

Whoever controls work and wages,
controls morals.

— Susan B. Anthony

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The iconic 3,000-pound "Hardware Clock" with its timely wrenches for the clock's hands has graced the corner of Clark-Devon Hardware, 6401 N. Clark St., since 2007. *Photo by Stephen Serio*

Clark-Devon Hardware sold to employees

BY BOB KITSOS

If you live on Chicago's North Side, chances are you've been to Clark-Devon Hardware for kitchen or bath replacement parts, paint supplies, keys, tools or any number of house or apartment maintenance needs. The Rogers Park fixture at 6401 N. Clark St. has been an important part of the community and the Chicago area since 1924 when it was started by Bernie Walchak.

It's the real deal, a true neighborhood hardware store in every sense.

Now, after 99 years and three generations of family ownership, Ken and Ed Walchak, brothers and former co-owners, have handed the store's reins -- and locks, stock and barrels -- to its employees. Through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan [ESOP], the 65 employees who work at Clark-Devon Hardware are now its owners and shareholders.

Employees' reaction

In making the ownership announcement, Ed Walchak said, "We wanted the business that our father and grandfather built and nurtured to continue while maintaining the reputation, the culture and the commitment to the com-

munity and our customers they taught us."

He added, "We found the structure of an ESOP was the best way to reward the people who helped us build the business, thus helping create personal wealth while ensuring the long-term success

Now, after 99 years and three generations of family ownership, Ken and Ed Walchak, brothers and former co-owners, have handed the store's reins -- and locks, stock and barrels -- to its employees.

of the company." The premise is that ESOPs encourage employees to give their all as the company's success translates into financial rewards and help them to feel more appreciated and better compensated for the work they do.

How was the sale received by employees, many of whom have been with the company for decades?

"Really great," Walchak said. "They became an owner at no cost, it's genuine ownership. We

HARDWARE see p. 12

Community meeting July 27 over refugee housing at Broadway Armory

A community meeting to discuss using the Broadway Armory in Edgewater as refugee migrant housing is now scheduled to be held 6 p.m. July 27. This proposed meeting had been planned and delayed before, so those who wish to attend should pay attention to see that it is not postponed again.

The meeting will discuss the coming fate and potential use of the Chicago Park District's [CPD] Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway, to shelter refugee migrant asylum seekers. The meeting will be held at the Armory.

Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] claimed that no final decision on the fate of the large CPD

facility has been - or would be - made until after the community weighs in on July 27.

Fears and concerns have been expressed by Uptown and Edgewater residents over the last two months about the potential loss of park space after a memo leaked out of City Hall two weeks ago. That leak may have been intentional hoping to stem citizen angst over the coming decision.

The memo was related to a June 21 meeting hosted by Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th], Chairman of City Council's Immigrant and Refugee Rights Committee. The leaked document identified five city sites that are now being con-

sidered as refugee centers.

Chicago continues to grapple with a new refugee crisis that our own virtue signaling may have helped to create. In declaring Chicago as a sanctuary city, citizens and city officials are now being tested to see if those statements were authentic or just bluster.

That memo shows that city officials are now taking steps to open up new migrants shelters with a combined capacity of nearly 2,500 - including the Broadway Armory - to house a still-growing surge of asylum-seekers who illegally crossed America's southern

MEETING see p. 12

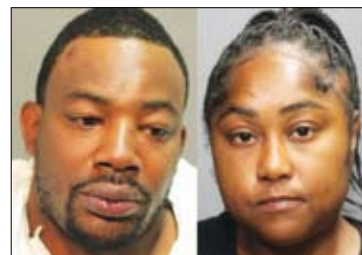
Off-duty cop stabbed 13 times during fight near North Side bar

BY CWBCHICAGO

A fight among patrons of a late-night bar ended with an off-duty Chicago cop being stabbed 13 times, officials said. On July 8, prosecutors charged two people with participating in the attack, but the woman responsible for stabbing the officer remains at large.

Everyone involved in the incident were patrons at Mark II Lounge, a 4 o'clock bar at 7436 N. Western, Assistant State's Attorney John Gnilka said.

As the 4 a.m. closing time



Mugshots (L-R) of Brandon Westbrook-Simmons and Dorothy Howard. *Photo courtesy Chicago Police Dept.*

neared, Brandon Westbrook-Simmons, 32, approached a woman in the bar and tried to strike up a conversation. But the off-duty cop

intervened, and the parties separated, Gnilka said.

The cop and the woman left, followed by Westbrook-Simmons, Dorothy Howard, 31, and the woman who eventually stabbed the officer. An argument broke out between the groups, which turned physical in the 2400 block of W. Fargo.

During the fight, Westbrook-Simmons punched the off-duty officer several times in the face and body, according to Gnilka. While that was happening, Gnilka

STABBED see p. 12

Rogers Park shootout leaves five injured; sixth person shot nearby

BY CWBCHICAGO

Five people were injured in a shootout near the Willye B. White Park field house in Rogers Park on July 7, according to Chicago police. So far this year, 12 people have been shot on the same block, including one earlier this week.

Another man was shot July 8 about three blocks from the mass shooting scene.

Chicago police surveillance camera officers were watching a group of people in the 1600 block of W. Howard when the shooting occurred around 11:40 p.m. They immediately dispatched patrol units to the scene.

CPD said a group of people were "waiting on the sidewalk" when two vehicles pulled up, and an argument started. Gunmen in-



Chicago police officers stand near evidence markers outside the Willye B. White Park fieldhouse, 1610 W. Howard, after a mass shooting on July 7. *Photo courtesy Chitown Crimechasers*

side both cars opened fire on the group, and someone in the crowd fired back, according to a CPD media statement.

Police were looking for a Tesla Model Y, a black Chrysler 300,

and a black SUV that sped from the scene. But no arrests have been announced.

A 37-year-old man was shot in

SHOOTOUT see p. 12



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How smart are you?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

America has always been the home of measurement. The more accurate the better.

You know, any quantifying capacity for getting our fingers around the proportions of an object. An idea. A theory. Whether that's the distance between the planets. The depth of the oceans. The length of a road. The mileage of a journey, or the length of a moment in time. No matter how small. No matter how big. Whole systems of measurement have been employed for just such a purpose. So we can with surprising accuracy tabulate the height of a mountain. Or a waterfall. Or a space shuttle's path.

Nothing caught the curiosity of post-World War II scientists more than measuring the Intelligence Quotas [IQ], of students and adults. With the end of the war, scientists could set their sites on less dangerous pursuits. It was time to see how Americans measured up.

Just how smart were Americans?

Who made the best students? What was the best kind of student to invest in? In America's passionate struggle to be the best and achieve the highest results in education, it always seemed important to be able to an measure individuals' capacity for achievement. For absorbing knowledge, harvesting

understanding and retaining data in the brain over time.

The reliability of such testing mechanisms has always had some questionable elements to it. Could the data really be collected? Was such information actually verifiable? Could such data change or evolve over time or by experience?

When attempting to analyze the results, how did the IQ data systematize the findings and were the findings real?

Things move quickly in the world of intelligence measuring. I thought it might be fun to expand the questions that help flush out knowledge and our capacity to discover fresh data about how to think. Or what we think is important.

IQs really sparked in the 1950s and 1960s. People spoke of them all the time. They're all we had back then. For many people they were a sign of promise. That humans were getting wiser. And smarter people meant not falling into the mistakes of the past. That was especially true in the day and nights of the Cold War. Let's have a look at a refreshed 2023 IQ test of sorts. How smart are you?

- Can you speak another language?
- Can you write a poem?
- Can you paint a landscape?
- Can you change a tire?
- Can you add new contacts to your phone?
- Do you know how to swim?
- Can you dance the polka?
- Do you ever ride a bus?
- Can you make escargot?
- Have you ever made a soufflé?
- Can you distinguish between Burgundy and Chianti?
- Have you ever voted?
- Are you a registered voter?
- When is Juneteenth?
- Can you read Ancient Greek?
- Can you thread a needle?
- Do you know how to play bridge?
- Have you ever caught and cooked a fish?
- Have you ever purchased a painting?
- Have you ever watched "Emily in Paris?"
- Do you have a library card?
- Have you ever made guacamole?
- Have you ever burnt the toast?
- Do you easily swear?
- Do you carry an umbrella?
- Do you use Uber?



Albert Einstein never took an IQ score test. However, based on his historical records, academics have estimated his score to be around 160.

How do you like your beef cooked?

Do you know the difference between dactylic hexameter and iambic pentameter?

Do you put sugar in your coffee? Where is President Ulysses S. Grant buried?

What American was at the bedside of three assassinated presidents as they died?

Who wrote Moby Dick? What is 3.14?

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? Who was the 16th President of the United States?

What is the 50th state? What is "Lift Every Voice and Sing?"

Perhaps my 2023 IQ quiz is too difficult to settle the issue of who's smart and who isn't. Maybe it more likely divulges who's old and who's not. Or who reads books or not, who has a vast deal of common knowledge or not, and who spends all day watching TikTok videos.

This test may not appear very interested in science, being too preoccupied with food. But I thought it generous in its balance for foods and flavors. For simple things and complicated peculiar tastes.

There's no real strategy to the questions except the expanse of curious interests. The windy sweep of the windy wide open striving for knowledge that is wide and big.

Perhaps you can make a game of it at the dinner table.

It's not the depth of the ocean, but neither is it the length of a road.

CSO RETIREES: Two principals of the CSO have retired, cellist **Gary Stucka**, hired by **Sir Georg Solti** in 1986; and assistant principal viola **Li-Kuo Chang**, promoted by **Riccardo Muti** in 2017. In addition, principal librarian **Peter Conover** retires from the position he has held since 1999.

PARTY POOPER: Ald. **Andre Vasquez** [40th] tried to smother the July 4th celebration last week at Winnemac Park in Lincoln Square by fencing off the baseball fields, closing down the Amundsen High School parking lot, placing signage up to let people know that fireworks were not welcome, and having city staffers onsite to clear the park as needed. The Party Pooper even encouraged area neighbors to call the police on nearby celebrants, "so that there is a record of where activity is



Li-Kuo Chang



Gary Stucka



Peter Conover

occurring in order to concentrate efforts in curbing behavior." And the police reportedly did sweep through at 10 p.m.

But by and large, it didn't work. We went by that evening at sunset and it looked just as joyous as it was in 2022.

Vasquez even claimed fireworks were too scary for our veterans, claiming the fireworks would trigger "heartbreaking trauma." We think those patriotic souls who have fought in wars and served to defend our country like July 4th fireworks just fine, but that's just us. Better luck next year Andre.

CRACKED LOOKINGGLASS: Lookingglass Theatre announced a pause in operations, staff layoffs in wake of weakening revenue. One of the most innovative

and vibrant members of Chicago's theater scene, Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre will pause operations after a 35-year run. The move includes massive cuts in staffing and no further productions until late spring of 2024.

GREEK: Taste of Greektown festival returns for its 33rd year this summer with the city's largest celebration of Hellenic cuisine and culture, Friday, Aug. 25 through 27 along Halsted St. from Adams to Van Buren. The neighborhood's acclaimed Greek restaurants are the stars of the show, along with live music and entertainment, Greek dancing, unique shopping and retail, family friendly activities and more. Opa!

MARTY FEST: Sunday, Aug. 13, is the day set aside to celebrate a true Chicago happening. Marty Fest, 1200 W. Hubbard St., at 1 p.m. A unique hometown festival

of food, music, dancing and old neighborhood traditions. **Marty Campo** established one of this city's premier Italian eateries at the corner of Hubbard and Racine streets, unrivaled for its cuisine and sense of hometown comfort. It remains Marty's legacy to Chicago, a place he sought to nourish and civilize with the traditions of the old world.

CUBS SCENE: Grant

SMART see p. 8

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Dozens of victims robbed as armed crews run rampant across Chicago

BY CWBCHICAGO

For the past few weeks, we have reported almost daily about yet another robbery spree on the North or Near West sides of Chicago in which four, six or eight victims were robbed in a short time.

We have more to tell you about today. Candidly, there were so many armed robberies in our primary coverage area over Saturday and Sunday, we simply cannot reliably tell you how many occurred. Conservatively, we can say 20 armed robberies occurred. We believe the number may ultimately be more than 25.

Chicago police investigators believe at least three different crews were at work Sunday night, a source said. No arrests have been made.

Like all the previous sprees, Sunday night's robberies involved three to five masked men armed with multiple firearms who jumped out of vehicles (usually stolen) to rob people on the streets.

Here are a couple of cases that stood out as we reviewed the reports:

A little before 4 a.m., at least five armed men exited a black Chrysler 300 and robbed several people of phones and wallets near Taco Bell, 1107 W. Addison, in Wrigleyville. The police report documenting the case was not finalized as of July 9.

At 4:19 a.m., five gunmen exited a BMW X5 and robbed five men in the 6400 block of N. Oakley in West Ridge, a CPD spokesperson said. One of the robbers also robbed a nearby business. Then, they all fled in the BMW.

In a community alert issued Sunday, detectives linked the following holdups to

one group of men:

- Three men with two guns exited a gray SUV and carjacked a man of his Acura MDX in the 3600 block of N. California at 12:12 a.m.
- A group of men robbed a victim in the 3200 block of W. Montrose at 1:58 a.m.
- At 3:17 a.m., three gunmen robbed a man in the 4500 block of N. Keokuk.
- In the 2300 block of N. California, at 5 a.m., a group of men battered and robbed a woman.
- Another victim was robbed by three armed men in the 3100 block of W. North Avenue at 5:10 a.m.

Police said that the robbery crew consisted of three Black males between 18 and 25 years old who wore black ski masks. Later on Sunday, police linked another set of robberies to a second group:

- At about 12:15 a.m., three men robbed a woman at gunpoint in the 2800 block of W. Chicago Ave.
- Five gunmen pulled up to a woman in the 4000 block of N. Damen and put a gun to her face as they took her purse and phone around 1:30 a.m.
- At about the same time, three gunmen robbed a man in the 4600 block of N. Ravenswood.
- Another robbery was reported around the same time in the 4700 block of N. Ravenswood.

CPD said this robbery crew consisted of slim Black males between 15 and 30 years old armed with black semi-automatic handguns.

Other robberies were reported in the 1900 block of N. Leavitt around 7:50 p.m. Saturday and in the 300 block of N. Hoyne

a couple of hours later.

At about 1:15 a.m. Sunday, four or five men robbed another woman near Ashland and Chicago Ave.

A woman walking near Rockwell and North Ave. was robbed by three men who jumped out of a car around 2:40 a.m. Another woman was targeted just before 3 a.m. in the 1500 block of N. Kedzie.

Two robberies were reported in the Loop during the 3 o'clock hour.

Back north, four armed men robbed a victim in the 2000 block of W. Peterson around 4 a.m.

A Blommer Chocolate Company employee was robbed at gunpoint outside the beloved company's factory at 600 W. Kinzie.

More robberies popped up in the Loop after 5 a.m. One witness reported seeing men armed with rifles get out of a BMW to try to rob two men in a car near Van Buren and Clark. The victims sped away, and so did the would-be robbers.

The BMW crew struck again in the 1200

block of S. Wabash around 5:10 a.m.

One man called 911 to report that a Jeep-load of gunmen pointed firearms at him at Michigan and Balbo. He sped away before they could get anything. A police dispatcher said he left the scene and would file a report later.

Citywide robbery reports were up 14% as of July 2, sitting at a five-year high. There are no indications that those numbers will start looking better any time soon.

Joint networking event July 27

A joint networking event including the Lincoln Park, Lakeview Roscoe Village, Lakeview East and Old Town chambers of commerce will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 27, at Lakeshore Sport & Fitness, 1320 W. Fullerton.

To sign up, call 773-880-5200.

New bar and grill coming to Osterman Beach; Castaways at North Ave. Beach remains closed

July 4th weekend is the symbolic halfway point of the summer, and there is good and bad news for park users and vendors on the lakefront. The clear days and cool breezes mean adult drinks accompanied by the aquatic backdrop of Lake Michigan can be a big seller.

A new bar and grill named Aura is coming to Osterman Beach, at approximately 5900 N. Lake Shore Dr. The site's snack shop is already open and the upscale cafe is scheduled to open in mid-July.

While the famous Castaways Bar & Grill at North Ave. Beach remains dark and dormant. The landmark beachfront bar is losing tens of thousands of dollars each week it remains closed. The massive steamship-shaped building with concessions may be one of the most recognized buildings on the lakefront. Castaways has been a seasonal staple on the North Side for decades.

Aura will offer beachside frozen drinks and upscale seafood on the shores of Edgewater. The effort is being undertaken by Lindsey Anderson-Perez of Uvae Kitchen and Wine Bar, 5553 N. Clark St. They plan to seat 32 people between beach chairs and shaded tables under a pergola.

Aura's café beach menu will include different options of appetizers, salads, and handheld food items, while the concession stand is currently offering lunch and

snack boxes with wraps, hotdogs, popcorn, and chips.

Anderson-Perez told Eater Chicago she wants to get away from the "chicken-finger concession stand situation that it used to be. [It'll be] more of a dining destination for the [nearby] high-rises, a nice outdoor space where they can come for lunch or dinner."

The bar will offer frozen rum drinks and piña coladas, as well as both draft and canned beers, and canned wine.

Castaways remains temporarily closed for what they claim is about \$150,000 worth of renovations, according to the Sun-Times. The tenants have offered no hint of a reopening date.

Leased to Phil Stefani Signature Restaurants, the owners of Castaways Bar & Grill said they plan to renovate, but the city says they never submitted corrected plans in order to get a permit.

Other lakefront neighborhood hot spots include the king of the hill, The Lakefront Restaurant, located in Theater on the Lake, which offers fine dining and spectacular views at Fullerton and N. Lake Shore Dr.; Caffe Oliva just off the bike path at Ohio St. Beach; The Dock at Montrose Beach, 200 W. Montrose Harbor Dr.; Waterfront cafe, an oasis located in Edgewater's Berger Park, 6219 N. Sheridan Rd. and the Clock Tower Cafe at 3701 N. Recreation Dr. at Waveland and the lakefront.

Higher rates cast smoke clouds over Chicago housing market



The Home Front

by Don DeBat



On July 6, home-loan interest rates spiked to the highest they have been since they hit a high of 7.08% on Nov. 10, 2022.

Like a cannon blast on the Fourth of July, home-loan interest rates hit a new high for 2023 last week—sending smoke clouds of distress over Chicago's housing market.

On July 6, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed loans averaged 6.81% up from 6.71% a week earlier. A year ago, 30-year fixed-rate loan averaged 5.30%.

The July 6 spike pushed rates to the highest they have been since they hit a high of 7.08% on Nov. 10, 2022.

Over the past year, Federal Reserve Board chairman Jerome Powell has aggressively raised the federal-funds rate to fight inflation. On May 3, the Fed raised its funds rate a quarter of a percentage point to a range of 5% to 5.25%. The effective rate is a weighted average of interest banks charge to lend money to each other overnight. Banks currently are charging their most credit-worthy corporate clients a prime-lending rate of 8.25%.

"Mortgage rates continued their upward trajectory again last week, rising to the highest rate this year so far," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

On July 6, lenders were charging an average of 6.24% on 15-year fixed mortgages, up from 6.06% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed loan average was 4.45%.

"This upward trend is being driven by a resilient economy, persistent inflation and a more hawkish tone from the Federal Reserve," said a gloomy Khater. "These high rates combined with low inventory continue to price

many potential home buyers out of the market."

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

Borrowers who shop around may find better deals, according to Rate Seeker.com. For example, on July 7, First Savings Bank of Hegewisch was quoting 6.084% on 30-year fixed rate home loans with a 20% down payment. The bank charges a loan origination fee of \$615.

Swank apartments losing value

Experts say sharply higher interest rates are making apartment investors wary about borrowing funds needed to close real estate deals. As a result, swanky Gold Coast and Streeterville apartment buildings are losing market value. Here are a couple of examples:

- Streeterville's 398-unit North Water Apartments recently was sold to Crescent Heights for \$173 million. Seven years ago, Invesco paid \$240 million for the property at 340 E. North Water St.

- The Seneca, a 267-unit rental building at 200 E. Chestnut in Streeterville recently sold for \$55 million, according to Cook County property records. The seller,

The Vanbarton Group, a New York-based investor, paid \$74.8 million for the 16-story tower in 2014.

"Apartment occupancy rates are very high, but investors just can't pay what they paid a few years ago because the cost of debt is so high," noted Ron DeVries, senior managing director of Integra Realty Resources, a Chicago appraisal firm.

New-home construction rising

If there is one bright light on the housing horizon it is the surge of new-home construction across the nation.

The National Assoc. of Home Builders [NAHB] reported that 1.631 million units were started in May, a month-over-month increase of 291,000 units—the biggest leap in 33 years, according to Reuters.

NAHB data shows home builder confidence rose in June for the first time in 11 months because of an improved supply chain.

"Shelter cost growth is now the leading source of inflation, and such costs can only be tamed by building more affordable, attainable housing—for-sale, for-rent, multifamily and single-family," said Robert Dietz, NAHB chief economist.

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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Chicago's four pension funds suffer loss in 2022 balance sheet

Just as Mayor Brandon Johnson was announcing his big plans for the future, reports in the financial sector cautioned investors over the city's 2022 investment losses, that have eroded funding ratio gains achieved a year earlier by Chicago's pension system

The news of the mayor's wish list, and release of the 250-page Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ending Dec. 31, 2022, casts a shadow over a healthy pickup of taxes on the city's audited financial results.

The city's overall net position for accounting purposes deteriorated to negative \$27.6 billion in 2022 from negative \$27.1 billion in 2021 due to growth in the pension liabilities, according to Illinois Bond Buyer. It hovered between negative \$28.4 billion and

negative \$29.5 billion between 2017 and 2020.

The general fund ended 2022 with a total fund balance of \$1.3 billion, including an unassigned balance of \$307.3 million. That compares to a total fund balance of \$633 million and \$318 million unassigned balance a year earlier with the uptick coming from a "strong recovery of economically sensitive revenues that were impacted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a decrease in expenditures as efforts were made to implement operational efficiencies," the annual financial statement said.

On July 6, Mayor Johnson introduced a litany of progressive policy positions to city residents during a media events at Greater Harvest Baptist Church, 5141 S.

State St.

But like all big plans, the immediate questions when it's a new administration bringing them forward is always, how will they pay for them?

From creating a Dept. of Neighborhood Equity and Repair, to bringing back the now-defunct Dept. of Environment with a focus on environmental justice, to his Treatment Not Trauma and Bring Chicago Home plans, which would create a citywide non-police response team for mental health crises, those new departments and positions will not be filled with volunteers.

With spending on the rise, and the federal pandemic bailouts over, taxpayers will surely be

PENSIONS see p. 7

NASCAR fences come down; now Lollapalooza fences go up

Just as the fences for the NASCAR race are coming down, up next for Grant Park will be the installation of fences for Lollapalooza 2023.

The constant for Chicago citizens will be the loss of access and use of Grant Park, fenced off for another profit-making venture.

Lollapalooza returns to Grant Park from Thursday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 6. Each day, the event opens at 11 a.m. and closes after 10 p.m.

Specific information on street and park closures can be found at www.lollapalooza.com/information. Similar to years past, several artists will be using pyrotechnics in their performance. Street closures will include:

- Balbo from Columbus to Lake Shore Dr.: July 19 – Aug. 13
- Jackson, from Columbus to Lake

Shore Dr.: July 25 – Aug. 12

- Balbo, from Michigan to Columbus: July 31 – Aug. 7
- Jackson, from Michigan to Columbus: July 31 – Aug. 7
- Columbus, from Monroe to Roosevelt: July 31 – Aug. 7
- Columbus (Northbound, two center lanes), from 13th St. to Roosevelt: July 31 – Aug. 7
- Congress Plaza Dr, from Michigan to Columbus: July 31 – Aug. 7
- Monroe, from Michigan to Lake Shore Dr.: Aug. 3 – 7

Those who may have questions regarding the music festival may contact info@lollapalooza.com. To report an emergency or immediate concern during the event call 312-500-2646.

With pandemic over, rise in STI cases from previous years

BY PETER VON BUOL

Chicago's public health officials are warning that the city's three Sexually Transmitted Infections [STI] speciality clinics have begun to see an increase in the number of patients who have tested positive for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Human Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV].

The Chicago Dept. of Public Health [CDPH] on July 7 released a 146-page report which analyzed data collected from more than 42,000 patients who had visited the city's three STI speciality clinics during a five-year period between 2017-2021.

The clinics operated by the CDPH are Lakeview Speciality Clinic, 2849 N. Clark St., Roseland Speciality Clinic, 211 E. 115th St. and South Austin Speciality Clinic, 4909 W. Division St.

The city's STI clinics provide confidential HIV/STI testing, STI treatment, referrals for HIV care and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis medications, and vaccina-

tion for Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox), COVID-19 and influenza.

According to the city's public health officials, more than half (23,676 or 56%) of the patients seen were African-American, 17% (7,123) were Hispanic, and 15% (6,482) were white. Health officials administered 49,659 Chlamydia tests, 49,436 Gonorrhea tests and 30,374 HIV tests. In 2021, there were 2,548 Gonorrhea tests given among the three clinics (95% of which were negative).

The city's Syndemic Infectious Bureau compiled and analyzed the data that went into the report, including the proportion of positive Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and HIV specimens, as well as patient demographics. (A syndemic is a set of linked health problems involving two or more afflictions.)

The CDPH's Syndemic Infectious Disease [SID] Bureau compiled and analyzed the data within the report.

"This report is an important tool for CDPH, community members,

fundors, and elected officials to see who the STI Specialty Clinics are serving and what services they are provided," said CDPH Cmsr. Dr. Allison Arwady, on July 7. "As visits to CDPH's clinics are bound to increase from pandemic levels, these data and trends help us to better identify the current and future needs of our clients throughout the city."

Within that five-year time period analyzed by the city's public health officials, there had been

a total of 42,093 unique patient visits to the city-operated STI Specialty clinics. In 2017, 16,895 patients had visited the clinics. By comparison, two years later, the city's public health clinics only had 9,183 patient visits.

According to the city's public health officials, this decrease may reflect the impact of the closure of two CDPH clinics, one in Englewood and another one in West Town. Both of these clinics were included in 2017 data. The city's

now-closed clinic in Englewood is also reflected in the 2018 data,

Due to the city's COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, caution should be taken when comparing 2020 and 2021 data to previous years. Preventive measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 were implemented in March 2020 and resulted in clinic closures

STI see p. 7



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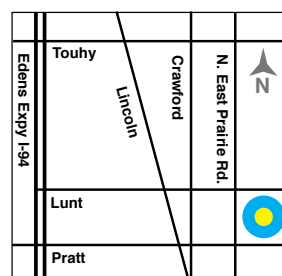


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Police Beat...

Man shot near Howard CTA station; seventh person shot on the block this year

A man shot near the Howard CTA station July 5 is the seventh person to be shot on the same block this year.

He was standing in the 1600 block of W. Howard when someone fired shots, striking him in the knee, Chicago police said. The 43-year-old left the scene in a taxi cab and arrived at Swedish Hospital for treatment a short time later.

A bullet that struck a gas meter in the 7600 block of N. Marshfield may be to blame for a minor gas leak that appeared after the shooting. No other injuries were reported, though.

Police did not release a reason for the shooting or a description of the gunman. But an officer who reviewed surveillance video from the area said they saw a man running from the area with a gun in his hand at the time of the shooting. He was described as Black and wearing black pants, a gray sweatshirt, and white gym shoes.

So far this year, 20 people have been shot in Rogers Park, including a 2-year-old girl who accidentally shot herself. That's up from 11 at this point last year and 12 in 2021.

Seven of this year's victims were shot in the 1600 block of W. Howard.

Woman shot on Lincoln Park rooftop

A woman was shot on the roof of a Lincoln Park apartment complex July 4. Chicago police say the shooting may have been accidental.

The man was handling a gun on the rooftop of the building in the 2000 block of N. Southport when it discharged around 1:30 a.m. Police said the bullet struck a 54-year-old woman in the leg.

A man drove the woman to St. Mary's Hospital, 2233 W. Division, and she was subsequently transferred to Stroger Hospital. It is not clear if the man who drove the woman to the hospital is also the man who shot her. She was listed in fair condition.

Officers said they found blood spatter on the apartment rooftop, confirming that the shooting occurred there.

The woman is the sixth person shot in Lincoln Park this year. Five of those victims were shot during a single incident near the Lincoln Park Zoo last month.

The neighborhood had four shooting victims in total in 2022. There were four shooting victims at this point in 2021; three as of July 4, 2020; and six at this point in 2019.

The 2019 victims were shot in just two incidents: a double shooting in the 100 block of W. North Ave. and a quadruple shooting on the lakefront at Fullerton.

Businesses, customers robbed in holdup spree

Chicago police are investigating a series of armed robberies that began July 5 at a fast-food restaurant and ended July 6 at a Walgreens. No arrests have been made so far.

The first holdup was reported at Subway, 2579 N. Elston, around 8:40 p.m. A man wearing a gray hoodie displayed a gun, robbed the store, and then headed south on Elston, a report said.

Just before 10 p.m., a gunman robbed the 7-Eleven at 2157 W. Belmont in Lakeview. Police said he took money from the register and fled in an unknown direction.

Officers at the scene said he was Black, about 5'-4" tall, and dressed in a white hoodie, black pants, and black shoes.

Another 7-Eleven was robbed around 11:25 p.m. at 2366 N. Damen. CPD said a man wearing all black clothing displayed a gun, took money from the register, and fled the scene.

Four people were robbed at gunpoint at JR's Red Hots, 2345 W. Armitage, around 12:10 a.m. Police said three men wearing all black clothing exited a white Kia with handguns and demanded property from three men and a woman. They pistol-whipped one of the men, then fled the scene.

The last incident occurred just a block west of the hot dog stand at Walgreens, 2001 N. Milwaukee, around 3 a.m.

Three men wearing all black clothing exited a white Kia with guns, and two headed inside to rob the store. The third stayed outside and robbed a delivery driver and a customer, police said.

The Walgreens and JR's offenders were described as three Black males wearing masks and a White male. Their Kia had a trash bag covering one of the rear side windows, suggesting it had been stolen. No serious injuries were reported in any of the crimes.

Concealed carry holder shoots masked man during robbery attempt in West Ridge

Chicago police are investigating after a man was shot on the Far North Side July 5 while he tried to rob a concealed carry holder.

Investigators were still at the shooting scene in the 2600 block of W. Devon, working through exactly what happened.

According to initial information provided by the three male victims, an armed man wearing a ski mask confronted them and announced a robbery around 3:33 a.m. One of the victims, who is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, fired shots at the masked man, striking him in the chest and grazing his head.

After being shot, the man ran into a nearby alley. Police found him in the 2600 block of W. Rosemont and brought EMS to treat his injuries. He was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston in critical condition.

Officers said they found a handgun in a trash can near the injured man. The robbers would-be victims, ages 26, 33, and 31, were not injured.

Armed men carjack off-duty cop, then use his car to mug women in Lakeview

Two women were mugged in Lakeview on July 4 by men who traveled in an SUV that had been carjacked from an off-duty police officer just a couple of hours earlier. The cop does not work for the Chicago Police Dept.

A separate string of daylight robberies was reported in Lakeview and River North on July 3.

The 51-year-old off-duty cop was in his Jeep Cherokee in the 1700 block of E. 87th St. around 4 a.m. on July 4 when three men ordered him to get out of the vehicle at gunpoint, according to a CPD report.

He obeyed their commands but was unable to remove his service weapon before they drove away with it, followed by accomplices in another car.

The crew is suspected of carjacking another Jeep Cherokee at a gas station in the 8200 block of S. Halsted about 15 minutes later.

Then, just before 7 a.m., the officer's Jeep was used by four men who robbed a woman outside Whole Foods, 3201 N. Ashland, in Lakeview, a police report said.

Wearing ski masks and black clothing, the men displayed at least one gun and took the woman's phone and yoga bag. Video showed at least two of the robbers were Black men—one wearing white shoes and the other wearing black shoes with white soles.

Another woman was attacked and

robbed minutes later in the 300 block of W. Oakdale. According to a CPD spokesperson, the woman, who was between the ages of 45 and 55, was near the sidewalk when two or three men got out of a black Jeep and demanded her property while brandishing two guns.

The robbers dragged the woman on the ground, took her purse, wallet, and phone, and then escaped in the Jeep.

On July 3, several robberies popped up, starting with the mugging of a 69-year-old woman in Lakeview. Three young men brandished a firearm and took the woman's purse by force in the 1800 block of W. Wellington around 11:35 p.m., a police report said.

An officer radioed three descriptions of the suspects, all of whom appeared to be in their teens: a Black male, wearing a blue hoodie, blue jeans, and black Jordan shoes, with dreadlocks; a Black male, wearing a black hoodie, blue jeans, and black and white Croc-style shoes, and a Black male, wearing a black hoodie, black jeans, and black and white Jordan shoes.

At 1:20 p.m., a masked man robbed a convenience store in the 3100 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. at gunpoint, another police report said.

Another armed robbery was reported in the 500 block of W. Superior in River North around 3:45 p.m. A man told police that a masked robber displayed a gun, then escaped in a black vehicle.

On July 3, 10 people were robbed by an armed crew that displayed at least one rifle during a string of hold-ups that stretched from the Loop to Jefferson Park.

Robbery reports are up 14% in Chicago compared to last year, according to CPD's latest CompStat report. Hold-ups are at their highest level since at least 2019, which is as far back as the report's comparisons go.

Man charged with carjacking SUV used in Lincoln Park robbery spree

Prosecutors have charged a Chicago man with carjacking a vehicle used to rob eight women in Lincoln Park on July 4.

Tony Davis, 23, is not accused of participating in the Lincoln Park robbery spree. But prosecutors say he and a still at large accomplice did carjack a man in Chinatown July 3.



Tony Davis

At about 11:37 p.m., a 29-year-old man returned home in the 300 block of W. Cermak and backed into his parking space, noticing two men wandering around the parking lot. As soon as he exited his Toyota RAV4, Davis grabbed his wrist from behind and warned the victim that he had a gun, prosecutor Joseph Sorrentino said. But no weapon was ever seen during the carjacking.

Davis demanded the victim's keys, then punched him in the jaw when he hesitated, according to Sorrentino. The accomplice rifled through the man's pockets, and Davis allegedly took his wallet and car keys. Sorrentino said they got into the victim's SUV and fled the scene with Davis behind the wheel.

Starting about 30 minutes later, the hijacked SUV was used by at least two men to rob eight women in Lincoln Park. The offenders implied that they had a gun each time, but police said none of the victims saw a weapon.

Chicago police officers saw the hijacked SUV speeding near Madison and Kostner in West Garfield Park around 1:24 a.m. July 4. It sped away from them, then crashed into a street light. Police arrested Davis as he tried to run from the driver's seat, Sorrentino said.

Davis has no adult criminal back-

Homeowner shoots rooftop burglar in Lincoln Park

A Lincoln Park resident shot and critically injured a burglar who tried to break into their home from the roof on July 6, Chicago police said. It's at least the second time this week that would-be crime victims have shot suspected offenders on the North Side.

Police were initially called to the 2200 blocks of N. Clybourn and Janssen to handle reports of a suspicious person on rooftops around 10:28 p.m. But no CPD units were assigned for nearly 20 minutes, even though one homeowner called 911 three times to report the situation, according to dispatch records.

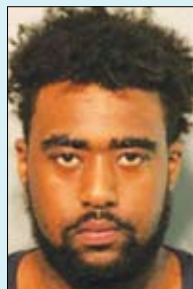
Around 11 p.m., just a couple of minutes after the call was finally assigned, 911 callers reported shots fired and a person shot on the block.

ground, but he was adjudicated delinquent for robbery and theft in 2017, according to Sorrentino.

Judge Maryam Ahmad set bail at \$300,000. Davis must post 10% of that amount to go home on electronic monitoring. He's charged with vehicular hijacking, aggravated robbery, and misdemeanor driving without a license.

Five years for driver who sped from traffic stop, hitting cop, girl, woman in River North

A driver who plowed into a Chicago cop, a 5-year-old, and a woman in River North last year has been sentenced to five years in prison. City surveillance camera footage of the incident went viral almost immediately.



Juno Miles

The good news for Juno Miles is that prosecutors dropped three counts of attempted murder and several other felonies that he faced in their plea deal.

The bad news is that he spent most of the past year free on bail without electronic monitoring, so he didn't accumulate much time to offset his prison sentence.

Cops pulled Miles over for a minor traffic violation at the intersection of State and Grand around 8 p.m. on April 9, 2022. He handed over his state ID, but he could not provide the cops with a driver's license, prosecutors said, so the officers asked him to step out of the car.

Instead of getting out, Miles put his car into gear and drove through a red light, striking a police sergeant in the legs and colliding with a 5-year-old girl and a woman who were crossing the street. A nearby CPD surveillance camera recorded it all:

But Miles, 26, left his state ID in the hands of a police officer, so cops knew who they were looking for. Investigators found his car abandoned in the 200 block of W. Superior a short time later.

All of the victims were checked out at hospitals, but none suffered any life-threatening injuries.

Now, Miles has pleaded guilty to aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, aggravated battery of a peace officer, and aggravated fleeing causing bodily injury, according to court records. Judge Alfredo Maldonado sentenced him to five years for each battery charge and three years for aggravated fleeing. The sentences will be served concurrently.

The five-year term will be cut in half for good behavior, and Miles received credit for 49 days spent in custody before pleading. His parole date is set for October 16, 2025.

Court records show he was previously convicted of aggravated fleeing and eluding in 2018. That case resulted in probation.

Cops arrived to find a woman shot on the roof of a home in the 2200 block of N. Clybourn, according to a CPD media statement. A man who lives in the house, a concealed carry license holder, shot her to keep her from entering his residence, police said.

The woman received gunshot wounds to her chest and wrists. She's at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in good condition, according to police.

Officers at the scene said it appeared that she entered the property through a nearby construction site and used rope to get onto the roof. Cops found a bag containing hypodermic needles and possible heroin at the scene.

Two newborn babies found dead in Streeterville childcare center

Chicago police are conducting death investigations after two newborn girls were found dead inside a childcare center bathroom in Streeterville.

Employees of a cleaning service, called to clean up some blood at the facility in the 400 block of E. Ontario, found the girls around 6:59 p.m. July 6, according to CPD records. Dispatchers told responding officers that the babies were in a trash bag. The children were not breathing when first responders arrived.

Both were pronounced dead at Lurie Children's Hospital, police said.

A source familiar with the investigation said a woman was found in the bathroom about an hour before the children were discovered. She is being treated at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, according to the source.

Area Three detectives are handling the investigation, which was initially classified as endangering the life or health of children.

CBS2 reported that the childcare center serves Northwestern Medicine employees. The station said a Northwestern spokesperson confirmed that "an emergency medical situation involving a daycare employee occurred this evening at the daycare facility ... No daycare children were involved or impacted by the situation."

Long-time art teacher gets probation for sexually abusing two students

The long-time art instructor at a Near North Side private school has pleaded guilty to sexually abusing two students over a period of years beginning in 2010.



Oscar Luis Martinez

Oscar Luis Martinez, 70, pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse of a child between 13 and 18 years old by someone in a position of trust. Judge Alfredo Maldonado sentenced him to 30 months of sex offender probation, according to court records.

Martinez taught the girls at Chicago Grammar School and provided them with private art lessons in his Pilsen home, officials said as they announced charges in July 2021.

One girl told investigators that Martinez abused her between 2010 and 2018, starting when she was 10. Martinez commented about her body and began talking about sex and giving her massages when she was 13, prosecutors said. The victim also detailed years of inappropriate touching by Martinez.

Officials said the girl declined

Bike-riding robbers mug man near Daley Plaza, second victim likely targeted

BY CWBCHICAGO

A group of men on bicycles robbed at least one person and probably two in downtown Chicago on June 8.

In a confirmed holdup, a 34-year-old man was walking near Daley Plaza when three men on bikes pedaled up to him on the first block of W. Washington around 1:45 a.m., police said.

One of the robbers displayed a gun and ordered the victim to hand over his valuables. He complied and was not injured. Police did not release a description of the robbers.

About a half-hour before that robbery, another man called 911 to report that he had been similarly robbed near State and Randolph.

Dispatchers announced the call on the local police radio channel at 1:13 a.m., saying that six or seven men on bikes robbed the man of his wallet at gunpoint.

But the district had no cops available to respond to the man's call for help. It was not assigned to a unit until 2 a.m., more than 45 minutes after the 911 call came in.

Officers said they did not find a victim when they rolled up to the scene at 2:09 a.m.

Late last month, several people were robbed by two men who bicycled around the Loop early on a Monday morning. Charges were filed against one man in connection with those crimes: Jorge Gonzales, a Chicago resident of just five months.

Gonzales, 23, and a man who remains at large rode bikes from one robbery to another in the Loop, with the accomplice displaying a silver revolver each time,



A 34-year-old man was robbed while walking near Daley Plaza when three men on bikes pedaled up to him.

Assistant State's Attorney Victor Aberdeen said during Gonzales' bail hearing on June 27.

They allegedly started by taking about \$60 from a 27-year-old man in the 600 block of S. State St. around 5:17 a.m.

Just a couple of minutes later, the accomplice fell off his bike in the 600 block of S. Plymouth Ct., and a 52-year-old woman came over to ask if he was OK. They robbed her, Aberdeen said. With the accomplice aiming his revolver at her, the woman replied that she didn't have anything and then ran away.

The third robbery fizzled, too. Aberdeen said Gonzales and the accomplice pedaled up to a 36-year-old man near Madison and Michigan around 5:35 a.m. Once again, the accomplice pointed a gun at the victim and demanded his money. But the victim didn't have anything, and he turned his pockets inside out to prove it, Aberdeen said.

A little before 6 a.m., the duo saw a 31-year-old man walking his dog in the 1100 block of S. Michigan. They stopped, and the

accomplice pulled out his revolver, demanding the man's property and threatening to kill him and his dog, Aberdeen alleged.

Gonzales and his partner ordered the man to take them to his car, but he told them it was locked behind a gate in the garage. So Gonzales took the victim's gold chain and biked away with the gunman.

Possibly sick of bicycling, the pair rolled up on a 22-year-old man sitting in a car in an alley behind the 1100 block of S. Wabash. They knocked on the man's window, and the accomplice ordered him out of the vehicle at gunpoint, said Aberdeen. With Gonzales allegedly behind the wheel, they drove off with the man's gray Honda.

Chicago police officers spotted the car around 11:30 a.m. near Chicago Ave. and the Kennedy Expy. Gonzales was behind the wheel when they pulled it over, Aberdeen alleged. No one else was in the car, but Gonzales had the fourth victim's gold chain, and he was wearing the same clothes that one of the robbers was seen wearing on surveillance videos.

Gonzales' defense attorney said he is a native of Colombia who has lived here with his family for about five months.

Judge William Fahy set bail at \$250,000. Gonzales can go home on electronic monitoring by posting 10% of the bail amount. As of this morning, July 7, he has not been released.

He is charged with aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm, two counts of armed robbery with a firearm, and two counts of attempted armed robbery with a firearm.

pensions that pay benefits to retired firefighters, police officers, municipal workers and laborers increased. The city's four funds range from about 19% to about 40% funded, according to the report, far short of other municipal plans around the nation. Funding ratios for the largest public pensions generally average above 70%.

"While the city still faces several long-term structural challenges, we are charting a better path forward for the city's finances," said Johnson in a letter attached to the report. He promised to develop "actionable solutions to meet the city's obligations to workers, retirees, and taxpayers." That is, he hopes to raise new money.

Decades of chronic underfunding ballooned Chicago's pension liabilities, weighing on the city's budget and credit ratings. In all, the city contributed approximately \$2.3 billion to its four pension funds in 2022. Right now, projections are that two of Chicago's funds will be funded at a 90% level by 2055 and the other two by 2058. Recent state-mandated contribution increases helped the city earn rating upgrades in the last year. But meeting the challenge is now an annual endeavor for Chicago and Illinois. As the preamble with all investing states, "Past performance is no guarantee of future results." That phrase is generally treated as a warning to investors.

STI from p. 5

and/or reduced hours of operation, reducing the number of STI tests conducted.

CDPH Clinics remained open during COVID, however, with appropriate health protection measures in place. While COVID impacted the volume of patients seen at the clinics in 2020 and 2021, the demographics of the previous three years remained similar. The greatest representation of any racial or ethnic group has been among non-Hispanic Black patients, ranging between 64% in 2017 to 40% in 2020.

"Knowledge is power, and

we want Chicagoans to have the power to take care of themselves and their communities by being aware of these STIs, talking about them, getting tested, and seeking appropriate treatment," said Dr. Arwady. "This report highlights what services are available to Chicagoans through our clinics."

The CDPH's Lakeview clinic in February began to offer PrEP, an anti-viral injectable at its Lakeview Specialty Clinic and which is described as a preventative measure against becoming infected with the virus which causes HIV. Currently, administration of PrEP is by appointment only. PrEP services were expanded to the Rose-

land Specialty Clinic in May also by appointment and is based on provider availability.

Providers will dispense a 30-day supply of generic Truvada. Lakeview had the highest percentage of white male clients (26%) among the three clinics in 2021, but a higher percentage (28%) of the clinic's male clients were Black. Also in 2021, the South Austin clinic had the greatest percentage of male clients among the three clinics who were Hispanic (28%). In 2021, there were 2,548 Gonorrhea tests given among the three clinics (95% of which were negative).

Extended Outdoor Dining now back on Clark St.

As of Monday, July 10, outdoor dining has returned to Clark St. between Grand Ave. and Kinzie St.

Now through the end of October, Clark St. will be closed to vehicular traffic to allow expanded outdoor dining for over a dozen neighborhood restaurants.

All east / west streets will have no obstructions and will be completely open to vehicular traffic.

Intersections will remain open to vehicular traffic, and a 15' pathway will be clear of obstructions for pedestrians and bicyclists to enjoy the al fresco area. The current permit to close down Clark St. will expire on Oct. 31. The permit will not be renewed next year due to the increased traffic and congestion expected as a result of a new temporary casino at the Medinah Temple.

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SMART from p. 2

DePorter praising the annual Cubs game with restaurant association and industry friends. Congratulations to **Bob Habeeb**, CEO at Maverick Hotels and Restaurants, on his great first pitch. Thank you **Sam Sanchez** on great pre and post-parties at Old Crow. **Kevin Vaughan**, **Matt O'Shea**, **Bill Conway**, **Steven Artenstein**, Ald. **Brian Hopkins** and **Jim Feeley** helped to make it a grand day.

PUPS: **Lesley Ames** of Stan's Photos is back with more pet portrait pop-ups on Saturday, July 22, at Urban Pooch on Ravenswood. You'll receive a professional archival print and a social media file to share with your family and friends. Lesley also has slots available on July 15 for the "Dogs of Andersonville" project. A venture to record and photograph the dogs that make the Andersonville neighborhood one of the friendliest in Chicago.

MICHAEL LERICH: Winter's Jazz Club, July 13, includes a tribute to the Benny Goodman Sextet.

SISTERHOOD: More than 9,200 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members will converge on Chicago for their national leadership seminar at Navy Pier through July 16. Chicago has been home to the sorority's headquarters since 1949 and has played a vital role in its 115-year history. It is also home of members **Lorraine Richardson Green**, the organization's second International President and first Black woman to receive a master's degree in Sociology from the Univ. of Chicago, as well as the Hon. **Julianna Stratton**, who is the first Black woman to serve as the Lt. Governor of the state of Illinois.

THE LAW: President **Joe Biden** has nominated **April Perry**, a former official with the Cook County State's Attorney Office, to be the next U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. If approved by the Senate, Perry would replace **John Lausch**, who retired on March 11. This smart cookie was **Kim Foxx's** Chief Ethics Officer from 2017 to 2019, said nothing publicly when Foxx dropped the charges -- in the face of overwhelming police evidence -- against actor **Jussie Smollett** for faking a hate crime.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago has more than 300 employees, including 130 prosecutors and more than two dozen attorneys who focus on civil litigation. Good luck, April.

DICK BIONDI: He was the voice of our youth, filling our lingo with a smooth Chicago snap. He was on the radio every night playing the hippest music in the early 60s. He seemed wise and so rational. A man who understood how to speak to students about music and pizza and life in Chicago.

Do you remember whether you called him at WLS while the show was on, you got an endless series of beeps. Teenage Chicagoans took this as the chance to speak to other phone callers between the beeps. You could speak between the beeps. Like some time warp iPhone moment from the future.

We were so modern.

Later in another life, I had the opportunity to actually meet and great this icon of American teen history. He was truly a man



(Left) Dick Biondi. (Above) Eleanor, Borrke, Chris and Lindy McGuire.



(Left) Michael Lerich Jazz Ensemble. (Above) Robert Wagner, Irene Michaels, Jill St. John and Army Granat.



Grant DePorter with restaurant association and industry friends.



Greg and Dr. Sandy Goldberg.

of his time. Our Chicago version of **Dick Clark**, only of Edgewater. The 60s remain a long lost land of **JFK** and **RFK** and Civil Rights achievements. He channeled our values and deepest fears out loud for us. He was no dance-a-thon moderator. He was the real thing- the voice of young Chicago.

How great he was with us when we needed him the most. When we were 14 and 15 and struggling to be pure, civil and fair. Maybe our voice was only an echo in a telephone earpiece in the era that soon would overflow with the draft and its dodgers and Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Cong. Biondi remained one of our own as youth was lost. And stars and stripes no longer seemed forever. Rest in peace, dear friend, we couldn't have made the journey without you're being at our side. And 60 years later we still wouldn't want it any other way. After all you were right, "Life is really Rock and Roll."

HOLLYWOOD: **Irene Michaels** and hubby, **Army Granat**, celebrating the 4th of July with Hollywood couple in Aspen CO., actor **Robert Wagner** and wife **Jill St. John**, his neckerchief, very Jonathan Hart.

WHO'S WHERE: Ralph Lauren waiter **Lukas Cora** had everything running smoothly on July 5 with many staffers away... **Mark Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** started their holiday weekend off with breakfast at M Henry in Andersonville where the vittles are truly elevated by lemon shrimp and corn-cake Benedict... The Lincoln Ensemble, comprised of several CSO musicians, join pianist **Adam Neiman** and mezzo-soprano **Vivien Shotwell** for the season's final CSO Chamber recital... a **McGuire Family** outing to Wrigley Field, now that's a winning combo, **Lindy**, **Chris**, **Eleanor** and **Brooke**... **Art O'Neill** and **Jonathon Egan** teamed up with **Eamonn Cummins** in Inverness... **Paula Borg** had quite the odyssey getting her son, **Ben**, to Pittsburgh, where he is starting his Carnegie Mellon Pre-college program. See you in six weeks... **Karin Carlson** and **James Nordlie** dancing in the moonlight in St. Mark's Square, Venice... Hon. Mayor **Shelley Howard** putting in overtime hosting **Dixie Baker** all over town for two days, including **Topo Tuesday** and with Senator **Bill Marovitz**, DJ **Robert Murphy** in the Mornin' Murphy and Pump Room star, Maestro **Stanley Paul**... **Curt Rose** with the family in Door County... **Dr. Sandy Goldberg** having a great time at the NCCC convention where husband Greg was in Corvette heaven... Happy Anniversary to the **Donal Skehans** on eight years as they both forgot to celebrate... **Melinda Jakovich Lagrange** with husband, architect **Lucien Lagrange**, in the aromatic lavender countryside of France, in Provence... **Marius Morkvenus** and **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** in Capri, Italy... **Ellen Borawski** is nearing a special birthday, but still with time to see the White Sox collect another pennant.

ARTS & CRAFT: The Arts & Crafts Movement was thriving in the Chicago area when silversmith **Ernest Gerlach** opened the Cellini Shop in Evanston in 1914. At the end of World War I, Ernest's brother **Walter** joined the firm as a designer and the store

manager. In 1932, the Gerlachs hired German-trained metalsmith **Hans Grag** to be the chief designer of hollowware at the Cellini Shop. The Gerlachs and Grag addressed the very real problem of trying to sell expensive, hand-crafted sterling hollowware in a major depression by making their own line of hand hammered aluminum serving pieces.

The Cellini Shop sold both its "Cellini Craft" sterling and aluminum wares under the label "Argentel," which stemmed from "argent," the Latin word for silver. During the Depression hammered aluminum tableware and decorative accessories were marketed as acceptable wedding gift substitutes for sterling silver. The Cellini Shop ceased making both sterling and aluminum hollowware in 1957.

Join a short walking tour, July 15, led by **Kris Hartzell** of the Evanston History Center, as she showcases several nearby **Myron Hunt** designed houses, including the one he built for himself. Call 312-326-1480 for tickets.

The program will be presented by long-time Cellini collector **Mary McWilliams**, in her Arts & Crafts house in Evanston designed by Hunt as a spec house for **Harlow Higinbotham** (President of the World's Columbian Exposition). McWilliams curated an exhibit of Cellini pieces at the Evanston History Center in 2014 and at Crab Tree Farm in Lake Bluff in 2015.

GARDEN ART SALE: Join me, **Tom O'Gorman**, in our garden & studio on Saturday and Sunday, July 15 and 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1059 N. Winchester St., near Damen & Division. Use our driveway. 312-735-8101. Great discounts. Large inventory. Go to my instagram page to see the full collection.

The intelligent man is one who has successfully fulfilled many accomplishments, and is yet willing to learn more.

— Ed Parker

tog515@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Oh, BTW...

Regarding Peter von Buol's detailed [July 5] article about the parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave. being developed into housing, I have been following this story from the very beginning. I would not have believed all the shenanigans without reading the complete story. There are too many to mention or repeat here.

There is no wonder that Ald. Martin of the 47th Ward, the developers, city commissioners and planners did not hold any public meetings, except for Zoom. They had so many secret and behind-closed-door meetings to hide the complete truth from the community, apparently knowing that the community would highly object.

At the meeting on June 27 there were so many "Oh, by the ways," so many surprises, sheepishly admitted to, now coming out in public. You wonder why we don't have much confidence or respect for our politicians. If a college professor is looking for a case study to describe Chicago insider politics to his students, this is Exhibit A, everything wrapped up in one.

Thank you to Peter and Inside-Publications for keeping us informed. We really need your community newspapers to report local stories that the big papers don't.

*Mario Caruso
Lincoln Square*

JPMumbles

Kudos to rising investment banking star Joshua Mark and his bang up presser at Ricochet's Tavern [July 5 newspapers]. You'd think he'd be more proud of the work he did in pulling this deal together; after all the loss to the City of Chicago and its taxpayers is only \$20M AND rising!

Special shout out to Will Woodley of The Community Builders as well! I'm sure the two of them, and their patron Ald. Matt Martin are in line for a huge payday.

*Tom Wisniewski
Gold Coast*

NASCAR Spaghetti

I loved Don DeBat's idea for a "NASCAR Flyover" race at the old Circle interchange/"spaghetti bowl"! The only element he forgot to mention was our local helicopter-based TV reporters being able to hover above the scene and report on the race!

*Jean SmilingCoyote
West Ridge*

Hello construction, goodbye free parking at Sulzer, Welles Park and Old Town School

Haha! You thought by throwing in with Ald. Matt Martin you would be taken care of. No way! Now, you'll pay.

Next up, no more free parking on the 4500 block of Lincoln Ave. No more free parking on Montrose Ave. No more free parking at Sulzer Library.

Those construction workers will have to park somewhere to work on your new apartment building. And they start at 6 a.m. So they'll get the spots first. Monday through Friday and many Saturdays and Sundays too.

Money is no object. Not when the taxpayers are footing the bills. All of the bills. So they will be working overtime and on weekends. And those scores of Welles Park baseball moms and dads, shoppers and employees of Lincoln Square businesses who will have to park? They'll start trying to find parking around 8 a.m.

So when you need a free spot to park so the kids can go play ball, swim, go to music lessons or visit the library, you're out of luck. You didn't listen before the election, now you won't be able to find a parking spot. Don't even try to drive to the Lincoln Square Farmer's Market, the parking is all gone.

Maybe you can park at Horner Park and

walk, or park at McFetridge on California Ave.? Call the 47th Ward office, ask if their staff can Uber you back and forth. And just hope your catalytic converter doesn't get "borrowed."

So what will you do? City Hall knows you will complain.

They sold all those free parking spots to the parking meter company, and now you and I have to pay for them because those same spots at 4715 N. Western Ave. have been given, at no charge, to a private developer. That will fix the entitled, selfish, greedy North Side, won't it? That's the Chicago Way. CA-CHING! Just the thought of that is making the Daley Friends, Felons and Family smile, isn't it?

Think I'm kidding? Take a look at all the new meters at Montrose Harbor. Our lakefront parks: 'Forever open, clear and \$4 per hour to park.'

Remember, neither the Mayor, the Alderperson, the Governor nor the County Board President grew up in Chicago. And they didn't grow up in Lincoln Square either, did they? But you voted them in.

So now you'll pay.

*Mike Sullivan
Avondale*

PAWS Beach party at Navy Pier July 27

PAWS Chicago will host its annual Beach Party 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, July 27, at Offshore on Navy Pier. This year's celebration will include more than 500 luau-clad guests and their pets sipping cool frozen cocktails and soaking up the sun, with their pets.

The evening includes an open bar, dinner, live and silent auctions, pet spa services, and raffles.

PAWS Chicago is one of the largest no-kill shelters in the nation. In 2022, the nonprofit rescued over 4,629 animals and offered 41,587 free and low cost vaccinations. Through its no-kill adoption shelters and spay-neuter clinics, the nonprofit leads a movement that has reduced Chicago's euthanasia rate by 91% since 1997.

Tickets for the Beach Party start at \$250 for general admission. For more information, visit beachparty@pawschicago.org.



PAWS executive chair Paula Fasseas lives in the Gold Coast with her 4-year-old terrier mix, Mr. B.

Creative iPhone photography at science academy

Picture shooters are invited to a Chicago photography classes at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum for a 3-4 hour exploration of all the features and functions your iPhone camera has to offer.

Class starts with the basics and works up to more advanced function, spending time in both the classroom and out in the field, putting everything into practice. Guests

will learn about exposure, focus, and focal length control, how to take great long exposures and night photos, and get tips and tricks for composing eye-catching images.

The class will be held 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 16, at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Dr. For more information visit <https://www.nature-museum.org>.

DisFest, a new, free festival celebrates lives well lived

Day of accessible music, dance, art

July is Disability Pride month and to celebrate, ReinventAbility, an organization that engages and entertains while contributing to a more universally accessible future for performers with disabilities, is hosting DisFest 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. This will be the inaugural DisFest, a free celebration of accomplished artists and performers with disabilities.

The inaugural event is fully accessible including wheelchair access, ASL, captioning, audio description, a quiet space and "What To Expect" preview. More information and a complete schedule of events, may be found at ReinventAbility.com.

DisFest is presented in partnership with the City of Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and MOMENTA Dance Co., Bodies Of work, UIC, and the Disability Pride Parade.

"We are celebrating [the month] with free and accessible events at the Chicago Cultural Center," said Ladonna Freidheim,

ReinventAbility Executive Director. "We invite all to come and experience the remarkable contributions of leading artists and performers with disabilities and have fun with short-films, interactive activities, pop-up performances, family-focused events and more taking place all afternoon; it's going to be great!"

Freidheim is an award-winning leader and advocate for arts inclusion as well as a formally trained wheelchair dancer. She spent her ballerina youth on the South Side, with an enormous dance bag slung across her shoulder, riding the CTA across the city.

A degenerative disability ended her ballerina life and she recovered from surgeries with future paralympic athletes who introduced her to disability culture. With the aid of braces and a cane or crutches, Freidheim is able to navigate the world much of the time, but it is her wheelchair that has restored her dancer's soul.

A masters degree in occupational

DISFEST see p. 11



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— Frank Zappa

DISFEST from p. 9

therapy contributes considerable expertise to her work adapting choreography and promoting inclusion. In 2006, she joined Dance>Detour, the first professional physically-integrated dance company in Chicago. She currently performs with the MOMENTA Dance Co. and received the 2023 Leadership in Dance Award, has been nominated for 3Arts Awards in dance and education, is a Make A Wave recipient.

DisFest's schedule of events includes Perspective by Molly Joyce on the Randolph Staircase; mouth painting with Mariam Pare, a Memory Of

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

money to pose nude for Martinez when she was 14, but she agreed to pose in a bra and underwear while he took pictures. Martinez used the photos to create a nude painting of the girl.

The girl's mother saw the painting about a year later, but the girl denied that she was the person in the painting. The mother later confronted Martinez, who allegedly said he wouldn't show the painting until she turned 18, prosecutors said in 2021.

Martinez was accused of asking to have sex with the girl multiple times, but she declined.

The girl told another girl about Martinez's conduct in 2020. The other girl is the second alleged victim. According to prosecutors, the second victim described similar behavior and said Martinez created a nude painting of her after she posed in a bra and leggings when she was 17.

Both victims filed police reports in Jan. 2021, and Chicago police detectives launched an investigation. That

Joy by Genevieve Ramos; a short-film fest of films created by and/or about disabled artists and performers, and pop-up performances including a variety of dance forms, comedy improv and acrobats.

There will be a Tech in the Arts a demonstration of recent digital, video, sound and movement experimentation and how it can be applied to enhance inclusion of people with disabilities.

Throughout the event there will be DIY Access where guests can learn how to turn on AI captioning on virtual platforms and add Alt-Text to images.

same month, Martinez posted one victim's nude painting on Facebook.

At the time of his arrest, the school's website listed Martinez as an "artist in residence." He no longer appears on the site. His personal site said he received a bachelor's degree in medical art from the Univ. of Illinois Medical Center. He has painted murals "throughout the city" and has been appointed to various positions by elected officials, the site said.

Judge Maldonado ordered Martinez to register as a sex offender and avoid contact with anyone younger than 18 while on probation. Martinez is also required to complete a treatment program, submit to STD and HIV testing, and comply with other routine probation conditions, according to court records.

He had been on electronic monitoring for nearly two years while the cases were pending. Maldonado released him from the ankle monitor upon sentencing last week.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Northtown Garden Society house plant swap this Saturday

The Northtown Garden Society will be hosting a free house plant swap, where people can trade a familiar plant for something new and different.

The house plant swap will be on Saturday, July 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the parking lot of Warren Park, 6601 N. Western.

All are welcome, but registration is requested at www.northtowngardensociety.org.

English, GED classes in Rogers Park

The Howard Area Community Center is offering free English and GED classes. They're offered online, in-person, and with one-on-one options. For more information, contact Moon Parker at mparker@howard-area.org or Katherine Erickson at kerickson@howardarea.org.

Medicare renewal seminar July 16

Do you have Medicaid? Do you want to renew your benefits? Are you looking for other social and health resources? Join the P.O. Box Collective at 6900 N. Glenwood on 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 16, for assistance with renewing Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition benefits.

Certain Medicaid protections offered under COVID-era policies have expired, and it is crucial to submit renewal paperwork by the deadline to retain coverage. Those who are seeking support with renewing Medicaid, may bring any recent mail you've received from HFS regarding benefits. English, Spanish, Russian, and Hindi are spoken onsite.

For more information contact Lauren Hersch at lauren.hersch@rayoco-op.com, or call 1800-843-6145.

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MEETING from p. 1

border.

City officials estimate that between 10,500 and 12,000 migrants are now here in town with many more on the way. Refugees are now sleeping on the floors of various police district stations, libraries, CPD field houses, YMCA's, shuttered schools, and even at O'Hare Airport.

The overwhelming number of new arrivals have come to Chicago from Venezuela, a formerly wealthy nation whose economy crashed due to misguided Marxist-Socialist economic policies. The crash created a stream of refugees who headed north to flee the catastrophe.

SHOOTOUT from p. 1

the left arm; a 29-year-old man was shot in the right hip; a 29-year-old woman was shot in the left leg; and a 26-year-old woman was shot in the right forearm and leg, according to CPD. Three were taken to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston by ambulance. The fourth arrived at St. Francis in a car. The fifth victim, a 29-year-old man, declined medical attention for a graze wound to his head.

Police said another man was shot in the 1900 block of W. Howard around 1:19 a.m. Saturday. He told police he was near a Pop-eye's restaurant parking lot when he heard gunfire and realized he had been shot in the left foot. The 35-year-old took himself to St. Francis for treatment. Officers said they found close to 30 shell casings in the restaurant lot.

Twelve people have been shot on the 1600 block of W. Howard this year, including one earlier this week. Three shooting incidents, including last night, occurred within or immediately adjacent to Willye B. White Park.

No arrests have been announced in any of the shootings.

STABBED from p. 1

said, Howard and the woman who remains at large attacked the woman who was with the cop. He said they both punched her and dragged her to the ground by her hair. Once she was down, they punched and kicked her in the face and body until she became limp.

Eventually, the two women joined Westbrook-Simmons as he continued to attack the off-duty cop, Gnilka continued. The woman who's on the loose pulled a knife from her bra and stabbed the officer re-



The Walchak brothers are confident in handing the business over to its seasoned management team. First row from left, the former owners Ed and Ken Walchak with Manager Jay Fuentes. Second row, from left are Manager Bob Barkmeyer, CEO Xan (Sean) Flink, and Managers Brane Bijelic, Sine Somerville and Steve Lev. Photo by Stephen Serio

HARDWARE from p. 1

didn't consider selling to someone else. This is what we really wanted to do."

Clark-Devon Hardware's new CEO, Xan (Sean) Flink, is a 15-year employee of the company. Flink said, "We are grateful Ken and Ed considered an ESOP for passing the baton of this amazing business, which has built its great reputation for decades. I hope our stewardship honors them and their family."

Walchak said Flink "is a really good guy, a natural for the position and a proven employee every step of the way." He said the only changes customers may expect to see is "improvement" under Flink's leadership.

Even with the sale, however, the Walchaks aren't completely leaving the business. They will be on the board of directors

and will make periodic visits to the store they helmed for the past 40-plus years.

Clark-Devon Hardware, which moved to its current location in the 1980s, is Chicago's largest independent hardware store with more than 15,000 square feet of space. The building itself was once a movie theater (the Ellantee Theater) where prohibition liquor was distilled in the basement. It even survived a bombing campaign from the former Chicago Outfit-dominated Motion Picture Operators Union.

The business serves many of the maintenance needs of homeowners and renters as well as larger properties.

The company is a major provider of building and property maintenance supplies for commercial real estate companies, institutional customers, contractors and government agencies and specializes in commercial and industrial supplies.

peatedly in his back and arm, causing him to bleed profusely and eventually lose three liters of blood, Gnilka said. A bystander recorded portions of the altercation on their phone.

Howard and the other woman took Westbrook-Simmons into a nearby building. Surveillance video showed the woman who stabbed the officer dropping a knife and the cop's ID on the floor. She also put a wallet into her bra, Gnilka said, adding that the officer's wallet went missing during the attack. The police recovered the knife and arrested Westbrook-Simmons and Howard.

The officer remains in critical condition at St. Francis Hospital. The woman he was with suffered severe bruising to the eye area and a cut lip.

Westbrook-Simmons is on parole for ag-

gravated battery of a peace officer. He was released on Dec. 28 after serving half of an eight-year sentence. Gnilka said he was convicted of burglary in 2008 and 2010 and felony resisting in 2014.

He and Howard are each charged with aggravated battery causing great bodily harm.

Judge Charles Beach set bail for Westbrook-Simmons at \$100,000 with electronic monitoring required upon release. He won't be eligible for release until state officials review his parole status.

Howard appeared separately before Judge Ankur Srivastava. Details of her bail conditions were not available because the hearing did not stream on the court's YouTube channel due to a technical problem.

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