

‘Reformers’ want to end most police traffic stops. Here’s what that could mean for you — and for armed criminals

STORY AND PHOTO
BY CWB CHICAGO

With the ShotSpotter gunfire detection system soon to be removed from Chicago’s streets, so-called “reform” activists are turning their attention to another tool police find useful: traffic stops.

Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx said in May that her office is developing a policy not to prosecute gun, theft, and drug charges stemming from certain traffic stops. Foxx said her staff would refuse to file charges in most cases if evidence was found during a traffic stop for missing license plates, expired registrations, and other minor infractions. She called the anticipated change “a public safety enhancement effort.”

“Armed with data, armed with the knowledge that these stops have not significantly or in any way reduced violence in our city, [my office] decided that it was time to look at this issue and see if we could model a best practice



Chicago police officers conduct a traffic stop in Lakeview in Feb. 2020.

Kim Foxx said her staff would refuse to file charges in most cases if evidence was found during a traffic stop for missing license plates, expired registrations, and other minor infractions.

that we’ve seen in other jurisdictions,” Foxx told the Sun-Times.

One person who thinks Foxx is on the wrong road with her traffic stop idea is retired Riverside Police Chief Tom Weitzel.

“I have stated my entire career

that if you want to change the law, then go to Springfield and lobby for an actual change in the criminal statutes,” Weitzel said. “She is just trying to use her ‘prosecuto-

‘REFORMERS’ see p. 12

Court rules condo board breached fiduciary duty by not telling owners of rule change

In 2017, Pat Cohen lost a condo board election by one vote because a unit owner had not been told of new rules regarding units owned through a land trust. In 2019, she lost to a candidate who died on election day.

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

The Illinois Appellate Court has ruled that a Gold Coast condominium association breached its fiduciary duty of candor by changing rules of voting eligibility in condo board elections but not sharing the rule change with unit owners.

Pat Cohen, a unit owner and former board member, filed a lawsuit in 2018 against the 175 East Delaware Place Homeowners Association, its board of directors, and Barry Bowen, president of the 48-member board.

The 703-unit HOA is located at John Hancock Center. Board members serve two-year terms, staggered so that 24 board members are elected every year.

Cohen’s lawsuit was over the 2017 board election in which she was a candidate running for re-election. She amended her complaint in 2019 to include a dispute over the 2019 election.

Cohen lost the lawsuit but appealed to the Illinois Appellate Court, which partially reversed the judgment.

In the 2019 election, with candidates running for 24 seats on the board, Cohen says she received the



The John Hancock Center, 875 N. Michigan Ave.

25th highest number of votes and should have been elected when one of the winning candidates, Stefan Edlis, died on election day.

BREACHED see p. 12



The JW Marriott Chicago Hotel at 151 W. Adams St. is now up for sale, after a lender foreclosed on the hotel property two years ago.

JW Marriott Chicago hotel for sale after foreclosure, default on \$204M loan

The 610-room JW Marriott Chicago Hotel at 151 W. Adams St. is now up for sale, after a lender foreclosed on the hotel property nearly two years ago.

According to Crain’s Chicago, Miami-based special servicer Rialto Capital, representing the note-holders, has hired JLL brokers to sell the 12-story hotel at a time when Chicago’s hospitality industry is starting to recover from the government-imposed pandemic lockdown and economic crash.

The hotel was previously owned by a venture of Orlando-based Estein USA, which defaulted on a \$203.5 million loan in 2022, that triggered the foreclosure.

While Crain’s says the asking price has not been disclosed, the hotel was appraised at \$228 million a few months ago. If the hotel sells for close to that amount, it would mark the highest price per room [\$370,000] for a Chicago hotel in over two years, second only to the St. Regis Chicago on the Chicago River which sold for \$700,000 per room.

Chicago’s summer event sea-

son was crucial in Chicago’s 2023 recovery from the pandemic lockdown, which caused downtown foot traffic and leisure travel to plummet. Through the first half of last year, hotel revenue reached a record high of \$1.12 billion, up 24% from the same period in 2022, according to data from Choose Chicago. Room demand totaled 1.56 million halfway through last year, marking a 28% year-over-year increase.

Selling the JW Marriott right now may prove challenging due to high interest rates. Hotel sales in the Chicago area dropped by 60% last year, compared to 2022. The sales decline surpassed the national drop of 47%.

Situated near LaSalle St., the hotel’s location works in its favor, where City Hall is dropping \$151 million in taxpayer cash to convert vacant office space into apartments. Additionally, Google is rehabbing the James R. Thompson Center into its new Midwest headquarters.

Housed in a historic building

FOR SALE see p. 12

1000+ teens coming Downtown July 13

The organization My Block My Hood My City [MBMH] is hosting a citywide event to bring 1,000 youth, ages 13-22, to explore downtown Chicago on July 13. Each participant will receive a \$50 visa card to navigate the city.

MBMH is seeking funds to help make this day possible. Donations will provide these \$50 cards and support a day full of discovery and fun for youth.

To kick off Downtown Day right this year, they’re also host-

ing a Partnership Breakfast on July 13, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Capital One Cafe celebrating the partnerships. They are now opening up this breakfast to the public.

Opening remarks will be made from MBMH founder and CEO Jahmal Cole, with additional stories from youth, and key Downtown Day sponsors. For more information writ to donors@mbmhmc.com.



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Could Washington learn something from past Chicago politicians?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Did you watch the last presidential debate?

I hope so. That's the only way you qualify as a true disgruntled follower of the campaign, and an American political critic in the vein of Donna Brazile, Bob Woodward, Maya Harris, Linda Chavez, Valerie Jarrett, Rich Lowry, Ari Shapiro, Eric Cantor, Bay Buchanan and Sean Spicer.

You may spot your favorite political pundit among that crowd of professional political talkers. Yes, they are all on the "A-list" of Washington DC party invitations. They are political "influencers."

With some grounding in reality, their words and ideas often make sense. All have earned their bread and butter through some fiscal aspect of American politics. Their political office, or their column, their time at the White House, their insider's New York Times best seller, their Ivy League faculty status, rarified blog, some PBS appearances or membership on the strategy teams attempting to shape American foreign policy or economic plans. Or efforts to just sell newspapers. Bob Woodward even chased down Nixon's lawlessness at the birth of Watergate with Carl Bernstein tagging

along.

Of course sometimes they are too smart for their own britches.

You see, if you didn't watch or listen to the debate, how will you be able to honestly repeat your high volume-criticism of presidential policies and personalities?

Otherwise you are just one more uninformed, ill-educated, complaining American political lightweight. Regurgitating, I suspect, the script of the loony liberal left or the psychotic strategy of the right-wing.

I've actually known some profoundly influential American political philosophers and thinkers. Political "doers." People of reasoned intelligence and balanced emotional integrity. People of expansive capacities to place political theories in balance. Examining the full scope of American needs and necessities. People who have real experience.

During my two decades at Chicago City Hall I learned a lot about politics on the third floor. Stuff I couldn't find in books, how deals are done on the fifth floor.

The kind of intuitive understanding that was always a distinguishing trait of Chicago politics and its elected leaders. It flowed from the characters of Aldermen Hinkey Dink Kenna and Bathhouse John Coughlin, Dorsey Crowe, Tom Keane, Paddy Bauler, Vito Marzullo, Bill Dawson, Matthew Danaher, John S. Boyle, Frank Corr, Joseph Rostenkowski, Casimir Laskowski and Roman Pucinski, to name but a few.

It wasn't a complicated formula. Pure practical equations of human life. The living politics of everyday living. Until recently, no

one in America did it better than Chicago politicians and Chicago citizens.

Here on the expanse of the Prairie, Chicagoans, historically, faced a similar expansive political experience. Wide. Flat. Geographically rich terrain that lifted high everything Chicagoans pursued.

Ironically at the very center of the nation where all the waterways, planes and trains met. The middle of America geographically and psychologically. Nature itself was a constant companion, along with the openness that carried its own special sense of the American ideal. No wonder transportation on the water, on the rails, on the cattle trails to the stock yards were such transformative and innovative experiences.

Our openness was even the reason our architecture worked and rose so high.

Chicago lacked the tight-fitting stranglehold that so many overcrowded Eastern cities experienced. Cities all older than Chicago. Less measured than Chicago. For Chicago was a city that kept reinventing itself, always finding new ways to expand and grow. It's why immigrants felt welcome, less impoverished. There was room for everyone. And employment for all.

So it is quite natural that the political organizations that evolved within Chicago's successful development would be reflective of the savvy endeavors of everyday Chicago life. It's why we see such acute, astute political professionals evolve from the soul of Chicago. You don't have to look very long to see what kind of politico fits so well into Chicago's hands-on psyche.

Look at our first mayor, William Butler Ogden, and the powerhouse, later, that was Long John Wentworth. Not to mention "Foxy Eddie" Cullerton, the ancestor of the expansive Cullerton Family. He entered the political scene in the era right after the American Civil War. Possessed of wide experience as an Irish immigrant, but living through that experience helping others like himself sort out what it meant to be in America. And have the stunning luck to be in Chicago.

This was home to Mayor Levy Boone, whom President Abraham Lincoln, himself, pardoned for some Civil War gaffe. Mayor Joseph Medill elected on the "Fire Proof Ticket," whose progeny served in the U.S. Senate and married into the historic McCormick Family. Medill became mayor in the aftermath of the Great Fire of 1871. Chicago's worst disaster and most fortuitous moment in our history. The Fire changed us forever. Physically. Psychologically. Politically.

Post-Fire mayors like Monroe Heath, Thomas Hoyne and Carter Harrison III demonstrated that Chicago had evolved with a fresh, new, political self-awareness. A profound moment as the city was then only 40 years old. But it was the fastest growing city in the world. Every 10 years Chicago's population doubled. (Today it shrinks.)

Mayor Harrison was assassinated in 1893 on the eve of the closing of the World's Columbian

Exposition. A whole new genre of politico would succeed in that office through the next century. Men of sharp political wits. Reasoned political notions and dedication to the needs of Chicagoans.

This catapulted many into the national political spotlight. Their influence spilled far beyond the borders of Chicago. Men like Mayor Ed Kelly would exercise enormous national political leverage. Especially with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who served an unprecedented four terms. Three and four directly linked to Mayor Kelly's political leadership.

Imagine anyone but Roosevelt as president during the rough days of World War II.

I am reminded, having watched the recent debate, that President Roosevelt had been confined to life in a wheel chair from Polio. Yet his being lifted in and out of his chair and carried in the arms of the Secret Service was never photographed in the press.

His rapidly aging condition was seldom criticized or publicly scrutinized or the cause of hand-ringing. Even his death in office was handled with kindness and sympathetic discretion. Without any of the needless intrusive spying, photo ambushes, insensitive innuendo or displays of agism so much in vogue today. All a part of today's media's useless distorted displays of half-truths, political errors and flagrant maneuvering with political falsehoods and journalistic lies.

Ultimately it is America that is cheated by the poor quality of our disgraceful national inability to prepare ourselves to choose political leaders by their strengths. Not weaknesses. Journalists act with a true lack of balanced moral judgment. The media condemned by its own shabby actions and lack of honest patriotism.

Will you watch the next presidential debate in September? I think I've reached my limit.

PARIS BOUND: Lauren Woeffer, Trainer/Coach for the U.S. Women's Field Hockey Team for the 2024 Olympics, from suburban St. Charles, is packing her bags for Paris and making her Chicago family, the Steinkes, truly proud.

OLYMPIC PARIS 2024: Those readers who are making it to Paris for the Olympics can confidently embrace the City of Lights, now all prepped and polished for the event. Don't miss Notre Dame Cathedral saved and restored. Chez l'Ami Louis is a fabulous expensive restaurant, but is so worth it, some photos there, and on the left bank, should you be out walking, recharge your strength at Le Consulat, a small treasured bistro or just be a tourist, plop by and take in the food and sites from outside, especially near the Eiffel Tower. Another superb bistro, reasonable, is Au Moulin a Vent.

LYRIC OPERA: After a 13-year career at Chicago's Lyric Opera, its director, London native **Anthony Freud**, has said his farewells, soon to depart for new adventures.

MERCY: The Illinois State Dental Society Foundation hosted its seventh annual Mission of Mercy June 28-29 in Peoria. They

provided free dental care to 1306 patients. The patients came from more than 55 counties and three states. More than 80 veterans received priority care on the first day as part of the veteran-first initiative, a gesture of gratitude for their service. This event brought together over 1,000 volunteers – including dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and dental students from across the state. The critical dental services are valued at over \$1.6 million at no cost to patients and was available to anyone in need of dental care. For more information on this annual event or other programs, contact the Foundation at 217-525-1406 or foundation@isds.org.

EPISCOPAL NEWS: The **Right Rev. Sean Rowe** was elected last week as the Episcopal Church's 28th presiding bishop. Bishop Rowe, a 49-year-old Pennsylvania native, is the youngest person ever elected as leader of the Episcopal Church. He'll be taking over for the **Most Rev. Michael Curry**, the presiding bishop since 2015. Join in thanking Bishop Curry for his extraordinary leadership over the past few years and in congratulating and praying for Bishop Rowe as he prepares to begin his term on Nov. 1.

MAXWELL MARKET: Live music and great shopping a Maxwell Street Market. The iconic market has returned to its original home on Maxwell St. for the 2024 season with six market days taking place on the last Sunday of each month through Oct. 27 (the only exception being the August date, which is rescheduled to Sept. 1).

PRIDE PARADE: Chicago's 53rd Annual Pride Parade set the record for most arrests ever. Time to act like we've been here before, kids.

DANCE: DJ Warp (Brian Keigher) opens the Millenni-



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104 people shot, 19 fatally, during Independence Day weekend in Chicago

BY CWBCHICAGO

Mayor Brandon Johnson and CPD Supt. Larry Snelling met with reporters Monday to address widespread violence that resulted in at least 104 people being shot over the holiday weekend. Of those who were shot, 19 have died as of Monday.

Since 2014, only the 2021 Independence Day weekend has seen more shooting victims than the just-concluded holiday, according to records independently maintained by HeyJackass.com.

CPD reported four mass shootings, defined as four or more people

shot during a single incident, this last weekend.

The first occurred around 6:15 a.m. July 4 in the 7100 block of S. Woodlawn. A group of gunmen got out of two vehicles and opened fire on a home, police said, killing two women and a boy who were inside. Two other boys, ages 5 and 7, were critically injured. The Cook County Medical Examiner identified the deceased boy as 8-year-old Bryson Orr.

At a press conference shortly after the shooting, Deputy Mayor of Community Safety Garien Gatewood ducked a question about what he would say to people who

don't think the administration's public safety plan is working.

When Johnson appointed Gatewood to the newly created position last year, the city said Gatewood would "lead cross-government efforts to eradicate the root causes of crime and violence, and advance a comprehensive, healing-centered approach to public safety."

Johnson issued a statement about the shooting that evening: "On behalf of the City of Chicago, we express our deepest condolences to the families and the Grand Crossing community mourning the lives lost in

the shooting that took place this morning. We will continue coordinating with our partners at the Chicago Police Dept., 5th Ward Ald. Desmon Yancy, and victim services partners to support this community on a path of healing from this tragic incident."

Three more mass shootings followed, but they went unaddressed by Johnson:

- Eight people were injured on the Near West Side early Friday morning when at least two gunmen got into a shootout.
- Another shootout left six people injured in the 100 block of S. Menard around 1:44 a.m. Friday,

police said. Once again, all of the victims survived. They were all between 15 and 25 years old.

- At about 3:26 a.m. Sunday, four people were shot in the 3700 block of S. State when a gunfight erupted between a group on the street and a man in a passing truck, according to CPD.

Through Friday 1,269 people had been non-fatally shot in Chicago this year, up from 1,225 at the same point last year. However, fewer shooting victims had died and homicides were down from 337 to 305.

Chicago homeowners should study escalating tax bills



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Tens of thousands of Chicago homeowners recently received some bad news in the mail—the second installment of their 2023 real-estate tax bills from Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas. The 2023 property taxes are due Aug. 1.

For a wake-up call, analysts say you should especially eye-ball the skyrocketing tax allocation for the Chicago Board of Education—politically supported heavily by Mayor Brandon Johnson. That part of your tax bill jumped up to 8% between 2022 and 2023. That's the biggest bite coming out of your wallet.

"Every homeowner should review their exemptions outlined on the second installment of their real estate tax bill because they can reduce their bill by hundreds of dollars if they have the proper exemptions applied," advised Michael Griffin, a Chicago real estate tax appeal attorney.

"Homeowners are encouraged to review the bottom left corner of the tax bill to confirm their exemption deductions," said Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi.

Most homeowners who occupy their residences are eligible for the "Homeowner Exemption," which saves an average of about \$700. Senior homeowners over the age of 65 are likely eligible for additional property tax savings with the "Senior Exemption."

Seniors and Veterans may also be eligible for further exemptions such as the Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze, or "Senior Freeze" and "Veterans with Disabilities Exemptions," Kaegi said.

If a homeowner believes they are eligible for an exemption, they can apply for their missing property tax savings by completing a Certificate of Error (COE). This form provides homeowners with an opportunity to redeem missing exemptions for four years over the 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018 tax years, Kaegi said.

Homeowners are encouraged to submit an online application immediately or make an appointment with the Assessor to apply

for missing exemptions. Accepted photo IDs and documents required to apply are listed on the Assessor's website.

That enlightening advice was followed to the letter for one senior property owner in Lincoln Park, who applied online in 2022 for a Homeowner Exemption, a Senior Exemption, and the Senior Freeze Exemption.

The property owner qualified for all three exemptions, but the result was less than satisfying. Despite providing all of the necessary documentation, he struck out on all three with the online application.

Ironically, the property owner had a Homestead Exemption and Senior Exemption in 2021, however they simply disappeared from the second installment of the 2023 bill. A homeowner is not required to apply for these two exemptions every year. He has contacted the Assessor to investigate the computer glitch that

Ironically, the property owner had a Homestead Exemption and Senior Exemption in 2021, however they simply disappeared from the second installment of the 2023 bill.

may have caused the problem.

Here is the terse homeowner response he received via mail from the assessor:

- We are pleased to inform you that the Cook County Assessor's Office has issued a Certificate

of Error which may affect your property taxes.

- Please note that the issuance of the Certificate of Error is only the first step in the process. The Certificate of Error becomes final only after the Assessor's Office and the Circuit Court approve it.
- You will receive written notice on final approval or denial of your Certificate of Error. If the Certificate of Error receives final approval, your tax bill will be adjusted accordingly.
- If the final approval of the Certificate of Error entitles you to a refund, the Cook County Treas-

TAX BILLS see p. 4

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Gold Coast garden walk one of the oldest garden walks in nation

The North Dearborn Assoc. is hosting the 64th Annual Dearborn Garden Walk noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 21.

This annual event draws hundreds of visitors to explore Chicago's secret Gold Coast gardens, learn from local gardening experts and enjoy guided sidewalk architectural tours.

The walk is one of the country's oldest garden walks. This nationally recognized event draws crowds from all over the world to take part in a one-day, self-guided tour of gorgeous and unique private gardens throughout Chicago's historic Near North and Gold Coast neighborhoods.

Included in the ticket price are the popular guided sidewalk architectural tours of historic Dearborn Pkwy., and opportunities to

talk with master gardeners about gardening.

Guests will experience a variety of private rear gardens ranging from minimalist to classic small gardens and patio/terrace designs – each showcasing the most creative use of outdoor space in an urban setting.

Ticket purchase also includes an hour-long, guided architectural tour of historic Dearborn Pkwy. that highlights the architectural facades in the neighborhood. The tour includes pre- and post-Chicago fire structures, sites used in movies, homes formerly occupied by famous celebrities and a former US president, along with neighborhood folklore.

Tickets are \$30 in advance/\$35 at the door. Tickets are on sale at www.dearborgardenwalk.com.

Letter to the Editor

A shift towards a more responsive, adaptable urban environment

Your recent [June 19] article on the Western Ave. upzoning suggests that the plan is an effort to create a 15-minute city, which you claim is 'an incredible paternalism' that requires 'blind faith

that city planners, politicians and bureaucrats can organize people's lives on such a minute level.'

The current zoning system in our city does indeed exhibit elements of paternalism and central planning. Existing zoning laws often dictate minute details of our lives, making many cherished Chicago 2-flats and 3-flats illegal, and imposing parking requirements that lack basis in objective data.

Contrary to the article's portrayal, initiatives like the Western Ave. upzoning and the Connected Communities Ordinance aim to empower property owners with greater flexibility and options for their land use decisions. These efforts represent a shift towards a more responsive and adaptable urban environment, rather than paternalistic control of city bureaucrats or corrupt politicians.

*Alec Schwengler
Lincoln Square*



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Recent Lurie Children's Hospital data breach ransomware attack impacts 791,000 people

BY EDUARD KOVACS
Security Week

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago is informing hundreds of thousands of individuals that their personal and health information has been compromised as a result of a ransomware attack.

The children's hospital took many of its systems offline in late January in response to a cyber-attack. The incident resulted in limited access to medical records, disruptions to a patient portal, and hampered communications.

An investigation revealed that cybercriminals had access to Lurie Children's systems between Jan. 26 and Jan. 31.

A wide range of information was compromised, including name, address, date of birth, dates of service, driver's license number, Social Security number, email address, phone number, health claims information, medical condition or diagnosis, medical record number, medical treatment, and prescription infor-

mation.

The children's hospital did not specifically say that it was targeted by a ransomware group, but it did say in a data breach notification on its website that it refused to pay a ransom.

"Experts have advised that making a payment to cybercriminals does not guarantee the deletion or retrieval of data that has been taken. Once our investigation team identified an amount of data that was impacted by the cybercriminals, we worked closely with law enforcement to retrieve that data," Lurie Children's said.

Indeed, the Rhysida ransomware group, which took credit for the attack on Lurie Children's, has claimed on its website that the data stolen from the hospital has been sold, which indicates that a ransom has not been paid. The cybercriminals claim to have stolen 600 GB of data from the organization.

The Rhysida ransomware group emerged in May 2023 and it has targeted organizations in various sectors, including government, IT,

manufacturing, healthcare, and education. The US government issued an advisory for Rhysida in Nov. 2023. The black hat hackers not only steal data from victims but also encrypt files stored on compromised systems.

A notice published by the Maine Attorney General's office on June 26 reveals that the incident has affected more than 791,000 people.

Lurie Children's has established a toll-free call center to address questions about notification, the cybersecurity attack and their response. "Those who have questions about the notification, any notification letter you may have received, or whether your information was impacted, you can contact the call center at 888-401-0575, Monday-Friday between 8 am and 8 pm, U.S. central time," said Lurie in their statement.

Impacted individuals are being notified and offered 24 months of identity and fraud protection services at no cost.

TAX BILLS from p. 3

surer will send you a refund, or an application for a refund.

Without exemptions, the real-estate tax bill on his owner-occupied small income property jumped nearly \$1,400 to a whopping \$27,628. The owner also noticed that more than half of the bill was allocated for the Chicago Board of Education.

How tax exemptions work

"The property-tax bill is determined by four factors: the assessment, the equalization factor, or 'multiplier,' the tax rate, and the exemptions," explained Griffin.

The Homeowner's exemption recently was increased to \$10,000 from \$7,000, and the Senior Exemption was hiked to \$8,000 from \$5,000. Those exemption amounts are deducted from the tax bill.

Also, more seniors can qualify for the Senior Freeze because the Illinois Legislature recently increased the maximum annual income to receive the freeze to less than \$65,000 from less than \$55,000.

Other exemptions are designated for: Persons with Disabilities, Veterans with Disabilities, Returning Veterans, Long-time Homeowners, Home Improvement, and Religious Institutions.

Predicting a hefty future property tax increase really centers on two wild cards—the tax rate and the state equalization factor, which can't be challenged by taxpayers.

The equalization factor, or "multiplier," is established each year for Cook County to bring property tax assessments in line with other parts of Illinois. The factor is determined by the Illinois Dept. of Revenue.

The 2023 tax rate in Chicago rose to 6.995% per \$100 of assessed valuation from 6.697% a year earlier. And, the 2023 state equalization factor, designed to make assessments uniform statewide, rose to 3.0163% per \$100 of assessed valuation from 2.9237% a year earlier.

The main engine that drives up property-tax bills is the amount of money spent by local government. For example, homeowners who read their 2023 tax bills will see the continued increased spending for schools and police, firefighter and teacher pensions.

Griffin advises that Property owners who think they are over-assessed should appeal now.

Visit the assessor's website: www.cookcountyassessor.com, or call 312-443-7550 to find comparable properties or start the appeal process. The Assessor now is in the middle of the 2024

*The main engine that
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increased spending
for schools and police,
firefighter and teacher
pensions.*

appeal process, following the reassessment of the entire City of Chicago.

A taxpayer can file with the Cook County Board of Review (312-603-5542) or www.cook-countyboardofreview.com and later with the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board (217-785-6076), or www.ptab.illinois.gov. Or, call Michael Griffin, an expert tax-assessment lawyer, at 312-943-1789.

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

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Advocate CEO getting large pay raises

Ever since their merger in Dec. 2022, Advocate Health co-chief executive Eugene Woods has seen his pay increase dramatically. Advocate, while headquartered in Charlotte, NC, owns and operates Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospital in Lakeview.

Woods received a 23.9% jump in total compensation for 2023 to \$17.35 million. That included a 1.9% raise in base salary to \$3.8 million, as well as a 148% surge in incentive pay to \$7.2 million, according to reports in the Winston Salem Journal.

2023 represented Woods' first full year in the Advocate co-chief executive role following the merger of Atrium Health of Charlotte and Advocate Aurora of Chicago. Advocate has since become the nation's third-largest healthcare system with 68 hospitals and 155,000 employees in six states.

Woods is slated to become sole chief executive of Advocate later this month upon the retirement of co-chief executive Jim Skogsborg.

At \$17.35 million, Woods ranked seventh overall in the Journal's 2023 executive compensation chart. His compensation was tops among all 54 executives included in the study.

Hospital management pay has become a hot-button issue in recent years, particularly as healthcare systems have cut or outsourced jobs in response to regulatory changes. Advocate justified the high pay, telling the Journal that as a nonprofit health system, "we don't have the luxury of providing stock options and other typical corporate perks."

And Woods' total compensation likely continues to rise, he could be ranked among the top-10 in the healthcare industry as soon as this year. Atrium has embraced Woods' compensation, saying it is justified given the complexity of managing a large hospital system. But critics of the current in-

dustry consolidation say hospital systems use their nonprofit status for tax advantages and public-relations purposes, while compensation committees have sought to justify corporate-level wages and benefits to top executives.

A 2021 study by Forbes Magazine found that these non-profit hospitals add billions of dollars annually to their bottom line, lavishly compensate their CEOs, and spend millions of dollars, which are generated by patient fees, lobbying government to defend the status quo. The magazine investigated the top 82 U.S. non-profit hospitals, quantifying government payments and financial assets, and specifically looked at large nonprofits organized as charities under IRS Section 501(c)3 with the mission of delivering affordable healthcare to their communities.

Many of the institutions are household names like Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN; Cleveland



Eugene Woods

Clinic, in Cleveland, OH; and Partners HealthCare in Massachusetts. Collectively, \$297.5 million in cash compensation flowed to the top paid executive at each of the 82 hospitals in 2021. Forbes found payouts as high as \$10 million, \$18 million and even \$21.6 million per CEO or other top-paid employee.

Advocate Health is headquartered in Charlotte, while maintaining a strong presence in the

Chicago and Milwaukee areas. (Aurora Health was the largest Wisconsin-based health system until it merged with the Chicago-based Advocate in 2018. The group has since dropped the "Aurora" portion of their name.)

Executive compensation has continued to rise since that 2018 merger. The federal Form 990 for Advocate Aurora shows that in 2021 there were 16 staff members whose total compensation ranged from from \$1.34 million to \$7.7 million that year. All together the top 16 staff collected \$36.75 million.

In 2020 there were 15 top staff, whose compensation ranged from \$1.34 million to \$6.8 million, and together collected a total of \$33 million.

System wide, they serve nearly 6-million patients annually and they are currently the fifth-largest nonprofit integrated health system in the nation, with revenues of more than \$27 billion.



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Summer joint networking party July 25

Several North Side chamber of commerce are hosting a networking party 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 25, on the outdoor roof deck at Lakeshore Sport & Fitness, 1320 W. Fullerton.

The event brings together members from the Lincoln Park, Old Town, Lakeview Roscoe Village, and Lakeview East Chambers of Commerce. For reservations or more information call 773-880-5200.

Dance in the Park at Touhy Park July 26

Dance in the Parks is returning to Touhy Park, 7348 N. Paulina, 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 26, on the south side of the fieldhouse. The professional dance company will present a family-friendly show of jazz, modern, and contemporary dance works created and performed by Chicago professionals. The company will be joined by youth performance partners from Senn Arts Dance and Synapse Arts.

Police Beat...

Carjacking, robbery spree

Chicago police are warning residents about a rash of carjacking armed robberies in Jefferson Park, Albany Park, Lakeview and Ravenswood.

In each of these incidents, three to five male Black male offenders pull up in a vehicle wearing dark colored clothing and black ski masks, then exit a vehicle and approach the victims while brandishing handguns/long guns and demand the victim's property and their vehicle.

After taking the victim's property and forcefully removing them from their vehicle, some of the masked offenders return to their vehicle while the other offenders enter the victim's vehicle and flee.

The vehicles taken in the hijackings were used in the subsequent criminal incidents. In one of these incidents, an offender pistol whipped the victim during the course of the robbery and in another, the victim was battered.

Incidents include one on the 2800 block of W. Berteau Ave. on June 29, at 1:26 a.m.; 3100 block of W. Sunnyside Ave. on June 29, 1:30 a.m.; 3700 block of N. Clark St. on June 29, at 2:45 a.m.; 4600 block of N. Rockwell St. on June 30, at 3:15 a.m.; 5100 block of W. Dakin St. on June 30, at 4:34 a.m., and on the 5200 block of W. Fullerton Ave. on June 30, 4:45 a.m.

About the Offenders:

Three to five males use a variety of cars, including a 2015 gray Nissan Sentra, 2020 gray with red racing stripes Dodge Charger, and a 2009 white Infiniti G37,

Anyone who may have information can contact the Area Five Detective Division at 312-746-8904, and refer to JH325744, JH325746, JH325781, JH327121, JH327129 and JH327134, and reference: 24-CWP-036.

12-time convicted burglar broke into Edgewater apartment while on pretrial release for two Ravenswood burglaries

Officials say Sherwin Degraffenreid has been convicted of burglary 12 times during his 65 years on planet Earth. Now, they say he committed yet another burglary while on pretrial release for two additional burglary cases.

Last August, prosecutors said Degraffenreid broke into a photography studio in the 4000 block of N. Ravenswood and stole seven cameras and a tablet worth \$6,100.

While Chicago cops were processing him and his belongings at the station, they found three Macbooks and other items belonging to another tenant in the same building,

according to a CPD report.

Degraffenreid, who is still awaiting trial in those cases, is now facing accusations of burglarizing an Edgewater woman's apartment. The woman, 21, saw a man leaving her apartment in the 6300 block of N. Lakewood around 2:20 p.m. May 16, according to police.

The report said that when presented with a photo lineup, the woman identified Degraffenreid as the burglar. Last month, investigators caught up with Degraffenreid while he was driving in the 1100 block of S. California. They said they found a bag of burglary tools in his car, including screwdrivers and gloves.

He is currently being detained on a fresh robbery charge to accompany the pending cases from last August. Judge David Kelly pointed to his 12 previous felony convictions as one reason Degraffenreid should remain in jail.

Uptown man opened fire on a busy street corner while on an ankle monitor for another gun case



Donald Williams

On July 3, prosecutors said that a man on electronic monitoring for a felony gun case opened fire on a car near a busy Uptown intersection last month.

No injuries were reported in the shooting, which was caught on video.

Judge Caroline Glennon-Goodman detained Donald Williams, 27, as a safety risk and a flight risk during that court hearing.

Surveillance videos showed Williams, also known as "TFG Don Don," walking near Argyle and Kenmore shortly before the shooting at 9:58 a.m. June 23, a Chicago police report said.

Williams was seen holding a gun in the video and "recklessly firing" the weapon at a black Nissan parked in the 4900 block of N. Kenmore, according to the report. Police said the vehicle was occupied, but they did not know who was inside. Investigators found 10 shell casings at the scene.

The report said additional video footage showed Williams running from the scene and entering a residential complex connected to the building where he lives.

CPD detectives contacted the Cook County Sheriff's Office electronic monitoring division to get the location history from Williams' ankle monitor. According to police, the data showed Williams was at the shooting scene at the time of the shooting. It also showed that his ankle monitor followed the path the gunman took after the shooting, the report said.

Chicago cops joined sheriff's deputies to arrest Williams on July 2. He is charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon and aggravated discharge of a firearm toward an occupied vehicle.

He is the 17th person accused of shooting, killing, or trying to shoot or kill someone in Chicago this year while on pretrial release.

Williams was on electronic monitoring for a gun case that originated with a traffic stop early on Dec. 7,

2021. He was the front seat passenger of a vehicle that an Illinois State Police trooper stopped for traffic violations, according to court records.

After he stepped out of the vehicle, officers found a loaded firearm on the seat where he had been sitting, police said. The cops said they found a second loaded firearm in the center console, along with a large amount of cash and marijuana. Williams' attorney has been fighting the case on Fourth amendment grounds.

Gunmen rob two women in North Center

Two 23-year-old women were robbed at gunpoint, one suffering a head injury, in North Center on June 30.

They were near the corner of Cullom and Damen when two men pulled up around 3:10 a.m., according to a witness. Both men got out and robbed the women, taking a purse, phones, and keys.

A witness heard two gunshots during the robbery, but police did not find any shell casings at the scene. One of the women fell during the robbery and was treated for a head injury. She either received the injury when she fell or was grazed by a bullet, according to an officer who was on the scene.

Police found property belonging to the second victim in a bike lane in the 4500 block of N. Lincoln a couple of hours after the holdup.

CPD searched the area for the robbers but came up empty-handed. Officers were told the suspects were Black men in their late 20s, with one being thin, about 5'-10" tall, and having a goatee.

Migrant bit Chicago cop twice during arrest, while on pretrial release for biting another cop



(Inset) Mugshot of Yonaiker De Jesus Arevalo Ortiz. Courtesy Chicago Police Dept. and Chicago Critter

A Venezuelan migrant bit a Chicago police officer twice as cops tried to arrest him in the Loop on June 24, officials say. Yonaiker De Jesus Arevalo Ortiz was already on felony pretrial release for allegedly biting another cop who arrested him less than three weeks earlier.

Video of the latest arrest quickly went viral, showing Arevalo Ortiz yelling at bystanders and bracing his foot against the patrol car doorframe. The footage shows him fighting with officers as they try to get him into the back of the squad outside the Standard Club shelter, 330 S. Plymouth, around 6 p.m. June 24.

A crowd gathered around the officers and tensions grew. The cops declared a "10-1" police emergency for backup, and one officer held off the crowd by wielding his Taser.

According to the CPD report, the officers stopped Arevalo Ortiz because they were told that he was wanted for criminal damage to property at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago.

Arevalo Ortiz immediately tried to break away from the officers and bit one of the cops on the wrist as they escorted him to the squad car, the report said. As the struggle continued near the squad, Arevalo Ortiz bit the same officer on the forehead, according to the report.

Backup officers responding to emergency calls for help eventually stuffed Arevalo Ortiz into a larger prisoner transport vehicle and hauled him off to jail.

Aggravated battery of a peace officer is not a detainable offense in Illinois unless the officer suffers "great bodily harm" or there are other factors

involved. So, prosecutors and Judge David Kelly didn't have an option to keep him in custody on the charges filed against him.

However, Kelly was able to detain Arevalo Ortiz for violating pretrial release on another aggravated battery of a peace officer case.

In that incident, two women told police that Arevalo Ortiz threatened them in the 300 block of S. Wabash on June 8.

"I will come back with my guys and we have guns," he allegedly told the women, ages 26 and 22.

The CPD officers drove around the neighborhood with the women, and they spotted Ortiz about a block away.

Arevalo Ortiz allegedly pulled away from officers who tried to detain him. He punched one officer in the mouth and bit the cop's hand, according to a CPD report. A second officer was also injured during the struggle.

He was charged with two counts of aggravated battery of a peace officer, two counts of assault, two counts of resisting, and obstruction of identification. None of those charges are detainable in Illinois.

Arevalo Ortiz remains in the county jail for violating pretrial release.

21-time convicted felon shoplifted at Macy's, prosecutors charge him with another felony

Prosecutors say a 21-time convicted felon was caught shoplifting at the Macy's on State St. last week, putting him in line for another possible felony conviction.



Ranee Tart

Ranee Tart, 68, of Lakeview, slipped a \$140 bottle of cologne into a black bag and headed out toward State Street around 4 p.m. June 28, according to a Chicago police report. Store security guards stopped him at the doors.

In court the next day, Assistant State's Attorney Jake Mallory reported that Tart had been convicted of 21 felonies in his lifetime. We found 14 of them in Cook County court records.

In addition to convictions for aggravated robbery and sexual abuse of a victim younger than 13 in 2001, Tart was convicted of theft-related felonies in 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and twice in 2019, the court records show.

The felony convictions, along with about 100 misdemeanor cases having a variety of outcomes, are listed under a host of names, including Ronee Tart, Roanee Tart, Ron Tart, Ron Arts, Ron Tarty, Ronald Tarp, Ron Tatt, Ron Tani, Ron Tate, Run Tate, Ranee Tate, Ron Cox, Rance Tart, Ronna Tart, Raymond Tart, Anthony Tart, Anthony Arts, Anthony Ranee, Ronee Arts, Ron Williams, Ronna Williams, Ronae Williams, Ronel Washington, Rodney Jackson, and Leonard Green.

Tart, now charged with felony retail theft in connection with the Macy's allegations, was released from custody by Judge Shauna Boliker.

Sunglass Hut robber got away with merchandise worth \$13,750

A nine-time convicted felon, on parole for robbing an AT&T store, is accused of taking merchandise worth more than \$13,000 during the robbery of a Sunglass Hut in the Loop. Brian Willis, 35, is also accused of stealing nearly \$2,000 worth of liquor from a Walgreens in Streeterville.

Willis received a four-year sentence for the Nov. 2019 robbery at the AT&T store, 1819 West Division, records show. He has been on parole since Dec. 2022.

On May 11, prosecutors say, Willis and two other people stole liquor worth \$1,909 from Walgreens, 342 E. Illinois. Chicago police officers saw Willis in the area and thought he matched one of the suspect descriptions, so they tried to stop him.



Brian Willis. Illinois Dept. of Corrections

Officials said he ran, tossing bottles of liquor along the way. The cops found him hiding inside a van in a parking garage. Also in the van was apparently stolen merchandise with price tags attached, including Sox, Cubs, and Bears jerseys and two pairs of sunglasses.

The following day, Judge Charles Beach released him from custody with a nighttime curfew on charges of felony retail theft and misdemeanor theft of lost or mislaid property.

However, those sunglasses in the van may have helped police link him to another case—the robbery of Sunglass Hut at Block 37 on April 22.

In that case, two men stuffed \$13,750 worth of merchandise into bags and threatened to kill the store manager if she got too close, according to prosecutors.

Working on a hunch, detectives included Willis' picture in a photo lineup and asked the store manager if she recognized any of the men. She identified Willis as one of the robbers, according to the police. Investigators arrested Willis last week when he showed up for a court hearing in the Walgreens case.

Prosecutors charged him with robbery in the Sunglass Hut case. Judge Shauna Boliker detained him at the state's request.

Other than his 2019 robbery, Illinois Dept. of Corrections records show Willis received prison time for injuring police while resisting arrest and driving on a revoked license in 2019; aggravated battery of a merchant in 2016; retail theft in 2014, 2010, 2009, and 2008; and aggravated DUI in 2010.

Knife attack leaves man injured on Red Line

A man was attacked by a knife-wielding assailant on a CTA Red Line train in Rogers Park July 1, police said. It happened just before 11 p.m. near the Loyola station, 1200 W. Loyola.

CPD said a 36-year-old man was riding the train when the assailant approached him with a knife and attacked him for no apparent reason.

The victim suffered cuts to his right cheek and nose. Police said he was in good condition at St. Francis Hospital.

Officials did not release a description of the attacker.

Gunman shoots man outside migrant shelter near the Salt Shed

A man is recovering after being shot July 1 outside the migrant shelter across from the Salt Shed.

Police said the 28-year-old was on the sidewalk in the 1300 block of N. Elston when the gunman pulled up in a vehicle around 6:35 p.m. One bullet struck the victim in the abdomen. He got into a car and went to a hospital before the police arrived. He is in good condition, according to CPD.

Witnesses said the gunman, wearing gloves and a mask, fired shots from a light blue, older-model car near the shelter parking lot.

Police did not say if the victim was a migrant, but an officer who responded to the scene said it was a possibility.

The shooting occurred almost exactly a week after a migrant was attacked, robbed, and carjacked by up to 10 other migrants outside the shelter. That victim refused to pursue felony charges against the attackers.

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Chicago police officers break up a crowd gathered in the 3100 block of N. Clark after the 2024 Chicago Pride Parade.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

Police said the offenders threatened the 37-year-old man and another man who was with him before leaving the scene around 10 p.m. June 24. Some of the offenders took the older victim's silver 2008 Ford Focus.

Most arrests at any one-day event since at least 2013: 53 arrested during Pride Parade afterparty

Police recovered four guns and arrested 53 people, including nine juveniles, in the hours after the June 30 Chicago Pride Parade, officials said. That total is the most arrests at a one-day event in Chicago since this reporter began keeping records in 2013.

Ald. Bennett Lawson [44th] issued a statement July 1 saying he was pleased with the parade itself, but "extremely disappointed to see partying and disruptive actions in our neighborhood into the early morning hours."

Two of the guns police recovered were carried by one man, according to prosecutors. Chicory Williams, 18, was in the 3100 block of N. Clark around 7:45 p.m. when CPD officers saw him holding an L-shaped object in his front waistband, according to his arrest report.

The report said that an officer who grabbed Williams' backpack to keep him from running away immediately felt another hard L-shaped object inside the bag.

Officers recovered a loaded 40-caliber handgun with an extended magazine from the backpack, and a loaded 9-mm handgun fell from his waistband as police detained him, officials said. Prosecutors also charged him with possessing about 20 grams of cannabis.

Judge Carline Glennon-Goodman detained Williams as a safety risk on July 1.

Authorities claim they found another gun on a man with a history of felony convictions, including violent crimes. Cops were "attempting to disperse a large crowd smoking suspect cannabis and drinking suspect alcohol on the public way" in the 3300 block of N. Clark when they saw a heavy L-shaped object in Marvin Thompson's satchel, a CPD report said.

Thompson, 28, tried to run and struggled mightily with officers, who

punched him in the face several times to get him under control, according to his arrest report. The officers said he tried to pass the bag off to another person while they were arresting him, but they managed to recover the weapon, a 45-caliber handgun.

Thompson is charged with Class X felony armed habitual criminal, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon by a felon, and misdemeanor resisting. Judge Glennon-Goodman detained him, too.

Mario Gill, 26, of Hazel Crest, was arrested in the 3200 block of N. Clark shortly before 6 p.m. after police allegedly saw the butt of a handgun sticking out of his satchel. Officers recovered a loaded 9-mm handgun from the bag, according to Gill's arrest report. He has a license to own guns but is not authorized to carry concealed weapons, the report said. Judge Susana Ortiz released him from custody on July 1.

The CPD reported that they also charged a 15-year-old boy with possessing a firearm during the post-parade revelry. That would bring the total number of guns recovered to five.

Among other felony arrests:

Selena Seawood, 20, is accused of attacking Yolanda Talley, the chief of CPD's Bureau of Internal Affairs, in the 1000 block of W. School early July 1.

According to a CPD arrest report, Talley flagged down other officers and reported that Seawood became irate when told to put down a beverage she was drinking on the street. She walked toward Talley "in a threatening manner," grabbed the chief's hair, and "attempted to drag her to the ground," the report said.

She is charged with two counts of aggravated battery of a peace officer. Talley reportedly suffered a "small laceration on her right middle finger." Judge Ortiz released Seawood on Monday afternoon.

Chyna Stevenson, 23, is charged with aggravated battery of a peace officer for allegedly throwing a bottle of Espolòn Tequila in the 3300 block of N. Halsted, striking a police officer in the face. Judge Ortiz released her with a nighttime curfew.

Robin Hill, 20, yelled at cops and pushed metal barricades into the street at Halsted and Roscoe around 9:07 p.m., police said. When an officer moved the barricades back, Hill "reared her head back gathering sa-

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS
liva and spat in the direction" of the cop. Her spit allegedly landed on his arm.

Jarvis Rice, 32, ignored police orders to stop obstructing traffic with his Lime scooter in the 3100 block of N. Sheffield around 8 p.m., a CPD report said. The cops warned him to leave, especially since he had a bottle of Hennessey sticking out of his back pocket, according to the report. But he didn't, so the cops arrested him.

According to his arrest report, cops found 23 sealed packs of Newport cigarettes, five open packs of Newport cigarettes, 31 baggies of pot, and an expandable baton. He's charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon and manufacture-delivery of cannabis. He was released from custody by Judge Ortiz.

CWBChicago records show that the one-day events that generated the most arrests in Chicago since 2013 are:

- #1 Chicago Pride Parade 2024 (53)
- #2 Chicago Pride Parade 2015 (52)
- #3T Chicago Pride Parade 2013 (46)
- #3T Chicago Pride Parade 2014 (46)
- #5 Fourth of July fireworks 2019 (40)
- #6 Chicago Pride Parade 2022 (26)
- #7T Blackhawks Stanley Cup win 2015 (25)
- #7T Chicago Pride Parade 2023 (25)
- #9 Chicago Pride Parade 2016 (24)
- #10T Cubs World Series win 2016 (21)
- #10T St. Patrick's Wrigleyville 2014 (21)

Woman accused of shooting at two in River North was accused of a similar crime in January, but prosecutors rejected felony charges



Amira Wilson

A woman accused of shooting a gun at two people after an argument on a River North street corner last week was arrested under very similar circumstances earlier this year, but prosecutors refused to charge her with a felony back then. She wasn't so fortunate this time.

Amira Wilson, who has worked as an outsourced janitor at the Chicago Police Department's Deering 9th District station, was detained this week by Judge Caroline Glennon-Goodman.

Back in January, a 31-year-old woman told police that she got into an argument with Wilson while waiting for an Uber outside Shark's Fish and Chicken, 2640 E. 75th St. The woman, who was with her 13-year-old daughter, said she knew Wilson because Wilson was dating her ex-boyfriend, a CPD report said.

According to the report, the woman said the argument escalated until Wilson pulled out a gun and fired shots toward her and her daughter. No injuries were reported.

Police arrested Wilson, 36, on April



(Inset) Mugshot of Jennifer Williams.

Courtesy Chicago Police Dept. and Chris Blakeley, via Flickr.

Lakeview 'psychic' swindled woman out of \$72,000 by promising to remove a curse

BY CWB CHICAGO

A woman now living in Phoenix has been charged with felony theft, accused of swindling a client out of \$72,000 through a fortune-telling scam operated from storefronts near Boystown. Perhaps, as the old joke goes, she should have seen it coming.

Jennifer Williams, 50, has pleaded not guilty in the case.

Prosecutors say Williams, working as an "alleged psychic fortune teller," tricked a 21-year-old Edgewater woman into believing that she was under a curse. Williams convinced the

woman to remove the curse by giving Williams large sums of cash that Williams was supposed to "cleanse and return to the victim," according to court filings.

The woman gave Williams a total of \$72,200 for "cleansing," but Williams never gave it back, according to the allegations.

Prosecutors listed two addresses where the scam allegedly occurred, one in the 3000 block of N. Broadway and the other in the 3100 block of N. Broadway. Both storefronts have long featured neon signs promoting psychic services.

3, but prosecutors refused to approve felony charges due to a "lack of corroborating evidence," the CPD report said. So, Wilson was only charged with two counts of misdemeanor assault. Records show that the prosecutor dropped the entire case in May after the victim failed to show up in court.

Just six weeks after prosecutors spiked the case, cops arrested Wilson again for allegedly firing shots at two people in River North on July 1. Once again, no injuries were reported.

A Moody Bible Institute Dept. of Public Safety officer called out shots fired upon hearing gunfire near LaSalle and Chicago Ave. shortly after 1 a.m., according to a newly filed CPD report. The officers began searching the area.

Meanwhile, a concealed carry license holder told police that he saw Wilson pull out a gun and fire toward two women she had been arguing with in a nearby crosswalk. The concealed carry holder pulled out his own gun and followed Wilson into an alley, the report said.

The Moody Bible officer intercepted them in the 700 block of N. Clark. According to the report, Wilson immediately threw her hands into the air to surrender when she saw the

Moody Bible officer.

The Moody officer detained Wilson until CPD officers arrived. Police recovered at least one shell casing and learned that a city surveillance camera recorded portions of the incident.

This time, prosecutors approved two felony charges against Wilson: endangering others by recklessly discharging a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Romeo and Juliet in Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park will be hosting a free performance of Romeo And Juliet, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, June 12. Midsommer Flight returns for its 12th season of free outdoor theatre with Shakespeare's beloved classic.

Summer Soundwalk in Emerson Park

Midwest Society for Acoustic Ecology is hosting a series of guided soundwalks, workshops and training sessions that engage multi-generational communities in their own neighborhoods. The walk will be held at Emerson Park, 1820 W. Granville Ave., 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 13. Participants will listen to and for cultural and natural features of the landscape. Rivers, streets, residential and commercial dwellings, traffic patterns, human and animal sounds all feature in these soundscapes. Each walk will be led by a local sound artist who provides a unique thematic focus.

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LEARN from p. 2

um Park Summer Music Series concert at the Pritzker Pavilion featuring **Zakir Hussain, Béla Fleck, Edgar Meyer with Rakesh Chaurasia and Arooj Aftab** 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 22. DJ Warp has become a staple at many clubs, venues, and festivals including past club residencies at Shelter, Smartbar and his long-time running 'Bomay Beatbox' club night at Sonotheque. DJ Warp was the very first DJ to ever play with the Chicago Symphony Center and has been featured in Time magazine. He has performed and shared the bill and bookings with artists as diverse as **Prince, Tabla Beat Science, Four Tet, Anoushka Shankar, Femi & Seun Kuti, Cheb Khaled, Manu Chao, Nicolas Jaar, Daft Punk and Talvin Singh** to name a few.

JAMES BEARD EXCITED: I took myself to a grand dinner at Lula Cafe in Logan Square last week. Bright sun bounced off the awning at my outside patio table. I engaged my buddies on the staff there to hear some of their stories of their recent night at the Lyric Opera House when the awards were given. There was a definite buzz at dinner along Kedzie Blvd. So many helpers identified menus favorites.

Of course, as a frequent patron, I had to order the Focaccia that comes baked right from the oven covered in an avalanche of roasted onions and garden herbs. I was still eating that when six stunning Mussels in a cold aioli citrus sauce, tiny garden peas and some crunchy pea pods arrived. This dish was serious. Unlike anything

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS
I'd ever eaten. No wonder Lula's was Chicago only James Beard awardee this year. After all, these highly flavor-filled early courses, my roasted Bronzino arrives. A generous side of the luxurious fish, served on a bed of lightly creamed cabbage. Whole roasted small onions and assorted vegetables with the fish's crunchy skin painted with a deeply rich herbal basting sauce. The platter was generous, adventurous, understated, proud of its pedigree nonchalance. It was a five-star plate quietly taken for granted. Expected even.

Quickly Lula Cafe's menu becomes the subject of much conversational food talk. There was nothing left for me but to order the Pecorino Cake, rich, creamy, filled with flirtatious flavor. Total sophistication. Replete with some succulent tart cherries and a green aioli ice cream. A true challenge to the taste buds, the aged Pecorino Romano stole the show.

So my advice is to get to Lula's and study the menu. Ask a fellow foodie what they're eating. And know few other Chicago restaurants could produce such poetic food so well shaped and created amid the quiet gentleness of owner/Chef **Jason Hammel**.

MONA LISA MADNESS: If the Louvre in Paris decides to eventually go through with an idea to move the Mona Lisa to a separate, newly built gallery with its own entrance, the cash-strapped French government won't foot the bill, the Art Newspaper reports. Louvre president Laurence des Cars confirmed this spring that she and staff were discussing plans to possibly move **Leonardo da Vinci's** masterpiece, in hopes of stemming some of the overcrowding the painting regularly faces. And the temptation for political vandalism. The price tag is around 500 million euros (\$535 million).

LACROSSE FINALS: Eileen Harmon Jenkins and Matt Jenkins are blown away by son, **Marty Junkins** of St. Ignatius College Prep and his East Ave 25AA teammates for going 4-1 and taking 2nd place at The Project Midwest Invitational.

ARCHITECTURAL CELEBRITY: Joey Marjundar had a very intimate lunch with the legendary Architect, and friend, **Lucien Lagrange**, at the Arts Club. It was an amazing time and Joey says he learned a lot. Tres Bon.

WHO'S WHERE: Jennifer Sutton Brievea lunching with mom, **SharonAnne Loudon**, her best travel buddy, at Cafe du Parc, Washington, DC... **Clare Dugan** amid the timeless hilly Irish seaside landscape of Baltimore, West Cork.... **Helma Wandelaar** in exotic Budapest, Hungary on the banks of the majestic Danube River... **Tom McGuire** and **Tom Hackett** in Europe for a wedding in Menton, France, Promenade du Soleil, Cote d'Azur, a city famous for lemons... **John Emery Smyth**, great-great grandson of John M. Smyth of furniture fame, in town from Palm Beach for quick dinner and breakfast at Third Coast... **Dr. Rose Gomez** and **Lilli** in the sunny snow-capped Swiss Hills atop the Grindelwald... **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** and **Marius Morkvenus** at Le Club 55 in Ramatuelle, France... **Sherry Lea Fox** and **Mark Olley**, resplendent



The Right Rev. Sean Rowe



Lauren Woeffer



Lucien Lagrange and Joey Marjundar.



Jennifer Sutton Brievea, Kathleen Haines-Finley, Mary Lasky, Kate Krause Prange, Ann Schwarz Sherrill, Tina Koegel, Peggy Martay, Kathy OMalley Piccone, Yolanda Stermer and Rachel De Marte.



Irene Michaels



Anthony Freud

in blue, its their color, at the Ritz Carlton Chicago... Norway's **Liv Ullman** aged with splendor... Newsman **Phil Ponce** will reappear on TV soon, featured on reporter-son **Anthony Ponce's** segments on Fox 32... **Christopher Clinton Conway** celebrating **Mhel Kavanagh-Lynch, MD's**, becoming President of the Univ. of California... **Dan Balanoff** in Fort Meyers, FL, and photoed with his colorful wings spread.

SERVICE CLUB: Jennifer Sutton Brievea, and **Kathleen Haines-Finley** were at Gibson's Steakhouse, celebrating Service Club's success with their "Fleur Du Jour" educational workshop led by two local experts in the event arena **Rachel De Marte** and **@revel_decor**. Event Cochairs

Mary Lasky and **Kate Krause Prange** have done an outstanding task organizing their success with the entire Service Club of Chicago Education Committee with **Ann Schwarz Sherrill, Tina Koegel, Peggy Martay, Kathy OMalley Piccone, Yolanda Stermer**.

JUST IN: Irene Michaels receives official nomination for the Hollywood Independent Music Awards for her EDM single "My Last Love." Irene performed recently at Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct.

The heaviest penalty for declining to rule is to be ruled by someone inferior to yourself.

- Plato, The Republic

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PAWS revisits the event that launched a movement

Pets Are Worth Saving [PAWS] are hosting an adoption event noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 14, in storefronts along W. Roscoe St., between Oakley and Hoyne avenues. That event in Roscoe Village was the first public event for the new organization.

Back in 1997, PAWS Chicago founders Paula and Alexis Fasseas and a group of passionate volunteers helped pets from the city impoundment facility escape euthanasia and get adopted by bringing them to local storefronts.

Today, the tradition lives on with Angels with Tails adoption events that travel from neighborhood to neighborhood, engaging new advocates in this lifesaving mission!



The Angels with Tails event in Roscoe Village is a homeless pet adoption event that rallies the whole community around homeless animals.

Find your rhythm at your local library

BY JOANNE KITSOS

The Chicago Public Library is offering music-themed programs for kids, teens and adults this summer. Programs include events, workshops, fun activities and special performances at all neighborhood libraries.

Tune in to some of these programs at the Edgewater Branch Library, 6000 N. Broadway this month. On Saturday, July 16, 2 -3 p.m., families with children up to age 13 are invited to a Family Barn Dance with the Old Town School of Folk Music. This interactive session will combine live music and easy-to-follow social dance instruction.

Tune up with “Fun with Instruments: Woodwinds and Brass,” is another program for children up to age 13, 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, July 17. It will include a live demonstration of woodwind and brass instruments followed by a hands-on music activity with Boomwhackers.

Guests must register at www.chipublib.org or email aroettgen@chipublib.org.

Music, music, music

There are music-related programs for adults too. On Thursday, July 11, 6 to 7 p.m., a “Souls above Water: A Night of Disability Music and Culture” performance will take place, suitable for younger audiences as well.

The program will feature singer/songwriter Stephanie Alma Hernandez and percussionist Tommy Carroll who will share songs rooted in the disability experience. Both performers are disabled; they will discuss the disability cultural movement. Register at www.chipublib.org, or email edgewater@chipublib.org.

Another live music program will be at the Edgewater Branch Library 2 p.m. Friday, July 12, when Marlene & Company perform “Let’s Celebrate African-American Music!” The band’s trio of a pianist, guitarist and singer will play songs and discuss the contributions of African-American musicians.

The Monday Matinee, 2 to 4:30 p.m. July 15, will be “Mr. Holland’s Opus,” a 1995 film about a dedicated high-school music teacher who attempts to compose his own music while struggling to balance his life with his wife and profoundly deaf son.

Other free, music-related programs at neighboring Chicago Public Library branches include the Beza-zian Branch, 1226 W. Ainslie, where children ages 6-12 are invited to participate in a Make and Take

Music program, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10. There will be musical games, activities or a simple craft each week.

At the Rogers Park Branch, 6907 N. Clark St., kids can show off their singing voices during Family Fun Night: Kid Karaoke, 3:30 to 5 p.m. July 10. The program is for children up to age 13 who must register online.

Teens will explore music and sound from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, July 11, at the Uptown Branch. 929 W. Buena Ave. Participants will experiment with different instruments and recording techniques in the Teen Makerspace and Not-So-Secret Garden. Other Sound Exploration dates are July 18 and July 25.

Then from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, there is a Family Fun Night: Karaoke and Dance Party at the Uptown Branch. Register online or email mtran@chipublib.org.



Vocalist and composer Stephanie Alma Hernandez will perform with Tommy Carroll, a bandleader working in the areas of improvised music, folkloric percussion and experimental rock, at the Edgewater Branch Library at 6 p.m. July 11.



The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway.
Image courtesy National Trust for Historic Preservation and Thomas Hawk

Unearthing the mysteries of the Green Mill Lounge

The Edgewater Historical Society is hosting a presentation unearthing the mysteries of the Green Mill Lounge 1 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at the Edgewater Branch, Chicago Public Library Betty A. Barclay Community Room 6000 N. Broadway.

Robert Loerzel will lead the discussion. He has been delving deeply into the early years of the Green Mill – and related things, like the development of the Uptown neighborhood – in a history posted on his website, robertloerzel.com.

Located at 4802 N. Broadway, the spot originated as Pop Morse’s Roadhouse in 1907, a bar and beer garden catering to mourners spilling from the nearby Grace-land and Saint Boniface cemeteries. In 1910, the establishment became the Green Mill Gardens under the ownership of real estate developer Tom Chamales, who wanted to allude to Paris’s Moulin Rouge (Red Mill) but avoid association with a nearby red light district.

The bar’s green and gold flashing neon sign on the facade is one of the most recognized storefront signs on the North Side. For over a century the bar was a safe space for gangsters, neighbors, tourists and infamous musicians, including partial owner Al Capone. There are tunnels that run below the establishment that were used to smuggle alcohol and Chicago Mob Outfit members in and out of the bar during the Prohibition period.

In the 1960s, after changing hands several times, the Green Mill became a part of the down-and-out, bedraggled Uptown neighborhood. In 1986, Dave Jemilo purchased the Mill from former owner Steve Brend (who had worked at the bar since 1938 and owned it since 1960), and took to cleaning and restoring it.

Guests may find out some of the secrets Loerzel has uncovered about the beginnings of this beloved jazz club.

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Urban Habitat series at Budlong Woods Library

The Budlong Woods Library, 5630 N. Lincoln Ave., is hosting an informative educational series presented by Urban Habitat Chicago. Each month, a new topic relevant to the urban gardener will be covered.

The next event will be to provide instruction on integrated pest management, held 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 15.

Beginners are encouraged to bring questions as they explore techniques for successful gardening.

Story on SOM sculpture July 11

In partnership with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [SOM], Wrightwood 659 revives Chryssa's largest sculpture through the stories of the SOM staff who engineered the six-story neon installation at 33 W. Monroe St.—the largest she would ever produce. Join them for the premiere of a short, 10-minute documentary discussing Chryssa's lost monumental work, followed by a moderated questions and answers with the SOM team 6 p.m. Thursday, July 11, at 659 W. Wrightwood.

Independent Writers to discuss LinkedIn success secrets

LinkedIn is the business-networking powerhouse. Since its founding more than 20 years ago, it's become one of the most popular social media platforms with more than 830 million members, many writers included.

However, LinkedIn is so powerful that many users don't know how to maximize it.

Mary Wu, the "LinkedIn Whisperer," will be speaking to the Independent Writers of Chicago [IWOC] meeting 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 9 in Room 4G (4th fl.) at the Gratz Center, 126 E. Chestnut St., adjacent to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Discounted

parking (after 5 p.m., with validation) is located at the 900 N. Michigan Ave. garage.

The meeting will be good for those who wish to polish a profile, enhance a network, or improve the quality of your online interactions. Wu can help guests chart their path with solid, actionable guidance.

Her work includes customizable advice for maximizing LinkedIn on a daily, weekly, and annual basis and so much more.

Networking starts at 5 p.m., and the main program, 6 p.m. IWOC members admitted free, but guests must pay a small fee. For more information, visit www.iwoc.org.

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Miscellaneous, cont.

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Crane lift to shut down Schiller St.

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation has issued a permit to Stevenson Crane Service to conduct crane lift operations at 343 W. Schiller St. on Wednesday, July 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This project includes a full street closure on Schiller St. A backup date for Thursday, July 18 and Friday, July 19, has been established in the case of inclement weather.

‘REFORMERS’ from p. 1

rial discretion.’ It is like the President of the United States using executive orders to get around passing legislation through Congress.”

Out of curiosity, we’ve been keeping an eye out for felony cases that would apparently not be filed if Foxx’s plan goes through. Here are a few:

- Cops pulled an Uber driver over in the 200 block of W. 71st St. around 4 p.m. June 19 because the backseat passengers weren’t wearing seatbelts, a CPD report said. One of those passengers, Keith Whitaker, 19, had a loaded handgun with a 50-round ammunition magazine attached inside a backpack, prosecutors said. Why did he have the gun? According to the state’s detention petition, Whitaker told the police he “intended to use the firearm to scare some individuals with whom he and his family had been having trouble.” Judge Susana Ortiz denied the detention petition and released Whitaker on an ankle monitor.

- Aaron Collins, 32, was on bail for a pending murder case when Chicago cops pulled him over for not having a front license plate on his car on June 25, officials said. During a narcotics search of the vehi-

cle, police officers allegedly found a loaded handgun under the driver’s seat cushion where Collins was seated. Judge Ankur Srivastava detained him as a safety risk, noting that he is awaiting trial on charges of murder, home invasion with a firearm, and attempted robbery in connection with a 2016 case out of Dolton.

- CPD officers stopped Timmie Palmer, 40, in the 6800 block of S. Ada July 3 for allegedly having an expired registration. By the time the traffic stop was over, Palmer was facing much more serious charges. The police said they found a loaded handgun under his steering wheel. Palmer is on pretrial release for two gun cases, includ-

“She is just trying to use her ‘prosecutorial discretion.’ It is like the President of the United States using executive orders to get around passing legislation through Congress,”
Tom Weitzel said.

ing one in which he is accused of shooting someone, prosecutors said. Judge Mary Marubio detained him for posing a safety risk and for violating pretrial release conditions.

- Police pulled over Byron Roberson, 24, near Ida B. Wells and State St. in the Loop on June 24 for not wearing a seatbelt, a CPD report said. Roberson became irate during the stop and struck an open squad car door with his knee, causing the door to injure an officer’s hand, according to the report. During an inventory search of Roberson’s trunk, police allegedly found a box containing an unloaded Glock handgun, a Smith & Wesson handgun, firearm magazines of various calibers, a 3D printer, a 3D-printed firearm lower frame, two 3D-printed rifle upper receivers, tools, and mail addressed to Roberson. Judge David Kelly released him to await trial.

FOR SALE from p. 1

created by legendary Chicago architect Daniel Burnham’s Continental & Commercial National Bank Building, the JW Marriott Chicago opened in Nov. 2011, and is situated downtown, surrounded by the city’s finance and business districts. In 2010 it was part of a \$396 million resto-

BREACHED from p. 1

Instead of selecting her to fill the position, the board left the slot open.

Cohen alleged election fraud but the Appellate Court ruled the condo board’s decision in 2019 to declare the deceased candidate elected and leave his seat vacant was protected under the business judgement rule. The rule protects directors of a corporation from lawsuits as long as their decisions are made in good faith, with the care that a reasonably prudent person would use, and with the reasonable belief they are acting in the best interests of the corporation.

As the decision was based on legal advice from the association’s attorney, David Sugar, there was no evidence, said the court, of bad faith or gross negligence.

However, the court did side with Cohen over the 2017 election in which a vote for Cohen was invalidated, resulting in her losing the election.

The ballot was disqualified because the unit was owned through a land trust, and the unit owner, Gary Bernstein, had not followed new voting procedures of which he had not been told.

The recorded owner of the unit is a land trust of which Bernstein, who has lived in the 81st floor unit since 2007, is the sole beneficiary. This resulted in the name on the ballot not being the same as the verified owner of the unit, and Sugar, apparently without trying to first contact Bernstein for clarification, advising the board to not count the ballot. It was undisputed that the loss of Bernstein’s vote was enough to keep Cohen off the board.

Cohen says she was not allowed to closely watch votes being counted, or be present during vote challenges, otherwise, she says she could have confirmed that Bernstein owned his unit because she was the real estate agent who sold the unit to him.

Invalidating the Bernstein vote, said the Appellate Court, was also protected by the business judgement rule.

“If all candidates were allowed to see who voted for whom, the ‘secret’ ballot procedure set forth in section 18(b)(10) [of the Illinois Condominium Property Act] would cease to be ‘secret,’” wrote Justice

ration spearheaded by architectural firm Lucien Lagrange & Associates. The hotel includes 29 corner suites and more than 44,000-square-feet of meeting space; 36 meeting rooms, a beautiful 8,500-square-foot Grand Ballroom and the awe-inspiring 6,000-square-foot Burnham Ballroom featuring the building’s original domed ceiling.

Mary Ellen Coghlan on May 28, 2024, on behalf of a three-justice panel.

“Here, Cohen was allowed to be present in close proximity to the election judge to confirm that the votes were being tabulated and not altered or destroyed. We find, as did the trial court, that this satisfies the requirements of section 18(b)(10),” wrote Coghlan.

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But the court agreed with Cohen that the board had breached its fiduciary duty of “utmost candor” to unit owners by failing to inform those who owned their units through a land trust of the procedures they needed to follow to have their votes counted.

The association’s property manager, Jennie Kobzarev, told the trial court that for the beneficial owner of a land trust to be recognized as the owner, the trustee of the land trust must provide written confirmation that voting rights for the unit have been delegated to the beneficial owner.

Kobzarev told the trial court that although the rule has been in effect since 2016, the annual election notice sent to unit owners does not inform them of the rule. Bernstein testified that he was not informed of the issue with his eligibility to vote in board elections until Sept. 9, 2020, when he received an email from Kobzarev.

The case has been remanded to Circuit Court for further proceedings.



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