

Rather fail with honor
than succeed by fraud.

—Sophocles

SKYLINE

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NEWS OF THE LOOP, STREETERVILLE, RIVER NORTH, NEAR NORTH, GOLD COAST & OLD TOWN

insideonline.com

Builder adds to holdings along Chicago River at former Lincoln Yards site

After already making a significant investment in riverfront property, John Novak and Novak Construction are now adding more distressed Sterling Bay property to his holdings.

The latest acquisition is a \$6 million purchase of properties at 1685 N. Elston Ave. and 1907 N. Mendell St., reports CoStar.

The properties lay on the west bank of the river just northwest of the Cortland Ave. Bridge.

Novak had already purchased large swaths of the southern portion of the former Lincoln Yards site. Novak has now purchased four properties in addition to its

purchase of the troubled Lincoln Yards site.

Novak is taking advantage of Sterling Bay's financial troubles, by picking up the pieces of their failed North Side development. Sterling Bay has now lost virtually all of their riverfront properties at a 'firesale' discount off their original purchase price.

Novak's Lincoln Yards buy amounted to \$34 million for 18.4 acres. Sterling Bay had assembled the properties for a price of \$200 million. Before this deal, Sterling Bay and their bankers had attempted to sell their holdings to JDL and Kanye Anderson for

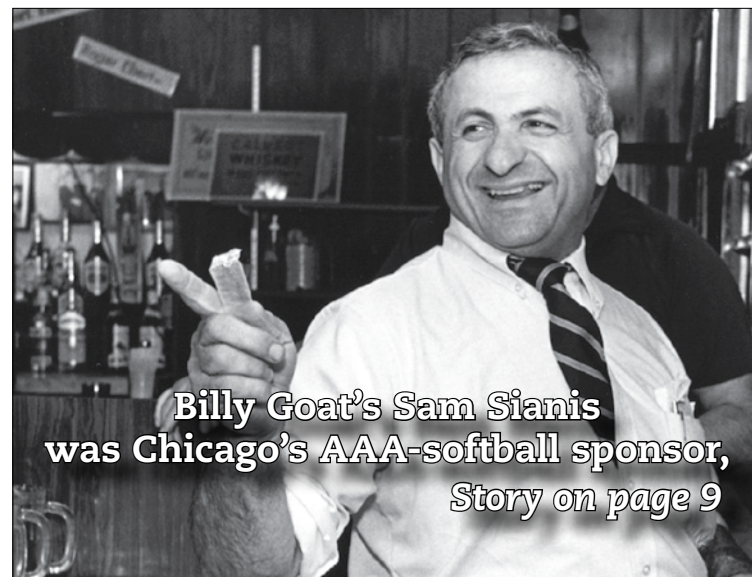
around \$60 million. Kanye and JDL eventually bought parts of the northern 30 acres of Lincoln Yards.

**John Novak's
Lincoln Yards buy
amounted to \$34 million
for 18.4 acres.**

In January, Novak told The RealDeal that their 18.4 acres purchase was the most land his firm had ever bought.

The ambitious - but unlucky - \$6 billion Lincoln Yards plans

HOLDINGS see p. 16



**Billy Goat's Sam Sianis
was Chicago's AAA-softball sponsor,
Story on page 9**



Beat Kitchen's former location along the Chicago River.

Photo courtesy Beat Kitchen

Stricter TOD street limitations proposed for commercial corridors

Zoning would prohibit many commercial uses

Hundreds of North Side businesses would not exist today had Transit Oriented and Pedestrian Oriented Development [TOD and POD] zoning laws existed in the past.

TOD and POD zoning classifications may be some of the least understood zoning designations in Chicago. Many savvy developers and real estate executives understand what the designations entail, but likely not the average citizen who doesn't make a living in real estate.

That may be something North Side property owners and real estate investors should bone up on, as going forward the two zoning

designations will have broad impact on what owners can and can't do with their private property.

A drive-through fast food seller, or pizza parlor with delivery drivers? Forget about it. Quick oil change for your car? No way. A drive-through pharmacy? Not on your life. All are to be banned under the newly proposed TOD, and existing POD zoning classifications.

TOD and POD zones apply to a quarter to a half-mile radius around public transportation corridors (bus and train lines). Commercial corridors in transit-served locations would be eligible for a new zoning designation promot-

ing POD under a measure introduced to City Council last week by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

That means it applies to a gigantic portion of Chicago's Central Business District, and North Side, as almost all of it is located within a half to quarter mile of a train or bus line.

Corridors designated by the City as TOD Streets would carry zoning standards intended to encourage walkable, mixed-use development and higher-density housing near transit. Corridors located within .5 miles of a CTA or Metra train station or .25 miles

LIMITATIONS see p. 16

Appellate court decision ends 19-year dispute at Palmolive Building

What started as a \$36,312 dispute over shower floor tiles at Palmolive Building Landmark Condominium Assoc. has ended 19 years later with a \$4.2 million final bill - driven largely by legal fees - concluding a sprawling litigation saga that ultimately entangled 155 distinct legal entities.

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

The Illinois Appellate Court has slammed the brakes on the multi-decade warfare between River North-based general contractor Pepper Construction Co. and its subcontractor, Bourbon Marble of Buffalo Grove.

The roots of the conflict trace back to 2004, when the 102-unit luxury landmark embarked on an interior build-out of 96 residential condos. That work ground to a halt amid bitter disagreements in March 2007. Pepper Construction initially issued a backcharge to Bourbon Marble, demanding



Upper floors and spire of Palmolive Building. Lake Shore Drive in distance.
Courtesy Steven Dahlman

\$36,312 to cover the estimated expense of correcting alleged deficiencies in the tile work.

Bourbon Marble aggressively countered, turning the tables in subsequent trials to win \$671,819 in damages for unpaid contract

work and unjust enrichment.

That reversal, however, was just the prelude. Because the underlying subcontract contained a standard "prevailing party"

PALMOLIVE see p. 16

Legal filings clarify key positions in federal suit over Riverwalk bidding

New court filings draw a sharp battle line between a former Chicago Riverwalk vendor, the City, and a current tenant, detailing how municipal equity tools allegedly collided with rule-bound contracting during the 2024 bidding process.

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

The federal lawsuit challenging how the City of Chicago awards concession licenses on the Chicago Riverwalk has moved into a new phase. Court documents from late April and mid-May detail the contrasting legal positions of former vendor Beat Kitchen, the City of Chicago, and the current tenant, Haire's Gulf Shrimp.

At issue is a civil rights complaint filed in Dec. 2025 by Robert Gomez, owner of Beat Kitchen. Gomez alleges that the Dept. of Fleet and Facility Management and the Brandon Johnson administration manipulated the 2024 bidding process to ensure Haire's Gulf Shrimp secured the contract for the high-traffic Riverwalk site on the west side of the DuSable Bridge, bypassing established rules in order to favor a Black-owned business over the incumbent Hispanic owner.

Following the City's March motion to dismiss the lawsuit, both the plaintiff and the co-defendant vendor have laid out their arguments before U.S. District Judge Thomas M. Durkin.

On April 27, Beat Kitchen's legal team filed a 41-page Consolidated Opposition, arguing that the case contains specific factual evidence of procedural deviations. The document details areas where the City's Evaluation Committee allegedly departed from uniform criteria:

- **Post-Deadline Intervention:** Beat Kitchen alleges that City officials secretly invited Haire's to submit a late proposal weeks after the public solicitation window had closed.

- **Proposal Deficiencies:** The opposition highlights that Haire's proposal was advanced despite missing financial statements, a required Opinion of Counsel, and a Minimum Annual Guarantee [MAG] - noting that an exhibit from Haire's application showed a question mark ("??") filled out in the MAG column.

- **Targeted Allocation:** The filing references internal evaluation records showing that an Evaluation Committee member directed colleagues to "propose location 2 to [Haire's]," despite

RIVERWALK see p. 16

Where's the gossip coming from?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

While gossip is frequently viewed as malicious or trivial, sociologists note that it often serves important social functions like community bonding, enforcing social norms, and establishing trust.

Newspaper work requires a good bit of gossiping, such as dining with members of the lunch brigade.

Recently two wonderful friends back in town, invited me to a lunch at RL on Chicago Ave.

I cherished the invite, looking forward to our noontime lunch conversation which I've always found wondrous, erudite and no-holds-barred.

We usually sit at a banquette just inside the dining room entrance. It's perfect, comfortable and there's always room for my Irish blackthorn walking stick.

When my lunch companions arrived the dining room was already filling up with conversations. Loud, unruly gossip filled the air.

Friends sharing their latest tidbits and tall tales. Who they suspected of naughtiness, low values and hodgepodge fashion.

As the decibels rose all clarity in conversation seemed to disappear. As a frequent flyer at RL, I was calmed by the wait staff who

have become treasured colleagues and trusted friends. They are not just attentive, but major contributors to our social soiree's peace.

The restaurant is a critical part of my world. The good food of course, but also the stable nature of the staff who long ago made it a second home. They fill the environment with easy conversation and nuanced chit chat, catching us up on what's been happening. Who's where. Who's gone. Who's new. And what's best on the menu.

There was a time when Gold Coast folk would see neighbors in the banquettes. Longtime bridge friends and canasta pals filling the tables. We think back, now, in reverie to the many friends no longer with us whose happy faces sipped Brandy Alexanders and Cosmos from one corner of the room to another. Like Ann Gerber, of course, the Queen of Chicago Gossip, whose Skyline column I now write. Remembering how kind she was to me when starting out 11 years ago.

Our dear best friend Rose O'Neill, who always had a table of social movers and shakers from among Chicago greats. Her favorites included the Irish Counsel General, plus Mary Jo McGuire and husband, Butch. Bishop Tim Lyne, her Cathedral pastor. Her dear friends, Barb Stevens, Bridget Flanagan and John David Mooney, the sculptor, for starters. We also took delight in her gracious dinners with Desmond Guinness and Desmond Fitzgerald, the last Knight of Glin, when in town.

In our luncheon room I still see the faces of Leslie Hindman, Mike Sneed, Bill Zwecker, Candace Jordan and Chicago celebrities of the highest order, like Myra Reilly, Susan Regenstein, Cynthia Olson and Mamie Walton, in the past all lost in festive conversation with now-gone Dori Wilson and Bunky Cushing, himself, a man of polished disposition and fertile Chicago sensibilities.

How happy their meals would be as Bunky regulated the flow of Lake Shore Dr. gossip and Gold Coast social candor. Titillating revelations perfectly accompa-



For this writer there are too few shreds of Chicago gossip that can still titillate and surprise, while hospitality and generosity can often be misunderstood and inspire idle talk.

nied the lobster bisque and the Dover sole.

We all have differential understandings of what true gossip is. Not just revealing something secret and hidden. Many gossip items that were shocking in the past are no longer of interest to a more shock-proof audience of social media veterans.

For me there are only two shreds of Chicago gossip that still titillate and surprise. The first is the details of some Lake Shore Dr. ladies who when packing for winter in Florida always seem to work out a way to take a young man from their building with them for any needed assistance.

The second one is also a barn burner. That's when a successful young male attorney from a silk stocking law firm manages to purchase a car for a young handsome busboy from a restaurant he frequents.

You see, hospitality and generosity still can often be misunderstood and inspire idle talk.

Chicago has always been a gossip town. That was true for the Potter Palmers, the Armour's, the Swifts, the McCormicks, and the Pullmans. And it is true for you and for me. People whose lives always look fuller, more abundant, more elegant and more at ease. Or more fragrant and elegant with our lunches at a Ralph Lauren.

OUR PAL PAT: As we have now lost our dear old friend Patricia M. Peterson, it can be told. She was a frequent source for items in this column. For this writer and for my predecessor Ann Gerber. Only Pat never shared bad gossip, she only had kind things to offer about others. Pat was very fond of this newspaper and helped to promote Skyline out of enjoyment

of its contents and impact on the community. Pat, of Galesburg, IL, died unexpectedly at 94, on Saturday, May 16. Pat is survived by her husband, **Jim Peterson**, who is not a bad fellow himself.

It's a very long list of volunteer and professional events and causes she was a champion of. The world needs women like Pat to survive and thrive. Our pal Pat was a frequent caller to the newspaper, and you always hung up the phone after conversations feeling a little better about things thanks to her kind words. Farewell to a good friend.



Ben Zobrist

SWEEPSTAKES: Former Chicago Cubs World Series MVP **Ben Zobrist** has donated his historic 2017 Chevrolet Camaro SS 50th Anniversary Edition convertible to a nonprofit he founded, Champion Forward, launching a sweepstakes giving Cubs fans the chance to win it while supporting athlete mental health.

The drawing will be held Oct. 13.

NEW WILDCAT: Northwestern names head of Purdue as its next president. **Mung Chiang** will be Northwestern University's first Asian American president.



Mung Chiang. Photo courtesy Shane Collins

He assumes leadership following a rocky period at the university marked by layoffs and scrutiny from Republican lawmakers and the Trump administration over antisemitism on campus.

ANN SATHER: Ann Sather will soon open on Division St., in my West Town 'hood. **Tom Tunney's** fab breakfasts are our win. Lake View's loss is our gain. We're not giving Tom back. Cinnamon buns like no others.

MAXWELL STREET: Jim's Original, known for its Maxwell Street Polish, has to move due to UIC redevelopment. The hot dog stand has until June 30 to leave its



Tom Tunney

primary location at 1250 S. Union Ave. and plans to open in the fall at a new location in Pilsen. UIC should be ashamed of themselves.

ART: Sloane Allen has opened a new independent art center located at 6311 N. Clark Street in Edgewater. Go take a look.

SHAME: Illinois plans to eliminate poor attendance from school ratings at a time when a fourth of the state's students miss a significant chunk of the academic year. In an overhaul the State Board of Education approved in April, "chronic absenteeism," or missing 10% or more of the school year with or without a valid excuse, will no longer ding a school's rating. What are we doing here folks?

REQUIEM: Tom Cashman was the personification of the Chicago Board of Trade. One of its most effective and successful traders. An Irish West Sider married to Bridgeport royalty, **Jacque**, a cousin of legend **Undertaker McKeon**. A magic woman for a magic man, one of my favorite Chicagoan couples, together again in heaven.

A fitting, majestic Irish funeral from Old St. Patrick's, sacred space Tom generously helped to restore. A man of enormous accomplishment and heart. And a

GOSSIP see p. 12

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Call 988... City expands scope of CARE mental health crisis response

Limited hours don't reflect when depressive symptoms are common

BY BOB ZULEY

The Mayor and the Chicago Dept. of Public Health [CDPH] announced recently the citywide expansion of the Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement [CARE] program. The newly expanded scope of the program now reaches all 22 police districts bringing non-police crisis response services.

The program now allows residents experiencing a mental health crises and socio-emotional distress to receive assistance in every community of Chicago.

U.S. cities and states have increasingly faced reductions in mental health treatment capacity driven by local, county, state and federal funding cuts, Illinois' massive state deficits, and the closure of community clinics.

U.S. cities and states have increasingly faced reductions in mental health treatment capacity driven by local, county, state and federal funding cuts, Illinois' massive state deficits, and the closure of community clinics.

The cutbacks have many times left the mentally ill uncared for, wandering Chicago streets and lashing out at moments, causing harm to themselves and others... forcing a police action.

In Chicago, the issue is close to the heart of Mayor Brandon Johnson as he had an older brother, Leon, who struggled with severe mental illness, trauma, and addiction. He ultimately died unhoused. Leon's death heavily influenced his advocacy.

"Every Chicagoan deserves to be met with dignity, compassion, and care during moments of crisis," said Johnson. "The citywide expansion of the CARE program reflects our commitment to a public health and safety approach that emphasizes connecting residents to support, reduces harm, ..."

The CARE program deploys trained behavioral health professionals and EMT's to respond to individuals experiencing mental health crises and socio-emotional distress with compassionate care, crisis intervention, and basic mental support.

CARE mental health services are now available citywide. It is not immediately known how many more trained staff and vehicles were acquired, or if this is an example of doing more with less.

Emergency response services are available Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clinician-only non-emergent services are available citywide

within 72-hours. Call or text 988 to reach trained crisis counselors confidentially.

Mental health crises and negative moods display distinct daily patterns. Research indicates that general mental well-being and depressive symptoms typically worsen as the day goes on, reaching their lowest point around midnight.

Studies have identified specific vulnerability windows for crises, with suicidal thoughts peaking around midnight, 6 a.m., and noon, and specific peaks

around 4 a.m.-to-5 a.m.

Anxiety often peaks shortly after waking. This is largely biological, as cortisol [the stress hormone] naturally surges during the first hour of the day in individuals experiencing stress.

The Chicago Police Dept. FOP Lodge 7 has maintained a stance of cautious skepticism of the CARE program and concern about the city's expansion of alternative, non-police mental health care teams, specifically the rollout of the CARE program.



Emergency response services are available Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Lawmakers end push to stop police from using facial recognition to catch violent criminals

BY CWBCHICAGO

A group of Illinois lawmakers is ending their effort to pass legislation that would have prohibited state and local police agencies from using facial recognition to develop leads in criminal investigations.

The Illinois Biometric Surveillance Act, pushed by North Side Rep. Kelly Cassidy, who represents most of Rogers Park and Edgewater in Springfield, picked up three co-sponsors along the way. But the lawmakers failed to gather enough support among their colleagues as news reports highlighted the technology's role in solving difficult, random violent crimes.

Now, Capitol News Illinois reports that Cassidy is "not looking to move the measure this legislative session" because they are "wary of debates happening in



From left: Bill sponsors Reps. Kelly Cassidy, Kevin Olickal, and Lilian Jiménez, and Diane Blair-Sherlock.

the wake of major news events, which can emphasize the technology's role in investigations over its risks, including misidentification of individuals and expanded surveillance."

CWB Chicago first reported on Cassidy's efforts March 22 in a

story detailing a variety of major crimes that Chicago police detectives solved by generating leads through facial recognition. Many of those crimes occurred on the CTA system, which is covered by high-quality surveillance cameras that provide strong source

material for facial recognition searches.

As that story was being written, Chicago police were again using facial recognition to confirm the identity of the gunman who killed Sheridan Gorman, a Loyola Univ. freshman, on the pier at Loyola

Beach March 19, according to prosecutors. Gorman's murder occurred in Cassidy's district.

"Imagine having to tell a victim's family the technology that could have identified the suspect was taken off the table by lawmakers," State Rep. Patrick Sheehan of Homer Glen said on social media last month.

A possible facial recognition match alone is not sufficient for police to file charges. Detectives use a "hit" as a starting point to generate leads and identify potential suspects. But investigators still have to build a case proving the facial recognition match is accurate and then convince prosecutors they have identified the correct person.

Tom Weitzel, the retired police chief in suburban Riverside, called facial recognition "one of

LAWMAKERS see p. 10

Cook County judge releases serious felony defendants nearly twice as often as his peers

BY CWBCHICAGO

When prosecutors ask a judge to detain someone during their first appearance on a new felony charge at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse in Chicago, the judge will side with prosecutors nearly 7 out of 10 times. That is, unless prosecutors are asking Judge D'Anthony Thedford.

Thedford, who began hearing pretrial cases at 26th St. on Feb. 5, sides with defendants more than half the time. And in recent weeks, he has sided with defendants nearly six out of 10 times, court records show.

Appointed to the bench in 2024, Thedford started in the Traffic Division, but Cook County's new Chief Judge, Charles Beach, reassigned him to the Pretrial Division in January, and Thedford began hearing cases on Feb. 5.

During his first few weeks of



Judge D'Anthony Thedford

handling pretrial matters, Thedford approved 61% of detention filings — comparable to the 69% approval rate since cash bail was eliminated. But that changed after March 17, when he won an unopposed campaign to become a full circuit court judge. Since winning the election, he has approved just 42% of detention petitions pre-

sented to him for non-domestic city felony cases, according to court files.

One of Thedford's highest-profile detention rulings came in the case of Alphonso Talley, who is accused of escaping electronic monitoring and then murdering John Bartholomew and critically injuring Bartholomew's partner at Swedish Hospital last month. Thedford detained Talley and one other defendant that prosecutors sought to keep in jail that day.

However, he released the other four defendants brought before him. He released a man on an ankle monitor to await trial on charges of criminal sexual assault causing bodily harm. He also put an ankle monitor on a man charged with possessing child sexual abuse material. He released two men charged with sex crimes against children without electronic monitoring that day,

The primary difference between Thedford and the other nine judges who actively hear cases in the 26th Street Pretrial Division is that Thedford is far more likely to release people facing firearms possession charges, even if they are convicted felons.

according to court files.

The primary difference between Thedford and the other nine judges who actively hear cases in the 26th Street Pretrial Division is that Thedford is far more likely to release people facing firearms possession charges, even if they are convicted felons.

Another difference: For most judges in the Pretrial Division, being accused of committing a violent crime on the CTA qualifies defendants for detention as a public safety threat. For Thedford, that line is not so clearly drawn.

Last week, prosecutors charged a 67-year-old man with attacking a CTA employee with his cane at the O'Hare Blue Line station. They said the victim told the man he had to exit the train so workers could mop the train car. An argument ensued, and when the man tried to move, he pushed the CTA employee and hit him in the face with his cane, causing a cut and swelling to his left eye. The incident was recorded by CTA cameras. Thedford denied the detention request and released the accused man.

In another CTA case on March 5, prosecutors brought a 29-year-old man with attempted robbery, saying he and an accomplice tried to rob a 46-year-old woman aboard a Red Line train at 69th St. on Jan. 28. The man pulled the woman's backpack to keep her from exiting the train while his partner hit her in the face and tried to take her phone, prosecutors told Thedford. The robbery attempt was recorded by CTA security cameras, and the man, who has two previous forcible felony convictions, was arrested for domestic battery two days after the robbery, prosecutors said. Thedford rejected the detention request and put him on an ankle monitor.

Having a gun on the CTA is also serious business for most judges, a very good way to get yourself locked up or put on an ankle monitor.

Last month, the sheriff's new public transit patrol stopped Vincent Jones at the 69th Street Red Line station for playing loud music on a portable speaker, officials said. They detained him for disorderly conduct, and a search of his belongings turned up a loaded

JUDGE see p. 10

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Report calls out hidden data center tax breaks; Cook County Assessor begs to differ

BY JUDITH RUIZ-BRANCH

A new report says Midwest states such as Illinois are doing a poor job of disclosing the amount of money that local data centers are saving from tax breaks, and researchers are calling for greater transparency.

But in Cook County, the County Assessor's office has successfully defended its assessments of data centers and other large commercial properties during 2025 Cook County Board of Review appeal hearings, and wants them to pay more of the property tax burden.

Supporters of data center facilities argue they're good for economic development, bringing high-paying jobs, tax revenue and capital investment to communities, with many states giving special tax breaks to big companies that build them. But Kasia Tarczynska, a senior research analyst for Good Jobs First, said the industry's operations continue to lack transparency, and some states are withholding how much money is going to tax breaks for these facilities.

Good Jobs First is a national policy resource center that promotes corporate and government accountability in economic development.

From all reports, cities and states across the nation - Chicago included - are now being inundated by demands from new data centers.

In northwest suburban Elk Grove Township, hearings helped prevent increases in homeowners' share of the property tax base during the 2025 reassessment cycle in part by shifting them to data centers and other large commercial interests. This result contrasted with the previous reassessment cycle, when homeowners saw their share of the tax base increase by four percentage points, which contributed to increases in their tax bills.

While property tax bills that reflect this reassessment will not come out until later in 2026, these results could mean fewer homeowners end up with spiking tax bills.

Property taxes are just one aspect of the complex tax collecting matrix in Illinois, a state known globally for its vast multiple levels of taxation and complex myriad of taxing initiatives and government bodies. But local property taxes are for many people the largest single tax bill Illinois residents face each year.

Over the past year, Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi hired additional staff and created a new team to defend more of their office's commercial property assessments, including those for data centers.

"We've poured a lot of resources into building out a team that can make sure big commercial properties are assessed fairly," said Kaegi. "That's going to help keep tax bills manageable for homeowners struggling with affordability right now."

The new appeal hearings initiative is part of the office's implementation of the Cook County Roadmap, a set of recommenda-

tions from a 2024 study of commercial valuations put out by the county's Property Tax Reform Group.

Property owners in Cook County can appeal their assessments with both the Assessor's Office and Cook County Board of Review, a separate elected body. For most commercial properties, owners file an appeal with the Board of Review.

"Some states are doing a little bit better job than other states," said Tarczynska, "but generally speaking, states in [the] Midwest really need to step up and disclose way more information about data center subsidies, because the transparency is quite poor."

Tarczynska said while Illinois does disclose some information, it doesn't include annual incentives for local facilities. In states that do provide this information,

she said revenue losses are soaring, with three states already losing \$1 billion or more per year.

Tarczynska said data centers often don't pay sales taxes on equipment such as servers, computers and cooling systems because of state-level economic development incentives.

Under House Bill 1405, which was passed by the Illinois Senate on April 4, in Illinois, servers, routers, wiring, software and other like components would be exempt from business personal property tax and the state's sales tax.

As lawmakers weigh multiple proposals to regulate the rapidly expanding industry, a recent poll shows nearly 70% of Illinois voters support regulations to minimize the impacts of these facilities on utility bills, climate and water.

Tarczynska said fiscal clarity should also be regulated, since better transparency would help people understand how these proj-

The new appeal hearings initiative is part of the office's implementation of the Cook County Roadmap, a set of recommendations from a 2024 study of commercial valuations put out by the county's Property Tax Reform Group.

ects affect their communities.

"Besides receiving state level subsidies, they also receive local subsidies," she said, "and local governments should be disclos-

ing any property tax breaks that these companies are receiving as well because most of [the] time, that money directly supports schools."

Illinois has experienced a sharp increase in data-center investments since 2019. More than 200 facilities now operate across the state. Lawmakers are considering a two-year freeze on state tax incentives for new data centers following a rapid surge in costs that resulted in a 628% increase in lost tax revenue for the state between 2022 and 2023.

The 2024 study by the Cook County Assessor found commercial properties were typically assessed below fair market value once appeals with the Cook County Assessor's Office and Board of Review were complete.

TAX BREAKS see p. 6

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Maifest this weekend in Lincoln Square

Maifest is this weekend in the Lincoln Square neighborhood, May 29 through May 31. It is an annual free ethnic festival brought to you by the Maifest Committee, President Joe Matuschka and Vice President Joe Bradtke.

The annual Manifest is widely celebrated in Germany and has now spread across the globe. The festival's goal is to share German heritage and culture with other communities. This year the festival is moving back to its traditional location right at Lincoln, Leland and Western avenues.

Maifest is the traditional German celebration of the arrival of spring. It is still celebrated throughout Germany with the maypole (maibaum) decorated to show off the history and crafts of the local village or town.

In Chicago Maifest starts with

the Lincoln Square neighborhood, which was founded by Northern European immigrants, and has been adopted by the German community as a place for German culture and tradition for over 100 years.

Admission to Maifest Chicago is open to all ages. German and American bands provide entertainment throughout the fest, and German cuisine and beers will be part of the fun.

Maifest Chicago is a 501(c)(3) organization and the four-day fest benefits German-American organizations including The Rheinischer Verein, St. Hubertus Jagd Club, the American Aid Society, the Donauschwaben Youth Group, Edelweiss Trachten Verein, D'Lustigen Holzacker Buam, Egerlander Dance Group, Dank Haus and others.



Maifest, like Oktoberfest, has now become a popular celebration throughout the world.

Maifest, like Oktoberfest, has now become a popular celebration throughout the world. Chicago's German community welcomes

all to Lincoln Square; the heart of Chicago's German community.

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City passes affordable housing ordinance, Mayor given 45 days to act

Establishes pilot program, working group aimed at streamlining access to housing

Last week the City Council approved an ordinance introduced by Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] establishing the Centralized Listing Portal Working Group, which they think is a step toward improving access, transparency, and accountability in Chicago's affordable housing system.

Ordinance O2024-0012422 establishes a working group and pilot program to develop a centralized online portal listing available affordable housing units across the city. The measure demands that the Mayor's office convene the group within 45 days.

The ordinance hopes to address difficulties some people have faced while navigating fragmented systems with separate applica-

tions, disconnected waitlists, and inconsistent access to information while seeking housing. The measure seeks to modernize and streamline that process through a centralized, accessible platform designed to connect residents to available affordable housing opportunities more efficiently and equitably.

"After years of tireless advocacy, I'm thrilled with today's passage of the Centralized Affordable Housing Portal Ordinance," said Ald. Hadden.

Under the ordinance, affordable housing developments receiving City financing and residential developments subject to the Affordable Requirements Ordinance will be required to list eligible affordable units through the centralized portal.

City officials hope the system will allow applicants to identify affordable housing opportunities citywide, access waitlist and

application information in one place, and apply for multiple housing opportunities for which they qualify.

City officials hope the system will allow applicants to identify affordable housing opportunities citywide, access waitlist and application information in one place, and apply for multiple housing opportunities for which they qualify.

The ordinance directs the Mayor to convene a multi-sector working group comprised of representatives from the Dept. of Housing, Chicago Housing Authority, Illinois Housing Development Authority, housing

advocates, community organizations, philanthropy partners, and affordable housing providers. The group will develop recommendations for implementation of the citywide pilot program.

Participating property owners will also report vacancy data and unit turnover timelines to reduce delays in filling affordable housing units.

Additional provisions ensure accessibility related to disability access, affirmative marketing practices, multilingual options, waitlist transparency, appeals processes, and fair housing protections.

The group will be required to consult directly with community members in need of - or already living in - affordable housing, including the homeless, accessibility advocates, affordable housing providers, and community organizations.

TAX BREAKS from p. 5

Higher-value commercial properties were especially likely to be underassessed.

For the 2025 tax year, the CCAO selected 14 large commercial property assessments to defend at appeal hearings at the Board of Review. Almost all of them are large data centers built in northwest suburban municipalities within Elk Grove and Leyden townships. Two other properties included an industrial park and an oil tank farm.

Of the 14 property assessments defended by the Assessor's Office, four did not receive any reduction at all from the Board of Review and kept their original assessment from the Assessor's Office:

- T5 Chicago II Data Center in Elk Grove Village, \$106 million market value
- Skybox Chicago 1 Data Center

in Elk Grove Village, \$102 million market value

- EdgeConnex CHI 01 Data Center in Elk Grove Village, \$70 million market value

- Bridge Point Industrial Park in Melrose Park, \$179 million market value

The property owners requested assessment reductions for these properties that ranged from 24% to 90%.

Another four properties received reductions in their assessments of less than 25%, though appellants requested reductions as high as 86%.

It will be the city of Chicago's turn to be reassessed in 2027, so local taxpayers should keep an eye on this process. A larger tax base can protect homeowners and small commercial property owners from property tax increases caused by burden-shifting.

What the Assessor's office has discovered is that those reductions contributed to significant property tax spikes for residents: In recent years, nearly 7,000 homeowners in Elk Grove Township have seen their property tax bills increase by 25% or more. For the typical homeowner, that increase was over \$1,800.

In some instances, property

What the Assessor's office has discovered is that those reductions contributed to significant property tax spikes for residents: In recent years, nearly 7,000 homeowners in Elk Grove Township have seen their property tax bills increase by 25% or more. For the typical homeowner, that increase was over \$1,800.

owners enter into settlement agreements with local taxing districts. These settlement agreements fix the assessment of the property for several years at a value that is typically far below the assessor's certified value.

Settlement agreements help taxing districts avoid having to issue refunds years later for those properties that successfully appeal their assessments to the statewide Property Tax Appeals Board.

For three of the 14 properties that were targeted, the property owners entered into settlement agreements with local school districts that led to large assessment reductions.

These were all data center properties located in Franklin Park and Northlake: Digital Realty ORD-15 Data Center, 28.94% reduction in assessment; Digi-

tal Realty ORD-12/ORD-13 and ORD-14 Data Centers, 33.91% reduction in assessment, and Digital Realty ORD-23 Data Center, with a 67.75% reduction in assessment.

The Assessor's office is only able to participate in hearings for a small fraction of the appeals filed in front of the Board of Review each year. In Tax Year 2024, there were 35,600 commercial appeals filed.

These appeals rely on appraisals that often systematically underestimate the market value of commercial property like a data center. In the 14 cases the Assessor defended, appraisals were submitted that often called for reductions well beyond what the Board of Review granted. It found that these appraisals underestimated the market value of properties by 38%.

NEWSPAPERS CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Property tax pointers: 10 must-know tips for homeowners

BY MARIA PAPPAS

As Cook County Treasurer, I've learned that the property tax system can be confusing and intimidating. To help, I've created 10 tips to better understand your property taxes.

1. Familiarize yourself with the Cook County Treasurer's Office website

Visit cookcountytreasurer.com, your one-stop shop for property taxes. That's where you can pay online for free, change your name and address and find out if any money is owed to you. It's also where you can access and download your bills and review the tax history of your property going back 20 years.

2. Know your PIN

Your 14-digit Property Identification Number [PIN] is on your tax bill and property deed. It is unique to each of the 1.8 million properties in Cook County. You will need your PIN to pay your bill, so keep it handy.

3. Understand the billing cycle

Property tax bills are divided into two installments a year. The first installment covers 55% of the previous year's taxes and is typically due in early March. The second installment includes your exemptions. It's usually due around Aug. 1.

4. Check for refunds and exemptions

Our office has over \$150 million in unclaimed refunds. Check cookcountytreasurer.com to see if you've overpaid in the past 20 years or missed any exemptions. Homeowners, senior citizens and disabled persons and veterans may be eligible for missing ex-



Maria Pappas

emptions going back four years. No third-party assistance is needed to apply for refunds or missing exemptions.

5. Keep your information current

It's important to keep your information up to date to ensure that you receive your bill on time. If you moved or changed your name, update your contact information at cookcountytreasurer.com.

6. Find 24/7 support in your language

It's a priority for our office to reach people in their own language. That's why our phone system operates 24/7 in English, Spanish and Polish at (312-443-5100).

Our website can be translated into over 240 languages. We also offer informational brochures that can be downloaded in English and 27 other languages.

7. Decide how you want to pay

You can pay online through

your bank account for free. If you pay with a credit card, a 2.1% fee is charged by the card company. Payments are also accepted at nearly 400 Chase Bank branches and 160 community banks across the region. You can also drop your bill in the mail or pay at our office located on the first floor of the County building at 118 N. Clark St.

8. Determine if you need a payment plan

If you get behind on your taxes, you can set up a payment plan by using our free Payment Plan Calculator at cookcountytreasurer.com. This tool helps you set up monthly or bi-monthly payments.

9. Monitor your mortgage escrow account

If your property taxes are paid through an escrow account, ensure timely and accurate payments are being made by regularly checking the account.

10. See where your money goes

The first installment features

your taxing district debt and shows whether obligations to the school district, town or other tax-

Our office has over \$150 million in unclaimed refunds. Check cookcountytreasurer.com to see if you've overpaid in the past 20 years or missed any exemptions.

ing district are unfunded. The second installment has a taxing district breakdown that shows how much each agency is taxing your property and where those tax dollars are being spent.

By following these tips, you'll be better equipped to navigate the Cook County property tax system and hopefully save some money.

West Ridge scammer bilked millions violating consumer protection laws

A West Ridge business accused of bilking millions from customers in nationwide scam

The Federal Trade Commission [FTC] and the state of Illinois are suing Premium Home Service and founder Yosef Bernath for violating consumer protection laws.

According to reports in the Chicago Sun Times, Premium Home Service [PHS] is facing a lawsuit over fraudulent business practices. PHS lists its principal place of business as a home at 6723 N. Sacramento Ave.

The founder of a West Ridge company has been accused of running a massive nationwide scam that netted tens of millions of dollars from over 100,000 consumers, according to a lawsuit filed by the FTC and state of Illinois.

Bernath, 34, and his company B.E.S.T. GDR, operating as PHS, created more than 15,000 fake businesses that would appear on search engines, such as Google, to entice consumers needing home repairs, according to the complaint filed May 18 in U.S. District Court.

PHS is accused of violating consumer protection laws. Records show the home is owned by Howard and Jeanne Bernath, also known as Chaim and Rivkah Leah Bernath, who purchased the home in 1994.

Since at least 2018, Bernath has operated fake business profiles, with at least hundreds in the Chicago area, that would appear as local companies offering same-day services for plumbing, HVAC or electrical work.

"When consumers call one of Defendants' over 7,600 telephone numbers in over 250 area codes across the nation, Defendants route the calls to their customer

SCAMMER see p. 10



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Police Beat...

Armed robbery on Red Line at Thorndale

Chicago police are warning residents of a recent armed robbery at 12:49 p.m. on May 1 in the Edgewater neighborhood on the CTA Red Line.

In the incident, several individuals committed an armed robbery at a CTA Red Line station in the 1100 block of W. Thorndale Ave. in Edgewater.

The offenders are described as six male Hispanic, one unknown male and an African American male.

Those who have any information on these crimes may contact Public Transportation Detectives at 312-745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use reference RD: JK238303.

Rogers Park man charged with shooting two women

William Hall, 34, of the 1600 block of W. Juneway Terrace in Rogers Park, has been charged with two felony counts of Aggravated Battery/Use Deadly Weapon and Aggravated Battery/Discharge Firearm after a hearing on May 20.



William Hall

Hall was arrested at 8:11 p.m. May 17, in the 100 block of N. Mayfield Ave. He was identified as the offender who, several minutes earlier, shot and seriously injured a 36-year-old female victim and a 44-year-old female victim in the 100 block of N. Mayfield Ave.

Hall was quickly placed in custody and subsequently charged accordingly.

Kidnap-and-rob crew targeting Chicago nightlife districts strikes again

An armed robbery crew that kidnaps victims and drains their bank accounts struck three more times in Chicago nightlife districts on May 17, stretching its weeks-long victim count to at least 15, according to Chicago police. The group remains at large.

The robberies began around 2 a.m. May 17 in the 3600 block of N. Clark St. in Wrigleyville, followed by two incidents in River North, one in the 600 block of N. La Salle around 4 a.m. and another in the first block of E. Ohio St. around 4:45 a.m., police said.

The crew's methods are brazen. Police say the robbers approach victims in nightlife areas, take their phones and other property by force or at gunpoint, then use the stolen devices to conduct unauthorized financial transactions. In five incidents, including one on Sunday, victims were "coerced" into the crew's vehicle and driven around while the group carried out fraudulent banking transactions on their phones, a CPD alert said.

In an initial alert issued last week, police said the pattern began with a robbery in the 100 block of W. Ontario St. at 12:35 a.m. April 5. Since then, police have linked the crew to a string of holdups across the North Side and Near North Side.

Four of the robberies occurred in the 3500 block of N. Clark St. in Wrigleyville: at 12:22 a.m. April 22; 11:30 p.m. May 2; 1 a.m. May 3; and 10 p.m. May 4.

Two others took place in the first block of W. Hubbard St. in River North: at 2:30 a.m. April 26 and be-

tween 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. May 10.

Police also connected the crew to robberies in the 200 block of E. Ohio St. on April 18 between 3:30 a.m. and 3:45 a.m.; the 3700 block of North Broadway on April 23 at 9:30 p.m.; the 600 block of N. Dearborn St. April 26 at 2:30 a.m.; the 600 block of N. Wabash Ave. May 3 at 3 a.m.; and the 400 block of N. Clark St. May 8 at 1 a.m.

CPD's latest alert describes the robbers as up to four Black men between 25 and 40 years old, ranging from 5-foot-6 to 6-foot-5 and 140 to 250 pounds. The crew has used several vehicles, including a dark-colored SUV, a silver four-door sedan, a dark-colored four-door sedan, and a black BMW SUV.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com, referencing crime pattern #P26-3-015.

Man gets four years for Cyberstalking former romantic partners

A Chicago man has been sentenced to four years in federal prison for cyberstalking and harassing former romantic partners.

Vincent Storme threatened and harassed six women after they ended their relationships with him. Storme stalked his victims both online and in person, with the harassment and threats often extending to the victims' families, employers, and friends.

In one instance, Storme accessed and searched a former girlfriend's phone without her knowledge and then published a semi-nude photograph of the victim that could be seen by her family, friends, and co-workers.

Storme also created a website and social media accounts bearing her name and used the accounts to further embarrass and harass her.

While on bond in this case, police arrested Storme for stalking another victim by following her home in his car. Another victim reported that after breaking up with Storme, he often arrived at her home unannounced.

Storme, 38, pleaded guilty earlier this year to a federal charge of accessing a computer without authorization in furtherance of a criminal and tortious act. On May 15, U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey imposed the four-year prison term and ordered Storme to pay a total of \$11,318.39 in restitution to three of his victims. The sentence was announced by Andrew S. Boutros, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

"With each relationship and each victim, defendant's methods grew more prolific," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jill J. Bhalakia argued in the government's sentencing memorandum. "Computer intrusion and cyberstalking will not be tolerated by the criminal justice system."

Galena man gets 5 years for Loop carjacking that ended in Kennedy crash

A Galena man who carjacked a woman in the Loop and then crashed the hijacked car on the Kennedy Expressway during a chaotic getaway in 2024 has been sentenced to prison.

Judge Michael Clancy sentenced Forrest Wagner to five years on May 18 after the 31-year-old pleaded guilty to one count of vehicular hijacking, according to court records. With the state's standard 50% sentence reduction and credit for 530 days earned while in jail, Wagner is expected to be released on parole in about a year.

The charges stem from an incident in Dec. 2024 that began with a 31-year-old woman sitting in the passenger seat of a 2015 Dodge Dart in the first block of N. State St. while her

companion stepped inside a nearby restaurant.

Prosecutors said Wagner approached the car, looked inside, and climbed into the driver's seat. When the woman tried to escape, he allegedly pulled her hair and grabbed her to stop her from getting out of the vehicle. The woman managed to break free when Wagner released his grip to fasten his seat belt, according to a CPD report.

The car's owner, a 30-year-old man, returned as the hijacking unfolded and tried to pull Wagner from the vehicle, prosecutors said. Wagner allegedly struck him before speeding away.

A short time later, an off-duty Chicago police officer spotted the stolen car after it collided with several vehicles on the outbound Kennedy Expy. between Diversey Ave. and Kedzie Ave, according to police. Wagner got out and fled into a fast-food restaurant in Avondale, where the off-duty officer and on-duty cops took him into custody.

Teen boy shot while sleeping in Edgewater

A 17-year-old boy was shot in the ankle after someone fired gunshots through a basement window while he slept May 24 in Edgewater, according to Chicago police.

The teen was asleep in the basement of a home in the 1000 block of W. Thorndale Ave. when someone opened fire in the alley around 3:34 a.m., police said. At least one bullet pierced the basement window and struck the boy in the ankle, according to CPD. Paramedics took him to St. Francis Hospital, where he was listed in good condition.

Investigators recovered four shell casings in the alley and were working to determine whether the shooting was connected to a black Jeep Grand Cherokee that officers saw speeding away from the area moments before the teen's 911 call, police said.

The boy is the third person shot in Edgewater this year, excluding self-inflicted wounds.

'Art student' ruse: prosecutors say Chicago man posed as photographer to assault multiple women



Gabriel Wilkins, inset, and a CTA surveillance image of the suspect.

A man who allegedly used a fake art school photography project to lure women into exposing themselves — then sexually molested them — has been charged in connection with incidents involving two women, while prosecutors say Chicago police are actively investigating claims from six more possible victims.

Gabriel Wilkins, 41, is currently detained by order of Judge Rivanda Doss Beal on charges of criminal sexual abuse and public indecency, court records show. The charges stem from incidents prosecutors say took place in the Boystown neighborhood last summer and on a CTA Brown Line train last month.

Chicago police had issued two community alerts in recent weeks featuring CTA surveillance images of the suspect, but the alerts contained no details about what allegedly occurred on the train.

Those disturbing details were finally revealed in a detention filing by Assistant State's Attorney Karen Crothers, who described a pattern in which Wilkins allegedly targeted women across the North Side, only to be caught after a woman posted a warning on TikTok in January.

The earliest case that Wilkins is charged with involves a 28-year-old



Noel Centeno, inset, and a video image of the 2022 incident in the Loop.

Man at wheel in 2022 Loop shootout jailed again after gun allegedly found in bar microwave

The man who was driving a hijacked car when his passenger opened fire on Chicago police officers in the Loop, prompting officers to shoot the gunman, is back in jail after prosecutors said CPD officers saw him pointing a gun at someone outside a North Side bar last weekend.

Noel Centeno, 24, was AWOL from a pending gun case at the time of the Jan. 2022 shootout with Chicago police at Lower Wacker Dr. and Columbus Dr. that ended with his passenger, Edgardo Perez, receiving a 40-year prison sentence. Centeno, who prosecutors said was unarmed during the Loop incident, received a four-year sentence.

But prosecutors now say Centeno did have a gun around 11:12 p.m. Saturday, May 16 in the 2700 block of W. Devon Ave. CPD officers monitoring a surveillance camera allegedly saw Centeno point a firearm at another person, described in a police report as his "friend," before putting the

weapon away.

When patrol officers arrived, they saw Centeno walk into Casey's Corner, 2733 W. Devon Ave., so they entered the bar and removed him from the premises, according to the report. Officers did not find a gun on him. Police then returned inside the tavern and found a loaded 9-millimeter pistol inside a microwave near the front door, not far from where Centeno had been detained, the report said.

Judge Ankur Srivastava ordered Centeno held pending trial, noting that he has seven felony convictions over the past nine years, along with juvenile adjudications for four armed robberies.

Back in 2022, CPD said Centeno denied that he carjacked the vehicle that he and his friends were riding in at the time of the shooting. Rather, he allegedly claimed he found the vehicle on Howard St. with the keys inside.

woman who went out to Boystown with a female friend on July 5 last year. They were outside a tavern in the 3300 block of N. Halsted St. when Wilkins introduced himself as "David" and spoke in a way that made both women believe he was not a threat, Carothers said.

He allegedly told the women he was an art student who needed photographs of a woman's breasts for a school project and asked if the 28-year-old would participate. She agreed. The group moved away from the street, supposedly for privacy, and Wilkins allegedly took several photos, then asked the woman's friend to photograph him standing next to the woman. As he moved toward her, Crothers alleged, Wilkins exposed himself and performed a sex act until he finished on the woman's abdomen.

Both women ran away to the Red Line to escape. Carothers said the victim texted a friend about the incident immediately but did not report it to police until January 17 of this year, after she saw accounts from other women describing the same ruse on TikTok.

Wilkins is also charged with the CTA case. On April 13, a 21-year-old woman was riding the Brown Line near Diversey when she noticed Wilkins sitting across the aisle, recording her on his phone, Crothers said. He then exposed himself and began performing a sex act before fleeing the train at the Fullerton stop, according to Carothers. That woman reported the incident to the police the same day.

Crothers told the court those two cases represent only part of what investigators have found. She said six other active investigations may involve Wilkins. According to the detention filing, the alleged incidents stretch from the summer of 2025 through January of this year. He is not charged with any of the cases under investigation.

In Aug. 2025, a 31-year-old woman was smoking outside her home in the 2300 block of N. California Ave. when Wilkins approached and told her he needed photographs of a woman's breasts for an exhibit at the Art In-

stitute of Chicago, Carothers said. He told her he was gay and safe to be around, Crothers said, and the woman agreed to help, on the condition her face would not appear in the images. While taking the photos, Wilkins allegedly reached over and grabbed her breast — something her roommate witnessed. He then told the woman he also needed a photograph of his own private part for the same exhibit and removed his clothing, Carothers said, and he asked the roommate to take the picture, which she did, before he left. The woman reported the incident on Jan. 17 of this year.

On Sept. 7, Wilkins allegedly asked another 31-year-old woman if he could photograph her breasts for a school project. She agreed and went to his apartment, where she removed her shirt as instructed, Carothers said. While photographing her, Wilkins began touching her, exposing himself and placed her hand on his private area, Crothers alleged. The woman reported the incident to police on Jan. 26.

On Oct. 18, a 30-year-old woman was walking alone near the intersection of North and Dearborn when Wilkins approached her, again identifying himself as an Art Institute student in need of a model, said Carothers. She agreed to help but told him she would remain clothed and insisted they stay in a public place. They moved to a nearby alley, where Wilkins pulled down her shirt and photographed her, then exposed himself and performed a sex act, Crothers said. The woman reported the incident the same day.

On Nov. 15, a woman leaving a concert at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., was approached by Wilkins, who told her he was working on a photography project about the human body and needed to photograph a woman's breasts, Carothers said. She agreed and allowed him to take pictures, but while doing so, Wilkins reached out and grabbed her chest, then left, Crothers alleged. That woman reported the incident on

Billy Goat's Sam Sianis was Chicago's AAA-softball sponsor

Passing of the legendary proprietor of the Billy Goat Tavern



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicago-style 16-inch softball team managers and players might tell you losing a good sponsor is worse than losing a wife or a brother.

Well, with the passing of the great Sam Sianis, 91, legendary proprietor of the famous Billy Goat Tavern, no statement could be truer.

After reading Chicago Tribune columnist Rick Kogan's eloquent, May 15 obituary on the life Sam, as a 55-year friend of Sam's this writer quickly sent the following text to William Sianis, Sam's oldest son: "Dear Bill, I'm so sorry to learn about your father's passing. Sam was always an upbeat, fun guy who loved his saloon and his customers. I'm proud to have my byline posted behind the Billy Goat bar."

Bill's reply: "Thank you, Don, for all the kind words. He loved all the journalists, and they treated the place like it was theirs. He was a great father and a one-of-a-kind person."

Greatest of All Time

The legendary Billy Goat Tavern—located on lower-level Hubbard St. near Michigan Ave.'s wealthy "Magnificent Mile"—is perhaps one of the most genuine 16-inch softball bars in Chicago. People say G.O.A.T stands for "Greatest of All Time." On the door is a sign, "Butt in Anytime," and once you step through this immortal portal, you'll find yourself in a newspaper, sports and softball museum.

The Billy Goat saloon really started as an Old-School newspaper hangout and perhaps one of the most genuine blue-collar bars



Sam Sianis, President Bill Clinton and the famed Billy Goat shirt.



Sam Sianis at the Billy Goat Tavern.

in Chicago. It is a place where men wearing three-piece suits once sat side-by-side with ink-stained pressmen wearing jeans and hats made from a full sheet of newsprint.

The Billy Goat is a sacred place to newspaper people, a haunted site where the ghosts of Ben Hecht's "The Front Page," likely still roam. Hecht probably hoisted a few at the original Billy Goat, across the street from the Chicago Daily News Building at 400 W. Madison, before Sortirios Athanasios Sianis was born in the Greek village of Palaioyrgos on Dec. 12, 1934.

Sam immigrated to America on May 15, 1955, and started working in 1960 for his uncle William Sianis at the W. Madison location near the Chicago Stadium.

Built and grand opened in 1964, the now historic Hubbard St. Billy Goat is celebrating its 62nd anniversary this year. Over six decades, dozens of photos of long-gone newspaper reporters, columnists and editors were hung on the smoky walls of this establishment.

A perfect newsman's hangout

Located between four daily newspapers—the Chicago Daily News and Sun-Times on one side of Michigan Avenue and the



Mike Roko and the Chicago Daily news softball team, 1975. Sam Sianis holds the team's trophy (center).

Tribune and Chicago Today on the other, the Goat was the perfect hangout for journalists. Behind the bar, owner and proprietor Sam also posted dozens of bylines from veteran reporters, including mine.

Regarding the tavern's interior decor, Sam always preferred his humble surroundings. "No fancy," Sam said. "I want it to be the same."

This writer was formerly introduced to Sam in 1970 when I founded the Chicago Daily News softball team by placing a note on the newsroom bulletin board.

Moments later, Mike Royko walked up to me and said: "Lad, I understand you are starting a soft-

ball team. Here's how we'll do it." Royko promptly named himself manager, and demoted me from founder to captain.

Sam Sianis immigrated to America on May 15, 1955, and started working in 1960 for his uncle William Sianis at the W. Madison location near the Chicago Stadium.

Then Royko listed the captain's duties, which included recruiting players, making all the phone calls, organizing the practices and dragging his Korean War mili-

tary bag filled with bats and balls to the field. However, there were perks. The captain, now nicknamed "Batman," was allowed to design the coveted jerseys with "Billy Goat Saloon," our sponsor, advertised on the back.

And, every spring for 25 years, as captain and later as pitcher and manager, Batman marched into Sam's cluttered office behind the grill to pick up a blank softball sponsorship check, which he signed, then asked me to fill in the dollar amount—usually about \$300 to \$400, depending on the league.

'Cheeseborger, cheeseborger'

Historians say the Billy Goat really was made famous by John Belushi's "Cheeseborger, cheeseborger, Pepsi, no Coke," quip, which was a Saturday Night Live TV parody of Billy Goat's Greek owner and proprietor Sam.

Aired on Jan. 28, 1978, the sketch on what was called the Olympia Restaurant, was written by Don Novello, a Chicago advertising executive who frequented the Billy Goat for lunch in the 1970s.

While Dan Akroyd, Bill Murray and guest host Robert Klein, stood nearby, Belushi

SIANIS see p. 13

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Lookingglass Theatre to host Ice Cream Circus! June 2 – 7

Lookingglass Theatre Company is hosting Ice Cream Circus! 2026, a free, family-friendly theatrical event presented as part of the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks series. Created in association with Actors Gymnasium, Ice Cream Circus! tours parks across Chicago June 2 through June 7.

All performances are free and open to the public, with no RSVP required.

Neighborhood ice cream vendors will

be present at each performance, with treats available for purchase. Audiences are encouraged to bring blankets and/or chairs for outdoor seating. For more information, visit lookingglasstheatre.org.

North Side performance dates and locations include Tuesday, June 2 at 5 p.m. at Seneca Park, 220 E. Chicago Ave.; Wednesday, June 3 at 5 p.m., and Sunday, June 7 at 4 p.m. at Tallmadge Park, 927 Noyes St., in Evanston.

JUDGE from p. 4

firearm, according to the sheriff's office.

Prosecutors asked Thedford to keep Jones in jail, citing the inherent danger of someone carrying a firearm on public transportation, according to court records. He rejected their request and released Jones instead. Two weeks later, sheriff's police stopped Jones at the same CTA station for crossing between train cars in violation of CTA rules, officials said. When they searched his backpack, they allegedly found nearly 80 grams of suspect cannabis, rolling papers, and a scale. Jones is now detained for violating pretrial release conditions — and he's facing charges of manufacture-delivery of cannabis.

If you want to get locked up, being accused of firing a gun in Chicago is one of the easiest ways to make sure that happens. Unless you wind up in front of Thedford. On Friday, prosecutors charged a 36-year-old man with shooting at two women in the 1200 block of N. Lamon Av. the night before.

Prosecutors told Thedford that the man and two other people had harassed a woman as she walked home and punched her in the head and back. She ran to a relative's home, and they called police. While wait-

ing outside for officers to arrive, the man emerged from the mouth of a nearby alley and fired five shots toward the woman, prosecutors alleged.

After CPD arrived, the man came out of the alley again, and officers arrested him. Police found five shell casings at the mouth of the alley, but they did not recover a gun. Thedford denied the state's detention petition and released the man on an ankle monitor.

In another shooting case, on April 8, prosecutors asked Thedford to detain a man on attempted murder charges. They said the man and an accomplice were at a party for hearing-impaired individuals where they confronted two victims, who are deaf. The man before Thedford, armed with a rifle, patted down one of the victims and then ordered the accomplice, who was armed with a pistol, to shoot one of the men, prosecutors said. The accomplice allegedly followed the order, shooting the victim in the side. Both victims knew the accused man and identified him. Thedford put him on an ankle monitor.

Last month, prosecutors asked Thedford to detain a 34-year-old woman on aggravated battery charges, saying she punched another woman and struck her in the head with a wrench, fracturing the top of her

LAWMAKERS from p. 4

the most important investigative tools to come along in policing in 50 years."

But supporters of the bill raised concerns about people being charged solely because they were misidentified by facial recognition or detained for days because of a faulty match. However, they were unable to provide examples of such incidents occurring in Illinois.

In fact, the lack of Illinois cases was apparent in a form email the ACLU of Illinois suggested supporters send to lawmakers. The message referenced only a "man in Detroit [who] was arrested and held for more than a day a few years ago because a biometric system was used, based on grainy surveillance footage at a retail store, to falsely identify him."

A spokesperson for the organization confirmed it had found no examples of anyone in Illinois being criminally charged based solely on a facial recognition match without corroborating evidence, though he added that limited public reporting about how the technology is used makes it difficult to fully assess the issue.

When Cassidy's bill came before the Il-

linois House Judiciary-Civil Committee in March, 227 people submitted witness slips opposing the measure, while only one person submitted a slip in support.

What comes next remains unclear. Capitol News Illinois spoke with Matthew Kugler, a professor at Northwestern Univ. Pritzker School of Law.

"I'm in favor of the government pulling out all the stops to solve a murder. I don't want to create an entire surveillance state to prevent retail theft," Kugler said. "I would personally favor a warrant requirement or some other kind of due process protection rather than an out-and-out ban, but I can understand the rationale behind the simplicity of a ban, particularly if you are skeptical that law enforcement will use it intelligently."

Other observers have suggested codifying best practices, explicitly prohibiting arrests based solely on facial recognition, and requiring regular training and certification for officers who use the technology. Another proposal would require biometric data belonging to people cleared as suspects, or found irrelevant to a case, to be purged within 72 hours.

skull, after the victim offered to give her a ride home. The accused woman then shattered the victim's windshield and side window with the wrench before leaving, prosecutors said. Thedford rejected the state's detention request and put the woman on an ankle monitor, according to court records.

Three days later, the electronic monitoring center received a "strap tamper alert" indicating "purposeful tampering" with the device. The accused woman escaped, never appeared in court, and is now wanted on a warrant.

Before the bench

According to a profile published by Injustice Watch, Thedford served as an assistant public defender from 1997 to 2005 and then worked in private practice handling

criminal defense, civil rights, and personal injury cases.

"Between 2011 and 2018, the state and federal governments filed liens against Thedford and his wife seeking to collect about \$249,000 in unpaid taxes, interest, and penalties," Injustice Watch reported. "In 2020, the couple declared bankruptcy and reported that they owed the IRS some \$220,000 and owed the Illinois Dept. of Revenue about \$10,000."

"Thedford said his debts ballooned after he and his wife bought a home and borrowed money to improve it shortly before the 2008 housing crisis tanked its value. He noted that the Illinois Supreme Court vetted him before appointing him to the bench," the outlet reported.

SCAMMER from p. 7

service representatives, who typically have been located outside of the United States," the complaint states.

The agent would schedule the requested service, usually within a three-hour window, and require customers to pay a ser-

vice fee ranging from \$49 to \$149. Customers could instead sign up for an annual membership for about the same price as the service fee, receiving benefits such as no service fees on additional visits. Once booked, PHS would attempt to find subcontractors to perform the work.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

January 17 of this year.

On Dec. 20, a 28-year-old woman met Wilkins at work. He allegedly told her he was an art student and asked whether she would be interested in posing for a photo shoot. She initially agreed, but later saw similar accounts circulating on social media and reported the interaction to police on Jan. 15, according to Carothers.

The most recent incident in Carothers' filing occurred on Jan. 18, when a 28-year-old woman was engaged in consensual sex with Wilkins.

That woman reported that Wilkins suddenly began striking her in the face, Crothers alleged. The woman tried to stop the sex act, but Wilkins refused, according to Carothers. She reported the assault two days later but indicated at the time that she did not want to pursue charges because she was concerned Wilkins might be required to register as a sex offender, according to Carothers.

Court records show Wilkins has no prior arrests.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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TOD may replace bank building at Western / Lawrence avenues

BY PETER VON BUOL

A massive 300-unit Transit Oriented Development [TOD] may soon replace the still-open Fifth Third Bank building at 4800 N. Western Ave., according to Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th].

Speaking at a 40th Ward Town Hall held May 12, Vasquez revealed to those in attendance that he has been approached by a developer who is seeking his favor to redevelop the site.

The Alderman's comment had not been planned. It came during the question and answer portion of the meeting and had not been part of his formal presentation.

"According to Vasquez, the proposal has not been formally submitted yet, but the early concept could include at least 60 affordable housing units under current Chicago requirements," according to a social media posting by John Grafft, a real estate agent at Compass Real Estate.

In 2021/2022 (which would have made the project eligible for funding from the then-still-in-existence Western Ave. North Tax Increment Financing District), a local developer had attempted to redevelop the same bank property. That project was stopped by Vasquez because he was angry the developer would not reveal the name of his grocery-store operator client (he did not have permission from his client to do so).

That project, which would have been built in phases, would have included not only a new Fifth Third Bank branch and a large grocery store (most likely an Amazon Fresh or Whole Foods) but also residential units.

Had that project been built, it would have already been generating millions of dollars



The drive through at the Fifth Third Bank building at 4800 N. Western Ave., enters and exits on Lawrence Ave.

in tax revenue and commercial real estate taxes each year.

Residential units would have included not only market rate units but also publicly-supported units that would have been rented to tenants at below-market rates.

"Nothing has been submitted yet. Vasquez said the project will still need to go through the ward's zoning process and the city's planned development process, before anything moves forward," said Grafft. "This intersection keeps coming up for a reason. The property sits steps away from the CTA Brown Line and [several] nearby bus stops and developers keep circling corners like this all across the North Side."

The site includes the parcels occupied by the bank, its drive-thru and parking lot, but also two alleys (including one in which a bridge crosses over an alley to connect the main bank building with its drive-thru).

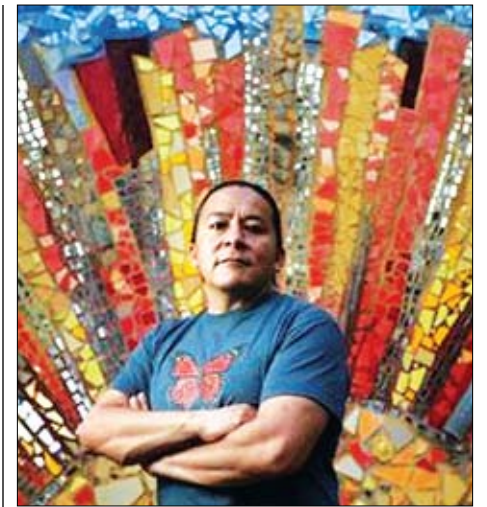
Despite the lost opportunity of the expiration of the Western Ave. North TIF district, Vasquez believes he will somehow be able to secure government funding for the construction of subsidized housing units that will be rented at below-market value.

"He wants affordability and density for housing at the site. [He] also said operating costs at Lawrence and Western are high enough that the ground floor tenant would need to be a large retailer or grocery store. We see this pattern all over Chicago. Developers want traffic, visibility and foot traffic to support bigger projects and that is something I watch closely when working with Chicago buyers, sellers and builders," said Grafft.

Grafft also noted a nearby commercial building (now a furniture store) is being listed with a sale price of just under \$5 million.

In late 1945, the Commercial National Bank of Chicago opened at this site and quickly found itself to be an integral neighborhood institution. In 1996, it was acquired by the now-defunct Corus Bank. Then, 12 years later, Corus became a victim of the subprime mortgage crisis and its assets were absorbed by Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati.

Created in 2000 and with a 2024 expiration date, the purpose Western Avenue North TIF had been intended to encourage neighborhood redevelopment or rehabilitation. Its priorities were listed as including development of new senior housing, the reinforcement of existing retail nodes with pedestrian-friendly improvements, the creation of infill development at select locations, and the expansion of off-street parking.



Author Nestor Gomez.

My Life with Four-Legged Friends May 30 at Edgewater Library

Storyteller Nestor Gomez will share personal tales about the healing power of rescued animals, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 30 at the Edgewater Library, 5000 N. Broadway.

Nestor's new book, "Rescued Me", is a collection of stories about his journey in building a new life through relationships, which includes four-legged friends. His poignant, sometimes humorous stories may resonate as they express how he found the courage to love again.

Gomez's stories also reflect his experiences as an immigrant from Guatemala. He won The Moth StorySLAM, an open-mic storytelling competition, more than 90 times and is the founder of "80 Minutes Around the World, Immigration Stories."

This free program is sponsored by Friends of the Edgewater Library in partnership with the library.

Samurai movie night June 12

The Japanese Mutual Aid Society [JMAS] and Japanese American Service Committee [JASC] are reviving a treasured community tradition, their Samurai Movie Night—once held at Francis Parker School—with a screening at of the 1961 movie Yojimbo at JASC, 5700 N. Lincoln Ave., 6 p.m. Friday, June 12.

This event also serves as a joint fundraiser supporting both JMAS and JASC. To reserve a ticket, visit <https://pci.jotform.com/form/260836324644156>.



After skipping school and going on adventures around town, Ferris Bueller (Matthew Broderick) finds himself taking part in a parade. The parade scene in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" was filmed on Dearborn St. in downtown Chicago on September 28, 1985 during a genuine Von Steuben Day Parade, a German-American event.

Bueller? Bueller? Bueller?

Ferris Bueller turns 40 on June 11

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss a 40th anniversary walking tour.

Chicago is celebrating one of our town's most famous fictional characters in Ferris Bueller as his famous movie turns 40 years old.

On Location Tours is celebrating the 40th anniversary of Ferris Bueller's Day Off with a special Downtown Chicago walking tour on Thursday, June 11, exactly 40 years after the beloved film premiered in 1986.

The limited-time tour will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be led by a local actor tour guide, bringing guests through some of the most memorable Chicago locations connected to the classic film.

Public tickets are priced at \$19.86 in honor of the film's release year.

The tour begins at Relish Chi-

cago Hot Dogs, located at 315 S. Michigan Ave., and ends at Willis Tower / Sears Tower, at 233 S. Wacker Dr. As part of the celebration, Relish Chicago Hot Dogs will offer guests a special limited menu at a discount, featuring Chicago-style hot dogs, veggie dogs, chips, beverages, and more.

Guests will visit and learn about iconic downtown locations tied to the film, including:

- The front steps of the Art Institute of Chicago
- The Flamingo Statue
- The famous parade route
- Daley Plaza
- The parking garage where the valets took the Ferrari for a joyride
- Willis Tower / Sears Tower

In addition to the walking tour, guests can take part in a Ferris Bueller trivia contest with prizes.

Tickets are limited, visit: <https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/onlocationtourschicago/items/468504/?full-items=yes&flow=840643>



Max & Issy's



Ryan Chiaverini.



Ronald Lauder

Courtesy WLS

GOSSIP from p. 2

treasured reader of this column. He was a kind friend to me and always a delight to be with. Pax Tibi.

ITALIAN AWARDS: The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans bestowed 2026 Dante Award on ABC7's **Ryan Chiaverini**. And ABC7's President & GM **John Idler** received the Dominic DiFrisco Lifetime Achievement Award. Bravo!

MR. OLD TOWN: Get well wishes for **Norman Baugher** who took a bad tumble and spent a week at Northwestern Hosp. He is now in rehab for a while at The Selfhelp Home at 908 W. Argyle. He's such a wonderful person.

PIZZA PIE: Real estate man **Ken Dooley** admits it's bittersweet to be involved in the sale of Max & Issy's, 1028 W. Diversey Parkway, a well known Lincoln Park neighborhood pizzeria. Previously known as Paddy Long's and Lawry's many years before that, the last day of business was March 28. And he's just sold it.

THE END: Sadly, CBS News Radio, a beacon of broadcast American journalism, has ceased broadcasting for good. How the mighty have fallen.

PAX TIBI: Constance Ann Murphy, in Palm Desert, CA, daughter of the late Congressman **Morgan F. Murphy, Jr.** and **Charlene**, was raised in Beverly and the world of Chicago politics and service, especially as the granddaughter of the powerful and esteemed **Morgan Murphy, Sr.**, the Chicago Utility baron and one-time young assistant to **Samuel Insull**. Dear wife of **Lawrence Doody**. Sister of **Morgan F. Murphy III**, and Chicago City Council attorney **Michelle Murphy**. A long career at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center as Vice President of Marketing, Public Relations and the Mercy Foundation. And treasured friend of the Sisters of Mercy. Peace eternal, sweet lady.

WHO'S WHERE: Todd S. Davis in France, at L'Isle-Adam, at Chateau Conti, with his father's 1968 Triumph TR250 checking out the **Paul Cezannes** with Co-

simo, **Le Pooch**, who insisted on attending... **Lucien Lagrange** and his son, **Christophe Lagrange**, boothing it at **Erie Cafe**... My pal, the divine **Sugar Rautbord**, says "Genius has no expiration date," I'm with her... **Jim and Lyn Kiley** islanding it on **Daufuskie** in South Carolina, not far from **Hilton Head**... Belated Happy Birthday to our pal **Paul Hansen** who brightens friendship and time... **Mark Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** having burgers in **Bucktown**... **Christie's Steven**

MLB baseball costs nearly \$7. Both leagues use a million balls for a grand total of \$7 million.

REQUIEM: Acclaimed baritone, **Hayes Edwards**, 84, of Highland Park, passed away on April 30. A leading artist with the Metropolitan Opera, as well as European companies from London to Paris and Barcelona, he was particularly eminent in all things **Giuseppe Verdi**. An alumnus of the Academy of Vocal Arts and the Juilliard Opera Center, he received numerous honors, including NOA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

FLAIR: Candace Jordan sending out special thanks to **Anne Fontaine Chicago** for hosting a lovely Shop & Sip with a percentage of sales benefiting **The Chicago Lighthouse**. So many familiar faces, including **Anne Fontaine** herself, 30 years in the business and she looks fabulous. Thanks to all who came, pre-bought and supported this cause. **Jolanta Ruege** says shopping for a cause at **Anne Fontaine** on Oak St. was a fun experience. Oct. 2 will be the **Flair** event supporting **Lighthouse for the Blind**.

FASHION NEWS: Julia Jacobs and **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** with **Belvon Walker**, **Denise Tomasello**, **Helen Gretsas-DiMario**, **Kelley McCarthy**, **Paula Borg**, **Sally Jo Morris Paff**, **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh**, **Bunny Frum** and **Sara O'Connor**, viewing the fashion show at the iconic **Union League Club of Chicago** showcasing **Anne Fontaine**.

MET GALA: **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh** at "Chez" on Ontario, a very new cheeky little place with **Sherrill Bodine** and **Sally Jo Morris Paff**, new **Service Club President**. Chicago doing their own **Met Gala**.

LAUDER & THE MET: **New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art** said it has agreed to merge with the **Neue Galerie**, cosmetics billionaire **Ronald Lauder's** esteemed museum for German and Austrian modern art housed in an ornate beaux-arts building across **Fifth Avenue**. The **Met** said it will assume ownership and operation of **Lauder's 25-year-old museum** in 2028, informally renaming it the **Met Neue Galerie**.

MOTHERS DAY: Best Mothers Day reflection comes from **Kelly Whelan George** - Nothing like crying in the middle of Costco for a \$1.50 hotdog because **Big Mama** loved them. Her mom, **Dorothy**, was fab.

The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable. - **James A. Garfield**



Anne Fontaine

Zick in **New York** hitting the **Lyceum Theater** with pals for the wondrous production of "Oh Mary" starring **Maya Rudolph**... Film pro **Joey Majumdar** in **Beverly Hills** with Oscar-winning pal **Thom Noble**... **Bobbi Panter**, remembering "balmy" **Lake Forest**, in **Myra Reilly's** fabulous garden with **Kathy Wolter Mondelli**, **Matt Arnoux**, **Patricia Marx**, **Phillip Emigh**, **Bruce P. Hass** and **John B. Reilly** had a memorable dinner under the stars and the hydrangeas... **Lori Dinum** named **Senior Program Director Arts & Culture** at the **Driehaus Foundation**... **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** was in town and had a conversation with **David Axelrod** at **Univ. of Chicago**... **Eamonn Cummins** excited to spend the morning at the **Chicago Bears Mini-Camp** at **Halas Hall**. After a lifetime of being a **Bears fan** it was his first time at **Halas Hall**.

MLB: Famed restaurateur **Gordon Sinclair** offered his annual "Did You Know This?" A

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New exhibition to feature popular art about liberty

From the War of 1812 to Civil War to World War I

New exhibit opening at the Newberry Library titled Conceived in Liberty: Cartoons, Caricatures, and Illustrations in the Wartime United States, 1812–1918 will highlight works by Nina Allender, John T. McCutcheon, Leslie Rogers, Thomas Nast, and Art Young

A new exhibition opening June 11 at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., will show how visual artists living in the U.S. cheered, critiqued, and satirized the country's commitment to liberty during times of war.

Conceived in Liberty: Cartoons, Caricatures, and Illustrations in the Wartime United States, 1812–1918 includes a wealth of works from the Newberry's collection to show that dedicating a country to



liberty was an idea that was immediately contested—and continues to be contested to this day.

The exhibition includes political cartoons, magazine illustrations, caricatures, sheet music covers, broadsides, and posters by Indigenous artists, abolitionists, anti-war dissenters, suffragists, and others. Whether patri-

otic or dissenting, produced for the masses or only a few, these images reveal the diverse, inspiring, and contradictory ways that liberty has been conceived and realized by the people of the United States.

The exhibition, curated by Margaret M. Storey, Professor, Dept. of History, DePaul Univ., is organized around four themes: "Icons of Liberty," "War, Freedom, and Democracy," "Dissent and Sacrifice in Wartime," and "Immigrants in Wartime." Throughout, the show highlights how popular artists have used national symbols and stories to comment on the country's wars and their relationship to freedom, democracy, and justice.

The Liberty Bell, a potent symbol of the American Revolution that fell into disuse as a national icon until it was reclaimed by the abolitionists in their "war"

Related programming includes

Saturday, June 6

George Washington's tent, Washington Square Park, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Declaration of Independence with Danielle Allen and Scott Stephenson, 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 18

Picturing the News: A Panel Discussion with Political Cartoonists, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8

A Statewide and National Reading of the Declaration, 5 p.m.

Saturday, July 18

NewberryFest: 250 Years of the United States, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

portrays anti-Civil War Northerners as dangerous snakes threatening the Union, personified as Columbia. John T. McCutcheon's "The Past and the Present are in Deadly Grapple," from 1918, uses the visual metaphor of a wrestling match between Democracy and Tyranny to argue for US intervention in World War I.

Conceived in Liberty is part of the Newberry's commemoration of America's semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Throughout 2026, a series of exhibitions and programs are planned to mark the occasion. The exhibit runs from June 11 through Sept. 19, in the Newberry's Triens Galleries. Exhibitions at the Newberry are free and open to all.

against slavery in the 1830s, appears in the exhibition in a publication from the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Fair of 1842.

Thomas Nast's 1863 "The Copperhead Party.—In Favor of a Vigorous Prosecution of Peace!"

SIANIS from p. 9

played the gruff saloon owner, and uttered the legendary "Cheeseburger" quip.

The quote allegedly was a parody of Billy Goat's Greek owner and proprietor Sam. However, Sam was such a sweet, smiling, caring guy, my sources say Belushi actually was miming his gruff Albanian-immigrant father, who once owned the Fair Oaks restaurant on North Ave. in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood.

Today, the Billy Goat features three rooms—a long, L-shaped bar on the right side is highlighted by the "Wise-Guy's Corner." On the large, central grill, Sam's crew prepares such delicacies as the famed double-cheese burger, or the egg-and-cheese sandwich. Condiments, including fresh sliced pickles, onions, relish, ketchup and mustard are nearby—along with a large gallon-glass jar of pickled hard-boiled eggs.

Between burgers and burps, legendary discourses were held. Loud arguments on Democratic Machine politics, the coverage of the day's Page-One news, media history, and Chicago-style softball took place at the bar, while reporters and editors downed steins of draft beer and whiskey shots.

Sometimes, the shots were dropped into the steins, creating what Royko called a "Polish Depth Charge." A small "VIP Room" is toward the back, just to the right of the large, smoking grill. Anyone with a serious date would head there to stay out of the line of fire.

The big room to the left of the door is where Mike Royko's Hall-of-Fame Daily News-Sun-Times softball team held its legendary beer-soaked parties following hundreds of games played—and dozens of championships—at Grant Park, including the famed, must-see post-game video party immortalized on YouTube as "Royko at the Goat."

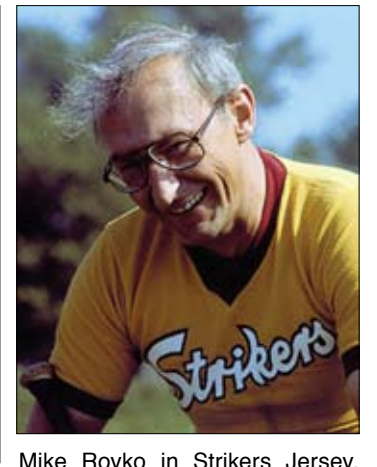
A window sill in this room is lined with a dozen softball trophies—awards of some of the newspaper team's championships in the 1970s and 1980s, an era that included one infamous party with a four-legged guest.



The Byline Wall above the bar at the Billy Goat.



Don "Batman" DeBat.



Mike Royko in Strikers Jersey, 1975. Photo by Tom Bonen

'Butt-In Anytime'

The star of that party was Sam's goat. The barnyard critter was wearing a special white Daily News softball team shirt—designed by Chicago Daily News artist John Downs—and emblazoned with a Billy Goat on the front and address of the saloon, and "Butt-In Anytime" on the back.

After several beers, Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist and softball pitcher Royko started feeding the goat \$1-bills, then he peeled off a \$5 bill which the goat

quickly gobbled. Only moments later, the goat bleated and relieved himself—pellets flying across the tile floor.

In the most famous quote ever uttered from behind the grill, Sam yelled: "Hey, Mike! He give you change!"

Over the 35-year history, The Daily News/Sun-Times 16-inch slow pitch softball team won more than 30 league championships and more than 500 games at Grant Park, Lincoln Park and Lake Shore Park along with numerous tournaments, including

the prestigious Grant Park Old Style Tournament in 1993-1994, and in the Grant Park Tournament of Champions in 1975, 1979 and 1999.

One special team was a five-time champion at Grant Park in the elite Mike Royko Softball Tournament between 2001 and 2009, recalled Chicago Sun-Times manager and player Robert Egan. "Sam was a good man. He always came over and asked how we did in the Royko tournament."

Royko's historic Billy Goat saloon team was inducted into

the 16-inch Chicago Softball Hall of Fame as the Daily News/Sun-Times in 2009.

For more softball and housing news, visit www.dondebat.biz. Don DeBat is writing "Chicago's Game," a book on 16-inch softball. This column includes excerpts from the book. DeBat also is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

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North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

272727 -----
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SA VIN GS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST IX-A Plaintiff vs. LORA DROBETSKY; RESIDENCES AT RIVER EAST CENTER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; CITIBANK, N.A.; UNKNOWN OWNERS; AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 24 CH 4931 CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on June 29, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 17-10-223-033-1079. Commonly known as 512 N. McClurg Court #1109,

Real Estate For Sale

Chicago, IL 60611. The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Lavelle Law, 1933 North Meacham Road, Suite 600, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. (847) 705-7555. WSF vs. Drobetsky INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13287462**

Real Estate For Sale

202020 -----
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Plaintiff, -v.- CHRISTOPHER KYLE WHITE, 474 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2025CH06664 474 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE APARTMENT 2011 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 11, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on June 15, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 474 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE APARTMENT 2011, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-222-007-1053; 17-10-

Real Estate For Sale

222-007-1699 The real estate is improved with a multi unit high rise condominium. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property

Real Estate For Sale

is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC

Real Estate For Sale

333 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1820 Chicago, IL, 60606 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 25-21781IL_1254912 Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 2025CH06664 TJS#C#: 46-620 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2025CH06664 **13286635**

131313 -----

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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

272727 -----
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAMP TRUST 2005-SD1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-SD1 Plaintiff, -v.- MUHAMMAD S. MOUSAVI, NASREEN S. MOUSAVI, DYCK-ONEAL, INC., CACH, LLC, STATE OF ILLINOIS, NEW RIDGE VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 25 CH 1310 6432 N. RIDGE BOULEVARD APT 3C CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 21, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on June 24, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6432 N. RIDGE BOULEVARD APT 3C, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-31-401-098-1064 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$58,570.77. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at

Real Estate For Sale

the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.)

Real Estate For Sale

in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2801 LAKESIDE DRIVE, SUITE 207, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm.. Please refer to file number 25-102418. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. LOGS Legal Group LLP 2801 LAKESIDE DRIVE, SUITE 207 Bannockburn IL, 60015 847-291-1717 E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com Attorney File No. 25-102418 Attorney Code. 42168 Case Number: 25 CH 1310 TJS#C#: 46-1132 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 25 CH 1310 **13287316**

Real Estate For Sale

COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WINTRUST BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, -v.- MYA BANKS, KELSEY COURT CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2025CH08374 6814 N ASHLAND BLVD UNIT 1C CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 3, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on June 22, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6814 N ASHLAND BLVD UNIT 1C, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-31-226-034-1008 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The

Real Estate For Sale

sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

Real Estate For Sale

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-25-05133 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2025CH08374 TJS#C#: 46-541 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2025CH08374 **13287180**

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

272727 -----
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of LB-Igloo Series VI Trust Plaintiff vs. Stephan T. Bakana; Eastwood by the Lake Condominium Association; Unknown Owners and Non-record Claimants Defendant 25 CH 6544 CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on June 29, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-17-215-029-1013. Commonly known as 811 West Eastwood Avenue, Unit 305, Chicago, Illinois 60640. The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 Lucerne Drive, Suite 210, Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130. (440) 572-1511. ILF2505026 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13287421**

Real Estate For Sale

Property Index No. 14-17-401-073-1012 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$357,101.87. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 6400 SHAFER CT, STE 325, ROSEMONT, IL, 60018 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 24-268209. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CHAD LEWIS ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 6400 SHAFER CT, STE 325 ROSEMONT IL, 60018 561-241-6901 E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM Attorney File No. 24-268209 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439 Attorney Code. 65582 Case Number: 2025CH05629 TJS#C#: 46-652 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2025CH05629 **13287242**

Real Estate For Sale

-v.- THOMAS WALLACE AKA THOMAS J. WALLACE; AINSLIE PARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants. 2025CH09331 846 W. Ainslie St. Unit PC, Chicago, IL 60640 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 3/6/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 6/8/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on June 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 846 W. Ainslie St. Unit PC, Chicago, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-08-413-044-1070 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$57,293.81 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 846 W. Ainslie St. Unit PC into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g) (l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC (630) 453-6960 please refer to file number 6710-222606. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 6710-222606 Case Number: 2025CH09331 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. **13286930**

Real Estate For Sale

BANK; MARLBOROUGH CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; DAMON RITENHOUSE AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR PATRICIA M. MCKENNA; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants. 2025CH00281 400 W. Deming Pl, Unit 5K, Chicago, IL 60614 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 10/30/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 6/10/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on 6/10/2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 400 W. Deming Pl, Unit 5K, Chicago, IL 60614 Property Index No. 14-28-318-078-1058 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$233,274.28 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 400 W. Deming Pl, Unit 5K into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC (630) 453-6960 please refer to file number 6722-208807. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 6722-208807 Case Number: **2025CH00281** NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 8277-964724

Real Estate For Sale

Plaintiff vs. Wendi R. Walker; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants; 6118 Sheridan Road Condominium Homeowners Association Defendant 25 CH 8921 CALENDAR 60 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on June 16, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-05-210-023-1079. Commonly known as 6118 N SHERIDAN, Apartment Unit 905, CHICAGO, IL 60660. The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Marinossi Law Group, PC, 2215 Enterprise Drive, Suite 1512, Westchester, Illinois 60154. (312) 940-8580. 25-04180 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13286698**

Real Estate For Sale

sentation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-23-07721 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2024CH00086 TJS#C#: 46-993 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024CH00086 **13286617**

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR GS MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES TRUST 2024-RPL2 Plaintiff, -v.- MICHAEL L. WARD, JR., 4132-4142 KENMORE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Defendants 2025CH05629 4138 N KENMORE AVE., UNIT #38-2 CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 12, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on June 15, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 4138 N KENMORE AVE., UNIT #38-2, CHICAGO, IL 60613

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Public Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	
vs.	CASE NO. 2026CH03314
SCOTT C. ODUM; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.	Subject Property: 7123 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60619

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
Scott C. Odum and Unknown owners and non-record claimants
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
Legal description: LOT 40 (EXCEPT THE NORTH 2/3 THEREOF) AND ALL OF LOT 39 IN BLOCK 2 IN D.B. SCULLY'S SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Common address: 7123 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60619
Tax Parcel Number: 20-27-101-006-0000
And which said Mortgage was made by: Scott C. Odum
The Mortgagor(s), to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois, as Document No. 1906445107; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.
NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
On or before _____ (answer period expiration date), A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
By: /s/ Charlotte A. Haack - ARDC No. 6310785
Electronically signed on May 8, 2026
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiff
376 E 400 S, Ste 300
Salt Lake City, UT, 84111
801-355-2886
Email: ilteam@hwmlawfirm.com

Public Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	vs.	CASE NO. 2026CH01268
WILLIAM PAUL BLESER, JR; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.		Property Address: 11420 S. Talman Avenue, Chicago, IL 60655

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
William Paul Bleser, Jr and Unknown owners and non-record claimants
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
Legal description: The North 40 feet of Lot 5 in Block 15 in H. Oviatts Subdivision of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 and the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 and the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 and the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 24, Township 37 North, Range 13, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.
Common address: 11420 South Talman Avenue, Chicago, IL 60655
Tax Parcel Number: 24-24-222-033-0000
And which said Mortgage was made by: William Paul Bleser, Jr
The Mortgagor(s), to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois, as Document No. 2222849028; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.
NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
On or before _____ (answer period expiration date), A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
By: Chris Iaria - ARDC No. 6301746
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiff
376 E 400 S, Ste 300
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Landmark Designation approved for 30 N. LaSalle

The 52-year-old building at 30 N. LaSalle St. in the Loop was officially designated as a Chicago landmark last week by City Council, protecting the property's presence downtown and supporting \$132.4 million in planned commercial improvements.

The landmark designation recognizes the 44-story building's architect, Thomas Stanley, its rare New Formalism design and its link with the former Chicago Stock Exchange building, which it replaced.

Recommended by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in January, the designation protects the building's exterior from significant alteration or demolition.

Concurrently with the landmark designation, a Cook County Class L property tax incentive approved by City Council will support planned improvements involving approximately 630,000 square feet of commercial space.

Led by Gollub and Co., the work includes building system upgrades, window replacements, elevator improvements, rooftop work, lobby upgrades and retail space enhancements.

The incentive will provide an estimated \$47 million in savings over its 12-year term. In January, City Council approved up to \$57 million in local taxpayer TIF support for Gollub and Co.'s \$130 million conversion of approximately 19 floors in the building as 349 apartments. The building is one of six adaptive reuse projects advanced through the City's LaSalle Revitalization Initiative, representing more than \$900 million in investment involving more than 2 million square feet of converted space and 1,765 units of housing, costing on average \$510,000 per unit.

HOLDINGS from p. 1

by Sterling Bay to remake 50 riverfront acres crashed after a series of unforeseen incidents. Those include high inflation and high interest rates, followed by a crash in Chicago's commercial real estate market, created in part by a work-from-home trend, brought about by the pandemic and government-imposed economic lockdown. It was a series of body blows that Sterling Bay would not recover from after paying top dollar for their properties.

LIMITATIONS from p. 1

of a qualifying CTA bus line would be eligible for TOD Street designation. That means a mile-wide swath of the areas surrounding the entire CTA Red and Brown lines and all Metra lines; and a half-mile wide swath adjacent to bus routes.

The real problem for future commercial development is that the TOD Street designation would establish a series of prohibited uses along a TOD corridor, including banning all drive-throughs (think McDonald's, Dunkin Donuts, KFC), vehicle sales, car maintenance, and auto parts stores, gas stations and other critical automobile-oriented businesses.

The Lake View strip mall at Ashland Ave. and School St. is a victim of POD zoning. It was designed to be walkable, hiding the parking lot in the rear, as

PALMOLIVE from p. 1

clause dictating that the loser pays the winner's legal expenses, the attorney fee meter began spinning. By the time Bourbon Marble was locked in as the prevailing party, Pepper Construction owed \$3.6 million just to cover its opponent's legal bills.

After bouncing through four separate rounds of appeals, Pepper Construction tried to close the books on April 2, 2024, by wiring Bourbon Marble a lump sum of \$4.28 million to satisfy the core fees and accrued post-judgment interest. That included July 2022 Base Fees of \$3,605,880.33; Oct. 2022 Extra Fees of \$116,204.35; Accrued 9% interest of \$561,536.36, with a total wire payout on April 2, 2024 of \$4,283,621.04.

Rather than walking away with the multi-million-dollar windfall, Bourbon Marble served asset citations on Pepper Construction, hunting for an additional \$717,000 in backdated interest while simultaneously filing a third fee petition demanding

RIVERWALK from p. 1

Haire's having initially applied for a separate marketplace program.

Beat Kitchen argues these actions were the direct result of operational directives trickling down from City Hall, pointing to explicit administrative tools – including the City's Budget Equity Tool and mandatory departmental Racial Equity Action Plans – as the framework that led procurement officials to prioritize racial identity over rule-bound contracting.

The real problem for future commercial development is that the TOD Street designation would establish a series of prohibited uses along a TOD corridor, including banning all drive-throughs (think McDonald's, Dunkin Donuts, KFC), vehicle sales, car maintenance, and auto parts stores, gas stations and other critical automobile-oriented businesses.

opposed to out front as is the industry standard, leaving customers thinking there was no parking. Even your local grocer could be considered an automobile-based business since many people drive to, and park cars at these stores.

The TOD Street designation would serve as a severe weapon for the city to use in imposing its utopian concept of a car-free pedestrian-oriented development. These regulations already exist in the present POD-Street designation. POD has

established eligibility criteria that already excludes many vehicle-oriented business along commercial corridors.

The Dept. of Planning and Development say they would work with City Council members to pair future TOD Street designation with corridor upzoning near transit, building on the City's drastic upzoning campaign, such as that now in place on Broadway and Western Ave.

another \$236,000 to cover the bills accumulated during the previous appeal.

The First District Appellate Court flatly rejected that final effort. Affirming the Cook County Circuit Court's dismissal, Justice Sharon Oden-Johnson noted that because "prevailing party" status was completely up in the air during the multi-year appeal process, interest could not legally begin to accumulate prior to the trial court's official July 2022 judgment.

With Pepper Construction's wire transfer fully satisfying the active debt before the asset citations were served, the court ruled the case officially dead.

"At some point, all things must come to an end, including this litigation," wrote Justice Oden-Johnson, validating the lower court's refusal to entertain further claims.

"We decline to remand for further proceedings, because at some point the escalating fees must come to an end," wrote Oden-Johnson. "Both parties knew the additional costs they were facing by appealing, and they both willingly accept-

ed that risk, rather than accepting the trial court's decision."

Palmolive caught in the crossfire of construction law

Though the final twelve years of courtroom warfare were fought strictly between the two contractors, Palmolive Tower Condominiums, LLC remained pinned to the top of the case caption as the primary defendant due to the unique architecture of Illinois construction law.

When Bourbon Marble initially claimed it was being shorted, the subcontractor protected its financial stake by exercising its rights under the Illinois Mechanics Lien Act, placing a formal cloud against the title of the real estate itself. While the condo association was eventually insulated via global settlements from having its property sold off to satisfy the debt, the building's name anchored a 19-year legal war that outlasted the actual construction work by 14 years.

Co-defendant argues it does not belong in middle of lawsuit

On May 15, co-defendant Haire's Gulf Shrimp filed its formal reply brief, arguing that it has been improperly swept into a dispute that belongs strictly between Beat Kitchen and the City. Haire's emphasizes that Beat Kitchen has already conceded it does not seek monetary damages from Haire's, nor does it allege that the restaurant engaged in independent wrongdoing.

Instead, Haire's defense hinges on federal standing requirements. "The

continuing effect of an alleged past wrong is not the same as a continuing violation," the reply states, arguing that because the 2024 procurement process is a completed past event, Beat Kitchen cannot claim an immediate threat of future harm from Haire's presence.

With the briefing schedule concluded, formal discovery remains paused while Judge Durkin determines whether the lawsuit meets federal pleading standards.

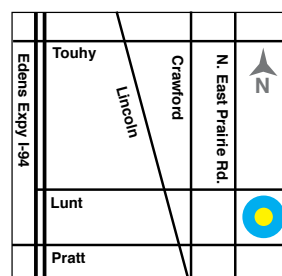
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