

Behind every great man
is a woman rolling her eyes.

— Jim Carrey

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Clarendon Community Center sees its future

When was the last time you attended a community meeting only to find everyone there was pretty happy with the subject of that meeting? It actually happened last week - March 25 - during a virtual meeting hosted by the Chicago Park District [CPD], Clarendon Park Advisory Council and Ald. James Cappleman [46th] over the coming \$11.5 million rehabilitation of the Clarendon Community Center, 4501 N. Clarendon Ave.

After several years of fits, fears and do-overs, the community following along on their computers seemed happy, really, really happy!

During the one-hour presentation, the only concerns heard came from the local gardening club worried about what may happen to their gardens during construction. Legit concerns for them, but hardly enough to dull the moment.

The thorough presentation left little to wonder about, and lots for neighbors and park users to like.

Once finished, neighbors will be presented with a nice mix of



After several years of fits, fears and do-overs in the planning, the Clarendon Park Community Center is ready for rehab.

new and old, and lots of flexibility built into the historic building. The old building will get a new elevator, new lights, new paint, new windows, new treatments, new uses and more accessibility.

Clarendon Community Center was once listed as one of Chicago's most threatened historical buildings due to the structure's deteriorating conditions. This much-needed renovation of the 1916 building will refurbish the structure and improve amenities

such as the gym, the lobby, and outdoor gathering spaces.

In the end the building should be much more bright and inviting, with great sight-lines starting with an expansive new lobby layout that seems destined to become a popular hangout and meet-up space for all ages.

The giant gym will remain, only with new floors, bleachers and lighting. There are six club

CLARENDON see p. 8

Red Line ridership low, but violent crime through the roof

BY CWBCHICAGO

CTA ridership remains sharply lower in 2021 due to COVID, but violent crime reports along the transit agency's backbone, the Red Line, are significantly higher this year than during normal times.

Analysis of city crime data shows robberies along the Red Line system between Roosevelt and Howard are up 80% this year compared to the pre-COVID period of Jan. 1 to March 15 of 2020. In fact, more robberies have been reported along that stretch of the CTA system this year than in any year since at least 2015, despite suppressed ridership.

Because crimes are reported by CTA station addresses and not by train line, the dataset also includes incidents on Brown, Purple, and Yellow Line trains at stations they share with the Red Line.

Most recently, police and fire crews responded to the Lake St. subway station around 7:50 p.m. March 25 after a man attacked another passenger while riding the Red Line.

The 48-year-old victim told police the offender walked on a southbound train and started arguing with him before the attack began. An ambulance transported the victim to Northwestern Me-

RED LINE see p. 8



Chicago police arrest Antoine Jackson on Thursday, March 25.

Rapist who followed woman from Belmont Red Line station was supposed to be on electronic monitoring

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man who followed a Lakeview woman from the Belmont Red Line station last weekend and then raped her in a nearby alley was supposed to be on electronic monitoring for a previous attack, prosecutors said.

But Antoine Jackson never arranged to have the monitoring bracelet attached and he remained on the loose in violation of the probation he received, Assistant State's Attorney Hazel Gumbs said during a bond court hearing

Saturday.

Instead of being home on electronic monitoring, Gumbs said, Jackson was at the Belmont Red Line station around 3:45 a.m. March 14 when a 29-year-old woman caught his eye.

Surveillance footage allegedly shows Jackson following the woman from the platform, onto Belmont Ave., and then down the street as she walked home.

When they got to the 3200 block of N. Kenmore, Jackson

ATTACK see p. 8

Virtual meeting April 10 over baseball lights at Welles Park

BY PETER VON BUOL

The Welles Park Parents Assoc. [WPPA], a non-profit organization which operates the park's baseball and softball leagues, the Welles Park Advisory Council [WPAC], Chicago Park District [CPD] and Ald. Matt Martin [47th], will be hosting an online meeting 11 a.m. April 10, to discuss the installation of lights at the park.

To attend the Saturday morning Zoom meeting, attendees must sign up in advance and register at a link found on the web site of the Welles Park Advisory Council at <https://wellespark.org/2021/03/29/lights-at-welles-we-want-your-feedback>.

At the meeting, the WPPA will present details about the proposal and community members will have an opportunity to ask questions. Questions can also be submitted in advance through a survey found on the advisory council's website.

According to details of the plan posted online at wppachicago.org, the parents' association wants to place 11, 60' poles around the park's exterior, with one pole immediately next to the scoreboard by the Senior softball diamond. These lights are being described

by association officials as being able to provide "an appropriate amount of light level" to nearly all the park's baseball diamonds and would allow the WPPA to schedule more than 280 games of spring baseball in 2022.

The parents' association wants to place 11, 60' poles around the park's exterior, with one pole immediately next to the scoreboard by the Senior softball diamond.

While baseball and softball advocates are applauding the addition of lights to Welles Park, some neighbors have contacted this newspaper to express concerns the lights will increase parking woes at night and will contribute to added noise. Some have questioned why the meetings are being held virtually, which prevents many senior citizens from attending and have asked why not wait until the pandemic is over to hold in-person meetings. After all, these neighbors have said this will be a decision that will not only have an effect on next year's baseball season but will have an

LIGHTS see p. 8

Court victory against MLB for woman hit by Wrigley foul ball

Just in time for Opening Day, an Illinois Appellate Court held that a young woman hit in the face and injured by a foul ball at Wrigley Field may move forward with her civil lawsuit for damages and is not limited to arbitration against Major League Baseball [MLB].

In a unanimous opinion written March 16 by Justice Fitzgerald Smith, the appellate court affirmed the decision of the trial court that "the arbitration provision was effectively 'hidden in a maze of fine print, unable to be appreciated by the Plaintiff,'" as stated by the trial court. Justices Terrence Lavin and Aurelia Pucinski affirmed the opinion on the First District panel.

Laiah Zuninga, 28, attended the Chicago Cubs game on Aug. 28, 2018, when a foul ball struck her in the face, knocking her unconscious, creating permanent and severe head and facial injuries. MLB had announced earlier that year that all 30 stadiums would have netting that reached the far end of each dugout.

Zuninga sued MLB for negligence after obtaining the ticket to the game from her father after he won it at a raffle. She said she never read any fine print on the ticket or visited the Cubs website

regarding any language regarding injuries sustained at the ballpark.

The court held that "factors exist in this case that make the arbitration provision difficult or onerous to find at the time of using the ticket such that we cannot fairly say that the plaintiff was aware of what she was agreeing to. Principal among these factors is the fact that the paper ticket did not contain the actual terms and conditions of the contract, but merely contained a summary of the terms and conditions and informed ticket holders that they had to either access a website or visit the Cub's administrative offices to obtain and read the full terms and conditions they were purportedly agreeing to, including the arbitration provision."

"The likelihood that a ticket holder will actually find, obtain, and read the full arbitration provision by accessing the Cubs's website or visiting the administrative office is diminished even further by the fact that minimal effort is made on the ticket itself to draw a ticket holder's attention to the need to do one of these things in order to understand that they are agreeing to binding arbitration by using the ticket to enter Wrigley Field."

Return of cop killers demonstrates a sad loss of reason



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Rizzato and Severin! Rizzato and Severin! Their names quickly became Chicago household words. A battle cry across the city, featured at the top of the 10 p.m. news on every TV station.

Mayor Daley was bursting at the seams with rage. Unspeakable violence robbed Chicago of two of its finest.

Patrolman Anthony Rizzato, Star #12407 and Sergeant James Severin, Star #1319, both from the Area 6 Task Force.

I remember when I first read their names in the archives of the Chicago Tribune. A double homicide July 17, 1970. Two Chicago cops. At 37- and 38-years-old they weren't rookies. That summer's evening they were on a "Walk and Talk" on the Near North Side, the new police program for getting to know neighborhood folk on the beat.

Rizzato and Severin were mowed down at the Cabrini-Green housing project when they became the targets of sniper fire from a rooftop. In cold blood,

Like the Viet Nam War comes to Chicago.

Police made shields of their squad cars with their doors wide open to retrieve their bodies. At Henrotin Hospital they were both pronounced "Dead on Arrival."

Johnnie Veal, 18, and George Knight, 23, tried and convicted of the murders, were sentenced, each, to 199 years in prison.

Veal, now 68, has just been paroled. Far short of his 199 year sentence.

Joseph Hurst, 77, an earlier cop killer, has also just been paroled. His previous death penalty sentence has been changed to 100 to 300 years in prison for the 1967 murder of 37-year-old Patrolman Herman Stallworth, Star #10965, 3rd District. Stallworth's death left a wife, Geraldine, and four small children behind.

States Attorney Kim Foxx offered no objections to the paroles, just meagre mumbles in response to the outrage of the paroles, and a feeble and disjointed responsibility-blaming of the parole board for the actions. She did some silly song and dance, wrapping herself in the poise of a confused Chicago political free-thinker. Chicagoans should be angry, fed up and embarrassed at what passes for intelligence in her office.

From the first murder of a Chicago policeman in the brutal environs of a riverfront tavern, in 1853, to the final victim, a freak fatal squad car crash while in pursuit of a suspect in 2006, where our research material concludes, Chicago has a disproportionate number of slain police officers. Five hundred thirty four. Such homicides in Chicago are a cruel enterprise and surprisingly do not even reflect the violence of our "Roaring 20s" Capone era stigma



Patrolman Anthony Rizzato, CPD

of Prohibition lawlessness. But they sure do reflect the violence of immigrant assimilation, the dawn of the American labor movement, radical racial unrest and uncontrolled political shenanigans.

What have Chicago and its elected leaders learned from the long catalogue of mayhem and murder reigned

down upon its police force over the past 150 years of its history? Well, to start with, that the power and solution such violence brings is always very personal.

Hear that Kim Foxx?

And following that, the terror and shame associated with police homicide rarely evolves into a positive force for success.

Got that Mayor Lightfoot?

And then, we discover that social disintegration always accompanies the cruelty of such crime that never ceases to demand justice.

Hear that President Preckwinkle?

So we have crimes that are intensely personal, never successful and eternal in their hunt for retribution. That's quite the equation for getting re-elected.

I'd like to be able to say that Chicago learns from its past, but I am not sure that's true. I say that as a life-long Chicagoan. A 20-year veteran of Chicago City Hall. And a five-year columnist at this newspaper.

And I say that, regretfully, as a student of history who is no longer surprised by the failure of humans to learn from their mistakes.

"End of Watch, Chicago Police Killed in the Line of Duty, 1853-2006," is the storied catalogue of those homicides. Those murders. Never previously compiled or tallied. Certainly never by the Chicago Police Dept. Or by the

city itself. Or social scientists at universities around the Chicago area. But gathering up the lost history and the forgotten clues is precisely what students of urban history know must be attempted. Ald. Edward M. Burke, himself a former Chicago Policeman and history devotee, and I, attempted to do just that in carving out time and turning our offices in City Hall into something resembling a crime scene investigation unit. Right out of Law and Order, the Wire or Midsomer Murders.

Some police deaths were easily solved long ago.

Some suspects, as you might imagine, never survived the ride to the police station.

Some police homicides were Hollywood spectacles with a cast of thousands, colorful characters, geographic grandeur with colorful trials and historic finales.

Others were lonely, cruel episodes of urban tragedy in alleys, "L" stations, liquor stores and daylight robberies. Others turned out to be high profiled urban insanities in the modern era of rock and roll, gang violence and the drug culture.

Some just manufactured by punk kids preening for the cameras. Fake bravado. Putting a false face on great fears looking to a lifetime of prison abuse, caged living and unsettled justice. Repentance hard pressed. Prison cell insanity. Worse than the guillotine.

That's still where we find ourselves in 2021, with murderers living long lives incarcerated as gang heroes. Cop killers spared from the finality of capitol punishment grow white whiskers and cynical attitudes after their lifetime behind bars.

But the children they orphaned are long grown.

The widows they created long since dead themselves of loneliness and heartache and a cruel mourning that never ends.

Once bright, young State's Attorneys now retired, end their days in Florida and judges on the bench now rest in peace.

But this should not eclipse the terror of murder. The smell of cop homicide. The crowded tearful funeral congregations of shattered families and politicians who know that often the dead have no one to speak for them.

In our selective age of limping humanism and misused victimhood, the wrong persons still plead their cases after half a century. Weary listeners distanced from moral probity no longer endure. Thoughtless political leadership long ago abandoned justice in a trade for votes.

All Chicago should be rising up to demand that the killers of cops serve their sentences. The murderers of law enforcement officers, whether the Chicago Police or the Miami P.D. or the NYPD and others must serve their sen-

tence.

Parole boards need to hear the shouts from the nightmare memories of parentless children, or the politicians who represent them in government.

Cop killers should die in prison.

There's no parole from the cemetery no matter how much of a hero you are. Murderers, like John Veal, need to do their time. Those who take the life of a cop must endure the full cost of that crime. Murderers do not mellow with time. John Veal committed a double homicide from the rooftop of Cabrini Green. With a rifle. And a scope.

Kim Foxx, in her continued ineptitude, cannot revoke the sentence of the court by her not defending the dead. The ease with which she opens the door for a cop killer's Chicago return demonstrates a sad

loss of reason. She soils the honor of the court. And the eternal sorrow of a family.

It's personal Ms. Foxx. And a powerful negative force. Cruelty still calls out for justice. Explain that to Rosarino Rizzato, still widowed. Explain that to Catherine Severin, a mother who still grieves in her grave.

PASSOVER: Did we ever need to be lifted and liberated more than now in the midst of the pandemic? This is our wish for you and your family as Passover

REASON see p. 6





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'Heroines and heroes display their creativity here'



Mary Ann McDermott, founder of Nurses & Humanities.



"Solitude," by Maria Zaragoza, a nurse at Northwestern Medicine.



Maribel Huerta, a Christ Medical Center nurse's "Forever my light in the darkest of days" photograph.



Davis Theater sign painting by Beck Anstee, a Swedish Hospital nurse.



Heart of the 'Hood

By Felicia Dechter

Twenty years ago, Mary Ann McDermott had a vision. As a professor in nursing at Loyola Univ., she wanted to showcase another side of nurses -- their talented side -- through the arts. On April 9, McDermott will finally have her dream come true, with an exhibit she has put together called Nurses' Relaxation and Renewal through the Arts. The opening will be a small, invitation-only event but after that, you can see this filled-with-fabulous pieces display through July 11 at the International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Dr.

More than 100 nurses and nursing students submitted more than 150 works including unique paintings, beautiful craft work, wonderful photographs, terrific embroidery, dainty lace, and more. Showcased will be about 60 pieces created by our frontline heroes. The rest of the works, totaling about 150, will be shown in a film loop, while prose and poetry will be displayed in a binder.

"There are a lot of talented nurses around," said McDermott, an Uptown resident and professor emerita at the Niehoff School of Nursing, at Loyola. "It's just a beautiful thing to see. Heroines and heroes display their creativity here."

In 2006, McDermott founded the group Hektoen Nurses & the Humanities, to present programs that demonstrate and encourage the healing power of the arts. It is the work of Hektoen nurses that will be exhibited. The Hektoen Institute of Medicine, located at 1339 S. Wood St., has a Nurses and Humanities Advisory Committee that believes nurses need to balance the science of nursing with an appreciation of the arts that offers them new strategies for self-care, and that expands their repertoire of resources for holistic care-giving, said McDermott.

"Nurses lose their sense of the arts and humanities," said McDermott. "They might have loved them as a child, but after science and drudgery for four years, sometimes they never re-connect."

I've always wanted a peek inside that museum. It's one place in Chicago I've seen all my life but never visited. I intend to check out the exhibit and if you want to support our nurses, hopefully you will too.

"I think it will bring in people who've never been there," said McDermott, who hopes in the future there will also be a pandemic art exhibit.

Swedish Hospital orthopedic nurse practitioner Beck Anstee paints as a hobby with the Plein Air Painters of Chicago, which has a "paint out" every Saturday. (Plein Air is painting out in the open air - landscapes, cityscapes, etc.) Anstee's Bryn Mawr "L" and Davis Theater sign paintings caught my eye.

The Lincoln Square resident will exhibit a total of four pieces -- a watercolor, pastel, oil and one "found object." The found object was a piece of wet drywall with graffiti all over it that her then 13-year-old daughter dragged home from down the alley in the rain, coming from the "L."

"She saw the beauty in garbage," said Anstee, who has exhibited at the Palette & Chisel on the Near North Side. "I cut away the yuck and it hangs in our kitchen. I asked to include it in the exhibit because of the story."

A whole lot of folks were involved in helping make this happen and if they made the nurses happy, I want to make them happy by mentioning them. Advocate Aurora

Health Care Nursing Division and Loyola Univ. School of Nursing, Illinois Nurses Assoc., Illinois Nurses Foundation, Unity Hospice, the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses Chicago Chapter and a number of individual donors all had a hand.

As did two nurses -- Sandra Gaynor, a retiree/volunteer at Refugee One and Cora Palmer, a night nurse at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and president of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses Chicago. And kudos also to the woman who put together the digital catalog, Mica Alcantara, a night nurse at Rush University Medical Center.

We thank them all.

Originally scheduled for last year but cancelled due to the pandemic, the exhibit at first was intended to celebrate the 2020 World Health Organization-designated "International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife," in honor of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. (It's rumored that Florence Nightingale has been seen dusting the window sills and cleaning the corners of cobwebs and may appear to grace the exhibit). That designation has now been extended to 2021, to include the 200th birthday of Clara Barton.

"I want to show the world that no matter what happens there is always light in life -- you just have to be the candle and let it be lit,"
Maribel Huerta said.

"We hope to provide inspiration and a sense of community in this time of uncertainty," McDermott said. "We are so thankful for all nurses for their dedication to patients and the profession. Your visit to the museum will be a wonderful way to honor these heroes and heroines and their creativity."

And creativity they do have. There were so many fabulous works. The painting "Millennium Vibes," by Sarah Alvero, an Advocate Aurora Christ Hospital nurse was ultra-cool, as was the photograph of Buckingham Fountain in "Fountain at Night" by Fred Brown of Rush Univ. Medical Center.

And there are others, such as "Street Photography-Chicago" by Terry Ratner, a nurse affiliated with Angels on Aldine, (a pandemic initiative). And I loved "Solitude," a painting by Maria Zaragoza, a nurse at Northwestern Medicine who says, "Nurturing yourself enables you to nurture others."

Amateur photographer Maribel Huerta's stunning photos, "Forever my light in the darkest of days," feature her brother, Martin Huerta and her niece, Paisley Huerta as models. Huerta, a nurse in the Surgical/Trauma ICU at Christ Medical Center, was 15 when she was a trauma patient given a second chance at life. It was then that she knew her purpose: A chance to help others in similar situations as a nurse.

"Ever since then I've shed some light in the times of darkness to everyone I care for," said Huerta. "As nurses, we see lives coming to the end of their paths on a day-to-day basis, which impacts us in an emotional and spiritual way."

"I do photography as a hobby to balance life and death," Huerta said. "To me, photography brings back life and continues the memory for years and generations to come. The souls behind the photos continue to live, forever frozen in a time of happiness. Photos last a lifetime and the memories live on within them."

"I want to show the world that no matter what happens there is always light in life -- you just have to be the candle and let it be lit," she said.

Also eye-catching is "All that Glitters," by Sedane Henderson, a nursing student at Malcolm X College, who said: "I appreciate women with afros with sparkly dresses!" And then there are handbags from Yali Yerman, a two-time cancer survivor, nurse at Lurie Children's Hospital, and founder of Yali's Carry On, a philanthropic handbag design company whose proceeds support creative arts programming for sick children and their families.

"My handbags serve as reminders to 'carry on' in the face of life's baggage and embody how I choose to lead my life: with vibrant elegance, vast purpose, and a meaningful voice for the cancer experience," Yerman said.

There are not enough pages in this newspaper for me to continue to rave about the pieces submitted. I also loved Regina Conway-Phillips' -- an associate professor at Loyola's Niehoff School of Nursing -- painting that was a tribute to her mother, "The Fisherwoman."

Please get there to see this exhibit if you can. Meanwhile, hats off to McDermott and congratulations to her also, for having a brilliant, two decades-long vision come to fruition.

"I can't wait to share it with people," she said.

Tickets are \$17 each and any extra funds raised will be used for free admission for nurses.

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Police Beat...

Contractor stole cash and coins worth \$190,000 from Gold Coast condo

A flooring contractor stole nearly \$190,000 worth of cash and collectible coins from a Gold Coast condo that he was rehabbing — and then pawned the coins for a fraction of their true value, prosecutors said.



Omar Delacruz

Omar Delacruz, 40, is charged with felony theft.

Assistant State's Attorney Brian Burkhardt said a homeowner

noticed the safe missing from his home in the 1300 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. while his condo was being renovated on Jan. 30.

Delacruz was working as a tile subcontractor on the project.

Surveillance video allegedly showed Delacruz walking out of the condo building on Jan. 29 with a bag that apparently contained the safe.

The safe held \$90,000 cash and \$100,000 worth of collectible coins, Burkhardt said. Delacruz allegedly took the coins to a pawn shop in Miami Beach, FL, and sold them for just \$2,381.

According to Burkhardt, Delacruz's fingerprints were recovered from the pawnshop, which also had photos of him from the transaction. Police arrested Delacruz last week.

Judge Arthur Willis set bail at \$10,000 and ordered Delacruz to go on electronic monitoring if he posts the mandatory 10% deposit.

Explosives discovered in Streeterville apartment 17 hours after police find man dead inside

Chicago police removed explosive materials from a Streeterville apartment March 24, nearly 24 hours after the man who lives there was found dead in his bedroom, according to multiple sources.

Police and fire department personnel found chemicals and laboratory equipment in the kitchen shortly after entering the unit around 11:30 p.m. March 23 the sources said. But detectives who returned to the scene on Wednesday afternoon also found explosive materials — including two pipe bombs, according to a source — that prompted a large response by police, fire, and FBI personnel.

Chicago police released a statement identifying one substance recovered from the apartment as lead azide, a potentially volatile substance that is used in detonators, among other things.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office identified the deceased man as Theodore Hilk, 30.

Hilk's father reportedly went to his son's 7th-floor apartment at 240 E. Illinois March 23 because he had not heard from him and was concerned about his well-being. But the father, who had a key to the unit, was unable to open the door because it seemed to be blocked from the inside, a source said. He called police.

Officers arrived around 11 p.m. and entered the apartment, where they found Hilk dead on the bedroom floor with a large number of

prescription pill bottles nearby.

The officers also found what they believed to be a clandestine laboratory, including scientific equipment, tools, industrial cleaning supplies, chemicals, and lab glassware in the kitchen, according to a CPD report.

Fire department personnel responded and cleared the scene by 2 a.m.

Detectives assigned to investigate Hilk's death returned to his apartment around 4 p.m. March 24 and reportedly found explosive materials, including two pipe bombs, in the refrigerator. Officially, CPD said only that the detectives found "hazardous materials."

The detectives summoned the FBI along with CPD's SWAT team and bomb squad to the scene.

Around 10:30 p.m., CPD's bomb disposal truck transported materials from the apartment building to a parking lot near Soldier Field where they neutralized the items, a source said.

Police continue to investigate Hilk's death and the contents of his apartment.

In 2007, Hilk made local news in Shawnee, Kansas, when he earned a perfect score of 36 on his ACT. He later went on to study at MIT.

Carjacking and robbery crew sought in Lincoln Park, Near North Side

An armed robbery team carjacked a driver on the Near North Side March 25 then used the vehicle as they robbed another person of cash in Lincoln Park a few hours later, police said. No arrests have been made. Area Three detectives issued a community alert about the crimes Thursday afternoon.

Police said the robbers got out of a car and demanded the victims' valuables at gunpoint.

At 9:10 p.m. Wednesday, they carjacked and robbed a victim in the 1100 block of N. Howe, according to the alert. Then, around 2:44 a.m. March 25, they used the hijacked vehicle as they robbed another victim in the 800 block of W. Armitage, police said. The offenders scored about \$300 cash in the hold-up.

Police released four suspect descriptions: a Black male 25-30 years old; a Black male 18-20 years old; a Black male 17-20 years old, and a Black female 17-23 years old.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding alert #21-3-038.

Shots fired in Grant Park

For the second time in about two weeks, Chicago police officers searched Grant Park March 24 after cops heard the sound of gunfire in the area. No one was reportedly injured, but more than one police unit heard the shots.

Things were a little different in the previous "shots fired" incident.

Around 12:48 a.m. March 9, police actually found a man who allegedly admitted to firing his gun in the park just before officers arrived. But he is licensed to carry a firearm, and Cook County prosecutors refused to charge him with anything more serious than being a concealed carry holder with a gun in a park, CPD records show.

Several people called 911 to report the March 9 gunfire and a CPD sergeant also heard at least one shot near 800 S. Michigan, the records show. Officers saw a man walking in the park about two blocks away and stopped him because he was in Grant Park after the 11 p.m. closing time.

In an arrest report, police identified the man as Walter Major, 32, of south suburban Harvey, a concealed carry license holder.

Major allegedly told officers he ac-

cidentally fired the gun nearby. Then, he admitted that he fired more than once and took officers to a second location where he also shot the gun, police said in his arrest report.

Cops found one spent shell casing near where they stopped Major, and two more spent shell casings at the second location, police alleged. The headstamps on the three recovered shell casings match the headstamps on four live 9-millimeter bullets that police found in Major's pants pocket, officers said.

According to the arrest report, Major was carrying an unloaded 9-millimeter handgun in his waistband when police stopped him.

Police tried to get felony charges filed against Major for firing the handgun, but a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office refused to approve them, officers said.

Instead, Major was charged with misdemeanor concealed carry of a firearm in a park facility. He was released from the station on a recognizance bond.

Man charged with battering alderman outside River North bar

A man is facing misdemeanor charges for allegedly battering Chicago Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] outside a River North bar last month, police said.

Antonio Palazzi, 35, turned himself in to police at Area Three headquarters, 2452 W. Belmont, around 11 a.m. March 24. He's charged with misdemeanor simple battery, police said.

Reilly told reporters two men jumped, punched, and kicked him as he waited for friends outside Boss Bar, 420 N. Clark, around 10:30 p.m. Feb. 18.

"Out of nowhere, this guy ran up on me. He was yelling at me," Reilly said, "and before I know it, he's on top of me, punching me in the face." The alderman later said he thought he was targeted in a case of mistaken identity.

A second man joined the fray, kicking Reilly in the head, the alderman said. One of the bar's bouncers pulled the men off Reilly, who has represented the area since 2007. He told the Tribune the men didn't try to rob him, and they fled in a car that was sitting nearby.

Neither Reilly nor the bar called police, but Mayor Lori Lightfoot ordered police to investigate the incident after it made the news because she was concerned that he might have been targeted due to his position as an alderman.

Police made no mention of any such motivation in a brief announcement about Palazzi's arrest on March 25. Detectives determined that only one person battered Reilly, a police spokesperson said. CPD did not release Palazzi's mugshot because he is only charged with a misdemeanor.

Reilly has been unafraid to talk openly about his concerns about crime in the downtown area. He also broke ranks from the Cook County Democratic Party to endorse a Republican candidate over incumbent Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx in last November's election.

Rogers Park robbers stab one victim, rob another

A knife-wielding crew in Rogers Park has robbed two people over the past week, Chicago police said. The offenders stabbed one elderly victim repeatedly, but he survived.

According to police, the group tried to rob an elderly man at knifepoint in the 1700 block of W. Farwell around 5:40 p.m. March 19. But the man does not speak English, so he continued walking.

The group stopped him and stabbed him repeatedly in his legs and mid-section before running

away, according to a CPD report. They didn't get anything of value from the man. An ambulance crew took the man to an undisclosed hospital for treatment.

Then, around 2:40 a.m. on March 21, the crew approached a victim in the 7000 block of N. Clark and demanded their money, phone, and jewelry while implying that they had a knife, police said.

The second victim was treated for minor injuries at St. Francis Hospital.

Area North detectives issued a community alert about the robberies on Thursday in which the robbers are described only as two or three Black males.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact detectives about Community Alert #P21-3-039 at 312-744-8263.

Mag Mile panhandler stabs man who won't give him money

A complete stranger stabbed another man in the throat after the victim refused to give him money March 28 on the Magnificent Mile, police said. Police arrested a suspect nearby.

The victim, 52, was walking in the 700 block of N. Michigan when a panhandler approached him and demanded his property around 4:45 p.m., according to Officer Anthony Spicuzza and a CPD statement.

When the victim refused to cooperate, the offender demanded some change, according to police. Again, the victim declined.

At that point, the offender presented a "sharp object" and threatened to hurt the victim if he did not comply, according to police. He then allegedly stabbed the victim in his neck when the victim tried to walk away.

Witnesses flagged down a passing patrol car outside Walgreens, 757 N. Michigan, and gave officers a description of the attacker. The officers broadcast the description to other units and then applied a pressure bandage and QuikClot to the victim's wound to reduce blood loss.

Other CPD units arrested the attacker near Rush and Superior. Charges are pending.

An ambulance crew transported the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he was taken into surgery in serious condition, police said.

Armed robbers target stores in Lincoln Square, North Center

Armed men robbed two convenience stores and a gas station across Lincoln Square and North Center Sunday night, according to Chicago police records.

Most recently, officers responded to a "check the well-being" call at the Shell station, 4346 N. Western, at 7:27 a.m. March 27. Cops discovered that the store had been robbed by a man who displayed a handgun and pistol-whipped the store's 31-year-old female clerk, and demanded cash.

Officer Michael Carroll, a CPD spokesperson, said the offender is a Black male between 20- and 35-years-old who stands 5'-10" to 6'-3" tall and weighs 150 to 190 lbs. The robber, who was wearing a white hoodie, black pants, and a black face mask, was last seen heading south on Western Ave. and then north on Artesian.

Around 10:50 p.m. March 26, the same man robbed the 7-Eleven store at 5562 N. Lincoln, according to a CPD alert. He displayed a handgun and took cash and snack chips from the store before escaping southbound on Lincoln, according to a CPD report.

Just a few minutes later, a heavy-set White male offender displayed a handgun and robbed the 7-Eleven at 4631 N. Western.

Earlier this week, two armed men committed a violent armed robbery at a 7-Eleven store just north of the latest spree.

Police said the offenders walked into the store at 6001 N. Western around 2 a.m. Wednesday and ordered the clerk to open the register at gunpoint. The cashier complied, but one of the robbers struck him in the head with a gun anyway and dragged him to the back of the store, according to police.

Five armed robberies and carjackings reported across Edgewater, Rogers Park

Police are investigating a wave of armed robberies and carjackings reported across the North and Far North Sides since March 25. Some of the crimes appear to be linked.

Most recently, a 19-year-old woman was robbed at gunpoint while she sat in her car on the 1900 block of W. Fargo in Rogers Park. Police said an armed man walked up to her car, pointed a gun at her, and demanded her money around 8:15 p.m. March 26.

The victim complied with his demands by handing over her purse. He then left the area. According to a CPD report, the primary offender is a Black male who stands about 5'-10" tall, wearing a gray coat. He may have been accompanied by another Black male in his mid-20's who wore a blue coat.

Three incidents, all possibly committed by one group of offenders, were reported in under 30 minutes March 26:

Around 4:55 a.m., a group of armed men got out of a black SUV and carjacked a woman after she parked on the 1000 block of W. Hollywood. The victim said she was still in her car when the three men all displayed guns, took control of her blue Chevy Malibu and drove away northbound on Sheridan. The SUV followed the hijacked car.

Moments later, two men got out of a small dark-colored car and robbed a woman at gunpoint on the 5900 block of N. Sheridan. The men got away with her backpack, which contained her Starbucks uniform and wallet.

Then, just after 5 a.m., two men got out of a small dark-colored car and robbed a man of his wallet and phone in the 6500 block of N. Newgard.

The victims all described the suspects as young Black males, possibly in their teens, who wore black clothing and masks.

Another carjacking was reported in Lincoln Square on March 25.

In that case, a man reported that at least five offenders in two vehicles intentionally struck his tan 2003 Ford Explorer in the 4800 block of N. Western around 9:25 p.m.

The group robbed the man and one of them punched him in the face while holding a knife before they drove away with his SUV and the vehicles they arrived in. He told police the group consisted of four Black males and one black female.

On March 25, police issued a community alert after a group of three men and a woman committed an armed carjacking on the Near North Side and an armed robbery in Lincoln Park.

A separate community alert from CPD warned Rogers Park residents about a pair of recent armed robberies involving knife-wielding men. Those offenders stabbed one elderly victim, police said.

Area Three detectives are investigating all of the crimes.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Letter to the Editor**Proposed construction at the Lincoln Square parking lot**

The news of [building on the parking lot] came as a complete shock to me. This lot at 4715 N. Western Ave. is definitely NOT a vacant lot waiting for someone to find something to build on. It is a busy parking lot for the riders of the CTA Brown Line at the Western Ave. stop and also those using the bus lines along Western Ave.

Besides that, this lot is used by people frequenting the restaurants/cafes and numerous businesses in Lincoln Square and surroundings, plus the Davis Theater and Old Town School of Folk Music.

The Farmers Market is held [adjacent to] this lot several times a week.

Mainly, this parking lot is part of the heritage of the German community in Chicago at Lincoln Square as represented by the Dank Haus (the German American Cultural Center). The Dank Haus runs a German language school with current classes, has a museum, and has weekly and monthly events with food and drink service. It sponsors [two] annual festival, the Mayfest and German Fest.

Even though many people of German descent have moved on to other locations, whenever an event orchestrated by the German community is held at Lincoln Square, people by the hundreds flock to it coming from all parts of Chicagoland to attend.

There is a need for open space to accommodate all these events, plus enough parking spaces for people who wish to participate in all these various activities.

Every culture represented in Chicago has its own space unique to their activities, and the German community is no exception. It deserves its space to remember and celebrate.

Even though activities presently are tempered because of Covid, the need for space to conduct the events offered by the Dank Haus and other participating organizations will continue into the future to maintain the celebration of German participation in Chicago's history.

If there is a need for more affordable housing projects in the city, a facility located right next to a train station is hardly an ideal place for anyone to live, being subject to the regular rattling of the trains coming and going overhead next door.

A much more suitable location can surely be found in the city among the 16,000 plus empty lots available in Chicago.

The proposed construction needs to be strongly reconsidered. That space is needed for the use and enjoyment of the people honoring Lincoln Square and its heritage.

Erika Sherrod, Chicago

Have something on your mind about your community?

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

Landlords gearing up to battle proposed rent control in Statehouse



The Home Front
By Don DeBat

The annual battle between Chicago apartment landlords and tenant advocacy groups surrounding a new proposed statewide Rent Control Act is heating up in the Illinois Legislature.

Landlords, including hundreds of members of the Chicagoland Apartment Assoc., are riled because the Illinois House of Representatives "Housing Committee" is aggressively pushing for a vote

on House Bill 116 (HB116), which would lift the statewide ban on rent control in the state.

On March 24, the housing committee voted 13 to 9 to pass HB116 out of their committee and to the House Floor for a vote sometime before May 31. If passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker the bill would allow rent control in Illinois.

"If the state ultimately succeeds in lifting the ban, cities and towns across the state of Illinois, including Chicago and its suburbs, will be free to enact rent control measures," warned the Neighborhood Building Owners Alliance (NBOA), a landlord group.

Quoting Swedish economist Assar Lindbeck, the NBOA says: "In many cases rent control appears to be the most efficient technique presently known to destroy a city—except for bombing."

Tenants' groups pushing for rent control are seeking repeal of the state's Rent Control Preemption Act, a law passed by the Illinois Legislature in 1997 which prohibits local governments from enacting rent-control ordinances.

Under the proposed legislation, Illinois would be transformed from a state in which no local unit of government is permitted to enact rent control, into a state in which all units of local government could be subject to enforce-

ment of rent control, landlord groups say.

Since there are currently no limitations on landlords demanding excessive or unfair residential and commercial rent increases, tenants' groups say this has led to skyrocketing rents and encroaching gentrification of once stable neighborhoods in Chicago and throughout Illinois.

Apartment owners and managers argue that Cook County and Mayor Lori Lightfoot's aggressive property tax hikes combined with sharply higher water and sewer charges are making it hard for landlords to maintain thin

RENT see p. 6

Payton Grizzlies chew up Orr Spartans 44-8 in football opener



By Jack Lydon

over Orr Academy High School was just as weird as the times we're currently in: started late, ended early.

The preceding Carl Schurz H.S. victory over Mather H.S. ran long.

Once the game was on, there was plenty of action. After Orr took the opening kickoff, quarterback 6'-1" senior Maqael Henderson ran a keeper on the first play for nine yards.

The Orr's Spartans moved the ball up the field but on a fourth and short they dropped back into punt formation. Payton's Grizzlies were not buying and it did not send back a returner. So the Spartans punted. Grizzlies took over on their own 23 yard line.

On his first ever carry as a running back, Payton 6', 205 lbs., senior Joey Savaiano took a hand off and sprinted up the sideline 77 yards to the season's first score on the season's first play from scrimmage for the Grizzlies. The point after failed.

After taking the Grizzlies' kickoff, the Spartans shifted tactics and began throwing. A couple of throws to Spartans' speedy split end, senior Jamarion Collins, failed to connect. Maqael Henderson has a big arm and he was getting protection. He was just overthrowing his receivers. Again, the Spartans punted.

Again, Savaiano got the ball. On the second play of the series, splitting Spartan defenders, Savaiano sprinted up the middle of the field for another touchdown. This time 79 yards and a score. With that, the first quarter ended. Grizzlies led 13-0.

The Spartans dressed only 13 players of the 15 on its roster. Almost the whole team had to play both ways. Of the 15, 10 are sophomores.

Nevertheless, the game was not out-of-hand. If the Spartans could connect on a couple passes and stop Savaiano's big runs, there would have been a competitive contest.

It was not to be. Grizzlies' approach was methodical and balanced. They overwhelmed the undermanned Spartans in the second quarter.

Early in the second quarter, the Grizzlies moved the ball into Spartan territory. Grizzlies' 6'-1" senior quarterback Eamon Glascott connected on a short out pass to senior wide receiver Danny O'Connell and turned up the sideline. In an acrobatic move worthy of an ESPN Sports Center highlight, O'Connell alluded a tackle from Spartan Jamarion Collins, reached the ball out to the end zone pylon and scored the Grizzlies' third touchdown of the game. PAT, an extra point, from senior kicker Thomas Melecio was good. Grizzlies 20, Spartans 0.

After a Spartan turnover deep in their own end, Savaiano added his third touchdown of the half on a 10 year run up the middle. Melecio added another PAT. Just that fast, the Grizzlies had pushed the lead to 27-0.

Things got worse for the Spartans. Henderson threw an interception. The Grizzlies had the ball, and with 57 seconds left in

the half, quickly moved the ball down to the Spartans' 15 yard line. A fade into the corner from Glascott to sophomore wide receiver Charlie Newton failed to connect.

Talented young kicker Melecio came on to attempt a 25 yard field goal. It was good as time expired. Grizzlies opened a 30-0 lead.

In the third period, the Grizzlies added a touchdown by junior 5'-9" running back Jack Dawson on a short pass from Glascott. Newton ducked a tackle from the Spartan quarterback and free safety Henderson and sprinted up the middle of the field for the score.

Henderson is just too good to be denied. With 5 minutes, he connected on a post route to Collins to get the Spartans on the board with five minutes left in the third. Henderson added a two-point conversion on a keeper up the middle.

At the end of the third quarter, Grizzlies led 44-8—then the lights went out.

Seriously. The stadium lights went off.

Farina suggested that the lights were on a timer and would quickly come back on.

After about 15 minutes of darkness, with the players standing around in the cold and a running clock for the fourth quarter, both coaches decided to call the game early. There would be no fourth quarter.

The first win of his head coaching career ended unceremoniously for Payton's Craig Knoche. He wasn't even able to get a photo of

the scoreboard on his phone. But his tenure as head coach started two touchdowns on the first three plays.

"That's Joey [Savaiano]," Knoche said, "and our offensive line. Really good players. We don't have a lot of players but we have some really good players."

"Joey is gonna play in college. He already knows that."

Asked about his team's goal, Knoche said, "We don't really worry about that. I am just happy and excited that this group gets to play. That's what we have tried to emphasize. I hope it comes though in the game. Regardless of what would have happened in the game, the kids were excited to play. [We wanted to] make the most of the ones we have rather than focusing on the lack of nine [games]."

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The Watergate Girl goes to the library April 8

There was H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and John Mitchell – among those who covered up a conspiracy scandal 50 years ago. And then there were Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein who helped uncover it. It was a political scandal that rocked the country



Jill Wine-Banks

and led to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974 and criminal convictions of 41 people.

And unlike today, back then, corrupt people in D.C. actually went to jail.

At the center of the scandal was the Nixon administration's involvement in and attempts to cover up the break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The Senate's Watergate hearings revealed a conspiracy that included a secret cash fund and recordings of conversations in the Oval Office – as well as some mysterious gaps in the tapes.

Jill Wine-Banks, author of *The Watergate Girl*, was one of the three assistant Watergate special

prosecutors, who was involved in the obstruction of justice trial against President Nixon's top aides.

Her team delivered evidence to the House Judiciary Committee as a road map to impeachment. She was a major player in the Watergate tapes hearing, cross examining Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's secretary, about a gap in a key White House recordings.

Wine-Banks, currently an MSNBC legal analyst, will share her recollections about that critical time in history, including what has been dubbed the "Rose Mary Stretch,"



Nina Barrett

with Nina Barrett, another local author. Barrett is an independent bookstore owner and author of *The Leopold and Loeb Files: An Intimate Look at One of America's Most Infamous Crimes* and three other books. This free program will start at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8.

It's a Zoom webinar, to register for this program, go to foelchicago.org or chipublib.org.

RENT from p. 5

profit margins.

Meanwhile, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, apartment experts report the state of Illinois recently is seeing one of the biggest declines in rental prices in the nation.

According to an analysis by Quote Wizard, the average rental cost of an apartment in Illinois has decreased 6.2% over the last two years. That ranks Illinois fifth in the nation for rental-cost decrease.

Chicago is among the cities that saw the steepest decline in rent prices in the country. In the past year alone, the cost of renting in Chicago has decreased by 12.5%, according to Apartment List's national rental report.

The average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Illinois is \$863. A one-bedroom apartment in west suburban Naperville is \$1,400.

The pandemic prompted thou-

sands of apartment dwellers to move, said Nick VinZant, senior research analyst for Apartment List.

"The apartment-vacancy rate in Illinois currently is 8.5%," he said. "In 2020, we saw a big push of people moving out of cities and urban areas and moving more into the suburbs."

Anticipated real estate tax increases following the 2022 triennial reassessment of the city of Chicago, potential changes to affordable housing requirements, and the specter of rent control could eliminate the profitability of existing apartment buildings and new development, experts warn.

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.



Father Tom Hurley



Jennifer Sutton Brieve and mother, Sharon Ann Louden.



Russ and Tracy Scurto.

REASON from p. 2

unfolds. May you know the love and grace of 'walking dry-shod through the sea.' Of protection in dangerous times. Of fresh strength and stability at Pesach, even if we have fewer at our table than usual. Blessings and love to all.

DAR: Jennifer Sutton Brieve grateful for all the assistance she received chairing the Chicago Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution 125th Anniversary Celebration at the Drake Hotel. Especially, her mother, **Sharon Ann Louden** and the Drake Hotel staff and **Shaun Rajah**.

CARDINAL CUPICH: The odd silence surrounding the merging of so many parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago is a bit of a mystery. It's too quiet. Many are robust AAA level parishes with all the amenities including a significant architectural church. Others appear more enfeebled and economically wearing away. This merging process also includes new names for the reconfigured parishes. And the geographical footprint of the merging parishes stretches from Waukegan to the Indiana border, from the lakefront to River Forest. Just curious what the true reading of the situation is? Are there any critics? Is the plan just that good? A lot of history and Chicago lore teeters in the plans. **Mayor Lightfingers'** trap for once seems closed.

IRISH SURPRISE: Not the same old Ireland. In just a few decades, the island nation evolved into one of Europe's most progressive LGBTQ+ countries, so says *The Advocate*, March 2021.

FATHER TOM HURLEY: Old St. Patrick's pastor for last 15 years brought much good "ju-ju" with him to the post. Looks like it drained him. Sucking the life out of him. In surprise move, he resigned as pastor last week, citing a breakdown in his health and spirit. He looked drained and broken. He's still a young man. He needs to rejuvenate and take good care of himself. Offer a prayer for him

if you have one laying around.

CLOSEUP: What North Shore siblings just realized that their unemployed actor bro has been making gay pornos for the last 10 months? All hell is breaking loose trying to keep mom and pop in the dark.

MENU: Honorary Old Town Mayor **Shelley Howard** announced that The Black Linguini ala Russa makes a triumphant return Tuesday at Topo on Wells St. in Old Town.

HOME GYM: What Lake Shore Dr. beauty has been inviting two men from her gym to stay the night "for security" purposes with more regularity ever since the gang shootings into the high-rise lobbies on LSD began?

PULL THE SHADE: What Lake Shore Dr. se-

nior has been doing cardio on her treadmill in the buff, drawing hoots and howls from the gawkers in the building across the alley?

WHO'S WHERE: **Russ** and **Tracy Scurto**, 43 years and counting, the best is yet to come... **Janet** and **Rodger Owen** had a wonderful lunch in Scottsdale AZ with dear friend **Nancy Hare**, friends since graduating from college... **Gabriel Schmidt** in Monte Carlo, Monaco... artist **Adam Scott Umbach** and wife, **Nora Dankner** in East Hampton, NY, celebrating his big birthday... **Sherry Lea Fox**, **Lorelei Knutson Beaucaire** and **Patricia Maxwell** at Las Ventanas al Paraiso, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico... St. Patrick's, following the Shannon Rovers' bagpipe parade, **Susan Wilhelm** and **Barb Bailey** ran into **BJ Murray** at Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse with **Melissa Anderson Hovey** ... London transplant **Brian Relph** still traveling in South American, now in Rio at the Copa Cabana Beach ... **Cathy Wolter Mondelli** dined with friends at Marchesa.

STICKY FINGERS: Gold Coast Walgreens has added extra CCTV cameras to catch the local CEO's wife who is back pilfering merchandise big time during the pandemic. Hubby is at his wits end.

THE GRANDEST: **Mary Teresa McGinnis Lynch** was a gifted teacher and mom. She had to be with eight children in River Forest. They were a large part of St. Luke's Parish. A Clark College alum. Devoted to the BVM nuns there. Lynches are a great family of doctors, dentists, lawyers and good eggs. Sweet folk you'd love to meet at a dinner party. Daughter **Ann Lynch Burke** from Lake Forest is my pal. What a story-book family **Mary Teresa** and **James Michael Lynch**



Cardinal Blase Cupich

gave the world in their 60 years together. She died at 93. Love to all who were her's.

THE DOCTOR IS IN: **Dr. Adam Manatee Del Conte** has a great bedside manner, but he is also at home in the studio creating fine art. Now diligently working with some nature sketching with a fine-liner. We're so proud of my nephew, the doctor.

RIP ELSA PERETTI: "Good line and good form are timeless. I want my designs to be clear, simple but sublime," said **Elsa Peretti**, from a 2020 interview with the *Wall Street Journal*. She died last week in Spain at 80. Peretti's entry into the fashion world was as a model, beginning in the 1960s. She became a favorite of designers including **Halston**. By the late '60s, she had begun designing jewelry. In 1974 she began designing for Tiffany. Her signature metal was silver, and she helped elevate silver's popularity and desirability. One of Peretti's most sought-after designs was the Bone Cuff bracelet, a metal cuff with fluid lines, designed specifically to conform to the left or right wrist.

SHE'S BACK: **Barb Bailey's** new show "Here's to life" has been booked. More details to follow.

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. - *Albert Einstein*

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Human genome, history of genetic testing March 31

It's been 20 years since the groundbreaking science advancement of mapping the human genome, and the Illinois Science Council [ISC], 3503 N. Hoyne Ave., is holding a virtual seminar on why it was such a big deal.

Those who want to know what's been learned since 2001 may join the meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 31 to see what it means for those who are not biologists or geneticists, and how it relates to "recreational" genetic tests like 23andMe or AncestryDNA.

ISC hosts Dr. Jeffrey Schloss, a former Director at NIH in the National Human Genome Research Institute, who will explain the human genome, the technology before and since, and answer all questions. For more information visit www.illinois-science.org.

ISC is a not-for-profit organization that engages, educates, and entertains the public about science, technology, engineering and math in our everyday lives.

RED LINE from p. 1

morial Hospital with cuts to his hands and wrists. Police did not release any description of the offender.

One category, crimes involving knives are at a high point this year. Five of this year's knife-related crimes were robberies — that's more than all years 2015 through 2020 combined.

Overall, 34 robberies of all kinds were logged this year on the Red Line between Roosevelt and Howard as of March 15. Five of this year's hold-ups were reported at the Howard terminal. By comparison, that station only logged two robberies during the previous six years combined.

Earlier this week, police released surveillance images of a group that allegedly beat and robbed a man at the Belmont station on March 14.

It's impossible to know exactly what is driving crime so high while ridership is so low. One possibility is that fewer people on trains means fewer witnesses and better opportunities for robbers to ply their trade.

Another option may be more difficult to swallow. With commut-

ers staying home, the Red Line has become a shelter for large numbers of people who clearly need social services to address housing and mental health needs.

Earlier this month, Crain's columnist Greg Hinz wrote about his experience as a near-daily rider of the Red Line over the past year.

"I've got to tell the truth. And the truth is that our own Chicago Transit Authority, especially its rapid transit operations, are a big, crashing mess at the moment, with the tubes filthy and stained with graffiti, elevators and escalators out of operation, cars converted into rolling homeless shelters, rules about eating and smoking seemingly forgotten, and police presence all but invisible," Hinz wrote.

"In the past couple of months of taking the train home at night, I've seen...dozens of people sprawled out over several seats, with their worldly possessions plunked beside them. (They have my sympathy, but you just can't live on the CTA.) I've seen public urination inside a train. Even today, it's impossible to board a car in which every person is wearing a mask. I've seen one police officer. O-N-E."

LIGHTS from p. 1

impact which lasts decades.

The lights are being described by the WPPA as being much more "neighbor-friendly" than those found at other city parks on the North Side. Association officials have described the proposed light towers as ones which will be casting concentrated beams of light on the ball fields and having a limited impact on the homes that ring the park.

The WPAC, which is a volunteer group recognized by the CPD, has not taken a position in support or opposition to the project and is seeking input from the community.

To submit comments and concerns to Ald. Martin, call his office at 773-868-4747 or email him at michael@aldermanmartin.com. WPAC is also reviewing the proposal, and you can also share your comments and concerns by calling Welles Park at 312-742-7511. In addition, the WPPA is also responding to questions at lights@wppachicago.org.

The WPPA was formed in 1990 after the CPD had informed participants in the park district's baseball program that it would

need help to keep running team sports at Welles Park. Originally, the WPPA was also operating programming for other sports at the park but today it operates its baseball and softball leagues.

The lights are being described by the WPPA as being much more "neighbor-friendly" than those found at other city parks on the North Side.

Association officials say its programming serves more than 1700 children between the ages of five and 19 and every year they have a waitlist of about 100 children. The association hosts about 1800 baseball and softball games a season. WPPA's baseball seasons usually begin in April and lasts through mid-July. The park switches to football at the end of July.

CLARENDON from p. 1

rooms of varying sizes, a pantry, a family and mother's room, a new dance room, a teen lounge, new workout area, and giant second floor multipurpose area, destined to be the gem of the building. It can hold special events, plays, concerts, dances and other large gatherings.

The money to pull this off comes from the CPD and two nearby Tax Increment Financing Districts, the Wilson Yards and The Montrose/Clarendon districts.

The money to pull this off comes from the CPD and two nearby TIF Districts, the Wilson Yards and The Montrose/Clarendon districts.

And the Garfield-Clarendon Model Railroad Club room, where one can escape the world you know to a magical snapshot in time, will remain in its prized location, offering a bit more light and attention.

The difficult part now will be waiting. Construction is set to start this fall and may last for 18 months, with a finish date sometime in the spring of 2023. The center hopes to keep portions of the property open during the construction phases.

When it debuted to the public in 1916, Clarendon Park fronted the lake, and the field house served thousands of swimmers and beachgoers. In the late 1930s, the city and state expanded Lincoln Park to Foster, eliminating Clarendon's lake frontage. The city then converted the facility into a community center. Its last major renovation came in 1972.

Cash for Kiddie Parks

On March 24, City Council voted to allot TIF money to four parks on the North Side that need updating to conform to safety and accessibility standards.

The parks were selected by the CPD's Playground Repair Program: Theodore Gross Park, 2708 W. Lawrence Ave., (\$175,000); Winnemac Park, 5001 N. Leavitt St., (\$200,000); Salmon Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland Ave., (\$125,000), and Broncho Billy Park, 4437 N. Magnolia Ave., (\$175,000).

ATTACK from p. 1

grabbed the victim's arm from behind and indicated he had a gun, Gumbs said.

The woman tried to call 911, but Jackson allegedly grabbed her phone away and hit her in the face with it. Then, he forced her into an alley.

Gumbs said the victim pounded on a door to get help, but Jackson forced her down some stairs where he pulled down his pants and forced her to perform sex acts. Then, he raped her, she said.

When he was finished, Jackson allegedly kissed the woman and walked away.

The victim outcried in a phone call to her boyfriend as she walked home after the attack. He called police and officers took the woman to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment and to have a sexual assault kit completed.

Gumbs said the victim had abrasions on her knees and buttocks and other injuries indicative of sexual assault.

A Chicago police detective who's had previous encounters with Jackson recognized him from surveillance images, Gumbs said. The victim allegedly identified him in a photo line-up on Wednesday and police arrested Jackson the next day.

When police took him into custody, he was wearing the same shoes and distinctive pants that he was seen wearing in surveillance videos leading up to the attack, according to Gumbs.

He told police he saw the woman while getting off the train and raped her because he was high, Gumbs said. Jackson allegedly admitted that the woman didn't want to have sex with him. Police took a DNA sample from Jackson for testing.

Assistant Public Defender

Courtney Smallwood said Jackson lives with his fiancée, who is pregnant with his third child.

Prosecutors charged Jackson with two counts of aggravated sexual assault with a weapon, felony aggravated robbery, and felony kidnapping.

"This is a shocking crime," Judge Arthur Willis said before ordering Jackson held without bail.

Last October, Cook County Judge Neera Walsh gave Jackson two-year's mental health probation after he reached a plea deal with prosecutors in another Red Line attack.

On Jan. 2, 2020, Jackson allegedly began exposing himself to a 24-year-old woman as they traveled on a Red Line near Morse around 9:57 a.m. The woman moved to a different car to get away, but he followed her, struck her several times, robbed her, touched her inappropriately, and

then forced her to perform a sex act against her will, investigators said.

Police released CTA surveillance images of that attack and then arrested Jackson a couple of weeks later. Prosecutors charged him with attempted aggravated criminal sexual assault, felony aggravated criminal sexual abuse, felony robbery, and felony aggravated battery in a public place.

A grand jury later returned an 18 felony count true bill against Jackson.

Five months ago, prosecutors agreed to drop all of them except one robbery charge in a plea deal that gave Jackson probation. But Jackson didn't even bother to have a court-ordered electronic monitoring band installed after he was sentenced. And authorities never took him into custody for failing to comply.

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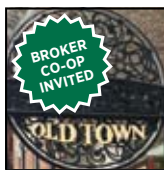


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