



The Randolph Street Market Festival opens Memorial Day weekend featuring 200 vendors from across North America, live music, and food vendors.

Chicago's most-beloved treasure hunt

The Randolph Street Market Festival is back for its 22nd year, officially kicking off its 2025 season with the May Market on Saturday, May 24, and Sunday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at 1341 W. Randolph St.

This outdoor and indoor season opener promises a rain-or-shine celebration of treasure-hunting over vintage objects, entertainment, and community fun.

Since its founding in 2003 it has been known as one of the top antique and vintage festivals in the

country, with a blend of antiques, art, indie designer goods, vinyl, global treasures, mid-century furnishings to indie fashion, rock-and-roll posters and ephemera. This season some 200 dealers are arriving from across the country to tempt treasure hunters of all ages.

Jewelry hunters will find traders specializing in fine estate pieces, vintage costume jewelry, and contemporary designs.

Tickets are on sale now at randolphstreetmarket.com.

Nearly 40 years after first announced, long-stalled Du Sable Park may become a reality

BY PETER VON BUOL

Nearly 40 years after it was first announced by then-Mayor Harold Washington, the Chicago Park District's [CPD] nearly three-and-a-half acre DuSable (Jean Baptiste Pointe) Park may finally be opening in the public within the next two years.

"We have been working on the design of DuSable Park for a couple of years now. It will hopefully be built by 2026-2027. We are [now] in the process of finalizing drawings and will need all of the City of Chicago approvals; the Chicago City Council and Friends of the Parks, [and other entities]," said Laura Saviano, marketing principal for Ross Barney Architects, a Chicago-based architectural firm that is part of the DuSable Park Design Alliance [DPDA].

Located on a peninsula of reclaimed land along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the park is directly east of Lake Shore Dr. and north of the Chicago River. While not yet open to the public, the park has long been covered in perennial wildflowers and shrubs. In its current state, the park is meant to evoke the landscape of about 250 years ago, when DuSable and his wife, a Kithawa, had settled here.

"The DPDA is led by two of Chicago's most recognized and respected design leaders: Ross Barney Architects and Brook Architecture," said Saviano.

According to Saviano, the DPDA was formed to create a unique, diverse, and inclusive joint venture formed to provide the bold, innovative, and collaborative design services demanded by the mission and spirit of the DuSable Park project.

Four decades ago, DuSable Park was conceived by four Chicago residents, Mayor Washington; Ramon Bertell Price, the mayor's half-brother and a well-known local artist/educator; Margaret T. Burroughs, who had founded Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History in 1961, and Peggy A. Montes, a former student of Burroughs and who had founded the Bronzeville Children's Museum. Montes served as the first president of the park's advisory council. Advisory councils are volunteer organizations officially recognized by the CPD and they help support the functioning of parks.

Among the park's founders, only Montes is still alive. Today, her son Paul J. Montes II, Esq. serves as president of the park advisory council.

"At this juncture, the plans will be reviewed and shared with the public. Next steps include plans and sketches to be submitted to Chicago's Community Development Commission for approval and then, permit drawings. Upon the completion of the first tower, the developer will build the park,"

PARK see p. 12

What is Fern Hill's \$300K community benefits agreement with Old Town?

Hopkins endorses Fern Hill agreement, but some in community want more than promises

BY ADRIANA FOUSTANOU

As plans for Fern Hill's high-rise project at North Ave. and La-Salle St. move forward, news of a \$300,000 community contribution from the developer to the Old Town Merchants and Residents Association [OTMRA] has drawn both praise and scrutiny from Old Town area residents.

The money is being called a "community donation," and was first made public on April 15, when OTMRA uploaded a signed agreement with Fern Hill to its website.

Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd], confirmed the deal and emphasized that the funds are meant to support neighborhood rat abatement. "The fund is for rodent control, it's a community contribution to

the effort to reduce the rat population," he said in a recent interview.

However, while the donation has been widely cited in interviews and emails, it is not included in the final signed legal agreement, the "Community Memorandum of Understanding" dated April 14.

The agreement does contain the terms "\$300,000 Community Donation into an escrow fund" but not "rat abatement."

What the agreement does include are detailed behavioral, construction, and use restrictions on the Fern Hill development. Among them:

- "The Property shall not be operated as a short-term vacation rental building..." (Section 3, page 2, Final Signed OTMRA—

Fern Hill Declaration, Apr. 14)

- "Disruptive construction activities... shall not occur on Sundays at any time during construction. Between May 15 and Sept. 15, disruptive construction shall also not occur on Saturdays." (Section 2-3, page 1)

The agreement also gives the alderman enforcement power. "[The] Alderman shall have authority to impose a \$5,000 fee per day for violations of the agreement's terms." (Section 3, page 2)

And to facilitate oversight and communication, the "Developer shall participate in quarterly community meetings with the Alderman and community stakeholders." (Section 4, page 2)

While the agreement allows

AGREEMENT see p. 12

New developer has deal to buy northern half of stalled Lincoln Yards

JDL is under contract to buy the 27 acres lost by Sterling Bay

A Chicago firm known for big residential developments has struck a preliminary deal to buy about half of the Lincoln Yards land on the city's North Side, according to reporting by Ryan Ori in CoStar, adding a new financial backer to the stalled development along the Chicago River at Cortland St.

JDL Development, led by Jim Letchinger, is under contract to buy the approximately 27-acre northern portion of the site along the riverfront border of Lincoln Park and Bucktown. JDL is purchasing it from lender Bank OZK, according to Ori.

JDL is a major developer of apartment and condominium towers in Chicago.

The bank recently took back that portion of the 55-acre development from Sterling Bay, after they fell into financial troubles.

For years they had tried to create a \$6 billion mix of residential, retail, office, entertainment district on the industrial land that once held Finkl Steel.

In a Securities and Exchange

Commission filing on Tuesday, the bank said it entered into a contract on May 2 to sell the land that it has valued on its books at \$84 million, without identifying the buyer. Bank OZK has reportedly given JDL 60 days to explore

The bank recently took back that portion of the 55-acre development from Sterling Bay, after they fell into financial troubles.

the purchase before funds must be paid to put the property under contract, according to Crain's Chicago.

Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd], told Crain's that he has held preliminary conversations with Letchinger, saying that JDL realizes "the market won't bear what Sterling Bay was trying to do."

In 2019, Sterling Bay won zoning approval under former-Mayor Rahm Emanuel for 14.5 million square feet of construction, with towers as high as 595 feet on land along the river between North and Webster avenues.

The only Lincoln Yards struc-

ture that Sterling Bay has completed is a vacant, eight-story life science research building at the southern end of the site at 1229 W. Concord Place. That building is not part of the land that was seized by Bank OZK, although they are also a lender on that building.

Sterling Bay turned over the property to the bank via a deed in lieu of foreclosure, a form of voluntary surrender, with the bank writing down the value of the debt from the original \$128 million mortgage loan. But Sterling Bay is still in trouble. According to the master plan they agreed to for the site, they have commitments to pay for hundreds of millions of infrastructure projects in the area, including new roads and bridges. The developer has met virtually none of those commitments.

As part of the agreement with the city, Sterling Bay would later be reimbursed for infrastructure costs by Tax Increment Financing money generated by Lincoln Yards' real estate. But to collect those taxes, they must have buildings filled with income generating tenants.

DadsRights.com

LAW OFFICES OF
JEFFERY M. LEVING, LTD

312-356-DADS

What Italian Chicagoan has brought more notoriety and fame to Chicago than anyone else?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Recent attacks and a not-so-concealed animosity against Chicago's Italian community permitted many elected officials to take swipes at them that normally they would have avoided at all costs.

The shameful removal of the Christopher Columbus statues from Grant Park and Arrigo Park were the icing on the cake. These travesties were not only politically incorrect, the attacks on Columbus were historically inaccurate. But then, it's exhilarating for some Chicagoans to taunt and attack Italians.

Chicago politicians never seemed to be afraid of Italian voters at the polls. Was that just Irish cockiness? Or was it WASP ballot box privilege rearing its head? There weren't many Aldermen of Italian heritage in the City Council when I worked there.

The robust Ald. Vito Marzullo died just before I arrived at City Hall. Marzullo was larger than life, but a short man in reality. He was a treasured Chicago leader of enormous political value and stature from the 25th Ward. The Tri-Taylor neighborhood of people whose names ended in vowels. Whose support of Chicago life in abundance and whose word is their bond.

And who made great red sauce. Marzullo was born in Campania, a stunning sunny region of

Italy that includes Naples, Sorento and Salerno. In Chicago he ran his West Side ward virtually unchallenged for more than 30 years. That's 'cuz you 'could trust Vito.' You could make a deal with him. He knew how things worked in Chicago and in City Hall.

But I can't imagine him coping very well in 2025 with the broken promises and the weak leadership of current politicians. Marzullo wasn't squeamish. He wasn't afraid of making things work well. He kept his eye on the financial picture of Chicago. And for Marzullo, his neighborhood came first. His people, whatever their origins, came first. He was bold. A hardliner. A devoted Democrat. And most of all a Chicagoan who treasured the beauty, commerce, freedom and opportunity that this city provided.

We bring this up now because the city is making plans to let Christopher Columbus out of woke history prison. He was sent there by bigoted, academically-challenged "non-thinkers" who tried and convicted the 15th century sailor and explorer without a fair trial.

They sentenced him to hard time for crimes against humanity 400 years later. All after a mob of radical rioters attacked his statue in Grant Park. All those woke episodes that changed, forever, the history of our city and the world.

Who can forget watching TV in July, 2020 as a wild mob of radicals attacked that statue, protected only by a thin blue line of police, who were outnumbered 20 to 1, when 18 cops were injured. And our bitter former mayor refusing to come to their rescue. Our downtown still has not recovered.

The intolerance of woke rioters is essentially why the Columbus statues were removed.

Well now the city says it wants to honor some Italian Chicagoans

with a statue that they can proudly and fearlessly place in a park. But someplace indoors, where few will see it. Without the shame of Columbus, the adventurer who single-handedly unleashed havoc on the poor, primitive residents of 15th century America. The ones who were eating their neighbor's hearts.

There is a long list of more worthy candidates than Columbus, according to the city.



Al Capone

So this got us to thinking, what Italian Chicagoan has brought more notoriety and fame to Chicago than anyone else?

What Italian Chicagoan was more abused at work than any other Italian?

Who had the hardest time trying to make a living in Chicago?

Well for my money that honor belongs to one man. The one whose favorite Chicago ice cream parlor was Margie's Candies at Western and Milwaukee avenues: Alphonse Capone.

Big Al, as he was known, wasn't the fictional invention of Desilu Productions. He was a real-life Chicagoan from the South Side, 7244 S. Prairie. Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1899, he died in Florida in 1947, after his release from prison, still a young man, but sick with Syphilis.

Capone was a Prohibition mobster. A man who made his Chicago gangsters world famous. before anyone ever saw an episode of "The Untouchables."

To this day he remains one of our most well-known citizens, thanks in part to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union ladies of Evanston and Prohibition, 1920-1933. That American era when liquor could no longer be legally produced or marketed in the United States. It was a tough and idiotic period of American history.

Of course, if liquor couldn't be distilled legally, then it would be done illegally. Fueling an old concept, organized crime and tax-evasion.

So with all his skills for finding, manufacturing and creating a vast international system of liquor production and distribution, long before before cell phones and the internet, Capone turned Chicago into the nation's center of gangland bootlegged liquor. The outfit really taught Americans how to run a big business, how to quickly ramp up production and distribution to meet market demand.

Unafraid of law enforcement, the federal government and the internal warfare of rival gangs, Capone invented a system of lawlessness that went well beyond all codes of conduct of the past.

He just forgot to pay his taxes. For which he went to prison.

We're not being cynical. We're being realistic. The Prohibition Era offered powerful financial incentives for low wage earners. In Capone, Italians and other struggling immigrants found new incentives to become real Americans.

There was definitely some fresh respect for the mobsters of the era who weren't afraid to use force to enhance their economic opportunities in America. It became a new and unusual process of inclusion in the American dream. It marked a new definition of that dream.

So I'm offering the life and legend of Capone as a candidate for statue replacement by the city. Put up a dozen of them, at locations he made famous.

Capone's Chicago demonstrated a new version of assimilation in the everyday life of Chicago neighborhoods, and deserves a statue. Instead of rejecting it, we should own it. He's already forever tied to Chicago, let's run with it.

Is that any worse than the secret mayhem brought about by the foolishness and incomprehension of our current mayor? Has there been any movement or resolution on the homeless camping in our parks? There will be no calls for his statue to grace our parks, unless it's set up in a tent under a viaduct.

Why must Chicago citizens endure this mindless assault on our functioning as an American city? Is there any chance shops will open once more on Michigan Ave.? Maybe a statue of him standing in traffic with a baby strapped to his back, and cardboard sign begging for money. No, we suggest the creation and placement of some strategic statuary of Alphonse Capone, Lincoln-like, across the city. It will encourage Chicagoans in bringing about success in our efforts to quench our present urban thirsts.

Hopefully it won't scare the woke too much.

POPE LEO XIV: Holy Zip Code, The Papal Conclave unleashed the Holy Spirit and created an election that has resounded in the hearts of Chicagoans.

No one could have anticipated this outcome of a Chicagoan on the Chair of St. Peter. So now the Roman Catholic Pontiff can finally resonate with affection for the White Sox or the Cubs, or the Bears. At least he knows where Wrigley Field and Comiskey are on the prairie landscape.

Watching **Pope Leo XIV, Robert Prevost**, on the loggia of Michelangelo's St. Peter Basilica, I imagined millions of Chicago heroes standing beside this lad from the South Side. Bursting with pride and faith, their familiar faces lighting up the evening sky of Rome. **Sis Daley** would be thrilled. **Cardinal Bernardin** would have tears of joy. **Reverend Jesse Jackson** probably sang a hymn.

Choosing a name made famous by **Pope Leo XIII**, Catholicism's Labor Pope," author of the encyclical known as "Rerum Novarum," meaning

"of revolutionary change." Focusing on the "conditions of the working class," it is significant. A document about fairness and justice written in the late 19th century when workers rights were non-existent. So Leo XIV has given the world, it seems, a great clue about the

nature of his soul. He is a defender of the rights of others. A champion of the poor.

Thank God, this humble American, and distinguished Chicagoan, now can balance the table of American humanity with the actions of someone whose belief in the value of others is critical to our nation's true history in the

ITALIAN see p. 8



Pope Leo XIV

Open Arms United Worship Church
"Building Generations of Disciples"
OPEN ARMS UNITED WORSHIP CENTER
 Dr. Kim C. Hill Senior Pastor
 Sunday: 9:30 am Prayer 10 am Worship
 10 am Kingdom Kids Place
 (Nursery through 5th Grade)
 Wednesday: 7 pm Prayer
 7:30 pm Bible Study
817 Grace St. 773-525-8480
FREE INDOOR PARKING
OAUWCCChicago.org

DUBLINS
 BAR AND GRILL
 A touch of Ireland at the corner of State and Rush.
 A place to see and be seen.
 1050 N. State St.
 Open 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. 365 days a year
 312-266-6340 dublinschicago.com

Pleasant Travel
 For Best Airline Tickets and Packages Around the World
www.PleasantTravel.com
 Call **773-508-1927**
 or visit **6257 N. Clark St.**
 email: pleasanttravel@hotmail.com

Ronald Roenigk *Publisher & Editor*
 Sheila Swann *Art Director & Production Mgr*
 Jeff Zimmerman *Account Executive*
 Cindy Amadio *Account Executive*
 Kathleen Guy *Account Executive*

INSIDE
 is published every Wednesday
 by Inside Publications
 6221 N. Clark St.
 Chicago, IL 60660
 (773) 465-9700
 E: insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Your friendly neighborhood newspaper brought to you free by our advertisers. We encourage our readers to share their ideas and concerns with the community through this publication. All letters must include name, address and phone number. Names will be withheld upon request. We reserve the right to edit letters to fit our space.

All material in this publication copyright ©2025 Inside Publications and can only be reprinted with permission of the publisher.

Where can you find a copy of INSIDE-BOOSTER, NEWS-STAR AND SKYLINE?
 Inside has numerous "drop spots" on the North Side of Chicago, between the Loop and Howard Street, and between the lake and west to Kedzie. To find out which spots are most convenient for you, call (773) 465-9700 and give the zip code where you live or work. Or visit insideonline.com and click on "Paper Pickup Locations." The best time to pick up our paper is on Thursday mornings. If your business would like to become a regular drop spot, please call and let us know!

insideonline.com

Data shows property tax bills have spiked for 240,000 Cook County homeowners

New data dashboard shows need for relief

BY FRITZ KAEGL
Cook County Assessor

Almost a quarter of a million Cook County homeowners have recently seen their property tax bills spike by 25% or more in a single year, according to new data released by the Cook County Assessor's Office [CCAO].

The typical homeowner with a spike saw their tax bill go up by \$1,700. In total, these 240,000 homeowners paid close to \$500 million more in property taxes as a result of the increases.

The data is available at www.cookcountyassessor.com/historical-analysis-property-tax-spikes-2021-2023.

This data quantifies what so many families have already experienced: being suddenly saddled with much larger tax bills. Homeowners budget responsibly based on predicted increases, but the larger property tax system doesn't provide predictability.

We need property tax relief that will serve as a crucial safeguard for homeowners in this untenable situation, protecting them from unsustainable tax spikes.

The CCAO's new data dashboard is a historical analysis of property tax bill spikes between Tax Year 2021 and Tax Year 2023. It includes data from tax bills mailed out in the summer of 2024, when the typical homeowner in Cook County's south and west suburbs saw a tax bill increase of nearly 20%.

The dashboard also shows tax bill spikes by different geographies, including Cook County townships, municipalities, state legislative districts, and Chicago wards.

The data dashboard also allows users to adjust the three parameters that define a tax spike. These are:

- The percentage increase of a tax bill spike (default 25%)
- The minimum increase of a tax bill spike (default \$500)
- The maximum market value of a property experiencing a spike (default \$1,000,000)

"Circuit Breaker" program would provide relief

The CCAO has worked on state legislation to create a property tax relief initiative for homeowners. This "circuit breaker" program would provide relief to qualifying homeowners with a 25% bill spike. Credits given to homeowners would cover up to half of the tax bill increase.

The Circuit Breaker Property Tax Relief Act was filed in the Illinois Senate as SB 1978 by Sen. Patrick Joyce [40th] and in the House as HB3808 by Rep. Justin Slaughter [27th].

Last week, we published an editorial in the Chicago Tribune, written together with Mayor Nathaniel G. Booker of Maywood and Mayor Joseph Woods of Park Forest, calling for the state legislature to pass the circuit breaker.

"While it's up to legislators to balance the many competing priorities we have, we believe that we need to start putting the details on paper at some point on a program

that is a necessary safeguard for our residents," the group wrote. "That's how we figure out a solution to a problem that seems intractable."

South suburbs saw most property tax pain

While tax spikes of at least 25% occurred across Cook County, many south suburban municipalities have seen especially high increases in their bills.

In Country Club Hills, for example, more than half of homeowners have seen a tax spike of 25% or more. For these homeowners, the median tax bill increase was \$2,700.

In 2022, the median residential tax bill in Country Club Hills was about \$5,000, according to data from the Cook County Treasurer's Office.

For homeowners with tax bill spikes in Thornton Township, which includes all or parts of Calumet City, Harvey, South Holland, and several other municipalities, they paid a total of \$42.2 million more in property taxes due to these increases. That was the second-highest raw total of any township in Cook County, though Thornton Township makes up less than 1.5% of all assessed value in Cook County.

Chicago Spring Half Marathon this Sunday

The Chicago Spring Half Marathon kicks off 7 a.m. Sunday, May 18 at the corner of Columbus and Jackson in Grant Park.

The 10K race will start at 7:45 at the same location. Both races run along the Lakefront Trail, but the Trail will remain open to the public during the race.

The following streets will be closed until the conclusion of the race: All lanes of Monroe St. from Lake Shore Dr. to Columbus (3 a.m.-6 p.m.); Columbus north-

bound lane from Randolph to Monroe (3a.m.-noon); Columbus southbound lane from Randolph to Monroe (3 a.m.-9 a.m.); All lanes Columbus Dr. from Monroe to Jackson (3 a.m.-9 a.m.); All lanes Columbus Dr. from Jackson to Roosevelt (6 a.m.-9 a.m.); Both exit ramps from Lake Shore Dr. to Randolph (6:30a.m.-noon), and Eastbound lane of intermediate Randolph from Lake Shore Dr. to Columbus (6:30 a.m.-noon).

INSURANCE DESIGNED WITH YOU AND YOUR DREAMS IN MIND

CALL (773) 472-3400 TODAY
FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL INSURANCE REVIEW



Mike Donaldson, Agent
3046 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60618
mdonalds@amfam.com
Certified Agency
in Customer Excellence



Outside is fun again.

Mosquito Joe of Chicago North
Eco Friendly
Eliminating Mosquitoes, Ticks & Fleas
Locally Owned

847-773-1990 | Treating Lake & Cook Counties
chicagonorth.mosquitojoe.com

ARTHUR J. MURPHY



- Real Estate Attorney
- 40 Years Experience
- Personalized Attention
- Reasonable Rates

Retain an experienced property law attorney to represent you in the purchase or sale of residential or light commercial real estate.

MURPHY & SMITH, LTD.

— Serving Chicagoland for 40 Years! —

312-427-3650

arthurmurphy@murphyandsmith.net

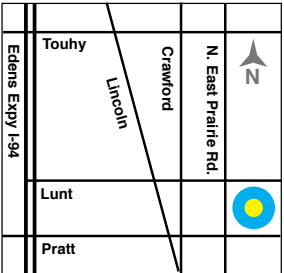
It's Time to Beautify Your Outdoor Spaces!



"Urhausen Greenhouses is one of the best finds for Chicagoland gardeners." - Tom S., customer review

Since 1922 gardeners and plant lovers have been treating themselves by visiting our peaceful 2-acre greenhouse. Blooming hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetable plants grown onsite. Choose a basket already in bloom or mix & match from more than 150 perennials and a dazzling array of annuals in all colors and varieties. **Come visit us!**

Hours: Daily 8am-5pm
6973 N. East Prairie Road,
Lincolnwood
847.675.1573
www.UrhausenGreenhouses.com



100% locally owned and operated, the Urhausen family has been growing plants for a living since 1922

Taxes spike, will Springfield help with relief?



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

The two certainties in the universe are death and higher property taxes. The latter is the current reality for nearly a quarter million Chicago and Cook County homeowners.

According to new data released by the Cook County Assessor's office, property tax bills of nearly 240,000 homeowners "spiked" by a whopping 25% or more in a single year.

The typical Cook County homeowner saw their real estate tax bill jump by an average of \$1,700. In total, some 236,841 paid close to \$500 million more in property taxes as a result of the increases, and local government's failure to control spending.

Several North Side Chicago lakefront townships were hit hard

by the tax spike between 2021 and 2023, according to the following Assessor data:

- North Chicago Twp: Some 531 homeowners in the upscale neighborhoods of Lincoln Park and Old Town saw their property taxes catapult an average of \$2,508.

- Lakeview Twp: A total of 3,968 lakefront property owners in Lake View and Edgewater saw their bills rise an average of \$1,774.

- Jefferson Park Twp: A whopping 21,234 Northwest Side homeowners saw their bills rise an average of \$1,773.

- West Twp. Some 12,910 property owners in such popular neighborhoods as Bucktown, Logan Square and Wicker Park witnessed tax bills rising an average of \$1,740.

- Rogers Park Twp: Approximately 3,877 homeowners saw tax bills rise an average of \$1,162.

The Assessor's new data dashboard is a historical analysis of property tax-bill spikes between the tax year 2021 and the tax year 2023. It includes data from second-installment tax bills mailed out in the summer of 2024. That year, the typical homeowner in Cook County's south and west suburbs saw a tax-bill increase of 20%.

"This data quantifies what so many families have already experienced—being suddenly saddled with much larger tax bills," said Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi. "Homeowners typically budget responsibly based on predicted increases, but the larger property tax system doesn't provide predictability."



(L-R) Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, Rep. Justin Slaughter and Sen. Patrick Joyce.



Tax spikes also contribute to forcing landlords of income properties to raise apartments rents, analysts say. As a result of tax spikes, rents are rising faster in posh neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park and Old Town.

- Lincoln Park: The owner of a Victorian 6-flat recently leased a one-bedroom apartment for \$2,765, up 31.6% from \$2,100 in 2024. The base rent in 2025 was \$2,575, plus a \$75 utility pass-through fee, a pet rent of \$50

per animal, and a storage locker charge of \$65. That's a 46.5% rent increase, most of which will go to pay for a 2024 projected real estate tax bill of \$27,620.

- Old Town: The owner of a Victorian 4-flat leased a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment for \$3,620, up 27% from \$2,850 in 2024. The base rent for 2025 was \$3,495, plus a \$75 utility pass-through fee, a pet rent of \$50 per animal. The lion's share of the rent increase will go to pay for a

2024 projected real estate tax bill of \$26,816.

'Circuit breaker' coming?

The Assessor is working on new state legislation to create a property tax-relief initiative for homeowners.

Called the "circuit breaker" program, it would provide relief to qualifying homeowners who have experienced a 25% spike or more in their property-tax bill. Credits given to homeowners would cover up to half of the tax-bill increase.

The Circuit Breaker Property Tax Relief Act (SB1978) was filed in the Illinois Senate by Sen. Patrick Joyce [40th] and in the House as HB3808 by Rep. Justin Slaughter [27th].

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

Scooter rider accuses city of negligence leading to his injury

Bennett Hawkins has filed a lawsuit against the City of Chicago, alleging negligence in maintaining public streets that led to his injury. The complaint was filed on April 14, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, naming the City of Chicago as the defendant.

According to the lawsuit, on April 19, 2024, Hawkins was riding his scooter on Michigan Ave. near Randolph St. when he encountered an unfinished and hazardous street condition. The complaint claims that this condition resulted from negligent repair work by the City of Chicago and its employees. As a result of these alleged negligent acts, Hawkins struck an uncovered pipe hole and was ejected from his scooter, sustaining both external and internal injuries.

The plaintiff asserts that these

injuries have significantly impacted his ability to perform daily activities and caused him substantial pain and suffering.

The plaintiff's attorneys argue that it was the duty of the City of Chicago to ensure safe conditions for all lawful users of public streets. They accuse the city of failing to meet reasonable standards in street maintenance and repair, thereby creating a dangerous environment for pedestrians and motorists alike. The lawsuit highlights specific failures such as leaving repairs incomplete and not adhering to expected municipal standards for public safety.

In the crowded urban landscape, where small electric vehicles — primarily scooters and bicycles — have transformed short distance travel, researchers are reporting a major national surge in accidents tied to "micromobility."

Micromobility, the use of small vehicles for one or two passengers, has surged 50-fold over the last decade, especially in dense urban areas like Chicago, with the introduction of electric-powered motors and ride-sharing platforms. The scooters and e-bicycles can travel up to 30 miles an hour and allow riders to cover more distance with less effort.

E-bicycle injuries doubled every year from 2017 to 2023, while e-scooter injuries rose by 45% each year. Injured e-riders tended to be slightly older and wore helmets less often than conventional riders. And e-scooter riders were more likely to sustain internal injuries than conventional scooter riders, while upper extremity injuries were more common among non-EV riders.

The League of American Bicyclists estimated there were around 60,000 e-scooter injuries in 2024. But increasingly the vehicles are proving to be dangerous, especially in the hands of novices.

Hawkins is seeking a judgment exceeding \$50,000 from the court to cover medical expenses incurred due to his injuries, as well as compensation for lost time and ongoing physical and mental anguish. He requests that the court hold the City of Chicago accountable for their alleged negligence in maintaining a safe public infrastructure.

Representing Hawkins is attorney Mark Connolly from Connolly Injury Law. The case is with Judge Mariyana T. Spyropoulos.

A&E CONSTRUCTION
Concrete Work
Sidewalks • Driveways
Stairs • Garage
Floors • Patios
773-216-5900
Free Estimates

BEST KEPT SECRET
SUPER CAR WASH
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK / 24 HOURS A DAY
8 BAY SELF-SERVICE
2 TOUCHLESS AUTOMATIC
5450 N. DAMEN (at Rascher)
Veteran Owned & Operated for 50 Years

YOUR LOCAL AUTO REPAIR SPECIALIST

Auto Repair & Maintenance • Brake Repair • Oil Change
Timing Belt • Suspension & Wheel Alignment

✓ Locally Owned and Operated ✓ Total Satisfaction is Our Goal
✓ Affordable Pricing ✓ American and European Cars

LOGAN
SQUARE AUTO REPAIR
773-772-1639
2442 N Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL
Mon - Fri: 8:00AM - 4:00PM • Sat: 9:00AM - 2:00PM • Sun: Closed
www.LoganSquareAutoRepair.com

AVONDALE
AUTO REPAIR
773-267-5440
3425 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL
Mon - Fri: 8:00AM - 6:00PM • Sat: 9:00AM - 4:00PM • Sun: Closed
www.AvondaleAutoRepair.com

10% OFF
ALL AUTO REPAIR SERVICES
***Must present at time of service with this ad. Offer cannot be combined with other offers, discounts, or coupons. Taxes and fees not included.

CityHome
Vacuums & More

We feature Miele and ORECK and service all makes & models

2 Locations!
2646 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
773-348-4500
148 N. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park
708-660-9800
Open 7 Days All Major Credit Cards Accepted
www.cityhomevacuum.com

MENTION THIS AD to receive 10% OFF on your order

AA SALVAGE
PLUMBING LIQUIDATION
Sinks, Tubs, Toilets
Jacuzzis & Radiators
CALL 773-818-0808
1871 N. Milwaukee Ave.

NEWSPAPERS CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Lincoln Square Mall open again after extended closure

BY PETER VON BUOL

On May 12, after nearly three weeks of being closed, the commercial mall on the 4700 block of N. Lincoln Ave. reopened to car and truck traffic, giving the blocks’ merchants a sigh of relief.

The loss of customer parking, lack of egress for commercial delivery trucks, and blocked roadways were strangling the popular commercial district.

“The city’s construction crews have been making steady progress around the Lincoln/Leland intersection and will be reopening the 4700 block of Lincoln Ave. to vehicles [on May 12]. My sincere thanks to everyone who had supported our local businesses amidst the ongoing construction,” said Ald. Matt Martin [47th].

Originally scheduled to be closed for only 10 days, the ongoing construction associated with the modernization of the CTA’s Brown Line station plaza at Leland resulted in emergency electrical work that had to be completed before the block could reopen to car and truck traffic.

According to John Schoen, a ComEd spokesperson, his company had already completed the emergency work at the end of April.

In discussions with this newspaper, numerous merchants on the block had said the closure had been especially difficult for their businesses. The unexpected extension included Mother’s Day, one of their busiest retail shopping days of the year.

The Lincoln Square Mall was created in 1978 by diverting northbound Lincoln Ave. at Leland Ave. to create the mall. Private property was taken by the city in eminent domain to add three new commercial parking lots, hoping to revitalize the community and allowing it to compete with suburban shopping districts.

Now one of those parking lots has been shut down for CTA Brown Line construction, and a second parking lot was gifted to an out of town developer for an apartment project. Then three weeks ago, the retail community also lost their parking along Lincoln Ave.

On Monday, this reporter saw that Lincoln Ave. was again open, and that every parking spot on the mall was filled.

But not everyone was disappointed with the extended closure. Chief among them was Rony Islam, a bike activist who has lived in Lincoln Square for the past two years and is a board member of the non-profit Heart of Lincoln Square [HOLS], a group co-founded by Ald. Martin.

Rony Islam, who is employed by a San Francisco-based private equity firm, is a co-founder of Bike Grid Now, a nebulous group which organizes illegal mass bicycle rides to clog up roads during rush hour traffic.

“I don’t want to speak on behalf of the board for the neighbors’ association, but they have had a survey that has been asking people how they’ve been feeling about the closure. I think the data reported, and a lot of the local press, has shown that people are very supportive of further pedestrianization,” of the Lincoln Square mall, said Islam during a May 6 interview with radio station WBEZ 91.5 FM.

“And I think it shows really a huge amount of pent up demand for these kinds of car-free spaces where people can feel safe, to walk around, to shop, to eat, to hang out with their friends, to meet new neighbors. So I think it’s just really indica-



The commercial mall on the 4700 block of N. Lincoln Ave. reopened to car and truck traffic, helping businesses get back up to speed.

tive of that demand,” said Islam.

Islam made numerous media appearances throughout the closure in which he claimed widespread support for the permanent closure of the 4700 block of N. Lincoln Ave. to vehicle traffic. Islam told WBEZ that along with his friends, he had decided to seize the opportunity and had built 16 benches to leave out to “activate the spaces.”

In addition to being a board member of HOLS, Islam has started SlowStreets.org. The group advocates for the elimination of cars and trucks.

“We want to reclaim streets for people through events and education,” according to information posted on the still-pending non-profit’s SafeStreets website.

Islam, who is employed by a San Francisco-based private equity firm, is a co-founder of Bike Grid Now, a nebulous group which organizes illegal mass bicycle rides to clog up roads during rush hour traffic. During these rides, participants disobey all traffic signals. Their intent is to tie up traffic to make driving any vehicle as

miserable as possible.

Because many local city officials rely on political support from biking special interest groups, traffic violations are never issued during these illegal bike rides.

Fundraising Night for Crystal Cleaners and Mint Home May 15

A community fundraiser will be held Thursday, May 15 with the Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce for Crystal Cleaners and Mint Home, two long-time local businesses recently destroyed in a fire.

Guests should plan to meet at Gio’s Bar and Grill, 4857 N. Damen Ave. for bingo, prize giveaways, and community spirit. Twenty percent of sales at Gio’s that day will be donated directly to the affected businesses.

Whenever you choose resale, whether from us or any other source, including a yard or garage sale - you are choosing to help our Earth and all of creation by eliminating virgin resource extractions, pesticide use for virgin USA cotton, & no new manufacturing of toxic chemicals, etc - thus further protecting our air, water, soil, & wilderness worldwide & all God's creatures there in. Thank You for your thoughtfulness and consideration !



**GREEN
element
RESALE**



6241 N BROADWAY CHICAGO
Mon-Sat 11-7 Sunday 12-7
773-942-6522



DONATE SHOP SUPPORT
www.big-medicine.org

**“With IV Sedation,
I slept through
my whole dental
procedure!”**

**Let us introduce you
to the most comfortable
dental care. IV sedation
is ideal for:**

- Dental anxiety and fear
- Aversion to needles and the sound of the drill
- Inability to get numb
- Hypertensive gag reflex
- Special needs (physical, behavioral, cognitive)
- Improved treatment efficiency

LINCOLN PARK
CENTER for DENTAL
ANESTHESIA

Dr. Robert L Tentler, DDS
Diplomate of American
Society of Dentist
Anesthesiologist

With 35 years of experience in Chicagoland, we’re ready to work with you in optimizing your care and comfort.

Call or visit us today!
lincolnparkcda.com

312-596-2200
2551 N. Clark Ste. 502 • Chicago, IL 60614

Police Beat...

Two men, juvenile charged with robbing Red Line passenger of electric scooter in Uptown



Reason Gill, left, and Michael Harris.

Two men and a teenage boy face robbery charges after they allegedly attacked a CTA passenger and took his electric scooter in Uptown. Officials said one of the accused men had just started probation for possessing a machine gun two weeks before the robbery occurred.

The 21-year-old victim was riding the Red Line northbound near Wilson on April 29 when Reason Gill and Michael Harris, both 18, and a 15-year-old boy asked him how much he wanted for his electric scooter, prosecutors said.

When he declined the invitation to sell it, the group pushed him to the ground, and Harris punched him and took the scooter, according to the allegations.

One of the thieves told the man to “Come and get the scooter if you want it.” Due to a language barrier, the victim thought the group was willing to give it back. Instead, they knocked him to the ground and beat him again, prosecutors said. At one point, Gill allegedly chased the victim with a barricade.

The victim started walking toward his Edgewater home but soon crossed paths with a passing Chicago police car. He flagged them down and reported the robbery to the officers, who soon had Gill, Harris, and the teenager in custody. The police returned the scooter to the victim.

Gill was placed on juvenile probation for machine gun possession on April 15, Judge James Murphy noted as he ordered him detained pending trial on a charge of aggravated robbery.

Murphy also detained Harris, who faces additional charges for allegedly spitting on a security guard and biting a nurse while undergoing an evaluation at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

243 fake designer watches worth over \$6 million seized

Last week U.S. Customs and Border Protection [CBP] officers from the Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team stationed at a Cargo Examination Station at O’Hare Airport inspected and then seized a shipment which contained designer brand watches.

The shipment arrived from China on May 4 and was ultimately seized for bearing counterfeit version of the names and logos of the following designer brands: Audermars Piguet, Breitling, Bvlgari, Cartier, Omega, Paneria, Patek Phillipe, Richard Mille, Rolex, Tag Heuer, and Vacheron.

A total of 243 different watches were seized. The shipment had an ultimate destination to an address in Bensonville.

The items were deemed to be counterfeit by the agency’s trade experts, and if genuine, would have had a combined Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price over \$6.64 million. In April, CBP seized another shipment of \$9.22 million in counterfeit watches.

“The distribution of counterfeit goods defraud U.S. consumers and

has a significant adverse impact on businesses by robbing our country of jobs and tax revenues,” said LaFonda D. Sutton-Burke, Director of Chicago Field Operations. “Our officers intercepted this [shipment] before these fake items were [put up for sale] and reached consumers.”

Consumers can protect themselves from buying fakes by purchasing them directly from the trademark holder or from authorized retailers, and by knowing what price the product should be selling for. If the item is priced well below a reasonable value, it could be counterfeit. If a price seems too good to be true, then it is.

Commonly, these goods are sold in underground outlets and on third party e-commerce websites. Counterfeit commodities fund smugglers and members of organized crime. Consumers often believe they are buying a genuine product but soon realize the item is substandard.

CBP targets and seizes imports of counterfeit and pirated goods and enforces exclusion orders on patent-infringing and other IPR violative goods.

Man gets 16 years for River North road rage murder

On May 7 a judge sentenced a man to 16 years for fatally stabbing another driver during a road rage altercation in River North two summers ago. Alan Saenz Perez, 28, cut a deal with prosecutors in which he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree murder for the death of 36-year-old Jeremy Walker on Aug. 23, 2022.

Prosecutors have said Walker was closely following Perez in traffic as Perez drove with his wife and brother in the car around 6:45 p.m. Walker yelled an insult at Perez, then cut him off at the intersection of Dearborn and Ohio, prosecutors said. Perez honked at Walker, who got out of his car and approached Perez’s vehicle.

Perez allegedly grabbed a knife and stepped out of his own car. Witnesses said they saw Perez run up to Walker and try to stab him, but Walker briefly fended Perez off. At one point, Perez broke free and stabbed Walker in the neck, causing him to bleed profusely.

Walker returned to his car and drove a couple of blocks to seek help from a Chicago police officer on Michigan Ave. Prosecutors said that he was never armed, and investigators did not find any weapons in his car.

Meanwhile, Perez allegedly drove away from the scene without calling for help. Police tracked Perez down through his car’s license plate number, and cops found his car outside his home.

Prosecutors claimed Perez initially “fled” to Indiana after the incident but turned himself in to Chicago police two days after the stabbing. He had never been arrested before.

Judge Domenica Stephenson handled the case and meted out sentencing. Perez will serve half of the prison term, less 1,037 credit days earned while in jail, before being eligible for release.

Man who fatally shot another man in self-defense gets sent to prison for illegally possessing gun

A man who freely admitted that he shot and killed another man in Rogers Park has been sentenced to four years in prison for illegally possessing the firearm he used in the shooting.

Prosecutors never charged Kamari Robinson, 26, with killing 30-year-old Kenneth Sandy because they believed he acted in self-defense. But they did charge the three-time convicted felon with illegally possessing a firearm.

Around 2 p.m. Nov. 16, 2023, Sandy and Robinson got into an argument in the 1600 block of W. Howard, steps

from the Howard CTA station, officials said. The argument turned physical, and Robinson reportedly shot Sandy dead as a nearby surveillance camera recorded the incident.



Kamari Robinson

He allegedly told officers he gave the gun to his sister after the shooting.

Sandy died less than 30 minutes later. Police said he suffered two gunshot wounds to the left side of his chest and another to his arm. An officer noted in the report that prosecutors “rejected” murder charges “due to self-defense.” Robinson is only charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

Robinson has now pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Judge Aleksandra Gillespie handed him the four-year sentence, of which he must serve 50%. His sentence will be reduced by 530 days for the time he spent wearing an ankle monitor since being arrested.

Public records show Robinson’s previous felony convictions were for aggravated battery, hate crime, and possessing a controlled substance, all in 2017.

Carjacker busted by federal chopper crew gets 15 year prison sentence



Noah Sidney (inset) and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopter similar to the one used by the Chicago hijacking task force. *Courtesy U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

A man has been slapped with a 15-year prison sentence for carjacking a Lincoln Park resident in Oct. 2023. Noah Sidney, 20, picked a bad night to do it: A federal law enforcement helicopter was in the air, working with Chicago cops and state troopers on an anti-carjacking mission.

The carjacking occurred shortly before 7 p.m. as a 31-year-old man unloaded groceries from his Audi Q3 in the 2200 block of N. Seminary. Police said Sidney walked up to the victim, displayed a pistol, and forced him to turn over his keys, wallet, and phone. The victim complied, and Sidney drove away with his car.

But a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force was working in Chicago that night, including a high-tech helicopter operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

After the victim told Chicago cops that two AirTags were in his hijacked car, the police started tracking the devices and shared their location with the helicopter, a CPD report said. The helicopter located the Audi a few minutes later and began radioing “step-by-step location updates” to ground units, according to the report.

When the Audi parked in the 4700 block of S. Martin Luther King Dr., an Illinois State Police trooper moved in and chased Sidney down, the report continued.

“Major assist on this one from IL State Police, who used their pursuit capability to follow these fleeing, violent armed robbers down the Dan Ryan,” Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] tweeted after cops arrested Sidney.

The police returned the Audi to its owner.

On May 6, Sidney pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular hijacking with a weapon in exchange for the 15-year sentence from Judge Angela Munari-Petrone. He must serve half of



Mohamed Worku in a 2017 mugshot and images submitted to robbery charges against him.

It’s prison time for man who robbed a bank 3 days after being acquitted of bank robbery

Three days after a federal jury found Mohamed Worku not guilty of robbing a Little Village bank, he got arrested for robbing another bank. Once again, he took the case to a jury trial. But he lost this time. Now, he’s heading off to serve a 21-month federal prison sentence and will likely be deported when he gets out, according to court filings.

In Dec. 2021, Worku handed a note to a bank teller saying, “Give me the money Please Thank you.” The teller gave him \$492 and he walked out.

But he beat the case at trial, arguing that he never threatened the teller or anyone else. He simply asked for money (he even said “please!”) and the teller gave it to him. Without a threat, there can be no robbery.

Three days later, Worku walked into Citibank, 2001 N. Halsted, in Lincoln Park, and handed the teller a note.

“Please Give me the money I’ll pay it back soon banker’s Gife to me in advance,” the note read, according to a federal complaint.

The teller handed him \$2,068. Wearing a surgical mask, neon green gloves, and a neon green winter cap, the bandit headed out the door. Less than an hour later, Chicago cops spotted Worku near Lincoln and Armitage,

the sentence before being eligible for release.

Cops snare two teenage robbers after woman is mugged near Goose Island

Two boys, ages 15 and 16, are facing felony robbery charges after they mugged a woman near Goose Island, police said.

The 30-year-old victim was in the 900 block of W. Chicago Ave. when three offenders grabbed her, pushed her into the street, and took her phone around 9:20 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, according to Chicago police.

Responding officers spotted three people matching the suspects’ descriptions and they arrested two of them in an alley near Ogden and Milwaukee avenues. The third robber, described as a White male wearing black clothing, escaped through the alley

A CPD spokesperson said both of the detained teenagers have been charged with robbery.

AWOL gun offender sought after woman shot in Rogers Park

Chicago police are looking for a man who’s AWOL from a felony gun case after a woman was shot in Rogers Park on May 5.

The 26-year-old victim was traveling in a car when a man she knows fired shots toward her in the 7700 block of N. Paulina around 10:40 p.m., according to CPD. She continued driving to get away from the area and officers located her at a gas station at 101 Ridge Ave., just across the border in Evanston. She had a gunshot wound to her thigh. CPD said she was in good condition.

Officers at the scene said the gunman has been harassing the woman for a while and they know who he is. Court records show prosecutors asked a judge to detain the man after they charged him with illegal possession of a firearm in August. However,

matching the robber’s description. The complaint said he had a green hat and gloves sticking out of his coat pockets and a blue surgical mask in his pants pocket.

During an interview with investigators, Worku allegedly pointed out that he didn’t have a gun but he “was gonna buy me one” and “there was gonna be a shootout.”

Speaking of police officers, he allegedly said, “First m*****r who ride up on me talking about how I fit the description, dead.”

This time, federal prosecutors charged him with bank robbery and, just to cover their bases, bank theft. The jury convicted him on both counts.

Federal prosecutors said Worku has four adult convictions for narcotics and “multiple” juvenile adjudications, including two for robbery.

“Even though [the] defendant was acquitted of the [2021] bank robbery charge, the fact that he had been charged and incarcerated for very similar conduct in the recent past should have impressed upon him the gravity of stealing money from banks,” the prosecutors argued in a sentencing memorandum.

Judge Caroline Glennon-Goodman rejected the detention petition and sent him home.

Records also show he stopped showing up for court in November and there is an active warrant for his arrest.

The woman is the 11th person shot in Rogers Park this year, putting 2025 exactly on pace with last year’s shootings. There were 12 people shot by this time in 2023 and 10 as of this date in 2022.

Man gets 15 years for robbing four downtown Subway sandwich shops

A man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to robbing a string of Subway sandwich shops in downtown Chicago and in Melrose Park.

Nicholas Wardford, 32, has pleaded guilty to five cases so far and still has one more pending, which should be resolved soon.

On July 15, 2023, Wardford grabbed a drink from a refrigerator at the Subway at 1232 S. Canal and went to the register. Prosecutors said he pulled out a gun, pistol-whipped the cashier, and took money from the register.

Three days later, he selected a drink at the 604 S. Wabash location and then robbed the cashier at gunpoint when they opened the register to give him change, according to a Chicago police report.

And on July 29, prosecutors said, Wardford robbed a Subway restaurant at 8345 W. North Ave. in Melrose Park. Cops in Forest Park arrested him later that day after he was seen with a firearm at a 7-Eleven store,

Peter Asher coming to Old Town School of Folk Music

BY PETER VON BUOL

British musical legend Peter Asher, who first found success more than 60 years ago as part of Peter and Gordon, will be returning to perform Friday, May 16 at the Old Town School of Folk Music [OTSFM], 4544 N. Lincoln Ave.

Asher will be performing *A Musical Memoir* of the 60s and *Beyond* at 8 p.m. on the main stage, the Gary and Laura Maurer Concert Hall.

Not only will Asher performing the hits from his days as a member of Peter and Gordon (including several songs specifically written for the duo by The Beatles' John Lennon and Paul McCartney), he will also engage the audience with stories about his days as part of the British Invasion and later, as one of the recording industry's most in-demand record producers for acts as diverse as Linda Ronstadt, J.D. Souther, James Taylor and 10,000 Maniacs.

"The show is about half conversation and half performance. Some of it will be explaining what went on back then and some of it is performing the hits of Peter and Gordon. Those tours are just the two of us and a keyboard player. This time, it is a full band, which includes an incredible fiddle player. I have worked out a lot of stuff with them," said Asher.

Although Peter and Gordon's recording career was relatively brief (1964-1968), they were part of the British Invasion, the time period when America's pop charts were dominated by the Beatles. Their first number one hit was *A World Without Love*, a song given to the duo by the Beatles' Paul McCartney and John Lennon. The duo had a string of follow-up hits during that time period. During that time period, McCartney was dating Asher's sister, Jane Asher, who was a well-known host on British television.

"I welcome questions from the audience, during the show. Far from calling it heckling, the questions are welcome. One of the nice things about playing cool, smaller places like the Old Town School, is that you can take a digression and a diversion from

your narrative and get away with it! I am fortunate. I can provide pictures on the screen behind me in the right order and talk about pretty much whatever I want to talk about during that time," said Asher.

Peter Asher cites OTSFM co-founder Big Bill Broonzy as one of his major influences. In the early 1960s, Broonzy had extensively toured Great Britain and became highly influential to aspiring British musicians.

"Certain blues artists in particular, Big Bill Broonzy and Sister Rosetta Tharpe, in particular, were legendary in England, due to their tours of Europe. In America, they were more like footnotes. While everyone in America knew about John Lee Hooker, not everyone knew in America knew about Big Bill Broonzy. Over in England, we all knew American music, including the Chicago blues. Before the Beatles, they had never played British music. They only played American music. Everything they did was based on their love of American music," said Asher.

Asher's show includes film footage and photos from his considerable personal archive. While Asher and his friends loved American music, one British performer was a major influence, British comedian George Formby. Not only was Formby known for his comedic performances, he also was adept on the ukulele. As an homage to Formby (as well as his late friend, George Harrison) Asher performs the 1966 hit *Lady Godiva* on ukulele.

"George [Harrison] loved using the ukulele. So did I. George Formby was our idol. Formby was amazing, rhythmically and melodically. He was the master of his instrument. I also wouldn't presume to know how to play the Hawaiian side of the instrument. I can't play like Formby, either. I'm a very basic ukulele player. On stage, I play *Lady Godiva* with it, because it is a musical hall kind of flavored song," said Asher.

Most of the Lennon-McCartney songs recorded by Peter and Gordon were never recorded by the Beatles. The duo's subsequent Lennon-McCartney songs



British musical legend Peter Asher.

included "Nobody I Know" and "I Don't Want to See You Again" and were hits on both sides of the Atlantic.

Peter Asher cites Old Town School of Folk Music co-founder Big Bill Broonzy as one of his major influences.

"World Without Love" had been an early unfinished Lennon/McCartney song that had been rejected by The Beatles. When Asher and Waller were offered a recording contract, the duo found they needed an original song to record.

"The song was a leftover. The Beatles had decided not to record it. Fortunately, I was there, and I asked if we could adopt the song and record it. Paul said yes. The song was still incomplete. I needed to get him to finish the bridge. Just prior to going to the recording studio, I asked him to finish it and he wrote it in eight minutes, on guitar," said Asher in an earlier interview with Inside Publications.

"World Without Love" has been recognized by The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland as one of the 500 songs that shaped rock and roll.

The duo also had a hit with McCartney's "Woman" a song

released under a pseudonym because McCartney had wanted to find out if was his music or his fame that had sold records.

In 1965, they recorded Del Shannon's "I Go to Pieces," a song the Michigan-born singer had decided not to record. In 1961, Del Shannon's self-penned song "Runaway" had been a number one hit. Fortuitously, Peter and Gordon were touring in Australia on the same bill as Del Shannon and they found out the song was available.

"He had decided that it wasn't a good song for him to record and he had been trying to find it a home. I overheard a failed pitch Del Shannon had made to the UK's The Searchers. I immediately asked if Gordon and I could record it and he agreed. We worked on the song continuously. We asked him not to give it to anyone else and he agreed," said Asher.

The duo's instincts were correct. After its release, "I Go to Pieces" was another Top 10 hit. After he stopped touring with Waller, he started a career in music management working for The Beatles at their record label, Apple. Later, he became a highly-regarded record producer.

Tickets are \$59 for members and \$61 for the general public. For more information call 773-728-6000 or visit oldtownschool.org.

Alphorn concert May 17 at Northcenter Town Square

The noise coming from Northcenter Town Square, 4100 N. Damen Ave., at noon on Saturday, May 17 will be a free alphorn concert, including 20 alphorn players from across the country.

The 12 foot long horns are fun to see and hear.

Care for Friends showing off new homeless aid center May 17

Care for Friends is showing off their new homeless community center at 530 W. Fullerton 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 17.

The nonprofit that's been serving Chicago's homeless for over 50 years, is hosting an open house to show off progress on their newly constructed facility.

Care for Friends claims to work with more than 12,500 people across the city providing meals, healthcare, clothing, job support and other services.

Neighbors are invited to stop by and walk through the space, hear from the shelter staff and volunteers.

During their free meals, guests are encouraged to take advantage of donated clothes and other items they may need. Additionally, many homeless benefit from their foot-care clinic, access primary care services, and are linked to housing and employment through their charities partners.

\$5 FREE VACUUMING

EXPRESS CAR WASH

AUTOMATIC CAR WASH

3218 W. Irving
4550 W. Addison
4820 W. Lawrence

Veteran Owned & Operated for 50 Years

Lucas Tire & Autocare

3501 N. Western Ave.
Across from Lane Tech H.S.
45 years in Business

773-528-2212

FREE DISK BRAKE INSPECTION

What's it going to cost you? Because brake systems are complex, no one can estimate service cost without a thorough inspection and estimate for the parts and labor needed to do the job right. Your brake inspection is absolutely FREE! NO CHARGE - NO OBLIGATION Expires August 31, 2025

\$9.99 TIRE ROTATION & VEHICLE INSPECTION

Includes: Tire Rotation, Front End Inspection, Belts & Hoses Check, Brake System Inspection, Fluids Check, Engine Performance Check, Charging System Check, Battery Check. Expires August 31, 2025

OIL, LUBE & FILTER \$39.99

Synthetic (where applicable), new filter & up to 5 quarts major brand of oil (brands vary). Most cars. Special diesel oil & filter extra. Call for appointment. No other discounts apply. Full synthetic add \$30. Expires August 31, 2025

\$10 OFF on \$100 to \$200 purchase

\$20 OFF on \$201 to \$300 purchase

\$25 OFF on purchase over \$301 Expires August 31, 2025

4 TIRES \$269.00

13", 14", 15" sized tires. Plus mounting, balance and tax. Expires September 30, 2022

4 TIRES \$289.00

16" and 17" sized tires. Plus mounting, balance and tax. Expires August 31, 2025

\$10 OFF ALL WHEEL ALIGNMENTS Expires August 31, 2025

www.lucastire.com

GEJA'S CAFE PRESENTS A SPECIAL EVENING OF

FLAMENCO MUSIC & FONDUE

May 20th 6-9pm \$79

Includes International Premier Fondue Dinner

MEHRAN JALILI
STEVE EDWARDS
ALFONSO PONTICELLI

Celebrating 60 Years of Flamenco Guitarists and Fondue Dining! Imagine an evening filled with the passionate sounds of not just one, but three live Flamenco guitarists with the music flowing all evening. One hour sets each.

773-281-9101 www.gejascafe.com

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

FREE ESTIMATES

PRE-SEASON TUNE-UP SPECIAL

LIMITED TIME
STARTING AT \$75⁰⁰

MENTION AD

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS ALL EUROPEAN BIKES & E-BIKES & SCOOTER REPAIRS

ROBERTS CYCLE

7054 N. CLARK ST.
773-274-9281
www.robertscycle.com

ITALIAN from p. 2

world. Perhaps an American Pope can offset the disfigured face of America in the world now. To trust. To love.

Our Pope lived in the Beverly neighborhood when he was the Superior of the Augustinian order. That rounds out his resumé in classic order with a treasured South Side Zip Code that rivals Rome.

MEETING: At the request of Ald. **Brian Hopkins** [2nd], Mayor **Brandon Johnson** and Supt. **Larry Snelling** came to Streeterville last week to personally listen to resident’s concerns about public safety, specifically in reference to past teen takeovers and wildings. Neighbors say that the Mayor listened intently to their concerns.

CHOCOLATE CAKE: Word has it that Portillo’s chocolate cake is a favorite of Pope Leo. We know he also has had his fair share of Aurelio’s pizza.

PAX TIBI: The recent passing of **Lori Healey**, long-time stalwart of insider city governance, is sad. She was a brilliant supporter of Chicago, a person who understood the complexities and the humanity of urban governance, and owned a classical understanding of how you make a city move. As chief-of-staff for Mayor **Richard M. Daley** she calmed the waters of life and politics, bringing those who govern and those who are governed a healthy understanding and pride. She touched so many aspects of Chicago administration, bending ideals and ideas from City Hall to Navy Pier to The Barak Obama Presidential Center. Chicago was the stage on which Healey made a distinguished career. She was an erudite leader, a fearless Chicagoan and an old-fashioned delight whose life thrived on the commotion of achievement and wondrous success. Chicago will not be as efficient or noble without

Choice
JANITORIAL

BBB A+ Rating
SNOW REMOVAL
COMMON AREAS CLEANING
OFFICE CLEANING • CARPET CLEANING
POWER WASHING

773-292-6015
www.callchoicejanitorial.com

BARRY • REGENT
The Quality Cleaners

Quality alterations on all your garments:

- Shorten/lengthen hems • Take in/let out waists
- Shorten/lengthen sleeves • Take in/taper seams
- Install new linings • Mend or replace broken zippers
- Install new pockets • Replace missing buttons, snaps, hooks etc.

Fitting room hours: Tues-Sat 10 am to 5:30 pm
No fittings on Mondays - Closed Sunday

3000 N. Broadway • 773-348-5510
www.barryregentcleaners.com

her. May she have peace.

GIBSON’S STEAKHOUSE: Chicago’s premier signature Chicago eatery just turned 36 years old. Congrats to all who have helped to reinvent great Chicago dining. It’s as if the Stockyards never left. **Steve Lombardo** is the architect of this anchor institution. **Johnny Colletti** and **Kathy O’Malley Piccone** are beloved Chicago treasures. So too are all the individuals who assisted in establishing a historic restaurant attracting the most discerning and robust fans.

CUBS: Thanks go out to the Cubs and the **Gene and Rosemary Schuler** Foundation who took 300 Seniors to the May 7 Cubs game. The Seniors came from the Levy Center, where Schuler Chairs the Levy Auxiliary and Village. The Seniors were honored during Older Americans Month.

A CURE: **Bethany Kitick** with **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh**, **Paula Borg**, **Julia Jacobs**, **Shaun Rajah** and **Mary Ann Butscher** working with the National MS Society for the “Together for a Cure Luncheon,” to be held on Thursday, May 15 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Women’s Athletic Club.

ZINES: **Peter Miles Bergman**, **Cody Kasselmann** and **Eric Von Haines** have bought the beloved Quimby Bookstore, 1850 W. North Ave., where self-published zines, comics and graphic novels have been sold for three decades.

SERVICE CLUB: The Service Club Hat Luncheon was one for the books. High fashion and a noble cause. **Leah Chavie**, **Julia Jacobs**, **Kate Krause Prange**, **Leah**, **Jennifer Sutton Brievea**, **Kathy O’Malley Piccone**, **Jody Wilmot**, **Kelly McCarthy**, **Jean Coatar Antoniou**, **Paul R Iacona** and **Sherry Lea Fox** all looked elegant and chic as they joined that ocean of millenary at the Ritz.

TRINITY IRISH DANCE: Museum of Contemporary Art, 35th Anniversary Kick-Off: Trinity Irish Dance Company, May 16-18. Director **Mark Howard** showcases the 35-year evolution of this company leading to a flurry of major milestone moments - including the world premiere of groundbreaking work at

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



The Cubs and the Gene and Rosemary Schuler Foundation hosted 300 Seniors to the May 7 Cubs game.



Lori Healey

the MCA, the company’s Jacob’s Pillow debut, and administrative and artistic expansion. Friday, May 16, 7 p.m.- 11 p.m., opening night performance and 35th Anniversary gala. Saturday, May 17, 2 p.m. matinee and 7:30 p.m. performance, Sunday, May 18 at 1 p.m.

GOLDEN: **Victor Hurtado**, a Schurz H.S. alumnus, was recognized with a Golden Apple Award for his work supporting bilingual students, launching the school’s dual-language program in 2017, and **Kathleen Mahoney** snagged one too at Lake View High School.

SPECIAL DELIVERY: Chick-fil-A is actively pursuing a Wicker Park location amid the chain’s expansion across the Chicagoland area, with hopes to open up at the former Wicker Park post office.

THE FUTURE: Next up at Goodman Theatre is perhaps the finest new play of the season. Pulitzer Prize finalist playwright **Jordan Harrison’s** newest work, “The Antiquities”—a transcendent portrait of the present as seen from the future—is on stage now. A world-premiere co-production between the Goodman, Playwrights Horizons and Vineyard Theatre.

SICK: Renowned ensemble member **Amy Morton** returns to the Steppenwolf stage for the first time in nearly a decade, joined by fellow ensemble members for “You Will Get Sick” starting June 5. She will be joined by **Cliff Chamberlain** and **Namir Smallwood**.

WHO’S WHERE: **Father Jack Wall**, President of the Catholic Church Extension Society, was present in St. Peter’s Square for the historic election of an American Pope... **Linda Robin** in NYC visiting the galleries... **Janet** and **Rodger Owen** had a beautiful lunch and afternoon at the Chicago Yacht Club with dear **Caitie** and **Jorge** awaiting their baby girl set to arrive in July, exciting... Get well wishes to **Christopher Clinton Conway** in Cedars-Sinai Los Angeles, the perfect patient... Artist **Rosemary Fanti** and hubby, **Richard Koranda**, in Longboat Key, FL... Actor **Jesse Solomon** and the cast of Summer House showed up at Hope Lodge in support of the American Cancer Society... **Todd S. Davis** at the Newberry Library honoring **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, who was presented the Newberry Award... **Diane Abt** and **Michael Zielinziger** had a

Sunday afternoon picnic in chilly Berlin... **Marius Morvenus** and **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** walking NYC’s tulip-filled streets... **Toni Antonacci** had a great day at “pennyville” with **Steve Lombardo**, **John Collette**, **Jimmy Dileo** and “**Boop**” **Marsico**, so many great memories, and with Jimmy so many great stories and laughs... **Kevin Whatley**, a long-time favorite British actor in detective shows, was recently honored with an OBE... **Marta Farion**, **Natalia Lysenko**, **Kristina Tatarska**, **Ib Mockan** and **Maria Klimchak** front and center celebrating the 410th Anniversary of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy... **Michael Kutza**, founder of the Chicago International Film Festival, has some fresh photos by photographer **John O’Reilly**, very splendid... Happy birthday to the forever young, **Neil Hartigan**, former Illinois Lt. Governor... Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** made history as the first Indian male to walk the Met Gala red carpet... Happy 86th birthday to treasured balladeer **Judy Collins**... **Susan Gohl** and **Jonathan Grabill** were the toast of the town in Naples, FL at a Kentucky Derby soiree... **Kelly Whealon George** tells us her son **Kiernan George** is now engaged to **Claire Kennedy**, popping the question last week in Amsterdam... Former VP **Michael Pence** repeatedly invoked the Constitution and said it is what “binds us all together” after receiving the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award this year... **Maria Pappas** joined Consul General of the Republic of Poland, **Regina Jurkowska**, for the National Constitution Day celebration recently... The Cubs **Seiya Suzuki** gave \$4.7 million to charity centers who help newborns without parents... **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew** arrived by air in Naples, Italy, and began a two-day official visit to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese... **Joey Majumdar** celebrating with friend, **April Lufriu**, former Mrs. World, on her birthday, and encouraging her as the National Spokesperson for the Blind... Former 43rd Ward Ald. **Edwin Eisendrath** caught social media praise, identified as the man who gave up his coat to a sleeping passenger aboard a CTA L train... **Stephanie Leese Emrich** was with Brown alum husband, **Jeff**, and Brown President **Christine Paxson**, delighted Jeff always brings his freshman beanie to the Providence Campus... designer **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh** and

Sally Jo Morris Pfaff looking high fashion splendid at a night of refined glamour at Divan for the Chicago Met Ball watch party... **Sherrill Bodine** in Tallinn, the Estonian capitol in the Baltic on the shore of the Gulf of Finland, picturesque, medieval and a population of half a million... Congrats to **Kate Junkins** who has been accepted into Loyola Stritch School of Medicine... “**Easy**” only has one name when he occupies a stool at the Erie Café bar, a pal of mine and the great **Rosie O’Neill**, a true Chicago man about town, his consoling help to me has been transformative. Especially on one of the busiest nights of the year, Mother’s Day.

UKRAINE: The Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America just held its annual meeting. **Dr. Maria Dmytriv Kapeniak** was re-elected as president. The board of directors says they’re ready to tackle the challenges ahead. Slava Ukraini.

CHICAGO PIZZA & OVEN GRINDER CO: For nearly 34 years, **Mariano** has been part of the family — starting as a bus boy and working his way through every position in the restaurant. He spent two decades pulling double shifts, and his dedication shows in everything he does. Mariano loves seeing familiar faces year after year, and his go-to menu favorite? The Meatball Grinder.

MENTAL HEALTH: **Amy Kennedy**, cofounder of The Kennedy Forum coming to town to share the screening of “Mental Health Care in America” - a movie dealing with mental health challenges, May 20 at The Firehouse Restaurant, 1401 S. Michigan Ave.

MURDERED: Dept. of Homeland Security Sec. **Kristi Noem** criticized Illinois’ immigration laws and its governor while invoking the 2023 murder of a local progressive activist **Emma Shafer**, as Shafer’s mother was across town at a protest against Noem’s visit. Noem held the news conference on the same block where Shafer, allegedly stabbed by her partner at their home, was murdered in 2023.

You can get much farther with a kind word and a gun than you can with a kind word alone. - *Al Capone*

tog515@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Don DeBat is right to sound the alarm

The 36-story tower at 1600 N. LaSalle is not just massive — at 214 feet wide on a tiny site — it’s a violation of Old Town’s scale, integrity, and public trust. It blocks the chance for a grocery store, casts long shadows over neighbors, and ignores overwhelming opposition from residents, including at 1660 N. LaSalle.

Ald. Brian Hopkins reversed his position, and City Council approved the plan despite serious unanswered questions. Many believe this ordinance should be legally challenged. DeBat’s column captures the breach. The community must demand transparency, fairness, and legal accountability — and challenge this zoning overreach.

Tim Carew
Old Town

God created these fur-bearing animals

I don’t know which side of the fence Bob Zuley is on [“Fur Ban showdown” article, April 9], but I always sit on the top of the fence. It guarantees a clear view of all sides.

The article implies that fur is being treated by society as a commodity with total disregard for its origin. According to the article, the fur ban ordinance is in opposition from Black clergy. The clergy with connections to God who created these fur-bearing animals?

Fur-bearing animals are trapped with steel-jaw traps. I get on the defensive because 35 years ago I had two fingers crushed - requiring 44 stitches - and the pain never goes away.

In 1946, a retired trapper wrote: “The annual suffering of trapped animals in North America alone are greater than those caused by any war.”

Charles Darwin, naturalist, published his appeal against trapping in 1863. “Few men could endure to watch an animal struggling in a trap with a crushed and torn limb.”

As for Jean-Baptiste-Point Du Sable, the fur trader, did success make his business “acceptable?” In his days, shameful slavery was accepted. But we moved on! Even so, the fiendish cruelty of trapping is accepted.

In the 1980s and 90s there were sparks of evolvement. Now comes along a test in the introduction of the Fur Ban Ordinance, and we choose regress? Fur stands for immense suffering.

Zuley refers to the “much ridiculed ban on foie gras” in 2006, how it became the butt of nationwide jokes. How shockingly erroneous. The average person didn’t even know what foie gras was. The City Council reacted to the heinous cruelty, and voted for the ban. The reversal came in 2008 because of Chicago politics. Chicago was ridiculed by some uneducated, narrow-minded insensitive people. Chicago’s “fame” was created by its inability to produce a corruption-free government.

Ava Barcelona
Andersonville

Idaho stop?

I learned to drive in California. Slowing down so that you could stop on a dime if necessary was something I learned was called a “boulevard stop” or a “California stop.” I have been known to do this while driving a car, as well as while riding a bicycle, as long as there are no ticket-happy cops around.

Letter-writer Mark Robbins [April 30] whines about having to put both feet on the ground at a full stop, as if he hasn’t ridden the kinds of bikes I have. I too don’t like to have to come to a full stop, but I don’t complain about having to obey the laws. The physics of bicycling are marvelous. Once I stop, I quickly end up in the “ready” position: one foot on the pavement, the other on the top pedal on the other side. One foot holds the bike upright. I can hold this position as long as the traffic controls and traffic require. Normal bicycling in Illinois is not like Bike the Drive.

Rules of the Road has explicit

instructions on how road users, including bicycles, shall use their right of way at an intersection controlled by stop signs in all directions. Road users take turns going through the intersection in a specified order. One doesn’t have to come to a full stop to yield, according to the Rules, the right of way. That’s a physical reality, not in our law books yet.

There’s no practical need to legalize this almost-stop at stop signs by bicycles. Chicago Police already treat all moving and mechanical violations by bicyclists as “secondary offenses” - only to be enforced after an actual collision. Visit Clark and Catalpa and watch all the moving violations all day long by bicyclists, none enforced, even when a squad car is close by.

If the Chicago Police were required to actually enforce the rules pertaining to bicycle equipment and operation on public streets, they could still use their discretion to let a bicyclist “get

History of the Edgewater Beach Hotel May 29

Nothing epitomized the grandeur of Chicago in the Jazz Age like the Edgewater Beach Hotel, now gone, but once located at 5300 N. Sheridan Rd.

The former North Side hotel will be the topic of a lecture 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29 at the Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave. The free program will offer a lively look back with author John Holden at one of Chicago’s most legendary institutions.

Part luxury hotel, part country

club and part entertainment Mecca, the Edgewater Beach Hotel was one of the world’s great entertainment destinations.

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, the hotel was a place to see and be seen and it played host to a who’s who of the rich and famous.

Due to the nationwide Big Band Jazz broadcasts from its Marine Dining Room, the hotel became world famous.



Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW
866.753.9521



MARIA PAPPAS
COOK COUNTY TREASURER

Everything you
can do in person,
you can do at

cookcountytreasurer.com



Eligible for a refund?
Search \$122 million
in Refunds and
\$33 million in Senior
Exemptions.



Avoid Tax Sale.
Check to make sure
your taxes are paid
and not at risk of
going to Tax Sale.



Where do your Tax
Dollars go?
View taxing district
debt attributed to
your property.

Service Directory/Classifieds

To place an ad, call 773-465-9700 or email:
insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com
Deadline: 5pm Mondays

Autos Wanted

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

Commercial Space for Rent

Commercial storefronts on hot hot hot prime Bucktown main street near 606. First floor with 800 to 1000 square feet, \$15 per foot / UP. Three-year lease @ \$15 sq. ft. to developer/builder with proven funds. 773-772-0808 please leave message.

Coins

North Michigan Ave.
Gold & Coin Buyer

BRIAN ANDREW & ASSOC.

• In business over 40 years •

333 North Michigan Ave.
Suite 1032
Chicago, IL 60601
312 541 8320



We can come to you
www.andrewcoin.com

For Sale

Trailer for sale, for boat or jet ski. Rims, jacks, spare wheels included. \$457. Call 773-818-0808

Furniture Removal/ Junk Removal

A Red's Hauling Service
Removal of unwanted items
from Basements, Garages, Attics,
Businesses, Estate Clearance
Senior Citizen Discount
FREE ESTIMATES
773-616-0979
redshauling.com

Health & Fitness

Attention oxygen therapy users! Discover oxygen therapy that moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. Free information kit. 1-833-650-5419

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads)

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$119.00! Shipped discreetly to your home. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 800-709-3080

Home Services

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-887-0117. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Janitorial



Choice JANITORIAL BBB A+ Rating
COMMON AREAS CLEANING • OFFICE CLEANING • CARPET CLEANING • POWER WASHING • SNOW REMOVAL 773-292-6015
www.callchoicejanitorial.com

Miscellaneous

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

Consumer Cellular - same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees free activation. All plans feature unlimited talk & text, starting at just \$20/mo. Call 1-877-751-0866

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call 1VS 1-866-859-0405

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-833-399-3595

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

Extreme Internet \$39 month! Insanely fast fiber speed! Available nationwide! No contracts! No credit check! Everyone approved! Get insane fiber speeds for \$39/month. 866-905-2272

Miscellaneous, cont.

Home break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets now for as little as 70c/day! 1-844-591-7951

Inflation is at 40 year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit cards. Medical bills. Car loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call National Debt Relief and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! Free quote: Call 1-844-955-4930

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 6/30/25. 1-844-501-3208

MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! Call 1-888-489-3936

!!OLD GUITARS WANTED!! GIBSON, FENDER, MARTIN, Etc. 1930's to 1980's. TOP DOLLAR PAID. CALL TOLL FREE 1-866-433-8277

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a free 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-305-1535

Replace your roof w/ the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

SunSetter. America's number one awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-855-914-1148

We buy houses for cash as is! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer & get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-877-5833

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 22nd of May, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at 2724 W. 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608 at www.storage treasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m.

1039 Clesia Taylor
B122 Javon A. Mathis
1077 Laura Lee Weathers

This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St., 773-247-3000, is opening lockers:

3C3237 (Shannon Bonner),
4C4173 (Shannon Bonner),
3F3662 (Brett Lewandowski),
3F3629 (Tiffany McCaskill),
and 4C4217 (Jacqueline Wade)
for public sale of miscellaneous items.
This sale is to be held on
Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

Sleeping Rooms

Cook County - Chicago

Nice room w/ stove, fridge & bath. Near ALDI, Walgreens, beach, Red Line & buses. Elevator & Laundry. \$149/wk and up. 773-275-4442

BIG ROOM with stove, fridge, bath & nice wood floors. Near Red Line & Buses. Elevator & Laundry, Shopping. \$139/wk. 773-561-4970

Clean room, refrigerator, microwave, near Oak Park, Food-For-Less, Walmart, Walgreens, Laundry, Buses and Metra. \$140.00 a week and up. \$595.00 a month and up. 773-637-5957



VIEW ILLINOIS PUBLIC NOTICES FREE ONLINE!

assessments | budgets | schools | taxes
foreclosure | hearings | adoptions | salaries

WWW.PUBLICNOTICESILLINOIS.COM

A free service provided by employees of the Illinois State Auditor



BATH REMODEL

 BATH REMODEL

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW
866.753.9521

SPECIAL OFFER
Waiving All Installation Costs!

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 6/29/25.

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB
1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

GENERAC GENERATORS

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™

Be prepared before the next power outage.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 866-643-0438 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

ROOFING

Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!

Before

After

LIMITED TIME OFFER! SAVE!

UP TO 50% OFF INSTALLATION

FREE ESTIMATE 1.833.370.1234

ERIEHOME.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/erie-licenses

WINDOWS



VIST OUR SHOWROOM TODAY

ADVANCED WINDOW CORP.

AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN WINDOWS & DOORS
MANUFACTURING & SALES

GLASS & SCREEN REPAIRS DONE FAST!

4935 W. Le Moyne St., Chicago, IL 60651
773-379-3500 www.advancedwindow.com

Young writers awards ceremony May 17

The 2025 Randall Alpers Young Writers Award Ceremony will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., in the Reception Hall.

The awards Ceremony and open mic returns for its third year when they will present awards to young writers of both prose and poetry and listen as they read aloud from their work. The event is open to the general public, to register visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/randall-alpers-young-writers-award-ceremony-2025-tickets-1307527282299?aff=oddttdtcreator>.

Tennis classes back on at Chase Park

The Chase Park HIT tennis program is back for this summer at 4701 N. Ashland Ave.

Players will learn tennis skills with the return of Rising Rackets Tennis Classes on Saturday mornings.

Classes are available for children just starting out or looking to take their game to the next level. Youth will build technique, confidence, coordination, and a love for the game. Classes will be held Saturday mornings June 7 to July 26. Limited spots are offered, and the cost is \$275 per child.

EYE CARE



SUPERIOR EYECARE
SINCE 1987

We make glass lenses in one hour.
Free eye exam with new glasses.
Broken frame? We can put your old lens into a new frame

Eye Exam with 3 Month Supply of Acuvue Oasys sph **\$120**

 **773-525-1601**
2947 N. Broadway
NEW LOCATION!
1152 W. Diversey Parkway
WWW.SUPERIOREYECARECHICAGO.COM

HANDYMAN

REPAIRS
ROOFS • GUTTERS
CARPENTRY
WINDOWS
SIDING • DOORS

Call John:
(312) 301-9980

SOLO J&D REMODELING INC.

HANDYMAN SPECIALIST
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
HOME REMODELING
PAINTING & PLASTERING
POWER WASHING,
DECKS & MORE!

Call Don: (773) 865-6261
Email: taz.gg9665@gmail.com
Habla Español

GARAGES

Call The Garage Guy Inc.

Garage Builders

We Build & Remodel
Old Garages
Siding • Door Openers

FREE ESTIMATES
773-842-1998

absolute
garagebuilders.com

Exotic animal rescue presentation May 18

Have you thought about owning a parrot or parakeet? A snake? Want to own finches but not sure about their care? Or is a California King snake more your type of pet?

If you own an exotic pet and have questions about their care then there is a meeting coming up that may help.

The Warren Park Advisory Council is hosting the Andersonville-based Chicagoland Exotic Animal Rescue [CLEAR] at noon Sunday, May 18, for an informative lecture on exotic pets.

Executive Director Jessica Katz will explain what is involved in owning an exotic pet and lecture about the rescues and work that CLEAR does in the greater Chicagoland area. Katz founded CLEAR

HOME IMPROVEMENT



P & L Construction Services, Inc.

Home Remodeling:
Kitchens, Bathrooms,
Basements & Exteriors

Commercial Services:
Office Remodeling, Tenant Improvements,
Commercial Doors & more

847-361-6306
www.plconstructionservicesinc.com

TOOL LIQUIDATION

TOOL LIQUIDATION

- Welder Generator
- Drain Rodder
- Ridgid Threading Machine
- Tank Torch Set
- Ridgid Plumbing Tools

773-818-0808

101supplyok@gmail.com
RECYCLED • CHEAP

TUCKPOINTING

ACCURATE EXTERIOR & MASONRY

Specializing in Tuckpointing Chimneys, Brick Work, Lintel, Parapet Walls, Parging, City Violations & Roofing. Rated "A" on Angie's List Licensed and Insured Free Estimate

773-592-4535
(10S14A)

Mark's Tuckpointing & Remodeling Co., Inc.

- TUCKPOINTING • BRICKWORK
- MASONRY • CHIMNEY
- MASONRY VIOLATIONS CORRECTED
- LINTEL REPLACEMENT
- ROOFING • PARAPET WALLS
- GUTTERS • SOFFIT/FASCIA

10% DISCOUNT
FREE ESTIMATES - INSURED
(773) 774-0444
www.MarksTuckpointing.com

in 2021 when she realized there was a need for more organizations dedicated to rehabilitating and rehoming exotic pets, which aren't accepted by many shelters.

As Chicago's only state-licensed, nonprofit exotic animal rescue located within the City of Chicago, CLEAR rescues, rehabilitates, and rehomes exotic pets that end up being dumped or relinquished, oftentimes because owners don't know how to take care of them properly.

No live birds or reptiles will be at the presentation, and exotic pets are not allowed in the field house. Tickets are free, but pre-registration is required. For more information, call 773-349-2882, or visit <https://www.clearescue.org/>.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
AT INSIDEONLINE.COM

PARK from p. 1

said Montes.

Chicago-based developer, Related Midwest, 350 W. Hubbard St., is now building 400 Lake Shore, a two-tower residential development. The first phase will include a 72-story, 858-foot tower on the northern end of the site consisting of 635 rental apartments in a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom layouts. Twenty percent of these apartments will be designated as affordable housing. Related Midwest will also be responsible for the completion of the long-awaited of DuSable Park.

“We are excited to be a part of bringing the park to fruition. Not only has Related Midwest made a \$10 million contribution to the park, the company will be building it for the park district. We are committed to delivering DuSable Park upon completion of the North Tower at 400 Lake Shore, which is currently under construction. The timing will be mid-2027. It’s the Chicago Park District’s land and project, so our role is limited to the [aforementioned role],” said Tricia Van Horn, senior VP, marketing and communication at Related Midwest.

In the summer of 2012, the site of the park had undergone extensive environmental remediation during which 18 inches of topsoil had been removed. That soil had been contaminated with thorium, a radio-

active metal once used in the manufacture of gas lamps, nearby. The park is surrounded to the south, east and north by the waters of the Chicago River, Ogden Slip and Lake Michigan.

The park honors Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, who in the late 18th century settled on the north bank of the Chicago at what today is Michigan Ave. DuSable, whose parents were French and Haitian, had settled in Chicago to facilitate trade with the area’s Native Americans. While that site today is far from the original mouth of the Chicago River, in DuSable’s lifetime, his home was close to where the mouth of the Chicago River emptied into Lake Michigan. According to park district officials, the site of DuSable Park was created in the 1860s by dumping landfill into the lake.

According to information posted on the park district’s web-site, DuSable had moved to Chicago in 1772 to establish a trading post near what today is Pioneer Court, 401 N. Michigan Ave. In 1800, DuSable sold his land to an agent of Quebec-born John Kinzie. DuSable and his family left Illinois and crossed the Mississippi to reside in what today is St. Charles, Missouri. In 1800, Missouri was part of Spanish Louisiana. Shortly afterwards, DuSable operated a ferry that crossed the Missouri River. DuSable died Aug. 28, 1818.

AGREEMENT from p. 1

the alderman and/or OLMRA to impose \$5,000 per-day fines, enforcement remains optional. Residents have the burden of evidence, and there is no specific complaint method, audit system, or guarantee that infractions would be followed. Quarterly meetings offer discourse, but not always action.

In his interview, Hopkins pointed to additional benefits not tied to the formal agreement, including infrastructure im-

provements.

“There’s an additional... \$1 million [for] traffic improvements in the area and those funds will go to the Chicago Dept. of Transportation,” he said. He also mentioned Fern Hill’s obligation to fill the long-vacant grocery store location, “Fern Hill has a requirement to find a new grocery tenant for the former Treasure Island space... They have a three and a half year time limit to do so.”

Who that new tenant may be is unknown, and no lease has been made public for 1639

N. Wells St. Nor is the fate known - and temporary location ID’d - of a Walgreens store, whose building will be demolished to make way for the new high-rise.

Yet, trust remains fragile in the community. An Oct. 2024 letter from OTMRA to Ald. Hopkins emphasized lingering community concerns. “Overall, OTMRA is hearing that Nick Anderson and Fern Hill have not established any level of trust with the community.”

Marcy Huttas, Executive Director of OTMRA, noted in emails that the contribution arose directly from neighborhood feedback. “It was our negotiating committee... that suggested the community benefits, based on input we have heard throughout this process,” she said. “Discussion for the \$300,000 ‘Community Donation’... has been focused on rat abatement and rat sterilization. The OTMRA board would ultimately vote on the use of the funds for the benefit of the community.”

Still according to Huttas, The OTMRA board would ultimately vote on the use of the funds for the benefit of the community.

Framing the donation as a grassroots idea obscures the power imbalance between a multimillion-dollar developer and a neighborhood group dependent on membership, fundraising and Special Service Area [SSA] funds.

The notion that the community “suggested” the contribution conveniently sidesteps the reality that Fern Hill benefits financially from the rezoning they received, while avoiding a formal commitment to offset those gains.

While the final agreement enforces design limits and community check-ins, it leaves the much-discussed \$300,000 fund as a matter of public expectation—but may not be a binding contract.

The agreement was signed by Huttas and OTMRA Board President Pam Farley. And in April, Ald. Hopkins said he ended up approving the project because of the significant backing among other Old Town neighbors, including last-minute support coming from the OTMRA.

Last week Ald. Hopkins insisted that oversight mechanisms are already in place.

“It’s a legally binding agreement... overseen by a board of directors on the SSA. So those funds are restricted and can’t be used for anything else but rodent control,” he said.

Still, the agreement contains no mention of third-party audits or public reporting mechanisms on how the funds will be spent.

While the community benefit is narrowly defined, some residents remain skeptical. A summer 2024 OTMRA membership survey showed that 64.81% of members opposed the Fern Hill project, citing density, traffic, and lack of trust in the developer... only 14.81% indicated support for the project.

Their Oct. 2024 letter summarized the results, while noting the lack of trust in the community.

The agreement does include some enforcement teeth. According to Ald. Hopkins, “The alderman actually has the authority to review any evidence sent to us of violations... and issue a \$5,000 fee per day of violation.” He also pointed to other community safeguards such as a ban on short-term rentals and disruptive Sunday construction, and a quarterly panel between the developer, the alderman’s office, and local representatives to address ongoing concerns.

But for some of the project’s critics, the donation may still feel transactional. The OTMRA and their SSA#48 will in fact benefit from the additional property tax funds they will collect annually from the new high-rise development. In 2024, SSA#48 service tax funds amount totaled \$579,167 through an additional 0.450% fee added to property within the SSA zone.

What’s less clear is whether the \$300,000—and the development itself—can ultimately repair the trust gap between Fern Hill and the neighborhood.

Developers offering “soft” benefits—donations, oversight panels, aesthetic tweaks—in exchange for rezoning approvals that increase land value. But without hard guarantees, these benefits are often symbolic. What is the price of public trust?



This is how to live in Chicago!

Retire with confidence in the city and a location you love – just steps from Lake Michigan’s Foster Beach.

The Admiral at the Lake is a not-for-profit Life Plan Community that offers the carefree, vibrant and active lifestyle you want today with the peace of mind of on-site care should your needs change tomorrow.

If you need a bit of support to continue living a life of fulfillment and joy, we have immediate availability in Assisted Living and Memory Support.

Contact us today.

773-433-1801 | theadmiral.org



929 W. Foster Avenue | Chicago, IL 60640



HEY! IT'S MAY!
we have your mothers' day, prom,
& graduation flowers

Tea Rose Flower Shop
773-654-3040
3314 W Bryn Mawr

:tearoseflowershop : Tea Rose Flower Shop

Gregory J. Lindeman
Founder/Director

MIDTOWN



Funeral Home & Cremation Options

A Home to Mourn, Gather and Remember

3918 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60618

River North Office
405 W. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60654

773-654-3744

greg@midtownfunerals.com

WWW.MIDTOWNFUNERALS.COM