

Science has made us gods even before we are worthy of being men.

— Jean Rostand

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NEWS OF LINCOLN PARK, LAKE VIEW, NORTH CENTER & LINCOLN SQUARE

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## Docs, nurses blast Ascension's outsourcing decision



St. Joseph Hospital [above] is part of Ascension healthcare, along with St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, St. Elizabeth Hospital, St. Mary Hospital, and Resurrection Hospital, all in Chicago.

Ascension's Chicago hospitals, workers were asked to sign SCP Health labor contracts by noon on April 4, according to an April 1 internal memo written by Ascension's Illinois Ministry Market Executive Polly Davenport and obtained by Crain's Chicago.

If workers don't sign their new contract, hospitalists stand to lose their jobs when SCP Health takes over Ascension Illinois hospitalist employment duties on June 1.

The transition is expected to increase patient caseloads while reducing salaries of physicians by upwards of \$25,000 and may adversely impact other medical staffers as well.

Ascension is a behemoth on the national health care front with some 140 hospitals and more than 2,600 health care sites operating in 19 states.

These include St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, and St. Joseph Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, St. Mary Hospital, and Resurrection Hospital, all in Chicago, among the 15 Ascension hospitals in the greater Chicago region.

Established in 1999, Ascension is owned by the United States

**ASCENSION** see p. 12

### Feds probe private-equity greed in health care, staff must reapply to Atlanta firm by June 1

BY BOB ZULEY

In what may be the first major encroachment of private equity into the operations of a major Chicago-area health care provider, Ascension is drawing criticism from the very people that make hospitals work — the doctors and nurses that patients depend upon.

In late January, Ascension medical staffers learned that their positions were being terminated and they should reapply to SCP Health, an Atlanta health care staffing firm by the June 1 takeover. SCP Health is owned by Onex Partners, a Canadian global private-equity firm.

Under the deal proposed for

## The fraud of plastic recycling

**This Earth Day we should stop lying to ourselves... Plastic recycling is a scam**

Earth Day is Monday, April 22, and like many of our readers, we are being inundated with messages about how citizens can help clean up our neighborhoods, parks, schoolyards, our city, state, nation and world.

It's a good-hearted effort at what we should be doing 365 days a year, cleaning up our own front yard.

But this year, how about we offer Mother Earth a new gift, the best gift of all, the gift of telling her the truth: 'Yo ma, plastic recycling is a fraud.'

We need to stop all the virtue signaling and admit that most plastics that we use on a daily basis cannot really be recycled. Even if the manufacturer has placed a recycling symbol on their product.

A total of 95% of the plastic used in packaging is disposed of after one use, an estimated loss to the economy of up to \$120 billion annually, concludes a recent 68-page report on a 2024 study by Center for Climate Integrity [[www.climateintegrity.org](http://www.climateintegrity.org)].

That reports claims that underpinning our current plastic waste crisis is a decades-long campaign of fraud and deception about the recyclability of plastics.

Despite their long-standing

knowledge that recycling plastic is neither technically nor economically viable, petrochemical companies—independently and through their industry trade associations and front groups—have engaged in fraudulent marketing and public education campaigns designed to mislead the public about the viability of plastic recycling as a solution to plastic waste.

**Big Oil and the plastics industry have been deceiving the public for decades about the current plastic waste crisis. We know they're lying, they know they're lying, and they know that we know that they are lying, and yet, the cry still goes out each Earth Day to 'recycle plastic.'**

Big Oil and the plastics industry have been deceiving the public for decades about the current plastic waste crisis. We know they're lying, they know they're lying, and they know that we know that they are lying, and yet, the cry still goes out each Earth Day to 'recycle plastic.'

In 2007, Chicago rolled out Blue Cart recycling to much fanfare. But there were issues from the start, including holdover skepticism from the failed Blue Bag era of recycling. It turned out that

it was the Blue Bags themselves, and plastic in general, that has been contaminating our efforts to recycle for over 20 years now.

The Chicago Dept. of Streets and Sanitation [DSS] is one of the the largest non-emergency departments in government, with over 2,000 hardworking employees, and a near \$300 million annual budget. DSS responds to an average of one million service requests per year making a difference in communities across the city.

DSS and their truck crews are not the problem. They're out all day in all kinds of weather, wrestling with heavy, over-stuffed garbage bins... they are some of the hardest working people in Chicago.

Do yourself a favor and offer them a fresh cup of coffee, then ask "how much of our recycling actually gets recycled in Chicago?" If they like you and your coffee, they'll tell you the truth, it's less than 10%.

The numbers are hard to ignore. Only 9.6% of the city's waste is recycled, and nationwide only about 5% to 6% of plastics are being recycled each year. That's right, well over 90% of the stuff we put into the blue bins becomes trash.

Plastics recycling has been an

**PLASTIC** see p. 9



The Rizal Center, 1332 W. Irving Park Rd.

## The Revival of Lake View's Filipino American Rizal Center

*After a protracted legal battle over the building's ownership, Filipino immigrants and Filipino Americans have banded together to restore a community center to its former glory*

BY KATRINA PHAM  
*Borderless.org*

Inside the walls of the unassuming, tan-brick Rizal Center on Irving Park Rd., a pristine wooden floor supports the weight of dozens of Filipino seniors as they dance, sing and share food for the twice-monthly kapihan, or coffee hour.

Immersed in the enthusiasm of the center's main programming room, one might never have guessed that less than two years ago, it was on the verge of collapse. The brown wooden floors

were splintered and lay haphazardly across the room. The walls, now filled with art from local Filipino artists, were empty, and the halls silent.

The Rizal Center, 1332 W. Irving Park Rd., is run by the Filipino American Council of Greater Chicago [FACGC]. It has survived years of challenges, from ownership battles to financial hardships. But with a new board — and inspiration from a younger generation of Filipino Americans — the center is slowly being restored to its former glory as a pillar of the Filipino community in Chicago.

With events like the kapihan, a children's library installation and martial arts classes, the Rizal Center is once again becoming a

**RIZAL** see p. 12

## JASC has left the building

The Japanese American Service Committee [JASC] finally vacated their longtime former home on Clark St. on Friday, March 29, saying it was a "bittersweet goodbye to our Clark Street building in Uptown."

The longtime Japanese social service agency will next meet up in their new building on 5700 of N. Lincoln Ave.

JASC sold the one-story property on the 4400 N. Block of Clark St. to Black Ensemble Theater last year with plans to operate out of a new building in the West Ridge neighborhood.

JASC was organized in 1946 as the Chicago Resettlers Committee [CRC] and was formed to help re-settle those Japanese Americans coming to Chicago from the WWII Japanese American concentration camps.

In 1954, the CRC changed its name to the Japanese American Service Committee. The organization focused initially on the compelling problems of jobs and housing for the large influx of Japanese Americans into the city. Over time and as the community became more stable, the JASC came to focus more on recreational programs and on programs geared towards helping elderly.

Today, its mission is to engage people of all ages to experience

Japanese American history and culture and to improve their well-being through innovative, high-quality programs and services tailored to the multicultural community.

In support of this mission, the JASC provides service programs to support the elderly in the community, kids' educational programs to promote Japanese language and culture, and a range of additional cultural and language classes. Through their Legacy Center, the JASC is involved in projecting the story of Japanese American WWII incarceration to the larger community through exhibits, programs, archival collections, and a library.

The JASC reports that construction is underway and running smoothly. "Demolition of all levels, set up of HVAC ductwork, and framing of new walls has been proceeding as scheduled."

While their new building is developing, JASC programs have been running at alternative sites like the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, Ravenswood Fellowship UMC, and Chase Park, who are hosting Adult Day Services, Tampopo Kai, and Donguri Kai programs. "We are grateful to have such supportive community partners," they said in a statement issued April 11.

# Did the eclipse bring a sense of unity to the city?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

The recent solar eclipse of April 8 will be well remembered. It was an outstanding planetary event in the Chicago skies.

As the heavens had begun to move and the forces of the sun and moon were in motion, I headed over to Bill Kim's Urban Belly for some Asian cuisine. The coconut curry pho was just what the doctor ordered. There weren't many diners indoors as the eclipse began, but Chef Kim was there working on menus. He joined me in his restaurant shade and suggested I try the homemade passion fruit lemonade.

The spacious Urban Belly windows provided great panoramas of the activity on Damen Ave. We watched the crowds assemble in small cliques along the streetscape. Outdoor dining was in full bloom at several nearby eateries. The atmosphere was

jumping with friends and neighbors, all seemingly careful to put on their eclipse eyewear while noshing away on their veggie burgers and yoghurts.

The coconut curry pho was outstanding. A bowl of everything we love, chicken, bok choy, bean sprouts, herbs and spices, thin noodles all aswim in a rich, sweet, aromatic spicy coconut broth. I asked for a bigger spoon.

Damen Ave. was thick with 20-somethings who were observing the solar show. This crowd's age proved most spectators hadn't done an eclipse before. But they appeared very analytical, assessing the celestial drama unfolding in the skies.

The assembled crowds definitely felt the haunting solar activity above, and experienced the strange dimming of the brightness of the sun. It wasn't a crazy shift. Just a gentle transition in our sky.

I suppose the crowds swelled all over town. On Damen Ave. more iced passion fruit lemonade arrived to quench sky-gazing thirsts.

The heavens darkened just a bit. Who knew the eclipse would be so tactile and real.

Perhaps it was just a moment to recognize that too often we don't look up enough. But all of us, whether in Mexico, Vermont, Carbondale, Cleveland, Long Island, in Iceland, Norway or China, for a few minutes, we were all looking above us, eyeballing the heavens.

Imagining the geopolitical landscape rearranged and uplifted. Kings, poets, popes and pubkeepers joined hands with anonymous strangers whose hearts and minds were joined for a moment

in experiencing our planetary home in a new way. Sci-fi vulnerable. In a reordered motion within the sky-dome over our earth.

For a brief nano-second we were all freed from the horror of Ukraine, Gaza, girls basketball and the nonsense of the Kardashians. From the bickering of the House of Windsor and the mad delusions of Donald Trump and dementia of Joe Biden. Our earth and our common earthliness were ringing the globe in a strange momentary harmony which I wish could spread pandemic-style.

It actually did a bit for me the next day when I had errands to run. I was off to the old Italian neighborhood along Grand Ave., east of Ashland. Down the two miles that stretch to Halsted St., a landscape rich in the fashioning of true foods like Gonnella Bread and D'Amato's Bakery. Enterprises that still create the crunchy breads they've made for more than a century. It's a charming, but timeless, Chicago neighborhood of favorite foods, historic stories of the Old Country, memorable Chicago characters and a vibrantly stable culture that continues to renew itself.

The lunchtime destination was a favorite: Tony Pirolo and Ciro Longobardo's Piccolo Sogno, "Little Dreams." A superior restaurant, easily Chicago's finest. The cuisine of Italy lifted high by the skill, taste and intelligence of its owner chef.

"Little Dreams" is a classically poignant, poetic name from literature. Though Chicago never seemed to have any little dreams historically. We were always reaching beyond our weight class.

We all love the adventure of "neighbor-hooding" in Chicago, when you traverse the imaginary boundaries that are held in place by the pedigree of a beloved local tavern, or a custom of historic lineage, or the tribal rituals of a local church, neighborhood school or community festival.

Neighborhoods in Chicago are adhered to one another by the sticky tape of history, devotion, political loyalty or commercial achievement. And the invisible threads of human legacy.

Nothing sets in motion a neighborhood's character like its reputation for hospitality, the art of welcoming the stranger. Never better than with the foods that reflect great cultural cooking. That's what we uncover at Piccolo Sogno with a menu of high-end creative Italian preparation. None better than their green gnocchi with wild mushrooms, asparagus, leeks, roasted tomatoes and savory sauce.

Their prosciutto with melon also rivals the tastes of heavier starters. Wander through the menu to be lifted to high affection for the seasoned wits of those who gather these ingredients and create such a pleasing cuisine.

Go see for yourself.

The day after the eclipse brought not only the chance to luncheon, it was also possible to do so out on the sun-drenched patio. A huge, spacious, private patio where dining reaches new heights in Chicago's most charming environment.

We were delighted to be reunited with Miguel, an excellent

young waiter, and acquaintance from my City Hall years when he was starting out at 312, the restaurant across the street. He recognized me and stopped to talk, remembering the days gone by.

Our lunch had invisible threads fastening it to the drama of eclipse day. These two days really lifted my heart and soul to reasons for hope for Chicago, despite the urban chaos with which we currently live.

I wasn't lifted very high seeing "Boss" Preckwinkle and Mayor "ShotSpotter" Johnson lined up to backslap President Biden on the O'Hare tarmac. Real Democrats appear rare in these hazardous times.

These Cook County gadabouts don't seem to "make the deal" happen. Now adding further disaster to gambling in Chicago as the deal becomes dangerously unglued at Medinah Temple. All we're left with is the prospect of further Chicago Teachers Union intrusions "ad interruptus."

Yet the events of Eclipse Day gave a familiar American hope. The open embrace of hands and hearts with civil intelligence. This shall always be the strongest guide through the leafy forests of life and creative citizenship in Chicago.

We will survive, somehow, the disharmony and the unrivaled absurdity of the current incapability of responsible governance. As long as we have green gnocchi and passion fruit iced tea.

Chicago needs more neighborhooding from Hyde Park to Rogers Park to Ukrainian Village, from Logan Square to South Shore. I think we might find hope where we least expect to see it. In the miracle of coconut curry pho or barbecue ribs off the grill.

**CSO:** Paul Phillips, Chicago Symphony Orchestra violinist for four decades, has died at 77. Mr. Phillips was always the first on stage warming up before performances at Orchestra Hall. His charming virtuosity and integral contribution to orchestral life will be greatly missed.

**NEW CSO DIRECTOR:** Klaus Makela, the newly appointed music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, showed a stunning, graceful style of conducting to orchestra audiences. His easy-to-follow stick technique, and those abundant signature facial expressions created a subtle movement at the podium. And his very physical body gestures and movements gave the orchestra and audience a graceful familiarity with the composition, but not to distraction.

He laid out a very refined and exciting dose of what we can expect when the very youthful Finn, age 28, takes command of the CSO in 2027.

**POETRY AWARD WINNERS:** In Illinois this year, 44 high schools and 205 teachers were part of Poetry Out Loud. Over 7,000 students. Sixteen students representing Illinois's eight regions competed at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in downtown Springfield back in March. We congratulate local Chicago regional winners: **Jesus Chavarria** of Mather H.S. and **Gabriel Sakoda**, Von Steuben H.S. Poetry Out Loud finals will



Paul Phillips

be in Washington DC, April 30 to May 2, at George Washington Univ.

**HATE:** The 43rd Ward office of Ald. **Tim Knudsen** was alerted to an antisemitic flyer that was spread in Lincoln Park (near Geneva Terrace and Belden), some of which were placed in bags including a substance with the appearance of rat poison. We've seen this bigotry in Bucktown and Wicker Park too. We should expect to see a lot more of this antisemitic behavior as summer approaches and all the crazies arrive for the Democrat Convention.

**SOLD!:** Restaurateur **R.J. Melman** and his wife **Katherine** have sold their Gold Coast mansion for \$4.9 million, reports Crain's. While high priced real estate of late has been languishing, Melman's Bellevue Place home sold relatively quickly, and for his asking price. They listed the property in January, a little more than three years after buying it for \$4.8 million. The buyers have not been disclosed.

Crain's says the sale was a victory for the area, selling quickly without a big price reduction. Big price reductions for Gold Coast luxury homes have become common in recent years, with many homes listed for months without

**ECLIPSE** see p. 8

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# The fight for freelancers

## How the new USDOL rule can affect your 'gig' job

Are you a ride share driver? An artist, musician, painter, maid, landscaper or writer making your own way in the world? Look out, the hammer may be coming down. Don't be surprised if someday soon you wake up and suddenly find all your clients gone without a trace.

Three months ago this newspaper published a plea from the Independent Writers Of Chicago [IWOC] warning about the consequences of proposed new legislation that they claimed will damage part time gig work for Independent Contractors. On Jan. 10, the US Dept. of Labor [USDOL] published a final rule on whether your 'gig work' classifies you as an employee or independent contractor. This law went into effect on March 11.

With its launch on March 11, the USDOL's controversial Classification of Independent Contractors and Employees Under the Fair Labor Standards Act [FLSA], means that America's freelance workers are looking at troubles down the road, as the final rules apply to workers in any and all industries.

There are estimated to be 72-million-plus Independent Contractors working in America today. That's almost 45% of the U.S. workforce. In America Independent Contractors have been freely choosing how they work and live ever since the Declaration of Independence was penned. Now the government has decided they know better, and you can no longer make that choice to be a gig worker. For some, the nightmare of finding the 'gig' way of life being ripped out from under Independent Contractors is about to become a reality, under the FLSA.

Prior to the Trump administration, the

USDOL utilized a totality-of-the-circumstances test to determine whether a worker should be classified as an employee or an independent contractor. The Trump administration sought to streamline this test, an effort that culminated in rules that allowed workers to be classified as independent contractors based upon just two core factors: (1) the nature and degree of the individual's control over the work; and (2) the individual's opportunity for profit or loss.

Given more choice, it was widely believed that workers were more likely to be deemed independent contractors under this test than the prior economic realities standard.

Shortly after taking office, the Biden administration sought to withdraw the rule, reducing workers choices, arguing that it departed from longstanding judicial precedent and did "not fully comport with the text and purpose of the FLSA as interpreted by courts." In response, in 2022, the USDOL issued a Proposed Rule that would return to a totality-of-the-circumstances interpretation of the economic realities test, with no one factor being dispositive.

And what is the totality-of-the-circumstances test?

The following six factors are part of the totality-of-the-circumstances test, and are used as a guide of whether a worker is an employee under the FLSA or an independent contractor in business for themselves:

- Opportunity for profit or loss depending on managerial skill;
- Investments by the worker and the employer;
- Permanence of the work relationship;
- Nature and degree of control;
- Whether the work performed is integral to the employer's business,
- And skill and initiative

The final rule states these six factors are not exhaustive and that no single factor is

determinative.

Under FLSA, whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor is determined by looking at the economic realities of the worker's relationship with the employer. Basically, if the economic realities show that the worker is economically dependent on the employer for work, then the worker is an employee. If the economic realities show that the worker is in business for themselves, then the worker is an independent contractor.

The FLSA regulations are modeled after California's AB5 law, passed in 2019. As a result of AB5's reclassification of Independent Contractors in California as employees, the careers of 4.5 million Independent Contractors and entrepreneurs were destroyed – despite a hastily created rescue plan of numerous carve-outs that was not enough to stave off the destruction of jobs.

California's AB5 used a strict version of regulatory language to determine who is an independent contractor, and who is an employee. California's Gov. Gavin Newsom said the stricter test would "help reduce worker misclassification — workers being wrongly classified as 'independent contractors' rather than employees, which erodes basic worker protections like the minimum wage, paid sick days and health insurance benefits."

As of 2024, Gov. Newsom's claim has proved patently false. California has seen no reported increase of misclassification prosecutions; no widespread reports of companies reclassifying all their independent contractors as employees; and zero new unions formed as a result of the law.

The California law was the start of a nationwide rollout of copycat bills in other

**FREELANCERS** see p. 10

## Online Park Dist. registration now open

Summertime in the Parks is mere months away, and the Chicago Park District is ensuring families can get a head start on their plans. Registration for the District's six-week day camp session opened up on Monday.

In-person registration begins on Saturday, April 20, 2024, or Monday, April 22, 2024, however dates will vary by park location.

Options are now open for children ages 6 to 12 to connect through fun, safe, and inclusive activities.

The day camp session runs from June 24 through Aug. 2. For a full checklist of important dates, financial assistance, and registration information, visit <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/programs-memberships/programs-overview/day-camp>.


Options are available for early and extended camps to help families in need of additional services. Summer programming have been restored at parks that served as migrant shelters, including for Broadway Armory.

Offerings vary by park location, however Chicagoans of all ages and abilities can find traditional sports, swim opportunities and other activities throughout the summer.

The CPD is also sponsoring a Summer Food Service Program that provides breakfast or lunch and a snack. Under this program, the CPD provides 41, 000 meals a day to the youth at 230 locations. This is a federally funded program that is administered through the Illinois State Board of Education and the USDA.


District programs are among the most affordable summer activity options available for families, and the CPD offers financial assistance for those who cannot afford to pay the full price. No child will be turned away for inability to pay.

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# North Side market takes a nose-diver in March



## The Home Front

by Don DeBat

After three consecutive monthly increases of home sales on Chicago's North Side, historically low inventory levels caused the real estate market to nose-dive in March.

Combined March 2024 home sales for the Near North Side, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center dropped by -15% compared with March of 2023, according to the April North Side Market Analysis, co-authored by Realtors John Irwin and Jackie Lafferty of Baird & Warner.

"The main issue is that there are simply not enough homes for sale to meet buyer demands or last year's numbers," said Irwin. "However, there still are positive

indicators, and while the economic news varies, we seem to be moving in the right direction."

Experts say upward mortgage-rate creep continues to cloud the market. On April 11, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that average benchmark 30-year fixed loans rose to 6.88% up from 6.82% a



John Irwin and Jackie Lafferty.

week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed loans averaged 6.27%.

"Mortgage rates have been drifting higher for most of the year due to sustained inflation and the reevaluation of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy

path," noted Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

"While newly released inflation data from March continues to show a trend of very little movement, the financial market's reaction paints a far different economic picture," Khater said.

Since inflation decelerated from 9% to 3% between June of 2022 and June of 2023, the annual growth rate of inflation has remained effectively flat, ranging from 3.1% to 3.7% and averaging 3.3%.

"The March estimate of 3.5% annual inflation growth is in the middle of that range. However, the stock market's reaction was dramatically different, as illustrated by a significant drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average after that announcement," Khater said.

"It's clear that while the trend in inflation data has been close to flat for nearly a year, the narrative is much less clear and resembles the unrealized expectations of a recession from a year ago," he said.

Fifteen-year fixed mortgages averaged 6.16% on April 11, up



A year ago, the 30-year fixed-rates mortgage loans averaged 6.27%.

from 6.06% a week earlier. A year ago, 15-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 5.54%.

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

Baird & Warner's April monthly market analysis detailed the following real estate comparatives in four neighborhood areas—the Near North Side, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center.

- **Listings.** Combined active listing inventory levels dropped

-8.2% in March 2024, compared with March 2023. This is on top of a -27.5% drop in March 2023 vs. March 2022. Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center have between 1.5 and 2.3 months of inventory supply which are historically low levels.

"The most dramatic inventory decreases occurred in homes priced between \$500,000 and \$1 million, which dropped -23.6%, and homes in that bracket in Lakeview which plummeted -34.5%," Irwin noted.

- **Home sales.** The number of home sales in all four neighborhoods dropped in March 2024 vs. March 2023. Sales declined from -3.8% on the Near North Side to a whopping -40% in North Center.

- **Under contract.** Homes that went under contract in March 2024 dropped -11.7% vs. March 2023. "This is significant in that these homes usually close within 30 to 45 days, and are an indicator of what direction home sales will trend in April," Irwin said.

- **Home prices.** In March 2024 home prices rose by 8.9% over March 2023 with Lincoln Park prices rising a solid 22.9%. Three of the four neighborhoods reported increases with only the Near North Side reporting a decrease of -19.6%. Homes priced between \$500,000 and \$1 million showed increases, while prices on homes priced under \$500,000 and over \$1 million dropped.

"Traditionally, low inventory levels significantly drive-up prices, but this has not been the case on Chicago's North Side," Irwin said.

"Despite low inventory levels, buyers are still very price conscious and would rather wait for new homes to come on the market than overpay because of low inventory levels," Irwin said. "Pricing must reflect the true value of the home."

- **Fussy buyers.** Showing requests and attendance at open houses in the past three months remained strong. However, many buyers are looking for homes in "turnkey" condition.

"Updated kitchens, bathrooms, flooring and paint colors are very important, as many buyers do not want to do the updates themselves," Irwin noted.

Gazing into Baird & Warner's crystal ball, Irwin said: "The market is improving but the turn around could be a slow one until inventory levels rise. Buyers and sellers should do their homework before moving forward."

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



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# Target's anti-shoplifting camera program is illegal, local attorneys claim

**Lawfare parasites seek \$1K to \$5K damages per visit for Illinois customers**

BY CWBCHICAGO AND JONATHAN BILYK, COOK COUNTY RECORD

Target stores risk losing a small fortune in a newly filed lawsuit because the company uses facial recognition technology to identify shoplifters in Illinois. Using the increasingly popular technology may seem like a natural way to combat theft, but the lawsuit claims Target's practice violates Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act [BIPA].

The law, one of the strictest biometric data regulations in the country, bars companies from collecting or keeping anyone's biometric information without first informing the individuals and getting their written permission.

And the law, and corresponding lawsuits, is now making some lawyers very rich. A report from the Chamber of Progress [COP], which represents companies in the tech sector, estimated trial lawyers have received, on average, \$11.5 million in fees per BIPA lawsuit. In all, the COP report said the lawsuits allowed in Illinois courts under BIPA have resulted in the transfer of at least hundreds of millions of dollars from employers and other Illinois business to trial lawyers in the form of legal fees.

The class action suit, filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County, claims that "Target's stores in Illinois are outfitted with cameras and advanced video surveillance systems that—unbeknownst to customers—surreptitiously collect, possess, or otherwise obtain Biometric Data."

"Target does not notify customers of this fact prior to store entry, nor does it obtain consent prior to collecting its customers' Biometric Data," the suit continues.

The suit claims Target has operated 14 "investigation centers" and two "forensic labs" and maintains a camera system that, among other things, detects people who linger in front of merchandise.

A woman named Arnetta Dean is the lead plaintiff in the suit. Her lawyers claim she "has entered Target's stores on numerous occasions," and each location she visited is believed to be equipped with facial recognition video surveillance systems. Yet, she claims she was never notified, nor did she give Target permission to collect her biometric data.

If Dean proves her allegations, Target should award her and every affected Target customer who joins the suit "\$5,000 for each and every intentional and/or reckless violation" of the state's law and "statutory damages of \$1,000 for each and every negligent violation," the suit claims.

According to the filing, "thousands" of Target customers might be eligible for payouts. Illinois courts have found that the biometrics law allows aggrieved parties to receive \$1,000 to \$5,000 for every violation within five years.

Whether Target uses biometric

data to track thieves is something the courts may have to decide. However, the company appears to be very good at keeping track of repeat offenders.

**Target is not alone in its biometric troubles. Amazon is being sued in Illinois because it offers a "virtual try-on tool" that allegedly uses biometric information to allow customers to see how they would look if they used certain cosmetics, the Cook County Record recently reported.**

Renard Smith, a 53-year-old who got charged with shoplifting from Target stores in Lakeview and Lincoln Park three times in February, told police he was "surprised" the company kept track of dozens of other thefts he alleg-

edly committed. Target subsequently accused him of shoplifting six more times while on pretrial release.

Target is not alone in its biometric troubles. Amazon is being sued in Illinois because it offers a "virtual try-on tool" that allegedly uses biometric information to allow customers to see how they would look if they used certain cosmetics, the Cook County Record recently reported.

Employers who use fingerprints or other biometric tools for security access, timekeeping, and other purposes have also been sued for allegedly failing to comply with the state's prickly law. Sen. Bill Cunningham has introduced a bill that would combine all employer-related violations into a single claim rather than a series of violations.

Cunningham said employers currently face "annihilative" payouts for violating the law, and a large portion of those settlements land in the pockets of trial lawyers.

## 'Annihilative' payouts faced by business under biometrics law

BY JONATHAN BILYK  
Cook County Record

Enacted in 2008, the Illinois BIPA law was ostensibly designed to safeguard the so-called unique identifying biometric information of consumers and employees, such as their fingerprints, retinas or facial geometry, among others. It was inspired by the collapse of

the company known as Pay by Touch, which had been among those pioneering the ability of consumers to pay for goods and services by linking their banking information to one of the unique biometric identifiers, in that case, their fingerprints.

Since 2015, however, the BIPA law has been used by a

**PAYOUTS** see p. 7

On April 11, The Illinois Senate voted 46-13 to advance legislation [SB2979] intended to mitigate the potential financial harm to Illinois businesses and the state economy from the BIPA. The legislation would specifically address concerns raised by judges, attorneys, business advocates and others for the potential for "annihilative" payouts faced by Illinois

employers and other businesses under the BIPA law.

"We are a true outlier in this country," State Sen. Curran told the Center Square. "This is not a [biometrics] law that other states are saying Illinois got it right and we are going to follow suit and model the Illinois law."

**SHOPLIFTING** see p. 7



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# Police Beat...

## Cops looking for crew that burglarized seven businesses in 90 minutes

Chicago police released video on April 9 of a burglary crew that broke into seven businesses during one morning last month. The group burglarized locations across the North and Northwest Sides.

During each crime, the men used a hammer to break glass on the front, side, or rear of the business, according to the police. Once inside, they took money from cash registers and drawers.

Police described the suspects as men of an unknown race, 20 to 30 years old, 5'-7" to 6 feet tall, and 150 to 170 lbs. They wore black masks, black hoodies, black pants, and gloves.

According to police, all of the burglaries occurred on March 28. The crew struck locations in the 3000 block of N. Broadway at 5:22 a.m.; the 2300 block of N. Leavitt at 5:40 a.m.; the 2400 block of W. Schubert at 5:57 a.m.; the 2800 block of N. Halsted at 6:06 a.m.; the 2600 block of W. Diversey at 6:16 a.m.; the 3000 block of N. Milwaukee at 6:26 a.m., and on the 600 block of W. Briar at 6:39 a.m.

Anyone with information about them can contact investigators at 312-744-8263 or 312-746-7394. Refer to crime pattern #P24-CW-018.

## CTA passengers thwart robbery on Red Line train

CTA passengers intervened to stop a man from mugging a woman as they rode the CTA Red Line late on April 5, according to Chicago police.

"Give me this motherf\*\*\*ing phone!" Mario Phillips demanded as he jumped on the 65-year-old woman somewhere as the train headed downtown somewhere between Clybourn and Roosevelt, according to his CPD arrest report.

Phillips, 54, grabbed the woman's shoulders and yelled at her, but other passengers stepped in to pull him off the woman, prosecutors said.

The passengers alerted police when the train arrived at Roosevelt and cops took Phillips into custody. He is charged with attempted robbery.

Judge Charles Beach detained Phillips during a hearing this weekend, according to court records.

## Man shot while relieving himself on a tree in Lincoln Park

A gunman attempted to rob a man inside Lincoln Park on April 14 as he urinated on a tree. Chicago police said the victim is in fair condition.

The 49-year-old was riding in a car but stopped to relieve himself next to a tree near Diversey Pkwy. and Cannon Dr. around 7:40 p.m. As he was standing next to the tree,

a stranger approached, displayed a gun, and demanded his property.

Police said the robber's pistol fired when the victim grabbed it, striking him in the torso. The victim returned to his vehicle, and a friend drove him to nearby St. Joseph Hospital. He was subsequently transferred to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

The victim described the suspect as a Black man between 18 and 20 years old, 5'-7" tall, wearing a black hoodie. Police did not receive any calls of shots fired in the area of Diversey and Cannon on Sunday evening.

Sunday's victim is the second person shot in Lincoln Park this year. The first shooting of the year occurred on Feb. 22, when a concealed carry holder unintentionally shot a man while handling a gun inside an apartment.

## Woman grazed in drive-by while waiting for Uber near Howard CTA station

A woman was shot while waiting for an Uber near the Howard CTA station in Rogers Park April 14. The gunman remains at large.

According to initial information, the 26-year-old was outside of a currency exchange at 1660 W. Howard around 2:58 a.m. when someone began firing shots from a black sedan. She suffered an apparent graze wound to her lower leg and was taken to St. Francis Hospital for treatment.

Chicago police officers placed evidence markers next to shell casings under the CTA bridge and in the intersection of Paulina and Howard streets.

The gunman was last seen heading west on Howard Street in the dark-colored sedan.

The victim on Sunday marks the 11th shooting victim in Rogers Park this year, matching the neighborhood's total at this point in 2023. Those numbers compare to seven victims at this point in 2022 and two as of this date in 2021.

## Drive-by shooter leaves man injured in Old Town

A drive-by shooter left a 35-year-old man injured in Old Town on April 13, according to Chicago police. He was standing in the 1400 block of N. Orleans when someone shot at him from a vehicle around 10:32 a.m., a CPD media statement said.

Police officers were already in the area. They heard the gunfire, found the victim, and applied a tourniquet to help slow blood loss from a gunshot wound he suffered to the left leg. His condition was stabilized at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

CPD did not release descriptions of the shooter or their vehicle.

Saturday's victim is the seventh person shot on the Near North Side this year. That total includes a Chicago police officer and an alleged burglar who were injured in a shoot-out at State and Walton on Jan. 8.

## Man tried to carjack Wrigleyville driver two months after being paroled for mugging woman inside Boystown apartment building

Barely two months after he got out of prison for mugging a woman inside her Boystown apartment building, Deangelo Coleman is back in jail. Prosecutors say he attacked and tried to carjack a man in Wrigleyville. If Coleman's name sounds familiar, it may be because we've been report-

ing on his criminal behavior in Wrigleyville and Boystown since 2016.

Coleman's latest episode began around 6:45 p.m. Saturday, April 6, in an alley behind the 3500 block of N. Fremont—less than 200 yards from the Town Hall 19th District police station, a detail Coleman should know since he's been escorted into that station in handcuffs at least five times.

Prosecutors said a 53-year-old man drove into the alley to park behind his apartment building, but another vehicle blocked his path. Coleman, 28, and an accomplice approached the victim's car and opened his driver's door, a CPD arrest report said. Coleman repeatedly punched the man in the face and head, yelled obscenities, and finally pulled the victim out of his 2022 Hyundai Palisade, according to the report.

Police said Coleman tried to drive away with the man's SUV but couldn't figure out how to put it into gear. According to the report, the frustrated Coleman stepped out of the SUV and went after the victim again.

Fearing another attack, the victim started recording the "encounter" on his phone while running through a gangway, popping out on the 800 block of W. Addison. Both men emerged just as a Chicago police squad car was rolling by, as they often do since there's a police station across the street. The cops arrested Coleman.

Prosecutors charged him with attempted vehicular hijacking, attempted robbery, aggravated battery in a public place, and possessing a stolen motor vehicle. Judge Charles Beach detained him as a safety threat.

The cops who arrested Coleman notified the Illinois Dept. of Corrections so the state could move to revoke his parole. Inexplicably, the IDOC representative told the cops that Coleman was no longer on parole, according to their report. However, the IDOC website and a national law enforcement database confirm Coleman's parole status. Court records show he was ordered to serve one year of supervised release upon leaving prison on Feb. 9.

That five-year prison stint came after he pleaded guilty to robbing a 24-year-old woman in Aug. 2021. She told police she noticed Coleman following her into her building in the 400 block of W. Aldine.

Prosecutors said Coleman trailed her onto the elevator, said he was going to the third floor, and then lunged at her when the doors closed. He demanded the woman's purse, and she handed over her phone, watch, and bag.

Coleman followed the woman as she exited on the fifth floor and told her he would hurt her if she screamed, prosecutors claimed. The woman ran down a stairwell and out the front door, where she told bystanders what happened.

Cops arrested Coleman at the Addison Red Line CTA station after following GPS data from the woman's phone. He had the woman's phone, watch, ID, and two credit cards bearing the woman's name in his pants, prosecutors said. Video from the woman's lobby showed Coleman following her in and fleeing a few minutes later.

Just days before the robbery, Coleman was arrested after a 31-year-old woman told police he followed her into her building in the 600 block of W. Stratford and began hitting her, said a CPD spokesperson. Cops arrested Coleman a short time later. He was charged with misdemeanor battery, then walked out of the 19th District police station four hours later on a signature bond. Prosecutors dropped the case after Coleman was sentenced to prison for the robbery, according to

court records.

In March 2016, a 22-year-old woman accused Coleman of snatching her phone at the Belmont Red Line CTA station. He received a 12-day sentence for misdemeanor theft.

In Sept. 2015, a Schaumburg man walked into the Town Hall police station to report that someone had just snatched a tablet from his hand, and the offender may have run into a nearby church. Officers found Coleman sitting on the church steps with the victim's tablet in his hand, according to a police report. Police said Coleman claimed to have found the tablet lying in the grass after someone named "Maleek" stole it.

Coleman was charged with theft of lost or mislaid property, but the charges were dropped when the victim failed to appear in court.

In January 2016, Coleman was granted deferred prosecution after being charged with stealing hats, shorts, pants, and a nightshirt from Macy's in Old Orchard. Three days later, he was arrested after a South Loop convenience store accused him of stealing a ski hat. That case was dropped when the store failed to show up in court.

## Carjacking, robberies reported in Lakeview, Edgewater, West Loop

Two robberies in Lakeview on April 10, including a carjacking, are among the latest holdups under investigation by Chicago police. Other armed robberies were reported in Edgewater and the West Loop.

Around 1:15 p.m., a man carjacked a woman in Lakeview while she was getting gas at BP, 841 W. Irving Park Rd. A man jumped into her white Range Rover, but a witness intervened and tried to pull him back out, according to initial information.

The bystander's efforts came up short, though, and the hijacker got away with the victim's white Range Rover. He was described as a tall, skinny Black male wearing a ski mask.

Another robbery was reported in the neighborhood around 6:30 p.m. According to a Chicago police spokesperson, a 40-year-old man was walking in an alley behind the 400 block of W. Briar when two robbers approached him on foot.

The pair displayed a gun, took the man's valuables, and then escaped in a silver sedan, possibly a Hyundai, driven by a woman, the spokesperson said.

Officers at the scene said the robbers were Black males wearing ski masks. One wore a white hoodie and the other wore a dark hoodie.

According to preliminary information, a similar robbery occurred about 45 minutes earlier in an alley behind the 1200 block of W. Ardmore. A masked man stole a woman's bag and escaped in a car.

Investigators were exploring the possibility that the Briar and Ardmore robberies involved a Hyundai stolen from the 1600 block of W. Wallen in Rogers Park. It was seen in the area of both crimes.

Later Wednesday, a 25-year-old woman was robbed at gunpoint as she got into her parked car in the 1000 block of W. Carroll, the police spokesperson said.

A black SUV, possibly a Hyundai, rolled up and two males got out. Both displayed guns as they took the woman's valuables, police said.

An officer who responded to the scene said the robbers were Black males dressed in all black, with one wearing a pink baseball cap.

## Possible meth lab found inside River North apartment

Chicago firefighters discovered a possible meth lab on April 12 when they responded to a small fire inside a River North apartment. CFD used portable hand pumps to extinguish the fire, which was confined to one room inside a second-floor unit in the 300 block of W. Illinois.

The fire department evacuated

some residents from neighboring units as a precaution and brought in a hazardous materials team, according to a resident. Testing of materials inside the unit confirmed the presence of a narcotics lab, and CFD turned the scene over to police.

On Saturday morning, a Chicago police spokesperson referred questions to the federal Drug Enforcement Admin.

Back in March 2021, police and fire officials initially thought they had discovered a meth lab after finding a 30-year-old man dead inside an apartment in the 200 block of E. Illinois. The first cops who entered the unit on March 24, 2021, discovered a clandestine laboratory, including scientific equipment, tools, industrial cleaning supplies, chemicals, and lab glassware, in the man's kitchen, a Chicago police report said.

But it wasn't a drug lab at all. Sources told media outlets that investigators found chemicals and pipe bombs in the apartment, although CPD never said that publicly. The department did reveal, however, that lead azide, a potentially volatile substance used in detonators, was among the materials authorities removed from the residence.

CPD's bomb squad took items from the apartment to a secluded area near Soldier Field for detonation during their investigation.

The Cook County medical examiner's office eventually determined that the man found inside the apartment, Theodore Hilk, died from accidental lidocaine poisoning. In 2007, Hilk made local news in Shawnee, Kansas, when he earned a perfect score of 36 on his ACT. He later went on to study at MIT.

## Two teenagers shot in separate incidents on North Side

Two teenagers are recovering after they were shot in separate incidents on the North Side, according to Chicago police.

The first shooting occurred around 9:41 p.m. April 12 in the 6100 block of N. Mozart in West Rogers Park. A 16-year-old boy was walking on the sidewalk when someone fired shots at him from a black sedan, police said in a short media statement. He was taken to St. Francis Hospital in good condition with a gunshot wound to his right leg.

Then, around 12:30 a.m. April 13, a 17-year-old girl walked into Thorek Hospital, 850 W. Irving Park Rd., with two gunshot wounds to her upper right thigh. Police said the girl was "very uncooperative with officers and refused to answer any questions." She is also in good condition, according to CPD.

## One dead, one injured in shooting near CTA's Morse Red Line

A shooting near the Morse Red Line station left one man dead and another injured April 9, officials said.

The men were outside in the 6900 block of N. Glenwood when the gunman walked up and started shooting toward them around 11:16 a.m., according to a Chicago police media statement.

A 41-year-old man, shot in the back, was taken to St. Francis Hospital in good condition. The other man, whose age was not known, died. Ald. Maria Hadden said in an email to her constituents.

Witnesses reported that the gunman, wearing a dark hoodie and mask, returned to a silver car after the shooting and fled the area.

"Our sincere condolences go to the victim and their family," Hadden's email said. "We are grateful for our neighbors, business owners, and police for jumping into action and arriving on the scene quickly."

**POLICE BEAT** see p. 9



Mario Phillips

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# Driver intentionally struck two people in River North, pinning one against a gas pump

BY CWBCHICAGO

A woman intentionally ran over two people with her car in River North, chasing one down, then pinning another against a service station gas pump, before being pinned to the ground by a witness and held for Chicago police, officials said.

The details emerged as prosecutors charged the driver, 55-year-old Rolanda Wilder, with two counts of attempted murder in a detention hearing before Judge Charles Beach.

In a media statement released shortly after the incident, Chicago police said a driver “lost control of her vehicle” and struck a woman on the sidewalk before striking the man “who was standing outside of a gas station” around 3:53 p.m. Saturday, April 6.

But that’s not what happened, according to Wilder’s arrest report and prosecutors.

Wilder first struck a 29-year-old River North woman on the sidewalk in the 200 block of W.



The BP station at 750 N. Wells, where Rolanda Wilder (inset) assaulted a woman and a man.

Chicago Ave., the arrest report said. The woman told police she tried to get out of the way, but Wilder steered her Toyota RAV4 directly at her, according to the report.

After striking the woman, Wilder drove across Chicago Ave. to the BP station at 750 N. Wells. There, she got out of her SUV and punched a 19-year-old Bloomington woman in the face “multiple times,” prosecutors claimed.

She “exchanged words” with a 58-year-old man outside the sta-

tion, returned to her SUV, and plowed into the man, pinning him against a gas pump with the vehicle, the police report said. He suffered two broken ribs.

After pinning the man, Wilder got out of her SUV and started to walk away from the scene, according to police. A witness grabbed her and pinned her to the ground.

Beach, the judge, detained Wilder as a safety threat at the state’s request.

## SHOPLIFTING from p. 5

While welcoming the potential changes to the law, business groups said the changes fall short of what is needed to align the law’s purposes with its negative effects on the Illinois economy.

Since SB2979 advanced out of a Senate committee this spring, a coalition of business advocacy groups lodged opposition, particularly noting the measure does

nothing to protect retail businesses already facing lawsuits.

The coalition includes the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Hotel & Lodging Assoc., Illinois Manufacturers’ Assoc., Illinois Railroad Assoc., Illinois Retail Merchants Assoc., Illinois Trucking Assoc., and the National Federation of Independent Business Illinois.

“Though SB 2979 will place

some limits on financial exposure for companies that have yet to be targeted for business-ending judgements under the existing law, it is not retroactive and therefore fails to help the thousands of businesses still fighting against massive judgments even though there is no proof that harm ever occurred,” the coalition said in a statement released earlier this year.

## PAYOUTS from p. 5

growing cadre of trial lawyers to target businesses of all types and sizes with more than 2,000 class action lawsuits, with more BIPA-related class actions piling weekly into Cook County Circuit Court, other courts in Illinois, and even in other states, including California.

Some of the lawsuits have famously targeted social media giants, like Facebook-parent Meta and Google, resulting in headline grabbing settlements worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The overwhelming bulk of the lawsuits to date, however, have pursued employers, accusing them of violating the law for scanning workers’ so-called biometric identifiers, such as fingerprints, faces, retinas, voices or other unique identifying physical characteristics, without first obtaining express consent or providing notices concerning how a business might use, store, share or destroy the biometric scans, among others of the law’s technical provisions.

Typically, those lawsuits have asserted employers have improperly required workers to scan their fingerprints to punch in and out of work shifts or to access secure or sensitive areas in a workplace, such as patient medication lockers in hospitals, cash rooms in retail stores, or rail yards, which operate under federal security mandates.

A growing number of BIPA class actions, for instance, have

targeted trucking companies for using so-called biometric cameras to scan truck drivers’ faces to monitor their activities in real time.

*Under a series of Illinois Supreme Court decisions, a broad interpretation of the law has empowered trial lawyers to use those provisions as a battering ram to secure relatively quick and easy settlements, often worth millions of dollars.*

To coerce compliance with the law, BIPA included language allowing both a so-called private right of action - meaning individuals can file suit without permission from the state - and steep potential payment demands of \$1,000-\$5,000 per violation.

However, under a series of Illinois Supreme Court decisions, a broad interpretation of the law has empowered trial lawyers to use those provisions as a battering ram to secure relatively quick and easy settlements, often worth millions of dollars.

In 2019, the state ruled plaintiffs don’t need to prove they were ever actually harmed by the collection of the biometric data. The court said it is enough for them to only assert a business may have violated the law’s technical provisions.

## Letter to the Editor

### Cooking with gas and creating compounds

Regarding your April 10 story on Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance [CABO], a minor correction: CO2 (carbon dioxide) is a compound, not a chemical element.

I’m all in favor of going electric, but am not a supporter of the Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance. It’s too mandatory. And yes, we need to improve our electric grid a lot. And to bring in more microgrids and onsite battery storage.

Recently I ran across something about the possibility of changing the design of transmission lines themselves to something much different, which would be safer and carry more electricity.

Electric power outages remind us of the need to keep packaged food on hand which doesn’t need to be refrigerated or cooked. Canned fish and bread are two examples. I have a camp stove using liquid fuel, which I could use outdoors for simple, quick cooking. Most people don’t have these. It’s also desirable to keep ice in your freezer to help keep the food cold during an outage.

But I also think it’s good to have a way to burn wood for heating and cooking in case of a power outage, and even a disruption in the supply of natural gas.

Aside from a Weber grill, I recommend Tulikivi [ [https://www.tulikivi.com/en/tulikivi/Why\\_Tulikivi](https://www.tulikivi.com/en/tulikivi/Why_Tulikivi) ] for a variety of environmentally friendly wood-burning soapstone heaters and cooking devices, including stovetop cooking and bake-ovens.

My father insisted on an electric range in his co-op while the default was natural gas. I learned to cook with electricity from an early age, and roll my eyes at the highly paid chefs who claim they can only cook with natural gas. I can cook with gas, too.

If I were building a new garage for myself or on spec, I’d include the wiring and power supply as well as the conduit for an EV charging station. It’s cheaper to do all this in new construction. But I don’t want an EV for myself, and wouldn’t try to persuade anyone else to get one.

Jean SmilingCoyote  
West Ridge

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## Chicago Cabaret Week begins May 10 with performances at 16 venues

Now in its third year, Chicago Cabaret Week 2024 runs from May 10 to May 19 — with events in 16 venues throughout Chicagoland.

The 10-day event showcases the diversity of the local cabaret community and the growing number of venues offering cabaret performances throughout the year.

Cabaret Week highlights renowned cabaret performers as well as emerging artists — and presents a range of musical styles found in the cabaret: blues, Broadway, Burlesque, Jazz, R&B, American Songbook, French chanson, and World music.

Most venues are located in downtown Chicago, the North Side, South Loop, and South Side. All the venues are small, intimate spaces, including clubs, theaters, and restaurants — and many regularly feature cabaret throughout the year.

According to Claudia Hommel, a founder of Cabaret Week, “Cabaret has been a part of the music scene in Chicago for over 100 years and the cabaret community is one of most vibrant in the world. Every night you can find cabaret shows throughout the city and suburbs, with artists constantly developing new, exciting, innovative shows.”

Discounted tickets are available for \$30 or less, excluding fees, for 17 featured events. Reservations are strongly recommended. A schedule of concerts is available at [www.chicagocabaretweek.org](http://www.chicagocabaretweek.org).

Chicago Cabaret Week is produced by four leading cabaret organizations: Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Working in Concert, Acts Of Kindness Cabaret, and The Cabaret Projects with support from Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs (DCASE), Choose Chicago, Illinois Arts Council, and WDCB 90.9 FM radio.

### ECLIPSE from p. 2

drawing buyers. Gold Coast area homes now sit for sale on the market for about 13 months, with homes priced over \$6 million taking even longer to sell.

The Melman's Gold Coast mansion was built in the 1960s, and has housed well-known former owners including White Sox executive **Kenny Williams**, TV news anchor **Zoraida Sambolin** and TV personalities **Bill** and **Giuliana Rancic**.

**GOAAAAAL!:** The Chicago Red Stars soccer team revealed that they are set to host Bay FC at Wrigley Field on Saturday, June 8. This marks a historic occasion as it will be the inaugural National Women's Soccer League match to grace one of our most iconic landmarks. Tickets on sale now.

**JOFFREY BALLET:** The Joffrey Ballet boldly closes its 2023-24 season with the return of *Midsummer Night's Dream* by internationally renowned Swedish choreographer **Alexander Ekman**. Premiered by The Joffrey Ballet to North American audiences in 2018 with critical acclaim, Ekman's rendition is a mind-bending trip to a surreal realm of unearthly delights. Far from a Shakespearean tale, this fully immersive theatrical experience pays homage to the summer solstice and the Scandinavian Midsummer holiday—a time of uproarious celebration, mystery, adventure, and love. At the Lyric Opera, beginning April 25.

**BIRTHDAY:** Brookfield Zoo is preparing to celebrate the 90th anniversary of its summer concert series, featuring performances from renowned artists. On June 22, **The Fray** will kick off the series, followed by **Barenaked Ladies** on July 12. The **Gin Blossoms** will wrap up the series on July 27.

**SUMMER:** In a sure fire sign that winter has passed, it's only about a month to the first festival of the summer, the Belmont Sheffield Music Festival, starting on May 24. They're looking for volunteers, email them at [info@lakevieweast.com](mailto:info@lakevieweast.com) to sign up.

**WHO'S WHERE:** **Ethel Kennedy** celebrated her 96th birthday April 11th surrounded by her family in Hyannis Port,

### INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Whitney Reynolds, Dan Ackroyd.



Jeff and Stephanie Reese Emrich.



Catherine Johns



Alexander Ekman



Ben Wysocki, Dave Welsh and Joe King of The Fray.



Klaus Makela



Chris Berg and Leroy Gilbert Cogle.

MA. The widow of the martyred statesman and New York Senator, **Robert F. Kennedy**, Mrs. Kennedy is a living historic landmark and patriot... **Sam** and **Honey Jacobs Skinner** proved they'll do anything to sweeten life for their pooch, even in toasty Bocca Grande, FL... **Dean Richards**, the esteemed film critic at WGN, with the eponymous agent **Joey Majumdar**... **Candace Jordan** and **Veronica Beard** brought the party to Fox 32, thanks to **Sylvia Perez** for the upcoming Wings Fundraiser honoring Candace

and supporting the victims of domestic violence... **Bobbi Panter** was “eclipsed,” so were **Jeff** and **Stephanie Reese Emrich**, **Todd S. Davis** and **Catherine Johns** who joined countless Chicagoans observing the solar eclipse... Chicago acting legend **Dan Ackroyd** joined **Whitney Reynolds** for the seventh season of her show, the laughs never stopped, he even did a shout out to her kids... Chicago Cuts **David Flom** was at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ for the NCAA Men's Championship... **The Knitwits** were out

in full force for lunch at Cooper Hawk's Winery in New Lenox with artist **Rosemary Fant** and her sweet mother, **Dolores**... **Sherry Lea Fox** with her son in Laguna Beach, CA... this newspaper's art director **Sheila Swann** sheltered with many other electricity/heat/Internet refugees at the Sister Bay, WI, public library, after power went out in a big storm... **Paul R Iacono** splashing in the pool in Vegas with **Kadmiel Christmas**... **Dr. Rose Gomez** and **Lilli** have survived their long travels and are back in Switzerland with good wines and alpine vittles... Remarkable Dutch artist **Chris Berg** left Chicago after 10 years to return to his native Holland. He has already welcomed a Chicago pal, **Leroy Gilbert Cogle**, to Holland.

**CROWN CURATOR:** The Whitney Museum in New York has promoted **Kim Conaty** to the role of Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator. She succeeds **Scott Rothkopf** in the role, who was promoted to serve as the director of the Whitney, a post he has held since November.

**NO VALUE:** The US Postal Service is raising First Class stamps to 73¢? It's like the 10th price increase in the last two years. If they're trying to kill off the business then why not just make it a full dollar? Sheesh. And for the extra money they'll still lose your mail-in ballot this fall.

**Astronomy** compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from this world to another.

- Plato

[tog515@gmail.com](mailto:tog515@gmail.com)

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**PLASTIC** from p. 1

abysmal failure in the United States. Plastics are nearly impossible to recycle because of the many different types of polymers that cannot be recycled together.

Residents receiving City garbage collection are charged the \$9.50 per month garbage fee for each dwelling unit. This fee is billed as part of a unified utility bill that includes water, sewer, and garbage charges. (Senior Freeze eligible residence: \$4.75 per month.)

There is no extra charge for recycling by City garbage collection [private garbage collection companies may charge].

Per the City's Municipal Code, the DSS is the exclusive provider of garbage collection at residential properties with four units or fewer. Larger residential and commercial buildings are not eligible for City garbage collection.

**The same companies, special interest groups, NGOs and government functionaries that created the plastic pollution crisis are - even on this Earth Day - primarily motivated to keep the public from believing that their product needs to be phased out.**

A closer examination of the city's (and nations's) plastics situation can be shocking. What is collected but doesn't get reused or recycled does not chemically degrade but rather becomes a permanent part of our world by breaking apart to form micro-plastics, pieces smaller than five millimeters in diameter.

In the past few years, scientists have found significant quantities of micro-plastics in our water... all water. Oceans, lakes, streams, in the snow and rain, and coming out of your kitchen faucet. Some 95% of all drinking water worldwide is believed to have micro-plastics in it.

It's in the air we breathe, and in your body. It's in your blood, colon, lungs, veins, it is found in breast milk, placentas and fetuses.

One research paper estimated that the average person consumes 21 grams of plastic every month—mostly from water [see sidebar]. You hipsters... sorry, micro-plastics are also widely found in craft beers and coffee, and other human foods. According to Nature Magazine, humans have created around 11 billion metric tons of plastic. This volume surpasses the biomass of all animal and marine life.

Behind the plastic waste / recycling campaign is fraud and deception. Big Oil and the plastics industry have deceptively promoted recycling as a solution to plastic waste management for more than 50 years, despite their long-standing knowledge that

plastic recycling is not technically or economically viable at scale.

And we fell for it. We're still falling for it.

Recycling plastic today is more corporate propaganda than any real Earth-saving measure.

Now that we know, why are we still playing along? This Earth Day, why not vanquish the lies from our quest to recycle.

The same companies, special interest groups, NGOs and government functionaries that created the plastic pollution crisis are - even on this Earth Day - primarily motivated to keep the public from believing that their product needs to be phased out.

They claim to care about the environment while presenting the false solution to the problem of plastic pollution. It is a solution that removes the onus of responsibility from the plastic manufacturing companies themselves and placing it on the consumer, leaving us scolding friends, neighbors and family for not recycling.

We believe that if we just toss that empty Coke bottle into the blue recycling bin, then Shazam! We've recycled.

What we should be asking is if we need to recycle plastic at all? It's beyond time we all stopped pretending. We can all start at home. If you use plastic containers, toss your plastic recycling into the regular garbage. The fact is that the vast majority of it is going from your blue bin into landfills. If we use it, and dispose of it in the regular trash, it will end up being buried in landfill or burned.

The truth is that only specific recycled plastics can be ground up and mixed in with virgin plastic. Even then, the regrind percentage you can add to virgin material is about 7-10%, depending on the polymer. Over 90% of that next bottle of Coke we reach for is contained in newly created plastic.

Meanwhile, this Earth Day, we amateur environmentalists will cheer the effort, and post photos on social media, virtue-signaling that we're "saving the planet." Well we're not. Not even close. Scientists estimated that only about 9% of plastics produced from the 1950s (when plastics were first mass produced) up to now have been recycled.

Despite what industry, environmental activists and government are telling us, plastic is not designed to be recycled.

If you talk to your garbage man, they'll tell you that burning plastic is the right way to dispose of it. The environment can deal with carbon dioxide way better than it can with micro-plastics that don't break down. Plants eat carbon dioxide, and convert it to oxygen. But like humans, the plants really don't need the plastics either.

So what happens to all of our 'recycled' plastic? Much of it is shipped from the Global North to the Global South, with waste haulers often dumping and openly burning plastic in foreign lands without re-

gard to environmental laws.

People who live near the burn sites live in a degraded environment and face a lifetime of health risks. Those who earn incomes by picking waste make the least from cheap plastics, and because of constant exposure to plastics in their line of work, they face elevated risks of cancers, infectious diseases (which cling to plastics), respiratory problems and other serious health issues.

This dark end of the road for our used plastics seldom gets shared on Instagram or Facebook.

Even the plastics that do get reused now may be doing harm. Manufacturers mix in a large portion of freshly made plastic and other additives to melted down recycled plastic waste to restore some of its desirable properties. Even if plastic recycling rates were higher, recycling alone would not solve the wide-ranging health and envi-

**Vast majority of Great Lakes litter is plastic**

According to a new analysis and report from the Alliance for the Great Lakes - 86% of litter collected on Great Lakes beaches is composed either partially or fully of plastic.

The report is based on 20 years of data collected from more than 14,000 Adopt-a-Beach cleanups on all five Great Lakes. The new analysis details the most common types of plastic items found on Great Lakes shorelines and outlines potential solutions to reduce plastic pollution. In the environment, plastics never go away.

Instead, they break down into toxic microplastic particles that make their way into the Great Lakes, a source of drinking water for 40 million people.

ronmental problems caused by our plastic production and pollution.

Ghana and several other countries worldwide are now working to establish a country-level circular economy for plastic. This will involve gradually banning single-use plastics that have little reuse value, such as the thin plastic films used in food packaging.

We actually know what to do. Many existing waste management techniques, such as incineration, pyrolysis [hot steam], or bioremediation [the use of microbes], have already been shown to reduce plastic pollution and demand for plastic in the first place. But they can be energy and time intensive. This Earth Day, how about we stop the lying, and start removing plastics from our daily use? America has always had a consumer-driven economy. If consumers stop using these plastics, industry will stop creating so much of it.

**Public invited to honor Carol Marin for Older Adult Month**



Carol Marin. Photo courtesy of Kate Schleicher

Chicago's award-winning journalist and news anchor Carol Marin will be honored 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Northside AARP Community Group Meeting at Third Space in Lakeview Presbyterian Church, lower level, 716 W. Addison St. .

This hybrid meeting is both in person and on Zoom with registration at northsideaarpcommunitygroup@gmail.com prior to May 6 when ZOOM connecting information will be sent out. The in-person location is elevator accessible.

Marin, a television and print journalist, has been working in Chicago since 1978. In 2016 she and long-time producer Don Moseley formed an independent documentary company Marin Corp Productions housed at DePaul Univ. Here they co-direct a select program for DePaul students at the Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence.

Broadcast affiliations have included NBC-WMAQ-TV; a CBS News network correspondent and investigative reporter; WMMB-TV; WTTW contributor.

A print media political columnist for the Sun-Times since 2004, this graduate of the Univ. of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana also often moderates political panels.

Marin will examine "the good, the bad, and the ugly" during this event, for both the honorees and the audience. Questions from the audience will also be taken.

**POLICE BEAT** from p. 6

The 1400 block of W. Morse remained closed midday while police conducted their investigation.

Ten people have been shot in Rogers Park so far this year, up from nine at this point in 2023. Six people were shot in the area as of this date in 2022, one of whom was shot by a person acting in self-defense, according to officials. There were two victims at this point in 2021.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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**FREELANCERS** from p. 3

states, and now with the USDOL. Several states - including Illinois - were in the process of trying to enact copycat rules, but then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the bills never materialized. But post pandemic, now they are.

Now gig workers and Independent Contractors have a myriad of questions regarding how FLSA rules will affect them and their clients. Will those clients have to hire gig workers as W2 employees -- or just drop them altogether? Gig workers want to

know how they can protect their businesses and careers?

The practical result of the final FLSA rules will be that many workers - including workers who want to be gig workers and Independent Contractors - may now be more likely to be classified as employees under the FLSA.

The increased number of factors and lack of any controlling factors will likely increase the ambiguity and variability in determining status, which may increase litigation and will increase enforcement discretion for state and federal Departments of Labor.

**INSIDE PUBLICATIONS**

In short, whatever the government may decide in any individual situation, is what the standard will be. Understanding the impact of the final rule is also critical for employers, as workers cannot voluntarily waive or self-select their status under the FLSA.

To make matters even more complicated, different and typically narrower tests apply for determining employee status under the Internal Revenue Code, National Labor Relations Act (unionization), Title VII (discrimination) and common law. The final FLSA rule is also what

**Now gig workers and Independent Contractors have a myriad of questions regarding how FLSA rules will affect them and their clients. Will those clients have to hire gig workers as W2 employees -- or just drop them altogether? Gig workers want to know how they can protect their businesses and careers?**

is called an "interpretive" rule, rather than a "substantive" rule. That means the rule informs the public of the government's view of the law, but is not a binding regulation to which courts must defer. That is, 'it depends.'

The final rule also does not directly affect independent-contractor classification for purposes of state employment laws. One thing all workers and employers can be certain of is that now that government has gotten involved, it will get a lot more complicated.

**North Township Real Estate For Sale**

**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK S/B/M TO TCF NATIONAL BANK Plaintiff,

-v- JOANNA L. WEISS AKA JOANNE L. WEISS AKA JOANNE LEE WEISS, JOANNE L. WEISS, AS TRUSTEE OF THE JOANNA L. WEISS REVOCABLE TRUST DATED JANUARY 8, 2002, 850 DEWITT PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants

23 CH 00079 850 N DEWITT PL. APT 18H 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 15, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 8, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 850 N DEWITT PL. APT 18H, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-03-227-022-1170 The real estate is improved with a residential condominium. The judgment amount was \$196,891.15. 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

**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

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 HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 601 E. William St., DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 1669837.

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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 601 E. William St. DECATUR IL, 62523 217-422-1719 Fax #: 217-422-1754 E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com Attorney File No. 1669837 Attorney Code. 40387 Case Number: 23 CH 00079 TJSC#: 44-376 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 # 23 CH 00079 **13241832**

101010 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CITIZENS BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,

-v- KAREN M. PETERSON, KAREN M. PETERSON AS TRUSTEE OF THE KAREN M. PETERSON DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED 12/15/2014, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants

2022 CH 11725 1810 N LINCOLN PARK W UNIT 2 CHICAGO, IL 60614 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 19, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 29, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1810 N LINCOLN PARK W UNIT 2, CHICAGO, IL 60614 Property Index No. 14-33-407-050-1002 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certi-

**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

IFIED FUNDS AT THE CLOSE OF THE SALE PAYABLE TO THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION. NO THIRD PARTY CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE BALANCE, IN CERTIFIED FUNDS/ OR WIRE TRANSFER, IS DUE WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO GENERAL REAL ESTATE TAXES, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, OR SPECIAL TAXES LEVIED AGAINST SAID REAL ESTATE AND IS OFFERED FOR SALE WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATION AS TO QUALITY OR QUANTITY OF TITLE AND WITHOUT RECOURSE TO PLAINTIFF AND IN "AS IS" CONDITION. THE SALE IS FURTHER SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE COURT.

UPON PAYMENT IN FULL OF THE AMOUNT BID, THE PURCHASER WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF SALE THAT WILL ENTITLE THE PURCHASER TO A DEED TO THE REAL ESTATE AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE SALE. THE PROPERTY WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR INSPECTION AND PLAINTIFF MAKES NO REPRESENTATION AS TO THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ADMONISHED TO CHECK THE COURT FILE TO VERIFY ALL INFORMATION.

IF THIS PROPERTY IS A CONDOMINIUM UNIT, THE PURCHASER OF THE UNIT AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE, OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND THE LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY THE CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) AND (g)(4). IF THIS PROPERTY IS A CONDOMINIUM UNIT WHICH IS PART OF A COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY, THE PURCHASER OF THE UNIT AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY THE CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.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. 14-22-06892 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2022 CH 11725 TJSC#: 44-742 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.

**Real Estate For Sale**

Case # 2022 CH 11725 **13241160**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,

-v- STANDARD FINANCIAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, STREETERVILLE CENTER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF CLAUDIA IANNELLI, AKA CLAUDIA M. IANNELL, DECEASED, THOMAS QUINN, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CLAUDIA IANNELLI, AKA, CLAUDIA M. IANNELLI, DECEASED Defendants

2023 CH 01989 233 EAST ERIE STREET, #1406 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 March 18, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 30, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 233 EAST ERIE STREET, #1406, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-203-027-1056 The real estate is improved with a residential condominium. The judgment amount was \$186,032.89. 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

**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

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, contact MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 23-003269. 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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 CHICAGO, IL 60601 312-651-6700 E-Mail: AMPS@manleydeas.com Attorney File No. 23-003269 Attorney Code. 48928 Case Number: 2023 CH 01989 TJSC#: 44-751 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 01989 **13241380**

030303 -----

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**Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION UMB BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE FOR PRL TITLE TRUST I; Plaintiff,

-v- CURTIS D. TUCKEY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 23 CH 8413 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 11-32-331-002-0000. Commonly known as 1217 W. Arthur Avenue, Chicago, IL 60626. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a 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: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6960. 1491-194977 INTERCOUNTRY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION Intercountryjudicialsales.com **13242010**

171717 -----

101010 -----

030303 -----

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**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

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- ANDREW RYAN A/K/A ANDREW I RYANN, IL-LINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, 5455 EDGEWATER PLAZA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Defendants

19 CH 05416 5455 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, UNIT 2712 CHICAGO, IL 60640 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 21, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 22, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 5455 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, UNIT 2712, CHICAGO, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-08-203-016-1307 The real estate is improved with a white brick, high rise condominium with a detached multi car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, 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

**Real Estate For Sale**

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. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 946-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 20-057191L\_616138 Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 19 CH 05416 TJSC#: 44-844 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 # 19 CH 05416 **13242025**

101010 -----

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 RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff,

**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A CERTAIN TRUST AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 1, 2014 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 8002363886, GIULIO PALMA Defendants

2022 CH 08250 3851 NORTH HERMITAGE AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 9, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 14, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 3851 NORTH HERMITAGE AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-19-214-003-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$1,059,050.17. 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

**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

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 MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 23-026609. 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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 CHICAGO, IL 60601 312-651-6700 E-Mail: AMPS@manleydeas.com Attorney File No. 23-026609 Attorney Code. 48928 Case Number: 2022 CH 08250 TJSC#: 44-891 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 # 2022 CH 08250 **13241758**

171717 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR GSR MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2007-AR1 Plaintiff,

**Real Estate For Sale**

171717 -----

DAVID FLEMING, BYLINE BANK, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants

2020 CH 01651 3814 N JANSSEN AVE CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 6, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 8, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 3814 N JANSSEN AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-20-106-032-0000 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

UPON PAYMENT IN FULL OF THE AMOUNT BID, THE PURCHASER WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF SALE THAT WILL ENTITLE THE PURCHASER TO A DEED TO THE REAL ESTATE AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE SALE. 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

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## Miscellaneous

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## Notice of Public Sale

Honore Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 24th of April, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at 3215 West Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60625 at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m. S108 Magali Collazo 653 Alain Haz 403 Felipe Andres Sandi 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.

## Notice of Public Sale

Honore Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 24th of April, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at 5147 North Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640 at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m. 439 Shatavia Reese 501 Esther Saks 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.

## Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St., 773-247-3000, is opening lockers: 1D1360 (Vivian Clear), 4C4202 (Johnny Gholston), 4C4183 (Lilia Hrsteval), 3F3548 (Dayo Laoye), 3F3538 (Dayo Laoye), 3F3626 (Giles Travis), 3F3542 (Janet Conner), 3F3613 (Donna Ingersoll), 3D3303 (Mark Jarozewski), 4C4174 (Michael King), 3E3449 (Moises Salazar), 4C4191 (Carl Smith), 4C4197 (James Sochacki), 3D3302 & 3E3416 (Lamont Stallworth), 3F3641 (Michael Ticer), 1D1354 (Constance Willoughby) for public sale of miscellaneous items. This sale is to be held on Thursday, April 25th, 2024 at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

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### Panel to discuss future of Ukraine aid from the United States

The Chicago Lawyers Chapter of The Federalists Society will be hosting a public meeting for a debate on the future of Ukraine aid from the United States, 12 noon, Tuesday, May 7, at The University Club, 75 E. Monroe.

Moderated by John DeBlasio, General Partner, DT Global, the guest panalysts include Douglas Bandow, Senior Fellow, Policy Scholar, Cato Institute, and Prof. Robert Pape, Professor, Dept. of Political Science, The Univ. of Chicago.

Tickets are \$40 to \$60, to register, or former information, visit <https://fedsoc.org/>.

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I think the city of Washington itself is insular to a certain extent. You have to get out in the country to realize what is going on and discover that the perceptions in Washington aren't necessarily accurate.

— Rosalynn Carter

**ASCENSION** from p. 1

Conference of Catholic Bishops, headquartered in St. Louis, and is the largest nonprofit and Catholic health system in the United States.

The move is intended to cut costs for Ascension, but in the process it is leaving affected employees concerned about working conditions and patient safety.

According to its 2022 annual report, Atlanta-based SCP Health provides staffing in more than 400 hospitals and health systems across more than 30 states, employing more than 7,500 clinicians to treat more than 8 million patients, including 2.1 million tele-med conferences.

The Chicago Medical Society [CMS], representing more than 17,000 local physicians, including some at Ascension Illinois, is seeking a meeting with Ascension leadership to discuss the decision after hearing from hospitals about their worries.

“Our purpose is to make sure, even if a third party gets involved, patient safety and high quality is never compromised,” said Dr. Tariq Butt, president of CMS.

The involvement of CMS in the labor transition could intensify pressure on Ascension Illinois to rethink portions of its deal with SCP Health and more observers and lawmakers may weigh in.

The Illinois Nurses Assoc. [INA] is also speaking out against nonprofit health system Ascension’s decision to outsource clinicians to a staffing company owned by a foreign private equity firm.

The powerful union called the move a “private-equity scheme” and said it has the potential to harm patient care if patient caseloads are increased in the process.

“This practice is part of the Ascension playbook that looks very familiar to us,” the INA said in an April 3 statement. “We have experienced these increased workloads and decreased accountability as private equity takes over more and more of the healthcare



Ascension has been the subject of several recent reporting investigations, including a Dec., 2022 New York Times article alleging it spent years making its workforce leaner to boost profitability — leading ultimately to its detriment when the pandemic hit. (Above) Ascension Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston is a Level 1 Trauma and Heart Center, and it has 270 general Acute care beds.

industry. It is unacceptable.”

The INA described hospitalists as being overwhelmingly concerned about SCP Health’s private-equity ownership, a fact they believe will lead to larger patient caseloads proposed by SCP’s contracts as it seeks to grow revenues.

“Our hospitals are not an investment portfolio. They are public health necessities,” says Kaitlynd French, an INA board member and nurse at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center (Joliet).

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin did not condemn Ascension’s outsourcing decision but told Crain’s in a statement that, “We rely on our health care providers for top-notch care, but when they face significant strain and burnout, patients can suffer. Hospitals anchored in Illinois should maintain their commitment to their providers, patients, and communities.”

However, a Wisconsin senator was far less sanguine. Sen. Tammy Baldwin accused nonprofit system Ascension of “operating like a private equity fund” for aggressively pursuing investment opportunities while staffing and services falter at

its hospitals, according to a 2023 letter to Ascension CEO Joe Impicicche.

Baldwin wrote that the St. Louis-based system has for-profit investment opportunities dwarfing what it provides in annual charity care as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, according to a 2023 report in Healthcare Dive.

Ascension has been the subject of several recent reporting investigations, including a Dec., 2022 New York Times article alleging it spent years making its workforce leaner to boost profitability — leading ultimately to its detriment when the pandemic hit.

Baldwin’s letter followed reports in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Milwaukee Magazine alleging the system recently experienced disruptions to patient care, long wait times, surgery delays, and staff concerns about safety at one hospital, and after it announced plans to close a labor and delivery unit at another facility.

In an unusual development, the Federal Trade Commission [FTC], the Dept. of

Justice, and the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services jointly launched a cross-government public inquiry into private-equity and other corporations’ increasing control over health care.

“Private equity firms and other corporate owners are increasingly involved in health care system transactions, and, at times, those transactions may lead to a maximizing of profits at the expense of quality care,” the FTC said in a written statement.

“The cross-government inquiry seeks to understand how certain health care market transactions may increase consolidation and generate profits for firms while threatening patients’ health, workers’ safety, quality of care, and affordable health care for patients and taxpayers.”

The federal agencies are seeking public comments. The public will have 60 days to submit comments at Regulations.gov, no later than May 6. Once submitted, comments will be posted to Regulations.gov.

**RIZAL** from p. 1

home away from home for the community. The Filipino and Filipino American volunteers restoring the center’s programming have two main goals: promote and preserve their cultural values and strengthen generational ties.

“We’re rebuilding the center one tile at a time and building the community one person at a time,” said Jerry Clarito, chairman of the FACGC.

Chicago is home to the seventh-largest Filipino population in the country, according to a 2019 analysis by Pew Research Center. As of 2024, at least 169,000 Filipinos were living in Illinois, which has gradually increased since 2016, according to AAPI Data and APIA Vote.

FACGC board member Mae Dawn Gaoat-Lant said community buildings like the Rizal Center are essential to unite and empower Chicago’s Filipino community.

Immigrating to another country can make preserving one’s cultural values dif-

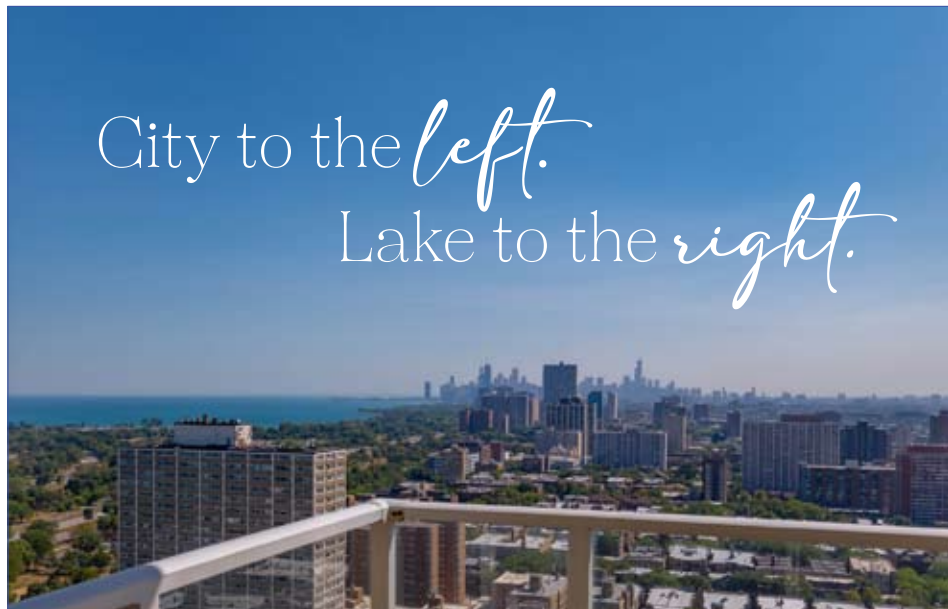
ficult. Still, Gaoat-Lant believes the Rizal Center can make it easier by fostering connections for all who come through its doors.

“What we are trying to do right now is to unite the community,” Gaoat-Lant said. “We need to...unite with each other because that’s where [our] strength is.”

Established in 1974, the Rizal Center was named after Dr. Jose Rizal, a leader of the Philippine independence movement who opposed Spanish colonial rule in the country. For decades, the center was a community hub for Filipinos, offering food distributions, hot lunches for seniors, religious services and various community events.

But between 2017 and 2022, a protracted legal battle over the building’s ownership plagued its halls, and the once bustling community center lay quiet as the building was closed to the public.

In Aug. 2022, a judge ruled the building had to be turned over to the current FACGC board.



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