

Some days there won't be a song in your heart.  
Sing anyway. - Emory Austin

# NEWS-STAR

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

Senior LIVING,  
page 6

VOL. 116, NO. 19

FREE

NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

[insideonline.com](http://insideonline.com)



Looks like someone is standing guard after Chicago police responded to calls of people stealing "COVID-19" masks from the Art Institute's landmark lion statues. Photo courtesy of Kyle Baron

## Rogers Park man in serious condition after being shot in face Sunday evening

A 19-year-old man is in serious condition after someone shot him in the face in the Rogers Park neighborhood on May 3, police said.

The victim told police that a stranger pulled a gun on him in an alley on the 6500 block of N. Ashland around 5:50 p.m. The gunman fired two shots, striking the man once in the face, accord-

ing to police.

An ambulance crew transported the victim to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston with a "through and through" gunshot wound to his left cheek.

Police did not release a description of the shooter.

Area 3 detectives are investigating.

## CTA losing big money due to Coronavirus crisis

Transit agency could take \$550M hit

The CTA is suffering a large financial loss due the Coronavirus lockdown with an estimated \$551 million drop in revenue, says the agency that oversees local transit budgets.

The Regional Transportation Authority also estimated a loss of \$300 million for Metra and \$71.2 million for Pace.

The pandemic has created a massive drop in ridership demand, and decline in revenue for public transportation.

The next shoe to drop could be reduced funding coming in

from the state and sales tax collections.

The CTA has experienced an 80% decline in ridership in March and April and Metra is suffering from an even more stunning 97% drop.

Combined, the CTA, Metra and Pace could see almost \$1 billion in revenue losses this year. The CTA has the largest operating budget of the three agencies, at \$1.57 billion for 2020. Before the pandemic, it transported about 1.6 million riders every weekday.

## Small businesses ask Assessor's Office to reassess their tax policies

Long-term economic damage of COVID-19 means new property assessment shift hitting North Side hard

Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi announced his intention to adjust assessment values in the northern part of Cook County and reassess the southern part to support our economy during the COVID-19 crisis. Small business owners have expressed appreciation for his review, but long-term economic damage has already been done with his previous assessment agenda.

In order to fully recover, these businesses are asking for a more holistic review of the Assessor's process with a focus on lasting, systemic change resulting from losses due to the current pandemic-related economic lock down.

As COVID-19 continues to impact businesses large and small across all sectors of the economy, many commercial landlords in Chicago have been flooded with rent relief requests over the past two months. With the second month of the lockdown here, and more rent relief requests likely to

emerge, some landlords are now contemplating their options when navigating these tenant requests in light of the high property tax bills they're facing.

And the recent assessment policy changes instituted by Cook County shifting more of the taxes to downtown and North Side property is exacerbating the problem.

One local landlord in Lincoln Park told this newspaper that he has over \$54,000 in unpaid rents from commercial tenants April 1 and expects even higher number unable to pay their rents for May. Yet he says he still had to pay about \$80,000 in property taxes on March 3 and expects to have to pay even more in August.

In Cook County, residential property is taxed at 10% of assessed value, while commercial property is assessed at 25%, so the math isn't working in his favor.

Post pandemic, landlords are carefully considering the type of relief, rent deferrals and abatements they may offer a tenant. If the rent is deferred, how quickly must the tenant repay and over what period of time? Forcing a tenant to repay rent too early

could have a detrimental impact on the tenant's post-COVID-19 recovery, jeopardizing its ability to perform under the lease for the remainder of the term.

But commercial mortgages and tax bill are still due regardless of any landlord-tenant agreements.

Is it better for a landlord to collect partial rent (e.g., an amount sufficient to pay monthly debt service and taxes) or is it more advantageous to defer all base rent for several months and extend the term of the lease proportionately? Nobody is really sure.

Commercial property owners must now analyze the financial impact each proposal has on the landlord's cash flow, and offer up alternatives to the tenant that are more viable from the landlord's perspective if they are to survive.

Some landlords may now consider conditioning any rent relief provided to a tenant on that tenant first exhausting other, non-lease-related options. Understanding each specific tenant's situation can help determine what type of relief a landlord should consider.

One small plumbing firm on Milwaukee and Armitage is now

REASSESS see p. 12

## Police district at Belmont / Western to re-open as Area 3 HQ

The Chicago Police Dept. (CPD) has announced the opening of two additional Police Areas as part of a restructuring effort they claim will move more officers and detectives closer to the communities they serve and improve neighborhood policing across the city.

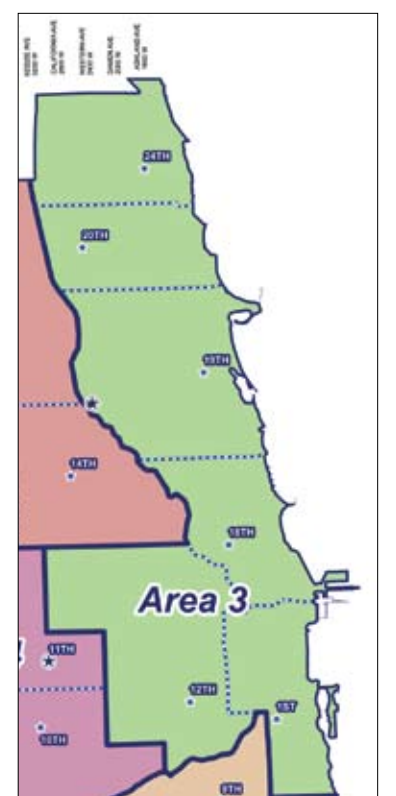
The plan includes re-opening the Area 3 at 2452 W. Belmont Ave., to be headed up by Deputy Chief Dan O'Shea and Detective Cmdr. Robert Cesario. Area 3 will serve the following police districts: 1st (Central) District, 12th (Near West) District, 18th (Near North) District, 19th (Town Hall) District, 20th (Lincoln) District and the 24th (Rogers Park) District.

Expanding the CPD into five Police Areas across the city, the two new facilities are designed to streamline operations across the Department, give District commanders greater control and ac-

cess over resources to meet the public safety needs, and increase collaboration between detectives and patrol officers.

Reshaping CPD back into five Police Areas is a structure that was in place prior to former Mayor Rahm Emanuel reducing them in 2013. District patrol, Area detectives, gang investigation teams, Area saturation teams and some narcotics investigation teams will fall under the authority of a single Deputy Chief. The city hopes that this will improve internal communication across the CPD and also create a stronger culture of accountability, allow for better coordination and ensure all operations within each Area are working together to reduce crime on a larger scale.

"We are investing in our crime-fighting strategy by moving detectives closer to the areas they



DISTRICT see p. 12

New Police Area 3 boundaries.



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# Maybe everything isn't your fault



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Say what you will, but the "sheltering-in-place" has been expensive. Like a holiday in the South of France in high season, or a night of gaming in the casino at Monte Carlo.

Quarantine might appear like a last minute trip without incentives or discounts.

Lockdown has all the markings of a flight in business class without the advantage of air miles. Perhaps that's because all the disadvantages involved in Lockdown move us to indulge ourselves, even beyond the larger threatening global financial concerns.

Maybe it's our fear of being deprived that lets us feel free to splurge, be extravagant or treat ourselves to something we delight in when we can't locate disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, yeast or crunchy bread in stores.

Maybe pandemic is just another word for sublimate. I'm just saying. Why else would we be paying \$12 for a small bottle of fabulous organic white balsamic vinegar. Or \$14 a pound for grass fed ground beef. Or \$6 for a box of pasta? We tell ourselves we need it. We deserve it. It will help us stay safe.

Or at least linger in a food coma.

Who doesn't love the comfort of being extravagant in the face of fear? That in itself, it's a power. The Lockdown is putting our coping skills to the test. Reassuring ourselves we're all right.

I have this strong sense that people want to use this sheltering-in time as an opportunity to learn new things and make changes.

My sister is learning the flute.

A friend is taking an online course from Yale Univ. in New Haven.

Many folk are giving cooking another go-round.

Confinement has become, for many, the chance to do something fresh. No one wants to be a victim of the pandemic. Not just a flu victim. But a passive casualty of missed chances and fading enrichments.

Just think, you could use the time to read the Greek poets. There's a reason they survive millennia.

Or improve your children's penmanship. Invent a new cocktail. Or finally learn to make a sauce from a roux. Or perfect the graced skill of making a soufflé. Or the wonder of making puff pastry. Or learn the difference between Bordeaux and Burgundy. Maybe cut-off from your favorite restaurant you are trying to reproduce some signature dish from there that you crave.

I've been using the time to paint more. Ordering more supplies from Blick. I'm feeling more disciplined. I have 17 new works drying in my studio and all over the house. I just sold one.

Most days by afternoon I have mapped out a dinner strategy. I'm constantly hopping from one dinner menu to the next. Always great dinners. But not big dinners every night. Some nights are burgers and salads. Others can be Tuscan feasts. I like concentrating on the little things, now. Just this last week I French fried thinly sliced red onions. Sweet and delicious.

And I got to use up the last of the buttermilk I originally needed for Irish soda bread. Flour, buttermilk, Cayenne pepper and an egg was just the right recipe, in a thin consistency, to make the red onions crunchy. Crisp.

I also made cole slaw, earlier in the week, with a beautiful shredded organic head of cabbage. Made homemade Thousand Island dressing (mayo, Chile sauce, Cayenne and lemon juice) to toss on the shredded cabbage. Another



Mayor Lori Lightfoot

simple, but elegant side with a real bite. Some heat, thanks to the Cayenne.

I have also been making salads almost every night. Lured by the intoxication of the organic white balsamic vinegar we now get. With some treasured Greek olive oil it has become the basis of a renewed affection for salads. Adding thin raw red onion. Small red and yellow tomatoes. Lovely raisins (big sultanas). Anchovies, of course. Big and hearty grated Italian cheeses. And a pinch of ancho Chile season salt.

Salads have come alive for me in the captivity of Lockdown. Didn't see that coming. Maybe that's the lesson in all this. The wisdom found within the tragedy of pandemic. When you least expect.

There's a lot of health and growth revolving around our discoveries of ourselves during this pandemic. Maybe you haven't synthesized your particular wisdom yet. Don't worry. There's time.

Perhaps you have been startled at some recurring behavior pattern of yours that is only starting to ripen during the Lockdown. Maybe it involves 'Who's in charge' of your particular turf. Maybe Lockdown brings out the best in you.

Or maybe, it doesn't.

Perhaps you have the knack for smoothing over frail Lockdown egos where you live. Or you find yourself plotting vengeful strategies against family members or neighbors. Recognizing such self-discovery is the slice of wisdom that can be helpful. So many people appear to be trying to be more kind and understanding during this ordeal. Maybe fearing the surprise onslaught of the coronavirus makes us re-evaluate what's important. Or what really is of value.

Maybe getting into Harvard isn't all its cracked up to be. Maybe losing that election isn't so terrible after all. Maybe that

breakup isn't as earth shattering as you once thought. Maybe the Lockdown is providing you the chance to have some healthy distance from others, or giving you the latitude to feel more free. Less confined.

Maybe all the restricted movement of the pandemic is providing you with a readjusted fairness in your relationship with your parents. Or maybe it's just exaggerating an already unlivable situation.

Maybe you are stronger than you thought. Maybe you aren't the emotional weakling some people see you as. Perhaps you finally can speak your mind and challenge others to live up to their rightful responsibilities.

Maybe everything isn't your fault, no matter what your mother-in-law thinks.

The tragedy and suffering of this pandemic is an unmeasurable catastrophe of human pain. It has stopped our planet from everyday functioning like no war or plague anywhere in our past. We may not know the final outcome and price tag for long years to come. But we will never forget the soft acts of human kindness that remind us that ultimately life is good. And that our neighbors are gifts from heaven. They will always be needy and needed. It's the true measure of humans' capacity for life and goodness.

So be extravagant with mercy and understanding of others. And your ability to host others to abundance. Maybe there you will discover strengths and gifts you never knew you had. A poetic intuition. A soul for sacrifice and a heart for giving. The essential ingredients for any recipe meant to rescue others from fear and doubt. Even if the vinegar is \$12 a bottle.

**STABLE CONFIDENCE:** Many are giving high marks to Mayor Lightfoot for her wise appointment of former White House Chief of Staff Sam Skinner to head her economic recovery team.

**CITY HALL COVER UP:** Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] reminds us that as of May 1 masks will be required when out in public, whether outside or in any indoor public space, including stores. So, cover up.

**SIGHT RESHAPED:** "We are all in the plague... All I know is that one must do one's best not to be a plague victim... And this is why I have decided to reject everything that, directly or indirectly, makes people die or justifies others in making them die."

Jean Tarrou, in *The Plague*, by Albert Camus. Thanks Lucia Adams, Chicago writer and literati.

**LOCKDOWN COOKERY:** Discovered a surprise full-page spread in "Cork and County," (May 2020), an Irish magazine featuring recipes. The editors asked if they could publish a cookery inclusion from this columnist. They did a nice job. Including two paintings. My portrait and a seascape. Cook County and County Cork are "Sister Counties."

**RIP:** Bollywood tributes pour in for 'Slumdog Millionaire' star Irrfan Khan, 53, following his death from a battle with colon

**MAYBE** see p. 10

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INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications

6221 N. Clark St., rear  
Chicago, IL 60660  
Tel: (773) 465-9700  
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Radmila Snegach's masks are just as pretty as she is.



Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin.

# Little things mean a lot for clinic staff now on their own



## Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

Renee Cooper is the nurse manager of the residential eating disorder unit at the Eating Recovery Center, which treats patients with serious eating disorders at all levels of care. Although Cooper's office is located about a half-block from Northwestern Memorial Hospital, about 50 mental health nurses are staffed between the center's five locations around the city.

If you're picking up a Mother's Day card this week, Cooper is hoping you might find it in your heart to grab a funny or 'thinking of you' card for the nurses she works with. Apparently, these hard-working folks could really use a bit of encouragement and to have their days brightened.

And National Nurses Week starts today, so it's a perfect opportunity to let them know how much you appreciate them.

"I find that mental health is a sector of healthcare that not only the patients are forgotten about, but also the staff," said Cooper, who lives in Rogers Park. "My nurses are outstanding individuals that work tirelessly for their patients; they know them inside and out. However, our company is an independent, nationwide system and while that is amazing for the eating disorder community, it leaves us 'on our own' as in not attached to a university."

You actually don't have to buy a card to send. You can write a hand-written note, and/or it's a great project for the kids. I know little ones can make pictures that would surely bring a smile to any nurse's face.

"They care deeply for their patients, and while they are handling this pandemic with strength they are anxious as well," said Cooper. "We, as a residential level of care, have trouble getting the supplies we need to protect ourselves as well as patients. There is no oxygen, special isolation rooms, or social distancing.

"The staff has gone to great lengths to protect patients in this -- while managing their anxiety as well as their own," she added. "We have become creative with

interventions to keep everyone safe, and I am proud that not a single patient or nurse thus far has caught or spread Covid-19 as of yet."

Any cards/drawings etc. will be greatly appreciated. Please send them to the attention of Renee Cooper at the Eating Recovery Center, 150 E. Huron St., 12th floor, Chicago, 60611.

**Heart and soul...** The Waldorf School, 5200 N. Ashland Ave. in Andersonville, can't hold its annual Spring May Fair celebration this year but its Parent Teacher Organization is bringing the school and wider, neighborhood communities together to honor the many members of both, who, "continue to make sacrifices working out in the public realm, for the health and comfort of us all."

Here's another heart-warming thing to do for you and/or the kids. The school is asking anyone interested to make small, hangable, fabric hearts, which will eventually be affixed to its Foster Ave. fence. The hearts can be sewn, glued, stapled—do whatever you like -- but they need to be weather resistant so they can't be made of paper/cardboard. Because Waldorf uses only natural or handmade products as much as possible, there will be no plastic. Wood, cloth, and any other natural products can be used.

Please drop hearts off by May 13. They'll be hung on May 16, which coincides with what would have been the May Fair celebration. Festivities such as tie-dying, live music, dancing, making flower crowns and the likes will be missed, so the school decided to extend a sign of love and vitality to the community, which

usually makes lots of beautiful fresh flowers and ribbon head wreaths for this normally very important fundraising event.

There'll be a large plastic bin to keep hearts safe in, outside on the windowsill between the two doors at the school's main entrance on the west side of the building. Waldorf thanks you from the bottom of its heart.

**Making masks...** When Rogers Parker Radmila Snegach learned about the shortage of masks for medical personnel and the call for mask donations, she decided to spend her free time learning to sew while also helping those in need.

Apparently Snegach is not only a quick learner, but she's a generous one too. Even though she has not worked since early March while sheltering in place, she has been sewing -- and giving away -- very pretty, cheery masks!

"Bright colors and patterns make me happy, so they naturally flow into my art," said Snegach. "I hope I can bring those feelings to everybody."

Her first donations were made to Chicago Women's Health Center, Clayton Residential Home, and a number of friends, family, and coworkers. Now, Snegach is working on donations for the Rogers Park Community Response Team and Citywide Cloth Mask Drive.

"In addition, one of my main goals is to help families and individuals -- be it those working in essential services or those struggling to find, afford masks," said Snegach, a massage therapist. "I am happy to provide masks to everyone at no cost."

Mask supply shopping has be-

come nearly as competitive as other hot-ticket items throughout this quarantine, said Snegach.

"I've had to come up with some creative solutions and have been very lucky with local craft stores, but I can't overstate how blessed I've been through supply donations by friends and neighbors," she said.

Know someone doing something special during these difficult times? Email me at [write12@comcast.net](mailto:write12@comcast.net) and tell me, please.

**The best medicine...** Second City is bringing comedy to your couch with free online improv shows! Events are streamed for free, although donations will be accepted to the Second City Alumni Fund, a resource for performers and other members of the Second City community experiencing critical health and financial challenges.

Here's the schedule:

- Improv House Party: 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays. Second City talent and alumni perform free, live improv shows from their homes with participation from the online audience. Tuesday nights are hosted by Carisa Barreca, and feature rotating cast members and special guests. Featuring classic Girls Night games and hilarious improv inspired by your suggestions, this is comedy by women, for everyone. Each week, the

cast will honor a female doing amazing deeds during the pandemic. Each Saturday, check out host Cody Dove with performers Mark Campbell, E.J. Cameron, E.R. Fightmaster, Frank Caeti, Jaime Moyer.

- The Really Awesome Improv Show: Thursday mornings 11 a.m. High energy improv, fun for all ages. Relies on audience suggestions and participation and is 100% family friendly. Hosted by Jessie Stegner with cast members Jose Acain, Amie Enriquez, Ithamar Enriquez, Serenity Garcia, Piper Gillin, Carrie Weisberg and Grady Welch.

- The Last Show Left on Earth: Episodes released weekly. A half-hour sketch and variety limited-series event. The first episode is hosted by Jack McBrayer, with musical guest Wilco's Jeff Tweedy and special guest Fred Willard, among others. Episode Two is hosted by Christina Anthony, with musical guest Valerie June, and special guest Fred Armisen and more.

Register for shows at <https://www.seconcity.com/chicago-shows/> or find more info at [seconcity.com](https://www.seconcity.com).

**Hershey's so sweet...**The truly amazing, internationally-acclaimed artist Hershey Felder will stream live from Florence, Italy, on Mother's Day, perform-

LITTLE THINGS see p. 4



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# Apartment renters, landlords feel bite of new virus economy



## The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Apparently, a few unscrupulous Chicago-area landlords are practicing “rent gouging” in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, apartment renters complain.

A senior citizen on a fixed income and forced to “shelter-at-home” recently was attempting to renegotiate her steep monthly rent increase for the next six months. She was notified of the rent hike by email less than two weeks before the expiration of the lease. Previously, she had a one-year lease for her one-bedroom unit.

The landlord claimed the reason for the rent increase is the expected hefty real estate tax increase coming with the second installment of the 2019 Cook County bill, which is due Aug. 1.

Rental experts say the landlord should have given the senior renter at least 60 days prior notice about the rent hike. And, under the stress of the virus pandemic, it might have been a good idea to forgo the rent increase until next Spring when the crisis hopefully is over.

Under pressure from rent relief advocates, on April 29, Mayor

Lori Lightfoot unveiled a “Chicago Housing Solidarity Pledge,” which calls for landlords to consider grace periods for rent payments, written repayment plans and no late fees. It also urges lenders to give landlords grace periods on mortgage payments, issue neutral reports to credit agencies, and suspend foreclosures.

Small “Ma-and-Pa” landlords generally are not having a good year in 2020. With thousands of tenants losing their jobs, weathering 20% to 40% pay cuts or going on no-pay furloughs, the biggest threats to owners of small apartment buildings are vacancies and non-payment of rent.

***A small landlord's biggest worry is paying the mortgage if some or all tenants stop paying rent. Hopefully, a new Freddie Mac forbearance directive could ease that worry for some landlords.***

It is important for renters to remember that the typical Chicago landlord is not a huge corporation that enjoys a strong financial cushion.

Recent hefty real estate tax increases on Chicago's North Side have depleted building landlord operating accounts. And then there are those sky-high bills from the city of Chicago for water, sewer and garbage removal, and seemingly endless maintenance expenses.

One owner of a North Side 4-flat was hit with a \$4,200 bill for replacement of a commercial hot water heater that quit functioning, and spent another \$2,800 to sand and varnish damaged wood floors, for refinishing kitchen cabinets and installing of a new exhaust fan and light fixtures.

Surveys show that the typical small landlord owns 32 rental units and does not have enough money in the bank to weather a long-term loss of rent, a recent Chicago Sun-Times editorial reported.

On the positive side, 84% of apartment households made full or partial rent payments by April 12, according to a national survey of 11.5 million professionally managed units in the U.S. And, 79.7% of Class-C (small-property) apartment renters paid their April rent.

However, only 52% of renters surveyed said they would be able to pay May rent in full, according to another survey by Grace Hill. Four of 10 renters surveyed said they intend to move in the next six months.

Some bad news came from Zumper's National Rent Report, which noted that Google search volumes for apartments for rent were down between 10% and 35% during the last week of March in its top cities. Apartment search reports have rebounded 17% by late April.

In a survey from RentCafe.com, despite the coronavirus threat, 62% of renters said they plan to move as soon as they find an apartment, and almost half said they didn't have any concerns about relocating during the pandemic.

However, a record-breaking 30 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits in recent weeks, included more than 737,000 in Illinois. Others experienced pay cuts, were put on furlough or are working on reduced hours. Large sections of the U.S. economy remain shut down as states have ordered non-essential businesses to stay closed.

In addition to vacancies, a small landlord's biggest worry is paying the mortgage if some or all tenants stop paying rent. Hopefully, a new Freddie Mac forbearance directive could ease that worry for some landlords.

Homeowners and resident own-



A record-breaking 737,000 workers in Illinois have filed for unemployment benefits in recent weeks. In addition to vacancies, a small landlord's biggest worry is paying the mortgage if some or all tenants stop paying their rent.

ers of small investment apartment buildings seeking forbearance can get relief. If Freddie Mac owns your loan, under new mortgage-relief guidelines you will never be required to make up missed payments in a lump sum.

“Our policies offer a number of options to bring borrowers current, including repayment plans, resuming normal payments or lowering your monthly payment through a modification,” said David Brickman, CEO of Freddie Mac. “We encourage homeowners facing hardship to work with their loan servicer to identify the plan that's appropriate for their unique situation.”

Owners who can't pay their mortgage are entitled to up to 12 months of forbearance. Servicers will start with a shorter plan and reassess to see if an extension for up to 12 months is necessary.

Once the hardship has been resolved, there are several options for borrowers to repay the money owed, including:

- Full repayment, known as reinstatement, where you pay back the missed payments and quickly get back on track.
- A repayment plan, which allows borrowers to catch up gradu-

ally in addition to paying regular monthly payments.

- Payment deferral or modification of the loan, to keep monthly payments consistent and add the borrower's missed payments to the end of the mortgage.

- Modification of the loan, to reduce a borrower's original monthly payment amount.

Loan servicers will reach out about 30 days before the initial forbearance plan is scheduled to end to determine which assistance program is best or if additional forbearance is needed.

However, borrowers need to ask the loan servicer if their credit score will be impacted by the new forbearance guidelines.

Borrowers who believe they are not being offered proper repayment options can reach out to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Consumers looking for additional resources can visit Freddie Mac via [www.MyHome.com](http://www.MyHome.com).

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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**2800 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 308**  
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**3550 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 2211**  
This condo features beautiful gray wood floors throughout, a cook's kitchen with white shaker soft-close cabinets, white & gold glass tile backsplash, LED under-cabinet lighting, undermount sink & a full range of stainless steel appliances, along with a breakfast bar. Gorgeous bathroom with new floor & wall tile & vanity. **SOLD**

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## LITTLE THINGS from p. 3

ing a new version of his production “Irving Berlin”—including timely new additions that speak to the current moment. The performance features an audience participation opportunity via text or email.

The show benefits Goodman Theatre's artists and staff and will be streamed live at 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$50 per household. If you've never seen Felder live, he is a real treat.

Felder was supposed to be performing at the Goodman in the Chicago premiere of “A Paris Love Story,” about the life and music of Impressionist composer

Claude Debussy. New dates are TBA.

“Irving Berlin comes to us during these troubled times, relating both the good and the hard times that he and America have weathered before—and how the nation always managed to pull through because of the goodness of its people,” said Felder. “We hope the world will do so once again.”

Fleeing the anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia, capturing the rhythms of the Lower East Side, and eventually enchanting the entire world, Irving Berlin epitomized the American dream. Some of his most popular songs will be featured including “God Bless America,” “There's No

Business Like Show Business,” “White Christmas,” and more. Felder weaves his performance around Berlin's 101-year lifespan, including his long and heartening relationship with his wife, battles against anti-Semitism and, his storied music.

I saw Felder performing “Irving Berlin,” years ago at the Royal George Theatre. It is excellent and a really great gift for mom. Tix can be purchased at [GoodmanTheatre.org/IrvingBerlin](http://GoodmanTheatre.org/IrvingBerlin).

Whatever you decide to do on Mother's Day, here's wishing all the moms out there a wonderful day. And the same goes for those of you like me, who've lost their moms and miss them dearly.

# Little Bucharest doing one last roast before calling it quits after 50 years

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Like anyone else in business these days, Branko Podrumedzic has had to make a lot of hard choices, but he admits the hardest was his recent decision to close the Little Bucharest Bistro after 50 years.

While part of the reason was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on business everywhere, this wasn't the first time he tried to step away from the business he clearly loves.

Little Bucharest was supposed to close last year, but plans changed when a deal with Philip Martinez, a chef who wanted to open a "New American" restaurant fell through and the building went back on the market.

Now another restaurant, described by Eater.com as an "upscale, refined Mexican restaurant" is planned for the Little Bucharest site, 3661 N. Elston Ave., which is expected to open sometime after the city deems it safe for Chicagoans to once again venture out of their homes.

Branko, however, said he'll still be in the business as a "silent partner" of the downtown Frontera Grill.

Which should come as no surprise to anyone who knows Branko, who'd dreamed of going into the restaurant business. It was a dream he'd nursed even as a boy back in his home town in Transylvania where Vlad Draci (aka Vlad Dracula, known in Western horror stories as Count Dracula) shares honors on stained glass windows in the eatery with saint and warrior Stephen the Great. It was not unusual for diners to



Branko Podrumedzic in front of his soon-so-close Little Bucharest Bistro, 3661 N. Elston Ave. The restaurant's last day will be Sunday, May 10. Free stuffed cabbage will be given out from May 8-10th. Photo by Patrick Butler

drink toasts (as this reporter did several years ago with some friends) honoring both very different national heroes.

Shortly after Branko arrived in the US, he began working in a North Side pizza parlor even though he knew nothing at the time about Italian cooking and soon bought the Little Bucharest on Ashland and Wellington in May, 1970, and moved the Bucharest to its current Elston Ave. location where he continued featuring a Mediterranean and Eastern European fare of food, wine and entertainment.

On summertime Sundays they roast a pig or lamb on a spit, which quickly grew very popular with all the food lovers near-

by. The Little Bucharest pig or lamb roast – something Branko will undertake one last time this weekend before the Little Bucharest finally closes on May 10. Call ahead if you want pickup and delivery service [773-604-8500].

Branko and his family say it would be all too easy to blame COVID-19 for Little Bucharest's closing, but added things are a lot more complicated than that.

"We took the last month to really try and envision reopening after the shutdown and found it virtually impossible," his daughter Violetta said, adding that anyone who has a family business knows how much hard work is involved under the best of circumstances.

"It was just time," Branko told a reporter last week, noting that his two daughters are grown and have their own lives and careers. One of them – Violetta – is a radio personality on 101.9 FM. She and her sister - who is in real estate development - have less time to devote to the family business, said Branko, adding that he and his wife would like some semblance of retirement.

And food tastes are changing, said Branko, who sees "the end of an era" as the last of the "old-school" European establishments like the Polish Old Warsaw Buffet, the German Mirabell and Chicago Brauhaus, and Italian Sabatino's have all closed down. Just to name a few, he added.

"Many of the young people today don't even know where Romania, Serbia or Bulgaria are. Tastes have changed. The world has changed," Branko shrugged.

## Letter to the Editor

### Are you flushing your C-19 risks away?

Have you ever given any thought to what happens to your water once you wash your hands and it goes down your drain, or when you flush your toilet? It ends up at one of The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's (MWRD) seven water treatment plants where waste water is processed.

These reclamation plants are run by dedicated professionals including plant operators, engineers, pipe-fitters, laborers, machinist and so many others all working together at our reclamation plants across Cook County. The hard working front-line workers are also supported by many other staff members who continue to ensure that our wastewater is cleaned and that our environment is protected.

MWRD essential staff, like other essential workers, come in and perform their duties despite the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Contact with other workers and the water reclamation process increases their odds of contracting the virus. While MWRD takes many precautions to reduce these risks for staff, the threat still remains for them while they perform their responsibilities to help keep our fresh drinking water supply safe.

So the next time you wash your hands, flush your toilet or have a glass of water, take a moment to remember the MWRD staff that are working to protect our water, our communities and the environment. Thank you for all you do every day for Chicago residents.

Kimberly Neely du Buclet  
Commissioner  
MWRD

# Is a weed Budtenders union coming to Lakeview?

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Workers at Sunnyside\* Lakeview, a pot dispensary at 3812 N. Clark St., will soon be voting on whether to become the first unionized cannabis dealers in Chicago.

But no date has been set yet.

Employees at Cresco's processing center in Joliet already voted to join the United Food and Commercial Workers Union's Local 881 back in January. And workers at Cresco's three other facilities – the Compassionate Care Center in Naperville, Nature's Care in Rolling Meadows, and MedMen in Evanston could be next.

The Clark St. store, whose employees say they want to unionize for better pay, predictable work scheduling and an opportunity to "turn their retail jobs into careers" at Sunnyside\* Lakeview's 18, said the "wellness advisors," or "budtenders," as they're also called.

Employees said they had found it difficult to plan their week because of shifting schedules that sometimes weren't posted until the day before a new week.

According to some sources, Cresco employees at Sunnyside\* Lakeview may have been emboldened to seek union protection after cannabis dispensers were deemed "essential" businesses by Gov. J.B. Pritzker's advisers as a way to help enforce the current "stay-at-home" orders which include the six-foot "social distance" requirement for everyone inside or outside.

That requirement would become impossible to meet, given the number of employees and their customers at Sunnyside\* Lakeview on a typical day, budtender Nicholas Stankus announced last week.

Employee complaints at Sunnyside\* Lakeview also included safety concerns

such as masks which have since been provided in recent days, but with conflicting guidance from management on their proper use. According to one employee, a manager sent an e-mail warning that masks in some cases could lead to increased risks because using a mask could make the wearers touch their faces more frequently.

***The Clark St. store, whose employees say they want to unionize for better pay, predictable work scheduling and an opportunity to "turn their retail jobs into careers" at Sunnyside\* Lakeview's 18, said the "wellness advisors," or "budtenders," as they're also called.***

Another employee wearing a mask near the front desk was reportedly reassigned to a back room after being told his mask might scare customers.

(According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, masks "should be used in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.")

A date for the union vote – which will be supervised by the National Labor Relations Board - hasn't yet been set. A majority-plus-one of those who vote in the election will be needed to create the union at Cresco Labs. If the vote passes, the union will represent only the "budtenders" at Sunnyside\* Lakeview.

Employees at the other sites will have to hold their own separate election.

Union members want a mail-in ballot to limit the size of crowds in the Sunnyside\* Lakeview building where the election will probably be held, while Cresco Labs is requesting the more usual in-person election.

Cresco Labs spokesman Jason Erkes did not respond to the claims made by the employees, but said the company respects the workers' right to a secret ballot election "as well as a positive working environment, competitive pay and benefits, new health and safety protocols increasing sanitation" including "forced social distancing... and sneeze guards."

Several employees said the company has indeed taken measures to protect workers

and customers, but added management has been slow to respond to employee complaints. "The reality of conditions inside the dispensary doesn't always match the guidelines set forth in the corporate office," one employee said.

Lakeview State Rep. Jonathan Pizer [12th] - who just lost his own recent vote - is supporting the workers efforts to unionize, saying that it is "imperative that they are able to receive the right representation and workplace protections afforded by a labor union." The other State Rep. in Lakeview - Ann Williams [11th] - also signed on in support of unionization.

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## Check in on seniors

The Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services have volunteers conducting ongoing wellbeing checks over the phone to engage with older Chicagoans and to make sure their needs are being met during the Stay at Home Order.

To request a well being check or more information on senior services available at this time, email [aging@cityofchicago.org](mailto:aging@cityofchicago.org) or call 312-744-4016.

## Dedicated shopping hours for seniors

Older adults and people with severe chronic conditions should take special precautions because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness

Several retailers have created dedicated shopping hours for seniors to shop for groceries without crowds of other people. Retailers include:

- Whole Foods: Customers age 60 and older can shop daily an hour before stores open to the general public. So, if a store opens at 9 a.m., for example, seniors have access at 8 a.m.

- Target: The first hour of shopping each Wednesday is reserved for the elderly and other vulnerable populations, such as those with compromised immune systems.

- Jewel-Osco: Vulnerable populations including senior cit-

izens and pregnant individuals are being given priority from 7-9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Mariano's: The grocer has set aside two hours daily - 6 to 8 a.m., for seniors and those with underlying health conditions.

- Costco: Senior shoppers can come Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8-9 a.m. before the store opens to the public.

- Walgreens: Senior shopping hours are between 8-9 a.m. on Tuesdays.

- Trader Joe's: At-risk customers and those over the age of 60 can shop between 8-9 a.m. daily.

For individuals who are 60 or older and homebound or disabled, Meals on Wheels Chicago delivers nutritious meals to those in need. Those interested in learning more about the program can call 312-744-4016 or email [seniormeals@cityofchicago.org](mailto:seniormeals@cityofchicago.org).

## Neighbors come to the aid of St. Mary's

**In need of help now more than ever**

BY ALD. BRIAN HOPKINS,  
2ND WARD

If you have ever taken a walk or a drive through the DePaul area, you may have passed by St. Mary's Home, an expansive brick complex situated on the peaceful 2300 block of N. Lakewood Ave.

St. Mary's Home is managed by Little Sisters of the Poor, an international organization of religious women that serves the elderly poor of every race and religion in nursing homes and independent living facilities in 30 countries worldwide. St. Mary's Home currently serves 126 residents.

"Our mission is to try to create a family for the elderly poor and make them feel truly loved. We want to make this chapter in their life peaceful, joyful, and beautiful," said Sister Carolyn, who serves as the administrator for St. Mary's Home.

Like many elder care facilities across the country, the board and staff of St. Mary's Home were alarmed by the rapid spread of COVID-19 and the particular risk of infection to senior citizens. St. Mary's Home endured shortages of Personal Protective Equipment and testing kits as manufacturers struggled to keep up with increased demand nationwide.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic started, I knew this would be tough to deal with," said Dr. Lisa Nee, a nearby neighbor who has served on the St. Mary's Home board for the past five years. "Little Sisters of the Poor is a begging order, so they never take more than they need and don't tend to be able to stockpile supplies."

As St. Mary's Home began to reach out to the community for help, Dr. Nee worked to obtain a crucial resource: COVID-19 testing. But most testing required individually visiting a drive-thru facility, which would be a challenging proposition for most of the residents of St. Mary's Home. Dr. Lee began to look for other solutions.

"I saw online that the Innovate Express Care facility in our neighborhood was offering drive-thru testing, so I decided to call them to see if they could help St. Mary's Home," said Dr. Nee. After emailing the facility's CEO,

Dr. Rahul Khare, Dr. Nee and Dr. Khare realized that had both done their physician training at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Dr. Khare kindly agreed to provide testing for St. Mary's Home - one of the first of many victories for the facility.

As news outlets began reporting on the impact that COVID-19 had on St. Mary's Home and other elder care facilities, more neighbors started to reach out to St. Mary's Home to ask what they could do to help. Alderman Hopkins was able to secure a donation of 300 masks and 100 face shields for St. Mary's Home thanks to the generosity of Cordos Development & Associates LLC President and Founder Vince Cordos.

campaign includes collecting donations to provide hot meals and PPE to St. Mary's Home staff, and encouraging local residents to donate supplies and send cheerful cards. SNA also reached out to Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen, who worked to find additional PPE, as well as DePaul Univ., which donated 250 masks and 3D printed face shields for St. Mary's Home staff.

Efforts to help St. Mary's Home have had a positive ripple effect on the neighborhood. SNA's meal program for St. Mary's Home staff, for example, has provided much-needed business to Sheffield and Lincoln Park restaurants.

One restaurant even put a unique handwritten note in each individually-packed staff lunch.

Local community members who previously had no connection to St. Mary's Home have gone out of their way to find creative ways to show their support. Neighbors began leaving rocks painted with encouraging pictures and messages. One anonymous neighbor placed a sign in the front lawn of St. Mary's Home that reads "Thank you Little Sisters & Staff / We love Little Sisters. Bless you!"

"People can start by doing just one little thing, and that can create a cascade of events that makes

a difference to most in our vulnerable population," said Dr. Nee.

Thus far, SNA has raised over \$25,000 to support St. Mary's Home, and neighbors continue to deliver cards and much-needed supplies to the facility daily.

Comer described seeing the joy that the neighbors have brought to St. Mary's Home staff and residents as a kindness that feeds the soul. "And we're trying to feed the soul from a social distance," he added.

"The support of the local community has been beautiful, and I have gotten to know so many of our neighbors in ways I never could have otherwise," said Sister Carolyn. "Every single day, at least one person comes by and leaves a donation in our vestibule. It brings tears to everyone's eyes. It's just so

### Ways to support St. Mary's Home

St. Mary's Home, like many, are seeking donated supplies. They would be grateful for donations of the following supplies:

- Full-length medical cover gowns
- Medical grade masks
- Disposable isolation gowns
- Disinfectant, baby wipes and Kleenex
- Body and mouth wash
- Body lotion
- Paper napkins, toilet paper and paper towels
- Juice (cranberry, apple, tomato)
- Canned fruits

Donations may be sent to their facility at 2325 N. Lakewood Ave. through online delivery, or dropped off at their front vestibule.

Youth can send a card, handwritten note, encouraging poster, or artwork.

Cards, artwork, and crafts help brighten common rooms and serve as a daily reminder that St. Mary's Home is in the community's thoughts. Cards and artwork may be mailed to or dropped off at:

St. Mary's Home  
2325 N. Lakewood Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60614

One of the neighbors who reached out was Brian Comer, President of the Sheffield Neighborhood Assoc. [SNA]. After reading an article detailing the hardships that St. Mary's Home and other similar facilities were facing, he convened a virtual meeting of SNA's board to come up with a plan to help St. Mary's Home residents and staff.

"The news stories were a wake up call," said Comer. "The residents of St. Mary's are among the most vulnerable in our population, and they are our neighbors. The work of Little Sisters of the Poor is truly the work of angels, and we wanted to let them know that they're not alone."

Within 12 hours, SNA's board came up with a four-fold plan to address the needs of St. Mary's Home and provide a way for all members of the community to participate, regardless of their resources or abilities. This cam-

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# A shift to virtual programming at The Clare

Social distancing recommendations have eliminated the possibility of in-person programming at senior living communities amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Since social and learning opportunities are a major component of The Clare lifestyle, the community had to get creative with its life enrichment offerings for residents.

That's where Zoom meetings and live streaming came into play.

"Clare residents have responded very well to virtual programming," says Lori Griffin, Director of Resident Experience at The Clare. "They adapted quickly and learned the logistics of Zoom technology."

While the senior care industry is often depicted as lagging in embracing technology for residents, The Clare prides itself on taking initiative when it comes to tech solutions. Given the current circumstances that require residents to stay in their apartments, this focus has been crucial in the adoption of and adaptation to the world of virtual programming.

"Whoever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks has not met the residents of The Clare," resident Sheila Rock says. "At the tender age of 80+, I am 'Zooming' with my brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, friends near and far. It is not perfect, but this technology is giving us the ability to keep in touch."

Instead of typical group cardio and yoga classes, Fitness Manager Emily Buxton began leading live workouts for residents streamed daily via The Clare's in-house TV channel. Rather than gathering residents for cooking demos, Executive Chef Hagop Hagopian brought them into The Clare's kitchen via Zoom, demonstrating the steps to make simple dishes such as shakshuka. Virtual wine tastings, virtual book clubs and virtual coffee hours have also been added to the calendar for resident interaction and entertainment.

"It is important to stay engaged mentally and socially during this time of uncertainty and mandated social distancing," Lori says. "Engaging in activities



Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Robert Chen and his children often perform for residents at The Clare. At the end of April, they gave an exclusive performance for The Clare via Zoom.

and learning that you find interesting gives some sense of normalcy and happiness. Connecting with friends and family via virtual options or other means helps provide security and comfort, as well."

***"Whoever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks has not met the residents of The Clare," resident Sheila Rock says. "At the tender age of 80+, I am 'Zooming' with my brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, friends near and far."***

In addition to classes, programs and events routinely put on by employees, The Clare is also known for bringing in talent and experts from the likes of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the University of Chicago and more. Naturally, outside programs brought to The Clare have been canceled. But Lori knows they are important for residents, so she searched for ways to bring Clare favorites to them through the internet.

On Wednesday, April 29, the Chen Quartet, featuring CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen and his family, exclusively performed for Clare residents via Zoom, bringing them live music they have so

dearly missed. Earlier in April, the Field Museum partnered with The Clare to present on their collections, and film critic Zbigniew Banas hosted an interactive movie discussion about Jojo Rabbit. Looking ahead, virtual programs throughout the month of May include a presentation on South America, a tutorial on iPhone settings and a salon concert and conversation about women in classical music.

"These days, the recurring theme is, 'I can't believe that two months ago, I didn't know what Zoom was,'" resident Carolyn Rusnak says. "Now, we 'Zoom' through everything. Within the context of the new normal, it's always a good day."

Residents have even started creating their own Zoom meetings to connect with one another socially.

"Zoom is an excellent opportunity to see many Clare friends, at various management meetings or in smaller group gatherings," resident Barb Arsenault says. "I'm in a group that 'Zooms' regularly, and being able to socialize and keep those connections with each other means a lot."

And for residents who aren't as tech savvy, a variety of programs and classes are being streamed directly to resident televisions via The Clare's in-house channel.

"This time of virtual programming has reminded me that Clare residents are up for any challenge," Lori says. "I am inspired to continue to try new methods of programming even once we resume our usual operations."

## On Mother's Day, Beatitudes for a Housewife

Submitted by Maria Bappert

Blessed is she whose daily tasks are a labor of love; for her willing hand and happy heart translate duty into privilege, and her labor becomes a service to God and all mankind.

Blessed is she who opens the door to welcome both stranger and well-loved friend, for gracious hospitality is a test of brotherly love.

Blessed is she who mends stockings and toys and broken hearts, for her understanding is a balm to humanity.

Blessed is she who children love,

for the love of a child is more to be valued than that of fortune or fame.

Blessed is she who sings at her work; for music lightens the heaviest load and brightens the dullest chore.

Blessed is she who serves laughter and smiles with every meal; for her buoyancy of spirit is an aid to mental and physical digestion.

Blessed is she who preserves the sanctity of the Christian home; for hers is a sacred trust that crowns her with dignity.

~Author Unknown

### ST. MARY'S from p. 6

encouraging to know that they're with us."

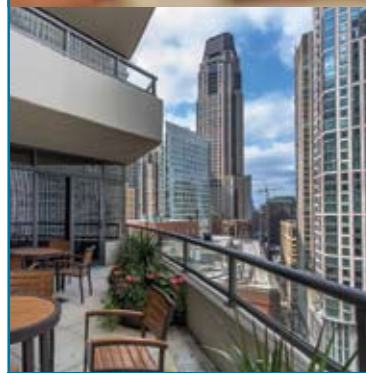
While coping with the pandemic has been challenging, the residents and

staff of St. Mary's Home remain resilient and hopeful. "We feel the support of our neighbors, and we are profoundly grateful," said Sister Carolyn. "That and the grace of God are keeping us going and filling us with hope."



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# Police Beat...

## Man choked woman to death in River North hotel room

Prosecutors today accused a West Side man of strangling a woman in her River North hotel room last month. Lavarius McFadden, 24, is charged with first-degree murder. A judge ordered him held without bail.

Officials said Elizabeth Long, 22, checked into the SpringHill Suites at 410 N. Dearborn on March 12. Two days later, she arranged to meet with McFadden via the Tagged social media app in exchange for \$100, prosecutors said.

He went to her hotel room around 4:37 p.m., but then claimed that he didn't know that he had to pay for their meeting, according to prosecutors. When Long continued to ask for payment, McFadden pushed her and then strangled her until her eyes rolled back into her head, a prosecutor said.

McFadden allegedly told investigators that Long was reaching for a knife but he didn't give her a chance to get it. With Long unconscious on the bed, McFadden took the knife and her phone, then left the hotel shortly after 5 p.m., prosecutors said.

Hotel employees went to Long's room about an hour later to check on her condition after the front desk received a call from a friend who was concerned about her safety, according to statements made in bond court today. McFadden claimed he did not know Long was a prostitute.

Fire department personnel tried to revive Long, but she was pronounced dead shortly after their arrival.

Prosecutors said hotel surveillance video captured images of McFadden carrying Long's bright blue phone out of the lobby after the alleged attack. His "distinctive neck tattoos" are allegedly visible on the footage.

The Cook County Medical Examiner determined Long's death was a homicide, but it has not been able to reach a conclusion about the cause of death because the office has been overwhelmed by COVID-19 cases, a prosecutor said.

Investigators reviewed tracking data from Long's phone to determine that it stayed near the SpringHill Suites from the time of her arrival until McFadden allegedly took it. Phone records reportedly show the device moving to the Austin neighborhood, where McFadden lives, and then continuing to DuPage County where it remained until police arrested McFadden there over the weekend.

Cops served a search warrant at the girlfriend's house on Saturday. Officers said they recovered Long's cell phone as well as the blue jacket that McFadden allegedly wore to his meeting with Long.

McFadden continued to use Long's phone and even posed as Long in text messages from her phone after the murder, according to prosecutors. He allegedly arranged for at least two men to send a total of about \$200 to his girlfriend's cash app for prospective meetings with Long.

Prosecutors said McFadden admitted to strangling Long and taking her phone and knife from the hotel room.

## Uptown men hospitalized after shooting each other



Kimberly Todd Darryl Young

Two people are facing weapons charges in connection with a double-shooting that left one man dead and another injured in Uptown on April 28.

Police previously said two men opened fire on each other on the 4800 block of N. Magnolia at 12:14 p.m., leaving a 23-year-old man in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the back of his head and a 19-year-old in good condition with a gunshot wound to his wrist.

The older man, identified by prosecutors as Moses Joseph was pronounced dead at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center on April 29.

Prosecutors said Joseph and his girlfriend Kimberly Todd, 34, drove to the corner of Magnolia and Ainsle streets shortly before the shooting and sat in Todd's parked vehicle for a few minutes. Joseph then got out of Todd's car and approached a group of four rival gang members who were standing on Magnolia, according to Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy.

Joseph then opened fire on the four men while several bystanders ran for cover, including a couple that was walking their child in a stroller along with their dog, Murphy said. The 19-year-old victim was struck in the hand by one shot.

Then Darryl Young, 18, allegedly returned fire, striking Joseph in the back of the head, and fled the scene.

The family's dog broke away from its owner and ran into a nearby street where it was struck by a vehicle. It was later euthanized.

Upon hearing the gunshots, Todd ran to Joseph's side and recovered his handgun from under his body, according to Murphy. When a good Samaritan began administering first aid to Joseph, Todd allegedly tried to hide his gun in the woman's unattended bag.

Arriving officers, tipped off by the woman, arrested Todd and recovered the handgun from the woman's bag. Murphy said Todd admitted to grabbing the gun and putting it in the woman's satchel.

## Robberies reported near Mag Mile, on Lake Red Line platform

Chicago police are investigating two recent robberies in the downtown area – one near the Magnificent Mile and the other on a Loop Red Line CTA platform.

Most recently, a man mugged a 24-year-old woman around 11 a.m. April 26 as she walked on the 100 block of E. Grand in Streeterville. The offender grabbed the woman's shoulders, took property from her, and then ran southbound on Lower Michigan Ave., according to police.

She described the robber as a black man in his early- to mid-20's who stands 6' to 6'-3" tall. He wore a multi-color sweatshirt, light jeans, and white gym shoes.

In the other mugging, a 19-year-old man reported that a group of five men approached him as he stood on the Lake Street Red Line platform around 9 p.m. April 25.

One of the offenders punched the man in his nose and then took his wallet and phone before the group fled. The victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition, police said.

He said the main offender is a black

man in his 30's who stands 5'-6" to 5'-10" tall and weighs 150-190 lbs. The suspect has dreadlocks and wore a blue beanie hat with a blue jacket and jeans.

## Carjacker batters, robs Edgewater motorist

An armed man battered, robbed, and carjacked a driver in the Edgewater neighborhood April 30, police said. No arrests have been made.

The offender attacked the victim from behind as the man got out of his car on the 5800 block of N. Kenmore around 10:35 p.m., according to Chicago police spokesperson Kellie Bartoli.

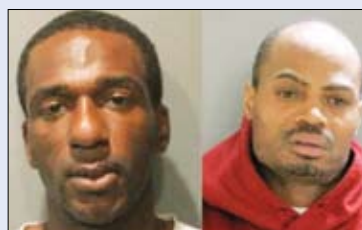
He pushed the 32-year-old victim, demanded money, and struck him on the top of his head with a weapon that may have been a handgun, Bartoli said. The robber went through the victim's pockets, took his wallet, phone, and car keys, and then drove away with the man's car.

According to the victim, the robber is a black male between 18- and 30-years-old who stands 5'-10" to 6' tall, and weighs 160 to 175 lbs. He reportedly wore a black ski mask and a black puffy coat.

The stolen car is a blue 2019 Toyota Camry bearing a license plate that begins with BG385.

Area 3 detectives are investigating the case.

## Two charged with Gold Coast auto burglaries



Willis Baker Larry McGee

Prosecutors have charged two men with felony burglary after police allegedly saw them breaking into cars in the Gold Coast.

Officers in the 18th Police District pulled up CPD surveillance camera feeds after a 911 caller reported people breaking into cars on the first block of E. Scott shortly after midnight April 29, according to police and Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy.

The cops watched as one man broke a car window, climbed half-way into the vehicle, and emerged with stolen property, Murphy said in bond court April 30. He then got into the passenger side of a black SUV, which was driven by another man.

The camera monitors dispatched descriptions of the men and their vehicle to patrol officers who spotted an SUV driving the wrong way in the 900 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. a few minutes later, Murphy said.

Police pulled the car over and officers in the camera room identified the occupants as the car burglars, according to Murphy. A total of four vehicles were burglarized, according to a CPD media statement.

Prosecutors charged Willis Baker, 38, with felony burglary and misdemeanor criminal trespass to vehicles. Murphy said Baker previously served prison time for residential burglary in 2008 and possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

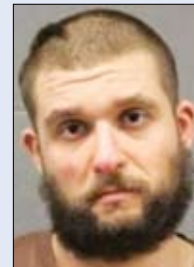
Judge Susana Ortiz released him on his own recognizance.

Larry McGee, 50, is charged with felony burglary, misdemeanor theft and driving on a suspended license. Prosecutors said his criminal history includes five drug-related felony convictions and three misdemeanor convictions. Ortiz also released him on his own recognizance.

## Man who crashed into CTA bus had rifle, 10K rounds of ammo, and 'anti-government manifesto'

A Northwest Side man who crashed into a CTA bus April 30 had a loaded rifle next to him, more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition in his trunk, and an "anti-government manifesto" written in Polish, said prosecutors.

Lukasz Strok, 29, was southbound on Clark St. around 4:20 a.m. when he ran three red lights and collided with the bus at Washington St., according to the state's allegations. The bus driver suffered two broken legs when she crashed into a bank building, police said. Two of her three passengers were treated at area hospitals.



Lukasz Strok

Police found a loaded Smith & Wesson rifle with a loaded magazine "accessible to the driver" along with 10,000 rounds of ammunition and the alleged manifesto in Strok's trunk, an assistant state's attorney said Friday. Police said he admitted to "blowing a red light and hitting a bus," but Strok's attorney denied any such statements had been made.

The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force

responded to the scene and later questioned Strok, according to statements made in bond court.

Prosecutors charged Strok with felony unauthorized use of a weapon and misdemeanor counts of DUI, reckless driving, and operating a vehicle without insurance.

Strok, who allegedly has a Firearm Owner's ID card but does not hold a concealed carry license, purchased the rifle in Hoffman Estates on April 1.

He was treated and released for minor injuries after the crash. Prosecutors said he declined to take a blood alcohol test, but blood drawn at the hospital had an alcohol content of .07, which is one-hundredth of a point below the legal limit.

Prosecutors said he currently has a weapons charge pending in Michigan and prosecutors said he was charged with threatening to blow up Taft High School in 2009, but those charges were later dropped.

A public defender said Strok denies the allegations against him and the so-called manifesto is "fiction from the internet."

Judge Susana Ortiz set bail for Strok at \$250,000. He will need to post a deposit bond of \$25,000 to go free before trial.

## Lakeview burglar arrested after he returns to apologize

Police last week solved a Lakeview comic store burglary that was captured on surveillance cameras in March. And they can thank the thief's guilty conscience for helping them clear the case.

During the March 8 break-in at Graham Crackers, 3162 N. Broadway, video footage showed a prowler walking around the store as he called a friend for advice on what he should steal.

"I'm in this store," he was heard saying. "I need to know... Marvels, all kinds of sh#t." He asked the person on the other end to wake up a female who apparently knows more about comics than he does. "Wake her up. I'm in this b#tch."

The burglar eventually selected Magic Cards, a TV, a KISS Starchild figure, a Bart Simpson bank, and a few other items, store manager John Rob-

inson said.

As with most random break-ins, detectives didn't get much traction as they looked at the case. Then, last Wednesday, they got a phone call from the store manager. The burglar had just walked into the store to apologize.

"He felt guilty," a prosecutor said in bond court Friday. The burglar even brought back the store's stolen iPad.

Cops arrested Derrick Jones, 31, and prosecutors charged him with felony burglary. Judge Susana Ortiz released him on his own recognizance.

Jones admitted to breaking into the store, according to detectives. He has two felony and three misdemeanor convictions in his past, prosecutors said.

## River North car thefts

Police say there has been a rash of motor vehicle thefts on the Gold Coast and in River North. In each of the incidents, the victims' vehicle is parked, unoccupied, and running with the keys in the ignition when an offender will approach and enter the vehicle while the driver is away. The offender will then drive off with victim vehicle from the scene.

Incidents include one on the 600 block of N. State St., April 10, in the evening hours; 200 block of W. Erie St., April 16, in the evening hours; 0-100 block of W. Illinois St., April 23, in the evening hours; 0-100 block of W. Grand Ave., April 23, in the evening hours, and the 1100 block of N. State St., April 24, in the afternoon hours.

The offenders is described as a male, African American, 20-25 years of age.

## Woman dead, husband detained after domestic altercation in Uptown

An Uptown woman has died following a domestic altercation in her Uptown apartment last week, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office and Chicago police.

Isabel Rosin, 26, was pronounced

dead by doctors at Weiss Hospital shortly after 6 a.m. April 29. An autopsy is scheduled.

Rosin has worked as a supervisor at LensCrafters and graduated from DePaul Univ., according to her LinkedIn page.

Police responded to Rosin's home on the 1200 block of W. Carmen around 2:50 p.m. Tuesday after a man who identified himself as her husband called 911 to report that she had died, according to emergency dispatch records.

A CPD spokesperson said her injuries were received during "a domestic-related altercation."

Rosin was unconscious when police arrived. An officer said she had been "suffocated."

Police took a man into custody at Rosin's apartment. Charges are pending against him. Officers executed a search warrant at her home around 3 a.m. Wednesday.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

# Shop owner puts business on pause, returns to nursing

BY EDGEVILLEBUZZ.COM

As business owners struggle to cope with the current COVID-19 crisis, they are searching for ways to survive while under the shutdown order. One Edgewater bakery owner however, has decided to step away from her store temporarily and return to her previous profession of 22 years as a nurse in order to help care for those struggling with the deadly virus.

When Edge of Sweetness, 6034 N. Broadway, opened a few years back, Kate Merrill took a gamble and followed her dreams to become a local business owner. She became an instant hit as a full service bakery and cafe that serves up homemade baked goods, coffees, and teas while also offering a commercial shared kitchen that food-related businesses can rent.

That success came to an abrupt halt once the COVID-19 took hold in Chicago leaving local storefronts closed, employees out of work, and owners scrambling to make ends meet. As the number of coronavirus cases and deaths rose daily, Merrill decided to take a break from the business and return to her previous profession as a nurse.

It was a decision that put Merrill directly into a job that is now a very risky profession.

In a detailed and emotional Edge of Sweetness Facebook post, she not only explained her motives but also gave a plea to the public to heed the precautions put out by health officials in the fight

against the virus.

"To be honest I had no desire to return to nursing," Merrill said. "I am enjoying running my business and learning how to lead my team. I knew it was the right thing to do because people needed help and I could provide that help. That's just who I am, if I live within my values I am okay with whatever happens."

Her online post revealed a bit of her daily routine as a nurse on the front lines at Chicago's Mount Sinai Hospital. It gave an honest look into the institution and the critical work its employees perform every day.

Her words describe the isolated time that patients experience while in the ICU and the unbelievable toll the virus takes on their bodies. According to Merrill, ICU patients are usually on ventilators with multiple drips of life-saving medications. As the weakest under hospital care start to experience organ failure, procedures such as a daily dialysis to help the kidneys properly function are performed.

"This illness is unpredictable with a very quick decline and they go hard, not responding like they 'typically' should to treatment," Merrill wrote. "As frontline caregivers we witness this illness at

its worst, we speak with the distraught families, comfort the patients and collaborate to do all we can. I empathize with everyone suffering with the novel Coronavirus, families, friends and patients alike, the psychological toll of the unknown makes it so much harder to handle."

The medical staff gets a front seat view to the pain the patients and their families go through during the process. It is a horrific scene that most of us are sheltered from as we are forced to stay at home.

Healthcare workers are at a heightened risk of psychological distress as well. The ever increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the overwhelming workload, and insufficient personal protective equipment and drugs, all can lead to psychological distress. Many in the medical field will experience depression, anxiety, insomnia, and distress during the crisis. The likelihood of these issues increases greatly among women.

The health risks to those on the frontline is unimaginable. However, the dedication of those medical professionals who continue to care for others during uncertain times is inspirational to say the least.



Kate Merrill

NURSING see p. 10

## Wealthy Latin private school asks for PPP bailout funds

BY JIM VAIL

It seems the rich do it all the time in this city - ask for a hand-out from the government pleading poverty while on top of a tall pile of assets and cash.

The private Latin School in the Gold Coast, which charges about \$35,000 for its annual tuition, applied for a federal stimulus loan because of the current coronavirus crisis. They have annual revenue topping \$55 million, and boast some of the most blue-blooded, one-percenter supporters in town.

The school has not returned the tuition money it took from its students despite conducting on-line classes, according to Chicago Crain's Business.

The Latin School told Crain's in an emailed statement that they are seeking the bailout to minimize the disruption of the pandemic to their students, families and employees and "ensure the stability of the school in the long term."

"Given the uncertainty of the situation, we took all appropriate steps including seeking support through the Paycheck Protection Program loan (PPP) program," Latin School Head Randall Dunn wrote. The emergency program gives loans up to \$10 million,

which can be converted to grants after two months if they keep employees on the payroll.

As of a list published on April 16 by the SBA, all totaled Illinois has received 69,893 PPP loans totaling nearly \$16 billion. Latin School did not say how much they were seeking or may have received.

Many small businesses such as cafes, restaurants and hair salons in the city have been forced to shut down, having received no relief from the city, while corporate competitors like Potbelly received a \$10 million rescue loan. While initially ignoring heavy criticism,

the sandwich chain finally backed down and said it would return the federal aid.

Recently Harvard Univ. announced it would turn down almost \$9 million in federal coronavirus relief, a day after President Donald Trump excoriated the wealthy Ivy League school over taxpayer money it stood to receive. Harvard has a \$40 billion endowment. Stanford and Princeton universities also rejected the federal funding amid the growing scrutiny.

According to Crain's, the Lat-

BAILOUT see p. 10

## Mask collection and give-away Saturday

A mask collection and distribution day will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9, in the parking lot of St. Ita's Church, 5500 N. Broadway.

Through the citywide drive, residents can make and donate homemade cloth masks that will be provided to homeless shelters, community health clinics, and other organizations to prevent outbreaks among the City's most high-risk residents. Under state order, all those two years of

age and older must wear a mask in public when maintaining six feet of physical distancing is not possible, unless they cannot medically tolerate a face covering.

Many cloth masks are washable, but some aren't. Those who use them infrequently may reuse them as long as they are not dirty or damaged. For more information call your local aldermanic ward office, or dial 311 with questions about acquiring/making masks for your household.



This massive clog of so-called flushable wipes were thrown down the drains and then pulled out of the system downstream.

## The 'mother of all clogged sinks'

With residents going through more Clorox wipes than ever these days due to the fear of the COVID-19 virus, many of the used wipes are now ending up in the wrong place.

This photo shows perhaps the mother of all clogged sinks, this is a massive clog of so called flushable wipes that were thrown down the drains.

These wipes snag on any imperfection in sewer pipes, catch passing debris and grease, and create a "ball" that will grow to plug the pipe. They clog your home pipes, the city sewer pipes and most ultimately jam our wastewater recycling plants, causing us millions of dollars in damage and delays.

Flushing wipes, paper towels and similar products down toilets will clog sewers and cause backups and overflows at wastewater treatment facilities, creating an additional public health risk in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

demic.

Chicago wastewater treatment facilities are now reporting issues with their sewer management collection systems. The city is asking residents to not discard wipes in the toilet, but instead to throw them in the trash to avoid backups and overflow. A majority of urban centers are on centralized sewage collection systems depend on gravity and enough water flow to move along human waste and biodegradable toilet paper.

Wipes are among the leading causes of sewer system backups, impacting sewer system and treatment plant pumps and treatment systems. Many spills go to our lakes, rivers, and oceans where they have broad ranging impacts on public-health and the environment. Preventing sewer spills is important, especially during this COVID-19 emergency, for the protection of public health and the environment.

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Dr. Sandy Goldberg and husband, Greg Heinz.



Helen Martin's High Fashion.



(Left) Edward Stein with artist Rosemary Fanti.



(Right) Painting of Columbia Yacht Club's Edward Stein.



Ken Moll and Mary Claire Scorsone Moll.

**MAYBE** from p. 2

cancer. **GOT THE BLUES:** Chicago's famed Blues Fest is cancelled for 2020.

**GIBSON'S LOCKDOWN:** **Kathy O'Malley Piccone** says requests have been heard. The Steakhouse unveiled their newest offering: DIY Cocktail Kits. Dirty Martinis, Manhattans & Margaritas, oh my. Available for delivery and carry-out.

**TOP CHIC:** Longtime fashion model and wildlife adventurer now has a new book out. **Helen Martin**, a well-known beauty around Chicago runways has penned "High Fashion, High Adventure," an insiders look at style and elegance in Chicago and the world. Several photos from the late great **Victor Skrebneski** are included. Martin was a collaborator and established favorite in that famed studio.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** NBC TV and Silver Lining Foundation's **Dr. Sandy Goldberg** and husband, **Greg Heinz**, just received the best news ever. They are to be great grandparents in October.

**LOCKDOWN QUACK:** For **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** the Moveable Feast continues in their little hall between the living room and the library. It has a window to look out. So they donned their hunting outfits with blaze orange vests and tracked down a duck from The Duck Inn in Bridge-

port! And so it continues.

**LOCKDOWN SOCIETY:** Writer **Sher-rill Bodine** is channeling her Grandmother's Sunday dinners of chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, baking powder biscuits, banana cream pie, but this time from Cheesecake Factory Skokie. She may have lost her twang but she'll will never lose her love of her Southern cooking, learned growing up in Mud Lick, Kentucky, or her love of sharing... **Courtney G. Pitt** is channeling her Southern roots at breakfast by making homemade biscuits and sausage gravy, so no need to eat for the rest of the day... **Mark Olley** has had the slow cooker out and creating scrumptious pot roast... sailing skipper **Kevin Ryan** in California says the road to survival is a choice martini and oysters (who could argue with that?)... **Cathy Bell Bartholomay** has her 19 and 17-year-old sons, **Joey** and **Charley**, at home from school, so she is trying to spice up the regular flow of ideas and opinions with movie night, "topic of the day" and dinner table debates, but now she and husband, **Bill Bartholomey, Jr.**, have polished off their best college skills for a game of "water pong," based on the popular beer pong game played at universities, what a lively place... **Paul R Iacono** says the secret to great quarantine cuisine is carb-free lemon risotto with asparagus, peas and parmesan. The ultimate comfort food.

(Kidding about the carb-free part)... column fan **George Rutkowski** startled to say the least, when he walked out of his house only to find the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile and the Planter Peanutmobile both parked outside his door... **Stephanie Leese Emrich** is one with the lawn in a Zen moment. No phones, no Zoom. Alone with thoughts and plenty of ideas. One, as the earth turns herself into Spring... powerhouse attorney **Ken Moll** enjoys a home-trim from stylist **Mary Claire Scorsone Moll** and is looking good... and we are all grateful for sage Lockdown advice from **Irene Michaels**, "Use the good dishes."

**MASTERPIECE:** Artist **Rosemary Fanti** has done it again creating a superb portrait of **Edward B. Stein**, Commodore Emeritus of the Columbia Yacht Club Chicago, commemorating his 100th birthday, bringing to life the words of **Henry David Thoreau**. "The sail, the play of its pulse so like our own lives: so thin and yet so full of life, so noiseless when it labors hardest, so noisy and impatient when least effective."

**LOCKDOWN MODEL:** Fashion designer **Lauren Lein**, delighting in her son, **Andrew Santos**— modeling one of her latest faux snakeskin face masks during the college hiatus.

**LOCKDOWN SHOUTOUT:** To everyone at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill. Your customers, your friends, have separation anxiety in this pandemic from the cozy home you make for us all. Your many kindnesses and welcoming hospitality is a great gift in

our lives. Hope we will be back together soon. Let us know how you are. Send a photo. **Peter Axelsen's** recent photo was a happy reminder of better days to come.

**LOCKDOWN VOWS:** The Drake Hotel's **Shaun Rajah** is excited to announce that he's been certified to legally officiate weddings.

**GIDDY-UP:** Chicago's horse-drawn carriage industry will cease operations Jan. 1, 2021 as per the Chicago City Council who brought the controversial tourist attraction, wedding delight and prom date favorite to a close. Gone will be those country fragrances around the Water Tower and Boul Mich and the frequent congestion in the Gold Coast from slow moving nags and their road apple mayhem in the 42nd Ward.

**TUFANO'S TRIUMPH:** Longtime old-style neighborhood favorite trattoria, Tufano's, AKA "Joey's," on Vernon Park Place, closed for the Lockdown, the first time in 90 years, will now be open for CARRY OUTS ONLY with curbside service, Thursday -Sunday 4 to 8 p.m. Now you're talking. Photographer **John Reilly** will be thrilled. He loves the gelato. Best wishes to **Joe Di Buono** and the team, call 312-733-3393.

**One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done. - Marie Curie**

tog515@gmail.com

**NURSING** from p. 9

The purpose of Merrill's letter is not to scare us but to show why the procedures in place are so dire at this time. She reminds us not to visit with anyone over the age of 60 or are immunocompromised (unless absolutely necessary), social distance, wear clean gloves and masks when needed, clean and sanitize, cover your mouth and nose, and reach out for help when needed.

"I wanted our community of customers to know why I was putting nursing in front of my business, which is my passion and my dream," Merrill explained. "I was also terrified of potential effects of an outbreak in our neighborhood with so many longtime residents here. Edgewater is a wonderfully supportive community and I didn't want them to put themselves in dan-

ger in order to support me because they feared we would close. I was there to support them and they were there to support me, the risk was too much. I want people to stay healthy, keep safe and take precautions, it is just good practice."

Merrill wants to remind the community that Edge of Sweetness is still performing weekly stock up sales and corporate and personal shipping. When not at the hospital, she is working remotely on growth strategies, providing leadership and mentoring her team of employees who have been able to come back part-time thanks to a PPP loan.

Merrill shared a quote from a friend, "This is a great time to be good." From your neighbors to you, thanks for all your goodness Kate.

**BAILOUT** from p. 9

in school community was divided over whether such a wealthy private school with a large endowment should seek money intended for small businesses hurt by the crisis.

Francis Parker Elementary School, 330 W. Webster, in Lincoln Park, which also charges high tuition as a private school, told the media it would not seek a federal bailout because they understand that money is badly needed by the small businesses struggling to survive.

"While Parker will feel the impacts of COVID-19 as a community, as an institution with ongoing revenue and a robust

endowment, we will make it through this challenging time," a Parker spokesperson wrote. "Other small businesses and non-profits may not - and those organizations will need the limited PPP resources more than we do."

Latin has not been shy to use its wealth and clout to get government favors. They twice tried to seal a deal with the Chicago Park District to privatize a part of Lincoln Park so they would have almost exclusive rights to a soccer field that they would help pay to construct. Protest erupted once details of the public-private partnership were revealed and eventually squashed by a judge.

North Township Real Estate For Sale		
<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LOWELL HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- TRINITY GREEN LLC-88 W SCHILLER Defendants 19 CH 10492 88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001 CHICAGO, IL 60610 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 14, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 28, 2020, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001, CHICAGO, IL 60610 Property Index No. 17-04-209-043-1008 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$60,897.28. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than</p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>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. 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Case # 19 CH 10492</p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>ENCE BRAUDY CARL SANDBURG VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION NO. 2; ANDREW BRAUDY, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS AN INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF FLORENCE MARY BRAUDY; MICHAEL BRAUDY; ESTATE OF FLORENCE MARY BRAUDY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 17 CH 11777 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 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. 17-04-207-086-1022. Commonly known as 1460 North Sandburg Terrace, Apartment 2501, Chicago, IL 60610. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 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 Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455. W17-0668 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13150319 292929 222222 151515</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</b></p>

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## The physical, emotional and social costs of loneliness

Evidence suggests that loneliness, or social isolation, might be as significant a health risk factor as smoking, obesity or childhood trauma. Trish Abbey, a licensed clinical social worker and executive director of the Kott Gerontology Institute, will examine the rising incidence of loneliness, its physical and emotional consequences, and review effective prevention and intervention during a virtual online meeting 1 p.m. Saturday, May 9. Participants must register for the Zoom meeting by May 7 by emailing [edgewater@edgewaterchicago.com](mailto:edgewater@edgewaterchicago.com). For those who'd rather just drink to manage feelings of loneliness, Edgewater Village will be hosting a Quarantini 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 8. Dress up, fix your favorite cocktail or mocktail and meet up via Zoom for conversation and to socialize with other Edgewater Villagers. Register by May 7 at [edgewaterchicago@gmail.com](mailto:edgewaterchicago@gmail.com).

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## Annual State of Uptown luncheon goes virtual

The Uptown Chamber of Commerce's annual State of Uptown luncheon with local aldermen and others will be held starting at noon on Thursday, May 21 - virtually. This business-focused forum will bring together community leaders, business owners, and engaged neighbors to discuss the state of the community, city, and local economy. Registration information will be available soon at [exploreuptown.org](http://exploreuptown.org).

# Signs of the Times

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB KITSOS

Signage in North Side neighborhoods speaks volumes as residents and businesses cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, offering messages of encouragement and support to their neighbors and front-line workers.



Maybe what the world needs now is a little more of what can be found in the 1500 block of Thorndale.



A residence in the 2000 block of Summerdale is just one of many home mask makers dotting city streets.



The Whole Foods, 6046 N. Broadway, offers older customers an early shopping time.



The building sign in the 5500 block of N. Broadway belies the feelings of Edgewater resident Adriel Manzo. He said, "The country has been divided; we are not getting good leadership. The country would be in better shape had the administration addressed this problem earlier."



A sign at 1415 W. Foster addresses the guidelines promoted by city and state officials during this crisis.

## REASSESS from p. 1

selling out its inventory and preparing to sell their property now as they realized that they can no longer afford to keep this property, as their property taxes have skyrocketed along with rising property value in the neighborhood. The businesses' income did not grow as fast as did the property taxes.

Another small businessman said he was struggling with his rent "from the high assessments before coronavirus so recovery in the aftermath will be harder," said Jimmy Chen, owner of four Poke Burrito locations in Cook County. "I am grateful for Assessor Kaegi's plans to reassess property at a time when restaurants and other small businesses need it most, but what happens during the next round of assessments?"

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy - we are the friends, families and neighbors that make up the fabric of county. Will Assessor Kaegi want to help us after this crisis is over or stack the cards against us like before?"

"This is an unprecedented crisis and we're taking necessary steps to address it," said Cook County Assessor Kaegi. "In view of the state and federal governments' declaration of Illinois and Cook County as major disaster areas, and the pandemic's toll on markets and property values, we are adjusting assessments to reflect this reality. To do so for only one portion of the county would unfairly shift the tax burden and create an inequitable system."

Cook County is reassessed triennially, which means one-third of the county is reassessed each year.

In 2020, the south and west townships of Chicago are scheduled to be reassessed and this work will continue. While properties in some south suburban townships have already received reassessment notices, those which have not will receive notices that reflect estimated economic effects of COVID-19 on property values.

The city of Chicago - and North Side - will be reassessed in 2021.

But even with his COVID-19 reassessment plan, some commercial property owners still think Assessor Office's are inaccurate and unfair. In a recent interview with WBEZ, Assessor Kaegi admits he plans to assess some businesses, like grocery stores and self-storage centers, differently than other businesses based on their perceived economic stability. These unfair practices hurt businesses before COVID-19 and will continue to hurt them going forward.

"The Assessor has one job - to assess the fair market value of property. The Assessor's office shouldn't be trying to make judgement calls based on assumptions about how well they are doing from afar. I would invite him to meet local retailers and explain to them how he believes they are "stable" and therefore don't need a reassessment. He isn't supposed to pick winners and losers," said Maureen Martino, Executive Director of the Lakeview

East Chamber of Commerce. "He needs to consult property owners, taxpayers, small business owners and those of us who have most at stake to come up with solutions together. We don't just need change right now - we need a promise of reform to the commercial and industrial assessment system to more confidently reopen our doors in the future."

During his election campaign, Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi promised to

## DISTRICT from p. 1

serve so we can move closer to our goal of making Chicago the safest big city in the nation," said Supt. David O. Brown. "This expansion demonstrates our commitment to seeking justice and bringing closure to victims and their families."

The expansion is designed to boost the effectiveness of the Bureau of Patrol teams that work out of the Police Areas, giving district commanders more resources and accountability. Previously, specialized gang and saturation teams operated out of the three existing Areas. These teams are designed for quick response situations and can target large scale criminal activity across multiple police districts. With two more Areas, these teams will be better able to blanket the city and safeguard every neighborhood.

The opening should make it easier for witnesses and victims to meet with detectives. With the new boundaries, CPD believes residents will have better access and

reform the assessment system, but those reforms ratcheted up property taxes downtown and on the North Side. The COVID-19 economic shut down that was forced on local businesses by City Hall and Gov. JB Pritzker proved to hurt the economy and neighborhood businesses even more. And with property taxes no longer relating to the income a commercial building can generate, a financial reckoning and real estate crash seems to be on the horizon.

communication with detectives, helping to expedite the timeliness of investigations while also building stronger community relations and restoring trust.

Increasing the number of Areas will also reduce the time it takes detectives to arrive on the scene of a shooting or homicide, meaning detectives could locate witnesses on-scene and lower the risk of contaminated evidence.

All five Areas will be fitted with Area Technology Centers (ATCs). The ATC rooms act as nerve centers for smart policing technology within the Police Areas. With these tech centers, detectives are able to access surveillance video and gather digital evidence more easily. Analysts from the University of Chicago Crime Lab also work in partnership with the detectives in these ATC rooms to help in clearing cases more quickly. The new ATCs are being funded by philanthropist and Gold Coast resident Ken Griffin, who also funded the tech hubs in the existing Areas.



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