

Does not the gratitude of the dog  
put to shame any man  
who is ungrateful to his benefactors?

— Saint Basil

# NEWS-STAR

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

FREE

Senior Living,  
page 7

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NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

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## Swing vote on 46th Ward high-rise project denied, resident says alderman refused her ballot

Lakeview Towers Board Member Diane Santucci is opposed to a proposed development at 4600 N. Marine Dr., and she wants to know why her vote doesn't matter?

She says that Ald. James Cappelman [46th] is denying the validity of her building's "NO" vote, yet accepted the North Halsted Business Alliance's [NHBA] vote-reversal during a 46th Ward Zoning and Development Committee meeting on June 10. That vote on the proposed project was decided by one single vote.

The project in question is located on the opposite corner from her building, on the southern end of Weiss Hospital's block-long property.

Santucci and her building board feel they have ample reason to believe the development will harm the quality of life of their building's residents.

They say that the Association Board is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting affordable, healthy and safe housing; combating community deterioration, - among other efforts - all meant to enhance the quality of their residents' lives and the community. It is a 500-unit building consisting of two 26-story towers located on the corner of Wilson and Clarendon in Uptown. The building has a diverse population of over 25 nationalities. Out of the 500 units, 395 are designated

as project-based Section 8 units, while the other 105 are designated for moderate income individuals and families.

Santucci releases a statement July 1 in response to being denied her vote as the authorized representative of her building's association at the 46th Ward Zoning Committee. She is opposed to a proposed development at 4600 N. Marine Dr. With the reversal of the NHBA vote, her association's vote in opposition would have resulted in a tie.

In an open letter to the Chicago Plan Commission, Chicago Dept. of Planning, Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Zoning Chair Tom Tunney, and Ald. Cappelman, she says she attempted to inform the alderman that "I would be the proxy representative for my building, but for some reason I was not seated as the representative. The alderman's standard practice is to allow other organizations to send proxy representatives, but [he] did not permit our building the same courtesy even though our regular representative was unable to attend."

Santucci and the association are now demanding that the Plan Commission and Zoning Committee pull it off their agendas. "We are angry and will not be silenced. This letter is just the first step," they said.

Santucci offers video evidence showing Ald. Cappelman's pub-

### Alderman backs developer on high-rise

On June 30, Lincoln Property Company's received the backing of Ald. James Cappelman [46th] for their proposal to build a 12-story apartment building in Uptown at a Weiss Hospital parking lot at 4600 N. Marine Dr.

In a letter sent to members of his zoning committee, Cappelman said he now supports the development.

The project will now be considered by the city's Plan Commission on July 15. The alderman's support means that the controversial project will likely move forward to the city approval process after originally being voted down by Cappelman's zoning advisory board.

lic promise to take the development off the City Council Zoning Committee Agenda if it were to be voted down in the local committee.

"The local committee voted against the development on June 10," her statement reads. At another meeting a week later, Ald. Cappelman "continued to deny the validity of our NO vote, yet accepted a reversal of NHBA's

**BALLOT** see p. 12

## Meeting July 9 on Clark St. arterial resurfacing

The retailers on Clark St. were hit with the double whammy 2018 through 2021 when they were first hamstrung by water main construction just prior to the pandemic, followed by the government-forced economic lockdown.

The next challenge to retailer's cash registers will be the upcoming re-paving of Clark St. from Lawrence Ave. north to where it merges with Ashland Ave. at

Rosehill Dr.

The start date for arterial resurfacing of Clark St. is the week of July 12. The work will begin with concrete replacement of sidewalk, curbs and ADA ramps before new asphalt is poured and striped (asphalt will be omitted for the portion between Foster and Bryn Mawr, which was recently resurfaced).

The project will affect move-

ment through Andersonville until the project ends.

Residents and businesses in the area are encouraged to attend a community meeting 2 p.m. Friday, July 9 to find out what to expect. Register at [bit.ly/ClarkResurfacing](http://bit.ly/ClarkResurfacing) to receive a Zoom link (to be sent the day of the meeting). The meeting will be recorded and emailed to registrations for those who cannot attend.

## Thefts in Rogers Park

Police are warning businesses in Rogers Park of armed robberies/motor vehicle thefts that have occurred recently, where the offenders order food delivery, meet the driver outside or at door and display a weapon and demand the

car keys, money, and phone.

The offenders then flee, taking the victim's vehicle. The vehicle was recovered a short time later a short distance away.

Incidents include one on the 1900 block of W. Fargo 2 p.m.

June 29, and a second on the 2100 block of W. Fargo 5:50 p.m. July 2.

The offenders are described as male African American(s), 16-25 years old, 5'-5" to 6' tall, wearing black clothing.



A road by any other name...  
See page 3

## Community Clinic provides care to local uninsured, free from fear of big bills



Dr. Charles Martinez, MD and George Malteroz.

Photo courtesy Chicago Tribune and Judith Graham

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Probably one of the best-kept secrets on the North Side is the Old Irving Park Community Clinic, a free clinic operating at 5425 W. Addison St. for the past 14 years.

It's a health safety net for those who can't afford insurance or are between coverage. And more than 4,000 people across the city consider the clinic their medical home, according to Executive Director Marjorie Goran, who recently spoke at the Lake View Kiwanis Club which meets at noon on the first and third Wednesdays at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont.

While horror stories abound of people being denied service if they have no health insurance, show your Blue Cross card at the Old Irving Park Community Clinic and you'll be asked to find another clinic... they serve only those truly in need.

The clinic was founded in 2007 by Dr. Charles Martinez, a retired nuclear medicine physician and George Malteroz, a former mental health and substance abuse professional.

As boys, they lived across the street from each other on the Near North Side. They have been buddies ever since.

Malteroz and some of his friends wondered what they were going to do now that they were retired and suggested helping out in some medical way. But none of them wanted to volunteer to fill out paperwork for insurance companies, or stare at a computer screen all day long trying to satisfy government regulators. As two retired men they engaged in a demanding venture - providing free health care to the uninsured.

Dr. Martinez jumped on the wagon immediately, recalling his own growing-up years in a family

**CLINIC** see p. 12



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# We can't give people things they never possessed, like civil discourse, wisdom, tolerance



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

I've never been much of a rule follower, nor a strict observer of the expectations of blind obedience about every little thing. A picker and chooser about the small rules. The tiny but intrusive constraints on social order and culture.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not a law breaker, I come to a complete halt at a stop sign. But just not so much of a rule adherent. I feel constrained following a recipe. Love ordering favorite dishes a la carte, even if they're not on the menu.

I like immediate seating in crowded restaurants without a reservation. I cherish the fifth pew at Sunday Mass. No closer up or farther back. I expect to be treated courteously at Starbucks, but not afraid to tell them the coffee is bitter.

That's what you get growing up in a small family of two children. You never wait in line.

With indulgent but reasonable parents, and fabulous nearby grandparents, you don't have to make noise to get attention or satisfaction.

All important players, all residents of the same bubble. Never believed children should be seen and not heard. Our opinions mattered.

This flows from that sense of belonging. Being at home in the

world. Comfortable in different environments with a built-in sense of purpose. Small towns. Big cities. Instead of restricting the following of rules, such experiences expand an internal sense of actually following them.

Being in charge. Seldom feeling off-put. Isolated. Constrained or imposed upon. I suppose I'm just describing the formula for being courteously aggressive, socially outgoing, artistically expressive, articulate, well-mannered and in the know.

Of all the many interesting and curious quirky endeavors of my family, the one I still find ridiculously cherished was our custom of visiting state capitals. We were lucky. Driving around America in my father's beloved big Chevy Impala or sleek Oldsmobile 88 with the windows open was a deeply enriching experience.

Imagine motoring through the corn fields of the nation to find those domed masterpieces of architectural design. All cupolas and columns that said here is one of the nation's centers of government. America's cherished form of self-rule with its own mini Washington DC in every state.

We lapped them up and kept lists of where we went, what we saw and what kind of local folk we met. Eating meals, as it was, among them.

Many state capitals were in small, remote, out of the way places. Purposely centered to spread the population and influence of politics and law-making to small town America. My favorites are still Illinois' Springfield. Missouri's Jefferson City. Iowa's Des Moines. Minnesota's St. Paul. Georgia's Augusta. Alabama's Montgomery. Mississippi's Jackson. New York's Albany



Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Ald. Jeanette Taylor.

and Maryland's Annapolis.

The 1950s was the perfect time to do such travel. America was still very regional. Local customs, like accents, were an essential part of our culture.

Our father could recite the names of the 48 state capitals back then. An outstanding feat before the invention of Google. Our travels just seemed appropriate because of it. But knowing and observing all these law making centers did give us a strong sense that America was a land of nuanced, local laws.

And Rexall drug stores.

Last week I treated myself to a fine lunch at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill. It was early, but crowding up. I had a wonderful table in the banquette at the back corner. Daniel's table. A splendid feast of West Coast oysters. Eight, not six. The Perch entrée with a whole bowl of french fries, cole slaw, and blueberry pie.

Always a happy reunion with wait staff and crew. And the bosses who are always the best. But because I was at the rear of the room, I noticed more who and what was coming to dine. I was shocked.

I was dressed in grey slacks, white Polo shirt, green sweater, purple scarf and blue blazer. At one point I looked out and realized that I was the only person in the restaurant wearing a jacket.

I wore one because I always

wear a jacket. And my blood is thin.

But on this day I realized I was a social and cultural rule breaker. The rest of the room was filled with men wearing ill-fitting shorts. Grubby ill-fitting t-shirts. Ridiculous baseball hats (not an Ivy League school in the bunch). Tacky running shoes filled out the ensembles.

I was so disheartened.

The best you could say about the better dressed was they wore a clean, ironed shirt. But no jacket or blazer. Come on Chicago. That's some rule breaking, of a whole new kind.

To me this was more the Cheesecake Factory kind of diner than those who belong on Michigan Ave. Who let them in, I thought. Who goes downtown, to Michigan Ave., dressed in play clothes? I sat near lovely Leslie Hindman, the auction house queen. She was so well-dressed. Like me, she was lunching in a sea of folk better off seated in a tavern or McDonald's. I couldn't take the cut of their jib.

Why has this disintegration of civil society so ludicrously settled in? If you're spending \$100 on

lunch, shouldn't you expect people to not look like ragamuffins?

Of course the social currency has been devalued.

Looks like my rule breaking was more wearing a blazer with a patch, Stubbs and Wooten shoes, and a scarf.

Well, then. We shouldn't be surprised that the Chicago City Council has no knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order. Or why Ald. Jeannette Taylor had to arm wrestle Mayor Lightfingers at a City Council meeting.

Gone are the days of well-written, coherent orations to the assembly. We are left with the operations of chaos. In a state of utter confusion. All is bedlam. Uproar. Lunacy and mayhem. I can't give aldermen things they never possessed. Like civil discourse. Wisdom. Tolerance for the words of another. Common sense. And a sense of humor. But I can see I have carte blanche to break the rules in restaurants. Starting with the one where I stick a fork in anyone who

gets near my West Coast oysters. There's a rule I can follow.

**FINAL DEADLINE:** Frank Sullivan was a larger-than-life Chicagoan. Quiet. Circumspect. A newspaper reporter and public relations executive who served



Frank Sullivan

## CAN'T GIVE see p. 10

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# A road by any other name...



Jean Baptiste Point DuSable



Did Chicago really need to change the name of iconic Lake Shore Dr.?



**Heart of the 'Hood**  
by Felicia Dechter

Why?

That's the first thing that popped into just about everyone's head when we heard that the City Council actually did vote to change the name of Lake Shore Dr. to (drum roll please) Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Lake Shore Dr.

Seriously? Are you kidding?

As someone who was born and raised in Chicago and who has lived here all my life, I take offense to the renaming.

Yes, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable deserves his due recognition as the first, non-Native American founder of Chicago. And he has gotten it -- in the form of DuSable Harbor, the DuSable Museum of African American History, a statue on Michigan Ave. and hopefully one day in the near future, a completed DuSable Park.

Would a road by any other name sound as sweet? Many Chicagoans seem to think so, judging by the dozens of cars that drove up and down Lake Shore Dr. hootin' and hollerin' and waving Haitian flags as they celebrated on the street, and in Grant Park.

But did Chicago really need this? Don't we have bigger issues?

No wonder our mayor opposes it. She's probably thinking how she has to deal with all these killings, carjackings and gang

shootings and here our City Council is, arguing about a Lake Shore Dr. rename. Huh?

A tip of my hat to aldermen Michele Smith [43rd], Brian Hopkins [2nd] and Brendan Reilly [42nd], and all the others leaders who opposed this non-necessary (OK, more like ridiculous) name change.

"There are passionate views on both sides of the issue," said Reilly. "My experience from my constituents is they prefer to keep the name Lake Shore Dr. And a recent citywide survey suggests that a lot of folks [70%] feel that way, regardless of where they live in the city."

"To say they're not affected by losing the roadway that their address is named after is just pure nonsense," said Hopkins... "It would have a profound impact to have your mailing address not reflect the road that you live on."

Seventeen miles of the outer Lake Shore Dr. will now be renamed, from Hollywood to 67th Street. From 'rags on down to riches,' as the song says. I know you know what I'm talking about, so sing along with me to the iconic tune, "Lake Shore Drive," by Alliota, Haynes and Jeremiah. (Yes, they are all dead and probably rolling over in their graves at the mere thought.)

*There's a road I'd like to tell you about,  
lives in my hometown,  
Lake Shore Drive the road is called and  
it'll take you up or down,  
From rags on up to riches 15 minutes  
you can fly,  
Pretty blue lights along the way  
help you right on by  
And the blue lights shining with a*

*heavenly grace, help you right on by.  
And there ain't no road just like it  
Anywhere I found,  
Running south on Lake Shore Drive  
heading into town  
Just slippin' on by on LSD, Friday night  
trouble bound.  
And it starts up north from Hollywood,  
water on the driving side  
Concrete mountains rearing up, throwing  
shadows just about five.  
Sometimes you can smell the green if your  
mind is feeling fine  
There ain't no finer place to be,  
than running Lake Shore Drive  
And there's no peace of mind or place you  
see, than riding on Lake Shore Drive  
And there ain't no road just like it,  
anywhere I found  
Running south on Lake Shore Drive  
heading into town  
Just slicking on by on LSD, Friday night  
trouble bound.  
And it's Friday night and  
you're looking clean  
Too early to start the rounds  
A 10 minute ride from the Gold Coast  
back make sure you're pleasure bound  
And it's four o'clock in the morning and  
all of the people have gone away  
Just you and your mind and Lake Shore  
Drive, tomorrow is another day  
And the sunshine's fine in the morning  
time, tomorrow is another day  
And there ain't no road just like it  
Anywhere I found  
Running south on Lake Shore drive*

**ROAD** see p. 6

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# Child care costs in Illinois are on the rise

BY KEVIN BESSLER

A worker shortage is affecting many sectors of the Illinois economy, including child care providers, which is driving up costs, and forcing more grandparents back into childcare.

Parents who can afford to go back to the office may have a difficult time finding openings for child care.

According to research by the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the Univ. of Illinois and the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, on average, the annual cost of child care for infants is nearly \$14,000 and about \$10,400 for a 4-year-old. That places Illinois as the 10th most expensive state for child care.

Working mothers with high child care costs were 10% less likely to remain employed.

Melissa Breeden, vice president of education and curriculum with the YWCA in Bloomington, said they are doing the best they

can to keep things affordable for families.

"We are not getting an increase in reimbursement from the state of Illinois for the services that we offer, so we are having to look for different ways that we can balance the books," Breeden said.

Breeden said they have slightly increased fees, but try to offset that by waving registration fees for some and offering scholarships.

A study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found a lack of options for child care is preventing 25% of unemployed workers from returning to a full-time job.

A worker shortage is affecting many sectors of the Illinois economy, and the child care industry is no exception.

Breeden said they too are experiencing a worker shortage, an issue they will have to address when people go back to work.

"I think at some point some businesses are going to shift to more of an in-person work schedule, or least hybrid, so then the need there would change," Breeden said.

Earlier this month the federal Office of Child Care released guidance on how states can use the cash bailouts provided by the American Rescue Plan to support children, families and child care providers.

The report said that one in six child care jobs have been lost during the pandemic, and even before the pandemic, annual turnover rates for child care workers were high at about 30%.

## INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



There were 3,395 sales of attached and detached homes in Chicago during May, the highest number for the month since 2006 and a whopping 103.2% increase over the same month last year.

# Single-family homes scarce in red-hot market



by Don DeBat

## The Home Front

Chicago's red-hot spring housing market is continuing to roll into summer despite lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were 3,395 sales of attached and detached homes in Chicago during May, the highest number for the month since 2006 and a whopping 103.2% increase over the same month last year when the pandemic lockdown sharply depressed housing activity, according to Midwest Real Estate Data [MRED], the regional multiple listing service.

The median sales price for May was \$350,000—11.8% higher than a year ago—and the highest ever recorded in May. The average time to sell a home listing in May was 72 days, 11 days less than in May 2020.

The total listing inventory of homes for sale in Chicago increased 4.5% to 7,252 units. The inventory of attached homes—condominiums, townhomes and co-operative unit—soared 22.5% to 5,756 units. However, inventory of traditional detached single-family homes plummeted by 33.3% to only 1,496 units.

"That translates into a 1.47-month's supply of detached homes at the May sales pace," noted Mary Jo Nathan of the Charese Team at Compass Roscoe Village, who analyzed the MRED housing market numbers. Nathan has specialized in North Side residential real estate since 2000.

"Even so, Chicago's detached-home market turned in solid results, with 1,015 sales closed in May, representing a 40.8% increase over the same month a year ago and just a -4.1% dip from the total in May of 2019. May sales of attached homes were up 150.5% from the year-earlier level to 2,380 units, accounting for a hefty 70.1% of all city sales.

"Last year, attached sales shrank substantially in May as a result of the pandemic lockdown,

which in part explains the huge increase we saw this year," said Nathan. "Sales of high-rise units were especially hard hit in 2020, but that segment is doing much better now."

Competition for homes in good condition remains intense city-wide, and many are selling for more than their list price, she noted. Some sell through the private listing network even before they are officially listed in the MLS.

The trends seen in the city were also evident across the seven-county Chicago metropolitan area. Metro sales in May were up 67% to 12,635 homes compared with May 2020, and the median sales price rose 19.4% to \$314,000. Average market time was 49 days.

Detached home sales were up 45.5%, and the median price gained a solid 25% to \$350,000, while attached sales rose 112.7%, and the median price increased 15.9% to \$250,000. As was the case in the city, the detached-home inventory contracted sharply from the year-earlier figure, shrinking -53.1% to 7,484 homes, Nathan said.

### Mortgage rates inch lower

Affordable home-loan rates in recent months also buoyed the market. Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported on July 1 that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans nationwide slipped to 2.98%, down from 3.02% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-loan average was 3.07%.

Fifteen-year fixed mortgages averaged 2.26%, down from 2.34% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed loan average was 2.56%.

"Low and stable mortgage rates have kept the housing market booming over recent months," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

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

In Chicago on July 1, Gateway Capital Mortgage was quoting 2.778% on 30-year loans and 2.125% on 15-year loans with a 3% down payment, reported Rate



### Update: Iconic Lane Tech totem still standing

Despite alumni reports that the Lane Tech College Prep totem pole has been removed, the icon is still proudly standing under trees on the school lawn at Addison St. a block west of Western Ave. The Thunderbird totem is greatly deteriorated and in need of serious restoration. One leg of the A-shaped totem is completely overgrown with weeds and vines and invisible from across the street. The other leg is incased in rust and peeling paint. However, up close the carved Native American images still are visible—Don DeBat. *Photo by DeBat Media*

Seeker.com. The loan fee was \$595.

Rate Rabbit Home Loans was quoting 2.849% on a 30-year fixed mortgage with a down payment of 20% and a loan fee of \$1,900.

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



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# CPD boasts of exceptional performance in June, which was among the bloodiest in Chicago history

BY CWBCHICAGO

On the first day of a new month the Chicago Police Dept. issues its monthly press release to declare “crime is down” in the city. The department usually issues its number-twisting missive within minutes of midnight on the first of the month. They delayed this month’s release until after 8 a.m. — probably so they could cherry pick a few extra stats to achieve maximum “downness.”

Let’s walk through it together and examine some of the ways our police department manipulates data to mislead the general public.

First up, when CPD released its “crime is down” email on July 1 of last year, it said there were 89 murders during June 2020, not the 98 they’re claiming today. That’s because some shooting victims have the audacity to not die in the same month they are gravely wounded. Nine of last June’s murder victims perished after CPD fired off its monthly “crime is down” press release at — we’re not making this up — 12:02 a.m. on July 1, 2020.

The same thing will happen this year. June’s tally of 78 murders will increase. For now, though, CPD enjoys the luxury of comparing maximized 2020 murder numbers to minimized 2021 stats.

The luxury of delayed deaths also allows the department to claim there have been six fewer murders so far this year, because many 2021 shooting victims who will be dying from their injuries are still hanging on. Most of last year’s victims, now dead, are graciously inflating the 2020 comparison number.

It’s also important to know this: June 2020 recorded more murders than any other June in the history of the modern Chicago Police Dept. And, after victims who are still clinging to life succumb to their wounds, last month will likely rank among the five worst Junes in history.

In fact, we’ll share something with you. Several years ago, when then-CPD Supt.

Garry McCarthy was bragging about having murder rates lower than the 1950s, we asked the department for a copy of the monthly murder totals that he was using to make his claim.

Incredibly, they sent it to us.

So, anyway. Even though last month will surely be among the five most murderous Junes since before man walked on

Chicago is increasing, not decreasing.

Comparing June 2020 to June 2021, carjackings are actually up seven percent. In fact, carjacking cases have increased every month since March.

Now, there are other tricks and manipulations in CPD’s monthly press releases. Many of them are really boring to analyze. Hopefully, the few we outlined here

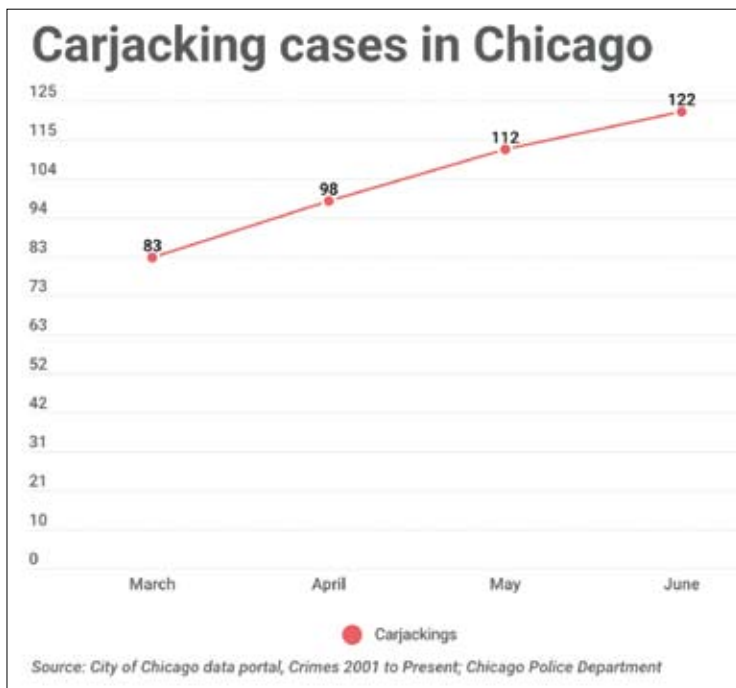
will help some folks be careful consumers of the police department’s nonsense. We’d like to believe TV and newspaper reporters would even consider questioning the police department about its manipulations rather than simply rewriting the press releases for publication and broadcast.

It’s also worth mentioning that CPD’s monthly “crime is down” email is actually reviewed, edited, and approved by some of the highest-ranking people in the mayor’s office. You can see that review process in action in a recently-released hacked email that can be found at: [www.documentcloud.org/documents/20656890-re-monthly-crime-email-may-2019\\_31-05-2019\\_9976pdf](http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20656890-re-monthly-crime-email-may-2019_31-05-2019_9976pdf).

If the city’s police and political leaders ever stop to wonder why people don’t believe them when they claim to be transparent, accountable, honest, and reform-minded, they should look no further than the monthly “crime is down” press releases. If they can’t be straight up about statistics, of all things, why should people trust their versions of events in more opaque matters — like when an officer shoots someone?

The willingness of CPD and political leaders to mislead the public about simple things makes it very difficult to believe what they say about the difficult things.

Anyway, July of last year was the single worst July for murders in the modern history of the CPD, too. It was a blow-out. Over 100 dead. Unless the city’s murderous demons manage to outpace that incredible 31-day slaughter, the weeks ahead will surely be “down” in comparison. And, if not, the CPD will find a way to say they are.



**When CPD released its “crime is down” email on July 1 of last year, it said there were 89 murders during June 2020, not the 98 they’re claiming today. That’s because some shooting victims have the audacity to not die in the same month they are gravely wounded. Nine of last June’s murder victims perished after CPD fired off its monthly “crime is down” press release at — we’re not making this up — 12:02 a.m. on July 1, 2020.**

the Moon, the police leaders are apparently quite proud of their performance.

CPD opened the press release by comparing June 2020 murders to June 2021 murders. For carjackings, though, CPD compared June to January. What’s up with that?

Easy, Jan. 2021 was quite possibly the worst month on record for carjackings in Chicago, with 215 cases. The police department is choosing to compare June to January so it can boast of a huge decline. But, in fact, the number of carjackings in

## City offers lead service line replacement assistance

For decades, Chicago residents have been drinking water tainted with lead. With over 400,000 lead service lines attached to Chicago homes, the city faces the worst documented lead line problem in the nation today.

Now the City is offering two programs to help residents replace lead service lines.

The Homeowner-Initiated Program will waive up to \$3,100 in permit fees for standalone service line replacement projects not performed in conjunction with a larger renovation.

Those eligible for the City’s Equity Program will receive a completely free service line replacement all the way from the water main to the house.

Additionally, a free water meter will be installed if there isn’t already one present.

In early 2018, the Chicago Tribune analyzed Chicago’s drinking water and discovered that 30% of 2,797 homes where tap water was sampled had lead concentrations higher than five parts per billion [ppb], the highest level the US Food and Drug Admin. allows in bottled water.

Nearly 70% of homes tested had some lead in their water. The limit set by the Environmental Protection Agency for lead in tap water is 15 ppb. There is no known “safe” level, and consuming even small amounts of lead poses dangerous health risks.

Chicago’s parks have a lead problem, too. Tests found dangerously high lead levels in many of Chicago’s 1,250 outdoor drinking fountains. Officials at the Chicago Park District tried running the fountains continuously to flush out lead, but later decided to turn off about half the fountains and marked them for removal.

In order to qualify for the Equity Program a resident must have live in a home they own, have a household income below 80% of the area median income (\$72,800 for a family of four), and have consistent results of at least 15 parts per billion of lead in your water in free testing done by the Dept. of Water Management [DWM].

The DWM is now taking applications for these two programs, visit [LeadSafeChicago.org](http://LeadSafeChicago.org).

Anyone living in Chicago can get their water tested for free. Call 311 for a test kit.

 **MARIA PAPPAS**  
COOK COUNTY TREASURER

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# North Side festivals are back

Festivals are back on for this summer and Chicagoans may never take them for granted again.

With the city and state's lifting their lockdowns, reopening timelines for the festival season have gotten off to a delayed start. There is an unusual concentration of events towards the end of summer and into the fall.

Here's a weekend-by-weekend guide to some of the current events.

**July:**

The ever-growing **Windy City Smoke-out** will have the United Center's parking lots rocking with country music, plentiful beer, and fine BBQ between July 8-11. Each night's headliner is Brett Eldredge, Darius Rucker, Dierks Bentley, and Jon Pardi, respectively. This weekend will also host the two-day, free admission **Southport Art Fest**.

Late July starts a very busy time for neighborhood festival lovers. Kick things off on Thursday, July 15 with Rogers Park's **Taco Crawl**. That weekend, July 16-18, will see the **Millenium Art Festival** in the Loop (free admission), the **Belmont-Sheffield Music Fest** in Lakeview.

The following weekend of July 23-25,

find **Wicker Park Fest** and the **Taste of Lincoln Avenue** in Lincoln Park.

**Lollapalooza** will be back in Grant Park July 29-August 1. Top headliners include Miley Cyrus, Foo Fighters, Tyler the Creator, Post Malone, Journey, Megan Thee Stallion, and Steve Aoki. That weekend will also see Jefferson Park's **Jeff Fest**.

**August:**

**Norhalsted Market Days**, taking place Aug. 6-8 on Halsted St. between Belmont and Addison, claims to be the largest street festival in the Midwest. It typically boasts five live music stages and over 250 vendors of all kinds. In the middle of that weekend, take a detour over to the **Old Irving Park Beer and BBQ Challenge** on Saturday, Aug. 7, where you get to judge the best beer and barbecue pairings. Or head down to the **Printer's Row Art Fest** Aug. 7-8.

Aug. 13-15 is another heavy-hitting weekend. The **Wells Street Art Festival**, which normally occurs in June along with the Old Town Art Fair, will have Old Town all to itself this time. Meanwhile you'll have the **Little Italy Festa** on Taylor St, **Edison Park Fest**, and a rarity: Chicago's only classical music festival, **Thirsty Ears Festival** in Ravenswood. Also, a "Gen X

haven" in Roscoe Village, where you'll find the **Retro on Roscoe** festival for those looking for a blast from the past. But who could forget the **Bud Billiken Parade** in Bronzeville, the largest African-American parade in the United States.

On Thursday, August 19, the USO of Illinois' annual block party, **Clark After Dark**, will take over a River North block with food, drinks, and live music. The August 20-22 weekend will feature **The Lyrical Lemonade Summer Smash** at Douglass Park, which hosts a long list of up-and-comers in rap. The headliners for each day are A\$AP Rocky, Lil Baby, and Lil Uzi Vert, respectively. In nearby Union Park will be **Ruido Fest**, a three-day Latin Alternative festival. Meanwhile, Rogers Park's **Glenwood Ave Arts Fest**, Humboldt Park's **Sangria Festival**, and the **Gold Coast Art Fair** in Grant Park will take place this same weekend.

On the final weekend of the month on Aug. 27-29, make sure to check out the **Taste of Greektown**.

**September/October:**

On Labor Day weekend, head out to Roscoe Village on Sept. 4-5 to try at least a dozen burgers. It's the **Roscoe Village**

**Burger Fest**, with just a \$10 suggestion donation to get in.

**Pitchfork Music Festival** at Union Park headlines the Sept. 10-12 weekend with its own headliners of Phoebe Bridgers (Friday), St. Vincent (Saturday), and Erykah Badu (Sunday). Also taking place that weekend will be **Lincoln Square Greek Fest** and the **Printer's Row Lit Fest**.

**Riot Fest** follows the next weekend, with headliners including The Smashing Pumpkins, Lupe Fiasco, Run the Jewels, Dropkick Murphys, Nine Inch Nails, and Machine Gun Kelly taking Douglass Park between Sept. 17-19. If looking for one last art fix before the end of festival season, head to **Artfest Michigan Ave.** happening that weekend as well.

Festival season will surely go out with a bang as the **Chicago Pride Parade** has been rescheduled for Oct. 3. That weekend will also feature EDM festival **Spring Awakening** at Addams/Medill Park, "outdoor chicken wing block party" **WingOut Chicago** in Old Town, and **Chicago Wine Fest** at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

## Garden Walk features West Edgewater Glen

The 47th Annual Edgewater Glen Association Garden Walk will take place from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 11, with maps and information available at 1420 W. Glenlake Ave.

This year's walk features the gardens of West Edgewater Glen, in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of

Norwood St., Glenlake, Hood and Granville avenues, which include unique arrangements of flowers, trees, fish ponds, sculptures and vegetables.

Residents may enter their gardens in the walk using the online form at [edgeglen.com](http://edgeglen.com) or by emailing [kaulas@rcn.com](mailto:kaulas@rcn.com).

## Vincent van Gogh show returns to Chicago Aug. 15

Vincent van Gogh is on the go... popping up at 333 N. Michigan Ave.

The "Starry Night" indoor experience travels back to town for a limited-time, on the Magnificent Mile. The experiential homage is dubbed Van Gogh for All and will be open to the public starting Sunday, Aug. 15 through Sunday, Sept. 26.

The exhibit offers a deep dive into some of the beloved artist's most famous works, his creative process and personal struggles in an out-of-this-world, interac-

tive way. The immersive exhibit will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., produced and designed by the Dolores Kohl Education Foundation, in collaboration with Luci, and fabricated by Ravenswood Studios.

The experience is focused primarily on Van Gogh's work from his time spent in Arles, Saint Rémy, and Auvers sur Oise. Guests will discover Van Gogh's bedroom from a fresh perspective, capturing a video of themselves flying through the Starry Night or animating a larger-than-life 12-foot-wide interactive rendition of that same iconic painting. Guests will be able to take a step behind the shutters of his iconic Yellow House. Visitors are invited to create their own still-life or self-portrait, to be framed alongside Van Gogh's own work. The exhibit encapsulates the painter's most famous landscapes. For more information visit <https://vangoghforall.org>.



(L) Owais Ibrahim (R) Cookie Merens, second from left, with Fathers Who Care program director Vincent Cook to her right, plus guests and supporters.

**ROAD** from p. 3

*heading into town*  
Just snaking on by on LSD,  
Friday night trouble bound

For most of us, Lake Shore Dr. will always be Lake Shore Dr. It's time for our elected officials, whose salaries we pay, to focus on the bigger issue at hand here in Chicago -- people dying every single day from shootings.

Stop sweating the small stuff, end the virtue signaling, and get down to some real business, would you please?

**Way to go!...** to Chicago Math and Science Academy's (CMSA) Owais Ibrahim, who will head to Princeton Univ. this fall as a Gates Millennium Scholar. Wow!

Owais, a native of Pakistan, is the second student from CMSA -- a Level 1 or 1+ rated school eight years in a row by Chicago Public School -- to receive a Gates scholarship to an Ivy League university.

He grew up in Roger Park along with his sister, as his family settled here as immigrants. Growing up, Owais saw his parents work multiple jobs because they lacked higher education.

"Their struggles are what fuels my determination and aspiration,"

said Owais. "Before I woke up for school at 6 a.m. my dad would have already left for work and by the time I was going to sleep at 10 p.m., he was just returning home.

"My parents never had enough money to start a retirement or investment plan," added Owais. "Their investments were with my sister and me."

He said he was shaking as he read the email from the Gates Foundation. "My eyes filled with tears of joy as I saw my family celebrating with me," Owais said. "Most importantly, I was excited for the new opportunities this recognition would bring and being able to continue my educational career, debt free, was extremely exciting."

Owais plans to study computer science as his major and business and finance as minors during his undergraduate studies. He hopes to further his education in the near future and obtain an MBA. "In the long term, I look to work within the engineering field either managing my own startup or working as a full stack developer and contributing to new technology and a company's success," he said. "In the long run I want to use my skills and passions of entrepreneurship and STEM to develop solutions for intricate

problems in our communities."

We congratulate Owais and wish him all the best at Princeton!

**Aye, aye Captain Cookie...**

One generous cookie is Lakeview resident Cookie Merens, aka Captain Cookie, who on Father's Day volunteered her boat, Cookie's Cutter, to take participants and program directors from the West Side-based organization Fathers Who Care [FWC] for a cruise around Lake Michigan. "No fathers are involved," said Merens. "The gentlemen you see act as substitute fathers. These adolescents have no father figure in their homes."

The group has been providing empowerment and enrichment programs and services to at-risk youth, indigent fathers and their significant others since 1999.

Located on the West Side, FWC promotes and provides a comprehensive support system for men who are non-traditional fathers (those absent from traditional family settings) as well as their significant others.

Thanks Cookie! You're just as sweet as your name is.

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DOR# 10783259-2509 License# 9556 License# 50145 License# 41254 License# 99230 License# 128244 License# 218294 WAJBR# 63 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFNW8202 License# W0256912 License# WC29998-117 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC-064905 Registration# C127220 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475  
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## A return to vibrancy at The Clare

After a year that completely changed the way senior living communities operate, the vibrancy for which The Clare is known has returned.

With 99% of Independent Living residents vaccinated against COVID-19, along with 85% of employees, The Clare has largely returned to normal. Lectures, performances and activities are again taking place in person. All dining venues are open. Masks now optional for all but employees, caregivers and guests, based on guidance from The Clare's ownership company Life Care Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the City of Chicago.

While residents still cling to certain changes introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, like the convenience of fitness classes streamed directly to their apartment TVs, they have embraced the most recent phase of reopening with

great fervor.

Weekly Happy Hours on Thursday evenings are as lively as ever, with residents gathering to socialize with cocktails and small bites. Holidays like Memorial Day and the Fourth of July prompted barbecue celebrations. Performances by the Chen Quartet, which were presented virtually via Zoom throughout the pandemic, now take place in person.

What's more, The Clare residents are once again venturing around the city. Several groups have visited the Immersive van Gogh Exhibit at the Lighthouse ArtSpace at the Germania Club Building. Throughout the month of July, The Clare bus will transport residents to the Grant Park Music Festival each week, as well as to Rush Hour Concerts held ev-



Weekly Happy Hours on Thursday evenings at The Clare are as lively as ever, with residents gathering to socialize with cocktails and small bites. Photo courtesy of The Clare

“The Clare does a great job, and I know there is a lot of thought and effort put into each activity,” says resident Bobbi Stotland.

Of course, The Clare isn't neglecting continued safety as the top priority. There hasn't been a positive COVID-19 case associated with The Clare in over four months, but the community remains proactive. As mentioned, employees still must wear masks in the building, as do guests and caregivers. All non-residents must check in and be temperature screened upon arrival before

gaining entry. COVID-19 testing occurs on a monthly basis, and rapid tests are readily available.

Overall, The Clare's return to vibrancy has been welcomed with open arms by residents and employees alike, as the light at the end of the tunnel of a dark year.

ery Tuesday evening at St. James Cathedral. This is in addition to monthly restaurant outings and trips to various other art exhibits, including the Frida Kahlo exhibit at the Cleve Carney Museum of Art at the College of DuPage and the Art of Banksy exhibit at the Epiphany Center for the Arts.

## State announces \$54M in increased pay for care providers

*In-home care providers to receive retroactive pay*

Amidst the pandemic, the Pritzker administration announced increased rates of pay for eligible in-home care providers. This \$54 million in tax payer money will be issued by the departments on Aging [IDOA] and Human Services [DHS] as bonus payments for services rendered by eligible providers between January 1 and March 31.

The money is to make up for the rate increase that was frozen until April 1.

Providers will receive an additional rate increase on Jan. 1, 2022, paving the way for employees to receive a minimum wage of \$15 an hour.

As of April 1, in-home service providers within IDOA's Community Care Program [CCP], which provides care to nearly 70,000 older Illinoisans, received a rate increase to \$23.40 an hour. The department will now make a one-time bonus payment to over 400 providers for services provided at that increased rate. The rate increase will assist with stabilization of the CCP workforce, while the additional rate increase early next year will allow providers to pay individual workers a minimum wage of \$15. The state hopes the increases will assist older Illinoisans in need of critical services to remain in their own home to avoid premature institutionalization.

Established in 1979 by Public Act 81-202, IDOA's CCP Program is designed to meet the needs of Illinois residents age 60 and older who need help with the basic activities of daily living but wish

to continue living in their own homes with assistance. The program provides community-based services and cost-effective alternatives to nursing home placement for older Illinoisans, enabling them to remain independent and “age in place.” Services include comprehensive care coordination, adult day services, in-home service, emergency home response services, and automated medication dispenser service.

Additionally, IDHS Home Services Program will also be issuing bonus payments to nearly 90 providers for homemaker services rendered since the beginning of the year through March 31. Also, the one-time bonus payments and increased rate of pay will help retain current Home Services Program employee and attract new workers to apply.

Caregivers and in-home providers across the state continued to deliver vital services throughout COVID-19 - despite the increased risks. These ongoing visits remain crucial in accessing and supporting the physical and mental well-being of older adults in communities across the state.

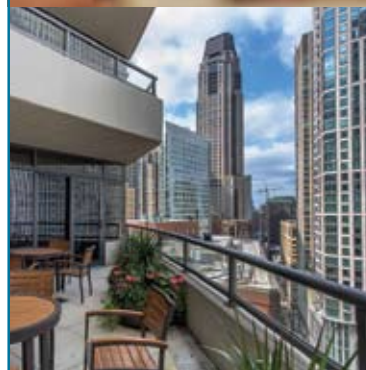
The average monthly cost of care in a state paid nursing facility for Fiscal Year 2019 was \$3,362.39. For every month a Medicaid individual remains on CCP, the state saves \$2,401.69.

For more information on programs and services available to assist older adults in Illinois, visit [www.illinois.gov/aging](http://www.illinois.gov/aging) or call 1-800-252-8966 (hearing impaired call 888-206-1327), or by email [aging.il-senior@illinois.gov](mailto:aging.il-senior@illinois.gov).



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You don't paddle against the current, you paddle with it.  
And if you get good at it, you throw away the oars.

— Kris Kristofferson

# Police Beat...

## Near North Side man charged with killing 81-year-old woman found dead in his car

A Near North Side man is charged with killing an 81-year-old woman after downstate police officers found her body inside his car on June 28, according to statements from police departments in Chicago and Dwight, Illinois. Dwight is located about 85 miles southwest of the Loop along Interstate 55.

Neither department identified the woman or her relationship to Marc Holliman, 53, but this reporter discovered the victim is Holliman's mother.

Dwight police said in a statement that their officers met with Holliman briefly around 10:45 a.m. June 28 after receiving a report of a theft from a vehicle. But Holliman told them he did not want any more help and drove away, according to the statement.

About an hour later, Holliman was "bleeding from self-inflicted injuries" when he approached officers again on the same street, the statement said. Dwight police officers discovered the woman's body in Holliman's car while he was being treated at a nearby hospital, officials said.

The Dwight police department contacted Chicago police on Monday afternoon. CPD detectives executed a search warrant at a home on the 100 block of W. Delaware Place a few hours later. CPD said Holliman also lived on the same block of Delaware Place.

Neither police department revealed how the woman died, but downstate authorities initially told Chicago police that Holliman admitted to suffocating her. The Chicago authorities' statement said the homicide occurred June 28.

He is charged with first-degree murder and concealing a homicidal death, according to CPD and Dwight police. He is due in bond court Wednesday.

Online records indicate that Holliman's mother would be 81-year-old and had a long career as a nurse and nursing professor. His father, a retired attorney, died in December at the age of 80, records show.

## Widespread fights, heavy pepper spray in moments before shots were fired in Boystown

Videos have emerged showing sporadic fights and the heavy use of pepper spray between some opponents June 28 in the heart of Boystown.

Shots were fired as people tried to escape the effects of pepper spray around 2:13 a.m., following a night of revelry on the day that would usually host the city's Pride Parade. The parade is postponed until Oct. 3 this year due to COVID.

No one was struck by the gunfire, according to police. But these new videos show several people using large cans of pepper spray during altercations.

One man, blasted directly in the face by a heavy stream of irritant, staggers to the side, where he is beaten to the ground and stomped upon as he lies on a rainbow crosswalk at Roscoe and Halsted. A person goes airborne and slams to the pavement in another clip, thanks to a man's two-handed shove.

Several ambulances were brought

to the area to treat people for various minor injuries. But even the needs of medical workers weren't enough to dissuade some people from fighting alongside an ambulance.

At least four battery victims walked into nearby Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment, too. No felony arrests were reported in connection with the incidents.

A resident who lives on the 700 block of W. Roscoe provided this reporter with surveillance camera footage that clearly captured the sound of 14 gunshots. The gunfire caused the crowd, many already fighting off pepper spray, to make hastier exits from the area.

Contrary to early reports that Chicago police ordered local bars to close due to overcrowding, we have learned that CPD did not shutter any businesses. Some, however, chose to close early due to the circumstances outside.

## Eight-year sentence for Wrigleyville home invasion, sex attack

An Uptown man has been sentenced to eight years in prison for sexually attacking a Wrigleyville woman during a home invasion nearly six years ago.

Marcel Geanes, 31, pleaded guilty to home invasion involving a sex offense and a g r a v a t e d criminal sexual abuse while committing a felony. Judge James Obbish sentenced him to eight years on each count. The terms will be served concurrently and Geanes' DNA will be added to a law enforcement database.

Around 4:30 a.m. on Aug. 30, 2015, a 25-year-old Wrigleyville woman awakened to find a shirtless man sexually abusing her while lying on top of her in bed, prosecutors said. He fled the apartment on the 1100 block of W. Patterson with credit cards, identification, and other property belonging to the victim and a second woman. The victim was treated at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

About three weeks later, police officers who pulled Geanes over in Rogers Park realized he looked like the man detectives were seeking in connection with the Wrigleyville assault. They took him into custody.

Geanes' parole date has not been set.

## Man gets two years for breaking into Lakeview home during looting spree; partner isn't so lucky

A convicted felon who broke into a Lakeview family's home and hid in a 10-year-old's bedroom as he tried to escape from cops during riots and looting last June has received a two-year sentence. But after getting credit for the time he spent in jail before pleading, Jeremy Ben, 31, walked out of prison on the same day he arrived.

Another man who allegedly trolled Lakeview with Ben early on June 1, 2020, has much bigger problems: He has been charged in federal court with having a gun that night.

Police were on their third night of handling widespread looting reports when a series of 911 calls reported suspicious activity near the three-way intersection of Belmont, Lincoln, and Ashland.



Jeremy P. Ben

At 11:48 p.m. May 31, 2020, officers responded to a report of cars lined up with suspected looters outside the Target store at 3300 N. Ashland. Officers found three vehicles parked in an alley near the store's rear loading doors, a police spokesperson said. The cars sped away as cops approached.

Police pursued the cars, and three men jumped out of one vehicle and fled on foot near the intersection of Lincoln and Wellington moments later, said Sally Bown, a CPD public information officer.

## Cop busted for check-swiping scheme

A 26-year veteran Chicago police officer has been stripped of her police powers and now faces felony charges for allegedly stealing about \$2,000 in a check scheme, according to statements made during a bond court hearing June 29.

Elise Middleton, 53, has been a police officer in the Shakespeare (14th) District for her entire career, according to defense attorney Tim Grace. Shakespeare officers patrol neighborhoods like Wicker Park, Bucktown, Logan Square, and Humboldt Park.



Elise Middleton

Authorities, including CPD's Bureau of Internal Affairs, launched an investigation after a Massachusetts resident fell victim to an email fraud scheme that resulted in her depositing \$2,050 into Middleton's personal bank account, prosecutors said.

The alleged victim believed the deposit was part of the process to become an "ambassador" for a company, prosecutors said. Last August, the woman received a check from the company for \$2,735, which she deposited. She then followed instructions to transfer \$2,050 of it to Middleton's account.

But the check was fake, and the company never authorized the payment or the search for "ambassadors," according to the allegations. Before the fraud was discovered, Middleton withdrew the \$2,050 from her bank in person on Aug. 6, prosecutors said.

She is charged with wire fraud and theft. Grace, the defense attorney, said Middleton worked as a Cook County sheriff's deputy for four years before joining CPD in July 1995. He said she had been reassigned to a unit that takes police reports over the phone.

When asked how much Middleton could afford for bail, Grace told Judge Charles Beach, "She's kind of strapped right now."

Beach decided to release Middleton on her own recognizance and ordered her to surrender her passport.

City records show Middleton was paid \$96,060 last year.

## Man charged with killing girlfriend who was found dead in Lakeview car



Emmanuel Thompson (L) is alleged to have murdered Kendra Gardner (R) in May.

A woman found dead inside a parked car in Lakeview in May was killed by her boyfriend after she confronted him about infidelity, prosecutors said.



Anderson Beltran, Kayla Ferreira-Leita and Jairo Guanume-Ruiz.

## Three charged after "large amount" of phones found in car at Montrose Harbor

Three people each face a single misdemeanor charge after police allegedly found a "large amount of cellphones" on the floor of their car near Montrose Harbor on June 26.

Kayla Ferreira-Leita, 34, of Pilsen, Jairo Guanume-Ruiz, 33, of Berwyn, and Anderson Beltran, 28, are each charged with one count of theft of lost or mislaid property. Beltran, who allegedly refused to give his home address to police, is also charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle and driving without a license. They were all released from the police station on recognizance bonds, according to CPD records.

Police went to the 300 block of W. Montrose Harbor drive around 6:45 a.m. June 26 after someone reported seeing people drinking in a car, according to dispatch records.

Officers who approached the vehicle, a gray Mazda, saw its floor littered with cellphones, a police spokesperson said. One officer said 62 phones were recovered from the vehicle. Many of the devices had their SIM cards removed and taped to their exteriors, the officer said.

Police found 41-year-old Kendra Gardner's body inside a gold Cadillac on the 3000 block of N. Clifton after a passerby reported seeing an unresponsive person inside around 4 p.m. on May 26. CPD issued a missing person bulletin for Gardner earlier that day.

Emmanuel Thompson, Gardner's boyfriend of about 10 years, owned the Cadillac, prosecutors said as they charged him with first-degree murder and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in front of Judge Arthur Willis.

The couple attended a party together in Markham on May 22 and were reportedly seen leaving together on surveillance footage. According to prosecutors, Thompson would later admit to fatally shooting Gardner as he drove on the expressway that night because she was upset that he cheated on her.

Gardner suffered gunshot wounds to her neck, left cheek, and the top of her head. Police allegedly found four shell casings inside the car with her body.

Surveillance video shows Gardner's car arriving in the Lakeview area around 2:16 a.m. May 24, prosecutors said. CTA camera footage shows Thompson at the nearby Wellington Brown Line CTA station where he called a friend and asked them to have a Lyft come pick him up, prosecutors said.

The day after Gardner's body was discovered, Thompson allegedly deleted his Facebook account and called a friend to say he had a new phone number and that he'd be leaving town. He never reported his car or Gardner missing, prosecutors said.

Police arrested Thompson at his South Shore home July 2. Prosecutors said he had a gun in his pants pocket, but it was a different caliber than the murder weapon. Thompson's defense attorney said he denies admitting to the crime and said he has been suffer-

A CPD spokesperson said the investigation into the recovered phones is ongoing, and police don't yet know who owns the devices.

Social media chatter over the weekend was full of stories about people having phones stolen in Boystown bars and at the two-day "Pride in the Park" festival in Grant Park. One of the phones that police recovered was reported stolen less than three hours earlier at Charlie's, a late-night bar in Boystown.

Technically, none of the accused persons is charged with stealing anything. Rather, the state is alleging that they had possession of stolen property and did not try to return it to its rightful owner.

Ferreira-Leita has been arrested twice for shoplifting in Cook County since March 2019. In the first case, she was charged with stealing \$400 worth of merchandise from Whole Foods at 3201 N. Ashland in Lakeview, records show. Police said she told them she took the food because she recently lost her job. The case was dropped when Whole Foods failed to show up in court.

ing from significant medical issues since 2013. Judge Willis ordered Thompson held without bail.

## Man shot dead in the middle of Division St.

A man was shot dead in the middle of Division St. on the border of the Old Town and Near North neighborhoods July 4, police said. Detectives are looking for a suspect. He is the fourth person to be murdered in the area since June 15, city data shows.

The victim, who has not been identified but appeared to be 20- to 30-years-old, was crossing the street when the gunman walked towards him and began shooting after they exchanged words around 6:09 a.m., according to a police.

One bullet struck the victim in his torso and he collapsed in the middle of the street near 230 W. Division. He was pronounced dead at Northwestern Memorial Hospital a short time later.

Surveillance videos show the gunman walking westbound after the murder. He is a Black male who wore a black hat, white t-shirt, blue jeans that are bleached on the front, and white gym shoes, a police report said.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Sunday's murder is the fourth killing in the area in less than three weeks: on June 15, 32-year-old German Villalobos was shot and killed as he drove northbound on Lake Shore Dr. near Oak Street Beach. A passenger in his car was also shot, but survived.

On June 19, 27-year-old Kenneth Hammond was shot dead in a parking lot adjacent to Stanton Park on the 700 block of W. Evergreen.

Prosecutors accused 53-year-old Marc Holliman last week of murder-

# Loop's tiniest parking garage racks up yet another gun and drug bust

BY CWBCHICAGO

Again? Yes. Again. The little two-story parking garage at 801 S. Wabash, site of a murder, multiple gun seizures, and multiple drug busts since November, has racked up another one. And it's a doozy.

Cops who walked through the structure around 12:40 a.m. July 2 allegedly walked out with two guns, a cache of drugs, and more than \$17,000 cash, according to prosecutors. Now, a man who's already been to state prison twice and federal prison once for gun convictions faces a host of charges.

As cops made their way through the structure, they smelled marijuana burning and saw puffs of smoke coming from a vehicle that was running on the garage's upper deck, according to prosecutors and police.

The driver looked at them and tried to drive away, but he crashed into a CPD car and then ran, police said. Cops caught him nearby.

While officers chased him down, other cops looked into the vehicle. They saw a loaded handgun on the driver's floorboard, another loaded gun on the driver's seat, and a woman sitting in the passenger seat, according to

prosecutors.

There were Xanax pills in the driver's door and ammunition in the center console, prosecutors said. Inside the trunk? According to prosecutors, about a half-pound of pot, an ounce of cocaine, and \$17,297 cash.

The driver, Genaro Galindo, 26, is charged with Class X armed habitual criminal, two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon with a previous conviction, felony cocaine possession, manufacture-delivery of cannabis, possession of a controlled substance with intent, resisting police, fleeing and eluding, and failure to give information after a

*There were Xanax pills in the driver's door and ammunition in the center console, prosecutors said. Inside the trunk? According to prosecutors, about a half-pound of pot, an ounce of cocaine, and \$17,297 cash.*

traffic crash.

Prosecutors said he was convicted of state gun violations

twice in 2014. He also received a 24-month federal prison sentence for firearm possession in 2016.

Private defense attorney Loren Blumenfeld argued another person was in the car, and the vehicle is not registered to Galindo. Blumenfeld said Galindo has two children and works as a trucker.

Judge Susana Ortiz ordered Galindo held in lieu of \$200,000 bail. He'll need to post a \$20,000 deposit and go onto electronic monitoring if he wants to get out of jail, the judge said.

The tiny parking garage, which sits adjacent to East-West University, has experienced more than its share of police activity lately.

## POLICE BEAT from p. 8

ing his 81-year-old mother by pressing her cane against her throat inside their home on the 100 block of W. Delaware.

### Police find man unconscious and badly beaten inside Old Town apartment

Police are investigating after a man was found unconscious and badly beaten inside an Old Town apartment July 1. No arrests have been made, but a witness reported seeing a possible offender dripping blood as he walked through the building before the victim was discovered.

Officers responded to Cobbler Square, 1350 N. Wells, around 10:20 p.m. to investigate the suspicious, blood-dripping man. Officers followed blood trails throughout the building for nearly an hour before they honed in on the victim's apartment.

When police entered the unit, they found the 29-year-old victim unconscious and covered in blood, CPD spokesperson Karie James said. Officers reportedly found a significant amount of blood in the man's apartment. Evidence technicians also recovered teeth and blood samples from a stairwell.

Witnesses reported hearing noise come from the victim's apartment around 10 p.m., James said. When one of them inquired about what was going on, a voice inside the apartment reportedly replied that they had been in a fight.

Fire department personnel took the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in fair condition.

The suspicious man who sparked the initial police response was described as an older White man who wore a white shirt.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

### Man shot near Sheridan Red Line CTA station

A 34-year-old man was shot on a sidewalk about a block from the Sheridan Red Line station on July 4, police said. He's in good condition.

The man, who arrived at Weiss Hospital in a private car around 5:28 p.m., reportedly told police he was on a sidewalk in the 900 block of W. Irving Park minutes earlier when someone walked up and shot him at close range. One bullet struck the victim in his right leg, police said.

Officers who met with the victim said he was not cooperative. Police also spoke with passersby near Sheridan and Irving Park, but none recalled hearing any shots fired.

The victim initially described the shooter only as a Hispanic man.

Sunday's shooting is the second in

two weeks for the Lakeview neighborhood, and the third of the year. But both of the earlier shootings reportedly involved people who knew each other.

### Armed carjacking in River North garage

An armed carjacking inside a River North parking garage June 30 bears strong similarities to another hijacking reported in a residential building's parking garage that same day in the Fulton River District. Police have not publicly linked the two crimes, but the details are strikingly similar.

Around 11:15 p.m. June 30, a 35-year-old woman had just parked her car in a garage on the 100 block of W. Hubbard when two offenders emerged and demanded her keys at gunpoint, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said.

Managers from a nearby apartment complex told their residents via email Friday morning that the carjackers hid between parked cars before the hijacking. A report said the offenders pointed a gun at the woman's head.

The victim complied and the hijackers — one man and one woman — reportedly drove away with her white Audi A5.

A similar crime was committed by a man and a woman June 30 in the Fulton Market District, according to a CPD report. Around 6:30 p.m., the offenders approached a man outside the high-rise apartment building's garage and took his 2011 BMW sedan at

gunpoint on the 300 block of N. Halsted, police said.

The Chicago Police Dept. claimed in a press release on Thursday that carjackings "continued" to decline in June. That statement is false. In fact, carjacking reports have increased every month since March, with 122 cases reported in June, according to city records.

### Armed robberies in Rogers Park

Businesses in Rogers Park are being warned by police about armed robberies that have occurred recently. The offender enters the business, displays a black handgun and demands money.

The offender then flees on foot, possibly to a nearby vehicle.

Incidents include one on the 7400 block of N. Western 11:51 p.m. June 3; on the 1300 block of W. Touhy 10:28 p.m. June 14; 6800 block of N. Sheridan 5:27 a.m. June 17; 1400 block of W. Morse 2:22 p.m. June 17, and one on the 1400 block of W. Morse 2:10 p.m. June 29.

The offender is described as a male African-American, 18-27 years of age, 5'-7" to 6' tall, 150-175 lbs., black North

Face zip up with logo on upper left chest, black sweat pants, black or white facemask and white gym shoes.

The offender has been seen wearing both mechanic gloves and surgical gloves.



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### Man gets 15 years for sharing child porn

A Chicago man has been sentenced to more than 15 years in federal prison for sharing child pornography in an online chat room. Benny L. Butler, 36, possessed more than 2,800 videos and more than 7,600 images of child pornography on multiple electronic devices.

Butler in 2017 shared several videos and images with users of Chatstep, an anonymous online chat room service.

Butler pleaded guilty earlier this year to one count of transportation of child pornography. U.S. District Judge Andrea R. Wood on Tuesday sentenced Butler to 15 years and eight months in federal prison, to be followed by 20 years of court-supervised release. Wood also ordered Butler

to pay \$47,000 in restitution to the known victims depicted in the child pornography he shared.

"It is impossible to overstate the seriousness of defendant's conduct and the need for just punishment," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ashley A. Chung said. "Defendant not only possessed a staggering amount of child pornography, but also distributed, downloaded, and traded child pornography with others online."

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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**CAN'T GIVE** from p. 2

with distinction and loyalty as Press Secretary for **Mayor Richard J. Daley**. He was 91-years-old. The last of his generation who served his honor. A Loyola Academy and Loyola Univ. grad.

**READY FOR REFORM:** Pope Francis has asked Chicago's **Cardinal Blase Cupich** to lead a team to evaluate the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Vatican confirmed.

**SERVICE CLUB:** Day at the Terrace, Aug. 2 at The Geraghy, 2520 S. Hoynes.

**BANKSY:** The highly anticipated exhibit will be staged at the Epiphany Center for the Arts in the West Loop on S. Ashland Ave. and is delayed until August.

**MY FAVORITE JAM:** Theater On The Lake was the scene for dinner with **Arny Granat** and **Irene Michaels**. Arny co-founded JAM Productions 50 years ago and created what would become the largest independent concert production company in the country. Then creating Jam Theatricals and winning 9 Tony Awards. JAM has created thousands of jobs in the music industry promoting concerts featuring everyone from the **Rolling Stones** and the **Grateful Dead** to **Frank Sinatra**.

Theater On The Lake is a truly remarkable restaurant / bar / entertainment venue right on Lake Shore Dr. at Fullerton. It only took our city 100+ years to see how great it would be to have such a venue on our beautiful lakefront. Bravo, **Johnny Wrenn**.

**LOLLA STAR:** Word is young Chicago actor, **Nate Beuscher**, is performing at Lollapalooza. The icing on the cake is the backstage pass he will receive for all stages for all days.

**CROATIAN ITALIAN CUISINE:** Getting ready to make his mark as Top Chef Winner, **Joe Flamm**, of Spiaggia fame, is now roasting up a storm at his critically acclaimed Rose Mary Restaurant on Fulton. It's the talk of the town, and he deserves



Michael Sneed



Shelley Howard and pianist Lloyd Wilson.



It's Miller's Pub time.

the praise. Thanks, **Keith Olsen**.

**LIVE AT THE SYMPHONY:** Experience the transformative power of live music once again. Legendary conductor **Riccardo Muti** returns this September for a soul-stirring reunion with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

**SISTER CITY:** **James Harrold**, exit stage left. After many happy years as Arts Officer in Galway (Chicago's Sister City) Harrold is calling time this summer. "It has been an honor and a privilege," he says. The role of a lifetime. Gaillimh.

**TVLAND:** **Rich Daniels** is on the set of the new "4400" CBS Television show, with the wonderful and talented cast member **Jaye Ladymore**. Shooting on location at the legendary Cultural Center in Chicago in Preston Bradley Hall.

**WATERPROOF:** Chase banker **Victoria Dal Santo** finished a 40-mile bike ride in the rain in Hudson Valley, NY, with sister, **Colleen Dal Santo Ryan**, from San Diego, CA. Rough going, but the hot shower post ride was heaven.

**GIBSON'S NEWS:** **Shelley Howard** says it's the moment we all have waited for. Pianist **Lloyd Wilson** returns to Gibson's to tinkle the ivories and fill up the steakhouse with sound.

**WHO'S WHERE?** Long time Tribune City Hall reporter, **John Kass**, retired, at

home, eating homemade Avgolimone, seeing subscribers to his blog site boom...

**Andy Gallios** welcomes the reopening of Miller's Pub ... **Sherry Lea Fox** and **Julie Barrish** toasting **Bob** and **Nina Mariano** at the opening of Dom's Market in Lincoln Park... **Maggie Malone** back in USA from Irish country living with husband, **David Hundley**, and son, **Abraham** ... **Anne Kavanagh** with the family visiting Kiawah Island, Charlestown following daughter, **Sianna's** college graduation... **Mike Sneed** sighted having dinner with former LA Times editor and Chicago Tribune Managing Editor **Jim O'Shea**... Fiddler **Patricia Treacy** and fiancé **Mark O'Malley** talking wedding plans with **Diane O'Connell**... **Karin Carlson** and son, **Brock**, immersing themselves in Van Gogh, a field trip for a starry, starry night at Art Institute... Enjoying a fab night at Erie Cafe, the Broadway crowd **Linda Robin**, **Cookie Stagman**, **Ruthie Weisbach**, **Carole Rudoy**, **Barry Stone**, **Lou Weisbach**, **Herb Rudoy** and producer **Richard Robin**...Diners at the Tavern cheering everyone's favorite the Tavern Angels... **Dayle Ann d Edgeworth** at Maggiano's with **Bob Salone** and **Bill Demis** listening to **Eddy London** singing "A Town Without Pity"... **Russ Goeltenbodt** headlining and performing at La Villa with the **Sami Scot**

and a crowded venue... Christie's **Steven Zick** was at the House of the Seven Gables in Salem, MA, and the Barnacle in Marblehead, MA, on Boston's Northshore... **Scottie Pippen** has a new Bourbon on the market and a hot new 'take no prisoners' autobiography... **Julia Jacobs** in Kennebunkport, ME... **Rhonda J. Liesenfelt** at the Boathouse sipping cocktails in Lake Buena Vista, FL...**Barb Bailey** and **Phyllis Zito Pshogios** remind us of Happy Hug a Girlfriend Day... **Fortsmann Kealy** in Asheville, NC...Two great friends share the same July 3 birthday, **Kathy O'Malley Piccone** and **Sherry Lea Fox** ... Sympathies to dearest **Toni Di Meola** on the death of her beloved **Rusty**... **Stephanie Leese Emrich** Junior Leaguering at the Peninsula with **Ruth Gallagher Nelson** and **Allison Youngblood**... **Kathy Bell Bartholomey** in Boulder, WY... Yes, true, no lie, **Larry Lucas** had a hole in one at Skokie Country Club.

**ART REVIVES:** Florence's Uffizi Gallery is sending masterpieces to villages around the region of Tuscany. The scheme is part of a longer term bid to combat the effects of the pandemic.

Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking. -- *Marcus Aurelius tog515@gmail.com*

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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 certification was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, Registration Number: Y21007217 on June 22, 2021 Under the Assumed Business Name of: H&L HEATING COOLING SERVICE with the business located at: 6658 N. CENTRAL PARK AVE., LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712. The true and real full name(s) and residence address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is: Owner/Partner Full Name: HAN LE Complete Address: 6658 N. CENTRAL PARK AVE., LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712, USA

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 certification was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, Registration Number: Y21007201 on June 15, 2021 Under the Assumed Business Name of: Shih Tzu Enterprise with the business located at: 2000 W. Addison, Suite 101, Chicago, IL 60618 The true and real full name(s) and residence address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is: Owner/Partner Full Name: Frank Crescenzi Complete Address: 3611 N. Seelye, Apt. 2, Chicago, IL 60618, USA

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# Harry Caray's solves decades-long mystery of fan letter written in Braille



Harry Caray recovers from an accident in 1968 that broke both his legs. Photo courtesy of Grant DePorter

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN  
Loop North News

The letter to sportscaster and Chicago legend Harry Caray had hung on a wall next to his office since 1987 but no one knew what it said because it was written in Braille.

The tactile writing system has been around since 1824 and more than 130,000 sight-impaired people in the United States currently read Braille, but apparently none of them had visited Caray in his office.

One fan – Stephanie Gibson of Talladega, Alabama – did write him a letter after Caray was struck by a car while crossing a street in St. Louis on Nov. 3, 1968. The accident sent him to Barnes Hospital (now Barnes-Jewish Hospital) in St. Louis with two broken legs, but after rest and rehab in Florida, Caray recovered in time for the start of the 1969 Major League Baseball season.

Two years later, the owner of Harry Caray's Restaurant Group, Grant DePorter, posted the letter on Facebook, seeking advice on how to translate the letter. One reader of the post – this reporter, to be precise – opened a photo of the letter in Adobe Photoshop, increased the contrast, and submitted it to an online Braille translator at

ABC Braille. The website, developed by Gonzalo Ernst, produced this translation...

*Mr. Harry Caray, Barnes Hospital  
St. Louis, Missouri  
November 5, 1968*

*Dear Mr. Caray,  
I was so sorry to hear about your accident. I hope you get well soon.  
Your broadcast of the World Series made it more interesting to me.  
We are all pulling for your speedy recovery and are looking forward to hearing you again on radio.  
We will remember you in our prayers.  
Again, get well soon.  
Sincerely yours,  
Miss Stephanie Gibson*

"Harry liked that a fan wrote him in Braille and had it framed but told me he did not know what it said," recalled DePorter. "Harry received bags of fan mail every week for 50 years but that letter stood out so he had it framed and put in a place of honor."

DePorter says he read the translation to Caray's widow, "Dutchie," and reports she was "happy that we finally know what it says."

line Health, and they have promised multiple times to keep the facility open.

But they also recently closed Westlake Hospital in Melrose Park that it also promised to keep open, so neighbors are rightly suspicious that the site could be sold off.

# Uptown Art Week starts Aug. 6

As a part of Uptown Art Week, between Aug. 6 through 15 the Uptown Chamber of Commerce plans to add more than 40 new murals across the neighborhood, blanketing the Uptown community with art—from large-scale murals to community-led art projects.

The pandemic forced the Chamber to cancel some of their events that typically

bring 60,000+attendees to Uptown each year. These events not only helped boost Uptown's profile, they also helped fund Chamber operations and other community organizations. Through Art Week, the Uptown United and the Uptown Chamber of Commerce seek donation to try and underwrite their efforts. For more information call 773-878-1184.

# "Rollin' Rec" van to bring free summer fun to West Rogers Park

An evening of free summer fun for toddlers through teens will take place in West Rogers Park when Chicago Park District's [CPD] "Rollin' Rec Activity Van" pulls up at Park 538, on the 6600 block of N. Kedzie Ave., 6 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22.

The van will unload at the corner of Kedzie and Wallen, and CPD staff will offer games, sports, and fun for kids of all ages, including some instruction in soccer and fitness. No advance registration is required.

Parents are asked to stay at the park while their children participate.

The van is sponsored by Jewish Neighborhood Development Council of Chicago [JNDC] and Park 538 Advisory Council.

"The van pulls up and the fun begins," says Ellen Doppelt, JNDC executive direc-

tor. "We're proud to bring this program to the community and introduce the community to this gem of a park."

Park 538, which runs north along Kedzie Ave. from the baseball stadium at Devon to Touhy, offers over three miles of rustic hiking trails through uncultivated woodland, grassland and riverbank habitats. Development of Park 538 into an educational and recreational resource, resulting from a JNDC proposal approved by the City of Chicago, is now in its third year. The transformation of a large swath of the park to restored natural prairie is managed by CPD, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Peggy Notebaert Museum and Audubon Society. For further information, visit [www.jndcchicago.org](http://www.jndcchicago.org).

## CLINIC from p. 1

of 11 kids, with little money and no insurance. He recalled how when he was 15, he accidentally crashed into an iron fence and had to go to the hospital immediately.

The one thing he was worrying about as he was being taken to the hospital was how his family was going to pay the medical bills.

Today, however, nobody has to worry about payment at the Community Clinic, which provides free, volunteer based primary care as well as one of the few for-free behavioral health departments, led by Jim Crystal, who had worked for 27 years at the Community Center of Lake View.

The longtime friends started the clinic in an area with significant need for health care services.

"It's a little overwhelming, to be perfectly frank," said Maltezos, who said he was working harder in his retirement than he did when employed full time. "When you compare what we're doing to the need that's out there, we're not even close to providing a significant level of care."

Still, the work became a source of satisfac-

tion to both founders. To be able to give back to others in need, he said, is "very rewarding because the people we're helping have no place else to turn," said Dr. Martinez.

Other volunteers include Dr. David Scheiner, who had served as one of former President Barack Obama's doctors. He

***Nobody has to worry about payment at the Community Clinic, which provides free, volunteer based primary care as well as one of the few for-free behavioral health departments, led by Jim Crystal, who had worked for 27 years at the Community Center of Lake View.***

has over 58 years of experience in the medical field.

The overall mostly-volunteer staff includes 25 physicians, and more than 200 nurses and behavior health care students, Goran said, noting that while the clinic was closed between March 15 to June 1 because of the Coronavirus pandemic, clinic activity has been increasing slowly.

While not a walk-in clinic, Old Irving Park is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment. Any questions, call 773-427-0398.

Note, patient are required to wear a face mask while inside the clinic. For immediate behavioral health assistance at any other times, help is available at: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service helpline 800-985-5990; National Suicide Prevent Lifeline 800-273-8255; National Alliance on Mental Illness Chicago Helpline 833-626-4244, and Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline 877-863-6338.

## BALLOT from p. 1

vote."

A strong segment of the neighboring community has been opposing the high-rise development from the start. They see it as a threat to their neighborhood's quality of life. "The planned building would be an inappropriate, unaffordable eyesore that will raise rents, diminish the value of neighboring properties, and create horrible traffic that conflicts with Weiss Hospital's ER entrance," they state.

They feel that the current proposal is out of conformity with the uses allowed in this subarea of Planned Development 37. "There has been no community discussion or consensus building effort about turning this land into expensive rental apartments."

There have been several virtual meetings between the developers and the community.

"Our community has trusted in, and relied on Weiss Hospital for healthcare, education, and work for many decades. Donors originally assembled the land for the hospital, which had a strong mission to serve those who are underserved."

Weiss Hospital is now owned by Pipe-

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