

I didn't know I was old,
'til one day somebody told me!
— George Freeman

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NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

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New TimeLine Theatre rises at 5035 N. Broadway. Photo by Bob Zuley

Pre-cast concrete TimeLine Theatre rises in Uptown

Concrete panels add-on to former W.C. Reebe and Brother Storage

BY BOB ZULEY

The first pre-cast concrete panels and flooring have been constructed for the new TimeLine Theatre building, 5035 N. Broadway in Uptown. The \$40 million-plus installation began on the street-side of the site in March, according to a their press release. The newly built portion will connect to the five-story remainder of the former W.C. Reebe and Brother Storage building at the rear of the lot.

The theater group hosted an open house at their future new home Thursday, April 10.

The name “TimeLine” now

serves as an odd and ironic twist as the theater groups own construction timeline has been blown up multiple times due to a variety of construction issues, the pandemic lockdown, and the CTA Red Purple Line construction project.

According to TimeLine Theatre, the pre-cast concrete panels being installed now are fabricated in Wisconsin before being trucked to the Uptown site. The assembly process is expected to take four weeks to complete. More than three-dozen caissons have been drilled and filled to support the new theatre.

The new theatre will include a lobby cafe and bar, a 250-seat flexible black-box theatre, and ex-

TIMELINE see p. 16

Broadway Upzoning framework: Alders seek to ‘right-size’ Uptown, Edgewater

Residents unhappy only one two-block stretch of ‘Broadway gets lowered zoning

BY BOB ZULEY

In a press release issued April 11, aldermen Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th], Matt Martin [47th], and Angela Clay [46th] announced they will introduce a series of ordinances to the City Council on April 16 to “right-size” real estate along Broadway from Montrose (4400 N.) to Devon (6400 N.).

The issue will next be discussed at the May Zoning Committee meeting. If approved by the committee, it then returns to the City Council in June for final passage.

The alders presented the Broadway Land Use Framework to the Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] on Feb. 20 where it passed as expected. Only Ald. Gilberto Vil-

legas [36th] opposed it. Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth opposed the framework as written although she voted for it before the CPC.

The proposed zoning ordinances aim to implement that framework by attempting to support the success and expansion

“In Edgewater and Uptown, many of our local businesses along Broadway are struggling and neighbors are feeling the impact of Chicago’s housing crisis,” said Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth.

of existing businesses while also streamlining new business development; encouraging Transit-Oriented Development along Broadway (one of the best-served

transit corridors in the city) in the wake of significant public investment in CTA train stations, and by generating private investment on Broadway hoping to improve housing affordability and quality of life along the corridor.

“In Edgewater and Uptown, many of our local businesses along Broadway are struggling and neighbors are feeling the impact of Chicago’s housing crisis,” Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth said in the statement. Families like mine rely on naturally occurring affordable housing, but without legal protection, that affordability is at risk.”

The ordinance involves a combination of C1-5, B3-5, and B3-3 zoning. This includes a modification from the original B3-5 zoning recommendation to B3-3 on the west side of Broadway from Foster to Balmoral based on community feedback and parcel con-

UPZONING see p. 16

Five shot in Edgewater, Rogers Park

BY CWBCHICAGO

Two people were shot during an altercation in Rogers Park Sunday, April 13, bringing the number of people shot in the neighborhood last weekend to five.

Around 2 a.m., bystanders told passing patrol officers that there had just been a large altercation in the 1200 block of W. Devon. Shortly after those officers shared that information with fellow patrol units, they reported hearing

gunfire nearby.

The police found two victims at the scene: a 31-year-old man shot in the abdomen and a 29-year-old man who was shot in the torso and hip, according to CPD. Both were taken to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston.

Officers marked about 15 shell casings in the area and they also found a gun under a pizza box inside a nearby car.

CPD did not release a description of the shooter or shooters.

On April 12 evening, three people were shot by a drive-by gunman outside a currency exchange on the corner of Howard and Paulina, not far from the Howard CTA station.

So far this year, ten people have been shot in Rogers Park. That’s exactly on pace with last year. The neighborhood had 11 people shot at this point in 2023; 6 in 2022; and 3 in 2021.

Man shot during robbery attempted in Edgewater

BY CWBCHICAGO

Police say a 22-year-old man was shot during a robbery attempt in Edgewater on April 11.

The staff at Weiss Hospital called police after the man walked into the facility for treatment on the evening of April 12.

He told Chicago cops that he was standing near the sidewalk on the 5000 block of N. Winthrop when six men confronted him and

tried to take his property by force around 11:20 p.m.

He heard gunfire behind him and suffered a gunshot wound to his neck, a CPD spokesperson said.

The man is the sixth person shot in Edgewater this year. That total includes a man who unintentionally shot himself last month. This year’s tally is on pace with 2024. Edgewater only had five shootings for all of 2023.

Survey underway on paddling accessibility at Leone Beach Park

The Leone Beach Park Advisory Council is seeking input from neighbors about how to make paddling more accessible at Leone Beach Park via a survey to help understanding paddling needs.

The goal is to make paddling safer, more accessible, and at-

tract more paddling activity to the North Side. To complete the survey, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScWTXAJdT04yfgO9N25baTd0XaCN4FD14XKhyNLKYGKOo95w/viewform>. The survey will remain open through April.

New 87-unit building proposed for West Ridge

A community meeting has been called for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22 over a new proposal for a high density building near Peterson and Damen avenues in West Ridge.

This will not be an in-person meeting, it will be run virtually over the Internet.

The proposal is to build a new 8-story multi-unit residential building at 1948 W. Peterson Ave. with 87 residential units—70 market rate units, and 17 affordable units—and off-street parking for 51 cars.

Proposed for the corner of Peterson and N. Winchester Ave., the site is across the street from Rosehill Cemetery. The project will replace a long-vacant lot occasionally used for parking and storage.

The project is being undertaken by local developer Bob Loquercio, who purchased the half-acre lot earlier this year for \$995,000.

The eight-story building will be 111-feet tall, and the ground floor



Proposed for the corner of Peterson and N. Winchester Ave., this building will go up across the street from Rosehill Cemetery. The project will replace a long-vacant lot occasionally used for parking and storage.

footprint will occupy the full site, with a handful of units on the main street corner surrounded by 51 parking spaces within a garage and along the alley.

The garage will have an entrance on the alley as well as one on Winchester with a new curb cut.

The 87 units will be made up

of one-, two-, and three-bedroom layouts, of which 20% will be considered affordable. All units above the second floor will have a balcony and there will be a shared rooftop deck.

No construction timeline has been announced, as the project still requires approval in City Hall.

Troubles at the Obama Presidential Center construction in Jackson Park



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

The Great Pyramid of Giza is a sight for the eyes. Rising up on the sandy desert landscape of Egyptian history.

The familiar looking triangular structures came into being sometime around 2575-2465 BCE. It’s actually three buildings. The Great Pyramid is the largest of three, built on the west bank of the River Nile near Al Jizah in Upper Egypt.

Even after thousands of years and the passing of sometimes-noble, and sometimes catastrophic history, they stand shrouded in mystery, letting a little more to be discovered about it as millennia pass.

That’s what I thought about as I drove through Jackson Park along the south lakefront with a friend, when I glimpsed The Obama Presidential Center currently under construction. That’s when I saw it with my own eyes.

I was speechless. The whole endeavor is a colossal undertaking. Altering the landscape. Altering the southern lakefront. Altering the character and the vast acreage of Chicago’s stunning Great Lake’s basin.

I was delighted to see my old friend Barack Obama so honored after he brought historic honor to Chicago and the nation. I wish he was President today.

My curiosity and wonderment are as much architectural as they are political and presidential.

Since this was the first sighting with my own eyes, my imagination had failed to understand the scale and epic proportions of the construction. Not just the size and the architectural proportions of

the actual building, but the surrounding Jackson Park landscape around the presidential structure.

It is vast. And the nearness of Lake Michigan deeply enhances the vistas that surround it.

The current stage of the buildings included in the center have achieved enormous progress since the 2021 groundbreaking. The size and grandeur of the main tower by architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien shows that it’s making real progress.

In many ways it has been a quiet construction project. Until now.

Great commotion has been underway since the start of 2025.

In January, Chicagoan Robert McGee, Jr. - who owns II in One Contractors, a Black-owned South Side company - has provided concrete and rebar services for the Obama Center since 2021. Now they have filed a lawsuit in federal court. McGee says the New York-based engineering consulting firm, Thornton Tomasetti, has subjected his firm to “baseless criticism and defamatory and discriminatory accusations.”

McGee is seeking \$40,753,475 in construction costs in the lawsuit.

Thornton Tomasetti is an international Goliath of a firm that is famous for significant global construction projects. It is the structural engineer of record for the construction of The Obama Presidential Center.

McGee’s firm, II in One Construction, has been in operation since 1984 and is a part of Black Contractors United and the Concrete Contractors Assoc.

Scott Schneider is senior principal and structural engineering co-leader at Thornton Tomasetti. He is alleged to have sent the Obama Foundation a memorandum suggesting, as the lawsuit claims, “the construction issues were all unequivocally driven by the underperformance and inexperience of the concrete sub-contractor.” Waging an internal war against McGee, and damaging his reputation with quiet denigration and dangerous accusations without

the benefit of rebuttal.

So McGee’s lawsuit seeks to engage what they have identified as pure “old fashioned” racial discrimination by the structural engineer of record, Thornton Tomasetti.

The magnitude of Thornton Tomasetti’s influence and power appears overwhelming. Approaching criticism and conflict not in an upfront manner, but rather in a secret critique whose very style and nature seeks to cut the legs from under McGee and his locally based Black firm that now finds their company on the brink of forced closure because of the alleged racial discrimination by the structural engineer.

This is obviously an intrigue that the Obama Foundation, and its CEO, Valerie Jarrett, and members like John Rogers, would love to see disappear.

And it’s not a situation that any Chicago political leader caused or fumbled in mismanagement. But it is a real issue of consequence that gives Chicago a foreboding and imbalanced public image of ineptitude around the nation.

Are there too many fingers in this pie?

Are there jealousies wearing away the bright goodness of the Center?

Does this outside contractor feel no real commitment to the larger ideals that would seek to balance the issues by the application of justice here in Chicago?

The cracks are showing. In the building’s foundation, and project relationships. Delay in work, and over budget. The Obama Presidential Center has faced years-long delays.

II in One Contractors is part of the Concrete Collective, a joint venture on the project that also includes W.E. O’Neill Construction Co., and Trice Construction Co.

II in One Contractors is alleging that there were massive overruns during operations due to Thornton Tomasetti not following the American Concrete Insti-



The Obama Presidential Center under construction. Courtesy of The Obama Presidential Center

tute standards specifications and requirements around rebar spacing and tolerance requirements. These issues slowly began giving room to big losses, and also impacted productivity greatly.

Other accusations about the costly problems on the project also apparently came from the project’s general contractor, Lakeside Alliance. It is made up of construction firms Brown & Momen, Power & Sons Construction, Safeway Construction, UJAMA Construction and Turner Construction, according to Engineering Midwest Magazine.

Thornton Tomasetti calls corrective work needed on the project “extensive and wide-ranging.”

Some of the items the engineer says it had to review include damage to caisson dowels, removal of a mat pour due to curing heat issues, a missed keyway in tower cores, exposed rebar, failure to install bars to approved shop drawings, pouring the garage entry ramp wall at the wrong thickness and failure to set ink beam bars at the correct elevation.

In response to the lawsuit, Emily Bittner, vice president of communications at The Obama Foundation, disputed the claim of racial discrimination by Thornton Tomasetti. “If the foundation be-

lieved that any vendor was acting with a racist intent, we would immediately take appropriate action. We have no reason to believe that Thornton Tomasetti acted with racist intent,” she said in a statement.

McGee now finds himself and his company on the brink of forced closure “because of racial discrimination by the structural engineer,” the lawsuit states.

Why should Chicago appear to look the other way in the application of fairness? As the City seeks to honor its native Chicago son, and first Black President, the elation of his election and two presidential terms of office should have ripened our sense of justice and fair play.

His service as a member of the Illinois General Assembly and, later, U.S. Senator from Illinois, should, instead, lift the quality of our constant struggle for justice.

Chicago has a history of advancing labor fairness in the long saga of shaping equal fairness in commerce, industry, manufacturing and business. From fur-trapping days to computers. In very personal ways.

The story of Obama’s life of public service and presidential distinction rises high, past many of the expansive moments of local life.

But Chicago’s underlying sense of fairness, perhaps a dividend from our neighborhood character and ethos, calls out loud and clear often to stand firm. It sure seems so in light of all the legal and funding goings-on at the Obama Presidential Center.

A lot depends on who really screwed up.

TROUBLES see p. 10

Spring 2025 Lecture Series

RAVENSWOOD-LAKE VIEW
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE HISTORY
OF THE RED & PURPLE LINES
WITH TOM DWYER
THURSDAY, APRIL 17 AT 6:30 P.M.
in the Lerner Auditorium,
Conrad Sulzer Regional Library at 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.
A Journey with Team RPM – Connecting Generations and Lives

Tom Dwyer at left.

What began as a history project following the RPM Windy City Gantry from Catalpa to Balmoral evolved into an intimate and powerful tribute to the hardworking men and women of Team RPM. This documentary serves as an auditable and historically accurate digital representation of their efforts—an enduring legacy of the people who built the future of Chicago’s transit system.

This is more than a construction story—it’s about the people behind it. The modern-day Rosie the Riveters, the unsung heroes, and the camaraderie that built not just infrastructure, but lifelong bonds.

Brian Wesolowski from the CTA’s Community Outreach Liaison will join this lecture.

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Grab your wallets, State to ‘study safety’ on Hwy. 41

Are speeding cameras, AI and roadway obstacles coming to Lake Shore Dr.?

The desire to create a safety Utopia may be about to take another prisoner in Chicago’s favorite roadway: Lake Shore Dr.

After reportedly hearing from concerned community members and traffic safety advocates about vehicle crashes and fatalities along Lake Shore Dr. [LSD], State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz is leading a plan to address those concerns on one of Chicago’s most beloved and iconic roadways.

“In just five years, LSD has seen over 16,000 crashes with 59 deaths and over 4,000 injuries,” said Feigenholtz. “Traditional speed cameras that just ticket people don’t address the root problem. We need safety solutions that accomplish more by truly changing drivers’ behavior.”

Feigenholtz did not share her data along with her press statement, or identify the “traffic safety advocates” who are lobbying the state to undertake this initiative. But she is sponsoring Senate Bill 1507, which would task the Univ. of Illinois Chicago’s Urban Transportation Center with studying crash data, driving behavior and whether traffic enforcement technologies could prevent hazardous driving on LSD.

There exists a cult of safetyism in society today, as public officials who may be in search of new streams of revenue and new ways to control citizens, frighten their constituents in order to allow for new oversight, advanced security systems tied to fines, fees and regulations that in another context of a less fearful environment would be a hard sell. [See sidebar]

The bill would include a review of multi-year crash data on North and South LSD, and measure research on potential effectiveness of cameras powered by artificial intelligence in improving compliance and reducing crashes and road fatalities on the lakefront roadway. The study will also assess the effectiveness of psychological de-

terrences in reducing habitual speeding; and on how fatalities can be reduced using cameras powered by artificial intelligence and other technical options that may be available.

Feigenholtz did not share her data along with her press statement, or identify the “traffic safety advocates” who are lobbying the state to undertake this initiative.

Previously when government officials wanted to slow down traffic, they’d use police speed traps to control traffic speed. If put into law, this bill provides that “the Dept. of Transportation shall adopt any rules necessary to implement the coming provision.”

Data on the use of randomized speed cameras in Germany and the Netherlands shows that the strategy is highly effective and has a long-term impact on encouraging and incentivizing safer driving and behavior changes.

While Chicago has proven that the use of cameras and AI technology can be extremely lucrative.

Speed cameras are extremely profitable for those who own and manage them. They have become a funding crutch for governments who now face budget problems. Since 2013, Chicago’s speed cameras have generated \$879 million in revenue. Additionally, red light cameras have brought in over \$915 million since 2003. In 2023 alone, speed cameras generated over \$102 million in fines.

“DuSable Lake Shore Drive spans nearly five miles across the 6th Senate District,” said Feigenholtz. “The last time significant safety improvements were made on DLSD was over 30 years ago — it’s time for some movement.”

Senate Bill 1507 passed the Senate April 10.

What is Safetyism?

BY BENJAMIN A. SIMPSON

“Safetyism is the cult of safety—an obsession with eliminating threats (both real and imagined) to the point at which people become unwilling to make reasonable trade-offs demanded by other practical and moral concerns. Safetyism deprives young people of the experiences that their antifragile minds need, thereby making them more fragile, anxious, and prone to see themselves as victims.” - Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt.

Launched into the world by Haidt and Lukianoff in their book, The Coddling of the American Mind, “Safetyism” refers to a culture or belief system in which safety has become a sacred value. The book was published in 2018.

The two writers argued that there is a difference between throwing someone a life preserver when they are in danger of drowning and barring them from getting

into the pool at all, or in only allowing the pool to be so shallow as to not enjoy the freedom and thrill that comes from entering the deep water. Without sufficient depth, they posit, people would never learn how to swim.

Lukianoff and Haidt identify three bad ideas that prevail with antifragile efforts: the untruth of fragility (what doesn’t kill you makes you weaker), the untruth of emotional reasoning (always trust your feelings), and the untruth of us versus them: (life is a battle between good people and evil people).

As a solution, the authors argue for the elevation of wisdom.

They argue that unpleasant experiences and exposure to discomfort can result in growth and maturity. That while our emotions are part of our humanity, alone, they are insufficient for sound judgment. And while there are good ideas and bad ideas, righteousness and wickedness, and there are arguments worth having, it isn’t always easy to make such neat divisions.

It’s City Sticker and ticketing amnesty month, so pay up!

The City Clerk’s Office is bringing back their popular “City Sticker Amnesty Month,” where now through April 30, late fees and back charges on City Stickers will be waived, giving residents a chance to get up to date without penalties.

For more information such as a list of eligible locations, and to take advantage of the amnesty, visit <https://www.chicityclerk.com/AmnestyMonth>.

Individuals with eligible ticket violations can also have their penalties and fees temporarily waived for eligible parking, compliance, and automated speed and red light camera tickets.

The debt relief period is now through June 30. Penalties and fees are temporarily waived for eligible parking, standing, compliance, and automated speed and red light camera violations that are paid in full by June 30.

Remembering Officer Malissa Torres

BY ALD. BRIAN HOPKINS [2ND]

I am deeply saddened by the tragic passing of Officer Malissa Torres, a member of the 18th District Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy Office. Officer Torres passed away April 10 at the 18th District, in what appears to be a self-inflicted gun shot wound. Officer Torres was off-duty at the time she was discovered at the station and detectives are investigating the case.

Many people may have known Officer Torres, as she was frequently engaging with our community at local farmers markets, CAPS meetings, and special neighborhood events.

Officer Torres, a beloved member of the Chicago Police Dept., was known amongst her peers as a warm, welcoming, and kind soul. Officer Torres is survived by her son and husband. I offer my deepest condolences to her family and the officers at the 18th District for this unimaginable loss.



P.O. Malissa Torres #18548. End of Watch April 10.

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THE ADMIRAL AT THE LAKE

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April showers bring May flowers, so it's told. But first people must deal with those showers. Rainwater management is a block by block issue, and a crisis when it happens on your block, as it did recently on this Lake View block in the Graceland West community at Greenview and Belle Plain. The community decided bioswales (left) could be part of the solution.

Images courtesy Graceland West Community Assoc.

Bioswales are a community effort to manage stormwater

BY GRACELAND WEST ASSOC.

April showers bring May flowers, so it's told. But first people must deal with those showers. In an urban area with vast amounts of concrete and asphalt covering the prairie, absorption of those shower into the ground is a problem.

Heavy rains can leave behind standing water and puddles, creating inconvenience and potential hazards in our neighborhood.

The alarming photograph (above) at Greenview and Belle Plain is a reminder of how important solutions to stormwater

runoff are to the neighborhood. While rare, the frequency of local extreme weather events may be increasing as a result of climate change. These events result in neighborhood flooding as a result of the runoff from impermeable surfaces.

Fortunately, in some communities, bioswales help mitigate these issues by capturing and filtering stormwater, reducing runoff, and preventing flooding.

An example of this effort is found in Graceland West, where the community is fortunate to have several bioswales that play a crucial role in managing water flow and keeping our streets drier during

drenching rain events.

Bioswales function by using vegetation and soil to slow down and absorb rainwater, filtering out pollutants before the water reaches the sewer system or natural waterways like Lake Michigan, and the Chicago, Fox, and Illinois rivers.

These green infrastructure elements are designed with a gentle slope and deep-rooted plants that help capture excess rainwater, reducing strain on storm drains and improving overall water quality.

However, bioswales don't maintain themselves. These natural drainage solutions require ongoing care to remain effective, and that's where community support comes in.

Recently, a dedicated group of volunteers in Graceland West Community Assoc. [GWCA] came together to revitalize the bioswale at 4200 N. Clark St. (Clark and Berteau). Their efforts included clearing debris, which helps maintain proper water flow and prevents blockages, refreshing plant life, and ensuring the bioswale remains a functional and attractive part of our neighborhood.

The native plants are already sprouting and birds are finding earthworms there.

Indeed, small efforts from community members can help keep North Side neighborhoods mitigate flooding during storms, and add beautiful and resilient.

Any time the water accumulates faster than it can be absorbed by the ground it runs into sidewalks, streets and alleys where it runs downhill until it reaches a sewer. If the sewer system accumulates faster than it can be removed into the larger sewer conveyance system, the sewer backs up and communities end up with flooded streets.

The good news in Lake View is that is that GWCA and the greater community are combating the issue in many ways.

(Those who would like to lend expertise or passion for stormwater solutions, or just find out more, write to info@gracelandwest.org.)

Capture it where it falls

Twelve adjacent neighborhood associations in Lake View, are asking property owners of homes, condos, apartment buildings, schools and businesses to add 100 square feet more of permeable hardscape or native plant landscape for every 3,000 s.f. of property they own or manage. The Chicago Dept. of Water Management has many good guidelines and tips on how to do this.

Eliminate impermeable surfaces

Impermeable surfaces are those that allow water to run right off of them. Removing these surfaces could mean installing

permeable pavers or permeable concrete in place of traditional pavers or walkways (eliminates over 18,000 gal/year if done on one block of sidewalk or a small parking lot) or taking down an unused shed or garage (eliminates over 6,000 gal/year) in favor of native grasses with deep root systems.

Install green roofs

Green Roofs are options for many flat roofs on neighborhood homes, apartment buildings, condos, schools, garages and businesses. They prevent water from running off the roof into the storm drain and into the sewer. In addition to absorbing stormwater, plantings beautify the neighborhood, reduce heat island effect and provide bird, bee, butterfly, and beneficial insect habitats. The Rizal Community Center, 1332 W. Irving Park Rd., proceeded with the installation of a panel from LiveRoof after GWCA hosted them for a discussion in 2018.

Install a rain garden, bioswale, use rain barrels

The elimination of impermeable surfaces or installation of a green roof are substantial projects. The good news is that there are very small actions that collectively put a big dent in stormwater runoff.

One of those is the installation of a rain garden or bioswale and the use of rain barrels. Routing storm drains to a rain garden that absorbs the runoff from your roof can have a large impact.

Some great information on Rain Gardens for Illinois can be found from the Prairie Rivers Network website.

Plant native grasses with deep root systems... or better yet, plant a giant oak that can consume 40,000 gallons of water a year. Yes, a stand of mature giant oaks might take some time, but in time they will make a difference.

Deep root, native grasses slow the pace of runoff dramatically when compared to turf-grass that sits in a compacted soil.

Native plants have abundant and very deep roots, which retain and absorb stormwater compared with grass, which sheds water because it has a very shallow and limited root system. Because of shallow roots, grass behaves more like hard surface concrete or sealed patio pavers regarding stormwater runoff.

The Berteau Greenway is a bioswale. It's native plant's roots don't reach far into the ground, but they act to slow the flow of water into sewers.

The design concepts for those bioswales are excellent and should be expanded, as the design is exceptionally well suited for

STORMWATER see p. 14

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Cook County property tax appeals hit record high for 2024



The Home Front
by Don DeBat

With little relief coming from Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, tax-battered property owners in Chicago and the suburbs are turning to the Cook County Board of Review [CCBOR] for help.

For 2024, the Board of Review—the second step on the tax appeal ladder—has received a record number of property tax appeals, involving a nearly 41% increase in the total of Property Index Number [PIN] applications as compared with the 2023 tax year. Appeals filed for tax year 2024 increased by 11% over tax year 2023.

The unprecedented volume of 273,907 property tax appeals filed with the Board of Review for 2024 has presented the biggest challenge in the agency's history—a challenge it continues to meet, as more than half the appeals have already been finalized.

The surge of homeowners, businesses, and landowners seeking fairness and accuracy is largely due to significant increases in property valuations across commercial and residential sectors in Cook County.

"The [CCBOR] plays a crucial role among the checks and balances in the property assessment and taxation system," said Cmsr. Larry Rogers, Jr., chairman of the Board.

"In more than 20 years on the Board, I have never seen a more important time for property owners to avail themselves of their right to appeal. We have improved performance amid record-setting appeals by improving efficiency while keeping costs stable," Rogers noted.

As a quasi-judicial body, the CCBOR's mission is to serve property owners through the appeal process. Taxpayers file an appeal with the Board citing their reasons for a reduction. Then the Board reaches a decision for each individual property based on all facts and data presented. The appeal process is now more critical than ever before because of the increases in assessments by the Cook County Assessor's Office.

Commercial & residential hikes

According to the Cook County Assessor's office final Chicago Reassessment Data for 2024, the total assessed property value in Cook County has increased by 23%, or \$9.5 billion, soaring from \$41.3 billion to \$50.8 billion. A major reason for



Michael Griffin



Samantha Steele



George Cardenas



Larry Rogers Jr.

this jump has been an increase in commercial property assessments.

Meanwhile, homeowners—especially in the south suburban neighborhoods and parts of Chicago—have seen their properties impacted by sharp increases in assessed value, thus resulting in higher tax bills. In addition, commercial properties, particularly in revitalized neighborhoods and near infrastructure developments, have experienced the largest assessment increases.

"In more than 20 years on the Board, I have never seen a more important time for property owners to avail themselves of their right to appeal. We have improved performance amid record-setting appeals by improving efficiency while keeping costs stable," Larry Rogers Jr. noted.

Land-assessment increases

Along with the rise in property values, the Cook County Assessor's Office has implemented significant increases in land-value assessments as part of the 2024 reassessment affecting both residential and commercial property owners.

"A notable issue concerning errors in land assessments, especially in the south and west suburbs has contributed to the overall changes affecting property taxes in each community," said Cmsr. George Cardenas, of Board District 1. "The most recent south suburban reassessment revealed land-value assessment increases of 650% or more. The CCBOR addressed numerous inaccuracies, which could have led to erroneous local government-tax levies, and increased mortgage escrows for homeowners."

For the 2023 tax year, reports revealed that the land values for more than 4,000 properties were miscalculated, leading to inflated assessments and dramatic tax increases. Assessor Kaegi acknowledged these errors and worked to correct them.

formation, that should be used in the valuation process by the Assessor's Office," Cmsr. Rogers advised.

Finalizing appeals

As the CCBOR works diligently amid the unprecedented volume of appeals for the 2024 tax year, property owners are encouraged to stay informed about the status of their appeals and the final assessed valuation of their properties.

"With significant increases in property values, it is crucial that taxpayers have the confidence and knowledge to effectively contest their assessments," said Cmsr. Samantha Steele, of the Board of Appeals' District 2. "We remain committed to expanding accessibility through education and outreach, ensuring all residents and businesses have the support they need to navigate the appeals process."

"The main engine that drives up property-tax bills is the amount of money spent by local government," noted Chicago real estate tax appeal attorney Michael Griffin. "Homeowners who read their 2024 tax bills will see the continued increased spending for schools and police, firefighter

APPEALS see p. 15

Summer football program for kids

Junior Bear is a tackle football program with two divisions; the 8-10-year-old pee wee division and the 11-13-year-old varsity division. They are now seeking players.

In a season runs from August to October, and players participate in opening ceremonies, clinics, and league play, along with the championship game and closing ceremonies. Uniforms, transportation, and giveaways are provided.

Games are played at several locations throughout the city, usually on Saturdays,

with some Tuesday night games.

Former information contact Richard Faust, to sign up your sons or daughters who are interested.

Sign up may also be done online. Note there are two age groups and the Jr Bears program has a certain window for youth to sign up for the appropriate program. Visit <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/programs-memberships/junior-bear-football> or call 773-262-5051.

Youth employment applications now being taken

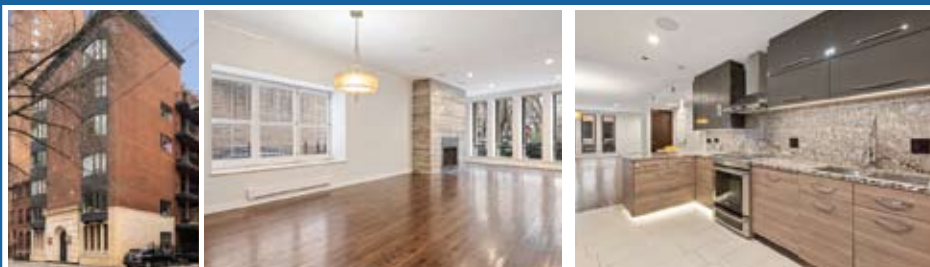
Applications are now open for One Summer Chicago [OSC]. OSC is a youth employment program offered in partnership with local businesses, community organizations, and city agencies (departments, sister agencies and aldermanic offices) to provide young people ages 14-24 with paid work experiences for six weeks of the summer.

The City hopes to connect 4,000 young

people to paid opportunities and life-skills development programs this summer. The Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services manages the program, with direct support from the Education, Youth and Human Services team in the Mayor's Office.

For more information visit www.OneSummerChicago.org.

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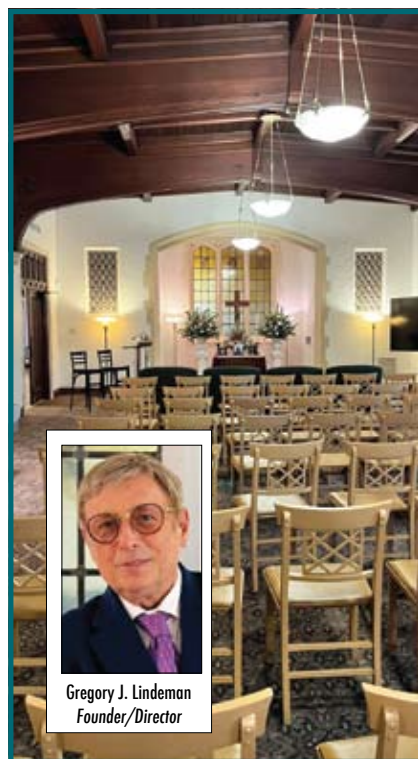
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More privilege for bikers? Illinois Senate OKs bikers ignoring stop signs

Senate also passed bill raising minimum age of arrest

BY BOB ZULEY

The Illinois Senate has recently passed bill SB2111 that allows bicyclists to approach stop signs and then blow right through them, and intersections, without stopping as long as they yield the right-of-way to other traffic, pedestrians, and those already in the intersection.

This bill, also known as the “Idaho Stop” law, hopes to improve safety for bicyclists by allowing them the privilege to decide for themselves how to safely proceed through traffic at intersections.

In Illinois, a vehicle blowing through a stop sign is committing

a moving violation that can result in a fine of up to \$1,000, plus court costs and assessments. It also affects driving records, potentially leading to license suspension and increased insurance rates. If an accident occurs, additional charges may be filed.

Bikes and scooters that blow through stop signs generally know they have the privilege of never getting ticketed.

Proponents argue that this change will make intersections safer - not for vehicles - but for bicyclists by giving them more choices and flexibility in deciding whether to stop for a street sign or not, allowing them to avoid unnecessary stops and starts. No data was offered to back up the supposition that it would make roadways safer for bikers.

This bill aims to clarify that bicycles are considered vehicles and should be granted all the rights of vehicle drivers, except at stop signs, where unlike all other vehicles, they won’t have to stop.

The bill was sponsored by North Side state Senator Mike Simmons [7th]. Simmons was appointed to the office in Feb. 2021 replacing Sen. Heather Steans. His district covers much of Rogers Park, Edgewater, Uptown, Lincoln Square and includes Wrigleyville.

Back in Feb. 2022, Illinois lawmakers killed an “Idaho stop” bill for bicyclists.

In 2024, Chicago recorded just one bicycle fatality, a significant decrease compared to previous years. In 2023, Chicago recorded 7 deaths, 10 in 2022, and 11 in 2021.

In other state senate news, the body also raised the minimum age for arrest of minors before heading home for the Easter recess. The bill raised the minimum age of arrest from 10 to 12. State Sen. Robert Peters [13th] says the goal is to prioritize rehabilitation over punishment. Peters was appointed to his senate seat in 2019 replacing Kwame Raoul.

Both measures now move to the

Illinois House for consideration.

“By raising the age ... and emphasizing alternative methods, we are giving young people a fair

This bill aims to clarify that bicycles are considered vehicles and should be granted all the rights of vehicle drivers, except at stop signs, where unlike all other vehicles, they won’t have to stop.

chance at reformation without subjecting them to the damaging effects of detention at an early age,” Peters said upon the bill’s passage Thursday. He also offered no data to show how he came to that conclusion.

It is unknown whether Peters discussed his bill with the parents of children murdered by juvenile offenders under the age of 12. Nor

is it known if Peters explored recidivism rates for juvenile sexual offenders.

Chicagoans of a certain age may recall five-year old Eric Morse who in Oct. 1994 was dangled out of a 14th floor window and dropped to his death by two neighborhood boys, ages 10 and 11.

Juvenile criminal offenders are a complex issue that demands careful attention and specialized handling by experts in various fields. Addressing juvenile crime effectively requires a multidisciplinary approach involving experts from law, psychology, social work, education, and criminology.

Their specialized knowledge and skills are vital for ensuring fair treatment, promoting rehabilitation, and ultimately enhancing public safety by reducing future offending.

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Lincoln Park Zoo is newest member of network to provide critical care for illegally trafficked wildlife

The Lincoln Park Zoo has joined the Assoc. of Zoos and Aquariums’ Wildlife Confiscations Network [WCN]. This program mitigates wildlife trafficking and supports law enforcement by providing a coordinated care system for wildlife that has been seized at U.S. ports of entry.

Following the interception of a trafficked animal, it is imperative that the highest standard of care is administered as quickly as possible. WCN is a network of vetted and approved zoos, aquariums, non-governmental organizations, universities, botanical gardens, and certified animal sanctuaries that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] can call on for help in the event of a confiscation.

The illegal trafficking of wildlife products is driving the wild population decline of many species. This illicit trade is valued at

up to \$20 billion per year, behind only drugs, weapons, and human trafficking. In addition to its devastating impacts on wildlife populations, the illegal wildlife trade puts humans at risk, increasing the chances of diseases threatening wildlife and human health.

Bushmeat is a big part of the problem too. Bushmeat refers to meat from wild African animals such as rodents, hooved animals, carnivores, primates, and bats.

It’s estimated that every month, 15,000 pounds of illegal wildlife meat is smuggled into the U.S. and sold throughout the country, mostly from West Africa. A study of bushmeat consumption by African immigrants in the U.S. described mixed perceptions regarding the risks and benefits of consuming bushmeat.

According to the National Institute of Health, bushmeat hunting

and butchery are risk factors for zoonotic disease transmission.

However, less is known about health risks to those who consume products that are already butchered when purchased. Thousands of gorillas, chimpanzees, and other African wildlife on the brink of extinction are viciously hunted, butchered, and illegally imported throughout the U.S. Any one of these shipments can bring an HIV infection, an Ebola epidemic, or a number of other deadly diseases into the country.

Lincoln Park Zoo is one of nearly 40 WCN partners, creating a national support network for illegally trafficked wildlife.

The zoo has a longstanding relationship with O’Hare International Airport and USFWS when it comes to wildlife trafficking. They provide short and long-term care for animals that were confis-

cated by USFWS at the Chicago airport.

In 2023, the zoo, Assoc. of Zoos and Aquariums, and USFWS teamed up to present an exhibit at O’Hare, informing travelers flying in and out of the U.S. about global wildlife trafficking and how they can help put an end to the illegal trade. Lincoln Park Zoo also provides USFWS with rhinoceros horn and nail trimmings obtained during routine care to help train wildlife detector dogs. The dogs learn to detect the scent of these trimmings and then scan bags and luggage for this commonly trafficked animal product, among others.

“We’re ‘For Wildlife. For All.’ and that extends to even the smallest amphibian or songbird being trafficked into or out of the country,” said Sunny Nelson, Vice President of Conservation and Science at the zoo. “We’re excited to grow our relationship with USFWS to help provide critical care for confiscated wildlife.”

Lincoln Park Zoo is committed to mitigating wildlife trafficking through research-backed solutions as well. The zoo is the first North American partner of Monitor Conservation Research Society, an international organization that investigates wildlife trafficking and advises on policy and conservation interventions. Through this partnership, they support Monitor with research, using science to better understand the issues facing animals at high risk for trafficking.

Learn more about wildlife trafficking and what Lincoln Park Zoo is doing to combat the illegal trade <https://www.lpzoo.org/conservation-science/take-action-with-us/end-wildlife-trafficking/>.



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Judge: Illinois automated license plate reader camera scans aren't unconstitutional searches

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

A federal judge has curbed, for now, a class action lawsuit that seeks to put an end to the widespread and growing use by police in Chicago and Illinois of automated license plate reader systems to combat crime, which the plaintiffs say amounts to unconstitutional high tech “dragnet surveillance” against everyone who drives a vehicle in Chicago where such license plate reading cameras are deployed.

In The March 31 ruling, U.S. District Judge Martha Pacold sided with the state of Illinois on the legal action’s core legal question:

Whether the license plate reader [ALPR] systems violate Illinoisans’ Fourth Amendment rights against warrantless searches by law enforcement.

In the ruling, Pacold said

scans and data collection from license plate reader systems do not amount to police “searches” limited by the Fourth Amendment.

Citing prior decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Pacold said: “... As a general matter, ‘a person travelling in an automobile on public thoroughfares has no reasonable expectation of privacy in his movements from one place to another.’

“To be sure, ‘individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the whole of their physical movements,’” Pacold continued. “But ... Illinois’s use of ALPRs, as alleged in the complaint, is not so intrusive as to invade that expectation. It is not a search under the Fourth Amendment.”

In May 2024, Cook County res-

ident Frank Bednarz and Stephanie Scholl filed suit in Chicago federal court against the Illinois State Police, as well as Gov. JB Pritzker and AG Kwame Raoul.

The lawsuit took aim at the networks of automated license plate readers installed first in Chicago and Cook County, and now cropping up in other communities throughout Illinois.

The ALPRs work through a network of cameras installed along roads and at intersections, where they record the license plates of vehicles passing by. That data is then uploaded into searchable databases available to law enforcement.

Police and other officials have said the systems help police to

JUDGE see p. 12

CTA has autistic children make platform announcements

BY BOB ZULEY

CTA riders may have been puzzled while on CTA L platforms hearing the voices of children making announcements. For the first time ever, the CTA has partnered with the Autism Transit Project [ATP] to have children diagnosed with autism record public address system announcements that are played across the system.

The voices of 30 Chicago area children can be heard in rail stations throughout the month of April as part of Autism Awareness Month.

ATP’s goal is to put the resources raised to work on this project as well as workforce partnerships with transit agencies to connect young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD] who love transit with job opportunities.

Three years ago, ATP had the idea to organize a project for Autism Acceptance Month with the New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority where children with autism got to make public service announcements throughout the subway system.

Many children with ASD exhibit perseverative behaviors around trains. It is not at all unusual for the first full sentence an autistic child utters to be a train announcement.

(People who persevere often say the same thing or behave in the same way over and over again. But they can get stuck on their emotions, actions, and thoughts, too. Examples include continually worrying about past mistakes, obsessing over potential future negative outcomes, or repeatedly asking the same question after receiving an answer.)

Chicago has now joined NYC, Boston, Atlanta, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and New Jersey in the campaign.

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Police Beat...

Man found dead on Near North Side

An autopsy performed April 12 was inconclusive on how a 30-year-old man died after his body was found on a Near North Side street, according to authorities.

The body of Owen Hughes was found on the ground in the 800 block of N. State St. around 1:15 a.m., according to police who are handling the case as a death investigation. Hughes had suffered unspecified trauma to his body they likely resulted in his death, police said.

Hughes was pronounced dead at the scene and his body taken to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Three robberies reported along Wrigleyville bar strip overnight

Police are investigating three robberies reported on the Clark St. bar strip April 13. At least two of the incidents appear to be related.

Officers assigned to patrol the nightlife area encountered the first victim in the 3500 block of N. Clark around 1:50 a.m. He told them that three men had physically attacked and robbed him of his phone and wallet. They were last seen heading south on Clark Street.

A second victim walked up to the patrol officers around 2:40 a.m. He shared a similar story: after meeting the robbers inside a nearby bar, he accompanied the men into a nearby alley where they robbed him.

Later, around 3 a.m., a third robbery victim walked into the Town Hall 19th District station, 850 W. Addison, to report being robbed on Clark St., too.

CPD issued a warning about robberies in the Wrigleyville area last month, saying a group of armed men had been targeting bargoers as they waited for rideshares at closing time.

Three or four robbers approach the victims and either display a gun or use force to get control of their valuables. The robbers have even accessed some of the victims' bank accounts through phones taken during the hold-ups, police said.

CPD linked five robberies to last month's pattern, three of which occurred in the 3500 block of N. Clark, the same block where Sunday's muggings occurred.

Suburban man robbed Loop bank 2x after losing his job at Walmart



Surveillance images of Jason Paniagua and the bank robber. Courtesy U.S. District Court records

A suburban man faces federal bank robbery charges after the FBI accused him of holding up a Citibank branch in the Loop twice in two weeks. Investigators identified Jason Paniagua after the first robbery but didn't get around to arresting him until he robbed the bank at 69 W. Washington a second time on April 8, officials said.

Paniagua scored \$340 during the first robbery, which occurred around 12:39 p.m. March 27.

"Give me everything in the top drawer, you've got three seconds to give me everything," he allegedly told the teller while demanding \$50 and \$100 bills.

But when the teller reached for a drawer holding large bills, he instructed them not to reach down, so he only got \$340 from the main teller drawer, an FBI agent said in a criminal complaint.

After the robbery, Paniagua allegedly changed pants inside a nearby synagogue and ditched other clothing steps from the bank's front door.

He then enlisted the help of a hotel doorman to secure a cab ride to the suburbs, the FBI agent said.

The cabbie first took Paniagua to a liquor store in Harvey and then to the Starlite Motel in Lansing, where he had registered under the name "Joseph A. Diniggued," according to the feds.

FBI agents interviewed the cabbie and the liquor store clerk, who immediately recognized Paniagua as "Cracker Jack" but didn't know his real name.

Investigators also noticed that motel surveillance video showed Paniagua wearing a Psalms 91 hoodie with the word "MY" visible under his neck. The bank robber also had the word "MY" visible under other layers of clothing.

The day after the robbery, the liquor store manager saw Paniagua again and contacted the FBI, prompting them to dispatch Harvey police to intercept him. The cops found Paniagua at a bus stop and he identified himself by his real name, the affidavit said. But the police did not take Paniagua into custody.

Paniagua allegedly returned to the bank around 10:10 a.m. April 8. A teller immediately recognized him and tripped a silent alarm.

"Give me all your money, you have three seconds," Paniagua allegedly told a second teller as he started counting down.

The teller handed over \$100 in \$5 bills and noticed that he was holding a toilet paper tube in his hand as if it were a gun, according to the FBI.

Officials said the bank manager followed Paniagua and saw him enter a cab. Cops quickly pulled the cab over and arrested Paniagua.

Officers allegedly recovered \$50 in \$5 bills from Paniagua and another \$55 in \$5 bills from the cab driver, who had received the money from Paniagua as fare payment.

The FBI agent said Paniagua admitted to robbing the bank on Tuesday because he had lost his job at Walmart. However, Paniagua denied robbing the bank on March 27.

Suspect detained after child finds mother fatally stabbed in Budlong Woods home

A suspect is in custody after a child called 911 to report that her father had stabbed their mother inside their Budlong Woods home on April 12. The victim did not survive.

At about 11:24 p.m., the 12-year-old told a 911 operator that they found their mother bloody in bed and their father, who closed the bedroom door, refused to let anyone inside, according to dispatch records.

Officers found the 29-year-old victim inside the home in the 2700 block of W. Balmoral. She was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston with stab wounds to her torso. Doctors there pronounced her dead.

In a media statement, CPD said they determined the victim "was in a physical altercation with a 35-year-old male offender who produced a knife and attacked the victim before fleeing the scene." The police subsequently located the man and took him into custody. CPD did not reveal the man's relationship with the woman.

Man shot on Gold Coast street corner

A 26-year-old man is recovering after being shot in the Gold Coast April 13. Chicago police officers recovered a firearm at the scene.

CPD units posted in the area re-

ported shots fired at 3:28 a.m. and they quickly found the 26-year-old victim in the first block of E. Goethe, according to police radio traffic. The officers applied a tourniquet to slow blood loss from a gunshot wound he suffered to his right leg.

The gunman fled the scene in a gray vehicle, according to a CPD media statement. An officer who reviewed surveillance video said the shooter was a Black male wearing a blue top with a white t-shirt underneath and gray pants.

Evidence markers indicated the police found shell casings near the victim and in a nearby parking lot. CPD did not provide details about what led up to the shooting.

The gunman fled the scene in a gray vehicle, according to a CPD media statement. An officer who reviewed surveillance video said the shooter was a Black male wearing a blue top with a white t-shirt underneath and gray pants.

Evidence markers indicated the police found shell casings near the victim and in a nearby parking lot. CPD did not provide details about what led up to the shooting.

Migrant charged with downtown knife attack

A migrant who previously lived at one of the city-run shelters downtown has been charged with stabbing



Ralwin Galito Perez

and seriously injuring another man in the Loop. Chicago police said officers arrested Ralwin Galito Perez, 30, on April 8 to face charges.

Cell phone video of the attack circulated widely in the days after the March 18 stabbing. CPD said it all started when a 27-year-old victim got into an argument with another man near the corner of Dearborn and Van Buren around 6:15 p.m. Video posted by Chicago Critter showed the assailant holding a knife and taking full roundhouse swings with the weapon.

The victim fell to the pavement during the incident and the assailant could be seen stabbing him while he was down. CPD officers applied a chest seal and a tourniquet to stem the victim's blood loss from stab wounds on his arm and torso, but the assailant was already gone when they arrived.

More details about how police identified Perez as the assailant and exactly what prosecutors believe transpired are expected to be revealed during his detention hearing at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse this afternoon.

He is charged with one count of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Records show Chicago police have arrested Perez three other times: on allegations of shoplifting at Nordstrom Rack, 101 East Chicago, on Sept. 19, 2023; driving without a license and registration violations near the old Wadsworth Elementary School migrant shelter on Nov. 25; and for allegedly driving without a license in the Loop on Jan. 3.

Horrific allegations of Chicago serial rapist revealed in court

A man accused of being the serial rapist who attacked at least five women since 2022, mainly in Logan Square, was detained as a public safety threat and a flight risk during a court hearing April 7.

For the first time, prosecutors reveal horrifying details of the attacks in court, saying DNA evidence conclusively links the accused, Chakib Khodja, 36, to the crimes. None of the victims knew Khodja, officials said.

The first known assault occurred around 3 a.m. on May 7, 2022, in the 2000 block of N. Humboldt. As a 36-year-old woman entered the foyer

of her building, Khodja was "lying in wait and pulled a black drawstring bag over the victim's head, covering her entire face," Assistant State's Attorney Mike Pekara said in a written proffer provided by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Khodja choked the woman with both hands and struggled with her on the floor, Pekara said. Ultimately, Khodja ran away, leaving the drawstring bag behind. Chicago police



Chakib Khodja

officers recovered the bag and lab technicians found Khodja's DNA on it, Pekara said.

Two months later, on July 15, 2022, a 21-year-old woman had trouble getting a ride-

share as she left Joe's on Weed, a bar at 940 W. Weed, in the Clybourn Corridor. So, she started walking home.

Pekara said she accepted a ride from two men she passed while walking. The woman fell asleep in the back seat and woke up as the car was pulling over. Both men got out, leaving her alone in the back seat.

At that point, Khodja arrived in another car, and the woman heard male voices speaking in a language she did not understand. Pekara explained.

Moments later, Khodja opened the rear driver's side door and got into the back seat with the victim.

After kissing and groping her, he forced her to perform a sex act and then raped her, cutting and scratching her skin during the attack, according to Pekara. He said the two men returned to the front seats after Khodja left and drove away with the woman in the back seat. They eventually shoved her out of the car a few blocks from where she was staying.

In video footage of the woman being pushed from the car, investigators noticed a gold or beige Prius traveling up and down the block. They later learned that Khodja owned the Prius, Pekara said.

Once again, DNA testing allegedly links Khodja to the crime. CPD issued a press release saying this crime occurred in the 800 block of W. Wellington in Lakeview. However, that address correlates with Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where the victim sought treatment. Officials do not know exactly where the assault occurred.

On Jan. 18 of this year, a 36-year-old woman noticed Khodja following her as she walked home from a convenience store around 3:10 a.m., Pekara said. She confronted him and crossed the street to get away.

A short time later, Khodja allegedly grabbed the woman from behind in the 1700 block of N. Francisco. Pekara said he held a knife to her side and forced her to walk to the 2800 block of W. Bloomingdale.

There, Khodja pressed a knife to the woman's neck and sexually assaulted her, said Pekara.

Video from the convenience store allegedly captured images of a Ford Fusion registered to Khodja's roommate driving by while the victim was in the store. DNA testing also linked Khodja to the sexual assault.

In the most recent attack, Khodja allegedly confronted a woman at the front door of her apartment building in the 2600 block of N. Troy around 3:40 a.m. Feb. 4.

Wearing a mask, he held a knife to her throat as he sexually assaulted her, Pekara alleged. The woman tried to make noise to alert her roommate, but Khodja allegedly responded by pressing the knife harder to her throat.

The woman suffered lacerations on her throat and her private area, Pekara stated. As with the other cases, Khodja's DNA was recovered from the victim.

Khodja is also accused of attacking a 21-year-old woman Jan. 22 in the 2800 block of N. Central Park. Addi-

tional details about that case were not available.

Prosecutors charged Khodja with three counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault with a weapon, two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse with a weapon, two counts of criminal sexual assault causing bodily harm, two counts of aggravated armed kidnapping, aggravated kidnapping causing bodily harm, criminal sexual abuse causing bodily harm, unlawful restraint, attempted aggravated battery by strangulation, attempted kidnapping by secret confinement, attempted home invasion causing injury, attempted home invasion with a deadly weapon, and two misdemeanor sex offenses.

Judge Susana Ortiz oversaw the hearing and ordered Khodja's detention.

Police follow, shoot knife-wielding man at River North hotel

At least one Chicago police officer shot a man who was armed with a knife at a River North hotel on April 7, according to witnesses. He was initially listed in critical condition.

A tactical unit initially radioed that they saw a man with a knife in the first block of W. Hubbard around 2:22 p.m., according to radio transmissions.

The officers said they saw the man, armed with a six-inch butcher knife, board an elevator. He later entered the rear door of a 7-Eleven on State St. They followed the man, deployed at least one Taser in a nearby alley, and eventually confronted him at the Courtyard Marriott, 30 E. Hubbard.

Witnesses reported hearing the officers repeatedly telling the man to drop the knife before hearing gunfire.

CPD officers applied a chest seal and administered other life-saving measures to try to stabilize the man before EMS arrived. Two officers were also taken to hospitals, but the nature of their injuries, if any, was not immediately known.

The Civilian Office of Police Accountability, the agency responsible for investigating CPD uses of force, said its investigators were heading to the scene. CPD released this statement on April 7:

Preliminary Statement on Police-Involved Shooting in the 0-100 block of E. Hubbard St.

On Monday, April 7, at approximately 2:23 p.m., Chicago Police officers assigned to the 18th District observed a wanted offender in the 0-100 block of W. Hubbard Street.

The offender, who was armed with a knife, fled from officers, and officers gave chase into a business in the 0-100 block of E. Hubbard.

Officers attempted to de-escalate the situation. Multiple officers deployed their tasers in an attempt to incapacitate the offender, but all attempts were not effective. The offender continued to disregard verbal direction and turned toward officers still holding the knife.

Two officers then discharged their service weapons, striking the offender. Officers rendered aid to the offender, who sustained a gunshot wound to the upper body and was transported to Northwestern Hospital in critical condition.

A weapon was recovered on-scene. Two officers were transported to a nearby hospital for observation.

The Investigative Response Team is on scene investigating. Currently, the specifics of this incident, including the comprehensive use of force investigation, are being investigated by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability with the full cooperation of the Chicago Police Dept.

The officer(s) involved will be

Problem-plagued electronic monitoring program has become 'a serious threat to public safety,' top Cook County prosecutor says

BY CWBCHICAGO

Cook County's electronic monitoring program has become "a serious threat to public safety" because the office of Chief Judge Timothy Evans, which recently assumed responsibility for its operation, is not equipped or prepared to handle it.

That's not us talking. That's Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke, who instructed the county's prosecutors to publicly object anytime a judge places a defendant on an ankle monitor instead of granting the state's request to keep them in jail.

After years of effort, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart successfully transferred responsibility for the electronic monitoring program on April 1. Dart has repeatedly said the county is misusing the program by putting violent and dangerous offenders on ankle monitors when the system was designed for low-level offenses like drug possession.

Evans' office has operated a separate electronic monitoring program for many years, but it has generally been used for defendants who are given nighttime curfews, not for 24/7 monitoring.

In a memo to her staff, O'Neill Burke said Evans' electronic monitoring staff members are not law enforcement officers, and they cannot make arrests. If an electronic monitoring participant goes AWOL, the top prosecutor said, Evans' staff must "call 911 or seek assistance from law enforcement" and then take the matter to court.

Here's what O'Neill Burke said to her staff on Monday:

"As you all know, under the Pretrial Fairness Act, a defendant may be detained pretrial if the prosecution establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant poses a danger to a specific individual or the community or presents a significant flight risk that cannot be mitigated by con-

ditions of release. The Act's intent is to ensure that pretrial detention is used for individuals who pose genuine risks, rather than allowing financial status to determine pretrial liberty.

On Dec. 2, 2024, I issued a policy requiring that you seek detention in specific circumstances. I am now directing you to object on the record whenever you have sought detention and the Judge has chosen to place the defendant on electronic monitoring/home confinement.

After years of effort, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart successfully transferred responsibility for the electronic monitoring program on April 1. Dart has repeatedly said the county is misusing the program by putting violent and dangerous offenders on ankle monitors when the system was designed for low-level offenses like drug possession.

As of April 1, 2025, the Cook County Sheriff's Office no longer accepts referrals for home confinement electronic monitoring. Responsibility for all monitoring of defendants placed on any form of electronic monitoring now lies with the Office of the Chief Judge's Pretrial and Adult Probation Departments [OCJ]. However, at this time, OCJ has not ensured that they have sufficient properly trained staff to monitor individuals ordered to electronic monitoring instead of detention. Furthermore, appropriate court forms are not available to readily advise defendants placed on electronic monitoring of specific

restrictions and/or freedom of movement. Similarly, there are also no admonishments on court orders that adequately advise defendants they must appear in court or face sanctions, a bench warrant, or additional charges.

OCJ personnel are not law enforcement officers and cannot investigate, seek escape charges, or obtain an arrest warrant if a person absconds. Accordingly, in the event that a person absconds from electronic monitoring, OCJ's pretrial/probation officers' recourse is to call 911 or seek assistance from law enforcement and then advance the case to the court call to report that information to a Judge. I believe this is a serious threat to public safety and we must make that clear on the record given that we have approved 57 escape charges since Dec. 2, 2024. Furthermore, as of this time, the OCJ's pretrial/probation officers are responsible for monitoring individuals who have committed very serious crimes who are ordered to comply with the electronic monitoring curfew program. That population includes offenders charged with murder, attempt murder, predatory criminal sexual assault, as well as numerous other violent offenses such as aggravated battery, felony domestic battery, and various other sexual assault and abuse charges.

Please review the attached protocol and follow it. You are entitled to make a record during court proceedings and should assert that right and make the record set forth in the protocol.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the people of Cook County."

News tips?
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Inset: Mugshot of Jianchu Liu.

Man accused of cheating casinos out of \$219,000 gets probation

BY CWBCHICAGO

26, 2023.

A California man accused last year of cheating Chicago-area casinos out of \$219,000 has cut a deal with prosecutors. Jianchu Liu, 48, who faced a felony count of cheating at a gambling game, pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of misdemeanor theft on March 28.

Liu was initially accused of working with at least one accomplice to swindle the new Bally's casino in River North and the Hollywood Casino Aurora between September 12 and Nov.

Judge Laura Ayala-Gonzalez ordered him to pay \$10,000 restitution to Bally's and placed him on a 12-month conditional discharge, according to court clerk entries.

Liu was also arrested for allegedly cheating at a casino's baccarat table in Pennsylvania in Feb. 2024. Security officials at the Mohican Sun casino in Wilkes-Barre keyed in on Liu when he launched an app on his phone at a baccarat table and darkened the screen

CHEATING see p. 12

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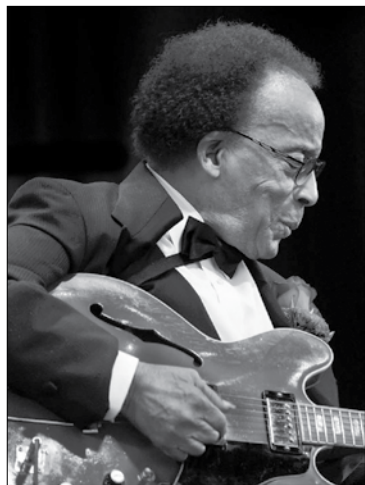
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TROUBLES from p. 2

There were many visits by State Sen. Obama to our City Hall offices. He was so friendly, engaging and humble. Often sitting in our lobby until I'd spot him before his appointment. Never standing on ceremony. Always grateful for being brought into a place of more private waiting. I'm sure he's appalled at the antics currently underway at the Obama Center's construction site.

Hopefully the issues sparking the current troubles can be diplomatically corrected by some swift justice. It's the least the former president deserves. And it is the certain expectation Chicagoans have a right to.



George Freeman

GEORGE FREEMAN RIP: Chicago's beloved jazz man and guitar royalty, **George Freeman**, died on April 1 at 97 years-old. George was a true guitar legend. "We were fortunate to have released so many of his recordings over the years on Southport Records," said **Joanie Pallatto**. The Green Mill's annual birthday gig for George became a celebration of his life on April 11 and 12. His Memorial will take place Saturday, April 19, 1:30 - 5:30 p.m., Logan Center, 915 E. 60th St., 9th Floor.

MEET THE NEW BOSS: Same as the old boss. **Rich Melman**, founder of Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants, has named his son **R.J. Melman** as the new company CEO. He replaces **Kevin Brown**, who will become company Executive Chairman. R.J. and his partners are also the founders of the coun-

try music and BBQ fest Windy City Smokeout.

PASSOVER: A blessed and happy Passover to all our readers, celebrating the holy power of this feast. And Easter Sunday blessings to those observing Holy Week.

VAN CLIBURN AWARD: Conductor **Marin Alsop** was brought to tears by the youngest-ever Van Cliburn winner, **Yunchan Lim**, who delivered a breathtaking performance of **Serge Rachmaninov** with stunning technique and deep emotion.

PIZZA: Rogers Park mainstay Candlelight Chicago, 7452 N. Western Ave., recently introduced their own brand of frozen pizza. The neighborhood tap's tavern pizza has been a Western Ave. taste treat for over 70 years. Give it a try when the munchies hit after midnight.

PRAY FOR COTTER: Former Rogers Park legend **Carole Clancey Cotter**, died peacefully at 93, March 17 at her Glenview home. She was working in a travel agency when she met **Robert "Bob" Cotter**, whom she married in 1956. They raised their children in West Rogers Park and were members of St. Timothy Catholic Parish for many years. After retirement, she devoted decades volunteering with multiple community groups, as well as many arts and cultural institutions like The Field Museum. She was unceasing in her efforts to further expand her mind, taking adult courses for many years on a variety of subjects and constantly reading on a dizzying number of topics. We lost a good one.

EXPOCHICAGO: Don't miss Chicago's Contemporary Art Fair, EXPO CHICAGO, April 24-27 at Navy Pier.

HISTORIC DANCE: **Mark Howard** has announced that Trinity Irish Dance Company has been invited to perform in upstate Massachusetts at Jacobs Pillow. A place of wide historic Irish significance. It's a massive moment for Irish culture.

CANCER SURVIVOR: Film maker and Humanitarian **Joey Majumdar** was honored to be part of this children's health project along with his partner, award-

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Jane Justic with Jill and granddaughters.



Joey Marjundar and friends.



Julia Jacobs with Draedyn and Charlie.



Al and Elizabeth Canna-Pizza.

winning Indian actress **Rituporna Sengupta**, to assist Cancer Survivor Children to perform on stage in recovery with donations and the help of hospitals, doctors and many generous and high profile people in Kolkata, India. Joey has promised to help out the children from the USA also. It was a very successful event. He plans on making a film on this organization with the actress.

WHO'S WHERE: **Sherry Lea Fox** with **Armell**, her friend of many years and the Maître D' of all, at La Grenouille, French showstopper bistro, in New York City... **Helma Wardenaar** in Muscat, Oman... Dancer **Vic White** visiting Taipei, Taiwan... **Paul R Iacocca** with **Candace Jordan** for his Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill birthday lunch, and joining **Frank Jeffrey**, **Todd Hatoff**, **Doc** and **Janet Brieve**, at Tavern on Rush for a birthday dinner... **Sarah Crane** in sunny Sicily which she says is like Jurassic Park... **Edmund Lester** dancing up a storm with Cubs Mascot... **Rob McCluskey** with **Stephanie Leone Manning** and **Grif-**



Mr. Mike and Karen Zupko.



Debi Catenacci and Sherrill Bodine.



Lisa Flynn and James Staples.

fin Goldstein at the Cubs game having a grand time despite the loss... **David Heiner** celebrating his 39th birthday with his fabulous wife, **Whitney Reynolds**... **Mark Olley** is starting to put Easter baskets together, making a pitstop at Windy City Sweets that he says is essential... **Albert Pizza** wishing his lovely wife and best friend, **Elizabeth Canna-Pizza** a very happy birthday... **Kathy Wolter Mondelli** at Guaranteed Rate Field for the White Sox opener... Crooner **Russ Goeltenbodd** wishing best pal **Judy McLaughlin Rossignuolo-Rice** a happy birthday, as he says, "My sister from another mother"... **Carl Sandberg** took a ride on the Chicago River back in 1957, and his resulting poem describing Chicago still rings true today... **Jane Justic** kicked off a grand weekend with daughter, **Jill Justic Cress**, and two granddaughters, amidst the happy canals and streets of Amsterdam... **James Staples** attended the Lyric Opera of Kansas City Opera Ball, a truly fab affair, with dear friend **Lisa Flynn**, the Ball's Chair... insiders still saying British actor **Theo James** will be the next

James Bond... Happy birthday to "Mr. Chicago" **Sean Eshaghy**... **Peter Q. Thompson** sipping prandial with friends at Gibson's Steakhouse... **Dan Lawlor** and **Laurie Baker Lawlor** celebrating the passage of another year for him, Cheers... Niece **Erin Eileen**, **Dr. Adam Del Conte** and **Vonnie**, their English Bulldog, celebrating nine years of wedded bliss and Adam's birthday... **Al Menotti**, **Whitney Reynolds** and **Jolanta Ruege** looking stunning at the "Glitz and Glamour" event benefiting the A Silver Lining Foundation... **Dr. Rose Gomez** back in Switzerland and spending time in snowy, powdery Gstaad... **Karen Zupko** and **Mr. Mike** continue on their Japanese journey in Beppu, visiting three hot springs towns with more to follow... At the helm birthday skipper **Rodger Owen** adding another year and celebrating with **Janet Owen** in Paris... **Julia Jacobs** meeting up with her boys, **Draedyn** and **Charlie**, in Florence, Italy... **Danilo** and **Bonnie Lenzi**, long exquisite Italian restaurateurs from Oakley Ave. to Grand Ave. to Halsted St. dining beside me at Piccolo Sogno and relishing the quality of the cuisine... **Debi Catenacci** has connected with adventurer **Sherrill Bodine** on the big sea voyage.

CABARET: **Densise Tomasello** says **Beckie McKenzie** put a spell on her audience in her recent solo concert at Davenport's. She played and sang beautifully, looking absolutely gorgeous. Irwin was also wonderful. Her best show ever. A great night in Cabaret.

CLASSROOM NEWS: Artist **Rosemary Fanti**'s mother **Dolores Fanti** was an honored guest of her former Seven Holy Founders Student Alumni graduating class of '75. Sharing treasured memories with many of her former students. "God bless all my dear students," said Mrs. Fanti.

LORD'S WORK: Chicagoan **Bishop Michael McGovern**, a South Sider, has been appointed the new Archbishop of Omaha, Nebraska (**Cardinal Cupich**'s home Archdiocese), by Pope Francis, after some years as Bishop of Belleville, IL and serving as a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

COLLEGE VISIT: **Paula Borg** visiting son, **Ben**, and his house at UIUC Mom's Weekend. And so proud of these boys for surpassing their fundraising goals for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Maybe Ben has a little mom in him after all?

SOPHIA'S ESTATE SALES: April 19 and 20, a classic Wilmette house filled with quality antiques, furniture, decor, LPs, tools and household goods. April 26 and 27 in Evanston, an amazing collection of folk and outsider art. 773-729-0638.

You can use an eraser on the drafting table or a sledgehammer on the construction site.

— Frank Lloyd Wright

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Ottoman Empire to invade the Gold Coast

This May, the Ottoman Empire will invade the Gold Coast ... for a concert.

Chicago audiences will have the opportunity to travel back in time to the era of the Ottoman Empire in The Newberry Consort's upcoming concert, In the Realm of Osman: Music from the Early Modern Ottoman Empire and Beyond, taking place at The Newberry Library 7:30 p.m. May 10.

Originally performed at The Newberry Library for a conference in the summer of 2023, this program, curated by Middle Eastern music expert Ronnie Malley, features the music from the 17th to the 19th centuries that was heard throughout the Ottoman Empire and the regions it influenced.

The upcoming concert will also take place at the library, 60 W. Walton.

"This concert was so popular when we first performed it that it was standing-room only," said Liza Malamut, artistic director of The Newberry Consort. "There was so much energy in the room, and people were entranced by the show. This time, we're expanding it to include more music, and I can't wait for even larger audiences to experience this concert."

The program was inspired by an an-

cient Ottoman manuscript housed in The Newberry Library called the Tarih-i Yeni Dünya (History of the New World), which was written around 1600 and which is considered to be one of the earliest written accounts by Ottomans of the Spanish Conquest of the Americas. The manuscript includes stories of the explorations of Columbus, Cortés, Pizarro, and others from the perspective of Muslim Ottomans, as well as elaborate hand-drawn maps of lands all over the globe.

Malley used the book as a jumping-off point to highlight music from the far reaches of the Ottoman Empire from the 17th to the 19th centuries, featuring works by people with vastly different backgrounds, including composers who were Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Sephardic, and Persian.

"People tend to think of the Ottoman Empire as a homogenous and monolithic entity, but really, when you dig a little deeper, you realize that these were very pluralistic, cosmopolitan societies where people came from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds," Malley said.

Tickets run between \$10 and \$65, and the concert is free for children 16 and under. To purchase tickets visit www.newberryconsort.org.

Letters to the Editor

Installation of bike lanes has gotten ridiculous and dangerous

I am an avid biker but the installation of bike lanes has gotten ridiculous and dangerous. The concrete partitions in the Medical Center by Stroger Hospital on Polk St. see an occasional rider. But now, cars cannot stop by the parking garage or the Professional Building by the medical clinic. And if they stop in traffic, the disabled and those in wheelchairs (as well as the elderly) cannot get to their cars.

Also, in the winter, the snow collects in the concreted bike lanes. So many of my friends are thinking how dangerous the raised concrete bike lane borders are.

In Edgewater, turning right, driving east-bound on Rosehill to Ashland, the grey concrete barrier is barely visible. It's much worse in snow.

Also, the city's use of roundabouts has made it harder for emergency equipment to get to their fire or medical emergencies.

I am a biker and bike 20 miles every Sunday. I bike in below zero temps, snow,

There should be a law

It is totally foolish where bike lanes are allowed to be put down. No stop sign for bikes when people cross streets?

I agree with the April 2 article about the CTA bus not being allowed to pull up to curb to drop off passengers, it should be unlawful.

Another danger to the pedestrians are the scooters. The scooter makers just think about profit.

Katie Lindsey

heat and even the day after my wedding but there was no common sense or thought put into the installations of these bike lanes.

They not only cause stores and restaurants to suffer but our patients and their families suffer, and it is dangerous. Again, great article!

Demetra K. Soter MD
Director Child Protective Services Retired
Director Pediatric Trauma & Burn
Cook County Health Univ. of Illinois

Stop the bump outs

We've all seen what's happening across Chicago: curbside bus stops removed, emergency vehicles slowed, and ADA access compromised—all in the name of "Complete Streets" and privileged bike lanes.

Your April 2 article told the story plainly. Outside the Newberry Library, new bike-lane barriers forced disabled passengers to exit into traffic, violating ADA norms. If so-called "improvements" like this are happening near historic institutions, what will stop the same design failure from hitting other areas?

That same misguided logic is coming to our doorstep—wrapped in a luxury tower and six-story garage called Fern Hill's Old Town Canvas.

Fern Hill's plan includes curb bump-outs and parking meter removals on La-Salle Dr.—sold as "pedestrian improve-

ments." But this isn't about walkability. It's about clearing the way for garage ramps, valet lanes, and tower entrances. The price tag? Over \$1.2 million in curb changes and buyouts that the developer now claims is a "community benefit."

Let's be clear: It's no community benefit—no matter what it costs.

We support smart, inclusive infrastructure. But Fern Hill's plan is the opposite: a privatized version of Complete Streets that puts garage traffic ahead of transit riders, emergency responders, and ADA access.

Let's not repeat the city's worst mistakes. Reject these contrived plan citywide and stop the bump-outs before they block us—and jeopardize our safety.

Tim Carew
Old Town



St. Jude Police Memorial March: Sunday, May 4

The annual St. Jude Memorial March honors all Chicago Police Officers that have died in the line of duty. This year's march will take place on Sunday, May 4. Police will line-up at 7 a.m., in formation, and the parade will start at 8 a.m. The route begins on Michigan Ave., just south

of Chicago Ave. and will proceed west, past a reviewing stand, and disband at Clark St.

A 15-minute Interfaith Service is planned at the conclusion of the march at the reviewing stand, followed by Mass at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State St., at 10:30 a.m.

Wine & Design fundraiser at THE MART May 8

The World's Largest Commercial Building, THE MART, in partnership with Wine Spectator Magazine, are hosting a one-of-a-kind wine tastings 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 8, with hors d'oeuvres while touring the inspiring showrooms on the 1st floor of the building, 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza.

This event will pair the design showrooms located on the first floor of THE MART, with samplings and sights that reach a global scale. The event will offer tasting stations across their first-floor showrooms, including the Design Resource Center.

During the event, each First Floor show-

room will host a wine, beer, or spirits "tasting" complete with food stations, music, and a variety of attractions in the hallways and lobbies for newcomer and trade customers alike to marvel, showcasing THE MART's hospitality and collections.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased for a discounted rate through April 20 with regular rates starting April 21 (ticket prices will increase from \$100 to \$125). Wine & Design: A Tasting Tour benefits two charities: Greater Chicago Food Depository, and local public health provider Respiratoru Health Assoc.

For more information visit @themart-showroom and @themartchicago.

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“Walk as One at 1” May 3 with World Labyrinth Day

A special walking event will be held Saturday, May 3, when thousands of people around the globe will participate in the 17th annual World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience.

Those who choose to join a local labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. may do so with Saint Pauls United Church of Christ, 2335 N. Orchard St., who will sponsor a walk in their Gymnasium from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

They will use their labyrinth walk as a short introduction to the labyrinth.

Labyrinths are found throughout the world with the oldest dating back thousands of years. In contemporary use, labyrinths provide an opportunity for personal reflection, spiritual practice and the reduction of stress in many different public and private settings.

Over 6,000 labyrinths are listed on the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator website: labyrinthlocator.com. For more information visit worldlabyrinthday.org.

JUDGE from p. 7

better track the movements and whereabouts of criminal suspects and reduce crime.

The ALPRs were first authorized in Illinois in 2019 under the state law known as the Tamera Clayton Expy. Camera Act. That law was enacted in response to a 2019 shooting of postal worker Tamera Clayton on I-57.

Under the initial rollout, about 300 plate readers were installed along Cook County’s major expressway interstate highways into and out of the city of Chicago.

However, in the years since, the systems have spread to other communities throughout Illinois, as police seek to utilize the new technology to monitor their streets and fight crime, which had spiked in Chicago and elsewhere in the years since 2020, when a large number of state and city officials endorsed criminal justice reforms and policies that critics have said were soft on crime and anti-police.

For instance, after state lawmakers and Pritzker authorized the expansion of the use of plate readers in 2022, Illinois State Police worked with the Illinois Tollway Authority to install plate readers elsewhere in Cook, Kane, Lake, Will, DuPage, DeKalb, Winnebago, Lee, St. Clair County, Morgan County and Champaign Counties, according to court filings.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

According to police data, the ALPR systems have recorded millions of “hits” - or scans of plate numbers flagged by law enforcement for policing purposes - while playing a role in hundreds of millions of “detections,” defined as “the capture of digital images or license plates and vehicles with associated metadata,” such as GPS coordinates, date and time stamps.

The current vendor for the ISP’s ALPR system is Vetted Security Solutions.

In the lawsuit, however, the plaintiffs assert the ALPR systems amount to an unconstitutional “dragnet ... recording the whereabouts of (everyone) who drives a car or truck,” whether or not they are accused or suspected of any criminal or suspicious activity.

The lawsuit asserts this system violates the Fourth Amendment rights against warrantless searches of everyone using Illinois roads. Plaintiffs claim it also violates their Fourteenth Amendment rights.

“... ISP does not even have unreasonable suspicion: they have no suspicion at all,” the lawsuit said. “Rather, they collect all the public movements of every car they can in Illinois - and every car they can around the country.”

“ISP is tracking the movements of millions of citizens, including Plaintiffs, and just holding onto that mass surveillance data in

case one day some police officer decides to target Plaintiffs for specific investigation - warranted or unwarranted.”

In a statement released at the time the lawsuit was filed, Bednarz - who is a lawyer - said: “The Fourth Amendment is meant to protect us from unreasonable search and seizure, but how can that right be upheld when the state is perpetually searching every citizen?”

“... ISP does not even have unreasonable suspicion: they have no suspicion at all,” the lawsuit said. “Rather, they collect all the public movements of every car they can in Illinois - and every car they can around the country.”

The lawsuit sought injunctions blocking police from operating the plate reader networks and from installing new plate readers elsewhere.

After nearly a year of proceedings, Pacold denied the request for the injunction.

She rejected the plaintiffs’ attempt to compare the license plate scans to police gathering cell phone location data without a warrant, and then using that data

to re-create a suspect’s movements.

While courts have ruled such warrantless acquisition of mobile device location data to be unconstitutional, Pacold said the license plate reader systems are different.

“Knowing what portions of an expressway someone passes tells the government far less about the ‘privacies of life,’ than data that ‘tracks nearly exactly the movements of [a cellphone’s] owner,’” Pacold wrote, citing the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2018 decision in Carpenter v United States.

“... ALPRs do not allow the government to ‘achieve near perfect surveillance, as if it had attached an ankle monitor’ to someone.”

The judge agreed with the state that the plaintiffs can’t show any law enforcement personnel are actively tracking their movements, only that a system is logging records of where their vehicles may have been on public roads at particular moments in time, which police may be able to search at a later time, should the data be needed to aid an investigation.

And the judge said she did not believe plaintiffs could show they had any constitutional right to move about the state without anyone photographing their vehicles or their license plates in public.



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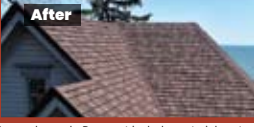
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CHEATING from p. 9

so security could not see what he was doing, according to a report by Casino.org. The outlet said he placed the phone under a stack of scorecards that baccarat players use to keep track of games.

When a dealer offered Liu the opportunity to cut the cards, he manipulated the deck, quickly fanning it out so his phone could capture an image of the card values and sequence, according to the allegations.

Liu walked away from the table after getting into a “verbal exchange” with a baccarat dealer about how the deck should be handled, Casino.org reported. A few days later, Liu returned and allegedly “attempted to forcefully

fan [out]” a deck of cards.

The gaming news outlet said officials believe Liu sent images of deck sequences to an accomplice, who examined the photos and provided Liu with betting instructions via a hidden earpiece.

Casino security identified him through his loyalty card and learned he was suspected of being part of a “professional cheating ring” that conned two casinos in Biloxi, MS.

Days later, Liu was arrested at O'Hare to face charges involving the new Bally's casino downtown.

If Liu completes his probation successfully, the misdemeanor charge will be dropped.

He was at least the second person to be criminally charged with

cheating at the Chicago Bally's casino since it opened in Sept. 2023.

Early last year, prosecutors charged Isaias Garcia-Martinez with placing a 200-to-1 bet at a Bally's baccarat table after the cards were dealt and the outcome of the hand was known. The dealer, not realizing he had placed the bet after the game was over, paid him \$5,000, and he walked away, according to the allegations.

Gaming agents arrested him when he returned to the casino two days later. Garcia-Martinez pleaded guilty to felony theft last year and received two years of probation, according to court records.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

placed on routine administrative duties for a minimum period of 30 days.

This matter remains under investigation and all further inquiries can be directed to the Civilian Office of Police Accountability at 312-746-3609.

Five years for man who attacked flight attendant with a log, leaving her horribly wounded on the Mag Mile

The man who horribly wounded a flight attendant by hitting her in the head with a log on a Magnificent Mile sidewalk was given a five-year prison sentence on April 9.

Bruce Diamond, 54, pleaded guilty to aggravated battery causing great bodily harm in exchange for the sentence from Judge Anjana Hansen. After receiving various credits, he will likely be paroled in 13 months.

The victim, a 23-year-old flight attendant who was enjoying a layover with a co-worker, remained unresponsive for days after the Nov. 13, 2023, attack in front of Burberry, 633 N. Michigan. Officials said the woman received significant head and brain injuries, but no updates have been re-

leased regarding her recovery.

Footage from a city surveillance camera, secured by this reporter

through a public records request, showed the attack. It showed people were going about their day shortly after 2 p.m. as a small group of shoppers headed north past the Burberry store.

Diamond was heading south on the same sidewalk. Gripped under his right arm was a long, white log that prosecutors said he had just stolen from a decorative display at a nearby Starbucks.

Directly in front of the Burberry entrance, Diamond hoisted the log above his shoulder and hurled it directly at the woman. It struck her in the head, rendering her unconscious and sending her falling to the pavement.

Prosecutors said the victim “sustained bruising, swelling, and bleeding to her brain, a hemorrhage, and a fracture to her left mastoid.”

As bystanders stopped to help the woman, Diamond picked up the log

and raised it over his shoulder, seemingly to threaten passersby. They turned on their heels and ran.

Diamond continued walking south, took one step into Ontario St., then walked back toward the fallen victim. At the same time, a Chicago police officer walked into camera range. He ordered Diamond to drop the log and placed him into custody.

Less than a week after the attack, prosecutors dropped the pending misdemeanor battery case that he went AWOL from.

Prosecutors said Diamond had 21 criminal convictions in Ohio since 2011. In one of those cases, he was accused of throwing a rock at a Cincinnati Fire Dept. ambulance in the city's Government Square, according to a contemporaneous report by the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Diamond's five-year sentence will be halved for good behavior. He is also receiving credits for 517 days earned in jail. That leaves him with a balance of 400 days to serve in prison.

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Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 24th of April, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at 3632 E. Lake Ave.

Wilmette, IL 60091 at www.storage-treasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m. G3 Mariana Prince

Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St., 773-247-3000, is opening lockers:
3C3233 (Harold Chapman), 3E3463 (Pam Eng), 3E3464 (Pam Eng),
3D3340 (Hinshaw Culbertson LLP),
3D3313 (Hinshaw Culbertson LLP),
3D3303 (Mark Jaroszewski),
3E3425 (Nichole Phillips),
1C2084 (Jaquies Phillips) 3D3346 (Jesse Reed),
4C4191 (Carl Smith) and 3F3628 (Giles Travis) for public sale of miscellaneous items.
This sale is to be held on
Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Cash only.

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 24th of April, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at 2724 W. 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608 at www.storage-treasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m. 1030 Jasmine Bell, 1116 Delisa Newell, 2026 Jessica Ruiz This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

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APPEALS from p. 5

and teacher pensions.”

Griffin advises that property owners who think they are over-assessed should appeal now. There are three steps on the tax appeal ladder:

- Visit the assessor’s website: www.cookcountyassessor.com, or call 312-443-7550 to find comparable properties or start the appeal process. The Assessor has just started the 2025 appeals process where the north suburbs are being reassessed.

After the CCBOR appeal, the last resort is to file with the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board.

- Homeowners and business owners also are urged to file with the CCBOR. Call (312-603-5542) for information, or visit: www.cookcountyboardofreview.com.
- After the CCBOR appeal, the last resort is to file with the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board (217-785-6076), or www.ptab.illinois.gov. Or, for more professional advice, call Michael Griffin, an expert tax-assessment lawyer, at 312-943-1789.

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.

Have something on your mind about your community? Write a Letter To The Editor at insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com

Levy Center meeting April 23

The NE Levy Center Village, 2019 W. Lawrence Ave., will be holding their next meeting virtually via Zoom, at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 23. Kulsum Ameji, a Senior Attorney with Legal Aid Chicago, will be the guest speaker, providing an overview of their

services, and how older adults can access them.

To access the meeting, the Zoom meeting ID is 886 8091 2480, and the passcode is 142325.

Those who prefer to call in can call 312-626-6799, and use the same meeting ID and passcode.

Sustainable local food systems to be discussed April 24

The Common Pantry and other organizations are hosting a community discussion on Chicago’s food ecosystem, current trends impacting the food system, and ways we can improve its sustainability.

This free event will be held 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Common Pantry, 3809 N. Lincoln Ave., and is open to all

community members. There is a suggested donation of \$15 to benefit Common Pantry and help fight hunger.

There is limited seating available, and pre-registration is requested. Visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/common-pantryevents/event/creating-sustainablefoodsystems/>.

Five new pickleball courts to open in North Center, Lincoln Square

Chicago Park District Officials, area neighbors and other city officials plan to cut the ribbon on two new pickleball courts and four new tennis courts at Revere Park on Sunday, April 27.

This project was funded by local taxpayer using \$400,000 in Tax Increment Financing [TIF] funds.

Additionally, Welles Park, 2333 W. Sunnyside Ave., will receive \$400,000 from the Western Ave. North TIF district to support construction of three pickleball courts, the addition of new benches, and the rehabilitation of an existing sand volleyball court and horseshoe pits.

Bike and parts swap at Lake View HS April 26

The Graceland West Community Assoc. is hosting a community-wide cycling event 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 26, in the Lake View High School parking lot, 4015 N. Ashland Ave.

Events will include a bike and bike parts swap meet and donation station where old bikes are given new life. There will also be

a kids obstacle course and bike decoration station.

The event will wrap up with an all-ages bike parade through the neighborhood. No reservation is required, just show up.

They are also seeking volunteers. Those who can help may reach out to info@gracelandwest.org.

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Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION PROVIDENT FUNDING ASSOCIATES, L.P. Plaintiff, -v- JUNYAN LIU, 474 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2024 CH 09037 474 N LAKE SHORE DR 1806 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 10, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 12, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 474 N LAKE SHORE DR 1806, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-222-007-1024, 17-10-222-007-1628 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-24-05848 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2024 CH 09037 TJSC#: 45-571 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 09037 13264241 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC Plaintiff, -v.- MICHAEL A. IGNACIO, AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ARTEMIO D. IGNACIO, MICHAEL A. IGNACIO, MARIA C. GORDON, THERESA JANE IGNACIO, RICHARD N. IGNACIO, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ARTEMIO D. IGNACIO JR., LAKE POINT TOWER GARAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, LAKE POINT TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2024 CH 00453 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 6512 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 10, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 12, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 6512, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-214-016-1019 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of	redemption. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-23-06923 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2024 CH 00453 TJSC#: 45-687 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 00453 13264224 161616 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff, -v.- MICHAEL TAURO, 30 EAST HURON CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2024 CH 05851 30 E HURON STREET UNIT 2010 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 16, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 5, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago,	IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 30 E HURON STREET UNIT 2010, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-104-037-1120 The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-23-07312 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2024 CH 05851 TJSC#: 45-835 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 05851 13263818 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS	COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF NRPL TRUST 2019-1 Plaintiff vs. LORI M. QUINT A/K/A L. QUINT-DEMPSEY A/K/A LORI M. QUINT-DEMPSEY, MICHAEL C. DEMPSEY, FIFTH THIRD BANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO CORUS BANK, N.A., PNC BANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO MIDWEST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, EMIGRANT BANK A/K/A EMIGRANT MORTGAGE COMPANY, INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ILLINOIS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 20 CH 7488 CALENDAR 60 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on May 12, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-29-417-009-0000. Commonly known as 1133 WEST LILL AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60614. The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Suite 201, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125, 20-01830 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13263674 090909 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK Plaintiff, -v.- BOAN INC., DANIEL GILJEN, 535 NORTH MICHIGAN CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2023 CH 08782 535 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., UNIT 3201 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 30, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 1, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 535 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., UNIT 3201, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-122-025-1445 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$280,630.43.	Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number WWR 23-000723. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400 CHICAGO, IL, 60601 312-782-9676 Fax #: 312-782-4201 E-Mail: ChicagoREDG@weltman.com Attorney File No. WWR 23-000723 Attorney Code. 31495 Case Number: 2023 CH 08782 TJSC#: 45-426 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2023 CH 08782 8232-951896 020202 ----- Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700

Día del Niño celebration April 30 on Clark St.

The Rogers Park Business Alliance [RPBA] and Colectivo Clark are hosting a Día del Niño celebration honoring children and the creativity of childhood, called GROW/PROGRESANDO. Events will take place 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at 7056 N. Clark St. and other locations along Clark St.

The festivities are a part of Camino Clark's Cultural District Designation, and intended to honor the community's Mexican heritage with activities for kids, including piñata-making, salsa recipe creation, and a collective art piece.

Gov. JB Pritzker announced the designation of the district on Feb. 26, 2024. The designations hope to promote greater growth, development, and opportunities through cultural hubs hoping they flourish over the coming years.

The district will be able to apply for \$3 million in state taxpayer funding. The funding is supposed to be tailored to fit the needs of the district and support the programs set forth by their governing body, RPBA.

The intended purpose of the program is to encourage economic development; support the preservation and development of history and culturally significant structures, traditions, and languages; foster local cultural development and education; provide a focal point for celebrating communities' unique cultural identities; and promote equitable growth and opportunity without generating displacement.

UPZONING from p. 1

figuration on these two blocks.

They will also include a Pedestrian Street designation along Broadway from Winona to Montrose in the 46th ward, which is intended to drive auto-related businesses out of the community, such as car washes, gas stations and auto repair shops.

The two-block stretch along the west side of Broadway falls within the area of concern of the Lakewood-Balmoral Residents' Council [LBRC]. LBRC president Pete Moore emailed this reporter on March 28 saying that he hadn't had "any formal meetings with the Alderwoman or anyone from her office."

Moore issued a statement to residents on April 12 where he commented on Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth's latest intention to modify the Broadway Upzoning Framework. "The plan includes a B3-5 zoning plan for virtually all of Broadway north of Foster that DPD had previously presented, but includes a modification that carves out the west side of Broadway from Foster to Balmoral for B3-3 zoning."

"As discussed at our last meeting, this is not a plan that LBRC supports or requested, nor is a plan that we are satisfied with," Moore wrote.

The zoning change on the west side of Broadway has proven to be a major point of contention between community stakeholders and Manaa-Hoppenworth. The issue arises over the relatively shallow lot depth of 125 feet on the west side of Broadway vs. the 250 feet lot depth on the east side of Broadway, that are also buffeted from their neighbors to the east by the CTA Red Line tracks.

The bad news for residents is this means that increased height and density in new developments along Broadway would overlook and back-up to the adjacent residential housing area on the east side of Magnolia St. with only a narrow alley separating the two. The shadows cast by the taller buildings coming to the area would darken those residents morning sky.

The alleys would also become a much busier thoroughfare for residents, deliveries, waste removal, first responders as well as pedestrians and bicyclists accessing

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those future high density buildings.

Pat Sharkey, president of Edgewater North Neighbors and Northeast Organization of Neighbors [ENN-NEON] block clubs, issued a statement on April 12 writing, "Edgewater residents waking up this week to [Manaa-Hoppenworth's] deci-

"Edgewater residents waking up this week to [Manaa-Hoppenworth's] decision are hugely disheartened. There are so many bad policies being handed down from above on the national level and now this terrible decision from our own Alderwoman," said Pat Sharkey

sion are hugely disheartened. There are so many bad policies being handed down from above on the national level and now this terrible decision from our own Alderwoman."

"[Her] decision to treat two blocks on the west side of Broadway differently than the rest of the west side is baseless and baffling. There are no facts to justify it and it's an affront to all Edgewater residents. The entire west side has shallow lots and backs up to residential neighborhoods."

"Further, the B3-3 she has 'given' those two blocks is an empty gesture. B3-3 with the transit oriented district 'bonus' that allows buildings just as tall as the B3-5 classification. It is a cynical ploy to divide the community."

Sharkey urges community stakeholders to go to www.saveedgewater.com to learn more about what this decision means for Edgewater.

TIMELINE from p. 1

hibit galleries. Backstage, in the remnants of the Reebie building, will include staff offices and a rehearsal room.

TimeLine's Living History Program will also have dedicated space with the space also available for community meetings and events. While parking is limited, the CTA Red Line L station on Argyle St. is around the corner.

TimeLine Theatre purchased the Reebie building in 2018 and has been exploring design plans. The City of Chicago issued a demolition permit for the George Kingsley-designed Reebie building in Aug. 2024. Opening of the new TimeLine Theatre Company is expected in early 2026.

The W.C. Reebie and Brother Building is a contributing property to the W. Argyle St. Historic District. The building was built in 1911 by William P. McEvoy & Co. serving as a furniture storage warehouse.

Unfortunately, after the theater company purchased the property, structural and engineering problems popped up that required stripping off the former building's facade and creating an almost new building and project layout.

In 1919, a rear addition was designed by Kingsley. In 2010, the building was sold to real estate investor John Thomas, and in 2013, it was sold to Cedar Street Companies before being purchased by TimeLine Theatre in 2018.

Since then, the theater group that for 25 years occupied a small space in an East Lake View church on Wellington Ave., has undertaken a massive fundraising campaign.

Since launching its capital campaign, the company has successfully raised more than \$41 million toward the approximately \$46 million project cost, including \$12.9 million in public support (\$2.9 million from the State of Illinois, \$10 million from the City of Chicago), and funds from more

Wild Onion to host premiere screening of new documentary and more

The Wild Onion Market in Rogers Park is helping to host a "documentary about meat, greed and profit" which is how filmmaker Matt Wechsler describes his new film "The Jungle."

The new 83-minute film, a modern take on Upton Sinclair's 1906 novel, will be screened for the first time in Chicago

Matt Wechsler

on Earth Day, April 22, 7 p.m., at Living Water Community Church, 6808 N. Ashland Ave.

The showing is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a Q&A with Wechsler and Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin whose poultry farm is featured in the film.

The screening is hosted by the Wild Onion Market food co-op, a locally owned store at 7007 N. Clark St. The store has over 2400 owners who try to keep grocery spending in the community, employing folks who live here and sell fresh food through a transparent supply chain.

"We strongly believe this film will be a game changer in helping people understand how we collectively approach farming and food production and the impact it has on the planet," a store spokesperson said in a released statement.

Wechsler is an experienced food industry filmmaking and is also the general manager of Wild Onion Market.

In addition to hosting the premier of "The Jungle," there will be a Happy Hour on April 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m, and the store and its owners will be taking part in Dia del Nino celebration events along Clark St. on April 30.

To RSVP for the screening of "The Jungle" visit wildonionmarket.com.

The W.C. Reebie and Brother Building , 5035 N. Broadway.

Unfortunately, after the theater company purchased the property, structural and engineering problems popped up that required stripping off the former building's facade and creating an almost new building and project layout.

than 200 generous individual donors.

The TIF funding was provided from the Lawrence/Broadway TIF as a \$10 million forgivable loan and a \$4 million loan to be repaid after project completion.

The group continues to do programming by using temporary stages and buildings. Their next upcoming program is titled "Step Into Time: A Century of Women," which will take place on Saturday, April 26, from 6 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton, 160 E. Pearson St. This event celebrates TimeLine's mission by stepping back in time for an extravagant evening that raises funds vital to the company's work.