

Music is the timeless experience  
of constant change.

— Jerry Garcia

# SKYLINE

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

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## Worst ever?

**With 18 injured, shooting outside River North lounge may be a Chicago record**

BY CWBCHICAGO

The mass shooting July 3 outside a River North lounge, which claimed 18 victims, including four fatalities, marks Chicago's deadliest shooting in at least 12 years and it may be the city's worst ever.

Drive-by gunmen opened fire on a crowd standing outside Artis Lounge, 311 W. Chicago Ave., as a record release party for rapper Mello Buckzz concluded around 11 p.m., officials said. The rapper, whose Facebook page includes references to a South Side

street gang faction, claimed that her boyfriend was one of the four people killed. No arrests have been made.

Conversations with veteran and retired first responders, along with searches of historical news reports, failed to identify any shooting in Chicago's history that claimed 18 victims.

According to HeyJackass, a website that meticulously compiles Chicago crime data from CPD reports and open-source materials, the River North shooting is the deadliest recorded since the site began operations in 2013.

Its records show the Chicago shootings with the highest number of victims since 2013 are:

- 18 shot, four fatally, following

a rapper's release party at Artis Lounge at 311 W. Chicago Ave. on July 2.

- 15 shot, none killed, at a Halloween party in the 1200 block of S. Pulaski Rd. on Oct. 29, 2023

- 15 shot, none killed, outside a funeral home in the 1000 block of West 79th St. on July 21, 2020

- 14 shot, 1 fatally, at a Halloween party in the 800 block of S. California on Oct. 31, 2022

- 13 shot, none killed, at a memorial for a murder victim in the 5700 block of South May on Dec. 22, 2019

- 13 shot, none killed, on the basketball court at Cornell Square Park, 1800 W. 51st Street, on Sept.

**WORST** see p. 12

## Chicago's debts approaching twice its budget

**Forum examined parallels between Chicago and NYC's fiscal crises**

BY JOHN HOLDEN

Fifty years ago this summer, New York City was plunged into a fiscal crisis that threatened to send America's largest municipality to bankruptcy court. A July 1 program at the Chicago History Museum revisited that fateful chapter in history, suggesting that Chicago may be on the cusp of a similar fate.

The New York saga in 1975 produced one of the most memorable newspaper front pages in American history — "Ford to City: Drop Dead" — after President Gerald Ford refused to provide the federal bailout city officials were desperately seeking. That infamous headline inspired the title of a recent documentary "Drop Dead City" which was the centerpiece of a sobering forum jointly sponsored by the Chicago Policy Forum, the Better Government Assoc. [BGA], and the Civic Federation.

"Chicago is the greatest city in America, but it is the worst governed," said Austin Berg, executive director of the Chicago Policy Forum, who moderated the discussion following the screening. His organization has been pressing for Chicago to adopt a city charter, noting that Chicago

is America's only major city without one.

This in turn has given rise to many of Chicago's governmental and fiscal problems, Berg argued.

"There are no checks and balances in Chicago government," noted panelist Joe Ferguson, former Chicago Inspector General and currently president of the Civic Federation, the city's main fiscal watchdog. Chicago "is in as bad of shape" as New York was at the time of its fiscal implosion, noted Ferguson.

He went on to list a litany of fiscal woes facing Chicago, including that the city currently dedicates more than 40% of its budget for pension fund and debt service payments, more than twice as much as any other city.

The documentary film detailed how New York City had gone on a massive spending spree and more than tripled its outlays in 10 years starting in 1963. Amazingly, the City was not keeping even basic tabs on its spending. The good times came to an abrupt halt in 1974 following the mayoral election of the hapless Abe Beame who took office just as the house of cards came crashing down.

It took years for New York City to right its fiscal ship of state and that was only after it was forced to by a financial oversight board appointed by the state and led by the legendary Felix Rohatyn, who

came to be regarded as the nation's leading guru of municipal finance.

Before it recovered, New York spun out of control with mass employee layoffs, union strikes, trash-filled streets, crime spiraling out of control, and arson fires seemingly burning down half the city.

**"There are no checks and balances in Chicago government," noted panelist Joe Ferguson, the city's main fiscal watchdog. Chicago "is in as bad of shape" as New York was at the time of its fiscal implosion, noted Ferguson.**

Noting the lack of accountability in Chicago, David Greising, president and CEO of the BGA, noted that during Chicago's fierce 2025 budget battle, Chicago aldermen sent a number of letters to Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration seeking answers to a number of questions on City finances. Their queries were never answered, said Greising.

Chicago's four pension funds collectively only have 23% of the assets needed to pay out current

**DEBT** see p. 12



The planned new Chicago Ave. Bridge.

## Multiple bridge and viaduct projects start soon, roadways closed, major traffic jams expected

The City recently announced plans for the start of construction on the Halsted Ave. viaduct, the Chicago Ave. viaduct and Chicago Ave. bridge in River North.

The project includes replacing the existing temporary Chicago Ave. bridge with a tied-arch bridge and building a new viaduct to replace the current Chicago-Halsted Viaduct.

Nearby projects expected to be under construction at the same time as this project include the replacement of the Division St. Bridges Project, Bally's Casino, Universal Horror Unleashed and Halsted Landing.

Construction on the Division St. Bridges on Goose Island are expected to share roughly the same timeline as the Chicago Ave. Bridge and Halsted viaduct projects. So getting around River

North, the Goose Island area and points west with both bridge projects under construction is likely to be very difficult in the next two years with major traffic tie-ups to be expected.

Work on Halsted Ave. is expected to begin around Aug. 1, and work on the Chicago Ave. bridge is expected to begin as soon as Sept. 1.

The construction will result in a full vehicular, bike, scooter and pedestrian closure on the Chicago Ave. bridge for a year. The City will implement detours for pedestrians, vehicles, and CTA buses during the entirety of construction.

Work on Halsted Ave. is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2026, and construction on the Chicago Ave. bridge is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

## Lincoln Park Ward Superintendent retires

As ward Superintendent, Marty Casey was an invaluable and member of the Lincoln Park community. Last week Casey retired from his post after 28 years serving Chicago residents. Casey started working for Chicago in 1997 as a motor truck driver. He then moved on to serve as the sweeper driver for the 47th Ward for six years until being promoted as the Superintendent for the 47th Ward in 2003. In 2011, Marty became the 43rd Ward Superintendent under former Ald. Michele Smith. Casey says he is looking



Ward Supt. Marty Casey with with Ald. Timmy Knudsen, [43rd].

forward to enjoying his antique cars, relaxing in the pool, and some quiet days at the beach.

## Streeterville public safety forum July 29

With community safety concerns fresh on their minds, the Streeterville community is hosting a public safety forum 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, at Northwestern Univ. Hughes Auditorium, 303 E. Superior.

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] forum will host a group of panelists including 18th District police Cmdr. Christopher Bielfeldt, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, Navy Pier Executive Director of Safety and Security Dan O'Shea, Director of Security for the Magnifi-

cent Mile Glenn White and Executive VP of P4 Security Services for Northwestern Medicine Steve Vitale.

"These are the people and organizations that are out there in our neighborhood 24/7 looking out for the safety of everyone," said SOAR's Deborah Gershbein. "This forum will give attendees an opportunity to ask questions and get answers from those who protect and serve us."

To register for the forum call 312-280-2596 or visit [www.soar-chicago.org](http://www.soar-chicago.org).

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# How do the bourgeoisie lose all semblance of manners?

*Behavior barely risen beyond the cavemen stage*



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

I'm not Nathaniel Hawthorne's Arthur Dimmsdale from "The Scarlet Letter." Nor the headmaster of a boarding school. Nor a social climbing wanna-be debutant or a character who slipped off the pages of a Jane Austen novel.

Or worst yet, a scolding Queen Camilla from you-know-where.

I'm just someone who thinks people should be able to eat in peace.

We're no longer filthy rough riders on the trails, hungry and thirsty for our vittles. We seldom have to kill for ourselves what we eat anymore.

Food of quality, or at least food of some reasoned preparation, is close by. Often at the creation of our own hands. We appear to have efficient talents enough to keep our palates satisfied, if not delighted.

Food is an industry and an achievement of some comforting domestic intelligence. Its preparation and consumption occupies a significant portion of our living. Just look at the activities of such stars as Martha Stewart, Ina Garten, Lidia Bastianich, Grant Achatz, Bill Kim and Bobby Flay.

And the timeless legacies of Julia Child, James Beard and Anthony Bourdain. Their cooking skills and kitchen creations carry us into the world of sauces, soufflés, au gratins, marinades, poaching, sautés, and expert grills.

Over time, grace and good manners have bred us into more genteel folk. After all, are modern humans not more sensitive to our environments? The intricate details of dining that go far beyond mere hygiene, but rather carry us into the cultural cuisines of far away tastes, and pantries spread across a wide spectrum from rare tenderloins and suckling ducks to roasted Bonzinos and high-end burgers, Italian beefs and a classic Chicago hot dog.

While the quality and variety of our foods has risen to fragrant heights, more and more of the behavior and manners of those consuming the vittles has barely risen beyond the cavemen stage.

There's better manners displayed among the cold beer crowds at Wrigley or Rate Fields.

Are we not appalled at the behavior of many Chicago restaurant diners, especially of my own generation, across all Zip Codes and fine tables around town?

This has pushed me over the edge.

The things that rile me the most are the frivolous, loud, rambunctious, vulgar goings-on that are supposed to pass for conversations in some of Chicago's finest eateries. Less sophisticated restaurants appear to exercise a better sense of deportment and control among diners. There's an inverse proportion here, one that appears to be far less tolerant of loud commotion and bad manners in smaller, less famous eateries. Cafes and



While the quality and variety of our foods has risen to fragrant heights in the last few generations, public behavior and manners of those dining out has barely risen since the Dark Ages.

more informal spots seem to curate atmospheres of competence and low key conversations.

The reverse seems to be the law of the land in more well-known and posh eateries.

While dining at a well-known, highly-prized restaurant, I witnessed people arriving for their reservations, taking stools at the long bar to await their companions. As more and more guests filled the bar, the level of loud talking almost became intolerable. Women especially. Hardly taking a breath while expounding. Talking, almost shouting, like they were delivering a monologue. Punctuating their talk with high school girl screams of excitement and sounds of relished delight that everyone else throughout the premises could clearly hear. Many heads turned.

Sitting and waiting, slugging on a cocktail only seemed to fuel the loud tone of their chaotic speech.

Appalling. Even as children, we never behaved so ill-mannered or poorly trained as all these corporate folk.

And when seated they only carried their poor manners to their table.

At another large round table for eight, the assembled eaters had several high-end Italian wines decanted, then turned their dining experience into something akin to being at a Bear's game. I knew one overweight banker among the six loud men and one woman. She was a squealer. All spoke mostly

at once, shouting to get their poorly rehearsed monologues heard.

They noticed my troubled stares, and kept asking if they could buy me a drink. I told them I had just called an Uber. But I did take a Limoncello.

Another desecrated sad place to endure at lunch is RL, Ralph Lauren's Bar & Grill. There, especially on Fridays, large parties of younger women from the North Shore jam around round tables where they precede to drink large amounts of wine.

Very well coiffed. Beautifully put together. Elegantly dressed.

They quickly proceed to dash any semblance of their Winnetka polish. And any semblance of their East Coast educations. Their former mentors would take a stick to these dames who have lost their debutante ways while eating and drinking. Instead giving into the wild freedom of being in the city and rubbing elbows at Ralph Lauren's dining room.

How do the bourgeoisie lose all semblance of manners? Is it just too much time spent at the country club? Or perhaps these tired souls have discovered their husbands are escorting more well-

mannered city office girls out for lunch.

I don't have the right solution. No restaurant wants to censor the behavior of paying customers. But the expectations of a semblance of decorum might be in order.

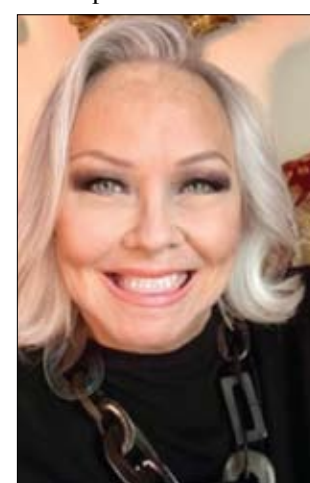
Maybe everyone needs a few lessons from the Madame's of the Sacred Heart or a stricter mentor from Country Day.

This nonsense must stop before some well-trained bus boy or server pulls the chairs out from under their derrières.

Perhaps cataloging their names and exposing this behavior on social media like X and TikTok would help? They're not doing the restaurants any favors when people go elsewhere to eat.

Jane Austen and Nathaniel Hawthorne don't look so bad.

**CHI-TOWN HONOR:** Three Chicagoans, **Archbishop Michael G. McGovern** of Omaha, **Archbishop Jeffrey S. Grob** of Milwaukee and **Archbishop Robert G. Casey** of Cincinnati,



Candace Jordan

were among those invested with the pallium by **Pope Leo XIV**, the external woolen vestment worn by residential archbishops. All began their ministry as priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

**CHICAGO HISTORY:** **Candace Jordan** is making history, announcing her personal collection

of Playboy memorabilia has been acquired by the Chicago History Museum. This marks the first time a Bunny/Playmate is featured in a major museum exhibition, celebrating her unique

**MANNERS** see p. 8

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July 12	11:00 am	Magnolia Glen Meet at Magnolia and Early
July 19	10:30 am	Discover the Art Underfoot Meet at the Osterman Beach pier
Aug. 2	11:00 am	Bryn Mawr Historic District Meet at the Edgewater Beach Apts.
Aug. 9	11:00 am	Edgewater Glen Historic District Meet at Granville and Lakewood
Aug. 24	10:30 am	Discover the Art Underfoot Meet at the Foster Ave. beach house

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# City moves ahead with hearing on Broadway upzoning, residents cite irregularities, illegalities in notices

BY BOB ZULEY

The City Council's Committee on Zoning Landmarks and Building Standards issued a meeting Agenda including notification to the recorded owners of real estate on the Authentic Tax Record of Cook County regarding the proposed upzoning of the 2.6 mile stretch of the Broadway corridor from Devon Ave to Montrose.

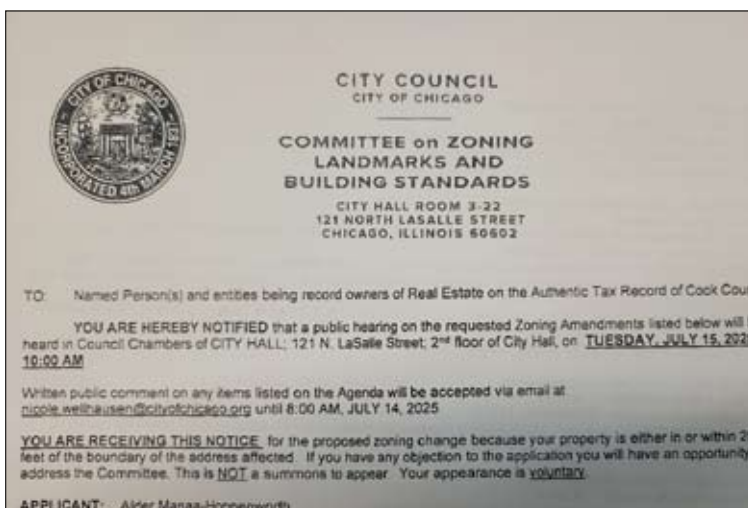
The notice was allegedly sent by the Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] to property owners if their property is either in or within 250 feet of the boundary of the address affected. This includes Broadway itself and on intersecting streets.

The notice invites property owners who harbor objections to the zoning change to personally address the Zoning Committee. The notice does not invite people who are in agreement with the zoning change to participate. Appearances are voluntary.

Written public comment on any items listed on the Agenda will be accepted via email at nicole.wellhausen@cityofchicago.org until 8 A.M., July 14.

The Zoning Committee meeting is scheduled in the City Council Chambers located at 121 N. LaSalle St., 2nd Fl., 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 15.

The Edgewater Residents for Responsible Development objects to the City's plans. Patricia



Zoning Committee Notification.

Courtesy Zoning Cmte.

Sharkey, president of the organization, in an electronic statement to this newspaper, cited glaring inaccuracies in the notification process including "extremely confusing and lack[ing] critical information like the common addresses of the properties being forcibly upzoned."

"Our position is that the City Council Committee is powerless to hold a hearing on the Broadway upzoning applications until DPD and Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth comply with the Zoning Code – that prohibition is clearly stated in the Code itself. The Committee has no authority to bend these statutory rules for a City-initiated upzoning just because DPD and three Alderpersons chose to try to forcibly upzone 2.6 miles

of properties in one swoop," Sharkey wrote.

"They can't deny due process to the property owners, businesses, and residents just for the City's own convenience. It's not only terrible public policy – it's illegal."

In closing, Sharkey wrote, "DPD and complicit Alderpersons may have gotten away with these slip-shod practices without being challenged, but in Edgewater we're not going to allow the downtown bureaucrats behind this upzoning to break the law to run over our community. We're hoping the Chairman and some other smart Alderpersons on the Committee understand they can't break the rules."

## Kennedy Expy. bridge work means I-94 ramp closures

Yes it's road construction season, and the Illinois Dept. of Transportation announced that as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of the Kennedy Expy., work has shifted on I-90/94 from the Edens Expy. south to the junction at Ohio St., after a stage change was completed Tuesday night.

The work was anticipated to be completed by 5 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, when the new traffic pattern will be in place.

The new work means that following ramps to the Kennedy will close:

- Outbound Kennedy to Augusta Blvd./Milwaukee Ave., anticipated to reopen mid-October.
- North Ave. (Illinois 64) to outbound Kennedy, anticipated to reopen early September.
- Outbound Kennedy to Armitage Ave., anticipated to reopen early September.
- Fullerton Ave. to outbound Kennedy, anticipated to reopen mid-August.
- Outbound Kennedy to Kimball Ave., anticipated to reopen mid-August.

Current ramp closures include Keeler Ave. to outbound Kennedy, which is anticipated to reopen early September; and outbound Kennedy to Kostner Ave., which is anticipated to reopen early September.

## Joint Rogers Park, Edgewater networking event July 23

Join in for a joint Edgewater and Rogers Park happy hour networking event 7 p.m. Wed, July 23 at the Hampton Inn Rooftop, 1209 W. Albion Ave.

Edgewater Chamber of Commerce and Rogers Park Business Alliance are joining forces to host this networking event. Everybody

is invited, and don't forget to bring business cards.

No cost for chamber paid members with an advance RSVP, otherwise the cost is \$20. Admission includes light bites and beverages. For more information or reservations, call 773-508-5885.

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# Pritzker sells Rogers Park portfolio for \$45M to Silver Property Group

One of Rogers Park's most well-known investors last week sold a 6-building, 263-unit Rogers Park multifamily portfolio for \$45 million to Silver Property Group, equating to \$171,000 per unit.

Jennifer Pritzker and Tawani Enterprises sold the portfolio to Silver Property Group's [SPG] Ron Abrams, an established landlord of midsize multifamily properties in Chicago. SPG owns an estimated 100 buildings in the city.

Pritzker, President and CEO of Tawani, is Gov. J.B. Pritzker's cousin. The properties include 1334 W. Morse Ave., 1337 W. Fargo Ave., 1323 W. Morse Ave., 1373 W. Greenleaf Ave., 1334 W. Lunt Ave., and 1441 W. Jarvis Ave.

A unique asset in the portfolio

is The Farcroft, 1337 W. Fargo. Mere steps from Lake Michigan, it was built about 100 years ago and was designed by a magician and architect, Charles W. Nicol. It has unique architectural flourishes including a wood burning fireplace in the lobby and a rooftop pool. Tawani completed a renovation of the property in 2013, according to TheRealDeal.com.

Abrams told reporter Emma Whalen that his firm has focused solely on Chicago since its founding 13 years ago. "I believe in Chicago, and being here and knowing all the players got us the deal and got us financing," he said. Abrams told Whalen that the financing came from JPMorgan Chase, with about 65% of the sale financed.

Securing financing in Chicago has been difficult for several

years as lenders' perception of the market has been restrained by the regions unpredictable property tax environment, unsustainable government debt and spending, and a dire political scene.

Real estate industry experts suggest that listings for larger rental properties are hitting the market now as landlords seek to test out the city's rent growth hype. Chicago rents increased 2.6% last year, which was double the national average, according to TheRealDeal. That trend is forecasted to continue due to a slow supply pipeline.

Part of the city's rent growth has been fueled by a historic lag in development. Construction deliveries are expected to fall by 40% in 2025.



The Farcroft, 1337 W. Fargo.

## Home-loan rates on a downward slide for past five weeks



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Home-loan interest rates have been on a downward slide for the past five weeks, giving Chicago-area house hunters hope for locking in affordable mortgages later this summer.

On July 3, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans nationwide averaged 6.67%, down from 6.77% a week earlier. A year ago, lenders



Borrowers who are willing to shop around and pay "points" can "buy down" their interest rate.

were quoting 6.95% on 30-year fixed loans.

"The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage decreased for the fifth consecutive week," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "This is the largest weekly decline since early March."

While declining mortgage rates are encouraging, and overall affordability challenges remain, "we are seeing more sellers enter the market giving prospective buyers an advantage," Khater said.

Freddie Mac also reported that average 15-year fixed-rate loans

declined to 5.80% from 5.89% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year loans averaged 6.25%.

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

Lenders currently are charging 6.8% on 30-year fixed-rate jumbo mortgages, and 5.83% on 10-year fixed loans. Rates on 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgages are currently 6.04%.

However, borrowers who are willing to shop around and pay

"points" can "buy down" their interest rate. For example, if you took out a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage at 6.71% last week you could easily buy the rate down to 6.5%.

A point equals 1% of the loan amount. On a \$450,000 loan, the 20% down payment would be \$80,000. A 2-point buy-down would cost about \$1,600. If your credit score is 780 or higher, the interest rate could be lower.

Experts say declining mortgage rates show the economy's surprising resilience in the face of what were predicted to be mounting

headwinds from President Donald Trump's tariffs and government job cuts.

According to the CME FedWatch, a quarter-point Federal Reserve rate cut in September is likely if President Trump eases some of his aggressive tariff measures.

However, pessimists say lingering inflation, threats of a global trade war and policy turbulence have created an uncertain economic outlook. In response, the Fed has adopted a wait-and-see approach, and left the Fed-funds interest rate unchanged this year.

High home prices and skyrocketing homeownership expenses, such as insurance and property taxes and further compounding the pressure on prospective buyers, analysts say.

The possibility of a job-loss recession is also pushing many households to tighten their budgets and take on less financial risk, although through the first half of the year our employment numbers have been strong. In June, the U.S. economy added 147,000 jobs, while the unemployment rate remained relatively stable at 4.1%.

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



Sam Khater

### Sheffield Garden Walk

The 54th Annual Sheffield Garden Walk supporting the Sheffield Neighborhood Assoc. returns Saturday, July 19 - Sunday, July 20. This event features tours of 50+ stunning gardens, live music, interactive installations, architecture tours with the Chicago Architecture Center, and a Saturday Family Fest. Event programs will be for sale at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1010 W. Webster.

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(Left) Lake Michigan's shoreline extended much further west, noted by the Abandoned Shoreline of Lake Michigan Marker. Image courtesy Waymarking.com (Center) Inside the old Wilson Ave Boat Launch. Photo by Bob Zuley (Right) Tom Skilling. Photo by Anthony Vazquez/Sun-Times

# Lake's water level has fallen 3.4 feet in cyclical pattern

**Edgewater's Tom Skilling shares his observations**

BY BOB ZULEY

Lake Michigan's water level has fallen 3.4 feet in the past five years from its June and July 2020 peak, according to longtime Edgewater resident Tom Skilling, a retired broadcast meteorologist.

Skilling retired earlier this year, but still shares his observations and photos of meteorological events on his social media page.

Though the Great Lakes still holds 21% of the world's fresh water, the 3.4 foot drop is significant. Each inch the lake falls equates to a loss of nearly 800-billion gallons of water.

The most recent report of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers puts the current Lake Michigan/Huron lake level 10 inches lower than this time last year.

Recall that in 2020, Chicagoland, and the entire Great Lakes region was in dire straights as lake levels were tipping over 100-year highs, and the wave action did broad damage along the North Lakefront.

"A combination of lower precipitation coupled with increased evaporation over winter months as a result of reduced lake



Lake Chicago was a prehistoric proglacial lake that existed in the Lake Michigan basin during the last glacial period. It was formed as the Laurentide Ice Sheet retreated, leaving behind a vast body of meltwater that over time was drained away and became the City of Chicago.

ice in warmer winter temps are among the causes of the lake level drop," Skilling

shared.

This reporter shared with Skilling his recollection of launching boats at the Lake Michigan Water Trail Launch Site [boat launch] at Wilson Ave. in the early 1980s – now one of three dog beaches in the City of Chicago. And of water inundating Sheridan Rd. and the lakefront high-rises in 1983.

"Your recollection is right on, Bob! I remember during that high end of the cycle in the mid 1980s how water would wash onto Sheridan Rod. The Corps of Engineers was called in to strategically place wave-breaking boulders in place to prevent damage to shoreline buildings up and down the Chicago shoreline."

"The ups and downs in lake levels have always been part of the scene," said Skilling. "Levels dropped after the mid '80s; increased to a peak in 2020 – and are now cycling down. They'll likely bottom out in coming years then ultimately increase again – and the cycle will continue. What's undergoing change is the frequency and amplitude of these fluctuations which im-

pact shorelines."

Skilling closed by saying that a survey of 241 lakefront municipalities in the Great Lakes Basin estimated that coastal damage from climate change "will cost approximately \$2 billion to repair over the next five years, with \$878 million already spent."

Newsman Geoffrey Baer posted a piece online on the former Wilson Ave. boat launch. Built in the 1970s, it allows drivers to back their boat-trailer into the water and un-trailer the boat before removing the car.

However, Baer reported that the designers didn't account for the water level dropping so much, so often. But the lake is at the low-level cycle leaving the end of the boat ramps high and dry, and filled with sand. It didn't have a very long life and was last used around 1988, according to Baer.

Even if lake levels were to return to 1970 levels, the boat launch would be unus-

**LEVEL** see p. 10

## West Nile virus found in Rogers Park

West Nile virus [WNV] has been detected in mosquitoes in Rogers Park. On June 30, the Chicago Dept. of Public Health Commissioner reportedly confirmed the presence of the virus in mosquitoes collected in the far North Side during a public event.

West Nile-positive mosquitoes have been found in various parts of Chicago over the last few years.

According to CDPH Public Information Coordinator Jacob W. Martin, CDPH identified a small number of WNV-positive mosquitoes in Rogers Park the week of June 23, but did not identify any in the same area the week of June 30. There have not

been any confirmed human cases of WNV in Chicago in 2025. "We are currently at a moderate risk of WNV in Chicago, so all Chicagoans, regardless of where they live in the City, should be taking precautions to protect themselves from WNV."

During a budget engagement meeting at Malcolm X College, Health Cmsr. Simbo Ige told a representative of the Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce [RPCC] that she had contacted the 49th Ward office to inform them about finding WNV in Rogers Park.

**WEST NILE** see p. 10



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# Police Beat...

## Face tats help Chicago police identify train robber (again)

A 26-year-old man with a violent criminal history and distinctive facial tattoos, including a crown and "RIP" inked on his face, is charged with aggravated robbery after allegedly mugging a passenger on an Orange Line train in the Loop, authorities said.

Leonard Johnson, a multiple-time convicted felon, was detained by Judge James Costello following a courtroom outburst where he threatened the assistant state's attorney, leading to his removal mid-hearing.

Prosecutors detailed the incident in a detention petition, stating that Johnson blocked the train door, preventing a 27-year-old passenger from exiting as the train arrived at the station around 1 p.m. June 18.

He allegedly implied he had a gun and demanded money from the victim, who handed over a \$20 bill.

But, in a surprising twist, the man reconsidered and asked if Johnson would accept a \$5 bill instead.

"You just got robbed," Johnson allegedly replied while also taking the \$5 bill.

The victim promptly contacted police, describing the robber as a man with "numerous face tattoos" featuring a crown and "RIP," according to the detention petition. Investigators used that description, combined with CTA surveillance footage, to match the robber to Johnson's old mugshots.

Last week, officers patrolling the 100 block of W. Lake St. spotted Johnson and took him into custody.

At the time of the robbery, Johnson was on pretrial release for felony retail theft. Prosecutors said he just finished parole for a 2018 carjacking in Lincoln Park. His extensive criminal record also includes convictions for violent crimes as both a juvenile and an adult, prosecutors said.

In 2018, Johnson was identified in a CTA video as the "primary aggressor" in a group that surrounded a man on the Grand Red Line CTA platform, demanded his wallet, and then tried to withdraw money from his accounts at the station's ATM. He eventually received a 3-year prison sentence.

Two years and one day after that robbery, Johnson and two accomplices carjacked a 27-year-old man in the 900 block of W. Armitage. Prosecutors said the men pulled the victim from his car, drove away with it, and then used his credit card at a gas station near Aurora. CPD detectives recognized Johnson from the store's video footage.

## Man shot, critically injured on Red Line train in the Loop

A man was shot and critically wounded while riding a Red Line

train in the Loop on July 2.

Chicago police said a 29-year-old man got into an argument and physical fight with another man on a southbound train around 4:28 a.m. The offender pulled out a gun, fired at least one shot, and fled from the Roosevelt station.

The victim also ran from the train and collapsed in the middle of Roosevelt Rd. He was taken to Stroger Hospital with gunshot wounds to his thigh and buttocks.

Officials cut off access to the Red Line at Roosevelt because the crime scene stretched from the train car, through the station, and into the street. CTA buses were being rerouted, and Red Line trains were bypassing Roosevelt while Chicago cops investigated.

An officer who reviewed surveillance video said the gunman is a Black male wearing a red baseball cap with a star on it, a pink or salmon-colored t-shirt, ripped light-colored jeans, and white gym shoes. He was last seen heading east on Roosevelt.

## Feds indict dealers after investigation targeting fentanyl, heroin, pot and cocaine

A federal investigation into fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine sales in Chicago has resulted in a grand jury returning multiple drug and/or firearm charges against six individuals.

Chicago police teamed up with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to execute the investigation, according to a source.

A superseding indictment returned in U.S. District Court in Chicago accuses the six defendants of conspiring to distribute the drugs in Chicago in 2024. Two of the defendants are charged with firearm offenses for illegally possessing semiautomatic handguns as previously convicted felons.

At the heart of the case is Kejuan "Beeda" Bryant, who allegedly orchestrated a drug market on the 1200 block of W. 73rd Place, trafficking hundreds of pounds of marijuana, the document said. Alongside him, Jamari "Skedda" Goodman, Joseph "Jody Jo" Heath, Matthew "Pooday" Furdge, Kewann "Santana" Whitaker, Igor "England" Dze, and Khiry "Ree" Strickland are accused of managing and supplying the operation, which allegedly moved large volumes of pot through the city.

Charged with drug conspiracy are Andre DeBruce, 40, of Schiller Park, Terrance Patton, 40, of Chicago, Craig Caldwell, 43, of Chicago, Timothy Belin, 48, of Chicago, Jennifer Word, 39, of Chicago, and Denomious Wells, 41, of Chicago.

Patton and Caldwell are the previously convicted felons charged with illegal firearm possession. Caldwell also faces an additional gun charge for allegedly possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking.

The charges against Caldwell carry a maximum sentence of life in federal prison, with a mandatory minimum of five years. Patton and DeBruce face maximum sentences of 40 years, with a mandatory minimum of five years. Belin, Word, and Wells each face up to 20 years, with no mandatory minimum.

Wells pleaded not guilty to the charges during his arraignment on July 1 before U.S. Magistrate Judge M. David Weisman. The five other defendants have also been arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The superseding indictment was announced by Andrew S. Boutros, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

## Taxi driver run over in downtown carjacking, charges filed

A chaotic scene unfolded in downtown Chicago July 4 when a Maywood man allegedly carjacked a taxi driver, ran him over, assaulted a woman, and fought with police officers before finally being subdued and taken into custody.



Maurice McDowell

According to Chicago police, Maurice McDowell, 43, was arrested just before midnight at 10 S. Wabash Ave. after a violent series of events that began moments earlier on the same street.

Investigators say McDowell forcibly pulled a 36-year-old taxi driver from his vehicle near Madison and Wabash, then drove over the victim with the stolen cab. He allegedly crashed the vehicle a short distance away, then attacked a 45-year-old woman on the street, striking her in the face.

Officers quickly found McDowell nearby, blocking the roadway. As they tried to arrest him, he fought back, battering officers and actively resisting before being subdued and taken into custody, according to CPD.

The taxi driver was transported to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in serious condition. The woman McDowell allegedly struck suffered minor injuries.

McDowell now faces an array of charges: attempted first-degree murder, vehicular hijacking, aggravated battery to a peace officer, three misdemeanor counts of resisting, misdemeanor assault, and misdemeanor battery.

According to court records, McDowell had two active warrants at the time of his arrest, one for misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and another for failing to appear in court late last month in a case where he is charged with driving on a revoked license following a personal injury crash.

He is scheduled to appear for a detention hearing on Monday at 26th and California.

## Cops nab violent crew suspected of at least 8 daytime robberies

Chicago police believe they have captured a three-man crew responsible for a string of violent daylight robberies that have shaken parts of the city in recent weeks.

The arrests took place July 5—just about 30 minutes before CPD issued its second community alert regarding the robbery crew, which detectives have now linked to at least eight armed holdups committed this month alone.

In each case, the offenders jumped out of a gray Infiniti Q50 and robbed pedestrians at gunpoint before fleeing, CPD said. In several cases, the robbers demanded phone passcodes and pistol-whipped the victims before fleeing.

A source familiar with the investigation said police learned the stolen Infiniti was returning to the area of Washington Blvd. and Central Ave. after each robbery spree. That intelligence prompted investigators to put extra resources in the area.

Around 1:45 p.m. Saturday, officers spotted the Infiniti with all three suspects inside and followed it for about eight minutes until the suspects bailed out near Kostner Ave. and Le Moynes St. Officers gave chase on foot and quickly apprehended all three. The driver was armed with a gun at the time of arrest, the source said.

Police impounded the Infiniti and recovered some of the robbery victims' stolen property, according to the source. Charges were pending as



Chicago police surround an SUV in the 300 block of E. Wacker Dr. on July 5. CPD believes the driver, who is in custody, shot and killed a victim on the Near North Side. Image courtesy Citizen App

## Gunman kills driver on Near North Side, crashes getaway car in the Loop

A man is in custody for a deadly shooting on Chicago's Near North Side after officers heard gunfire, spotted the suspect casually walking away with a cane, and tracked him to the Loop using surveillance cameras and license plate readers.

The shooting unfolded just before 9:50 a.m. July 5 in the 800 block of N. Cambridge Ave. A 46-year-old man, sitting inside a Chevy Suburban, was ambushed by a gunman who walked up and opened fire in broad daylight.

Officers in an unmarked CPD vehicle nearby initially mistook the gunfire for fireworks—until the victim, bleeding and desperate, drove up to them for help. Despite their efforts, the man was pronounced dead at the scene with multiple gunshot wounds to his back, police said.

As the officers looked around, they

spotted a man limping away from the area using a cane. Officers in CPD's Near North 18th District reviewed nearby camera feeds and determined the suspect fled in an Audi Q7.

Using license plate readers, police tracked the vehicle's movements into the Loop. The suspect's car became disabled after he crashed into several cars near Michigan and Wacker around 10:17 a.m., and officers quickly took him into custody. A firearm was recovered from the vehicle.

Saturday's victim is the 33rd person shot on the Near North Side this year. That includes 18 people who were wounded in a single drive-by shooting outside Artis Lounge, 311 W. Chicago Ave., on July 3.

of Sunday morning.

The most recent attack occurred just before 11:20 a.m. July 4 in the 300 block of N. Laflin St. Three victims—two men, ages 32 and 46, and a 43-year-old woman—were sitting inside a red vehicle when two masked gunmen approached.

Surveillance video captured the entire encounter: the suspects backed the Infiniti into a parking spot in front of the victims' car, then quickly emerged from the vehicle and rushed to both sides of the red car, demanding belongings at gunpoint. The assailants fled south on Laflin with stolen items. No injuries were reported.

By Saturday afternoon, Chicago police issued a second community alert, formally connecting that robbery to a growing pattern of violent thefts dating back to early Thursday.

Around 7 a.m. July 3, a woman walking in the 1400 block of W. Carroll Ave. was ambushed by three masked men who jumped out of a sedan. One of the attackers pistol-whipped her twice in the head before the group robbed her of a purse and phone.

Roughly three hours later, another robbery unfolded inside a parking garage at Rush University Medical Center, in the 1500 block of W. Harrison St. Two men, dressed entirely in black and armed with handguns, confronted two victims on the garage's ground floor and stole a Coach bag and a maroon backpack before fleeing in a car matching the description of the gray Infiniti.

The crew struck again early Friday morning. At 7:40 a.m., a man was robbed in the 1200 block of W. Carroll by three masked offenders—two of them armed—who took his valuables and drove off in a gray sedan. Just 40 minutes later, at 8:21 a.m., two masked men attempted another robbery nearby, threatening a woman at gunpoint. The woman was not harmed, and the robbers fled without taking anything.

Less than an hour later, two more robberies occurred. At 9:14 a.m., a victim was held up in the 800 block of W. Blackhawk St. Then, at 9:26 a.m., another attempted robbery was report-

ed in the 900 block of W. Weed St., near Goose Island. Both incidents involved suspects matching earlier descriptions and the same stolen gray Infiniti.

## Criminal sexual abuse in Roscoe Village

Chicago Police are warning residents about a recent criminal sexual abuse and criminal trespass that occurred at 1:30 a.m. July 6, on the 3400 block of N. Damen Ave in the Roscoe Village neighborhood.

In the incident, an unknown offender [photo below] entered a



property in the 3400 block of N. Damen without authorization. The offender then proceeded to commit criminal sexual abuse of two female victims. The offender is described as

a Black male, wearing green shorts and a black hoodie. He subsequently fled the scene.

Those who may have information on this crime may contact Area Three Detectives at 312-744-8261 or submit an anonymous tip at CPD-TIP.com and use reference RD # JJ322675.

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# Cops seize six guns, arrest 39 people at Pride Parade gathering

BY CWBCHICAGO

Police arrested 39 people in connection with the Chicago Pride Parade and its aftermath between the evening of June 29 and early June 30, including five individuals who were illegally carrying firearms, according to the Chicago Police Dept. One man charged with weapon possession was allegedly carrying two guns.

This year's arrest total is lower than the 53 arrests made last year but higher than the totals seen from 2016 through 2023. Of the 39 arrested, 13 individuals, including two juveniles, were charged with felonies, while 21 face misdemeanor charges, and one person received citations, a police spokesperson said.

The parade, which began at 11 a.m. instead of the long-standing noon start, had its route shortened by a full mile this year. Those changes were intended to reduce the parade's duration and allow CPD to deploy more officers to the chaotic street gatherings that disrupt Lakeview hours after the parade ends. The efforts to shorten the parade were effective, with this year's event lasting approximately two hours from start to finish. In contrast, last year's parade ran for nearly five hours. Excluding this year, the parade has averaged 4 hours and 18 minutes since 2016.

Facing charges for allegedly possessing firearms during the post-parade street gathering are:

- A 16-year-old boy accused of possessing a machine gun with an extended magazine. No additional details were available because he is under 18.

- Corey Jackson, 23. Prosecutors said officers stopped Jackson in the 700 block of W. Wellington after noticing the handgrip of a firearm in his front waistband around 12:55 a.m. June 30. Police allegedly recovered a loaded 9mm handgun and a pink holster. Jackson told police the firearm belonged to his girlfriend, who asked him to carry it because she couldn't fit it into her two-piece outfit, according to his arrest report. Judge Susana Ortiz denied the state's detention petition and



A crowd lingers at the intersection of Halsted Street and Belmont Avenue in Boystown hours after the conclusion of the 2025 Chicago Pride Parade.

Image courtesy CWBChicago



Top row, from left: Kamauri Clayton, Tyquon Evans, Latoya Howell, Jessie Lee, Alliyah Lucas. Bottom row, from left: Akira Moore, Jakauri Muhammad, Breahana Kirk, Corey Jackson, Maleyah Williams, Arron Wilson.

ordered Jackson released pending trial, according to court records.

- Jukauri Muhammad, 18. He is accused of possessing two firearms, both with extended magazines, during the parade afterparty in the 3000 block of N. Clark. Officers approached Muhammad around 9:30 p.m. because he was smoking a brown cigarillo that emitted the smell of burnt cannabis, according to his arrest report. Officers allegedly found the load-

ed handguns inside his backpack. Muhammad told police his uncle bought him the firearms as a gift, according to the report. Judge Ortiz rejected the state's detention petition for Muhammad and released him on an ankle monitor with a nighttime curfew.

- Arron Wilson, 18. According to his arrest report, officers were dispersing a crowd in the 3100 block of N. Halsted around 10:22 p.m. when Wilson grabbed an of-

ficer around the neck with both hands and attempted to pull the officer to the ground. Backup officers arrested Wilson, who then bit another officer on the wrist, the report said. Officers allegedly found a loaded 9mm handgun, reported stolen last year, in his bookbag during a custodial search. Prosecutors noted Wilson is on juvenile supervision for a prior gun case. Judge Ortiz ordered Wilson detained pending

trial.

- Akira Moore, 19, is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon in a vehicle. Tyquon Evans, 18, is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a laser sight, and possession of a high-capacity magazine.

Others charged with felonies include:

- Kamauri Clayton, 21, was

PARADE see p. 10



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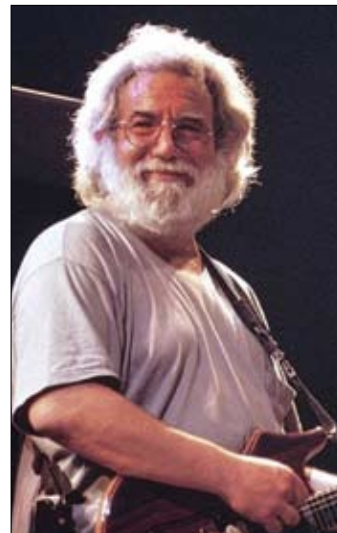
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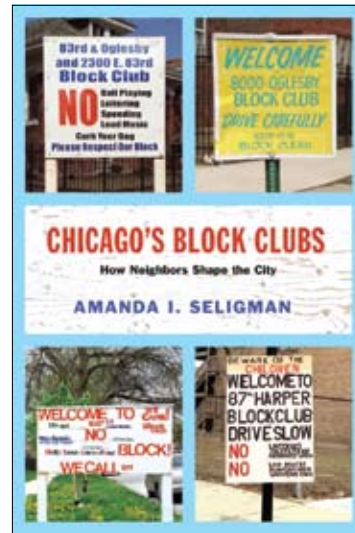
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Amanda I. Seligman's book.

**MANNERS** from p. 2

place in Chicago's rich cultural tapestry.

From the iconic Bunny suit to the vibrant stories of the women who wore it, this exhibit will shine a light on a pivotal era in the city's history, where it all began. Thank you to the Chicago History Museum for recognizing the significance of this collection and the legacy it represents. Yes, sex still sells.

**TASTY VITTLES:** Gordon Sinclair, a Chicago treasure, turned 90 and is still filled with the elegant savor faire with which he changed the way Chicago's best diners ate. What a treasure.

**OX BAR & HEARTH:** One of Chicago's most anticipated restaurant openings of the year from Alain Uy and John Asbaty is getting a name change. The restaurant formerly known as Brick and Mortar is now known as Ox Bar & Health. They occupy the location of the former popular Golden Ox. The space — across the street from the North and Clybourn CTA Red Line Stop — most recently housed Burger Bar Chicago. However, from 1921 to



Rachael Cain



Biaggio Ali Walsh and Joey Majumdar.



Alain Uy and John Asbaty.

2014, the Golden Ox called 1578 N. Clybourn home. The Golden Ox was one of Chicago's most beloved German restaurants, owned by Fred Sinn. Ownership wants to create a communal environment, remembering the past while building toward a new vision. The name is inspired by London's traditions, where the names of pubs and restaurants often include animals and paired with "symbols of comfort, craft, or place."

**DUSABLE HONOR:** Barb Bailey and Joey Majumdar are excited to be honorees for the 2025 'We Dream in Color' Humanitarian and Unity Celebration on July 19 at the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center.

**GARCIA'S:** Chicago is home to an amazing new music venue, "Garcia's Chicago," 1001 W. Washington Blvd. Named in honor of music legend Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, the club was brought to life by his daughter, Trixie, the Garcia Estate, and Peter Shapiro, the concert promoter who also

brought to life the Fare Thee Well shows at Soldier Field in 2015 to commemorate 50 years of the Dead. Go visit the club when your favorite musician plays there.

**BLOCK CLUB:** Amanda I. Seligman, author of "Chicago's Block Clubs: How Neighbors Shape the City," will address this under-appreciated aspect of Chicago politics and society 10:30 a.m. July 12 at the Edgewater Library. Just go.

**PAN AM:** Pan Am returns to the skies and will serve as the official on-the-ground partner in Ireland for Pan American World Airways' inaugural nostalgia tour: a 12-day transatlantic experience that celebrates the elegance of a bygone era. In 1963 when this reporter was just a lad we flew home to Chicago from Ireland's Shannon Airport after an adventurous summer for my first official jet flight. It was elegant. We wore blazers and striped ties.

**POLITICAL TIES:** Dan Balanoff at Athena for a wonderful evening with friends celebrating the many years of service by Democratic Committeeman Dean Maragos. Dean is like family, having grown up on the same block with the Balanoffs back in the old neighborhood. Always great catching up with my friend Patrick Hanley who's running for State Senator of the 9th District.

**SOUTHERN GOURMAND:** Ald. Pat Dowell delighted at the ribbon cutting for the new "Southern Chicago," located at 2000 S. Wabash, for Southern and Creole cuisine. Congrats to owners Troy

and Chef Xavier and for your investment in the 3rd Ward.

**TRAX RECORDS:** Irene Michaels informs us of news that Rachael Cain is the owner of the very successful record label in House Music called TRAX Records. She has hundred of artists signed to her label, Irene being one of them. They just made a movie on her life and she just had a 40th year celebration. Rachel is right here in our own Chicago and loves our city.

**GUITAR:** Karen Conti in the Gibson's Triangle celebrating the birthday of CPD Officer Danny Brown, one of Chicago's best, Bobby Tarantino wishing a Happy Birthday Blue guitar gift from his private collection to Officer Brown.

**SHAKEN NOT STIRRED:** The Drake Hotel's famed Coq d'Or has been a Gold Coast neighborhood fixture since Dec. 6, 1933. Being the second establishment to obtain a liquor license after prohibition.

**MANGE:** Rosebud on Taylor St. reopening in Chicago after closing in 2023.

**SISTERS:** Dominican Sisters Immaculate Conception Province commemorate their 100th anniversary of being in the United States with their arrival from Poland. The year-long celebration began in May.

**WHO'S WHERE:** Broadway actor Paul Schwensen in Vienna obsessed with the amusement rides at the Prater, the oldest in the world... Joey Majumdar excited being with his pal Biaggio Ali Walsh, Muhammad Ali's grand-

son, who's also a Versace model and mixed martial Art fighter. Muhammad Ali's wife, Dr. Khalilah Ali, is a great lady, joining the whole family for a joyful reunion, quite wonderful... Happy 58th Birthday CNN's Anderson Cooper... Robert Paddor's Chabad of Wilmette arranged a day trip to NYC to see religious sites in Queens and Crown Heights with their first stop at the Ohel, the burial grounds of the Rebbe, OBM... Donna Black Miller, Sonni Choi Williams, Precious Brady-Davis and Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg proud to stand together as women leaders at the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' meeting... Julia Jacobs and pals celebrating Tammy Kohl with Irene Michaels, Tricia Roberson, Robin Hansen and Irene Mojica... Adam Umbach says official signs of summer are finally here with new paintings arriving in Nantucket... Pennie Taylor and Eamonn Cummins at the Millennium Art Festival at the booth of pal, artist Jason Bishop with Stacy Adams... Happiest of Birthdays to Chicago's sweetheart, Shelly Zucher, lapping up exquisite pastry celebrating 85 years.

**BUNKER HILL:** 250 years ago, the Battle of Bunker Hill, fought on June 17, 1775, primarily on Breed's Hill in Charlestown, Massachusetts demonstrated early on the colonist resolve to fight and oppose the king.

**THE EDGE:** Thousands of new citizens have been conferred with Irish citizenship recently. Among those is 63-year-old David Howell Evans, who many know as The Edge from U2. Born in Essex to Welsh parents, The Edge has lived in Ireland since the age of one. "The time is right. And I couldn't be more proud of my country for all that it represents and all that it is doing," The Edge told reporters.

On that spot, in very truth, there was, and there had long been, the gnawing and poisonous tooth of bodily pain.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

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# Shark curious in Chicago

**JAWS' 50th Anniversary celebration July 19**

Get scared, get out of the water, and then get informed. One of America's greatest summertime frightfest films is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

JAWS kept people out of the water back in 1975 and the Illinois Science Council is celebrating those irrational fears by hosting a full-length screening of the iconic film JAWS, 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 19, at the Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.

The viewing is free to the general public with registration at [JAWS.eventbrite.com](https://www.jaws.eventbrite.com).

As scientists, the hosts will provide a special science feature -- a Q&A with two shark researcher biologists who will inform guests about their real-world research and answer questions about what the film

got right, wrong, and terribly wrong.

Let yourself get scared, and then get curious to learn about shark science with speakers Steven Kessel, Shedd Aquarium Director of Marine Research, who oversees marine research projects protecting economically important species in addition to conducting his own original research on Caribbean shark species; and Kevin Feldheim, Field Museum Manager of the Pritzker Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Evolution.

The release of Jaws was an instant summer blockbuster movie that set attendance records, established Steven Spielberg as a director, used captivating film technology, and scared many, many people across the nation away from beaches.

## Letters to the Editor

### Right on target

Mr. O'Gorman, thank you for your wonderful editorial in the June 18 newspaper on the bicycle terrorists. The lawless bicycles, scooters, and non-plated electric motorcycles are making driving and walking hazardous.

Our elected officials can't say no. They have destroyed retail streets by putting in bike lanes that are unused the majority of the day and year. I wanted to let you know you are right on target.

Mike Hand  
Lakeview

### Supply and demand could drive down rents

Your July 2 article on high rents misses something crucial.

First, kudos - underinvestment in the South and Southwest sides is terrible, and you are right to bring it up. Thank you.

But your only referencing to loosening zoning laws on the North Side misses the point. Some people, myself among them, enjoy living in dense, amenity rich neighborhoods, and we pay a premium to do so.

You characterize it as a reaction to disinvestment in low density neighborhoods, which is where you're off the mark. We simply don't want to live in low density areas, be they in Englewood or Kenilworth. We see single family home zoning as a bane, not boon to our quality of life, and thank government for getting out of the way.

Your article describes taxes as the primary driver of high cost of renting. Please consider that restrictive zoning drives up the cost of real estate. If we simply built more homes where people want to live, principles of supply and demand suggest costs would come down.

Carl Beien  
Lincoln Square

### City must address our highly dangerous conditions

I appreciated your [June 25] story regarding the problem of scooters. While it appears to be a positive development that the City is looking to increase the rules and enforcement, I remain skeptical that they will really do so.

There are other related issues that are extremely dangerous and only getting worse. I have been a daily bicycle commuter from Lincoln Park to the Loop (and back) for the past 30 years. While the protected bike lanes are certainly an improvement there are some real problems starting with the ridiculous two-way bike lanes on Dearborn through the heart of the Loop. They are too narrow for two-way bike traffic and with the fast moving power assist and electric bikes it is extremely dangerous.

Many of those electric bikes are more like electric motorcycles and should not be in the bike lanes at all. Some of them travel

### Smoke out the snakes

This summer, at block parties, neighborhood festivals and potlucks, you are going to be confronted by snakes.

No not the cute green ones in the garden that eat mice. The smarmy spray-on tan looking ones that returned from Springfield. Your local state reps and senators.

Like the drunk suburban warriors who invade the lakefront every summer, our state officials crawl back on their bellies. Trying to sneak into town, hoping we don't notice the damage they did.

You can recognize them by their bleached teeth, faux sympathy and odor of Walgreens-bought Jean Nate knock off cologne.

They won't even show up with a dish for the potluck. They're here to schmooze and tell you all the great things they have been doing in Springfield.

But all they have been doing is raising your taxes to pay for our bloated bureaucracy. Watch how much more gasoline, natural gas and electricity cost your family. Look for new surcharges on deliveries and services, for cable TV and streaming, internet gaming, food and beverages. They won't brag about what they did to those who haul the food to Jewel, Trader Joe's or Aldi, as higher fuel, insurance and tolls add on to what we are charged at the grocer.

No effort whatsoever was expended to cut taxes, cut waste, fraud and corruption or expand school choice for our children.

Don't let them blow smoke in your faces. No, you light up a cigar and blow smoke their way, and then tell them you buy your tobacco tax-free, from reservation lands stolen from the Potawatomi tribe.

Mike Sullivan  
Avondale

well over 20 MPH and should be in the regular traffic lanes. Furthermore, there are several very dangerous conditions on Dearborn where there is no left turn signal such as at Grand and at Huron streets. Cars turning left do not look to check for on coming bikes that clearly have the right of way.

All intersections with one-way streets going west, should have a left turn signal synchronized with the bike lane and pedestrian signal as exists at many other intersections. The main issue is that someone in the City administration must address these highly dangerous conditions before there are more terrible injuries. Someone is going to get killed if they haven't been already.

Thomas Harboe  
Lincoln Park



Image courtesy Candice Jordan

## Venetian Night on Chicago Riverwalk July 26

Since 1958, the Chicago River and Monroe Harbor have transformed into a celebration of music, light, and Venetian elegance for Venetian Night Chicago. This year's annual summer event will feature a parade of illuminated boats and live music starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, July 26, along Chicago's Riverwalk.

Anything that floats becomes a canvas for dazzling light displays, capturing the beauty and grandeur of Venice's iconic canals.

While there are many areas along the Riverwalk to enjoy the spectacle with lawn chairs and picnic baskets, there will also be an area on the Riverwalk for VIP seating and a buffet meal. The Riverwalk will be filled with themed decorations, Italian-inspired food and drinks, and a lively, celebratory atmosphere.

Because so many people prefer to ride

on a boat rather than attend as a spectator, visitors can expect a large number of boats to be on the river that night. The organizers have also secured 17 party boats for guests to use. The main event is always the decorated boat parade, which starts at 8:30 p.m. Each vessel — be it a private yacht, a vintage Duffy, or a modest pontoon — is a floating canvas, aglow with handcrafted lanterns, fairy lights, and themes ranging from Venetian masquerade to Broadway glamour.

Cash prizes are awarded for the best decorated boats.

Live entertainment starts at 6 p.m., with strolling musicians as they promenade along the river. The main stage will come alive with performances from some of Chicago's most talented musicians and vocalists, all set against the backdrop of stunning Venetian costumes.

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# Lake safety tips for pets

Hanging out on a beach, or cruising on Lake Michigan makes for a nearly perfect summertime outing — and having your pet by your side makes the day even more special. However, because lakes, streams and ponds can be dangerous places for pets, owners should come prepared for the unexpected.

The two most well-used dog beaches on the North Side are at Montrose Beach and in Belmont Harbor. Montrose Dog Beach is on the north end of Montrose Beach and is the first legal off-leash dog beach in Chicago. This beach is quite big and has a chain-link fence, but this does not fully enclose the dog-friendly area since the fence is subject to changes in the natural environment.

Belmont Dog Beach is a much smaller, fenced space located at Hawthorn Pl. and the lakefront. As it is part of the harbor, there is

a big drop-off just offshore.

Before allowing a pet access to a large body of water, owners should assess the water quality in case of accidental consumption. Dr. Erin Ray, of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, explains the precautions to take when on the water with your pets.

“[We should] discourage pets from drinking lake water as much as possible, as parasites, trash, contaminants, and even certain algae can be in the water,” Ray said. “Researching the area, checking social media, or even calling the area officials to inquire about current conditions is always a good idea.”

Certain algae known as blue-green algae can be very dangerous and difficult to see with the naked eye. “Blue-green algae is a cyanobacteria that creates toxins that can affect the liver and neurological system. Dogs get infected

by drinking or swimming in affected waters,” warns Ray.

These algae bloom most commonly in stagnant, shallow, warm water and produce some toxic substances. It takes a very small amount of the toxins to cause serious illness or death in a dog. So when your pet is in the water, it is best to avoid stagnant water and water with obvious algae blooms on the surface. It takes a very small amount of toxins to cause serious illness or death in a dog.

The toxins cause a range of

symptoms, including bluish mucus membranes (gums and inside the nose), vomiting, muscle rigidity, seizures, and liver failure. Because the effects are so serious, many state agencies have monitoring programs for public recreational water locations and post announcements about blue-green algae on their websites.

In addition to checking the safety of the area, owners should also pack pet care essentials to keep pets safe during a boat adventure. That should include a

water bowl and fresh water, and a life jacket if your pet is not a good swimmer.

When the swimming is over, dry your dog well, especially any skin folds and the ears, to avoid inflammation or infection. There are many tiny organisms living in fresh water, and if they get stuck in an ear, they can cause infections. If your dog gets ear infections after swimming, ask your veterinarian about a medicated cleanser that can help prevent problems.

## LEVEL from p. 5

able. A sticking point now is the curved concrete pier down at the south end of Montrose Beach. It traps sand, and while it keeps the beach sandy, it also traps sand inside the boat launch. Using the boat launch again would require annual dredging or constructing breakwaters extending into the lake for several hundred feet.

Joel Brammeier of the Alliance for the Great Lakes said that while we don't have enough data to definitively link the cyclical

lake levels to climate change, he said Lake Michigan's water level has remained relatively stable within a six-foot range for the last 2,000 years.

But it's also worth noting that 8,000 to 13,000 years ago, Lake Michigan was much larger, and the lands we now live on were transitioning from frozen wastelands into wetland swamps, ponds and lagoons. Lake Michigan reached its modern level about 4,000 years ago.

As the climate changed, the mile-tall ice shelf of the last great

ice flow of the Pleistocene period melted. As the glacier retreated, it left behind sandy beach ridges we still see remnants of today.

There is a historical marker in southern Lincoln Park, entitled Abandoned Shoreline of Lake Michigan, that notes that ancient western shoreline. The marker notes the area's geological history. The retreating shoreline left an area abounding in swampland, rivers, and creeks used by Native Americans and later European and American fur trappers.

## WEST NILE from p. 5

RPCC President Bill Morton held a press conference July 4 at Leone Beach Park to inform the community about what their staff heard from the CDPH.

While no human cases have been reported, the discovery of infected mosquitoes indicates an

increased risk of WNV transmission. There are no vaccines nor medicines for WNV.

WNV is a mosquito-borne disease. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and in some cases, meningitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord) and encephalitis (inflammation of the

brain). Severe illness can occur in about one in 150 people and is most likely to occur in people over age 55 or with weakened immune systems.

In Illinois, 69 confirmed human cases of WNV and 13 human deaths were reported last year. The highest number since 17 deaths were recorded in 2018.

## PARADE from p. 7

charged with aggravated battery of a peace officer for allegedly punching and spitting in the face of a sergeant in the 3200 block of N. Sheffield around 11:09 p.m.

- Latoya Howell, 44, was charged with aggravated battery of a peace officer and assault. Police said officers were moving a crowd toward the Belmont CTA station on orders from CPD Supt. Larry Snelling around 11:37 p.m., but Howell refused to comply. She allegedly struck an officer in the face multiple times, cutting the officer's face with her fingernails, according to her arrest report.

- Breahana Kirk, 30, was charged with aggravated battery of a peace officer, resisting, and

reckless conduct. She is accused of becoming “irate, belligerent, and aggressive” toward officers attempting to move a crowd west on Belmont Avenue from Clark Street around 1:38 a.m. June 30, records show. She allegedly struck an officer in the face, causing his glasses to fall to the ground.

- Alliyah Lucas, 21, was charged with three counts of aggravated battery of peace officers and resisting. Police said she threw a plastic cup containing “an orange liquid substance, suspected to be alcohol” at an officer in the 1000 block of W. Belmont around 6:18 p.m. The liquid allegedly splashed one officer's face and struck another officer in the face and arm.

- Maleyah Williams, 18, was

charged with aggravated battery of a peace officer and resisting. She was also cited for drinking alcohol to a minor. A CPD officer said they saw her carrying an open bottle of tequila in the 3200 block of N. Clark around 6:21 p.m. and ordered her to pour it out. She allegedly flung the tequila onto a cop's pants and pushed the officer “in an attempt to defeat the arrest.”

- Jessie Lee, 28, was charged with two counts of aggravated battery of peace officers, resisting, disorderly conduct, and obstructing identification.

- A 17-year-old boy was charged with aggravated assault of a peace officer. No additional details were available due to his age.

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The judgment amount was \$163,254.27 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</p>	<p>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. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS &amp; ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-24-03724. 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. 14-24-03724 <b>Case Number: 2024CH05935</b> 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. 8231-953540</p> <p>090909 .....</p> <p>020202 .....</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Plaintiff vs. JULIE FOX APPOINTED SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WILLIAM B. WOJTAS (DECEASED); CASA BONITA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGA-</p>	<p>TEES 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. 407-730-4644. LL131412 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com <b>13268745</b></p> <p>252525 .....</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices.</b> <b>We'll Run Your Ad</b> <b>For 3 Consecutive Weeks</b> <b>For Only \$150.00.</b> <b>Call 773-465-9700</b></p>

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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

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3495C- Pesky, Angie  
4485G- Reynoso, Joseph  
3385D- Williams, Tim  
for public sale.  
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## Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

### Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Plaintiff vs. Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Minnie Clarke; Kaye Clarke Barrett aka Kaye Toland; Tina Clarke aka Tina Bluit; Damon Ritenhouse as Special Representative of Minnie Clarke; Parvenu Condominium Association; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Karen Lee; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Krista Ellen Landrebe; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants; Defendant 22 CH 7915 CALENDAR 59 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 12, 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. 14-17-203-024-1066. Commonly known as 1000 W. LELAND AVENUE, Chicago, IL 60640.

### Real Estate For Sale

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, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563. (630) 453-6960. 1446-186160 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION [intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com) 13269237

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## North Township Real Estate For Sale

### Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, vs. XIAOLEI LU; SHANSHAN YU; CARL SANDBURG VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION NO. 2; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants. 1455 N Sandburg Ter, Chicago, IL 60610 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 5/15/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on August 20, 2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 1455 N Sandburg Ter, Chicago, IL 60610 Property Index No. 17-04-207-086-1417 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$148,850.24 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 or 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 admon-

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## North Township Real Estate For Sale

### Real Estate For Sale

ished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Robertson Anshutz Schneid Crane & Partners, PLLC (561) 241-6901 please refer to file number 24-220607. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com). Attorney File No. 24-220607 Case Number: 2024CH07241 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. 13268545

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A generation which ignores history has no past — and no future.  
— Robert A. Heinlein



**Newberry Library exhibition looks at our relationship with the birds**

For centuries, humanity has had a complex relationship with birds, which have often been seen as resources to be eaten or exploited, or pests and impediments to progress as threats to well-being. Birds have been a source of inspiration and meaning across eras and cultures.

At the same time, science and thinkers have made efforts to study, depict, and classify birds as a means toward better understanding the cosmos.

The Newberry Library in partnership with the Field Museum is hosting a free exhibition, *Winging It: A Brief History of Humanity's Relationship with Birds*, which shares examples from the Newberry's collection and how birds persist today oftentimes in spite of encroachment on their land, water, and air. The exhibit is open now through Sept. 27 at the library's Hanson Gallery, 60 W. Walton St.

The exhibition will also look at the evolution of conservation in the United States and the troubling history that led to multiple extinctions. For more information, call 312-943-9090.

On Aug. 21 they will host a 6 p.m. screening of *The World of Monty and Rose*, a 2021 documentary film that tells the story of a pair of federally endangered Great Lakes Piping Plovers as they attempt to nest on Montrose Beach, one of the busiest stretches of beach in Chicago.

**WORST** from p. 1

19, 2013

Since 2013, the city has seen several events with more than four people murdered, the site's records show:

- 6 were killed, 5 by stabbing and one by gunshot, when a man murdered his family after robbing them in the 5700 block of S. California on Feb. 2, 2016
- 5 were fatally shot during a suspected home invasion in the 100 block of E. 105th St. on Dec. 17, 2016
- 5 were fatally shot by a neighbor who entered their apartment in the 6700 block of W. Irving Park Rd. on Oct. 12, 2019
- 8 people were shot, 5 fatally, during a party inside a home in the 6200 block of S. Morgan on June 15, 2021

**Owners of lounge linked to 18-person mass shooting were 'dishonest' with the city**

The alderman who represents much of River North is pulling no punches after 18 people were shot outside a "lounge" in the neighborhood late Wednesday, saying the owners of the venue were "dishonest with the city" about their plans for the storefront, which was the site of another mass shooting in 2022.

Four people died in the drive-by shooting that targeted a crowd gathered outside Artis Lounge after a BYOB record release party by rap artist Mello Buckzz. Shell casings from three different calibers were found at the scene, an indication that at least three people were probably firing shots, according to an internal CPD bulletin obtained by this reporter.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office identified the slain victims as Leon Andrew Henry, 25, Aviance King, 27, Taylor Walker, 26, and Devonte Williamson, 23.

Mello Buckzz, the rapper, claimed on social media that one of the slain men was her



Chicago Police investigate Artis shooting. Photo courtesy Tyler Pasciak LaRiviere/Chicago Sun-Times via AP

boyfriend, writing, "I dont wish this typa pain on nobody. dam my fu\*\*ing crew.... I'm so so sooo sorry"

Elsewhere on social media, though, her Facebook page openly refers to a street gang faction known as No Limit Muskegon Boys. CWBChicago reported that an internal Chicago police document said investigators believed the motive was "possibly gang related." A nearby surveillance camera captured video and audio of the shooting.

Cook County Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$10,000 for information that leads investigators to the responsible parties. Tips can be provided anonymously at 1-800-535-STOP or at CPDTIP.com

CPD Supt. Larry Snelling said he issued a summary closure notice that will keep

Artis Lounge closed until a full review of its operations is complete.

The business opened just a few weeks ago, with its owners promoting it as a "safe space" and "proudly Black-, Brown-, Queer-, and Women-owned. In a statement posted on Instagram, lounge management said "an act of violence occurred within the vicinity of our restaurant— and it shook us deeply."

"This moment is painful," the outlet's statement said, "but it only strengthens our commitment to holding space for those who need it most."

Artis' management may be getting ahead of itself because local Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] wants them to close permanently, and he is publicly claiming that they misled the city about their true intentions for the space.

"Despite early assurances from the new restaurant owner that this venue would support local artisans, foster inclusivity, and serve as a hub for connection, creativity, and joy – the owners decided to turn over their venue to promote a new rap album release," Reilly wrote in a statement distributed to his constituents.

In 2022, the space occupied by Artis operated under different ownership as Hush nightclub. Its' run ended when the city forced it to close in the wake of a mass shooting that left three injured and one dead in Nov. 2022.

Artis is the second business to occupy the space, which also sat vacant for extended periods, since Hush folded.

"This terrible, tragic incident is just the latest reminder that we need real reforms to our liquor licensing process and regulations to finally address this longstanding gap in city code that puts our neighborhoods at risk," the alderman added.

**DEBT** from p. 1

pension obligations, Ferguson noted. That number was at 28% just a year ago.

Further, Ferguson noted that the recent Illinois General Assembly is further piling on the problem by continuing to add pension sweeteners for Chicago cops. That bill is currently awaiting the signature of Gov. JB Pritzker.

Ferguson noted that another recession might be enough to tip Chicago's pension funds into insolvency. "We are not clawing our way back."

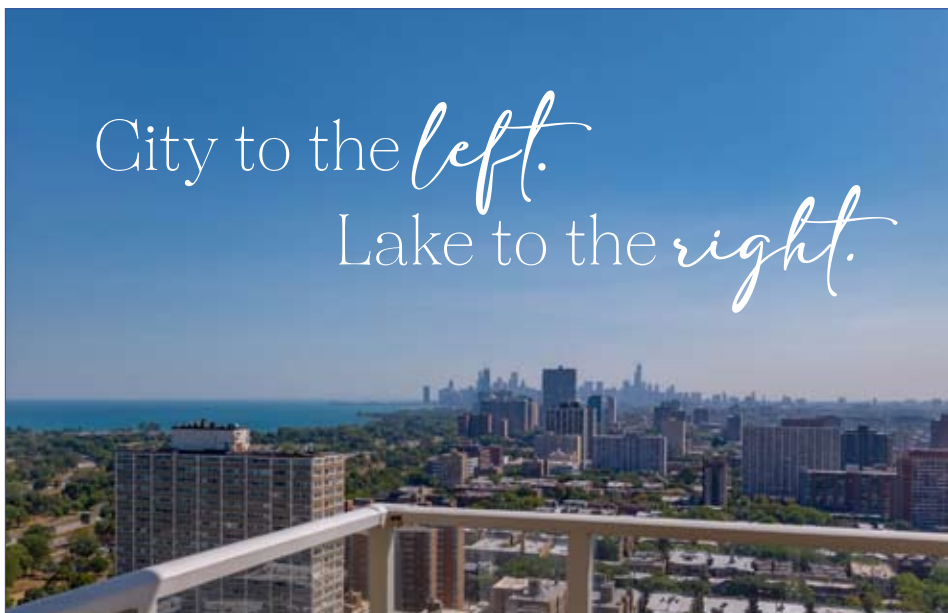
Generally speaking, it is very difficult for cities to file for bankruptcy. To date, Detroit is the only major city in the country to have done so in 2013. At that time, the Motor City's total debts were roughly six times greater than its total budget. During the worst of its fiscal crisis, New York's total debts were only about 125% of its budget. Chicago's debts are approaching twice its budget. "Chicago has more pension debt than 43 states," Berg added.

Ultimately, New York's crisis was avert-

ed only after President Jimmy Carter had agreed to guarantee the City's debts. Such a solution is not likely to be available to Chicago under President Donald Trump. Chicago is "literally getting a drop dead from Washington every day now," noted Ferguson.

**Noting that another recession might be enough to tip Chicago's pension funds into insolvency. "We are not clawing our way back," said Joe Ferguson.**

Among the 200 attendees at the program was Donald Haider, former Chicago budget director and retired Northwestern Univ. professor of finance, who noted that Illinois' strained finances also make it an unlikely savior for Chicago. "The State of Illinois can also be locked out of the financial markets."



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