



Budget fraud and reserve risk in Illinois HOAs; A crisis of transparency

BY ADRIANA FOUSTANOU

Illinois' homeowner and condominium associations [HOAs] are facing a quiet crisis. According to forensic accountant Michael Novak, a growing number of community associations are hiding serious financial irregularities, aided by complicit CPAs and unregulated management companies.

This is a cautionary tale for any and all North Side residents who live under a HOA, which is the most local and impactful level of governance for those HOAs claim to serve.

Key findings that may be found with a forensic audit of an HOA include governance failures such as board presidents acting without board approval, financial decisions made outside required voting, and violations of Declarations and Bylaws; Unauthorized spending for unapproved salaries and bonuses, and reserve contributions waived without owner consent, and false tax filings where

associations filed materially false federal and state tax returns and CPAs and board members failed to correct or disclose errors.

"It's very easy for me to find widespread fraud and abuse," Novak said during a June 25 interview. "The management companies have too much power over the professional consultants."

Novak, who is returning to Illinois after years of working with the State of Nevada Real Estate Division, has helped expose misconduct ranging from tax fraud to falsified reserve studies.

In one high-profile case—*Kabir v. 175 East Delaware Place HOA*—a Cook County court ruled in favor of a unit owner seeking access to withheld financial records. Novak served as the expert witness in the case, and his testimony went unchallenged. "They were not able to challenge my testimony," he said. "I could admit it, and that was a big factor in deciding the case."

The ruling established that audit deliverables such as working

trial balances, journal entries, and income tax allocations are part of an association's "books and records" and must be disclosed to owners under Chicago's Condominium Ordinance.

Perhaps most alarming is Novak's assertion that some associations deliberately manipulate reserve studies to obscure future liabilities.

"What they're doing, they're kicking the can down the road," Novak explained. "They're not letting owners know about their wave of reserves. The next time the reserve gets updated, it's going to cause a very big assessment increase shock to the homeowners"

A forensic audit of 175 East Delaware revealed that the management firm Sudler Property Management self-awarded nearly \$450,000 in unauthorized raises and bonuses—without board approval. "It just shows how they have control of the entire situa-

HOAs see p. 12

Trash, rats, and silence: Hotel Lincoln's long trail of neglect frustrates neighbors

BY ADRIANA FOUSTANOU

A growing number of Lincoln Park and Old Town residents are calling attention to what they say is years of neglect and public nuisance stemming from Hotel Lincoln's ongoing sanitation issues.

Overflowing trash, unsealed garbage containers, rodent activity, and a lack of community care have become synonymous with the hotel's rear sidewalk and alley area, according to neighbors like longtime local Robert Johnson, who alerted this newspaper about the problem.

"That trash problem has been going on for quite a while," Johnson said June 26. "When I moved here in 1981, the trash was never brought onto the sidewalk. The scavenger truck came, the door opened, the trash was taken out, and the sidewalk was clear. But over the years, that changed."

The Hotel Lincoln, 1816 N. Clark St., is just steps from one

of Chicago's most visited park corridors, yet neighbors say its waste management practices have deteriorated. Johnson, a retired healthcare operations professional and resident of the Hemingway House next door, has spent over two decades raising concerns with city officials.

"I started notifying the 43rd Ward when Michele Smith was alderman. Her office would respond, and sometimes the trash got picked up, but the problem never stopped. It wasn't consistent," he explained.

According to Johnson, the situation worsened after the building was sold and converted fully into a hotel property. A metal enclosure for dumpsters was constructed, but the sidewalk surrounding it became cracked and unsafe. "One of the residents in my building fell on the broken sidewalk and broke his arm," he said.

That section of sidewalk wasn't repaired until "a year or two ago,"

under Ald. Timmy Knudsen.

The problem, neighbors say, isn't just cosmetic — it's sanitary.

"That's the major driver of rats in the community — containers without lids," Johnson emphasized. "There's debris falling out, the sidewalk is never power-washed, and it's unsightly."

Johnson also points out that the enclosure built to house the trash bins sits on public sidewalk space. "They have a civic duty to be good stewards of public property," he said. "That sidewalk is public right-of-way. Even if the hotel paid for the concrete, it still belongs to the city."

Johnson recalls how even sanitation workers have expressed frustration. "There was one guy who drove the scavenger truck. He and I practically became friends. We'd roll our eyes every time we saw how poorly the hotel

TRASH see p. 12



Water Tower Place Mall, 845 N. Michigan Ave.

Water Tower Place Mall will shrink to only three floors

Top five floors put up for sale

In perhaps the most visible sign of the current downturn plaguing The Mag Mile, the owner of The Water Tower Place Mall, 845 N. Michigan Ave., has announced plans to reduce the retail space from eight floors down to only three.

Jones Lang LaSalle [JLL] is now seeking a buyer for the upper five floors of the 758,000 square-foot vertical mall, in a deal that could dramatically change the face of one of the nation's best-known multistory malls.

Totaling 500,000 square feet, JLL has put the top five floors up for sale, the brokerage confirmed to Ryan Ori of CoStar News.

Mall owner Metropolitan Life

Insurance, was said to be contemplating such a sale after taking over the property in 2023 in lieu of a foreclosure. The stunning crash of the world famous Michigan Ave. shopping district came after the ill-advised, government-imposed economic lockdown and corresponding rise in online shopping, then the BLM riots and looting of 2020, followed by the long-term spike in downtown crime and shoplifting which has left retailers reeling and commercial spaces empty. Chicago's foremost downtown retail district cratered and has never recovered.

Prior to the pandemic lock-

WATER TOWER see p. 12



Universal Destinations & Experiences is coming to Chicago.

Universal to open year-round horror entertainment complex on Chicago Ave.

Universal Destinations & Experiences, the themed entertainment division of Comcast NBCUniversal, has announced Chicago as the second location for its year-round immersive horror experience called Universal Horror Unleashed to be erected at 700 W. Chicago Ave.

The location is the same site that had previously been proposed for a large new housing complex. This new deal raises doubts about Canadian developer Onni Group's long-stalled \$1.1 billion proposal to build 2,400 apartments on the same site, a former Chicago Tribune printing plant that Onni purchased for \$45 million in 2022.

Reportedly, Onni's apartment plan has been held up for more than a year by opposition

from the SEIU Local 1 union. The union lobbied city officials to block zoning approvals. Ald. Walter Burnett [27th] deferred a City Council vote on the proposal in May, citing an unresolved standoff between the union and developer.

The permanent entertainment venue will be Universal's first effort in the Midwest and is part of the company's plans to expand this concepts. Universal will transform a vacant 114,000-square-foot commercial building located directly across the street from the new Bally's Casino, into a horror attraction and entertainment business.

Slated to open in 2027 and

UNIVERSAL see p. 12

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A summer reading list



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

As Lemony Snicket warns us all: "Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them."

Now that the Independence Day weekend has arrived, it's time to talk summer books to take to the beach.

I am a good reader. Curious. Imaginative. Expansive. A hands-on owner of classic tomes in my parochial youth. I hit my stride for

summer-read books in the fourth grade at Visitation School, when I straddled multiple book clubs, religious and secular.

My parents were generous, letting me subscribe, hoping it was giving me more expansive discipline. I used pop bottle returns to finance this enterprise.

My personal list for all the stories I gobbled up included holy folk who were saints. I always wanted the full story. At the time it gave me a reputation for heavenly reading.

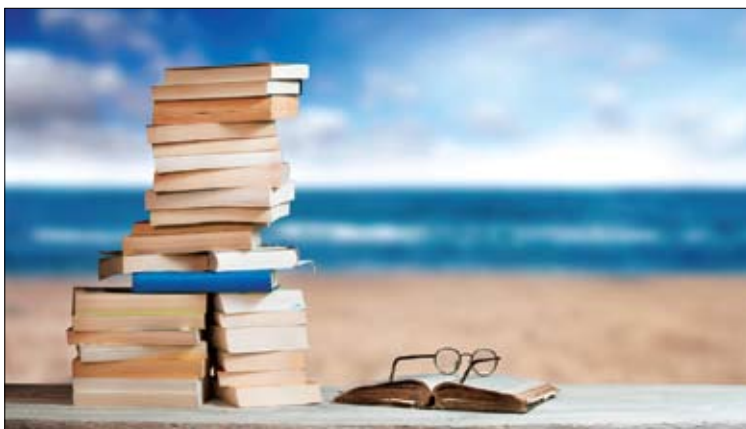
But I needed something more to fill the gaps between miracles and beheadings.

I remember the biography of Will and Charlie Mayo, those young Irish American lads in Minnesota who invented modern medicine. They had a brilliant cache. A book of thrilling tales from their inventive lives. I've never forgotten it. It rivaled the life of St. Dominic for me.

Then there was National Velvet, Robinson Crusoe, and Robin Hood, which wasn't as adventurous or romantic as the Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland 1939 film. We only watched the movie 100 times. Which, of course, made us experts on 13th century England. But I read the book. I knew the facts.

Our frequent travels as a family made us budding readers and book experts. Books always went on the journey as a backseat library. We shopped for books everywhere we went. Always taking turns reading out loud to one another in the car.

After a while our dad would be looking for a turn off into some American one-horse town for a quick cold beer. We'd get root



It's time to visit your favorite beach with a new book in hand.

beer floats with our grandmother. And penny candy to energize the rest of the day's journey.

After dinner in some local country hot spot, we'd get ready for bed so we could discover how Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer managed to escape some perilous predicament in Hannibal, Missouri. Once we even drove through Hannibal on our way back to Chicago. What a Mississippi adventure that was for us. Fictions became real before our eyes.

I liked Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer the best back then. Mark Twain remained at the top of our sophisticated reading list. That was something we could brag about in the classroom. Even the Dominican nuns were impressed.

That was the effective and curious formula for acquiring a lifetime of reading. Looking back I'm still excited.

So here is a summer reading for our readers in the hopes of encouraging you in sorting through these timeless summer reads. Four great books to try out. Some big. Some shorter. Some very detailed. Some with big literary brushstrokes. Some brand new. Some vintage.

Four is a good number for the summer.

No one will be surprised that my first recommendation for summer is the fabulous new biography entitled Mark Twain, by Ron Chernow, who was recently in town for the Chicago Humanities Festival. He gives us a deep dive into the mercurial American writer, Twain.

What I like about Chernow's literary work is that it's so enthralling and full, large and ram-

bunctious. Seemingly leaving nothing behind. That's essential for summer reading. It's hefty. And of course Chernow is a good and comfortable writer. He lifts up Samuel Langhorne Clemens, Twain's real name, America's first true literary celebrity. He manages to milk both ease and clarity out of this brilliant human story.

This is no flimsy tribute to a favorite writer. In this work you'll discover something confounding, Twain's coming to life filled with American emotion. Chernow already holds a Pulitzer Prize, so he's A-list. His introduction of the bushy mustached, cantankerous Twain, as the father of American literature, is breathtaking. You'll love all the details of his time from Mississippi steamboats to the ravages of the Civil War. You'll cherish the book's brashness and elaborate Americanism from start to finish. Yes, it's 1200 pages long. Don't let that stop you.

Picasso: An Intimate Portrait, is also a wondrous read, written by the Cubist painter's grandson, Olivier Widmaier Picasso. He made sure he'd gathered the truthful details that fill out the painter's complex, long life (1881-1973). This is a work of grand history for artists.

I've been a student of Pablo Picasso for decades. Searching out the contexts and elaborate emotional life of a foundational modern artist whose efforts redefined the artistry of the 20th century.

A Spanish Roman Catholic living in Paris for most of his life. Redeeming what the artistic eye sees. Too many lovers. Too many painter pals. Too many bullfights. Too much wealth.

But Picasso, the artist, reshapes his artistic vision over time, transforming the aesthetic of the age. It's no accident that the bold muscular politics of Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley did not elude Picasso from afar. A devoted communist who never saw America, he was still a modern thinker attracted to the liberating quality of Daley's urban politics. Hence the stunning Picasso sculpture in Daley Plaza, "The Picasso," sometimes called "The Chicago Picasso," which the artist gifted to Chicago more than 50 years ago.

The author is the 60-year-old grandson of a Picasso mistress, Marie-Thérèse Walter, who met the artist when she was just 16 years old, waiting at a Paris bus stop.

Her daughter, Maya Widmaier-Picasso, was Olivier's mother. This work will bring the painter deep into your soul. A worthy summer enterprise at just 320 pages.

To Kill a Mockingbird, the 1960 novel by Harper Lee, is an American classic. A coming of age story set in the American South of the 1930s. Filled with conflicts and human confusion, betrayal at its best in small town America layered thick in moral reasoning. And a true evolving bitter wisdom standing against the cruelty of small towns and small minds.

Lee's heroes lift high the real purpose of life. A must to read and reread. Only 320 pages.

The Catcher in the Rye, a 1945-46 novel by J.D. Salinger, is his only novel. For most of its life it's been controversial. But it's no "White Lotus." Just two days in the life of a 16-year-old boy, Holden Caulfield, expelled from prep school. A wise-cracking story filled with angst and alienation as he searches for life-giving

READING see p. 8

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Chicago ranks among most expensive cities to rent an apartment

65% of population choosing to live in only 35% of city

A new Chicago Rental Market Trends report finds that average rental apartment prices across the city spiked to 19% higher than the national average in May, leaving residents here paying an average of \$3,780 more in housing costs on an annual basis than anywhere else in the country.

Chicago residents everywhere are paying the price for the city's rising rental apartment prices, says Bryce Hill, Illinois Policy Institute (IPI) Director of Fiscal and Economic Research. "The first thing that

comes to mind to explain why housing is so expensive in Chicago is property taxes.

Those are costs that are borne not only by homeowners who occupy their own homes but also by renters."

Multifamily units in Chicago were priced in the neighborhood of \$1,939 in May compared to \$1,639 across the country, or up by nearly 4% over the same time last year. Hill argued that the area's bad fiscal policies spur much of the city's stagnant population along with being largely responsible for population levels now being lower than they were more than a century ago.

"Part of the reason why people are flee-

ing the city, whether they be for other suburbs within Illinois or other states entirely, is because housing costs are so out of control," he said.

"In addition, the services that taxpayers get in return for their high taxes is oftentimes not bearing out when taxpayers think of whether or not the services they receive are worth what they're paying."

Data shows rents across the city jumping 41% over the past decade, including by 6.2% over the first six months of 2024 alone, to an average of \$2,200 a month. Apartments.com reported the average resident now needs to earn almost \$78,000 an-

nually in order to afford an average apartment.

IPI analysis also found nearly half of all city renters now pay nearly a third of their income for shelter, including almost 90% of the city's low-income residents, easily exceeding the federal limit for affordability.

Hill explained what he feels needs to happen. "The city could reevaluate needs," he said. "Do we need to actually pursue the full property tax levy increase or is there room to offer not necessarily relief but to

EXPENSIVE see p. 10

How technology changed the Cook County Treasurer's Office

BY MARIA PAPPAS
Cook County Treasurer

When I became Cook County Treasurer in 1998, I walked into an office stuck in the past. Boxes containing \$30,000,000 of uncashed checks lined the floor, collecting dust rather than earning interest. Just four working computers and six typewriters served a staff of hundreds.

It was a wake-up call. But I knew I was where I was meant to be. You see, I've always believed in shaking things up—so that's what I set out to do.

My first interest was the "lack of interest" those boxes of checks were earning for the county. I immediately implemented a lockbox system to quickly deposit checks. That nearly tripled interest earnings in my first year.

Next, we replaced paper-only processes with a computerized network to handle

collections, refunds, deposits, distributions, and more. Automating made deposits instantaneous so interest could accrue in real-time.

Those innovations helped boost the bottom line even further allowing me to phase out 5 satellite offices and ultimately reduce the payroll from 250 to about 60.

We didn't stop there.

We set up our website cook-countytreasurer.com which now serves as a 24/7 portal to office services. Last year alone, the site was visited more than 6.5 million times and since opening, it has been visited more than 100 million times. It's where taxpayers can

search for unclaimed refunds and check for missing exemptions in over 200 languages, helping ensure equity and inclusion in every neighborhood and town.

In 2002, Cook became one of the first counties in the country to offer online prop-

erty tax payments. We created a system for direct bank transfers that was secure and easy to use. Today, more than 850,000 taxpayers pay online each year. If you pay from your bank account, it's free.

In the 2010's we began to allow payments on smart phones and other mobile devices. Since 2017, there have been more than 12 million website visits from mobile users.

Also, in 2017 we began offering taxpayers the option to download their bills. More than 7 million tax bills have been electronically downloaded since that functionality was introduced.

In 2018 we began offering automatic refunds for overpayments. Since then, we've issued 175,000 refunds totaling more than \$150 million. And we're holding more of

your money. Currently, \$122 million in overpayments and more than \$33 million in exemption refunds are available from the Treasurer's Office. Log on today to see if you're owed money.

We've always believed good government works for the people. That's why, for more than 25 years, we've made it our mission to simplify the tax system, embrace innovation, and give taxpayers user-friendly tools.

We collect over \$18 billion in property taxes each year to fund schools, emergency services, and more than 2000 local government units. Those taxes, paid by the owners of nearly 1.8 million Cook County proper-

TECHNOLOGY see p. 10



Maria Pappas

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Walk Edgewater tours

The walking tours are underway in Edgewater, and there is a limit of 20 people in each tour.

Tour guides with the Edgewater Historical Society will lead guests through the tour, and share a researched brochure.

The fee for each tour is \$15, which supports the Edgewater Historical Society Museum.

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, guests will tour the Lakewood Balmoral Historic District. This district displays many of Edgewater's finest architectural gems in residential housing. Many are locally important landmarks on the Chicago Historic Resources survey of 1986.

At 6 p.m. Thursday, July 10, guests will

tour North Edgewater Beach to view seven Chicago landmarks and homes from the 1890s in the area around Granville and Kenmore that are examples of each major residential building boom and housing transition in Edgewater since the 1890s.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, July 8, guests will tour Magnolia Glen, one of Edgewater's oldest neighborhoods, developed by William H. Cairnduff in 1888 as an addition to J.L. Cochran's Edgewater. The homes are well cared for and show some interesting architectural details. The tour booklet includes an early map.

For more information, or to register, visit www.EdgewaterHistory.org.

Anti-Jewish hate spiked by 58% last year in Chicago

Call for public hearings on Antisemitism

BY ALD. DEBRA SILVERSTEIN

Ald. Debra Silverstein [50th] recently introduced a resolution to City Council aimed at addressing the rising threat of antisemitism in Chicago.

According to the police, while hate crimes in general have been decreasing, anti-Jewish hate spiked by 58% last year. Jewish residents make up only about 3% of Chicago's population, but in 2024, they were the targets of nearly 38% of all reported hate crimes in the city.

More than one-third of every hate crime reported in the City of Chicago targeted the Jewish community. This reality is obviously untenable and requires immediate action.

My resolution, which gained the support of a majority of the City Council, calls on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations [CCHR] to hold public hearings on the alarming rise of antisemitism and radi-

calization across the city. It authorizes the commission to hear testimony from victims, community leaders, and expert witnesses, and it asks CCHR to issue a public report with recommendations on how to protect Chicago's Jewish community.

Antisemitism is at crisis levels in the United States, with notable and horrific incidents happening across the nation, including the hate crime shooting of an Orthodox Jewish man who was walking to synagogue in our own neighborhood last year, the recent murder of two Israeli embassy staffers outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC, an arson attack at the Pennsylvania Governor's residence, and the firebombing attack of a hostage rally in Boulder, CO.

We need Mayor Brandon Johnson to get behind this resolution and to offer the full support of the city government in addressing the crisis of anti-Jewish hate in Chicago. Empty words and symbolic gestures are not enough. We need real leadership and real solutions so every Chicagoan, no matter their faith or background, can live without fear.

Commentary

Letters to the Editor

This isn't city planning, it's surrender

Tom O'Gorman was right [June 18]: City streets are a mess of conflicting uses, unchecked speeds, and reckless planning.

Wells St., once the hallmark of a walkable neighborhood, now feels like a video game—beer trucks blocking curbs, scooters flying through stop signs, Ubers swerving around double-parked vans. Over on Eugenie St., a child or elder has to navigate traffic like a stunt actor just to cross the road.

Cyclists fly through red lights. Our sidewalks aren't sidewalks anymore — they're obstacle courses, delivery zones, and bike lanes all at once. Lime scooters left anywhere the rider stops - in the middle of the sidewalk usually. Enforcement? Non-existent.

Into this mess, the City has approved

a 349-unit luxury tower with no plan for where hundreds of new bikes, cars, and trucks will go.

Tom, let's ride Wells together on a Monday morning. Let's count the near misses. Let's ask: is this livable? Is this safe?

This isn't planning—it's surrender. Our streets have become a test site for what happens when developers run the table. The public was promised a future of smart growth. What we got was congestion, chaos, and zero accountability.

This isn't just traffic—it's failure. And it's time to say so. Wonder if the fix is in for this deal.

*Diane Glickman
Old Town*

The hidden cost of Fern Hill's Tower

As longtime residents, directly facing the LaSalle and Eugenie intersection, we must speak out about the serious traffic risks in the proposed Fern Hill development. The block-long building will force heavy traffic onto an already congested block including the busy corner of Eugenie and LaSalle.

The Fern Hill Tower site has only one access point on the west side of N. LaSalle, just a few yards from the very busy North Ave. and LaSalle intersection. Their U-shaped driveway will funnel commercial delivery and service trucks, ride shares, food delivery vehicles, and hundreds of resident and guest vehicles to access the 36-story tower and parking lot. There is a median strip along the 1600 block of N. LaSalle to prohibit traffic heading north on LaSalle to cross over onto the southbound lanes. Consequently, with the driveway positioned on the 1600 block on the west side of LaSalle, much of the traffic will have to go around the block - North Ave., then north on Wells to Eugenie- in order to access southbound LaSalle.

Car and truck traffic already routinely double-park and idle to serve the Eugenie Square townhomes. This is a neighborhood street, not a main thoroughfare. Current traffic at the congested corner of Eugenie and LaSalle brings noise from motorcycles, emergency vehicles, trucks and cars; adding hundreds more vehicles would overwhelm this intersection.

We were told by the developer's paid traffic-study surveyor that the Fern Hill

study was conducted on a random weekday in September, likely in 2023. The entire study was never released. Chances are there was no thought given to the multiple events staged in and around Old Town and Lincoln Park throughout the year. The study was adopted by the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT].

The "traffic fixes" proposed by Fern Hill and supported by CDOT that attempt to force-fit a private high-rise onto a site far too small to handle it means public safety, pedestrian access, and neighborhood livability are being sacrificed. It also means the likely elimination of the LaSalle-Eugenie-North corridor bus stop that serves hundreds of people from Old Town and Lincoln Park neighborhoods. Locals and visitors both depend on this stop daily.

This isn't responsible planning. It's private profit, overwhelming public infrastructure. While Fern Hill's investment partners collect private rents, Old Town residents lose transit, clean air, sunlight, pedestrian safety, and neighborhood stability.

This tower is simply too big for this site. The harm falls on the public while the financial gains go to private developers. We urge Ald. Hopkins, CDOT, and City Council to stop sacrificing public safety and public transit for private development.

*Karen Brown
Old Town*

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Grant Park softball run over by NASCAR for third straight year



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

For the third year in a row, the NASCAR race has run over Chicago's beloved game, 16-inch slow pitch softball in Grant Park.

Once the biggest 16-inch slow-pitch league in the Windy City, the game at Grant Park appears to be forever threatened, cast into the wind as a forgotten memory, softball devotees say.

The NASCAR Chicago Street Race is scheduled to return July 5 and 6. The city began closing streets and erecting stands 18 days before the race weekend.

Closures include major roads like Lake Shore Dr., Michigan Ave., Roosevelt Rd., and Columbus Dr.—forming a loop around Grant Park. All streets are scheduled for reopening on July 14.

A recent 90-plus degree heat wave caused parts of the race-track pavement to heave, almost like a message from hell.

This year, the "Bad Apples," a coed team that has played in Grant Park since 1980, were told that their season will be compressed into six weeks and each of the nine teams in Chicago Advertising Coed Softball League [CACSL] will be required to play double headers.

"Our Tuesday night games will be played at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. each week to squeeze our season into a total of six weeks," said Juan Correa, commissioner of the league. With playoffs, each team will play 13 games.

After a month off for NASCAR and other events, the teams will be required to move to Waveland Park on Saturday July 26 for the CACSL's one-day championship tournament, Correa said.

Grant Park coed league game times will be restricted to a one-hour limit, and a one-and-one ball-strike rule will be enforced. For the second game of the doubleheader, action will continue until sunset.

In addition to the Bad Apples, the league includes the following teams: Energy BBDO, Fleishman Hillard, Publicis Group, KSM, Cramer-Krasselt, Foot Cone & Belding. OMD, and Clune Construction.

Other teams, including the Chicago Sports & Social Club 16-inch softball co-ed league at Grant Park, also was hit with the same mandatory doubleheader schedule.

Old school 16-inch softball players like 63-year-old Correa say they hate the changes. "Bad Apples once were like the Yankees. We won four of five of the last ad league championships," he said. A few years ago, 32 teams once competed in ad league. The government-imposed closing of public parks for the pandemic decimated softball leagues, many of which may never recover.

However, apparently the young

co-ed teams embrace the changes. "All they care about is the post-game partying and deciding what downtown saloon they want to visit for hook-ups," Correa said. "For some young players, game attire is Crocs and pajama bottoms."

For decades, up to 350 corporate, industrial and saloon teams competed in leagues at Grant Park, generally known as the hub of Windy City softball. However, downtown softball at Grant Park took a turn for the worse after the tragedy of 9/11.

Metered parking along Columbus Dr. near the fields was removed for security reasons. Players were forced to park five blocks away and walk to the fields, or cab it.

"NASCAR, public entertainment events, and the Chicago Park District have killed 16-inch softball in the Windy City," said Ron Roenigk, publisher of this newspaper, and retired player-

manager of the "Inside Dirt" coed team which participated in the Media Softball League at Grant Park, Lincoln Park, and Waveland Park.

"There are so many profit-making 'close-off-the-park-to-non-payer' events in Grant Park now that tax-paying Chicagoans have basically lost their recreational front yard for the better part of the summer. It really is a scandal," said Roenigk.

"Most Chicagoans don't have any concept of how much public-park real estate the Park District has leased out to private companies involved in profit-making ventures," Roenigk said.

"The social clubs lock-up diamond permits early in the season, and that action just reduces the days and times available for traditional Park District softball leagues which are rapidly disappearing," Roenigk said.

SOFTBALL see p. 7

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Police Beat...

Chicago man steals fire chief's marked SUV for joyride, skips court

Cops arrested a man after he allegedly stole a Chicago Fire Dept. (CFD) battalion chief's fully-marked SUV from a firehouse near the Magnificent Mile and went on a joyride to Edgewater.



Aaron Johnson

Aaron Johnson, 49, was arrested on April 1 but went home from the police station that evening with instructions to appear in court a week later. He was recently re-arrested on an

active warrant issued after he failed to show up for that court date.

The incident began when the chief of Battalion 1 parked the unmistakable CFD SUV in front of Station 98 at 202 E. Chicago Ave. around 8:20 a.m. Minutes later, the vehicle was gone, prompting a swift response from police—and the battalion chief—after the SUV's GPS began pinging in near Glenwood and Farwell avenues on the North Side, according to a CPD report.

The battalion chief personally located the SUV parked in the 1400 block of W. Lunt, in Rogers Park, with Johnson behind the wheel. Police said Johnson turned off the vehicle and surrendered the keys when the chief requested them. Officers arrived shortly after and confronted Johnson, who allegedly told them he was "having fun."

CPD surveillance footage captured a man resembling Johnson entering the SUV outside the firehouse and driving away, the report noted.

An officer wrote in the arrest report that possession of a stolen motor vehicle is a "non-detainable felony" under the SAFE-T Act, so police released Johnson that evening with instructions to appear in court on April 8. He failed to appear, court records show, resulting in an arrest warrant and his recent re-arrest. He has been rereleased to await trial.

Two men sexually assault woman in Lakeview alley

Two men sexually assaulted a 26-year-old woman in a Lakeview alley on Sunday night, Chicago police said. The assailants remain at large.

According to police, the woman was sitting in an alley behind the 3800 block of N. Wilton when a vehicle carrying two women and at least two men approached around 10:45 p.m. June 29. Two men exited the car and physically attacked her.

The assailants tore off the woman's clothing and sexually assaulted her before fleeing in the vehicle.

Investigators recovered some of the victim's clothing from atop a garage, according to an officer at the scene. Other pieces of her clothing were scattered throughout the alley.

CPD has not released descriptions of the attackers.

Man stabbed to death in domestic altercation at Navy Pier beer garden

A man was stabbed to death at the Navy Pier beer garden on June 29 in what Chicago police described as a "domestic altercation." A suspect, who also sustained a laceration during the incident, is in custody.

Police said the now-deceased man, 56, became involved in a verbal altercation with a 64-year-old man at the beer garden around 5:30 p.m. The argument turned physical when the older man pulled out a "sharp object" and stabbed the victim multiple times, according to a CPD media statement.

The victim suffered cuts throughout his body and was pronounced dead at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Officers arrested the older man on the pier. He was taken to Northwestern in serious condition, according to CPD.

An internal CPD message shared with this reporter described the stabbing as a "domestic altercation."

Threshold crossed for Opioid overdoses in one day

On Saturday, June 21, there was a spike in opioid overdoses in Chicago. The Chicago Dept. of Public Health noted 37 opioid-overdose related EMS responses on a single day.

A landmark 2015 law in Illinois addressed opioid abuse and its illegal use. According to 720 ILCS 570/414 Sec. 414, an "overdose" on any of the 12 state-listed drugs means a controlled substance-induced physiological event that results in a life-threatening emergency to the individual who ingested, inhaled, injected or otherwise bodily absorbed a controlled, counterfeit, or look-alike substance or a controlled substance analog.

CDPH has urged partner organizations and emergency responders to stay alert in the wake of warmer temperatures, call 911 and administer naloxone or Narcan to individuals who may be overdosing, and consider immediate initiation of medications for opioid use disorder for patients whose overdoses were reversed before discharge from the ED or hospital.

Illinois law offers limited legal protections for people who act in good faith while seeking emergency medical help for an overdose. The Illinois' immediate opioid treatment helpline and can be accessed by calling 833-234-6343 or texting "HELP" to 833234.

Armed carjackings reported in West Loop, West Rogers Park

Chicago police are investigating two armed carjackings that occurred within hours of each other on June 25, one in the West Loop and the other in West Rogers Park.

In the first incident, a 50-year-old man was carjacked at gunpoint by two men in the 2100 block of W. Arthur around 7:39 p.m., according to a Chicago police spokesperson. They said the victim was standing near his 2017 Hyundai Accent when two men approached him, one displayed a firearm, and they forcibly took control of his vehicle. No detailed description of the suspects was provided in this case.

Later, around 12:20 a.m. June 26, a second carjacking occurred near Halsted and Hubbard streets. The victim confronted two masked men

who were inside his vehicle near the intersection of Halsted and Hubbard streets. Both suspects pointed rifles at him, took control of the car, and drove away. Police later located the stolen vehicle, unoccupied, in the 2600 block of W. Monroe.

Wave of daytime car break-ins hits lakefront

Chicago police are warning residents after a string of daytime vehicle break-ins and vandalism targeting parked cars was reported Wednesday along the lakefront in Uptown, Lincoln Park, and Lake View.

CPD said an unidentified burglar or burglars used an object to shatter side windows to gain access to the vehicles and steal property. The break-ins occurred at the following locations: 5100 block of N. Simonds Dr. between 11:47 and 12:47 p.m.; 2700 block of N. Cannon Dr. between 2:05 and 2:49 p.m.; 200 block of W. Montrose Harbor Dr. between 12 and 3 p.m.; 200 block of W. Montrose Harbor Dr. between 12 and 5 p.m.; 200 block of W. Montrose Harbor Dr. between 12 and 4:10 p.m.; 200 block of W. Montrose Harbor Dr. between 12 and 9 p.m., and on the 3600 block of N. Recreation Dr. at 6:20 p.m.

Police advised residents to avoid leaving valuables in vehicles and asked people to report suspicious activity immediately. Anyone with information or video footage that could assist with the investigation is encouraged to contact Area 3 Detectives at 773-744-8263 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com, referencing case number P25-3-031.

Pritzker stalker gets probation for throwing stones at governor's Gold Coast mansion

The man accused of stalking Gov. JB Pritzker and throwing rocks at the billionaire's Gold Coast mansion received a probation sentence on June 25, court records show.



Adam Dabash

Adam Dabash pleaded guilty to felony criminal damage to property in a plea deal that led prosecutors to drop three other felony charges, including two counts of stalking.

Surveillance footage from Oct. 7, 2024, allegedly captured Dabash walking outside Pritzker's home in the 1400 block of N. Astor around 9:45 a.m., stopping twice to hurl baseball-sized rocks at the mansion's windows. He briefly left the scene before returning to throw another rock.

Three windows were damaged, with one rock found inside the governor's mansion and two others found outside. The damage to the governor's property was estimated at \$7,900. Pritzker and several others were inside the residence at the time of the rock-throwing, but no injuries were reported.

Investigators also linked Dabash to earlier incidents on Aug. 26 and Aug. 28, 2024, when he allegedly tossed notes over the governor's fence. Surveillance video from both days showed his face, and his name was written on the notes, though officials did not disclose their contents.

Following his arrest, Dabash allegedly damaged a mattress in his police holding cell and told officers that Illinois has a "m***** f***** for a governor."

Cook County Judge Michael Hood sentenced Dabash to two years of mental health probation and ordered him to comply with several conditions, including submitting DNA to a law enforcement database and undergoing random drug testing. Additionally, Hood issued a stalking no-contact order and a plenary order of protection to keep Dabash away from Pritzker.

Dabash has been on electronic monitoring since charges were filed in October. Hood ordered the ankle

monitor removed during Wednesday's court session.

Chicago man charged with attempted murder in brutal Edgewater alley attack

A 49-year-old man has been charged in connection with a violent attack in an Edgewater alley that left a 36-year-old man critically injured, Chicago police announced. Roosevelt McCree, of the 600 block of W. Elm St., was arrested June 21 in Edgewater, CPD said.

The attack occurred shortly after 10 p.m. Thursday, June 19, in the 5800 block of N. Kenmore Ave. A 911 caller reported hearing screams, including a threat of "I'm going to kill you," followed by the sound of a motorcycle speeding away. A passerby discovered the victim in the alley, initially believing he had been shot, and called for an ambulance.



Roosevelt McCree

Medical personnel determined the victim had been beaten in the head with a blunt object. He was rushed to St. Francis Hospital in critical condition and remained unidentified as of early Friday.

McCree is set to appear for a detention hearing at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse on Tuesday afternoon, where additional details about the allegations are expected to be disclosed. He faces charges of attempted first-degree murder and aggravated battery causing great bodily harm.

Man attacked 3 women in Lakeview and the Loop

State and federal prosecutors have charged a Chicago man with attacking three women within hours on June 24, one each in Lakeview and two in the Loop.

Joshua Rowell, 36, has been convicted of "multiple felonies for domestic battery," a Cook County prosecutor said during a detention hearing on Thursday.

That first attack on June 24 involved a woman walking her dog near her home in the 600 block of W. Waveland. The victim told police she saw Rowell walking toward her, so she stepped into the grass to give him room to pass by.



Joshua Rowell

Rowell suddenly punched her in the head with his fist, causing her to drop her dog's leash and fall to the ground, prosecutors said in a detention petition. As the victim tried to shield her face with her arms, Rowell allegedly continued to strike her multiple times in the head and face, with video evidence showing at least nine blows while she was down.

The victim screamed for help, drawing the attention of two witnesses who saw Rowell attacking the woman while she was down, prosecutors said. He fled the scene after yelling at one witness that she would "be next," according to the petition.

One of the witnesses told police that the victim was bleeding so profusely, she thought the woman had been stabbed. EMS transported the victim to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where she received stitches under her eye and was treated for a displaced right nasal bone fracture. Detectives circulated a "seeking to identify" alert across the department.

Then, shortly before 4 p.m., a federal court law clerk was attacked as she stood outside the Dirksen Federal Building in the Loop. According to a federal criminal complaint, Rowell approached the victim from behind and punched her in the left side of her face, causing her to stumble into Jackson Blvd. The victim, who was

working in her official capacity, suffered a concussion and was treated at a local hospital.

About 20 minutes later, a 20-year-old woman told Chicago police that a man punched her in the face as she walked in the 900 block of S. Wabash. She was treated at Insight Hospital.

Patrol officers stopped Rowell near the Roosevelt CTA station because he matched the description provided by the third victim, a CPD report said. Investigators quickly linked him to the Lakeview case through the "seeking to identify" bulletin.

Cook County prosecutors charged him with aggravated battery causing great bodily harm, aggravated battery in a public place, and, because he was allegedly carrying a single 9mm bullet, possession of ammunition.

Federal prosecutors charged him with assault of a federal employee.

Court records show he received two 5-year sentences for domestic battery in 2021. His previous felony convictions include possessing a controlled substance in 2018 and possessing a stolen motor vehicle in 2014, according to court files.

Shoplifter admitted he 'stabbed the **** out of' grocery store manager

A 61-year-old man accused of stabbing a grocery store manager in Edgewater allegedly admitted



John Brown

to police that he "stabbed the [expletive] out of" the victim.

The incident occurred at the Aldi located at 6221 N. Broadway shortly after 2 p.m. June 14.

Prosecutors said John Brown stabbed the store's 41-year-old assistant manager in the thigh during an attempted shoplifting and fled the scene. Cops responded to the Granville Red Line CTA station to search for the suspect and found Brown running along the platform with a knife or tool in his hand, according to a Chicago Police Dept. report.

Brown then jumped onto the train tracks and fled south, dropping an object into the Whole Foods parking lot below as officers closed in, the report stated. Police arrested Brown and recovered the knife.

During the arrest, Brown allegedly shouted, "I stabbed the [expletive] out of him. He put his hands on me. I stabbed the [expletive] out of him," and made multiple statements to police admitting to the stabbing.

Brown has been uncooperative with authorities, according to court records. He refused to provide his name to police, declined fingerprinting, and repeatedly refused to appear in court. He is now acting as his own attorney.

Prosecutors charged Brown with armed robbery, robbery, aggravated battery causing great bodily harm, and aggravated battery of a merchant.

Couple robbed, carjacked at gunpoint in Lakeview

A couple was robbed and carjacked at gunpoint June 24 near Boystown, Chicago police said.

The victims, a 23-year-old woman and a 25-year-old man, were walking in the 700 block of W. Barry when they were approached by four men around 3:25 a.m., according to a CPD spokesperson.

One of the men brandished a firearm and demanded the couple's valuables and car keys. The victims complied, handing over their belongings and the keys to their black Mercedes-Benz sedan, police said.

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City canceled Pride North; Police closed The Glenwood bar over expired state liquor license

BY BOB ZULEY

Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] disclosed the unpleasant news Friday evening that the popular Pride North event in Rogers Park was cancelled by City officials over special event permit requirements.

Hadden posted a community notice online around 4:30 p.m. June 27 announcing the Pride North event would not be happening. "The organizer didn't secure their permits in time. There will be no outdoor festival on the street."

Pride North is organized by Colm Treacy, owner of The Glenwood bar, 6962 N. Glenwood Ave., and the adjacent GW Martini Bar, 6958 N. Glenwood Ave.

This newspaper learned that the Chicago Police Dept. [CPD] 024th District conducted a premise check on the Glenwood Bar on Saturday night and found it lacking a valid State of Illinois "On-Premises Consumption" [liquor] license and shut the premise down.

The State of Illinois Liquor Control Commission website shows the state liquor license for The Glenwood expired on May 31, 2025. It further revealed that Colm Treacy is the 100% owner.

Online social media postings about the Pride North cancellation carried comments on the lack of a valid license for The Glenwood



Glenwood Bar, 6962 N. Glenwood is now closed. Photo by Bob Zuley

before police closed the bar.

Treacy declined an offer from this newspaper for a comment on the cancellation of the event by city officials.



Colm Treacy, Pride North organizer. Photo by Ross Forman, WCT

Hadden updated her initial statement hours after her initial notice after some comments blamed her for canceling the event. "I didn't deny the permit. CPD and the City did because the organizer failed to complete his application. My office worked to support him in doing so but he was unable to do so. It's a shame. This is also

why people aren't supposed to advertise events before they've secured a permit."

Hadden released her statement Saturday which expounded on the event cancellation. "To give you some background on what happened - the special event process is highly regulated and Aldermanic sign off is only one level of approval required. The organizer of this event has needed support correcting and completing their application every year that I've been in office. And I've been happy to help because this is an important community event."

Hadden explained that city departments were especially concerned this year given the rise in hate crimes, and the City met with the organizer, Treacy, multiple times.

"This week, after [The Glen-

wood] failed to make the required corrections and changes to complete their application, the City denied the permit."

Hadden said she took it upon herself to make the public notice of cancellation because Treacy had failed to do so despite knowing for several weeks about issues with the Pride North permit process.

The Pride North event had faced unwelcome scrutiny in the past. In 2021, festival employees at the admission gate at Morse and Glenwood instituted a mandatory \$20 admission fee for the "free" event. Such city street festivals may only request a donation from visitors but may not demand payment for entry.

After receiving a number of complaints, Ald. Hadden personally visited Pride North to tell festival staff they could not charge a fee and restrict access. She said the organizers had no right to institute a mandatory fee.

Hadden said at the time that future Pride North events would face further scrutiny.

Treacy said he didn't know why the mandatory entrance fee was instituted by his employees despite \$20 admission signs posted at the entry gate. Treacy said at the time that Hadden's complaint was the only one he received and that the alderman was fanning the flames.

Rogue curbside car sellers beware

Chicago has enacted legislation to address "curbstoning," which is the practice of selling cars without a dealer's license on public streets. The city says that this practice can occupy residential parking spots and allow unlicensed sellers to bypass consumer protection regulations, potentially leading to fraudulent sales.

The new ordinance expands police authority allowing them to ticket, fine and immediately tow vehicles left on public roadways without a valid license plate matching the vehicle.

The ordinance prohibits parking a vehicle on a public roadway solely for the purpose of displaying it for sale. This applies even if the vehicle lacks a license plates, provided its make, model, and color match an advertised "for sale by owner" vehicle.

With this new law the city hopes to address the issue of unregistered vehicles taking up parking spots.

The State of Illinois limits unlicensed private sellers to selling a maximum of four cars per year. Selling five or more used vehicles in a year requires a dealer license. Curbstoning often involves individuals or entities operating as unlicensed dealers who exceed this limit and evade regulations designed to protect consumers.

SOFTBALL from p. 5

Softball was invented in Chicago in 1887, and the first indoor game was played at the Farragut Boat Club at Lake Park Ave. and 31st Street, only a couple of miles from Grant Park, noted softball historian and umpire Larry Comstock, who played on the historic Chicago Sun-Times Hall of Fame team, inducted in 2008.

"Softball was invented in Chicago, and we're killing it for NASCAR—something invented in North Carolina," Roenigk said. "We've rejected our own child."

"Chicago's game once was played in every park and gravel school yard across the city," recalled Robert Egan, a Chicago Sun-Times player and manager whose team was a five-time champion at the park in the elite Mike Royko Softball Tournament between 2001 and 2009.

At the neighborhood level, serious and skilled blue-collar saloon teams flocked to corner taverns after the game for camaraderie—

the life blood of softball, Egan noted.

"Softball was good for neighborhood businesses, pumping tens of thousands of tax dollars into the city. Now, virtually all of the very competitive neighborhood leagues are dead and the bars are closing. It's a very sad turn of events," Egan lamented.

Today, many of the elite 16-inch softball teams play in the suburbs at Forest Park and Westchester, noted Paul Rowan, president of the 16-inch Chicago Softball Hall of Fame.

For a good read on the history of softball in Chicago, by a copy of "The Greatest Game on Dirt" by Al Maag. And, visit the 16-inch Softball Hall of Fame website: <http://16inchsoftballhof.com/shop>.

For more softball and housing news, visit www.dondebat.biz. DeBat, inducted into the softball Hall of Fame in 1999, is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

CPD recovered the Mercedes about an hour later in an alley behind the 4300 block of W. Jackson Blvd. No injuries were reported during the robbery, and no suspects are in custody at this time.

Police did not release a description of the robbers.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com





READING from p. 2

truths amid the phoniness of life around him.

Something Americans should read every couple of years for the dialogue, the wit, the discovery, the literary finesse of the post-World War II era America. Rich, reasoned and a creative renaissance of vocabulary you can feel in your bones. A worthy American tale of 234 pages.

These four books will strengthen your minds and hearts when you're not at a Sox or Cubs game, easy to read on the El. And it's guaranteed to make you an entertaining guest at dinner parties. Reading, of course, being transformative.

MISERICORDIA: That Latin word, is perhaps the most dynamic and turbulent description of God's presence in the Scriptures. Don't believe me? Well, then, just look at **Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM**. Her recent death refocuses the significance of that revelation.

After a lifetime of quiet and tender welcome and understanding, Sister Rosemary reinvented the embrace of families with children with special needs. She lifted the helplessness and deep concerns of parents and families for shaping the best life for special need children. She helped to rearrange that understanding for families, for caregivers, for special need children and for the life-long residents of the family of residents at Misericordia in West Ridge.

Sister Rosemary was opening up a wider path to the God of Jesus by her long life of finding room for all. I've always believed that Sister Rosemary was filled with a sense of service and hospitable welcome long before she became a nun. Her father, after all, was Irishman **Val Connelly**, Chicago's most popular Westside saloon owner. A beloved anchor for the Chicago Irish.

It only stands to reason Sister Rosemary's home life led her to become a builder of communities of service, learning and dignity. She worked quiet, humble miracles every day, throughout her 94 years, giving everyone who knew her the chance to experience a deep openness to Mercy for themselves. In the very footsteps



Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM



Richard Kosmacher



Jahmal Cole

of her order's founder, **Mother Catherine McAuley, RSM**. Sister Rosemary made Chicago a city of Mercy. It's the shortcut to Heaven.

GALE FORCE: Gale Street Inn, a Jefferson Park institution, closed for good without any advance word to customers. "I'm tired, it's hard," owner **George Karzas** said after suddenly shutting down the Northwest Side restaurant that's been around since 1963. He said staffing was a big factor. "And just like that..."

DREAMS: The Dream is over, Dream Town Real Estate is being taken over by Baird & Warner in a deal that unites Chicago's two largest independent brokerages and signals a major bet on locally owned alternatives to national firms. The takeover will create a local powerhouse, said **Steve Baird**, president and CEO of Baird & Warner, a fifth-generation leader of the family-run company. **Yuval Degani**, who founded the firm, will join Baird & Warner as president of brokerage services.

GIBSON'S GRIEF: **Michael Clark**, the original executive chef at Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse on Rush St., has died. Chef Clark was at home in their kitchen for 18 years. The menu creations he developed set the restaurant on a fast track for fine eating. A loyal clientele as famous as the steakhouse's menu ensued. Many of the signature desserts set the tone for a refined gastronomic Chicago style. Chef Clark had an inventive style for high cuisine. Devoted to cooking, eating and talking about the life of food. His influence on Chicago's restaurant quality set

the mark high at Gibsons. He was beloved by all.

PAY ATTENTION: Did you know that the Office of Emergency Management and Communications has a pole marking and location identifier program throughout the city? Signs are posted on light poles in locations along the Lakefront, Grant Park, and Lake Shore Dr., where addresses are not available. So take notice, this signage is essential in establishing a precise location at various events and festivals, allowing public safety or emergency vehicles to identify a response location. Be an informed citizen.

SERVICE CLUB: Aug. 4. Be there. The Service Club of Chicago Day on the Terrace - one of the first fashion shows of the season, showing the latest looks and trends from the best stores in the city and some of Chicago's top designers. Please come out and support them, helping them help others who need it the most. See you on the runway.

WINNERS: Congratulations to North Side Housing and Supportive Services for winning a Chicago Building Congress Merit Award. Their Rogers Park shelter won the Chicago Building Congress Award for Best Renovation & Reuse (under \$20 million). Out of dozens of impressive entries, their shelter was recognized for transforming a long-vacant Rogers Park medical clinic into a trauma-informed, healing-centered space for homeless men.

77 HOMES: This may be a first for Chicago. Hoping to deepen his understanding of Chicago's diverse communities, **Jahmal Cole**, founder of My Block My Hood My City, has

launched an initiative to live in all of Chicago's 77 community areas—spending one month in each—to better engage with residents and address local needs. Last weekend he hosted a cook-out at Tobey Prinz Beach Park in Rogers Park with special guest **Ed Mullen**.

JOY OF IRELAND: **Richard Kosmacher** co-owned Joy of Ireland in Chicago Place years ago and operated the most sophisticated and first rate Irish shop on either side off the Atlantic.

His Jewish roots gave him a deep sense of artistic sensitivity concerning high-end Irish artistry. He even sold bundles of Irish turf, along with the refined woolens, ceramics and fine glassware and jewelry. Better than any Irishman could do.

He died at just 66 on May 31 at Carle Foundation Hospital in downstate Urbana of complications from a fall that he suffered while in there for his son's college graduation, said his wife, **Melissa Sterne**. He was a resident of the Albany Park neighborhood.

WHO'S WHERE: **Bobbi Panter** is introducing another **Bobbi**, and **Charlee** at Groom Expo West July 11-13 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Her entire lineup of Bobbi Panter Pet Products will be in Booth 122 there. See you in Pasadena... **Rhonda J Liesenfelt's** whirlwind three days. Dinner with the boys, Kohler Spa day, theater and Gibsons... **Ken Dooley** got to spend Father's Day with his legend of a dad near Dublin for the first time in 31 years... Chef **Bill Kim** and wife, **Yvonne** looking elegant at the James Beard Awards... **Aisa**, a 22-year-old waitress, had no idea

she was serving Cubs star **Dansby Swanson**. Polite and humble, Swanson enjoyed his meal without drawing any attention... Former Obama White Houser, **Desirée Glapion Rogers**, a hard-working woman in Dallas for the **TD Jakes Good Oil Forum**... **Diane Abt** must be the very toast of Paris, at the Musée d'Art Moderne Paris seeing the **Munters** and **Matisse**... **Todd Davis** at Foxtrot, getting a coffee with **Cosimo**, his pooch, on his way to see the statue of Ceres by **John Bradley Storrs** that's atop the Board of Trade, copper-alloy plated with nickel, then chrome (1928)... **William** and **Erin Keese** rockin' out to Simple Minds, Modern English and Soft Cell on a beautiful night in Chicago. I think Erin went to high school with everyone there... **Nancy Nagy** had a great trip to Miami with bro **Tom** and wife, **Jules Nagy**. Father's Day events to the best brother, father and **Poppy** in Miami at Joe's Stone Crab... **Bill** and **Kathy Bell Batholomay** at Ravinia, for **James Taylor** and



Sammy Sosa

His All Star Band, pretty much in their own backyard... **Sammy Sosa** returned to the booth at the Friendly Confines for the first time since he retired from baseball 21 years ago, bringing the crowd at Wrigley to their feet, many with tears in their eyes... **Ken** and **Mary Claire Scorsone Moll** and Family in New York supporting the family runners... Clinique is Clinique because of **Leonard A. Lauder**, **Estée's** son, who died recently. His impact on the industry and Clinique is forever, as is his rescue of "Lady in Gold," by Gustav Klimt... **Mark Olley** had a wonderful evening supporting The Magnificent Mile Assoc.... Violinist **Patricia Treacy O'Malley** getting a work-out performing in Dublin, but relaxing along its cobbles before return to Chicago for one-night performance.

LOVE BOAT: Sailor Girl **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh** sends a shout out to **Sally Jo Morris Pfaff** and **Dean Pfaff** for hosting high society ladies at the most fun Love Boat 70s-themed party on the waves.

CONSERVATION: **Jorie Butler Kent**, committed promoter of polo, as well as conservation efforts, established the Friends of Conservation, donating millions of dollars to grassroots projects in over 35 countries, with daughter, **Reute Butler**, now administering the philanthropy.

Have a happy and safe July Fourth celebration.

Give me Liberty, or give me death!

- Patrick Henry

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(Left) Priests wearing Misericordia Hearts of Mercy on their stoles. (Center) Sister Connelly's casket leaving Holy Name Cathedral. (Right) Cardinal Blase J. Cupich. Photos by Bob Zuley

Chicago bids adieu to Sister Rosemary Connelly

Pope, Cardinal, clergy and commoners pay tribute

BY BOB ZULEY

Chicago bid a fond farewell on June 24 to Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, 94, the longtime head of Misericordia Heart of Mercy home located at 6300 N. Ridge Ave. in the West Ridge community.

The morning service for Sister Connelly was officiated at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral by Cardinal Blase J. Cupich. Fourteen concelebrants included Bishop George Rassas, Monsignors Mike Boland and Ken Velo, and Fr. Michael Pflieger. Fr. Jack Clair, the current executive director of Misericordia was also a concelebrant and gave the homily.

The concelebrants all wore vestments bearing the distinctive Misericordia Heart of Mercy on their stoles. (Misericordia means

"mercy" or "compassion" in Latin.)

Cardinal Cupich delivered a message from the Pope. "His holiness, Pope Leo XIV was saddened to hear of the death of Sister Rosemary, and sends prayerful condolences to you, as well as the members of the Misericordia community."

His Eminence delivered his own statement: "... Sister Rosemary gave proof to the principle that every person is created in God's image and worthy of respect and dignity. A fearless pioneer in making that core value real in the lives of the people she served and their families, she created innovative programs and gathered the resources to bring them to life...."

The 13 pallbearers included 10 nephews of Sister Connelly. The sanctuary was nearly full of

people paying respect, as musical selections included, "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," "Wind in the Willows," and "Lady of Knock" by musicians led by the Holy Name Cathedral Director of Music, David Jonies.

The Shannon Rovers Pipe Band were present to perform "Amazing Grace" and "Oh When The Saints Go Marching In" to the assembled guests as the casket was carried from the cathedral as Cardinal Cupich looked on.

As the Donnellan Family Funeral hearse pulled away under police escort, the cathedral's bells began to peal sonorously.

Dignitaries included Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, former Mayor Richard M. Daley, and former Ald. Tom Tunney [44th].

In 1976, Sister Connelly, 39 children and 35 dedicated staff members moved to the former

site of Angel Guardian Orphanage – the present site of Misericordia. On the way she made sure the bus stopped at Lincoln Park Zoo so the children could visit the animals.

Today, Misericordia serves more than 600 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities – some of whom operate their own restaurant, the Greenhouse Inn, and a bakery, The Hearts and Flour Bakery, giving meaningful jobs to residents.

"She looked like a sweet, white-haired nun until you realized she was made of structural steel," said Carol Marin, the legendary Chicago newscaster, columnist and a Misericordia parent.

"When you think of the number of lives she touched – thousands," political strategist Davis Axelrod told the Sun-Times. "Not just the folks who lived at Misericordia but their families. It changed my daughter's life, and it changed my whole family's life for the better. This whole place exists because of the force of her will."

Sister Connelly was awarded the Univ. of Notre Dame's 2023 Laetare Medal, considered the oldest and most prestigious honor

given to an American Catholic. She also received numerous honorary degrees, awards and honors throughout her life.

She died of natural causes on June 19 at her home on Miseri-

"She looked like a sweet, white-haired nun until you realized she was made of structural steel," said Carol Marin, the legendary Chicago newscaster, columnist and a Misericordia parent.

cordia's West Ridge campus after being in hospice care.

She was celebrated on June 25 by the Sisters of Mercy in a special private service before she was laid to rest.

If you would like to contribute to carry-on Sister Connelly's legacy, consider a donation to Misericordia Foundation's Sister Rosemary Connelly Fund, visit www.misericordia.com/giving/donate-online/.

Sistine Chapel Choir to visit Lakeview

Evening offers 1,500 years of transcendent music, sacred art

North Siders can step into an evening of divine inspiration as the world-renowned Sistine Chapel Choir—the oldest active choir in history—takes the stage in a rare performance 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at the historic main stage at the Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport Ave.

The choir performs during the Papal Celebrations at St. Peter's Basilica and in concerts all over the world during the numerous celebrations of the Pope. Revered for its ethereal blend of voices and deep spiritual resonance, this historic ensemble brings to life sacred music that has echoed through the halls of St. Peter's for over 1,500 years.

Sistine Chapel's Choir is composed of 20 permanent adult singers and about 35 boy singers, the Pueri Cantores. The boys attend the Schola Puerorum (a free school).

In a unique collaboration, the choir is joined by Dr. Elizabeth Lev, celebrated art historian and Vatican expert, whose insights into Renaissance art will guide



The Sistine Chapel Choir takes the stage in a rare performance Friday, Sept. 5 at the Athenaeum Theater.

audiences through a journey of faith and beauty. Her storytelling will weave together the visual and musical legacies of the Church's golden age, highlighting the divine inspiration behind masterpieces that have captivated minds for centuries.

This event is more than a concert. The convergence of music and art invites reflection on the power of beauty, drawing upon sound and story. Listeners will be immersed in the traditions of the Church, from Gregorian chant to Renaissance polyphony, all performed with the precision and reverence of the Papal Choir.

This celebration of sacred tra-

dition, artistic genius, and harmony between faith and culture is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-ages experience for Lakeview.

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No kings? King of Navarre to visit Gross Park this week

The Chicago Park Dist. will be hosting Free Shakespeare in Chicago's parks with Midsommer Flights 12th summer in the parks, this year presenting Shakespeare's comedy Love's Labor's Lost at Gross Park, 2708 W. Lawrence Ave., 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. July 3 and 5, while on July 6, showings will be at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The King of Navarre and his friends have taken an oath to

focus on their studies for three years, swearing off fine food, comfortable sleep, and the company of women—just in time for the Princess of France and her friends to come visit.

Full of witty banter, silly flirtation, and delightful antics, the show is suitable for all ages.

Bring your own picnics, beverages, chairs, and blankets to the show.

EXPENSIVE from p. 3

limit the growth? Another area to start would be to pursue pension reform."

Both Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Rahm Emanuel, mayors prior to Brandon Johnson, advocated for statewide constitutional pension reform. "A big part of that is because all the increase in the city's property tax levy is going to pay for unfunded pension liabilities. It's not going to pay for the continuation of services or new services or facilities, virtually all of that is going to pay towards the state's unfunded pension liabilities," said Hill

Another big part of the problem is that 65% of the city's population is choosing to live in only 35% of the city's space, located mostly on the North and Northwest sides.

But for a few popular communities like the South Loop, Hyde Park, Beverly and Mt. Greenwood, vast stretches of the city's West, Southwest, South and Southeast sides are not up for consideration by those Chicagoans who have the option to choose.

The trouble some communities have attracting new residents are equal parts cultural, criminal, economics and educational, and the city's responses to those systemic problems has disproportionately impacted the West and South Sides, while conversely driving development into more affluent areas.

The rental market for those

who can choose their community, see them choosing to avoid the West and South Sides. And the city's unwillingness to deal with the real problems plaguing those communities results in the current unequal housing development.

Strong consumer demand for housing on the North and Northwest sides is a big part of the reason why the city has dramatically increased zoning density on long stretches of N. Western Ave. and soon too on Broadway. Whereas the West and South Sides suffer from historic underinvestment and high levels of vacancy, due in part to the lack of consumer demand that is reinforced by limited construction and unequal housing development patterns.

If new residents coming to Chicago chose to live in those areas, then builders would be building there to meet the demand. But the demand is not there. For decades families have fled those neighborhoods seeking better educational and economic options. Conversely, the downtown area, Near North and Northwest sides, and lately the Near West Side have seen population increases.

Concerns about the quality of life, education, safety, and the availability of jobs and resources has lead many families to choose the suburbs, out of state, or to other parts of the city with better options. These perceptions about quality of life are a significant problem, and play a large role in peoples' decisions about where to

live.

The end result is that the West and South Sides contribute to the lack of affordable housing in Chicago through the internal challenges that limit development. The confluence of systemic political, cultural, educational and economic issues create market forces that today push development into wealthier areas, because that 35% of the city is where people are choosing to live.

On the North and Northwest sides, the housing market is very competitive, with strong demand and homes selling quickly, often receiving multiple offers. These neighborhoods are also considered among the safest in Chicago, while offering a mix of historical and modern architecture, diverse dining options, educational and economic opportunity, and cultural attractions.

Contributing to this story was Glenn Minnis of The Center Square

TECHNOLOGY from p. 3

ties, are the fuel that keeps the second largest county in America running. But how we manage that money can —and must—keep evolving.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- JOHN HERNANDEZ, EL LAGO CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 24 CH 08064 6157 N SHERIDAN RD. APT. 4F CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 14, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 16, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6157 N SHERIDAN RD. APT. 4F, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-211-024-1022 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$253,190.12. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The

Real Estate For Sale

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

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foreclosure sales. For information, contact HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 601 E. William St., DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 2018693. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 601 E. William St. DECATUR IL, 62523 217-422-1719 Fax #: 217-422-1754 E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com Attorney File No. 2018693 Attorney Code: 40387 Case Number: 24 CH 08064 TJSC#: 45-1078 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 # 24 CH 08064 **13268190**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- PAUL W. GOODRICH, VALERIE D. GOODRICH,

Real Estate For Sale

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, S/B/M TO WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, A FEDERAL ASSOCIATION, ROSEMARIE M. SHIRK, JOSEPH B. SHIRK, ROSEMARIE M. SHIRK, TRUSTEE, OR THE SUCCESSOR IN TRUST, UNDER THE ROSEMARIE M. SHIRK LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 19, 1997, DATED JUNE 3, 1997, JOSEPH B. SHIRK, TRUSTEE, OR THE SUCCESSOR IN TRUST, UNDER THE ROSEMARIE M. SHIRK LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 19, 1997, DATED JUNE 3, 1997 Defendants 2024 CH 07533 3511 NORTH HERMITAGE AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60657 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 21, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 22, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 3511 NORTH HERMITAGE AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60657 Property Index No. 14-19-406-015-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$678,931.60. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general

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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.

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For information, contact MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 25-007370. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 CHICAGO, IL 60601 312-651-6700 E-Mail: AMP5@manleydeas.com Attorney File No. 25-007370 Attorney Code: 48928 Case Number: 2024 CH 07533 TJSC#: 45-1098 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. **Case # 2024 CH 07533** 8277-954729

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Plaintiff -v- JULIE FOX APPOINTED SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WILLIAM B. WOJTAS (DECEASED); CASA BONITA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF WILLIAM B. WOJTAS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 22 CH 1914 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 August 4, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 11-30-307-207-1012. Commonly known as 7340 N. Ridge Blvd., #4C, Chicago, IL 60645. 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% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Lender Legal PLLC, 1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250, Orlando, Florida 32810. 407-730-

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4644.LLS13412 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13268745**

252525

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION ATHENE ANNUITY AND LIFE COMPANY Plaintiff, -v- BRANISLAV LEKIC, CITIBANK FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK, 7123-33 NORTH DAMEN AVENUE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2024 CH 05461 7123 N DAMEN AVE UNIT 5E CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 10, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 14, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: PARCEL ID NUMBER: 11-31-200-001-0000 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 7123 N. DAMEN AVE, UNIT #5E CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 11-31-200-033-1014 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$144,742.48. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judi-

Real Estate For Sale

cial 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 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, ROBERT-

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SON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 6400 SHAFER CT, STE 325, ROSEMONT, IL, 60018 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 24-202176. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. 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. 24-202176 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439 Attorney Code: 65582 Case Number: 2024 CH 05461 TJSC#: 45-973 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 05461 **13268110**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- AGNES GALLEG0; UNKNOWN HAIRS AND LEGATEES OF MILDRED TERNOIR, DECEASED; LUNT AVENUE CONDOMINIUM AND HEALTH CLUB; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;

Real Estate For Sale

Defendants. 2024CH03862 1329 W Lunt, 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 4/24/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on 7/30/2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602, and sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 1329 W Lunt, Chicago, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-32-114-034-1037 The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$50,776.76 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com, LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours, (relief fee not required) 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 mort-

Real Estate For Sale

gagee, 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. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Robertson Anschutz Schneid Crane & Partners, PLLC (561) 241-6901 please refer to file number 23-165522. 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. 23-165522 Case Number: 2024CH03862 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. **8231-953611**

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certificate was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. Registration Number M25000593 on June 12, 2025. Under the Assumed Business Name of POLYBRIDGE SOLUTIONS with the business located at 2327 W. DICKENS AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60647
The true and real full name(s) and residence of the owner(s)/partner(s) is:
Tammy Rucker, 2327 W. Dickens Ave., Chicago, IL 60647, USA

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East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312-644-2000), is opening lockers:
6940X (Astor Investment Management), 2719A (Barbara Broadhurst), 5708X (James Henry), 6918X (Spencer Kain), 5556X (Lamonte Poole), 3523X and 6619X (Edward Lahood), for public sale on July 29, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Cash only.

Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage located at 730 West Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-876-2000, is opening lockers:
7100F- Bleser, Dakota
4265F- Carter, Porcha
4130F-Hofbauer, Michael
5410E- Johnson, Nichole
1106B- Miklusak, Carol
8164SM- Paneral, James
3495C- Pesky, Angie
4485C- Reynoso, Joseph
3385D- Williams, Tim
for public sale.

This sale is to be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 2:00PM.
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Community meeting July 9 on archery sheds

The Lincoln Park Advisory Council [LPAC] will be hosting an in-person community meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 Lincoln Park West.

The LPCA will be discussing the refurbishment of the archery shed and the current state of the revetments around the south lagoon.

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HOAs from p. 1

tion,” Novak said. “They’re running the show, not the board.”

The financial discrepancies extend to tax filings. In a June 24 letter to Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Novak cited cases of federal income tax evasion totaling over \$500,000 across multiple associations. “They only paid \$50,000 in federal taxes,” Novak said. “They’re way short—you know, they owe at least another \$542,000.”

In his letter, Novak said he first wrote to Pritzker in 2019, urging him to act “on the chronic lack of oversight affecting Illinois’ 18,750 unregulated community associations, which serve nearly 30% of the state’s population.”

“My experience at the State Parkway Condominium Assoc. and with numerous other Illinois associations revealed pervasive issues, including federal and state tax evasion, financial statement and reserve study fraud, budget manipulation, and proxy and declaration fraud, among others.”

Novak says that these problems are not isolated. “They are systemic, impacting associations across Illinois and putting countless homeowners—especially the elderly and disabled—at risk of financial

hardship and housing insecurity.”

Novak has referred five CPAs to the Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation for misconduct, including for understating taxable income by \$1.9 million, failing to complete audits for nearly a decade, and creating self-review threats in violation of independence standards.

Since then he has worked with the state’s auditors to develop programs that identify which community associations should be audited. Those five CPAs, who serve clients on a significant portion of the Chicago Lakefront, were reported to the Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation for professional misconduct. “My recent collaboration with the Nevada Real Estate Division has reinforced my belief that Illinois urgently needs similar reforms, including robust oversight and transparent financial practices,” he said.

But despite the evidence, Novak says regulatory action has stalled in Illinois.

“When the governor announced that he plans to seek a third term, I thought the timing was right to mail a letter to him,” Novak said. His letter urged revival of the failed Homeowners’ Association Bill of Rights Act, which would have created a dedicated HOA division within the Attorney General’s Office.

Meanwhile, Novak warns that management companies and their legal allies are aggressively pushing back against transparency.

In an Oct. 13, 2020 letter from David Sugar of Saul Ewing LLP, the law firm representing 175 East Delaware, regarding a request from Norman Kabir for basic financial records were framed as “fishing expeditions” and met with demands for up to \$20,000 in retrieval fees.

The correspondence was sent to Robert Prince, of Cervantes Chatt & Prince P.C., and states that, “At the present time, the Association anticipates the need for multiple third-party workers to identify and retrieve all of the requested records within the 10 business day time frame, at a cost estimated at approximately \$20,000. The Association also anticipates the need for third-party workers to supervise your examination of those records, and that additional cost is unknown at this time.”

As Novak prepares to return to Chicago this fall, he remains committed to pushing for change. “I would rather have regulatory oversight and less work for me,” he said. “But if the state of Illinois does nothing, the corruption and waste will continue—unabated.”

WATER TOWER from p. 1

down, the mall had been a milestone, and point of pride for Chicagoans since 1975, drawing locals and tourists to its high-end shops and its ‘center-of-it-all’ location.

According to CoStar, a new JLL brochure mentions that the mall’s owner “is evaluating a consolidation of the property’s retail uses down to the first three levels of the mall,” in the first public acknowledgement that the lender-turned-owner is drawing up plans to significantly reduce the amount of shopping space at the property.

A separate owner for upper floors could significantly change the look and function of the vertical mall pioneer, which is known for its soaring atrium.

“This is a location that gets 3 million visits a year, with underground parking, a sheltered entrance and a 100,000-square-foot floor plate,” Tom Kirschbraun, one of the JLL brokers marketing the property, told Ori and CoStar. “This is an opportunity for an organization to do something special while the lower (retail) floors get reprogrammed.”

The 50-year-old mall is at the base of a 74-story residential and hotel tower. Those properties would not be affected by a sale.

If the retail floors are sold, a new entrance with elevators dedicated to floors 4 through 8 would be created on Pearson St. along the south side of the mall. The atrium of the mall would be closed off between the third and fourth floors to separate the mall and the new use above it, Kirschbraun said.

Big store closures along the Mag Mile have included a massive Macy’s flagship store that operated on all eight levels of Water Tower Place. Other major retailers like Sephora and Banana Republic exited the space in 2024.

Today, vacancies in the mall have reached all-time high levels. The mall’s longtime owner, Brookfield, turned the property back over to its lender, MetLife, in 2022. It’s unclear how much MetLife is expecting to get for the sale of the five Water Tower Place floors. Tax-exempt users, such as non-profits or government agencies, could save money by owning rather than leasing this space, as they would not have to pay Chicago’s high commercial property taxes.

TRASH from p. 1

and restaurant packed their debris. But he had to do his job — he didn’t want to lose the contract.”

The only visible action from the city came recently, after Johnson submitted a letter to this newspaper, and contacted Ald. Knudsen’s office again.

A citation was issued, and cleanup occurred shortly after, according to Johnson. But he’s skeptical it will last.

“I walked past the area on [June 24], and it was cleaned up. I sent a thank-you email to the alderman’s assistant, but added — this is only the beginning. There’s more work to be done, and it has to be sustained.”

The issue has extended beyond trash. According to Johnson, the hotel also neglects nearby parkway areas. “The flowers are gone, it’s just dirt now. Weeds growing to knee-high. Meanwhile, nearby buildings like Eugenie Terrace take pride in maintaining public green space with their own money.”

Residents, he says, have altered their routines to avoid the area altogether.

“I’ve talked to a lot of people about this, and I would say 20% to 40% told me personally they avoid that block because it’s

not cared for.”

Johnson even confronted the hotel directly. “A couple of years ago, I walked into the lobby and yelled, ‘I want to talk to your manager about the rats!’ They got pissed off and asked me to leave. But they didn’t do anything.”

As for Ald. Knudsen, Johnson feels the office has been largely unresponsive. “Michele Smith used to at least respond. With Knudsen’s office, I got very little back,” he said.

He noted that Knudsen lives just two blocks away. “It doesn’t take any effort to look over at what’s going on at the Lincoln Hotel’s garbage area.”

“Somebody gave [the hotel] permission to build that structure on the sidewalk,” to hold their garbage receptacles, Johnson added. “That comes with responsibility. But the city doesn’t seem interested in holding them accountable.”

Despite his frustrations, Johnson remains clear about what he sees as a community obligation.

“We’re all stewards of our own immediate community. If we don’t do something and speak up, we only have ourselves to blame. Nobody else is going to pick up the trash.”

A 311 service request confirms at least

one formal complaint filed against the hotel on June 17, 2025, for “Garbage in Alley” and mentions rats, unsealed containers, and unsafe sidewalk conditions. The complaint was marked completed, though photos taken afterward still showed overflowing bins and food waste around the dumpster area.

UNIVERSAL from p. 1

operate year-round, the project hopes to generate more than \$1 billion in economic activity. The site will include themed bars and food and beverage offerings, and a retail space.

The sales effort to get Universal to open up in Chicago included 10 consecutive years of state tax credits of up to 100% of the incremental state income tax attributable to new employees. Universal is expected to hire 210 full-time employees, in jobs ranging from operations, merchandise sellers, security, food and beverage service, entertainers, and make-up and prosthetics artists.

Universal is also opening theme park Universal Epic Universe at Universal Orlando Resort; the first Universal Horror Unleashed in Las Vegas set to open in Aug. 2025.

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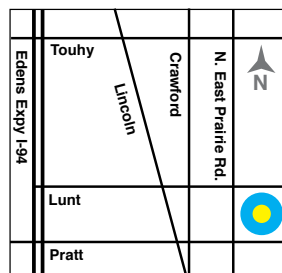
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