented developments [ETOD] which are geared towards lower income residents.

Many city planners see TODs as a key component to mobility. However, most of these studies were done before COVID-19 and do not consider the significant drop off in mass transit ridership that has occurred. Many urban planners now doubt mass transit will return to pre-2020 levels

Held scoreless in the first quarter, Evanston's all-time career leading scorer, Blake Peters got on the board with a field goal and two free throws in the second quarter. But the Rams' offense overpowered the Wildkits. Besides four more points from Mathews, senior guards Rasheed Bello added four points including a dunk off a steal. Loyola Chicago recruit and senior guard TY Johnson added a dunk of his own and a free throw.

Juniors Alex Gutierrez and Dylan Arnett came off the bench and added a bucket each. Senior Cam Lewis hit a long three late in the period, that seemed to suck the breath out of Evanston. It was just an exclamation point on a quarter in which the Rams dominated every phase—inside, outside, defense, offensive and defensive glass, transition and then three-point range. At the half, DePaul Prep led 31-14.

Evanston is one of the most accomplished teams in the state in recent years: a 4A third place finish, a 4A runner up finish, a sectional final berth in last year's COVID-shortened season and four straight conference championships. And Mike Ellis is their coach—one of the most successful and well-regarded coaches in the State of Illinois.

The third quarter would be a test. Princeton recruit Peters would have to lead his Kits back into the game and so he did. Three straight three-points from Peters propelled Evanston's 10-0 third quarter run.

"From the start of the game we knew we had to watch him," Rasheed Bello said of Peters.

"He's one of the best shooters in the country. We respect him. When he knocked those threes down, we knew those were the

anytime soon. While mass transit is often cited as important to the mobility of low-income workers, numerous mass transit studies (pre-pandemic) have demonstrated many mass transit riders actually belong to higher income brackets as many lower income workers commute to jobs in the suburbs or in city neighborhoods.

Towards the end of his question and answer portion of the meeting, Martin responded to a question about why he had not done more to reach out to neighborhood community organizations such as DANKHaus at 4740 N. Western Ave., a German American cultural organization and community center which hosts events 12 months a year and relies heavily on the parking lot for its patrons and local businesses.

"They have been consulted. They've shared our survey with their members, which we really appreciate. We've also done an aggressive flier campaign in the area, that too, is not going to cover everything. So this is the third community visioning that we have had. The first one was

only threes he could get. If he got hot, if he got going, it was going to be a long night."

With Peters scoring, it felt like we might see a reprise of the miracle comeback that Evanston mounted against Notre Dame in the tournament's opening round.

The Rams added nine points of their own in the third including another key long three-pointer from Lewis. After three frames, Evanston had clawed back in it, 40 to 29.

Rams head coach, former Gordon Tech and DePaul Univ. star, Tom Kleinschmidt would not let that happen. It seems like he can propel the Rams into wins simply by the force of his will. He had his superior ball-handling Rams controlling the tempo of the game and taking time off the clock with every possession. Mathews added five more points. Bello added a midrange jumper and three free throws in the four quarter.

The Rams offense and defense were simply to disciplined and effective for Evanston.

There would be no comeback. The Rams won 51-36.

The loss was hard for Ellis and his historic group of seniors. "Blake got us going but we needed some support. He was the only one that really scored for us today. There wasn't a lot of support around him. He had 18 points and the next guy had four," Ellis said.

As for the Rams, "We have a very talented group of guards. If you look at their team, that was one of the advantages with [Mathews] size down low. They took advantage and got it to him early on. He got going. They got in a rhythm right away. We just seemed out of sorts from the start of that game, even the first possession. We

similar to this. The second, and more recent one, was done specifically with businesses and received a lot of helpful feedback there," Martin said.

Still, left unaddressed at last week's meeting were the findings of a 1998 Master Plan undertaken by The Lakota Group and DLK Architecture, at the behest of the 47th Ward Office, Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce and Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development, that stated that the 45-acre Lincoln Square commercial district had a parking deficit of "approximately 1,519 parking space."

Indeed the whole scheme got off to a bad start when in 2019 the alderman's office misled the Lincoln Square community, first by hiding the very existence of the plan, then later by claiming DANKHaus was in support of the project. The DANKHaus went on record in a March 6, 2020, letter to the City expressing their surprise over the alderman's incorrect claims of "support" of the plan. Like most of the 47th Ward, DANKHaus said that they had "never been officially informed of the proposed sale," despite plans being in the works for nearly a year by then.

While he has invited other people to participate in these last three meetings, until recently Ald. Martin mostly consulted only with people who supported him and the project.

Additionally, just as City Hall seeks to remove this commercial parking lot, Northwestern Medicine is expanding into a new Lincoln Square clinic at 4732 N. Lincoln Ave., which is directly adjacent to this parking lot. That clinic will be heavily dependent on patients coming by car and seeking off-street parking.

Besides Northwestern and DANKHaus, those also benefiting from the parking lot are cultural institutions like the Davis Theater and Old Town School of Folk Music. Losing the lot would make it more difficult for them to draw in customers from outside of the community, especially if Resident Only Permit Parking is expanded in the community, as Ald. Martin suggested it might be during the Jan. 21 meeting.

weren't in sync. And then that carried over to a couple defensive possessions where they got out to those two quick buckets."

"They played very good team defense and team offense. They had balance scoring. We got too side to side. Nothing inside. Our timing was a little off. We settled for threes two soon. Like just started launching threes and you can't do that against a good team. You find yourself digging a hole if you don't attack and play both inside and out, not just outside. And then we gave up some transition layups. When it's at half time and you've got eight turnovers and the other team has zero, that's an indication of who is playing hard and who is not. There are a lot of parts there to deal with at half time. It was just too big of a hill to climb."

When asked what the championship means to the school, Kleinschmidt said, "We are seven years in. That's new for a high school. We have grown. We've got a brand new campus. This really helps, especially national TV."

It may not be a state championship but the special atmosphere of the COVID season made it feel like one.

"We are state champs! 3A, 4A, all of them. This is nicer [than winning 3A]—we beat 4A teams," the Rams starters, Mathews, Bello, Johnson, Lewis and Jabari Sawyer said in a group interview.

"We were ready to go from the start. We had our mind set on it. We knew from the start we were winning this. Nothing could beat us," Mathews added.

A long way from Mathews' first year's ending, the 2021 player of the game lead his team to the number one ranking and the biggest prize in the COVID season.