

We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.  
— Immanuel Kant

# NEWS-STAR

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The 48th Ward has the installation of an audible traffic signal for the crosswalk at Balmoral and Sheridan on the ballot.

## 48th Ward puts \$1 million on ballot for infrastructure funding

BY BOB ZULEY

Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] brought Participatory Budgeting [PB] to the 48th Ward for the first time in 2024, allowing neighbors to help decide how to spend \$1 million in infrastructure funding. Last year, a number of pedestrian safety projects were funded through this process.

The PB process began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1989. Today, there are more than 3,000 participatory budgeting processes around the world, most at the municipal level. In Chicago, PB first undertaken in 2009 in the 49th Ward, former-Ald. Joe Moore.

The 48th Ward uses PB to empower community members to determine how to spend allocated taxpayer funds – called “menu funds” – for ward infrastructure improvements. The 48th Ward PB process is open for voting by 48th Ward residents either online or in person at the 48th Ward office now through April 20 at 11:59 p.m.

The 48th Ward currently has an audible traffic signal at Balmoral and Sheridan on the ballot for the community to vote on via our PB process, says Nicole Granacki, 48th Ward chief of staff.

“Our office explored alternative sources of funding for an audible traffic signal at Sheridan and Balmoral before looking toward the Aldermanic funds, but we were told no such funding exists,” Granacki said.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals [APS] are devices that audibly announce “WALK” and “DON’T WALK” at intervals for pedestrians with low or no vision. In 2025, APS devices are scheduled to be installed at Devon/Glenwood and

Devon/Broadway funded by the city. This ballot item funds an additional APS at Balmoral and Sheridan.

The eight signal box devices required for the intersection of Balmoral Ave. and Sheridan Rd. are budgeted at \$180,000.

The 12 ballot options total \$1,250,000. Ward voters will have to select their top five projects, ranked in order of preference. The voter’s first choice vote will be awarded five points, the second choice four points, and so on. The online ballot choices may be viewed at [the48thward.org/2025-pb-projects](http://the48thward.org/2025-pb-projects). Not spending the money, and saving it to reduce the city’s current debt load is not one of the options.

The choices include a Goudy School Accessible Playground, \$100,000; Balmoral/Sheridan Audible Crosswalk, \$180,000; Bryn Mawr Decorative Crosswalks, \$250,000; Sidewalk Bumpouts at Two Sites, \$80,000; Painted Bus Stop Pavement, \$140,000; Decorative Bryn Mawr Utility Boxes, \$50,000; Foster Ave. Landscaping, \$50,000; Berwyn LSD Underpass Restoration, \$50,000; Upgraded Lakefront Benches, \$100,000; Public Art - \$50,000; Senn H.S. Pickleball Court, \$100,000, and Senn H.S. Updated Sport Space, \$100,000.

There is also a non-binding referendum on the pedestrian safety infrastructure improvement for the Bryn Mawr and Sheridan intersection first proposed in 2017. This is a multi-million dollar project that would require multiple funding sources. The results of this vote do not constitute a final decision on the project’s future.

## Bike lanes get privilege over buses, emergency vehicles, disabled



Until recently, patrons of Chicago’s Newberry Library were able to board the CTA’s #70 Division and #22 Clark buses directly in front of the library’s main entrance. However, due to the installation of traffic barriers bollards, CTA buses are no longer able to pull up to the curb of the sidewalk, creating what appears to be a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in various areas of public life.

Photo courtesy Jean SmilingCoyote

*Implementation of CDOT’s bicycle-focused Complete Streets program results in elimination of CTA bus stop at Newberry Library, and Edgewater locations*

BY PETER VON BUOL

As the city of Chicago continues to implement its bicycle-focused Complete Streets program which adds road-obstacles with the specific purpose of slowing down all motorized vehicle traffic, including Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] and Chicago Public School [CPS] buses, police

cars, fire trucks, ambulances and United States Postal Service vehicles, public transit passengers have been experiencing dramatic changes at some bus stops.

Some stops were suddenly eliminated, without warning, and others were moved to a completely different location to benefit privileged bike lanes. Often, the new location has made it more difficult to exit from a bus directly to a sidewalk.

Patrons of Chicago’s Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., until recently, were able to board the CTA’s #70 Division and #22 Clark

buses directly in front of the institution’s main entrance. However, due to the sudden installation of traffic barriers bollards, CTA buses are no longer able to pull up to the curb of the sidewalk. Now, passengers must exit to the street. Once in the street, passengers must navigate through the traffic barriers and a privileged bike lane to get to the curb.

“I [recently] watched as a passenger who’d been waiting at the bus stop sign but not exactly at the intersection walked through the

**BIKE LANES** see p. 12

## New 11 story, affordable building coming to Broadway

Approved by Plan Commission, next to City Council

BY BOB ZULEY

The Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] has approved an affordable residential development at 5853 N. Broadway, the current site of the 48th Ward Chicago Streets and Sanitation yard.

Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp. is the developer behind the proposal while the designer is LBBA Architects.

The new building will stand 11 floors in height with 90 units and the ground floor will include a residential lobby, community space, and management offices. The rear of the building will have 14 parking spaces and an outdoor space for tenants, providing meager .156 parking spots per unit. Prior to the onslaught of Transit Oriented Developments, a proj-



The city has approved an affordable residential development at 5853 N. Broadway, the current site of the 48th Ward Chicago Streets and Sanitation yard.

ect like this would have required 90 off-street parking spots be included.

Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp. is seeking to rezone the site from B1-2 to B2-5 for the \$71.1 million development. With CPC approval, the project now heads to the Zoning Committee and then the full City Council for approval.

The site is south of the Broad-

way Armory and north of the Judge Fisher CHA senior building. The building would rise 118 feet in height, a far cry from the nearby Judge Fisher building at 310 feet.

If approved, the developer expects to close on the financial package in the third or fourth quarter of 2025 with construction beginning by the end of 2025.

**Repair Café offers sustainability and helps memories thrive, page 9**

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# Every step of our journey was energized by Rosie



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

When breath leaves the living of your finest loving friend, grief and affection demand you publicly cherish their honor, especially in this column that brought her such delight. It is so, for me, with God's great gift of being pals with Rose Marie O'Neill.

All I can do today, as a writer, is re-imagine those stunning views of the world, the heart and the soul of it. Those are the places most affected for me by her death last week.

So I remember a time we shared after much organizing and challenge, when we stood on the banks of Lough Swilly. A fjord in Donegal, in the far north of the Irish Republic on the 400th Anniversary of the "Flight of the Earls." A tragic historic moment in the life of 100 Irish princes and nobles forced to flee their

homes. Never to return. An eternal exile thanks to Elizabeth I. An exit led by Hugh O'Neill, the princely chief who fled with his O'Donnell companions to the Pope of Rome.

Over the course of three years, back in 2006, Rosie and I retraced their exile. And invited others to join us. All the way to the chiefs' historic tombs in the floor of San Pietro in Montorio, high atop Rome's Gianicolo Hill.

Every step of our journey was energized by Rosie. In conferences in Paris all the way to Rome. She hosted the descendants of the "Flight" with abundance and grace and good Guinness. Deeply engaged in the history we uncovered and all the personal events and engagements with world-wide O'Neills and O'Donnells.

Rosie refused to let her courageous ancestors remain swallowed up by forgotten history. "No eternal exiles," she swore. She revolutionized the impact of their deeds, bringing the current Chief of the O'Neills, Prince Hugo in Portugal, along with us, in great harmony, to all the places we went. And bringing the Cardinal Primate of All Ireland, himself, to Rome from Armagh, all the way to the chiefs' tombs for Holy Mass and a black tie dinner for 300 in Rome's Palazzo Doria Pamphilj.

That was the magic energy of Rose Marie O'Neill, a woman of vast hospitality and wisdom. A woman of history and great hat boxes. And her cozy airplane mink. Intolerant at the thought of an eternal exile.

A woman of deep ancient faith, not afraid to leave mass early to get to the parking lot first. A woman of taste and fashion. First name basis with Coco Chanel.

While once waiting for the Irish Ambassador to France to show up for lunch with us, I had to tell Rosie to look up and acknowledge the friendly bows coming from a woman also waiting to be seated in the dining room of the Hotel Maurice. I said, "She loves your hat." Rosie said, "Who is she?" And I said, "Jackie Kennedy's sister. Princess Radziwill." Rosie

was amused.

Rosie thrived on the talents of Irish writers, poets, artists and colorful shop keepers. Always at the top of her list for invites to her savory crowded lunches in first class eateries.

Her Irish book of summer readings was extensive. As was her "End of Summer giveaways," just before her return to Chicago. Making sure every guest took a book home with them from her huge basket.

Her Dublin lunches for eight at a time were spectacles of great modern Irish life. She was no Irish American tourist. But a wondrous woman of Dublin life and famous hospitality. Ratified, of course, by the return invitations she cherished of lunches at Desmond Guinness' Leixlip Castle. She always brought of boatload of great white wine along with her.

There you might be seated next to Kofi Annan and Nan, or my favorite Guinness next-door neighbor, Marianne Faithful. I never minded carrying the cases of wine.

Rosie's map of Dublin, inside her heart, went Dublin church by church. A member of every parish, but partial to the local church down the street in Ballsbridge. Famous for short sermons. They loved the extra weight she always added at the collection basket. Rosie hoping it helped to shorten pulpit time.

It's no accident that Chicago life for Rosie only ever had one address. Her cherished 1550 N. State Pkwy. Once the youngest resident there, she departs its oldest and most venerated. Quiet celebrity fit her purpose in life. She cherished her residential elegance.

In 1979, she had a visit from the Secret Service, tidying up security for the upcoming visit of Pope John Paul II. He would be staying across the street with Cardinal Cody. And since her east window looked out on the cardinal's house, they wanted to explain the rules. The agent said Rosie should never stand in front of her window with a mop in her hands while the

Pope was next door." Rosie said to the agent, "What's a mop?" I'm not sure he got the humor.

With Rosie, it felt over the years that our friends were a gang. A gang of eaters who frequented Erie Cafe where she and I always split the prime rib. And Ralph Lauren's Bar & Grill where we



Rosie O'Neill with Hugo, Chief of the O'Neills.

always had the Dover Sole. And BBQ ribs at Twin Anchors. Usually with Mary Jo McGuire and Butch, Barb Stevens, Cynthia Olson, Kathy Taylor and John and Jenny Kinsella.

Rosie loved the gang and cherished all the restaurant staffs who took such care of the gang. They are deeply saddened today.

Rosie lived her life so very much for others. Cherishing her dear sister, Alice, and late brother, Terry, and all her nieces and nephews who always had her heart. She took delight in people of human compassion and accomplishment. She thrived on the details and impact of the Irish, like Jerry Adams, and longed for the day for the nation to be 32 counties again. And she was abundantly generous and present to a boy like me. The overflow of Rosie's love always lifted me to hope.

That's what friendship can do. Save us from the harshness of the world and remind us, like true Chicagoans, there are no eternal exiles. See you soon, dear Rosie O'Neill.

Adieu.

**A REPORTER REMEMBERED:** Mike Sneed showed us the best. A classic view. I remember being with her in Ireland after Patrick Sneed Griffin, her son, graduated college, showing him around the landscape and the sport of hurling and then Elvis Costello on our stairwell and Calista Lockhart and Harrison Ford dining at the neighboring table. I recall her comfort of shared friends in chaos, with her embracing the terror and strengthening faith. I see myself introducing the IRA's Jerry Adams to her here, and enjoying assorted heroes like Kup and Abraham Lincoln Marovitz. And on a horrible day with her in late summer in Wisconsin getting the news from London from a source that Diana, Princess of Wales, was dead in Paris. Life as a longtime Sneed friend was never dull. Over her professional life of 56 years as a Chicago journalist she reinvented the announcement of the details and inside facts of stories of color and drama. From the Chicago Tribune to the Sun-Times there was no one like her. And the finest cassoulet ever. Be blessed in retirement.

**SAVOR THE MEMORY:** Grateful to columnist Candace Jordan for her kind reportage of our RL St. Patrick's Day lunch. Now written on our hearts.

**BIRMINGHAM ART LECTURE:** Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican will present the Bishop Birmingham Lecture at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State St. on April 28, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. (a free program) entitled "Between Heaven and Earth: Art, Faith & Care of our Common Home," presented by Dr. Gloria Groom, Chair of Painting and Sculpture at the Art Institute of

ROSIE see p. 8

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# Illinois eyes taxing drivers by the mile rather than by the gallon

**Despite record tax hikes, state faces sliding fuel tax revenues**

BY BOB ZULEY

As internal combustion engines become more fuel efficient and electric vehicles make greater inroads, Illinois may join other states in beginning a new taxing structure to replace current fuel taxes paid for at the pump. This may be an alternative solution in response to less funding for roads.

The current tax is 66¢ per gallon sold in the state. In addition to the federal, state, and local motor fuel taxes, gasoline is subject to state and local sales taxes on the retail sale of gasoline. In Illinois, the basic state sales tax is 6.25%.

New legislation in Springfield introduced by state Sen. Ram Villivalam, seeks to respond to falling fuel revenue by creating a pilot program to explore the viability of establishing a “road usage charge,” essentially a tax on miles driven and not gallons purchased. (That will not remove the sales tax.)

“We need to ensure there’s sustained funding to ensure the safety of our roads, bridges and mass transit,” said Villivalam.

Illinois taxpayers who were burned by the bait and switch tactics from the state lottery sales job, may want to see Springfield regulators eliminate the gas tax first before agreeing to a mileage tax, just to make sure.

Engineers Local 150 executive director Marc Poulos sees “road usage charge” legislation as a logical solution.

“The federal government and the state

government have motor fuel taxes in place in order to fund highway and bridge construction, and because the federal government continues to pass legislation that increases MPG on vehicles, you have ve-

## Illinois gas taxes No. 2 in U.S., Hitting needy drivers hardest

Federal, state and local gas taxes in each state, January 2025



Map: @illinoispolicy. Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration. Created by Datawrapper

hicles that pay no motor fuel tax,” Poulos told The Center Square.

“In addition to that, you have other forms of power for vehicles, mainly electric vehicles. The fairest and most equitable system is a road usage charge and the reason why is because of how you power a vehicle, the road usage charge will charge every vehicle owner by every mile that they actually drive.”

Illinois motorists now pay the second-highest motor fuel tax in the country. On Illinois toll roads, drivers pay approximately 7¢ per mile, according to Poulos. With a mileage-based system, drivers could expect to pay three to four cents per mile, on top of tolls already paid.

As many as 1,000 motorists would be tabbed to take part in the pilot program

under Villivalam’s legislation, with all of them required to report their vehicle’s fuel efficiency and mileage to the Illinois Dept. of Transportation [IDOT]. Drivers who pay more in the gas tax than they would have in mileage would be granted a refund as other elements of the program are still being tested.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning previously recommended implementing a road usage tax in 2018. Oregon and Utah have already implemented similar programs, and five other states including California and Pennsylvania have begun pilot or exploratory efforts, according

**With a mileage-based system, drivers could expect to pay three to four cents per mile, on top of tolls already paid.**

to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

As for electronic bikes and scooters on roadways, generally states do not tax road usage by those road users. But Oregon does charge a bicycle excise tax, and some states are exploring alternative funding mechanisms like road usage charges for these vehicles.

Current fuel taxes are regressive, with older vehicles with lower fuel efficiency paying more per mile driven, subsidizing newer, more efficient vehicles even if the older vehicles do no less damage to roadways, according to the Tax Foundation.

“In time, Vehicle Motor Taxes [VMT] can efficiently replace the existing structure; A VMT tax can be a simple, transparent, neutral, and stable “vehicle” for roadway funding,” the Tax Foundation said.

# PPP fraud among 41 state employees is pegged at more than \$900,000

BY CWBCHICAGO

An Illinois mental health worker claimed she was an author who had made \$115,000 selling books in 2020 before her side business cratered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A state correctional sergeant at Stateville prison claimed he ran a private security company on the side that brought in \$100,000 in 2019 and also was hit hard by the pandemic the next year.

Now, both have been forced to resign, among 41 state employees listed in reports by the Illinois Office of Executive Inspector General as having defrauded the federal Paycheck Protection Program, according to the Chicago Sun Times. The PPP program was designed to help out legitimate businesses during the government-imposed pandemic economic lockdown.

The reports say those 41 employees are suspected of ripping off the fraud-plagued PPP program for more than \$900,000 in loans. Most of the loans in the program were forgivable, meaning they didn’t need to be repaid.

Their cases represent just a tiny fraction of the estimated \$64 billion in fraud in the PPP program in 2020 and 2021.

All of the employees have resigned, many of them several years ago, but the reports weren’t made public until this year.

Almost all of them worked for the Illinois Dept. of Human Services. To get the federal money, they said they owned busi-

**FRAUD** see p. 11

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# North Side 'catch-up' rents skyrocketing

**Apartment dwellers now face hefty spring rent hikes**



**The Home Front**

by Don DeBat

Apartment hunters on the North Side this spring may notice some hefty rent prices, and additional fees being tacked on by landlords.

Integra Realty Resources, a national appraisal research firm, reported that new monthly rents at top-tier high-rise apartment buildings downtown was a record-high \$3.61 per square foot in the third quarter of 2024, up 2.27% from the same time frame in 2023.

That means asking rent on a typical 2-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot luxury downtown apartment in an upscale neighborhood like the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park or Old Town, likely would be \$3,610 a month.

City-wide, average rents now are \$2,675 for one-bedroom units and \$3,404 for two-bedroom layouts, reports ApartmentHomeLiving.com.

In 2025, apartment rent increases in some of Chicago's top lakefront neighborhoods may soon reach double-digit levels.

Rental analysts say the steep increases in median rents can largely be traced to the continued spike in property taxes and higher operating expenses that must be passed on by landlords.

According to Redfin, a national real estate brokerage firm, "catch-up" rent increases can be heftier during the spring and summer seasons.

An average Windy City apartment that rented for \$1,000 a month in March of 2024, now would list for \$1,120 a month—a 12% boost in price, Redfin said.

Downtown and Near North Side luxury apartment rents also are on an upward trend, reported Luxury Living Chicago, a high-end rental apartment-leasing firm.

Rents for top-tier apartments rose 3% year-over-year last spring, pushing the average monthly rent for a downtown Class-A apartment above \$3,100 for the first time ever.

The posh Streeterville neighborhood posted the highest average rents at \$3,454, trailed closely by Gold Coast/Old Town at \$3,445 and River North at \$3,426, according to the report.

Young professionals in their late 20s or early 30s with high-paying jobs make up a large segment of the renter profile for these chic buildings.

Minimum annual income threshold for most of these ritzy apartments is \$75,000, though the

average income in the newer luxury buildings is approximately \$120,000.

In addition, North Side "Ma and Pa" landlords with under-market rental rates are upping base rental charges by adding special fees for off-street parking ranging from \$75 to \$200 a month.

Another fee—ranging from \$25 to \$150-plus on average per month—is being charged for "bundled utility pass-throughs," and often include water and sewer, garbage hauling, landscaping and snow removal. Dog and cat lovers now are being routinely billed monthly "pet rent" of \$50 per animal.

Most landlords are not charging a security deposit, which typically is refundable, less any damages to the unit. Instead, to improve cash flow, more and more owners are demanding up-front, non-refundable move-in and administrative fees ranging from \$350 to \$500.

Here are some examples:

- North Lincoln Square. A 4-flat owner with soaring real estate taxes was forced to hike one-bedroom apartment rents on new leases this spring to a range of \$1,600 to \$1,650 from an affordable \$1,300 to \$1,350 in 2024. That's a whopping 23% rent catch-up rent increase.

The rent hike is directly attributed to soaring real estate taxes which skyrocketed an astounding 46.5% from \$7,642 in 2020 to a projected \$11,200 in 2024.

Once an affordable rental neighborhood, the average rent this spring in Lincoln Square is \$1,592 for a one-bedroom unit and \$2,034 for two-bedroom layouts.

Rents are rising even faster in posh neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park and Old Town.

- Lincoln Park. The owner of a Victorian 5-flat recently leased a one-bedroom apartment for a whopping \$2,765, up 31.6% from \$2,100 in 2024. The base rent in 2025 was \$2,575, plus a \$75 utility pass-through fee, a pet rent of \$50 per animal, and a storage locker charge of \$65. That's a 46.5% rent increase, most of which will go to pay for a 2024 projected real estate tax bill of \$27,620.

- Old Town. The owner of a Victorian 4-flat leased a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment for

## Heading for the suburbs in 2025?

Suburban apartment renters in the Chicago area this spring face the toughest competition in the Midwest, with the highest number of applicants per unit amid fewer available options.

Chicagoland renters typically reside in the same apartment for more than two years, further lowering options by keeping coveted rentals locked in.

Rent Café's latest "Rental Competitiveness Report" reveals the rental-market dynamics in anticipation of the moving season, compiling exclusive data directly from market-rate, large-scale multifamily properties.

Here's how difficult it is to secure a rental apartment in Chicagoland right now:

- In suburban Chicago, 10 apartment hunters are vying for each vacant unit, while their options got thinner. Lease renewals have risen to 70.4%, up from 68.2% in early 2024, pushing the occupancy rate to

95.4% compared with 95% a year ago.

- Suburban Chicago renters stay in place for about 2.5 years, keeping sought-after apartments off the market. With minimal new units added, it's no surprise that the majority of apartment dwellers are hesitant to move, thus driving up lease renewals and occupancy rates.

- Vacant apartments in Chicago are also filling up faster with vacant units renting in an average of 40 days—two days quicker than at this time last year. Lease renewals have also increased with 59.2% of renters choosing to stay put, up from 58.1% a year ago. Consequently, this has pushed Chicago's occupancy rate to 94.4%, up from 93.8% in early 2024.

Under these circumstances, the rental competition in Chicago has heated up with eight applicants now vying for each available unit, up from six applicants last year.

\$3,620, up 27% from \$2,850 in 2024. The base rent for 2025 was \$3,495, plus a \$75 utility pass-through fee, a pet rent of \$50 per animal. Most of the rent increase will go to pay for a 2024 projected real estate tax bill of \$26,816.

## 2024 reassessment sparked rent hikes

Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi reported assessed values of large multifamily apartment properties in Rogers Park Township grew to increase \$213.04 million (before appeals), up an exorbitant 46% increase from \$145.63 million in 2023. In Rogers Park, multifamily apartments experienced a significant increase in assessed value in the township, Kaegi said.

Rogers Park Township is bounded roughly by Lake Michigan on the east, Howard St. on the north, Ridge Ave. on the west, and Devon Ave. on the south. It includes about 800 commercial apartment buildings containing more than four units.

In Chicago and Cook County, commercial properties are assessed at a hefty 25% of market value, while single-family homes and small apartment buildings are

assessed at 10% of market value.

Median multi-family apartment values have soared 20% in the township since 2021, the assessor reported. West Chicago Township has 7,168 commercial multi-family properties containing more than four units.

The boundaries of West Chicago Township are west of the Chicago River on the east, North Ave. on the north, Pershing Rd. (39th St.) on the south, and Harlem Ave. on the west.

Experts say apartment dwellers in the hot West Town neighborhoods of Bucktown, Wicker Park, along with the Near West Side, Humboldt Park, Austin, East and West Garfield Park and North and South Lawndale also should expect hefty rent increases this year.

## Affordable rental neighborhoods

If apartment hunters are willing to shop in less fashionable off-the-lake neighborhood, deals can still be found. Thrifty apartment seekers are advised to shop in ZIP codes similar to 60608. In this area—encompassing the Lower West Side, Little Italy and Bridgeport neighborhoods on the West and Southwest sides—median rental costs were almost \$1,000 a month lower at \$1,770 a month.

For more housing news, visit [www.dondebat.biz](http://www.dondebat.biz). Don DeBat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit [www.escapingcondojail.com](http://www.escapingcondojail.com).

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# Heartland responds to Senate Judiciary Committee inquiry about fate of unaccompanied migrant children

BY PETER VON BUOL

In response to recent inquiries from Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the executive director of Chicago-based Heartland Human Care Services said the safety of unaccompanied minor children entrusted to his organization's care remains its primary objective.

A recent report from the Dept. of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General found that over 300,000 migrant children under the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement [ORR] have effectively disappeared from official radar. Federal officials and elected representatives now worry that an overall failure in oversight left the children vulnerable to trafficking and forced labor.

"We unequivocally state that Heartland Human Care Services' [HHCS] unwavering commitment is to ensure the safety of children placed in our care by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services' [HHS] ORR. We share the same goal of Sen. Grassley, that they are all kept safe from trafficking. This goal drives our work every day," said David Sinski, the social-service agency's chief executive and vision officer.

Located at 4822 N. Broadway in Uptown, one of Heartland's programs is specifically aimed at helping victims of human trafficking. Known as Freedom from Trafficking, this program specifically provides services to foreign nationals that have been victims of human trafficking. These ser-

vices range from finding pro-bono legal help to helping survivors apply for government benefits by getting them certified by the federal government's HHS.

According to Sinski, his organization had not ignored Sen. Grassley's Feb. 2024 request but had not been able to provide extensive details. Legally, his agency had been obligated to follow the terms of its contract with the ORR.

"After receiving [the Senator's Feb. 2024 request], HHCS leadership and legal counsel have had communications with Sen. Grassley's office and we provided an initial response. Our current situation involves navigating obligations to seemingly conflicting authorities," said Sinski.

Reportedly, the ORR contracts required not exposing the agreement's details to Congressional inquiry and oversight.

"We are not, and have never been intentionally obstructing the inquiry, and are committed to co-

operation. However, we must also uphold our agreements with the federal government. We have confidence that we can work through this, and we support Sen. Grassley's efforts to ensure children are safe from trafficking," he said. "The safety and well-being of the children in our care remains our paramount concern."

Unlike some of the other social service organizations to whom Grassley had also sent letters, officials at Heartland said they have always been directly responsible for the children placed in its care.

"All children in HHCS are cared for completely in-house. No out-of-state services are provided to the children while they are in our care," said Marc Smith, the senior director of SAFETY at (Securing Advancement, Freedom, Empowerment) at HHCS and who leads its child and youth services programs.

According to Smith, the ORR closely follows the unaccompa-

nied minor children that had been placed in the care of his agency.

"The ORR provides extensive oversight of our programs, and we follow a thorough vetting and placement process to guarantee adherence to best practice protocols. This is maintained through our ORR contract and by the HHCS teams who care for the children," said Smith.

Until May 2024, Heartland Human Care Services had been a part of the Heartland Alliance. That organization included Heartland Health, now known as Tapestry 360 Health, a federally qualified health center. While both are now separate organizations, they trace their roots back to an organization founded by Chicago's Jane Addams, who had founded the Hull House settlement house in 1889.

Agencies contracted by HHS, including Heartland, have been awarded more than \$9.3 billion in taxpayer funds from the federal government.

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# Police Beat...

## SUV swiped in Lincoln Park, three arrested after chase ends in crash

Three people were arrested and are in custody after a chase on the North Side involving a stolen SUV March 26.

Charges were pending for the three men who led police on a chase that began in Lincoln Park and ended in a crash in Bucktown.

Officers on patrol first spotted the stolen beige SUV around 12:50 a.m. in the 300 block of Fullerton Ave. and attempted to stop it when the driver who accelerated in an attempt to flee, and sped off, said Chicago police.

Three men inside it were arrested after the SUV crashed into a post in the 2100 block of Fullerton Ave. Two of them were taken to a hospital in good condition.

## North Side burglar had pry tools, fob readers, bags of lockpicks and meth

Prosecutors have charged an Edgewater man with burglarizing an apartment building in the neighborhood, and a Chicago Police report says he may be responsible for even more cases.

The report said James McClain, 27, had a host of burglary tools when cops arrested him a few days ago: bolt cutters, two pouches of lockpicks, pliers, a box cutter, a machinist's file, two pry tools, and a card and key fob reader "suitable for use in breaking into a building [or] motor vehicle.

He also had three debit and credit cards issued in the names of three different people and 10 grams of suspected methamphetamine worth about \$400, the report stated.

Surveillance video showed McClain burglarizing an apartment building in the 5600 block of N. Kenmore on Feb. 15 and returning to the same building to commit another burglary three days later, the report said. A bicycle and backpack were taken during the break-ins.

The CPD report said other video footage showed McClain breaking into a building in the 5800 block of N. Broadway three times on Feb. 2 and twice on Feb. 3 to take items from the garage, storage area, and mail-room. However, he is not charged with those incidents.

He's charged with two counts of burglary, possession of burglary tools, and possession of a controlled substance. Judge Mary Marubio released him to await trial.

## Burglars drive Jeep into NW Side dispensary

A crash-and-grab burglary crew slammed an SUV into a Northwest Side cannabis dispensary overnight. Chicago police officers who responded to the scene said it did not appear that the would-be thieves

compromised the business' secure area.

Cops responded to a burglar alarm at Cannabist, 4758 N. Milwaukee, around 2:04 a.m. They found a Jeep, believed to be stolen, rammed through the storefront glass. No people were at the scene, and the dispensary's interior section appeared untouched.

Area Five detectives are investigating the case.

## Teen girl is charged with violently mugging 3 Red Line passengers since September



Chicago police released these surveillance images of five people wanted in connection with the Jan. 5, robberies.

Prosecutors have charged a 17-year-old girl with committing three robberies aboard Red Line trains since September. The girl turned herself in at the Central 1st District police station in the South Loop on March 25.

CPD said she was part of a group of people who physically attacked and robbed a 45-year-old man on the train near Garfield around 5:15 p.m. Jan. 5.

When detectives released surveillance image of the suspects on Jan. 9, they said the group also robbed another passenger on the Red Line near 35th Street shortly after the Garfield mugging. However, the girl is not charged with the second holdup.

She is, however, charged with committing two robberies early on Sept. 16, 2024. Like the January muggings, a group of people kicked and punched the victims and took their valuables along the Red Line.

The girl is charged with robbing a 21-year-old man at the State-Lake platform around 3:30 a.m. and a 22-year-old man on a train near Jackson at 6 a.m.

CPD previously announced charges against a 14-year-old boy and 20-year-old Breon Edwards in connection with the September robberies.

The 17-year-old is charged with three counts of robbery and one count of aggravated battery causing great bodily harm. No other details are available about her because she is under 18.

## Eight years for man who stabbed, tried to kill North Side convenience store clerk while on bail and on parole



Nicholas Mann

A suburban man was handed an 8-year sentence on March 25 for stabbing a convenience store clerk in Lincoln Square.

Nicholas Mann, 28, was on parole and on bail for a pending burglary charge at the time of the May 17, 2023, attack.

Officials said the store clerk recognized Mann as a troublemaker when he entered 7-Eleven at 5206 N. Western Ave. around 3:30 p.m. So, the cashier asked Mann to leave.

Instead, the Calumet Heights resident elbowed the 51-year-old clerk, who tried to push Mann out of the

store. A full-on fight erupted, and Mann allegedly stabbed the clerk twice in the back during the altercation.

About two weeks before the attack, Mann posted a \$500 bail deposit to get out of jail after prosecutors charged him with burglarizing a church in Chicago Heights. He pleaded guilty to that charge last June in exchange for a 3-year sentence.

On March 25, Mann pleaded guilty to attempted murder for stabbing the 7-Eleven employee. Judge Michael Hood handed down the 8-year sentence.

In addition to the burglary charge, Mann was on bail for a misdemeanor assault charge and on parole for an aggravated battery case at the time of the stabbing.

## Jury convicts man of Sex Trafficking, Kidnapping

A federal jury has convicted a Chicago man of violently sex trafficking five young victims, including a 15-year-old girl, and kidnapping two of them.

On March 25, the jury in U.S. District Court in Chicago convicted Dennis Williams, 33, on all seven sex trafficking and kidnapping counts against him. Williams faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison and a maximum of life. U.S. District Judge Mary M. Rowland set sentencing for Oct. 7, 2025.

According to trial evidence, Williams used threats, violence, drugs, and other coercive means to force five victims to engage in commercial sex. Williams often restrained or assaulted the victims to force them to comply and turn over the proceeds to him. Williams also caused a 17-year-old girl, whom he also assaulted repeatedly, to assist him in trafficking the victims. He operated his sex trafficking operation in 2022 and 2023 out of his Chicago residence and area motels.

On Aug. 2, 2022, Williams kidnapped one of his victims by luring her inside his truck and abruptly driving away. The victim escaped by leaping from the moving vehicle.

On Jan. 10, 2023, Williams kidnapped another of his victims by confining her to his closet overnight and then forcing her to engage in commercial sex with strangers. The victim escaped by jumping out of a second-floor window and running a quarter mile to a Chicago Public Library branch.

## Man who sued city less than 40 hours after being arrested for gun possession pleads guilty

A man who sued the city of Chicago within 40 hours of being arrested by CPD officers who allegedly seized a handgun from his waistband has now pleaded guilty to possessing that firearm. The arrest was caught on video, gaining local exposure on social media.

Lorenzo Williams, 33, pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm with a previous conviction and received a three-year sentence from Judge Shelley Sutker-Dermer, according to court records. He is expected to be paroled in January, after serving half of his sentence.

On July 30 last year, Williams was "seen on [police surveillance] video with a handgun in his front waistband. When officers attempted to detain



The FBI released these surveillance images of a man they believe robbed a bank in the Loop on March 27.

## FBI looking for man who robbed downtown Citibank

The FBI is looking for a bank robber who held up a Citibank branch in the Loop on March 27.

According to the agency, the man seen in these surveillance images entered Citibank, 69 W. Washington, around 12:39 p.m. and implied he had a weapon while demanding cash.

After collecting an undisclosed amount of currency from a teller, he returned to the streets and apparently

changed clothes along the way.

The FBI said the man is White, 6 feet to 6'-3" tall, and heavysset. He wore a light hoodie, reflective sunglasses, a medical mask, a gray long-sleeved shirt, a blue polo shirt, denim pants, and light-colored gym shoes.

Tips can be shared anonymously by calling 312-421-6700 or going to tips.fbi.gov.

## Probation for man accused of possessing postal service master keys, stolen U-Haul

A Loop resident accused of possessing U.S. Postal Service master keys and a stolen U-Haul has been sentenced to two years of probation, according to court records.

You may remember our story about Matthew Hutcheson, 33, after a U.S. Postal Inspector spent three days staking out his downtown neighborhood before finally arresting him at 4 a.m. last Christmas Eve.



Matthew Hutcheson

The postal inspector was looking for Hutcheson in connection with a burglary in the 400 block of N. Carpenter in the West Loop in August, a CPD report said. Hutcheson's luck ran out when the undercover inspector spotted him in the first block of E. Benton, near his Loop apartment.

The police report stated that Hutcheson had a postal service master key when the inspector arrested him. However, a separate criminal complaint said the key was a forged copy of a mail carrier's master key.

The police report stated that those

him, he ran, resisted, and attempted to grab his handgun, which put the officers' and Defendant's lives in danger," prosecutors said in a detention petition.



Lorenzo Williams

The police camera operators saw "the butt end of a handgun in [Williams'] front middle waistband as he lifted his shirt up" in the 800 block of N. Cambridge, a CPD report said.

Patrol officers moved in, and part of his arrest was caught on video. Two officers reportedly suffered minor injuries during the arrest effort. CPD's arrest report said Williams was also treated at St. Mary's Hospital "for minor injuries."

"It's not a complete video. It doesn't show everything," CPD Supt. Larry Snelling said during an unrelated press conference days after the video

began circulating.

Ultimately, the police recovered a loaded .40-caliber Ruger handgun that had been reported stolen from Mason City, Iowa, officials said. The cops also noted in a report that the background on Williams' phone is a picture of him holding the recovered firearm.

Less than 40 hours later, lawyers representing Williams sued the city and the CPD, claiming police assaulted and battered him and displayed "willful and wanton" behavior.

The lawsuit claimed Williams was "peacefully walking on public property" when the police "absent reasonable suspicion, probable cause, right, or other legal right" stopped and detained him and "then commenced hitting and beating him."

It further alleged that the officers beat and punched Williams in the face and head with a hard object and put a gun directly to his head while yelling, "Hey, I'mma f\*\*\*n shoot you."

The complaint, which is still pending, did not mention that officials claimed he was carrying a stolen firearm. It said Williams suffered "significant and severe pain and injuries, some of which may be permanent [sic] in nature."

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# Street takeovers clog North Side streets again

BY CWBCHICAGO

While Chicago police leaders work to bulk up a citywide unit dedicated to handling the ongoing problem of street “takeovers,” there are indications that those efforts can’t begin soon enough. Spectators and stunt drivers blocked intersections across the North Side March 29, including a couple in Lakeview, setting off fireworks, clogging traffic, and squealing tires as drivers spun donuts.

At the three-way intersection of Diversey, Clark, and Broadway, a driver whirled around in circles while a crowd blocked off the streets around 1:45 a.m.

Video recorded from a nearby high-rise shows a bright red firework set off as frustrated drivers honk their horns at the takeover crowd.

The crowd ran from the intersection back to their cars when they heard the first chirp of an approaching squad car. Everyone was gone by the time that car cruised through the intersection.

Other intersections taken over around the same time included the three-way intersection of Belmont, Ashland, and Lincoln, as well as Cortland and Elston in Logan Square.

Earlier this week, CPD brass published an opportunity for officers to join the department’s “Car Caravan Team.” Initially created to stop caravans of looters in 2020, the unit now responds to street takeovers.

Second City Cop, a blog focusing on CPD matters from an officer’s perspective, published the department’s job announcement on Thursday. The authors also advised against applying for the positions.

According to the blog, the police department has a long history of dissolving specialized units and reassigning officers from those units to undesirable districts with high violence levels.

“Be very very careful if the Department is looking to start up a new unit when they can’t even fill the beat/rapid cars in 100% of the Districts on 100% of the watches,” the blog wrote. “The only way to get cops into the killing fields is to circumvent Contractual protections, by luring in the short sighted, then changing the assignment parameters after filling the Unit. It’s been done many times before.”

### One shot, one stabbed, at least 15 arrested as teen mob swarms downtown

A boy was shot, a man was stabbed, at least 15 people were arrested, several people were taken to hospitals, and at least two firearms were recovered as hundreds of teenagers overtook Streeterville and parts of the Loop on March 28, according to information from Chicago Police Dept. statements and law enforcement sources.

The mayhem marks the second time that a so-called “teen trend” overtook Streeterville this month. A tourist was shot during the earlier incident on March 9.

CPD brought units from across the city, including officers usually

assigned to patrol neighborhoods like Rogers Park and Wicker Park, to handle an estimated 300 teenagers who swarmed the downtown area as the sun set Friday.

In one of the first major incidents of the night, an 18-year-old man was stabbed during an altercation inside a store in the 100 block of N. State around 8:45 p.m., CPD said. The argument escalated, and one of the men pulled out a knife, which he used to stab the other man in the back. Police said the victim was in fair condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Police did not release a description of the suspect.

About an hour later, a 15-year-old boy was shot in the 400 block of N. Cityfront Plaza, directly in front of NBC Tower.

According to CPD, officers heard shots fired around 9:41 p.m. and saw a large group of people running from the area.

Video recorded from a nearby

high-rise showed dozens of people running from behind NBC Tower and onto Columbus Dr. and N. Water St. after the shooting.

The cops found the boy with a graze wound to his leg. He was taken to Lurie Children’s Hospital in good condition.

Officers found a single shell casing on the corner of Columbus and N. Water, across from the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk Hotel.

For well over an hour, police and 911 callers reported widespread disturbances and fights, with most of the action concentrated in Streeterville.

During one clash, people broke out Tasers, which they applied liberally to each other. A nearby resident captured part of that incident on video.

Earlier this month, a 46-year-old woman from out of town was

**TAKEOVERS** see p. 11

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Series	Day	Time	Dates
1	Thursday	1:30 – 3:30 PM	Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13
2	Wednesday	6:00 – 8:00 PM	March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9
3	Thursday	11:30AM – 1:30 PM	May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5
4	Tuesdays	8:00 – 10:00 AM	July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5
5	Wednesday	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Aug. 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10, 17
6	Thursday	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13,

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## American Writers Museum launches new exhibit "American Prophets"

On Apr. 22, the American Writers Museum [AWM] is bringing American Prophets with "Making New Gods," a free event in partnership with the Chicago Public Library Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., at 5:15 p.m., featuring celebrated speculative fiction authors N.K. Jemisin, Nnedi Okorafor, Nghi Vo, and Matthew Kirby. They will explore the role of faith, mythology, and belief systems in their world-building and storytelling. A book signing will follow the event.

For more details and registration, visit <https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

Additional American Prophets events with authors spanning genres will be presented May through November and into early 2026.

AWM's American Prophets initiative also includes a touring version of the special exhibit Dark Testament: A Century of Black Writers on Justice, which originally premiered at the museum in 2022. Inspired by a poem from Pauli Murray, this exhibit explores the enduring impact of Black writers from the end of the Civil War through the Civil Rights era.

Check the events calendar at <https://americanwritersmuseum.org/> for updates.

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### ROSIE from p. 2

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**MEDICAL NEEDS:** Just found out that our dear friend, **Rodney Alex**, a man about town, especially at great bars and restaurants, on both sides of the counters and kitchens, was in a terrible motorcycle accident at the end of the summer. Wounded extensively, terrible brain injury, kept him hospitalized til Thanksgiving. His dear ex-spouse, **Cynthia Gill**, has undertaken to assist with his slow recovery in which rehab is extensive. Bills are through the roof. Some funds have been given to assist. Any friends who can also assist are kindly in great need. Check on Facebook under Rodney Alex.

**MUSEUMS:** The Frick Museum in NYC is reopening after five years. And remember the Pompidou Center in Paris is about to close for five years. And the greatest **Caravaggio** exhibition just opened in Rome at the Palazzo Barberini.

**WHO'S WHERE:** **Marius Morkvenus** and **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** have left the tarmac of New York, Paris bound... **Joe Shanahan** was in Tokyo for the MLB series... **Mary Claire Scorsone Moll** in Los Angeles at the famed Beverly Hills Hotel having some great mother-daughter time with **Keely**... **Grace Jones** will be appearing at Ravinia on June 7th... **Eamonn Cummins** rested from Irish events making it to the March Madness event in the Wintrust Grand Banking Hall with **Andrew Luetze** and **Bill Cunningham**... **Desiree Glapion Rogers** in New Orleans giving **Oliver Thomas** a hand in the mayoral election campaign... **Sherry Lea Fox** and **Pat Maxwell** at Las Ventanas Resort in Cabo, Mexico... **Anthony Ponce** had a blast emceeing @twistoutcancer's #BrusheswithCancer event... Gracious architect **Lucien Lagrange** does truly know how to "Live on and so what you love," for him



Mike Sneed



Rodney Alex



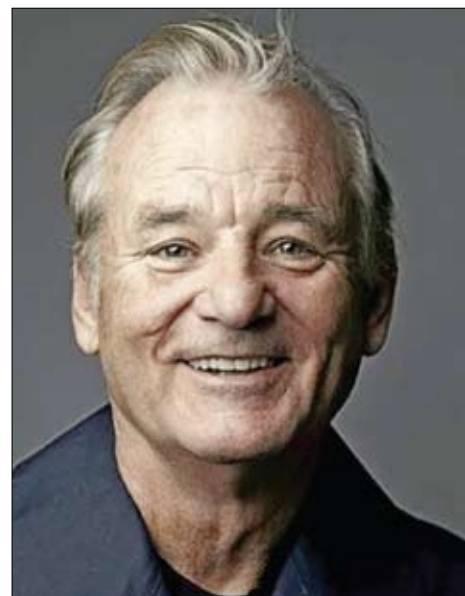
Klaus Makela. Photo courtesy Marco Borggreve Oslo Philharmonic



Marta Farion



Keely and Mary Claire Scorsone Moll.



Bill Murray

it's in the design of great buildings he creates... fantastic Chicago photographer **Tom McDonald** with **Meg Steele** at Old Town's St. Alphonsus Church at Lincoln, Wellington, and Southport avenues, seeing great beauty through his lens.....**Blase Foria's** bro, **Carmen Scavo** and **Liza Loza**, happened to get haircuts at the same time at **Vito** the Italian Barber while all listened to singer **Jerry Vale** on 8-Track....remembering the great **Brendan Behan** on his 51st anniversary of death, a genius who called himself, "a drinker with a writing problem"... **Gordon Sinclair** on his cruise just landed in the Dominican Republic loathing the cuisine aboard ship, but recommends NY Times **Maureen Dowd's** "Notorious"... **Karen Zupko** just finished speaking on two panels at The Aesthetic Society meeting in Austin, Texas... **Jackie Evancho** and **Matteo Bocelli** stepped onstage at Bella Notte Serenata, and in an instant, the air became electric... One time Cook County Assessor, Democratic boss, **Joe Berrios** having cocktails at Erie Cafe... **Christian Hernandez** of Il Girasole just announced that brunch will be served on Saturdays and Sundays... Former Mayor **Richard M. Daley** recently relocated from Lake Shore Drive to the Montgomery Ward Building on the North Branch of the Chicago River where both his daughters and their families reside, bravo grandpa... **Diva Montell** has returned to Donny G's Ristorante & Bar in Elmwood Park, so get out your dancin' shoes... Happy 75th Birthday to Chicago actor **Bill Murray**.

**OPERA:** Chicago Opera Theater continues its season April 5 at The Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture with the concert premiere of the sixth full-length opera produced through the Vanguard Initiative. Composed by **Carlos R. Carillo** to a libretto by renowned opera librettist **Stephanie Fleichmann**. This concert premiere is intended to be a sneak peek of a work that will continue to evolve until its fully-staged world premiere.

**UKRAINIAN DIPLOMACY:** Songstress **Barb Bailey** hosted a timely luncheon for Ukrainian cultural leader

**Marta Farion** at Ralph Lauren's fab eatery. Her long decades of generous service to Chicago's Ukrainian Community has been transformative. Her participation in the Davos Conference was insightful. Long a supporter and creative ally of the Ukrainian Arts Center in Chicago, Farion's cultural and political skills are first rate. Great lunch. To many she is known as the legendary "Pani Marta of Cheekago!"

Bailey has announced that **Barry Edwards**, formerly of **Dick Clark's** American Bandstand and Chicago's CBS Morning and Afternoon News, has come out of retirement with a new company, an LLC. The new enterprise has been created around Barb's own Cabaret Shows. It will provide entertainment for Seniors all around the globe.

**CHICAGO SYMPHONY:** **Klaus Makela** (pronounced MAY-lah) conducts **Gustav Mahler's** Symphony No. 3 on Thursday, April 24, at Symphony Center. It promises to be an experience of grandeur. The 29 year old Finnish conductor and cellist is chief conductor of the Oslo Symphony.

**NEVER KNEW THIS:** In 1943, **Cornelia Fort** was tragically killed. She is best known as one of the most accomplished female pilots to serve during World War II. Did you know that an American woman was flying the skies during the attack on Pearl Harbor?

**They took away our land, our language, and our religion; but they could never harness our tongues.**

—Brendan Behan

tog515@gmail.com

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# Repair Café offers sustainability and helps memories thrive

BY JANE LAWICKI

It's not just recycle, renew, reuse. In Lenore Kimmel's world, it's recycle, repair, reuse – and avoid the landfill.

As the organizer for the Sulzer Regional Library's monthly Repair Café, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave., Kimmel coordinates the volunteers who gather in the building's community room from 10 am to 12 p.m. every second Saturday to bring life back to otherwise useable products.

"We try. If we can't [fix it], we can't Kimmel explained. "The whole objective is so that it doesn't go into the landfill."

Kimmel estimates that in the 11 years the group has been in existence – the last five at the library – they have saved 1,000 pieces from landfill.

"Sometimes, we just diagnose," she added, noting that at times the volunteers can only offer a diagnosis or further repair suggestions. "Everyone volunteers their time. We meet only two hours per month, so no one is overwhelmed."

The current team, comprised of four general repairmen, two seamstresses, and one jeweler, have returned to good use such items as electric fans, lamps, CD players, mini-refrigerators, portable heaters, electric fireplaces, and cuckoo clocks.

While there are restrictions – no watch repair for the jeweler, no alterations or hems for the seamstresses – the team offers their expertise without cost. However, donations are accepted and go toward replenishing repair materials such as screws,



Lenore Kimmel (left) with Phyllis Ellin, who volunteers as a seamstress.



Brett Valmassel repairs a wooden backgammon game box for Emily Freedman.

glue, wiring, threads, and needles.

"When I saw what they were doing, I thought I can do that," Phyllis Ellin said, explaining why she volunteered as a seamstress. While not a professional, she has sewn all her life and has been helping at the Café regularly for more than four years.

Ellin's typical repairs include mending torn fabric, sewing seams that have ripped, patching holes, or sewing on buttons. Each repair takes about 15-minutes, and she is usually busy through the Café's two-hour session.

"It's something I can do that many people can't do for themselves," she said. "Now that I'm retired, it's a good way to help people, share my talents, and give back to the community."

Brett Valmassel, one of the repairmen, explained that while several of the volunteers do appliance repair professionally, he doesn't do it for a living. He participates in the Café because he enjoys working with his hands. He usually completes seven to 10 repairs per session.

"Woodworking is more my interest," he said as he inspected a box brought by Emily Freedman to have the clasp fixed. As he turned the box over and around, opening it and exploring the wood, he judged it was likely made of mahogany and walnut.

Slightly bigger than a large I-phone, the box was actually a portable backgammon game. Freedman bought it four years ago in Israel.

"Backgammon is one of the first games

I learned with my husband," she said, delighted that the wooden box would now close securely. "Thank you!"

Nothing that many of the pieces often come with a story, Kimmel explained that, beyond sustainability, it was important to offer the service as some people may not have the money for repairs. She briefly shared the story of a woman who brought in her prized family heirloom – a St. Christopher's medal that dangled from a broken chain.

"It was a simple repair," Kimmel said, but adding that the woman was immensely grateful. "I will live to be 100 with all the praise she gave me. The personal stories – that's what's really the most important."

## Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain returns to Chicago

BY PETER VON BUOL

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain [UOGB], which more than 30 years ago helped spark a worldwide revival of the ukulele, is returning to Chicago April 15 to perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Chicago Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave.

Performing on stage as an eight-member musical group in evening attire, the group has a simple philosophy, "all genres of music are available for reinterpretation, as long as they are played on the ukulele."

The group's selections include expertly played covers of well-known songs, from Bach to Lady Gaga, and anything in between.

In their show, they throw in some light classical favorites among the punk classics and ancient US themes which were staples of UK entertainment are another rich vein. "Bewitched, I Love Lucy, My Favorite Martian, The Beverly Hillbillies were all well known in the UK and are part of our shared culture. And of course, we have played quite a few classic US rock songs over the years, including "Dust My Broom" by [Old Town School of Folk Music co-founder] Elmore James," said George Hinchliffe, who in 1985 co-founded the group with the late Kitty Lux and who serves as its music director.

"[In 1985], we saw it as a sort of 'outsider' instrument, not quite respectable, but capable of playing all the notes and all the kinds of music. Most bands seemed to consist of guitars and drums, or synths, and we thought we should try something different. It seemed important to have only ukuleles. We regarded the instrument as a sort of "pocket calculator" of music; small, personal, yet sophisticated," Hinchliffe said.

Outside of its use in Hawaiian music, back then, the ukulele had not really been considered a serious instrument. Many associated it with Tiny Tim, an eccentric novelty performer who had achieved international notoriety in the 1960s.

At its first performance in Chicago, in 1987, local music reviewers had been confused. They were not sure if the UOGB was a serious musical act or performance art.

"Their reviews revealed our ukulele

shopping-trolley-dash through rock, classical and left-field music seemed unusual," Hinchliffe said.

Since its founding, the UOGB has maintained a busy touring schedule. Its mix of music and humor made it a popular concert draw. Interestingly, within a few years after its formation something dramatic happened to the instrument. It regained its respectability in 1993 through a recording by the late Hawaiian music legend Israel

***While humor may seem to be a natural part of their performances, it was a mix-up in sheet music that caused the orchestra's trademark stage banter to emerge.***

Kamakawi'ole whose medley of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World" became an international hit. Shortly afterwards, rock performers such as Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, Jack Johnson and Paul McCartney were using the instrument in their concert performances.

While Tiny Tim's performances had caused many to associate the instrument with novelty music, it never stopped being a serious instrument in Hawai'i. Eddie Kamae's ukulele was one of the lead instruments for the Sons of Hawaii band, which spearheaded the revival of traditional folk music in Hawai'i.

One of his former student's, Herb Ohta, Senior, also became known as a virtuoso and was signed by a major record label on the mainland. Today's Hawaiian ukulele virtuosos include Jake Shimabukuro, Herb Ohta, Jr., Daniel Ho and Taimane Gardner and they are among the state's most popular recording acts.

"Some blame us for the ukulele renaissance, whereas others say we should take no credit for it. Certainly, though we did not seek to be neologists, we have been unable to find any references to an "ukulele orchestra" prior to our use of the name. All those years ago, it seemed like an oxymoron, an impossibility, like "the Sahara Desert Sub-Aqua Club" but now, it seems

like a normal name for a bunch of ukulele players having fun together," he said.

They have been having fun making music with a group of ukulele players for 34 years. Despite having a reputation for putting on an entertaining show, Hinchliffe insists his orchestra remains serious about their music. They've been serious about the music and consider that it needs to be brought before the public convincingly.

"The jazz has to swing, and the rock has to roll. We thought that the sound of the ukulele could become repetitive and so we tried to introduce as many variables as possible, except for the line of instruments. We changed keys, tempi, genres, styles of playing, orchestrations between the instruments, voices and volume," Hinchliffe said.

While humor may seem to be a natural part of their performances, it was a mix-up in sheet music that caused the orchestra's trademark stage banter to emerge.

"In relation to the jokes, at the very first gig, we had sheet music in various forms. It seems that some of the chord sheets became mixed up and we ended up with a polytonal version of a Dolly Parton song in

three keys at once. While we sorted out the paperwork, we spoke to the audience with deprecating humor. This was the start of the humor. We had to improvise to fill the time, and humor seemed to emerge. That set the template for the style of the orchestra's presentations," Hinchliffe said.

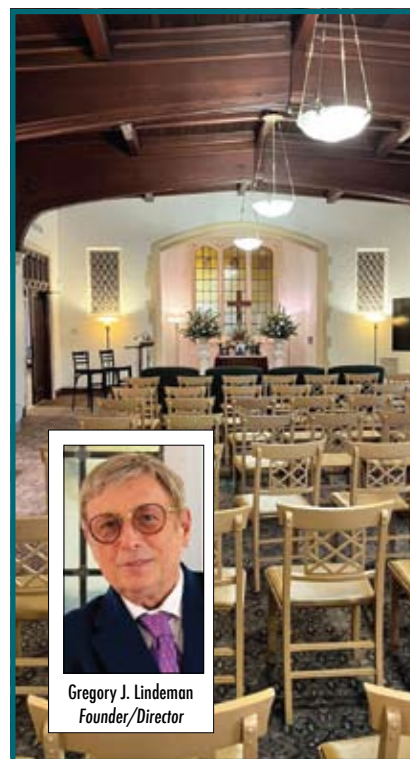
### Letter to the Editor

**\$40, plus plus = \$52.28**

I saw the article about Pizza Day at uno and Due. It says tickets are \$40. This is wrong, you have to purchase tickets through event brite, which jacks the price up to \$52.28!

I did a search for this event; other publications also show the price at \$40. Apparently, this is what the restaurant chain's PR flacks are promoting to get people excited about it, but they don't mention the event brite fee (\$5.80) and sales tax (\$6.48).

John Albergo, Rogers Park



Gregory J. Lindeman  
Founder/Director

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## Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

## Real Estate For Sale

020202

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LIMA ONE CAPITAL, LLC Plaintiff

vs. NUBURG GROUP, LLC SERIES Q, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; THE CITY OF CHICAGO; KIRK W. TURNER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendant  
23 CH 4838  
CALENDAR 59  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercourty Judicial Sales Corporation will on May 5, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercourty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 11-31-303-004-0000.  
Commonly known as 6561 North Seelye Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563. (630) 453-6960, 6960-192493  
INTERCOURTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercourtyjudicialsales.com  
**13263274**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. Bank National Association Plaintiff,

-v- Danilo L. Jones; Illinois Housing Development Authority; The Birchwood Court Condominium Assoc-

## Real Estate For Sale

ation; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants Defendants.  
2024CH01395  
7715 N HERMITAGE AVE 2C, CHICAGO, IL 60626

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 2/3/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on May 7, 2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60606, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 7715 N HERMITAGE AVE 2C, CHICAGO, IL 60626  
Property Index No. 11-30-213-055-1013

The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$130,495.86 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com, LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODI-

## Real Estate For Sale

LIS & ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-23-07480. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 14-23-07480 Case Number: 2024CH01395  
NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
**13261624**

262626

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff,

-v- LEROY H. BAHLMANN, CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO HARRIS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK U/T/A DATED MARCH 22, 1972 A/K/A TRUST NO. 35037, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CHESTERFIELD ON TOUHY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendants  
2024 CH 06535  
2856-C W. TOUHY AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60645  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 19, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 14, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
Commonly known as 2856-C W. TOUHY AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60645  
Property Index No. 10-25-328-008-1049  
The real estate is improved with a residence.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate

taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL

## Real Estate For Sale

60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE  
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
E-Mail: pleadings@ilcslegal.com  
Attorney File No. 14-24-03319  
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002  
Attorney Code. 21762  
Case Number: 2024 CH 06535  
TJSCF: 45-684

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 2024 CH 06535  
**13262888**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff,

-v- ROCCO A. RENDA; COLUMBIA PARC CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; Defendants.  
2024CH06171  
1620 W. Columbia Ave. Unit 2N,  
Chicago, IL 60626  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 1/29/2025, an agent of Auction.com LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on 4/30/2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60606, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

Commonly known as 1620 W. Columbia Ave. Unit 2N, Chicago, IL 60626  
Property Index No. 11-31-408-021-1013  
The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$130,592.56  
Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) The subject property is subject to

general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC (630) 453-6960 please refer to file number 1496-204516.

Auction.com LLC  
100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 - 872-225-4985  
You can also visit www.auction.com.

Attorney File No. 1496-204516  
**Case Number: 2024CH06171**  
NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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## Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

## Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION SERVBANK, SB Plaintiff,

-v- BEKNAZAR MENGLIMAMATOV, ANGELIQUE TALLY, SHORELINE PARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendants  
24 CH 03426  
4960 NORTH MARINE DRIVE APARTMENT 610  
CHICAGO, IL 60640  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 20, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 6, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 4960 NORTH MARINE DRIVE APARTMENT 610, CHICAGO, IL 60640  
Property Index No. 14-08-412-040-1188

The real estate is improved with a condominium. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC  
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200  
Chicago, IL, 60602  
312-346-9088

E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com  
Attorney File No. 24-18121L, 1056696  
Attorney Code. 61256  
Case Number: 24 CH 03426  
TJSCF: 45-563

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 24 CH 03426  
**13263397**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE

## Real Estate For Sale

SERVICING, Plaintiff,  
-v- MARIE LEE; JOHN LEE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

2022CH11550  
1615 West Granville Avenue,  
Chicago, IL 60660  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 2/10/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on 5/14/2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60606, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

Commonly known as 1615 West Granville Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660  
Property Index No. 14-06-217-006-0000  
The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

The judgment amount was \$406,396.36  
Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com, LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 23-15212L.  
Auction.com, LLC  
100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 - 872-225-4985  
You can also visit www.auction.com.  
Attorney File No. 23-15212L  
**Case Number: 2022CH11550**

NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

020202

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST Plaintiff,

-v- COLM TREACY, TUAN ANH HOANG, STATE OF ILLINOIS - DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, JULIE MAI KIRKEL, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendants  
2024 CH 06888  
4911 N ASHLAND AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60640  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 10, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 21, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Cor-

## Real Estate For Sale

poration, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 4911 N ASHLAND AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60640  
Property Index No. 14-08-309-009-0000  
The real estate is improved with a residence.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@ilcslegal.com  
Attorney File No. 14-24-04464  
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002  
Attorney Code. 21762  
Case Number: 2024 CH 06888  
TJSCF: 44-3220

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 2024 CH 06888  
**13263075**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR LSF 11 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST Plaintiff

-v- ALEJANDRO CASTRO, ROBERTO CARO, 5455 EDGEWATER PLAZA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendant  
2024 CH 9613  
CALENDAR 83  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercourty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 29, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercourty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell to the highest

bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 14-08-203-016-1274.  
Commonly known as 5455 N. Sheridan Rd., Unit 2505, Chicago, IL 60640.

The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Altman, Strautins & Kromm, LLC d/b/a Kluever Law Group, 200 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1880, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (312) 236-0077.  
SPS001392-22FC1

INTERCOURTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercourtyjudicialsales.com  
**13262967**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CITIZENS BANK NA F/K/A RBS CITIZENS NA Plaintiff,

-v- SCOTT J OH, IRENE S OH, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, FIRST AMERICAN BANK Defendants  
2024 CH 04524  
3639 NORTH GREENVIEW AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60613

NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 17, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 5, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 3639 NORTH GREENVIEW AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60613  
Property Index No. 14-20-121-006-0000

The real estate is improved with a two - four apartment building.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC  
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200  
Chicago IL, 60602  
312-346-9088

E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com  
Attorney File No. 22-09388L\_782897  
Attorney Code. 61256  
Case Number: 22 CH 04524  
TJSCF: 44-1155

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 22 CH 04524  
**132**

# Service Directory/Classifieds

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## Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312-644-2000), is opening lockers: 4528X (Heith Thorndill), 2706X and 3525X (Debra Stubbs), 2721X (Edward Streit), 5566X (Lamonte Poole), 2713X (Tyra Peterson), 4524X (Elbert Hatley), 2808F (Anita V Stephens), 7158SM (Jaelin Roman) and 7161SM (The Wine Guide, LLC.), for public sale on April 29, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Cash only.

## Notice of Public Sale


East Bank Storage located at 730 West Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-876-2000, is opening lockers: 5174X- Bishop, Davonta 3290C- Brown, Ronica 4370E-Eardley, Kerry 4130F-Hofbauer, Michael 4485G- Reynoso, Joseph 5172X- Townsel, Tami for public sale. This sale is to be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 2:00PM. Cash payments only.

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## FRAUD from p. 3

nesses ranging from beauty salons to catering companies to rideshare operations.

But investigators determined they submitted fake applications and phony tax records to get the PPP loans. Most admitted they turned to other people to fill out the applications for them in return for a cut of their loan proceeds. Those kickbacks averaged more than \$2,200, the reports said.

## TAKEOVERS from p. 7

shot while walking with her 11-year-old son near the corner of Columbus Dr. and Illinois St., about a block from where last night's shooting occurred.

Police said a bullet fired during a "teen trend" traveled down the street and struck the woman in her arm. Detectives released surveillance images of four suspects they want to speak to about the shooting. So far, though, no arrests have been announced.

Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd], who represents most of Streeterville, called for an 8 p.m. curfew for juveniles after previous "trends." He renewed his efforts after the March 9 shooting, but Mayor Brandon Johnson dismissed the idea.

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## North Township Real Estate For Sale

### Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK Plaintiff,

-v- BOAN INC., DANIEL GILJEN, 535 NORTH MICHIGAN CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2023 CH 08782 535 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., UNIT 3201 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 30, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 1, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 535 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., UNIT 3201, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-122-025-1445 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$280,630.43.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium

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### Real Estate For Sale

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For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number WWR 23-000723.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.jscc.com](http://www.jscc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400 CHICAGO, IL, 60601 312-782-9676 Fax #: 312-782-4201 E-Mail: [ChicagoREDG@weltman.com](mailto:ChicagoREDG@weltman.com) Attorney File No. WWR 23-000723

Case Number: 2023 CH 08782 T.J.S.C#: 45-426 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

**Case # 2023 CH 08782** 8232-951896

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## Edgewater area blood drive April 6

Several Edgewater area religious organizations and the Assoc. of Sheridan Condominium Owners are holding a blood drive at Emanuel Congregation, 5959 N. Sheridan Rd., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6.

To schedule an appointment call 877-258-4825. For more information call 773-561-5173.

### BIKE LANES from p. 1

bollard-thicket to board a CTA #22 bus, which naturally had to stop in the driving lane. It was easy for her because she was not disabled and there was no unplowed snow on the street pavement, but what if she had been in a wheelchair? There is no curb cut at the bus stop sign, only at the crosswalk," said Jean SmilingCoyote, a West Ridge resident and CTA bus patron who frequently uses the Clark St. #22 bus to attend programs at the private research library.

The sudden addition of these street obstacles has dramatically slowed down all motorized traffic, as designed, but it has also made it more difficult to board and exit public transportation. SmilingCoyote thinks the city may be inadvertently violating the federal American with Disabilities Act [ADA].

"I'm not even sure what the center line is for a bus making a right turn there, which both the #22 and #70 routes do. If a bus has to stop at the crosswalk to lay down the ramp for a wheelchair, does this change the center-line of the right-turn path and possibly make it even more challenging? I don't know. This could be an ADA violation," said SmilingCoyote, who depends on CTA buses for daily transportation.

"Somehow, this street segment worked

okay for all users - including bikes and buses - before the bike lane and bollards were added," she added. Meanwhile, on the city's website, city officials describe all the changes made to the city's infrastructure as positive.

"In 2024, we upgraded hundreds of intersections and miles of road, including the installation of over 31 miles of low-stress bikeways and over 65 bus boarding islands citywide," according to their website.

No mention is made of the negative impacts those changes may have had on those who depend on public transportation to safely get around the city.

"We've all seen photos of the World War II beach obstructions called 'Czech hedgehogs.' Should we call these bollards 'Chicago hedgehogs,'" asked SmilingCoyote. Indeed, the city's new Complete Street designs are forcing the disabled to cross through bike and scooter traffic on privileged bike lanes all over town.

Farther north on the #22 route, SmilingCoyote adds implementation of Complete Streets south of Ridge Ave., has also had a negative impact on CTA passengers, especially senior citizens, as well as those with children, and those living with disabilities.

"On the west side of Clark St., for the southbound #22 bus, it has also become a problem for CTA passengers, and especially for disabled passengers, after the hardscaping was installed for the privileged bicycle riders," she said.

"It is still listed as CTA Stop #17155 but when some passengers recently wanted to get off at that [former] stop, the bus driver told them "it is no longer a bus stop." This has really hurt disabled passengers," she said. "They have forced passengers to use the Elmdale/Peterson stop, instead. To switch between inbound Peterson buses and southbound Clark St. buses, it's a good walk (for people who can walk) and a busy street crossing."

"We all know that [Clark and Peterson]



To one CTA user, the new road obstacles installed in front of the Newberry Library resemble World War II beach obstructions called 'Czech hedgehogs.'

Photo courtesy Jean SmilingCoyote

makes sense as a bus stop," said SmilingCoyote. "It oughta be a bus stop. It's only that blasted bike-lane hardscaping which has messed it up."

***While ATA bills itself as a membership-based transportation advocacy organization, it is a powerful special interest lobbyist organization funded primarily by government grants, and closely tied to the Mayor's office. Its members provide coordinated support to numerous aldermanic organizations throughout the city.***

Public transportation advocates worry the sudden reconfiguration or elimination of bus stops and the slowdown of motorized traffic may discourage more from choosing to ride public transportation. The Regional Transportation Authority [RTA] is already facing a \$771 million budget shortfall and can ill afford any more loss of ridership. RTA officials have said four of the CTA's train lines could experience either reduced service or be completely eliminated and that bus service will also be affected.

Complete Streets was developed by the Chicago-based Chicago Metropolitan

Agency for Planning. Federally-mandated, its appointed (not elected) board members represent the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois.

"Complete Streets is a transportation approach that requires streets that are planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable travel and access for all road users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel," according to information posted online by CMAP.

'All road users' apparently does not include the disabled, who may now find it more difficult to travel due to the concrete barriers used in privileged bike lanes, and the inherent danger in having to pass through bike cross traffic.

According to CMAP, its Complete Streets was created in partnership with the Chicago-based Active Transportation Alliance [ATA] and its national partner, the National Complete Streets Coalition.

While ATA bills itself as a membership-based transportation advocacy organization, it is a powerful special interest lobbyist organization funded primarily by government grants, and closely tied to the Mayor's office. Its members provide coordinated support to numerous aldermanic organizations throughout the city. Often, ATA officials and members will appear at ward meetings and express support for whatever position an alderperson has on any particular topic but without revealing their role in ATA.

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