

Hope is patience
with the lamp lit.
— Tertullian

INSIDE-BOOSTER

Senior LIVING,
page 6

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Rotten eggs for Easter from Cupich

Cardinal's formal merger decree delivered to parishioners of historic church during Easter Mass

STORY AND PHOTO
BY PETER VON BUOL

Parishioners who attended Easter Sunday Mass on April 4 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 4640 N. Ashland Ave. were presented with a copy of the formal decree signed by Cardinal Blase Cupich by which he formalized his decision to merge the historic Ravenswood parish with the St. Mary of the Lake Parish, 4220 N. Sheridan Rd., in Buena Park.

According to Cupich, the current parishes will, according to church law, cease to exist on July 1. Unlike other merged parishes, an entirely new name will not be chosen for the unified parish as the new legal entity will be known as St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

In a written Easter statement, the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Father Michael Shanahan sought to address some of his parishioners' concerns.

"One implication of St. Mary of the Lake being designated the



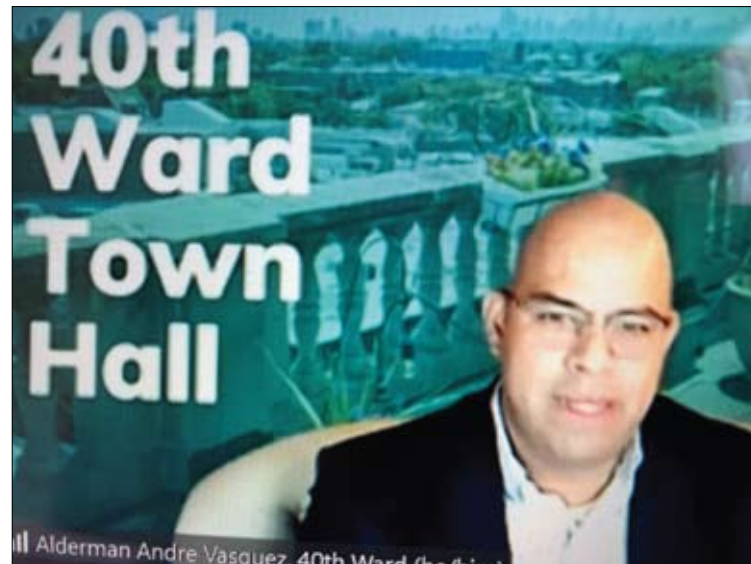
Cardinal Blase Cupich delivered bad news during Easter Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, after he formalized his decision to merge the historic Ravenswood parish with St. Mary of the Lake Parish.

parish church means that the sacramental records of the new parish, as well as the past sacramental records of [each of the parishes] will be maintained at the offices on the St. Mary of the Lake campus. For the current time, each parish's records will remain at their current locations, and we

will update everyone when the records are fully brought together at the office on the St. Mary of the Lake Campus," Shanahan wrote.

Seeking to assuage the fears of parishioners who had reached out to him about their concerns

PARISH see p. 12



Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th] on his Zoom call.

\$15M in TIF funds to Lincoln/Lawrence/Western

City announces creation of Lincoln Ave. Arts District

STORY AND PHOTO
BY PETER VON BUOL

The city of Chicago's Western Ave. North Tax Increment Finance District [TIF] is slated to spend \$15 million on improving the commercial district north of the busy intersection of Lincoln, Western and Lawrence avenues intersection.

Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th] made the announcement March 29 during his quarterly townhall meeting, which was held virtually, via Zoom.

Unfortunately, virtual meetings continue to show they are a weak replacement for the real thing as the meeting quickly reached capacity and many, including those who had signed up in advance, were not able to attend the meeting live.

"A lot of folks have heard me talk about this since before taking office. This will cover [the area from] Lincoln and Western avenues, all the way to Catalpa Ave.," said Vasquez during the meeting.

For over 60 years, numerous urban planning experts hired by the city have recognized this stretch of Lincoln Ave. needed revitalization. Some of the ideas in the new plan were proposed in earlier plans, including making the intersection of Lawrence, Western and Lincoln avenues more pedestrian friendly. Sidewalks will be widened to encourage pedestrian crossings.

"There will be more public gathering places. We want neighbors to cross the street to check out all the neighborhood businesses. [We want to] help fill

some of the empty storefronts. A large part of the funding will be [construction of a complete] streetscape. We also want to make it more bike-friendly because of the narrow nature of Lincoln Ave. There is a conversation of whether you widen the streets or create a bike lane or use arrows to kind of delineate bikes and vehicles on

"I want to make sure we work through this vision to really bring an arts district to the 40th Ward," Vasquez said.

the road. As we get more developed, we want to make sure we get the input from neighbors before we take more steps forward," Vasquez said.

Significant changes are also planned for Catalpa Ave. According to Vasquez, the street's existing configuration is a vestige of the days when a public trolley used the street as a turnaround.

"The section of Catalpa between Western and Lincoln avenues is one of the widest roads in the city. In prior decades, trolleys would go in and make their turn so there is a lot of space there. It could be made more pedestrian friendly and have a public space created. There could also potentially be added diagonal parking," Vasquez said.

With the planned improvements, which includes crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, Vasquez envisions having Lincoln Ave. North become a destination.

"This is something I am very

TIF see p. 12

Edith Spurlock Apartment construction to start this summer

Construction is expected to commence this summer for the Edith Spurlock Apartments, 2700 N. Sheffield Ave.

Located on the site of the existing Chicago Housing Authorities' [CHA] Edith Spurlock Apartments, the residential complex spans from N. Lincoln Ave. on the south, north to Diversey Pkwy.

The proposed new building will rise six floors and hold 80 new residences, but only 21 additional parking spaces. The building will offer a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units.

Approximately 50 of the units will be CHA-supported affordable units, 20 residences will be market-rate, and the other 10 will be affordable, funded through alternate methods.

The development will renovate the existing residential towers and produce a new residential building between them. Some 394 existing units will be rehabilitated



Edith Spurlock Apartments, 2700 N. Sheffield Ave. Image courtesy RATIO

with 11 new units introduced into the structures at 2640 N. Sheffield Ave. and 2720 N. Sheffield Ave. The renovations will include interior upgrades and minimal exterior work.

Ujamaa Construction are the general contractors for the construction job that is expected to last 38 months, split into three phases. Phase one of the project

will mainly consist of prep work, reworking parking, and installing fences on site. Lasting 18 months, the second phase will see the renovation of the structure at 2640 N. Sheffield Ave. and will begin construction on the new building. As the first two buildings near completion, the project will transition to phase three, which is expected to last 18 months.



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Patriots should not give up on dream of our American story



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Loyola play their hearts out in the NCAA Tournament. Sadly, they got out of the running.

Chicago had been swimming in the Jesuit school colors of maroon and gold.

Whatever continent or country you're in, the maroon and gold serves you well on a tie, sweater, scarf or rowing blazer. From schools like Clongowes Wood, outside of Dublin, where writer James Joyce is counted among the esteemed alum, to Stonyhurst, in England, where the Declaration of Independence signer Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Sherlock Holmes' creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, each attended. And from Georgetown U., in DC, home once to Maria Schriver and Justice Antonin Scalia, to Fordham U., in the Bronx, where Denzel Washington and football's Vince Lombardi studied.

The scholastic tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola is alive. It shapes the first tier of education for Catholic politicians, Prime Ministers, Maharajas, some of the Kennedys, 14 currently elected U.S. senators and Chicago-raised comedian John Mulaney, for weal or woe.

Jesuit education also gave us a taste for heart-pumping basketball. Seeing the downtown lakefront high-rises spell out a five-story tall "Go Loyola" was a pure Chi-town salute to the team.

Even Pope Francis, S.J., is a fan.

It lifted us just a bit from the syndrome of pandemic. As a Loyola alum, myself, Loyola success came as a double jab, as I also got COVID shot #2 last week.

In the aftermath of Loyola's loss, I announced that dinner would be a picnic served with the good silver in the dining room. I ordered fried chicken from Erie Cafe. French fries and one of their special salads. Oh, yeah. And Key Lime pie. I have a great urn with big silver handles that looks not unlike a notable hockey trophy. I line it with linen napkins and then put the chicken in the urn. Fries can fit in too. All we need are tongs. And big cans of Japanese Sapporo beer.

I'm not having any kind of reaction to the Moderna vaccine. But I feel very low key and sluggish. Don't feel like cooking. Had breakfast from Milk and Honey on Division St. Two large cups of coffee, too, my first coffee in 2021. I think the last java before that was in the Summer of 2020.

My current state of mind isn't due to the vaccine, but the dirty trick that Uber pulled when I was trying to get to the Walmart Pharmacy on Broadway. I ordered the ride with plenty of time to spare.

But, Uber has announced their new policy of having the customer take a selfie of themselves in their face mask.

I did it 12 times and it never worked. Which prevented ordering the car.

Like Loyola's basket team, I was watching the clock run out.

So I called Yellow Taxi Cab. They arrived in five minutes and the elderly driver was like an old shoe. I explained my situation and we discussed Uber's shortage of drivers, as well as them seriously overcharging customers.

Last month, an Uber ride from my house to 2800 N. Broadway should have cost \$12 or \$13. Instead I was told my ride was readjusted for a customer surge. It was \$46.20. Highway robbery.

But the ride was to get my first COVID shot.

This week Yellow Taxi in both directions was only \$20 each way. So I was fuming. Uber really held me hostage. Back in my City Hall days the retribution would have been instantaneous. But that was another regime.

Like the fried chicken, and Friday night's pastrami sandwich from Manny's Deli, it's all a moment's reprieve from the regular everyday tragedy unfolding around us. I believe the issue of Chicago's statutory monuments is the one that everyday Chicagoans should tie their carts to.

Truth telling should be our most critical issue.

No one should settle for the latest false truth about American heroes from our historical past. It's too easy for the grossly underread to jump on the strident bandwagon of racial, gender, sexual and

intellectual dishonesty.

"Who is without sin?" the Messiah asks.

The woke-speak folk espouse a blatantly false narrative of national identity. What makes a person whole is manipulated, and educational efficacy is too. The public are tricked and deceived.

These are not leaders in the field of history or cultural awareness. They are keen and manipulative political operators who know how to over-leverage half truths into false narratives.

No American should surrender to this false philosophical movement that ridicules history. No patriot should give up on the dream of the American story.

Our nation's natural sense of humanism and historic Judeo-Christian system of values should sustain our efforts to nourish our American culture. Our nation is not beyond the need for redemption. We understand the complexity of 21st century global living.

But we recognize the low moral consciousness that seeks to destroy what angers the critics' need for self-identifying personhood. And the false obsession with privilege has created the anti-white, anti-male, anti-authority mess that surrounds us.

Our culture has allowed the self-obsessed woke Millennials to attempt seizure of our most significant symbols and heroes.

History is a long human process that has always needed time to bring about a synthesis of wisdom and reason. But make no mistake, solutions do not easily flow from the current mean spirited nay-saying of questionable academics.

This hateful vengeance of half-baked scholars is out only to retaliate. Its real goal is to settle scores and get even with the bad boys of childish hurts and cruel taunts. To denigrate the value of others.

There will never be enough justice here, in the perceived self-obsessed injustice of never being kissed. A woke cultural tyranny we must stand now to confront.

THE BOSS: Ald. Brendan Reilly, [42nd] has really stepped up to the plate on the issue of historic statue monuments in the woke-culture. That means the hordes who without much academic understanding are only too willing to disparage the nation's cultural heroes. You know, patriots like **George Washington**, **Abraham Lincoln** and everyone in between who are white and male. Reilly has skewed the political hay that **Mayor Lightfingers** is trying to reap with the man-

hater. She thought she was riding high into the future with her anti-intellectual bitterness and abuse by throwing larger than life dead patriot Americans under the bus. She seems to have underestimated the sensitivities of Americans unwilling to let the mob destroy our cultural patrimony.

Reilly is insisting that no one who is an appointed employee of the city has the authority to order a statue to be removed. Especially **Mark Kelly**, Commissioner of the Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events who currently has the power to decide whether monuments should be taken down. "I support the current Commissioner and his department's good work, but do not think any appointed official should have such broad authority on a matter that could have a profound impact on communities across Chicago," he said.

Kelly heads the mayor's consulting committee. The alderman is insisting that only the Chicago City Council has the legal authority to order something so important to be removed. He has followed up with appropriate municipal legislation. So we should all be grateful that Ald. Reilly takes things so seriously.

Now, the time has come for the rest of us to make our own voices heard.

Gold Coasters need to organize. Lincoln Park folk need to organize. Lakefront residents need to center the drama and debate about statues where it belongs. In our own hands. Chicagoans need to fight back and demonstrate their love and sense of ownership of Chicago's cultural heritage. Just say "no" to woke intolerance, and shape the discussion based on values. We cannot permit the false cultural analysis of art and public monuments to be controlled by these woke cultural kamikazes. We must demonstrate that this present cultural expression must be opposed for the shallow substance it is. This is not the time to sit on the sidelines. It's a critical moment for defending our neighborhood values and Chicago pedigree. Chicago deserves better.

RAMBLER TALK: For Loyola Univ. basketball, it often looks like the angels are on the team's side. They are. The whole world knows that **Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM**, the 101-year-old team chaplain, is close to the Almighty. But she's only there because of the genius of **Father Michael Garanzini, SJ**, the University's 23rd president until he recently moved on to coordinate all Jesuit Universities throughout the world. The wise priest knew that the team would adore the free-shot loving nun and learn a deeper sense of the Spirit from

her. Garanzini assigned her the coveted post in her 90s. Morale's never been higher. She's so good at it. And the Jesuit can also take credit for personally hiring Loyola's head coach **Porter Moser**, who he knew was a winner despite his "small town" basketball persona. He has the innards of a champ, or so Garanzini told **Pope Francis** in a recent Vatican chat. Too bad Moser is now headed to the Oklahoma Sooners.

CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM: Donald Lassere, Chicago native and graduate of Percy Julian High School, has been named the new president of the Chicago History Museum.



Donald Lassere

His previous post at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville provides him with inventive as well as classical approaches to making a historical study and research center fit the needs and necessities of a large thriving metropolis that cherishes histo-

ry. He is a most welcome addition to the Chicago scene. "Chicago holds such importance in my life, and I am thrilled to return to my hometown to work with the dynamic team at [the Museum] and lead with the mission to share Chicago stories at top of mind," he said.

BIG CABARET NEWS: Thrilled to hear the news that **Barb Bailey** will be the Friday night Maitre D' at Le Piano in Rogers Park. Barb will be taking reservations, seating people

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Will Quigley and Schakowsky face off next election?

State mapmaking takes on new meaning with no Mike Madigan in the room

BY RON ROENIGK AND
PETER HANCOCK

Illinois political players are handing out the cigars and getting ready to head into small backrooms to re-draw district maps, and this time, they may have to pit two or more established democrats against each other.

Every 10 years, states redraw their legislative and congressional district maps to align with the most recent decennial census. That process is being complicated this year, as the census data needed to complete those tasks has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

But don't let the smoke fool you, due to the loss of population in the last decade, Illinois map-makers have a big problem on their hands in losing one, maybe two U.S. House seats. And as Republicans have no real power in Illinois, it's going to be hard to keep some Democrats from getting squeezed and pushed out.

The Census Bureau has said that the data needed for congressional redistricting will be available by April 30. But the more detailed, block-level data that most states need for legislative redistricting won't be available until the end of September.

But the Census Bureau has also said it will have the more detailed data available in another, less user-friendly format – what's known as the Legacy Format Summary Redistricting File – by mid- to late-August.

Democrats, who control both chambers of the General Assembly, have suggested they can meet the constitutional deadlines by using population estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. But Republicans are objecting to that idea, saying that data is flawed because it is based on only a sample of all households.

But the big question now is which established politicians will get squeezed?

And for Chicago's North Side, another question is will U.S. Representatives Mike Quigley [5th] and Jan Schakowsky [9th] be forced to run against each other?

The two veteran politicians split parts of the North Side in wildly drawn districts that reach well into the North Shore, and into the Northwest and Western Suburbs.

Quigley's 5th District runs from the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park, Lake View, and Lincoln Square northwest to O'Hare, then south to Hinsdale. The district looks like the letter "C" has tipped over.

Meanwhile Schakowsky's 9th District starts at Diversey Harbor on the south and runs north to Glencoe, heading west to Northbrook and Arlington Heights then south to Park Ridge. The district looks like a flagpole with a giant hole in the middle of the flag, where Quigley's "C" pops out.

The truth is, both are party loyalists who follow a strict party line, and have very similar voting records. Does Chicago's North Side really need two of the same thing? The two even live but a few miles apart along the lakefront.

Perhaps that's exactly what party insiders are also thinking, knowing that losing one of the two will cost them no real votes. Having them face off against each other, and losing one of those two House seats, makes a lot of sense.

Right now in Springfield, Senate Bill 1325 calls for the chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court [Anne Burke] and the most senior member of the court who is from a different political party to appoint a 16-member Independent Redistricting Commission. It would be composed of seven Democrats, seven Republicans and two Independents, and no one who has

been elected to a state, federal or local government office within the preceding four years would be eligible to serve on the commission.

The bill also anticipates that the commission will not complete its work by the constitutional June 30 deadline and that an eight-member Legislative Redistricting Commission would also be appointed.

The independent commission would then wait to receive the Legacy Format Summary Redistricting File from the Census Bureau and, within 30 days after that, submit a plan for new state legislative maps to the Legislative Redistricting Commission while submitting its plan for congressional redistricting to the General Assembly.

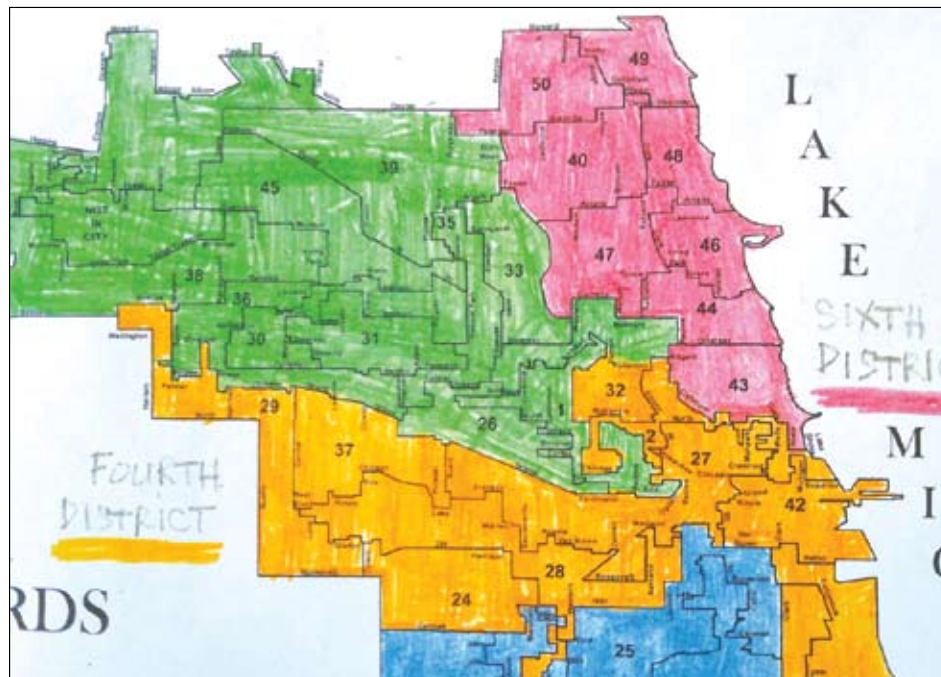
And with Mike Madigan no longer the Boss of the Statehouse, nobody is really sure how it all may turn out. The idea of turning the redistricting process over to an independent commission, often referred

to as the "Fair Maps" proposal, has enjoyed broad, bipartisan support in the past. A 2020 survey by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois Univ. found that 64% of those responding favored redistricting reform, including 40% who "strongly" favored it.

In 2014 and 2016, there were citizen-led petition drives to put such an amendment on the ballot, but both initiatives were struck down by Illinois courts on technical grounds, and perhaps with Madigan whispering in judge's ears.

This year, however, Democrats have indicated that they intend to use the traditional legislative process to redraw maps, and both the House and Senate Redistricting Committees have outlined their schedules for holding public hearings around the state, including a series of 23 in-person hearings it will conduct around the state that began April 1, in Chicago.

What new map may mean for North Side



A portion of the proposed map of Chicago's Congressional Districts that attempts to keep districts compact and contiguous. *Map image courtesy Mike Sullivan and Associates*

BY MIKE SULLIVAN

Illinois is projected to have a population of approximately 12.63 million after the last Census. If Illinois retains 17 congressional seats, each district will include over 742,000 residents. If the state retains only 16 seats, each district will include over 789,000 residents.

Districts can be enlarged or contracted by moving the boundaries.

The above map's proposal for the Northeast portion of Illinois attempts to keep districts compact and contiguous. We call it the "No Mike Madigan Common Sense Map." This map shows seven districts for Cook County, and six run from the city into the suburbs. With only a few exceptions, wards are not split into multiple districts as is presently the case. Suburban townships are respected as well. But for portions of Old Town, the Loop and Near North Side, the North Side would be encompassed almost entirely in the new 6th District.

Citywide the map repeats current preferences and allows for a second Latino district. The Latino community is the fastest growing population segment in Chicago, and it can be argued that they're the one segment of the local population that has been most disenfranchised under the current district map.

Four districts would be located in the collar counties and no districts bleed into more than two counties.

While this map will not create change in party makeup, it will create stronger com-

munities whose voices will not be diluted through gerrymandering.

It would also pit the two North Side U.S. Representatives - Mike Quigley [5th] and Jan Schakowsky [9th] - against each other to represent the mostly all-white wealthy new 6th District. The two North Side congressmen are party regulars who seldom

MAP see p. 9

Quigley starts campaigning to save his job

BY PATRICK BUTLER

While Illinois may lose a congressional seat or two this time around, 5th District veteran Democrat Mike Quigley says he isn't worried about his spot.

In fact, the quiet North Side political veteran is known as much for his hockey as his hopes to gain even more territory after the new boundaries are drawn, Quigley told a Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce Roundtable last week.

But he doesn't expect to have too much time to savor the glory or extra space, especially if he does end up in a runoff with another established candidate.

He's already hitting the sidewalks, talking to local residents and neighborhood businesses finding out the needs of everyone he can reach.

"There's a lot to do," said Quigley, noting concerns ranging from finding funding for everyone from small businesses and schools and even local zoos. And these days, nobody knows how to give away free money faster than Washington D.C.

Quigley said he raised concerns about the welfare of his four-legged constituents and began planning after learning there might be cuts for some museums and zoos.

Despite the recent \$1.9 trillion in new spending, he says the budget was "a little disappointing." He said there should still be enough to lift large numbers of children out of poverty. But he added there's still money, and

QUIGLEY see p. 9



Rep. Mike Quigley

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Rates are rising and young buyers feeling the squeeze



The Home Front
By Don DeBat

Home-loan interest rates have inched up about a half of one percentage point since the beginning of 2021, and analysts say that rise is beginning to squeeze young buyers out of the market.

On April 1, benchmark 30-year fixed mortgage rates averaged 3.18% nationwide, up from 3.17% percent a week earlier, reported Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey.

What is more important, rates have risen 0.53%—more than a half of one percentage point—since setting a modern-day record low of 2.65% on Jan. 7. The rock-bottom 2.65% benchmark is the lowest rate in the Freddie Mac survey's history which dates back to 1971. A year ago, lenders were charging an average of 3.33% for 30-year fixed loans.

"Although mortgage rates remain low, we are beginning to see a pullback by those looking to enter the housing market," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief

economist.

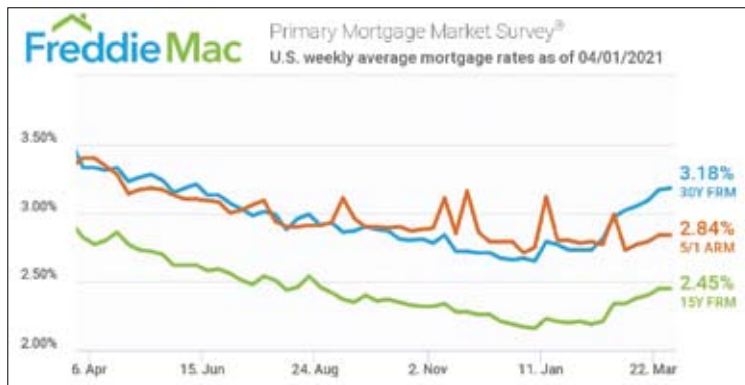
"Home-buyer demand has gone from 25% above pre-COVID levels at the start of the year, when mortgage rates hit record lows, to 8% above pre-COVID levels today," Khater said. He noted that purchase demand is diminished today as compared with late May and early June of 2020, when mortgage rates were the same level.

"This is confirmation that while purchase demand remains strong, the marginal buyer is feeling the affordability squeeze resulting from the increases in mortgage rates and home prices we've experienced in recent months," Khater said.

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

In 2020, mortgage interest rates set new record lows an amazing 16 times, and thousands of first-time home buyers moved across the threshold into new and existing housing. However, the party may be over for a while.

Analysts said long-term mortgage rates are creeping higher because of rising interest rates



While mortgage interest rates have risen from their recent record lows, home prices skyrocketed 16.2% year-over-year nationwide to a median price of \$334,500, a record high.

on 10-year Treasury notes, which have recently skyrocketed to 1.74% from a shockingly low 0.54% during the depths of the pandemic.

Optimism about future economic growth, success of the COVID-19 vaccine, and worries about a rise in inflation after the federal government pumped another \$1.9 trillion in stimulus funds into the economy also are pushing bond rates higher, experts say.

Light at end of tunnel?

Despite the upward creep in home-loan rates, and a shortage of listings, housing experts say there is light at the end of the tunnel.

John Chang, senior vice president and director of research services at Marcus & Millichap, noted that home sales have surged nationwide in recent months, with sales activity in February coming in 9.1% higher than 2020.

Meanwhile, home prices skyrocketed 16.2% year-over-year nationwide to a median price of \$334,500, a record high. Chang said sales activity would likely be even greater, but the number of homes for sale on the market has dropped to a record low.

Typically, new-home construction ramps up to meet demand, Chang said, but new-home starts tapered last month to about one million units—a figure that rep-

resents 55% of construction levels during the housing boom of 2006.

Slower housing starts are probably the result of harsh weather conditions in February, and rising material costs, which Marcus & Millichap pegs at 11.4% higher than last year. Builders report that rising lumber costs have added \$24,000 to the cost of the average new home.

According to Chang, the biggest driver of first-time home sales is the "aging millennial generation." There are currently 45 million people between the ages of 30 and 40 years in the U.S. That's three million more than five years ago.

The median age of first-time home buyers is 33 years, and over the next five years the number of people in that age group is expected to climb by another 2 million, forecasts Marcus & Millichap, which is predicting 2.5 million more households being formed each year in 2021 and 2022.

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

Lawmaker advances bill to repeal state ban on rent control, legislation would allow local governments to impose rent caps

BY TIM KIRSININKAS
Capitol News Illinois

The House Committee on Housing on advanced a bill March 24 that would allow local municipalities to implement measures regarding rent control.

House Bill 116, introduced by Rep. Will Guzzardi of Chicago, would repeal the state's Rent Control Preemption Act of 1997 and enable local municipalities to impose caps on rent prices.

Guzzardi said the rent control repeal would aim to give more "flexibility" to local municipalities in order to make their own decisions regarding rental costs.

"This law that's on the books right now preempts every municipality in the state of Illinois from passing any ordinance that would constrain in any way a landlord's ability to raise the rent by any amount," Guzzardi said. "It is a

blanket, wide-ranging preemption which I believe simply goes too far."

Guzzardi said he first tried to introduce the measure four years ago as a result of ongoing gentrification efforts in the area he represents in Chicago.

Guzzardi told the committee that he had heard stories from low-income constituents who saw their residential units purchased by developers who subsequently increased their monthly rent by as much as 25 to 50%.

He said the rent increases were used as "a means of displacing" low-income residents in favor of higher-income individuals who could afford the higher rents.

"I believe that it's possible for a municipality to craft an ordinance that would allow landlords to increase rents by modest amounts to keep up with things like property tax and maintenance while also

preventing abuses," Guzzardi told the committee.

Proponents of the legislation, including advocates from the Lift the Ban Coalition, said that small landlords and low-income tenants are being "threatened" by economic forces in areas like Chicago.

William Lamme, a landlord in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood and a member of the Lift the Ban Coalition, said that repealing the state's restrictions on rent control would allow community members to stay in place and neighborhoods to retain their identity.

"We have become an investment opportunity for real estate developers," Lamme said. "Rents and housing prices are already rising, people are being forced to move out of the neighborhood."

Lamme said as a result of repealing the ban on rent control, local governing bodies could have the ability to impose more measured restrictions on rent prices and encourage them to work with landlords on imposing rent costs that would allow residents to stay in their homes while still allowing landlords to pay property taxes and maintenance fees.

"We small landlords are not just interested in protecting our investments, but we are also interested in protecting the places where we live," he added.

"We have become an investment opportunity for real estate developers," Lamme said.
"Rents and housing prices are already rising, people are being forced to move out of the neighborhood."

Opponents of the legislation said repealing the blanket ban on rent control would impose unnecessary burdens on landlords and developers who manage multiple properties around the state. Those property owners would have to follow a "patchwork" of differing rules regarding rent as result.

"The way this is written, you could have a thousand sets of rules throughout the state," said Rep. Andrew Chesney, of Freeport. "Because it's so vague,

you're giving no investor any certainty."

Opponents also argued that the legislation does not address the underlying causes of housing insecurity in the state such as high property taxes and access to affordable housing stock.

Michael Mini, Executive V.P. of the Chicagoland Apartment Assoc., told the committee that caps on rental costs "fail to help those it's intended to serve," saying instead that the repeal of the blanket ban could cause developers and landlords to pull out of the state and contribute to a shortage in available housing.

"The best way to address the need for affordable housing is to support proposals that ultimately lead to the creation of more apartments, rent control is not the answer," Mini said.

Some legislators on the committee acknowledged that lifting the ban on rent control would not offer a singular solution to the affordable housing crisis, but would be a step in the right direction to offer support to low-income tenants and "mom and pop" landlords.

Rep. Kelly Cassidy, of Chicago, described lifting the ban on rent control as "a tool towards solving the housing crisis."

"There's not a single solution to this, this isn't the silver bullet, nor is it the death knell to affordable housing," Cassidy said. "I just encourage us all to stop with the extremes and look at this as a tool that we need and move forward."

The bill passed the Housing Committee with 13 representatives voting in favor and nine against.



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Illinois social services a Wizard of Oz maze in need of navigation 'coaches'

BY JIM NOWLAN

I was a state agency director on three occasions back in the day, yet I don't think I could navigate the maze of dozens of separate, and scattered, state and local social service agencies that have sprung up over the decades to address people's problems. It's time for a major reset, to simplify and to provide people in distress with "coaches" who can help navigate the maze.

Cases in point: In the mid-1990s, in the wake of Newt Gingrich's national welfare reform, I volunteered to assist a social worker friend of mine who had been assigned 13 single mothers. This baker's dozen had to work or go to school in order to keep their welfare benefits.

But lack of jobs was far from the mothers' sole problem. These young ladies were each walking bundles of bad decisions and liabilities/disabilities: Kids born out of wedlock; school dropouts; drugs; minor rap sheets; mental distress and illness; hanging around with the wrong sorts, and more.

The young women really did want to climb out of their predicaments. Social worker Judy Leonardelli (now deceased) was a big woman, had been a bouncer at a late-night lounge in my home area early in her life. She was tough, and caring.

Judy assigned me tasks like getting a minor infraction expunged so a young lady could get a low-paying job at a nursing home. The young women typically needed services across DCFS, mental health, child care, housing, welfare, and more. I found nine state social service agencies in Peoria (where we did our thing), all scattered around the city's metro area. But most of these women lacked wheels.

One young woman told me she got up at 4 a.m. each morning, to get youngster(s) up and going and fed something; catch various buses for them and her to school and to the community college (where Judy met the women), to work, etc. She made it home each day, by a couple/three buses, after picking up the kids, by about 7 or 8 p.m.

Judy was their coach, prod, advocate. She was good. Judy estimated that if 4 of the 13 made it to stable lives, she would consider her work successful.

Case two: A friend of mine in a small central Illinois city recently saw a woebegone, 40-ish woman looking into his store window. My friend inquired of her. He learned she was staying at the local domestic abuse shelter (a very fine operation), but her time limit there was ticking; she was freaking out.

Earlier, Kate (obviously not her real name) had escaped an abusive relationship with a drug dealer in a distant city. He was now apparently cashing her stimulus checks,

so she had no money. Kate applied for jobs, but couldn't pass the drug tests (saying she needed cannabis to calm her).

Kate has mental problems as well, typical of people in extremis, for which a doctor prescribed medications. But when she went to fill same, the pharmacy told her the doc was not in their network, so she needed a significant co-pay, which of course she didn't have. And so it goes for people like Kate.

Commentary

When I was a legislator more than half a century ago, Illinois' huge, Dickensian mental health and "state school" warehouses were thankfully closed. (I visited them; my characterization is too kind). There was a pledge that the foreboding institutions would be replaced with community-based services. Unfortunately, the local services never came, at least not with adequacy.

Over the decades, however, a patchwork quilt of programs, each with its own physical service location, it seems, has developed. There are dozens of them. (Don't believe me? Google social service agencies, or go to the State of Illinois website.) The intent is good; the fragmentation is not, and given bureaucratic turf defenses, it is not likely there will be much true consolidation.

There are many caring, capable staff at a panoply of agencies, all willing to do their respective pieces to help Kate. Yet none of them, like the pharmacy, deal with Kate's whole bundle of problems. And so, she falls through the cracks.

People in real distress, with their multiple problems, each need a coach/prod/advocate like Judy Leonardelli. The coach would run interference through the maze, help knit the services together, maybe staving off homelessness, which Kate faces.

Our state legislators should stand back and re-evaluate our crazy quilt of state, local and nonprofit social service delivery systems. We can do better.

Is it all about the money?

Like publicly traded companies, the Associated Press and Moody's Investors Service reports that the Archdiocese of Chicago has the financial wherewithal so that they can raise capital now by selling bonds to investors.

In Chicago, the Moody's ratings agency calculated that the \$1 billion in cash and investments held by the archdiocese headquarters and cemeteries division could cover about 631 days of operating expenses.

But here they are, trying to closing some of our local churches rather than investing to try to re-build their brand.

Church officials in Chicago asserted that more dollars are

needed to cover substantial expenses, while parishioner donations have slumped. They now say that parishes and perhaps some schools may have to be cut, given its liabilities, to closed a funding gap.

Moody's noted in its May, 2020, report that while giving was down, federal aid had compensated for that and helped leave the archdiocese "well positioned to weather this revenue loss over the next several months."

Yes, they got free government PPP funding, and lots of it. And they're also getting paid big bucks by the government to house, feed and move immigrant families who came to this country by crossing the border illegally.

Among the reasons for Moody's optimism: "a unique credit strength" that under church law allows the archbishop to tax parish revenue virtually at will. Isn't that comforting.

So, if it's really all about the money, then money is out there if the church wants to try fill their pews back up, rather than die slowly of 1000 cuts.

Our ancestors raised millions in private donation to help build our beautiful churches, and it is a shame those efforts are now at risk over the sagging profit and loss statement of the Archdiocese of Chicago, suddenly more concerned over lowering overhead than raising people up.

For many years, Jim Nowlan was a senior fellow and political science professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has worked for three unindicted governors and published a weekly newspaper in central Illinois.

Letters to the Editor

Now go clean it up!

I am happy to read the story concerning the clean-up and rehab of the Standing Lincoln statue.

I suggest that anyone who vandalizes, uses graffiti or otherwise molests any of our public statues, should be sentenced to community service, specifically cleaning and repairing other

public statues.

Perhaps they would gain a respect and admiration for the quality and artistic designs represented by the majority of Chicago park statues.

John Loftus, Edgewater

I trust our science; it saved me

I am a cancer survivor. Like millions of Americans suffering from cancer every year, I was terrified when doctors diagnosed me.

Fortunately, I was able to make a full recovery. But when the pandemic hit, doctors warned me that because of my cancer I could be at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and experiencing serious complications.

The last year has been uneasy, to say the least, but I am excited to say that I am now protected from the virus. I was recently able to receive my two doses of the

vaccine, and I couldn't be more grateful.

However, I am just one individual. Defeating the pandemic will require us all to be inoculated. We have to remember that getting the vaccine benefits everyone. There is new hope to return to normalcy.

Having benefited from medical advancements many times already, I trust our science; it saved me from cancer and is saving me once again from COVID-19.

Ashvin Lad, Lakeview

Passengers left to their own devices in CTA's rolling prison

Months ago, I said that fewer witnesses (and potential good Samaritans) was a factor in the increase in carjackings. I think this can be broadened to include many crimes, including those on the CTA, which are committed in public spaces.

The CTA connection was raised near the end of [your article of March 31]. Everything you reported by [Crain's Chicago writer] Greg Hinz is true.

'L' trains are like prisons for passengers who follow the rules and want everyone else to follow them, too. Except that the "wardens" on 'L' trains nearly always refuse to do any enforcement. Passengers are left to their own devices, which don't include the authorization to use force except in self-defense.

We need a lot more plainclothes police officers riding 'L' trains! They can enforce the standard

CTA rules, as well as the pandemic rules.

Jean SmilingCoyote, West Ridge

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City launches enforcement program for senior safety

Pilot program will allow seniors to report non-compliance of the safety ordinance in their buildings

Chicago's departments of Buildings and Public Health announced the launch of the 311/Online reporting and enforcement program for seniors to report non-compliance of the Senior Safety Ordinance [SSO], sponsored by Ald. Maria Hadden [49th].

The SSO was approved by the Chicago City Council in July, 2020, and creates additional requirements for owners of senior buildings to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of their residents during a declared disaster related to public health.

Under the 30-day pilot, senior residents that believe their building owner is not in compliance with the ordinance will be able to phone 311 to file a report with 311, submit request online at 311.chicago.gov or CHI311 mobile app, or contact their alderman to file a complaint.

At the end of the pilot the City will review the program for staffing levels

and enforcement effectiveness.

"We've seen firsthand over the past year how Chicago's seniors are among our most vulnerable communities and we have a responsibility to do everything we can to protect them," said Ald. Hadden. This is "an important step in ensuring Chicago's elderly residents enjoy their golden years with the protection they need and the dignity and respect they deserve. The way a community cares for and protects our most vulnerable residents speaks to the character of our leaders and our city."

Under the ordinance, senior buildings must put in place the following measures if the City is subject to a local, state, or federally declared public health disaster:

Building owners and managers must conduct well-being checks on their residents at least twice weekly (tenants have the ability to opt out if they wish). They are required to screen all non-residents for any symptoms related to the public health crisis. If a person exhibits any symptoms,

they will be denied access.

Building staff must limit access to the building to staff members, caregivers, personal aides, home makers, family members, and friends, and help residents access food and medication delivery when needed.

"The way a community cares for and protects our most vulnerable residents speaks to the character of our leaders and our city," said Ald. Maria Hadden.

Building owners and managers will make available and distribute to all staff proper protective equipment and hand washing facilities with soap or hand sanitizer. Building management is also required to train staff on proper use. Building staff must implement an updated cleaning regimen that ensures high-contact surfaces are be-

ing disinfected at least three times daily with approved cleaning products.

Also building owners and managers may not reduce staffing levels to lower than needed to keep the building in compliance with the law.

"Jane Addams Senior Caucus is so proud to see the city take these powerful steps to see the senior safety ordinance move forward in enforcement," said JASC Board Member Carmen Betances. "Seniors will now have protection during this pandemic and any future pandemics."

Over the next 30 days, the City will measure the need for a phone program based on the number of calls received. Building owners that are subject to a daily fine of \$100 - \$500 and potential injunction or other equitable relief if they fail to comply it provisions of the ordinance.



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Presented by Eileen Considine Boggins, Partner Relations Manager with JourneyCare

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A timeline of COVID-19 at The Clare

Once the novel coronavirus pandemic was recognized as a real and present danger to our community, the employees and management at The Clare began taking immediate progressive measures starting on March 10, 2020. We first restricted visitors to those who were essential and medically necessary, we then implemented best practices for our check-in procedures, switched to delivery-only dining, and cancelled large-scale programming in an effort to protect residents and staff from the impending viral threat.

The following is a timeline on how we executed our plan over the last year and made progress toward limiting and containing the risks of COVID-19.

March 16: The Clare implemented further restrictions based on guidelines from the CDC and IDPH, and all community dining venues closed.

March 18: USPS halted in-house mail delivery to The Clare, which resulted in The Abbey becoming a mail sorting center and the Front Desk team working diligently to organize and deliver mail to resident shelves each day.

March 23: The Fitness Center and the Pool at The Clare closed, and all in-person group fitness and organized events were canceled.

March 24: The Clare discontinued in-unit housekeeping services to prevent employees from transmitting COVID-19 to residents and closed the Salon on the 9th floor.

March 27: The Clare removed furniture from common spaces to discourage anyone from gathering to socialize in order to promote the safety of residents and employees.

April 2: Executive Director Kyle Exline hosted his first Zoom update to virtually provide residents with recent COVID-19 information and policies and answer questions.

April 6: An employee was the first to test positive for COVID-19 at The Clare. The employee recovered at home and did not expose residents to the disease.

The Clare mandated mask wearing

for all residents and employees at the community.

April 16: The Clare established a wing on the 12th floor as a COVID-19 unit within the community, where any resident who might test positive could stay for care without impacting the rest of the building.

May 15: The Clare began conducting its first round of testing all employees and Terraces residents, which was an in-house, 2-week process to identify any COVID-19 cases and contain any potential spread of the virus.

June 8: Following the city's reopening plan, The Clare introduced guidelines and policies to take a small step in reopening the community, including allowing fitness classes for groups of less than 10 and reinstating salon services on the 9th floor.

April 2: Executive Director Kyle Exline hosted his first Zoom update to virtually provide residents with recent COVID-19 information and policies and answer questions.

June 22: Housekeeping services returned on a bi-weekly basis, and resident-led events like mahjongg, book clubs, bridge and more reconvened.

July 6: The Fitness Center reopened on a limited basis by reservation only, and faith services at The Clare resumed in a smaller capacity.

July 14: Employees and Terraces residents began to get tested on a weekly basis per a mandate from the Chicago Department of Public Health.

September 21: The Clare loosened restrictions on visitors to the building, broadening the term "essential" to include outside accountants, housekeepers, beauticians and more.

September 22: The Bistro reopened for lunch and The Grafton for dinner in a limited capacity based on state and city requirements, which lasted until October 30.



On March 18 the Front Desk team began delivering resident's mail after the USPS halted in-house mail delivery.

November 13: A surge in cases in the city and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday prompted The Clare to tighten many of its restrictions, including limiting essential visitors again to those that were medically necessary and requiring Safety Days for various activities.

November 15: With a COVID-19 positivity rate above 11% in Cook County, The Clare was required to move to testing employees and Terraces residents twice a week.

December 29: The Clare finalized its COVID-19 vaccine clinic dates with Walgreens, with enough doses secured for all residents and employees.

January 8: In partnership with Wal-

greens, The Clare hosted its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic, during which approximately 580 vaccines doses were administered.

February 1: As COVID-19 cases began to decline, The Clare returned to once-a-week testing for employees and residents.

February 5: Nearly 700 first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered during The Clare's second clinic date with Walgreens.

February 15: Once the majority of residents were fully vaccinated, The Clare brought back in-person dining and small group activities in accordance with state and city guidelines.

March 5: After the third and final clinic at The Clare, 99% of residents have been vaccinated, as well as a vast majority of employees and caregivers.

March 10: The Clare reached the 1-year anniversary of navigating COVID-19. We continue to navigate the pandemic, with more cautious optimism than we had previously. Since the beginning, our goal has been to keep our residents safe, and this remains our top priority moving forward.



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Nursing homes see 96% decline in COVID cases since vaccine rollout

The American Health Care Assoc. and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), representing more than 14,000 nursing homes and long term care facilities across the country that provide care to approximately five million people each year, released a report last week showing nursing homes in the U.S. continue to see a rapid decline in new COVID-19 cases thanks to initial vaccine allocations prioritized for nursing homes.

Recent data shows that nursing homes have seen a 96% decline in new COVID cases among residents since the peak during the week of Dec. 20, 2020, when there were more than 30,000 new resident cases.

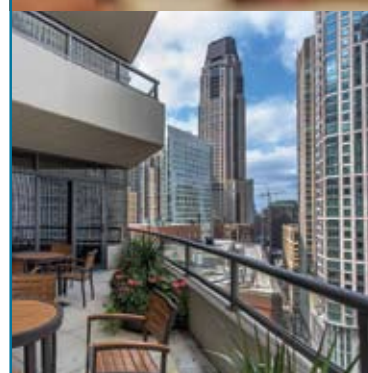
Along with the lowest number of new cases, AHCA/NCAL's report shows COVID related deaths in nursing homes declined by 91% since Dec. 20, 2020.

"These numbers are incredibly encouraging and a major morale booster for frontline caregivers who have been

working tirelessly for more than a year to protect our residents," said Mark Parkinson, president and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. "This shows that when long term care is prioritized, as with the national vaccine rollout, we can protect our vulnerable elderly population."

Chicago is officially in Phase 1C of the vaccination phase. Chicago continues to vaccinate individuals in phase 1a (health-care workers and residents and staff of long-term care facilities) and 1b (people age 65+ and prioritized essential worker groups). At other vaccination sites in Chicago, only people in these phases are eligible for vaccination.

The City of Chicago announced that two new mass vaccination sites have now opened in Chicago. The sites will be located at Chicago State University and at Gallagher Way next to Wrigley Field. Registration for vaccination appointments at both locations will be available on zocdoc.com/vaccine.



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Police Beat...

Chicago man, Cicero woman charged with inciting rioting last summer

A Chicago man has been charged in federal court with inciting rioting involving multiple incidents of property damage and looting in the city last summer.

Jasmine Jones, of the 2700 block of S. 60th Court, Cicero, has also been charged with one felony count of burglary.

James Massey, 22, is charged with one count of using a facility of interstate commerce to incite a riot. According to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago,



Jasmine Jones

Massey on Aug. 9, 2020, posted multiple videos and messages on Facebook calling for people to travel to downtown

Chicago to engage in property damage and looting, the complaint states.

Jones was identified as an offender who also burglarized a retail store on Aug. 10, 2020, in the 800 block of W. North Ave. She was arrested at home on April 1.

In the early morning hours of Aug. 10, 2020, numerous individuals damaged and looted retail stores, predominantly in downtown Chicago and the city's Near North Side.

Massey was arrested March 9 on the federal charge.

The investigation was jointly conducted by the Chicago Police and FBI.

According to the complaint, Massey sent Facebook messages to numerous individuals directing them to meet at a certain location in Chicago to travel together to the downtown area. Several people responded to the messages throughout the night to discuss, among other things, the location of property damage and looting activity, the complaint states.

In one of the messages, a Facebook user allegedly stated to others in the group, "We like 13 cars deep."

One of the locations discussed in the Facebook messages was a marijuana dispensary in the 900 block of W. Weed St. on the Near North Side.

At approximately 1:00 a.m. Aug. 10, 2020, several individuals broke into the dispensary by smashing a window with tools they had retrieved from the trunk of Massey's vehicle, which was parked in the dispensary's parking lot, the complaint states.

Another incident cited in the complaint occurred at a retail store in the 800 block of N. Michigan Ave. At approximately 1:25 a.m. Aug. 10, 2020, Massey approached the store with a tire iron while another individual broke a store window, the complaint states. Massey and several others entered the store, stole numerous coats, and returned to Massey's vehicle, the complaint states. Shortly thereafter, an individual allegedly wrote to the Facebook group, "We just hit the [retail store]." Massey and others later looted a convenience store in the South Loop neighborhood after breaking windows to gain entry. Shortly before 6 a.m., Massey and several others looted a cell phone store in the West Loop neighbor-

hood after offenders broke the side door of the store to gain entrance.

Police looking for man who's groping women

Police are trying to track down a man who groped three women in separate incidents at parks on the Northwest Side. All of the cases were reported on March 19, according to a community police alert that CPD released March 31.

The man approached women from behind and grabbed their buttocks, then left the area in a vehicle. Police said the incidents happened in Horner Park, 2741 W. Montrose, at 8:41 a.m.; in River Park, 5100 N. Albany, at 9:30 a.m.; and in Ronan Park, 3000 W. Argyle, at 6:40 p.m.

In the community alert, police described the man only as a Hispanic man. However, the Horner Park victim said he was 5'-6" tall, had long black hair, and drove a silver SUV, according to a police report. The River Park victim also saw him leave in a silver or gray SUV, another report said.

Anyone with information about the man can contact Area Five detectives at 312-746-6554 about crime pattern P21-1-039.

Man carjacked near Goose Island; Hijackings pace 50% higher than last year

A suburban man was carjacked at gunpoint as he sat in his car near Goose Island March 31, according to a CPD report.

Police spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said the 32-year-old victim was sitting in his SUV on the 800 block of N. Milwaukee around 6:15 a.m. when the offender opened his driver's door and ordered him out of the car at gunpoint.

He complied, and the hijacker drove off with his blue 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee. The victim's phone, which was also taken, later pinged near the 1900 block of N. Paulina in Bucktown, but police have not yet located the car or the offender. CPD did not release a description of the hijacker.

Arrests made, carjackings still high

Chicago police have announced carjacking charges against dozens of people in recent weeks, mostly juveniles. Those arrests have slowed carjacking reports compared to some recent months, but March's hijacking pace is still almost 50% higher than the same month last year, according to CPD data.

Police recorded 64 carjackings between March 1 and March 23 this year. That compares to 44 during the same period in 2020 and 19 cases in 2019.

Cops logged 403 hijackings this year through March 23. By comparison, there were 185 during the same period last year and 101 in 2019.

But, to borrow one of CPD's favorite public relations phrases, there has been a "decrease in the increase" of carjacking reports during March.

The 64 cases seen through the first 23 days of the month is an improvement over the 104 cases reported during the first 23 days of February and the 184 hijackings in the first 23 days of January.

Robbery team strikes again targeting women in Lincoln Park, Rogers Park

A robbery and auto thief team that Chicago Police warned about last week struck two more times March 31 — once in Rogers Park and once in Lincoln Park. The offenders remain at-large.

Around 12:10 p.m., a man robbed a woman of her phone near Arlington and Orchard in Lincoln Park. He then got into an SUV that drove away from the scene.

About 45 minutes later, in Rogers Park, a 21-year-old woman was walk-

ing on the 1400 block of W. Albion when a man ran up and robbed her of her phone, according to police. He then jumped into a blue Honda CR-V that sped from the scene.

Wednesday's crimes unfolded very close to other incidents that detectives linked to the crew in a community alert March 30.

The Honda CR-V that's being used was stolen around 8:30 p.m. Saturday in the 2500 block of N. Clark — just down the street from where the woman was robbed.

Between 2:10 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. March 30, the offenders robbed women in the 6500 block of N. Glenwood and the 1400 block of W. Albion — the same block where they mugged a woman March 30.

Police described the two suspects as a Black male between 18- and 25-years-old who stands 6' to 6'-2" tall and wore a black mask with a dark hoodie; and a Black male between 18- and 25-years-old who stands 5'-10" to 6' tall and wore a blue mask with a dark hoodie.

The stolen SUV, which has a license plate beginning with BU37, is driven by a third suspect that police did not describe. Anyone with information about the incidents can contact investigators about crime pattern P21-3-044 at 312-744-8263.

Burglaries, forcible entry in Uptown, Lincoln Square

Police are warning residents of Uptown and Lincoln Square about a series of four burglaries which occurred during the week of March 9, through March 19.

The offenders enter buildings in the overnight hours and remove mail from the mailboxes and exit the building.

Incidents include one on the 800 Block of W. Argyle Ave. 5:10 a.m. March 9; the 2400 Block of W. Foster Ave. 2:30 a.m. March 10; 4900 Block of N. Marine Dr. 2:17 a.m. March 16, and on the 4900 Block of N. Western Ave. 2 a.m. March 19

The offenders are described as one person with a strawberry blond hair in a pony tail, wearing black and white gym shoes; a male with a bald hairstyle and black jacket; a person of light complexion with a tattoo on the left hand, wearing a white panda hat; a male 20-25 with a white baseball hat, and a 20-25 year-old male with a gray baseball cap.

Man shot inside Streeterville hotel

An 18-year-old man was shot inside a Streeterville hotel March 30, and the victim and witnesses were reportedly uncooperative with police investigators.

Police initially received a call of people arguing in the hotel at 166 E. Superior around 10:45 p.m. Moments later, another 911 caller said someone was shot at the hotel, which was recently renamed Hotel Audrey. It previously operated as the Cambria Hotel.

Officers found a shell casing near the elevators on the 22nd floor. Police said the victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in fair condition with a gunshot wound to his abdomen.

Police recovered a handgun during a traffic stop near Fairbanks and Huron shortly after the shooting, but it was not immediately clear if there is a link between the two incidents.

Area Three detectives are investigating the shooting.

Hotel gatherings downtown have been an on-going source of shootings and gun-related incidents since room rates nose-dived with the arrival of COVID.

Man charged with robbing two Uptown stores declined \$40 offer to go away

A customer who walked in on a robbery in progress at an Uptown service station April 2 offered the offender



Isaac Beck

\$40 cash to go away—but the bandit turned him down. Now, the robber is charged with robbing the business and one directly across the street.

Prosecutors said Isaac Beck, 29, who's on parole for robbery, walked into the 7-Eleven store at 1532 W. Lawrence around 6:15 p.m. and demanded cash from the register. He allegedly collected money from two registers and walked out as the clerk activated a silent alarm.

As police rolled to the scene, Beck walked into the Shell station at 1533 W. Lawrence and demanded money from the cashier, prosecutors said Sunday. While the hold-up was unfolding, a female customer walked in and offered Beck \$40 to go away.

He declined the offer, saying he didn't want \$40, according to prosecutors.

The woman left and flagged down cops who were arriving to handle the 7-Eleven robbery. Officers arrested Beck immediately.

Prosecutors charged him with robbery and attempted robbery. Judge Susana Ortiz set bail at \$50,000. He will be required to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a 10% deposit bond, she said.

But Beck is not eligible to post bond right now because the Illinois Dept. of Corrections ordered him held without bail while they consider revoking his parole for a 2018 robbery in Jackson County.

Streeterville commercial burglaries

Police are warning Streeterville businesses of recently reported commercial burglaries. In each incident, the offender(s) unlawfully or forcefully enters through front or rear doors, takes property from within, and exits.

Incidents include one on the 200 block of E. Ohio St., Monday, March 22, and a second on the 200 block of E. Ohio St., Saturday, April 3, both during the early morning hours.

The offenders are described as male, African American, no further description.

Anyone with information on these crimes may call 911 immediately and provide a detailed description of any suspicious people including any vehicle description and license plate information, or contact the Bureau of Detectives - Area 3 at 312-744-8263 and refer to cases JE181303 and JE187893.

Catalytic converter thieves sweep through Lakeview

Chicago's friendly neighborhood catalytic converter thieves were very busy late last week, according to CPD reports. Police released a community alert April 4 after they logged several cases in Lakeview.

According to the CPD alert, a two-man crew stole catalytic converters from under parked cars on the 500 block of W. Addison, the 4300 block of N. Kenmore, and the 400 block of W. Melrose between 9 p.m. April 1 and 9:50 a.m. April 2.

A witness who saw the Melrose theft taking place called 911 around 3:15 a.m. and said the offenders were getting around in a white Mustang GT.

Anyone with information about the incidents can contact detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding pattern P21-3-048.

Another series of catalytic converter thefts were reported across the Northwest Side between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. Friday, according to CPD reports. In those cases, a cranberry-colored Infinity G37 was used by thieves who struck in Jefferson Park and Forest Glen.

Last weekend, police issued a community alert after several similar crimes were reported in Lincoln Park and Old Town.

In February we reported that catalytic converter thefts are on the rise across the country as the value of precious metals they contain skyrocket. Converter thieves use saws to remove catalytic converters from under vehicles and then sell the devices at scrapyards or on the black market for \$100 to \$200 each.

Police investigate Rogers Park shootings

Police are investigating a shooting in Rogers Park. No arrests have been made.

Just before 2 a.m. April 3, a drive-by shooting on the 7200 block of N. Clark left a 34-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his foot, police said.

The victim was standing next to his car when the driver of a silver four-door sedan opened fire, according to a CPD statement. He took himself to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston for treatment. Police said he was in good condition.

Witnesses said the victim was leaving a nearby business when the shooting occurred. Police cleared the party out and issued citations to the business, according to an officer at the scene.

Charges filed against man shot while allegedly trying to invade off-duty cop's home

Things just went from really bad to really, really bad for Jose Mendoza, the 32-year-old man who was shot in the face when he allegedly tried to invade the home of an off-duty Chicago cop in Albany Park last week.

Mendoza was still hospitalized April 2 as prosecutors charged him with Class X home invasion, residential burglary, and criminal trespass to a residence in connection with the incident on the 3100 block of W. Belle Plaine around 12:30 a.m. March 31.

The off-duty officer and his wife were watching a movie with their 21-month old daughter when they heard someone brushing on their front door and turning the knob, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.

As the wife shielded their daughter on the couch, the off-duty cop retrieved his gun from a safe and cracked the door to see what was going on.

Mendoza, who was crouched down, allegedly sprang to his feet and tried to push his way in as the cop ordered him to stop and stand back. Murphy described a scene where the officer was holding his gun in one hand while he tried to force the door closed with his other.

As the struggle continued, the cop fired a single shot that struck Mendoza in the cheek and lodged near the back of his neck, Murphy said. Mendoza fell to the floor, and the officer's wife called 911 for help.

According to Murphy, she and the off-duty cop appear "visibly shaken after the incident" in footage recorded by responding officers' body cameras.

Mendoza is in critical condition

POLICE BEAT see p. 9

DePaul Prep opens new stadium with 27-20 loss



By Jack Lydon

DePaul College Prep opened its stadium on its new campus April 1 hosting the Marian Catholic Spartans of Chicago Heights. The stadium's a winner but the DePaul Rams came up short against the Spartans losing 27-20.

"I'm too shy. I'm too shy," said freshman wide receiver Lavelle Hardy.

He wasn't too shy to score the Rams' first touchdown in the history of its new stadium.

At the beginning of this school year, DePaul College Prep, successor to Gordon Tech High School, moved from the former building at 3636 N. California a short distance across the river to the former DeVry Univ. building at 3333 N. Rockwell, adjacent to Lane Tech.

Late last summer DePaul Prep finished constructing its football stadium hoping to open the normal football season with the football stadium that Gordon Tech never had. COVID and the IHSA changed all that.

The football season moved to a shortened six-game schedule in the second season for the combined super conference, Chicago Catholic League/East Suburban Catholic Conference. DePaul Prep lands in the CCL/ESCC Red Division with the smallest of the Catholic football programs in the area: Leo, Marian Catholic and St. Joseph.

DePaul Prep opened its season on March 19 against DeLaSalle Academy. The Rams were originally scheduled to play Carmel Catholic but had to substitute

MAP from p. 3

vary from the party line, and their voting records are mirror images, so the North Side would not be losing any diversity of thought or politics.

The new 6th District would be made up of wards 40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50. Suburban townships included in this district would be Evanston, Niles, New Trier and Northfield, making the total population about 762,776.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, but he's expected to survive, he said. The off-duty officer was treated for chest pain at Resurrection Hospital and released.

Murphy told Judge Susana Ortiz that Mendoza is on bail for a pending aggravated DUI in the suburbs. Mendoza also received a one-year sentence for reckless discharge of a firearm in 2019, he said.

Ortiz ordered Mendoza held without bail for violating the terms of his release in the DUI case. She set bail at \$1 million in the home invasion case and ordered Mendoza to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a \$100,000 deposit.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com



DePaul College Prep's Lavelle Hardy scores in Rams 27-20 loss to Marian Catholic High School.

DeLaSalle when Carmel could not play. The Rams played a competitive game against the CCL/ESCC White Division Meteors (two levels up from the Red) despite being down nine players, but fell 33-14.

Week two found the Rams on the road again. This time against Red Division rival Leo. The Rams topped the Lions 8-0 in a defensive struggle.

After giving up a first quarter touchdown to the Spartans, the Rams recovered a Spartans fumble on the Rams 10-yard line. Aided by penalties, the Rams moved the ball into Spartans' territory. With the ball at the 25-yard line, Hardy split out on the left side.

On streak route straight up the sideline and into the endzone, Hardy battled tight coverage and came down with the ball on a perfect pass from Rams' sophomore quarterback Oliver Vigerust.

It was the Rams' first touchdown in their new stadium.

Junior kicker Gabe Garza added the extra point giving the Rams a 7-6 lead.

Selflessly, Hardy, 5'-10", 160 lbs., freshman wide receiver, focused his comments on his teammates.

"We executed well. Did a good job on offense and defense. We

QUIGLEY from p. 3

a possibility of some grants for some others.

While things may be looking up, "people should continue wearing their face covers," Quigley warned. "It's not over yet," as new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease are again rising in Illinois.

One of the biggest concerns right now is getting as many more remaining people as possible vaccinated against COVID-19, and continued usage of masks as long as they're deemed needed, he added.

"To get this thing this far this fast has been remarkable, but we still need to get the numbers up much higher," Quigley said.

Moving on, Quigley said he's ready to sit down with local businesses that may still be suffering from the damages caused by the government-imposed economic lockdown. "We'll help in any way we can, it's a lot of work, but where would you rather be?"

At the same time, Quigley said he also intends to focus on

played as a team. Unfortunately, we lost."

The tough Rams defense stiffened against the Spartans and their star running back, Tajheem Lawson, 5'-11", 175 lbs., senior running back. Lawson will be a preferred walk-on for Northern Illinois Univ. next year. The

Late last summer DePaul Prep finished constructing its football stadium hoping to open the normal football season with the football stadium that Gordon Tech never had. COVID and the IHSA changed all that.

Rams went into the locker room at halftime leading 7-6.

The third quarter proved a challenge for the young Rams. The roster includes 26 juniors, only 11 seniors, a few sophomores and two freshmen on their roster. The Spartans added three more touchdowns in the second half: two long touchdown passes and a double reverse run giving them a 27-7 lead early in the fourth quarter.

The Rams battled back adding two late touchdowns of their own,

including another touchdown by Hardy on a 7-yard run and a 45-yard touchdown catch and run by Rams' junior wide receiver Cole Ceravelo.

Forcing the Spartans to punt with under a minute left, the Rams took the ball and began moving the ball for a tying touchdown. An interception by Marian with 45 seconds left sealed the 27-20 victory for the Spartans.

Second year Rams varsity football coach Mike Passarella was proud of his Rams. "I could not be more proud of you. We are there," Passarella told his team after the game.

"A year ago, [Lawson] ran all over us. It was a running clock at their place last year. We were very competitive against DeLaSalle. We had our opportunities there. We were missing nine guys. We came off a nice win last week. [Marian Catholic] is a very good team. They have a lot of athletes over there."

DePaul Prep's program is moving in the right direction. After 0-10 and 3-6 in the last two seasons, the Rams are young and improving.

"I told the kids, we are competing. We are in dogfights. We are very close to getting to that next level. We have been a doormat for a while. People put W's right next to us on schedule. Now we are in games which is great."

The new home stadium clearly means a great deal to the team and the school.

"The kids have gone through a lot. A new building, spending a number of years [practicing] over at Horner [Park]. It's a good feeling to have a place to call home," said Passarella.

It doesn't get any easier for the Rams. CCL/ESCC Green Division Providence Catholic is next. Resurgent powerhouse Joliet Catholic after that. The Rams finish the season at home against Red Division rival St. Joseph on April 23.

Quigley said he's ready to sit down with local businesses that may still be suffering from the damages caused by the government-imposed economic lockdown. "We'll help in any way we can, it's a lot of work, but where would you rather be."

any Capitol employees who may have been involved in the Jan. 6 riot. The intention is not only to find the offenders, but prevent anything like that from happening again. He did not mention a word about any of the rioting and

looting that happened in his own district.

While admitting his district covers a lot of different areas, he said he's used to juggling a lot of things at the same time.

Shred it April 17 - 18

Two free shredding and electronics recycling events will be held on the Near North Side Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18.

Beware that electronics recycling requires a \$20 fee on old TV's and CRT monitors.

From 9 a.m. to noon on April 17 there will be recycling available in the parking lot of Ald. Brian Hopkins's 2nd ward office, 1400 N. Ashland. From 9 a.m. to noon on April 18 there will be recycling available in the parking lot at 1254 N. State St.

For more information visit ward02@cityofchicago.org or call 312-643-2299.

Unleash your story

How do you start writing your book? And once you do, how do you find the time to carry it through to the finish line? Independent Writers of Chicago [IWOC] can help explain all that at their meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 13.

In IWOC's 45-minute Unleash Your Story program, written legacy coach Danielle Perlin-Good, will take guests through the Four Pillars that play a role in writing a story: mindset, time, energy and value. She says those are critical to create a success mindset, take action, optimize energy, and to honor the clock.

The meeting is free for members; non-members pay \$10 with online registration. For more information visit www.iwoc.org.

Same boats, new name

The Hornblower Group announced Tuesday the launch of its Chicago cruising operations as City Cruises under City Experiences, the new brand name for the company's water- and land-based portfolio of offerings.

The tour ship owners are hoping locals and travelers alike will return to City Cruises' yachts including the Odyssey Lake Michigan, Spirit of Chicago, Chicago Elite, and their newest vessel the Odyssey Chicago River.

Patrons looking for a little thrill can also select one of five Seadogs for a fast-paced lake tour. They say that tour guests can expect the same standards and services as cruises have been adapted to ensure heightened cleanliness and to maintain social distance onboard.

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Broadway musicals of 1961

Porchlight Music Theatre's next virtual offering is the latest edition of its New Faces Sing Broadway series, New Faces Sing Broadway 1961.

New Faces Sing Broadway 1961 was filmed on-site at Chicago's historic Studebaker Theatre and will be available for streaming beginning 12 p.m. Friday, April 16, through Sunday, May 16.

The show is hosted by Jeff Award-winning actor Kelvin Roston, Jr., who will serve as the guide to the stars, songs and stories of the 1961 Broadway season. Brianna Borger is director and music direction and arrangements is by Tom Vendafreddo. Tickets are \$25-\$50, for more information, visit PorchlightMusicTheatre.org or call 773-777-9884.



Jim Kinney, Brian White, Rodger and Janet Owen.



Roe Conn, Walter Jacobson and Karen Conti.



Gordon Sinclair



Kathy Wolter Mondelli with Mary Ann Goeing.



Curt Rose and Maggie Baczkowski.

DREAM from p. 2

and just plain making sure everyone is being treated like a star. **Chad Willetts** has managed the 'coup' of the year. And I imagine that Barb can be coaxed to share a song or two while on duty. Tuesday thru Sunday doors open at 6 p.m., shows: 7 p.m. If you're a foodie - you will think you are in Paris. The food is superlative - as is the decor. Reservations a must in this jewel box at 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., 773-209-7631.

SING OUT LOUD: When in Lincoln Square, go see the DANK Haus's new mini-exhibition, "United, wir singen: A Cultural History of Chicago's German-American Choirs." Curated by Museum Intern Joe Chapman, the exhibit will fill you in on the early days of the men's-only Schubert Liedertafel, the women's Lyra Damenchor, and later the combined Schubert-Lyra choir. The exhibit show where the singers rehearsed, which songs they sang, and what it was like to be a part of the clubs. Clothing, accessories, and printed material tell the story visually alongside written exhibit materials. Visits are by appointment only, email rosa@dankhaus.com.

FISH A LEAPING: **Sandy Goggin** got in one more day of fishing in Steamboat, CO, when she reeled in this elegant Rainbow Trout. Hope hubby, **Jack Goggin**, was ready with the net.

ALL THE NEWS: **Col. Paul Malarik III** and **Lynn Graham** welcomed former Chicago Tribune exec **Bunny Cremeens**, and her husband **Larry**, to Ralph Lauren

Bar & Grill. They came from their home in Texas to visit their ailing daughter being treated at Northwestern Hospital.

NEW STAGE: Porchlight Music Theatre has a new Development Director, **Carmen J. Gonzalez**. She founded Fiesta Marketing, Inc., serving McCormick Place, Navy Pier and Soldier Field, as well as all of the city's major summer events including Taste of Chicago and the Blues, Jazz and Viva! festivals.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: La bella citte della Venezia, the famed waterway city of Venice, turns 1600 years old, founded in 421.

WHO'S WHERE: **Rodger and Janet Owen's** first post-COVID-vaccine dinner with pals **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** at Les Nomades... also in the eatery was the divine **Mamie Walton**... **Curt Rose** and **Maggie Baczkowski** at O'Malley's Chicago Firehouse Restaurant for another round of their fabulous TV podcast "Switching Gears." **Shelley Howard**, **Dennis Donn**, **Francisco Asturriaga** and **Dr. Glenn** having dinner at Tavern on Thursday at what they called a table of "two-timers," after their second COVID jab... WGN Radio's **Karen Conti** sharing cocktails with media stars **Walter Jacobson** and **Roe Conn** at LaScarola... **Kathy Wolter Mondelli** with **Mary Ann Goeing** in the Champagne Cave at Marchesa... restaurateur **Gordon Sinclair** happy to be home early from Florida with **Freddy**, the pooch nearby...



Carmen J. Gonzalez

birthday boy **Denis John Healy** celebrates with pals **Rich** and **Ayla Rinella** to meet **Bambino Rinella** with **Sean Eshaghy** at Hugo's Frog Bar and Fish House... **Bonnie Spurlock** dining with **Susie** and **Ross Glickman**, running into the mighty **Kathy O'Malley Piccone** sashaying through the fragrant corridors of Hugo... **Linda** and **David Mahon** at the Rod and Gun Club of Everglades City, FL, a long sail from Maine... **Mark Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** doing the Smoke House Frittata in

Old Town at Nookies and connecting with famed waitress **Cecilia**... Loyola alum **Lindy Fleming McGuire** (my treasured intern at City Hall) at City Hall with **Sister Jean Schmidt, BVM**, bursting out of her school colors with pride. **Brian McCormick** and **Zurich Esposito** hosted an impromptu cocktail party for friends and neighbors at their mod midcentury home in Marrakesh Country Club in Palm Desert. Champagning against the mountain backdrop were neighbors **Roger Bensinger** with very close friend **Robin Groth**, **Natalie** and **John Coulter**, design mogul **Annie Selke**, as well as CBRE exec **Peggy Mctigue** and **David Miller** visiting from Chicago. California's widely available vaccination program has made gatherings finally feel fun again ... Writer, **Sherrill Bodine**, gathered with singer, **Barb Bailey**, to honor the artist, **Rosemary Fanti**.

HIGH ART: The restored master altarpiece of Ghent (Belgium) has been completed and returned to St. Bravo's Cathedral with a temperature controlled case and AR headsets, after a three year absence. The medieval masterpiece is by **Jan and Herbert Van Eyck** and portrays "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb."
NEW YORK BOUND? If you're traveling to NYC remember the Balthazar, the grand restaurant for style and vittles has opened up again.
HOWDY: **Larry McMurtry** dead at 84. A Novelist and Oscar-winning screenwriter in love with the American West and the characters it produced. His list of works is extensive. He was creating dynamic and dusty scenes of the continent's settlement long before his modern boys were lip-locking on Brokeback Mountain. He held up the West as the paradigm of America's soul, a struggle for civility, humanity and ironic love. In surprise. A great American novelist has passed. Don't be fooled by the woke speak drivel that'll try to take his place.
EROS UPDATE: Remember the beautiful busboy at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill? Well, the lad is still with the young attorney he gave up being a busboy for. Now there's an American love story. Finishing college and looking ahead to maybe going into real estate. And riding in the Benz.
The devil loves nothing better than the intolerance of reformers.
- James Russell Lowell

to honor the artist, **Rosemary Fanti**.

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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF UPLAND MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST B Plaintiff, -v- GIL A NARVAEZ Defendants 18 CH 10684 6635 NORTH WHIPPLE STREET 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 December 16, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 11, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6635 NORTH WHIPPLE STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-36-307-008 The real estate is improved with a tan brick, one story single family home, detached two car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the

Real Estate For Sale

sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. 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

Real Estate For Sale

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. 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. 20-05521L Attorney ARDC No. 61256 Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 18 CH 10684 TJSC#: 41-435 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 # 18 CH 10684 13166617 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-GEL1 Plaintiff, -v- 1427 W. JUNEWAY, LLC, INDUSTRY MORTGAGE CORPORATION Defendants 20 CH 4685 1427 WEST JUNEWAY TERRACE CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in

Real Estate For Sale

the above cause on February 26, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 4, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1427 WEST JUNEWAY TERRACE, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-29-102-016-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$879,673.67. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

Real Estate For Sale

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Real Estate For Sale

TJSC#: 41-465 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 # 20 CH 4685 13166618 070707 313131 242424

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CLA proposes to close State St. to vehicle traffic on Sundays

The Chicago Loop Alliance [CLA] recently unveiled a proposal to shut down the stretch of State St. between Lake and Madison streets for vehicle traffic each Sunday for up to 12 weeks. The idea would be to allow for a large, open pedestrian space to shop, eat, and engage with live music and other events.

They hope that this plan will bring people back into the central business district in a way that provides a safe environment to gather and experience cultural programming.

According to Kalindi Parikh, director of planning with the CLA, the organization envisions closures happening between 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with program-

ming and activities taking place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If the initiative moves forward, it will be the first time since the Active Transportation Alliance and the CLA co-hosted the Open Streets on State St. program a decade ago. But so far, Parikh says that the proposal has received a warm reception from downtown business owners and city leaders.

Over the years, the CLA has coordinated a number of outdoor activities and programs, most recently its ACTIVATE pop-up series of music and events in alleys and underutilized downtown spaces. Moving programming to alleys made sense when the Loop was crowded, Parikh says, but now is the time to try

something different.

"I think people miss being downtown and I think we're starting to see folks slowly return, but to me, this is an opportunity to get people really excited but also comfortable with returning downtown in a way that's safe and socially distanced and prepared for them so people can remember what they loved so much about the Loop."

The big challenge this time will be figuring out how to host live events and programming without attracting a large crowd. Unlike previous downtown festivals, which can oftentimes attract hundreds of thousands of people to the Loop, Parikh told REJournal that the organiza-

"I think people miss being downtown and I think we're starting to see folks slowly return, but to me, this is an opportunity to get people really excited but also comfortable with returning downtown in a way that's safe," said Kalindi Parikh.

tion hopes to draw interest back downtown, but in a way that's responsible.

Safety protocols being discussed include mandatory mask

wearing, the installation of hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer dispensers, as well as close attention to social distancing.

However, another key theme would also be using the State Street space to showcase performers and artists from neighborhoods around the city. The idea is to bring people back downtown, but for downtown to also serve as a platform for community groups throughout Chicago to remind folks that, as Parikh says, "the Loop really belongs to everyone in Chicago."

REJournal contributed to this story

PARISH from p. 1

the Our Lady of Lourdes building would not remain open on a regular basis after July 1, Shanahan said the building will continue, at least for the immediate future, to have a regular Mass schedule.

"Our Lady of Lourdes will continue to have a regular schedule for Mass, and the future of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and campus will be reviewed on an annual basis. The specific Mass schedule after July 1 is an important topic [that] we will discuss with parish leadership in the coming months," wrote Shanahan.

On Jan. 22, the Archdiocese's Auxiliary Bishop Mark Bartosic had also informed Shanahan's congregation the archdiocese was planning to sell the parish's former grade school building at 4641 N. Ashland Ave. The building has continued to serve the congregation as the location for its religious education programs and for church meeting space.

The parish will host an open house on Sunday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Alumni of Our Lady of Lourdes School will host a farewell to the school building on a date still to be determined (either Saturday, May 22, or June 12), from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Designed by the prominent Chicago architectural firm of Worthmann and Steinbach, the church was originally built in 1916. Dozens of the churches and homes designed by the architectural firm have been recognized

by the city of Chicago on its Architectural Resources Survey. The building was originally located across the street.

On Jan. 22, the Archdiocese's Auxiliary Bishop Mark Bartosic had also informed Shanahan's congregation the archdiocese was planning to sell the parish's former grade school building at 4641 N. Ashland Ave.

The church honors Our Lady of Lourdes, an honorific title bestowed upon the mother of Jesus Christ. In 1858, Bernadette Soubirousa, a young teenager who lived near Lourdes, France began seeing visions of a person who appeared to be Mary. Despite initial skepticism by local church officials, the young girl's visions were eventually accepted "worthy of belief" and the site of her visions has become a popular site for religious pilgrimages.

Soubirousa's story was the subject of a 1941 best-selling historical novel *Song of Bernadette*. The book served as the source for a popular 1943 movie of the same name.

Chicago's Our Lady of Lourdes is designated as the national shrine of the French pilgrimage site and includes a replica of the Lourdes grotto in France.

Concerned about the changing status of their church, parishioners contacted this newspaper

and expressed concerns about the future of the church building. Despite being listed on the city's Architectural Resources Survey as being architecturally significant, a city ordinance exempts religious properties from having landmark status imposed on their property.

A concerned parishioner cited the example of St. Joseph's Church, a now-closed 117-year-old church building in tiny Cabery, IL, in the Diocese of Joliet, as an example of a historic church building which is slated for demolition, but which would have been preserved had it not been a church-owned property.

A spokesperson for the diocese of Joliet said, however, the circumstances of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Joseph in Cabery are not parallel.

TIF from p. 1

passionate about. I want to make sure we work through this vision to really bring an arts district to the 40th Ward and I know that means the creation of some sort of performance space and the integration of more street art," Vasquez said.

According to officials at the city's Dept. of Planning and Development, the Western Ave. North TIF covers 227 acres of mixed land uses along major arterial streets within the Lincoln Square and Uptown communities. The TIF, which expires in 2024, was created with the intention of encouraging redevelopment or re-

"St. Joseph Parish in Cabery was closed in 2015 because the building was in severe disrepair and attendance had decreased to fewer than 40 people. A few parishioners petitioned the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura in Rome – the supreme court of the Catholic Church – to overturn the diocese's decision. The tribunal in late 2020 issued its ruling, affirming the diocese's decision to close the parish. The church building is slated for demolition in the near future," said Mary Massingale, the director of communications for the Diocese of Joliet.

Plan for Philadelphia Romanian Church withdrawn

The plan to convert another Ravenswood-area church into hous-

ing has stalled as the applicant has withdrawn an application to rezone the Philadelphia Romanian Church, 1713 W. Sunnyside Ave., to convert it into a residential building.

A developer had hoped to turn it into a 70-unit development. This proposal was opposed by the Ravenswood Neighbors Association [RNA], after two community meetings.

Based on that feedback, Ald. Matt Martin [47th] requested that the applicant make substantial changes to the plan. RNA and area residents stated a number of concerns, including a lack of affordability and of family-sized units, lack of off-street parking, as well as an architectural design that didn't adequately preserve the unique and historic character of the existing building.

habilitation for various uses that serve the needs of the community. Priorities include development of senior housing projects and the reinforcement of existing retail hubs with pedestrian-friendly improvements.

Vasquez said the creation of the Lincoln Avenue North Arts District will help transform the entire area. He supports having the district's storefronts transformed into art galleries, including use as temporary "pop-up" galleries. The district will also include live/work units for artists to call home.

An increased awareness of the area, Vasquez said, will help revitalize local businesses, many of

which have struggled and failed during the ongoing pandemic lockdown. These include hotels and motels located on Lincoln Ave.

"I have had [many] conversations with the owners, and it was a real epiphany. They said they had never been reached out to before, as a community partner. I wanted to make the case to them that if they added some fresh paint and changed how they presented their business, [they] can have a different type of clientele. This is a more cost-effective solution than trying to acquire their properties through eminent domain, as had happened earlier," Vasquez said.

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