

The only sure way to avoid making mistakes
is to have no new ideas.

—Albert Einstein

SKYLINE

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

FREE

VOL. 120, NO. 29

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

insideonline.com

High vacancy rates mean Burnham Center heading to foreclosure after \$42M default

Showing that commercial properties in the Loop are still struggling, one of downtown's landmark buildings is heading to foreclosure after failing to find a buyer.

Chicago-based Golub & Company, are reportedly set to surrender the 21-story Burnham Center, 111 W. Washington St. According to TheRealDeal.com, the Loop office tower was architect Daniel Burnham's last project before he died in 1912.

Last week Wells Fargo, on behalf of a trust, filed a foreclosure lawsuit against an affiliate of the Shidler Group for failing to make payments toward a \$42 million loan issued for the land where Golub had an interest in the building. Golub bought the 584,000-square-foot office building in 2019 and entered into a ground lease agreement with Shidler.

At the time Golub reportedly took out a \$75.4 million loan with CIT Group to fund the \$80 million purchase. That deal solidified a move to split the ownership of the Beaux-Arts style building from the land it is built on.

Originally known as the Conway Building and later as the Chicago Title & Trust Building, Shidler Group had purchased the entire property for nearly \$95 million in 2012. Built with funds



Chicago-based Golub & Company, are reportedly set to surrender the historic 21-story Burnham Center, 111 W. Washington St., in a bank foreclosure.

from the Marshall Field estate, it was the last building designed by Burnham before his death on June 1, 1912. It was completed in 1913.

The building was recognized by the National Park Service with a listing on the National Register of Historic Places on Feb. 9, 1984.

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1984.

Legal filings show that Golub terminated its ground lease with Shidler, potentially leading Shidler to begin missing payments in April on the loan issued by Wells Fargo for the land. The lawsuit alleges Golub failed to make its ground lease payments earlier this year according to TheRealDeal, and claims the Shidler affiliate that owns the ground failed to cure the tenant's default.

Shidler owed the trust represented by Wells Fargo \$39 million as of last week, the foreclosure filing states. Now Wells Fargo is requesting that John Rothschild of

BURNHAM see p. 12

Residential development proposal for 500 N. Michigan

The building owners of 500 N. Michigan Ave. are proposing to convert the existing office building to a primarily residential building.

This proposed amendment will be reviewed at an upcoming Chicago Plan Commission meeting with subsequent approval required by City Council.

The existing 24-story building is 325 feet tall, and has two stories at sub-Michigan Ave. It contains retail and restaurant tenants on the first two floors with offices above.

It is currently zoned Planned Development 487 (PD 487), which was approved on July 19, 1989.

The developer proposes to amend PD 487 to convert the building to 320 residential dwelling units on floors 6-23.

Retail and commercial uses would remain on the first two floors. Office uses are contemplated for floors 3 to 5. The 7th floor is proposed to have residential units and building amenity space, while the 24th floor will house mechanical space, interior amenity space and an exterior amenity deck.

A new top floor amenity space and terrace are contemplated for which additional FAR would have to be obtained through the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund bonus framework. The top floor addition will bring the building's height up to about 342 feet.

The parking garage is operated with valet service, via Lower Illinois St., allowing approximately 68 cars to be parked. The developer intends to continue to have the building served with valet parking.

Loading will be from the existing loading area on lower Michigan Ave.



500 N. Michigan Ave.



First responders at the scene of a shooting near the corner of Chicago Ave. and Cambridge Ave. on July 6.

Daytime drive-by leaves man injured on Near North Side

BY CWB CHICAGO

Police are investigating after a daytime shooting left a man injured July 8 on the Near North Side.

At about 11:47 a.m., the 35-year-old was in the 800 block of N. Cambridge when someone fired shots from a dark SUV, according to a Chicago police media statement. One round struck the man's left shoulder. He was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in serious condition.

Officers at the scene said they found at least eight shell casings from more than one caliber, which indicates more than one gun was fired and, presumably, more than one shooter was involved.

Bullets also struck some cars

and a nearby building's window.

The shooting occurred a couple of blocks from where a drive-by gunman shot a bicyclist on July 5. In that case, a 32-year-old man suffered a graze wound to his head when a gunman opened fire from a white SUV in the 500 block of W. Oak around 2:12 a.m., police said.

Officers at that scene found at least 12 shell casings from different firearms, again suggesting that more than one person fired shots.

So far this year, 16 people have been shot on the Near North Side. The total includes a Chicago police officer and a suspected burglar who exchanged gunfire near the Magnificent Mile on Jan. 8.

Trump Tower resident involved in financial fraud scheme

A resident of River North and the former chief financial officer at Loretto Hospital are at the center of a COVID vaccine and financial scandal in the early days of the pandemic.

Three people have been charged with defrauding the hospital out of \$15 million, while providing local elites with access to vaccines that were not yet widely available.

In March 2021, Block Club Chicago first revealed the hospital was funneling vaccines meant for underserved areas of the West Side to ineligible people in Trump Tower, where Loretto's then-Chief Financial Officer, Anosh Ahmed, lived. The chargers allege that connected individuals were able to get COVID vaccines early from Ahmed. Vaccines were also given out at Geneva Seal, a luxury Oak St. jewelry store, and at Maple and Ash Restaurant, a Gold Coast steakhouse that Ahmed patronized.

Block Club then partnered with the Better Government Assoc. reporting that Ahmed's friends won contracts worth \$4 million from the nonprofit hospital while

Loretto board members took hospital-funded Caribbean trips, among other benefits.

After the news broke, Dr. Allison Arwady, the Director of Chicago's Dept. of Health, said Loretto used its doses on "well-connected" people, "letting them jump the line."

On July 12 federal officials said Anosh Ahmed, 40, on July 11 was indicted by a grand jury on eight counts of wire fraud, four counts of embezzlement and three counts of money laundering.

His friend, medical supply company owner Sameer Suhail, 47, was also charged in the same indictment. He's facing six counts of wire fraud, six counts of aiding and abetting embezzlement and two counts of money laundering.

The federal charges came after a Block Club Chicago investigation and reporting that began with allegations Ahmed funneled hard-to-get vaccines early in the pandemic to his neighbors at Trump Tower and to workers at high-end businesses he frequent-

SCHEME see p. 12

When people are more important than things



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Strange winds move across the Chicago earth. The landscape of the Prairie, apparently, still vibrates with the rhythms of soaring times. Always has.

Back when trappers and traders populated the geography beside the forests near the great Michigan Lake. Back when the river flowed into the lake. When everything flowed upstream. Before the waterways were connected with more inventive stability. Giving everyone the chance to be knocked down by the pandemics of the times like Cholera, Diphtheria, Yellow Fever, Typhus, Small Pox and Scarlet Fever. And the hidden weaknesses, back then, unknown to our ancestors. Moral blindness.

These were the terrors that haunted humans. Breaking down humanity in a germ-ridden world. Growing urban centers forever threatened with unpredictable death lurking in the passageways of urban living and the tragedy of diseased breezes, contaminated water and medical ineptitude. And, of course, the historic lack of a fully formed conscience.

Ironically, the heart of that old world of contamination and constant health disintegration

was gradually restored to life in the extraordinary breakthroughs of science, practical medicine, nutrition and an effective understanding of how the human body works. From the discovery of the cure for Small Pox to the modern breakthrough of the Polio vaccine, the liberation of humans from the tragedy of cataclysmic illness and disease marked a fresh day for living.

The nightmares of blood-letting to purge the human body of bad humors becomes as ridiculous as it was painful and useless. How many humans perished in the misguided notion that the body is a pantheon of uncontrolled functions oozing ill vapors and spirits. No wonder the cure was worse than bite. Humans were prisoners of a pain-filled universe of bad judgment, false diagnosis, misplaced knowledge, religious misanthropy and the inability to quell the spread of plagues, epidemics and pestilence.

Don't forget in the primitive conditions of the era, there was no soap, no showers, no deodorant, no dry cleaners, no medicare. For many in that age there was just annual baths in May. No wonder June brides carried flowers. Most people smelled worse than a corpse.

I think it's fair to posit that since we have most of the real destructive diseases crippling humanity in check, perhaps we could work on the other health crisis affecting humanity. The one that appears to fall from the false formation of a poorly equipped human conscience. The thing that everyone from Jesus to Buddha, from Gandhi to Martin Luther King, Jr. has tried to make visible to the selfish human soul.

It's not a monolithic moral entity. It's more like 5,000 acts of love and kindness freely given to others. Holding off punitive judgments. It's not just refraining from eating meat on Fridays or scrambled eggs on Thursday nights. It's about the assessment of the needs of others. Everyone from St. Thomas Aquinas to Sigmund Freud has tried to raise up such values. They're healthy. Physically and psychologically. In fact, so too says Taylor Swift, Arlo Guthrie, Eddie Murphy, Robert F. Kennedy, Pope Francis, Mayor Richard J. Daley, Jesse Jackson, and soon-to-be new millennial Saint Carlo Acutis. (Acutis represents a new way to view sainthood in the modern era.)

Don't take my word for it. Just look around you. Do things look respectful outside? In City Hall? In Washington? Certainly not in Buckingham Palace. Or Mar-a-Lago. Look at all the cruel, bitter, intrusive, divisive and insensitive mayhem that keeps social media bubbling. That's not without cost. A human payment, the wearing away at the real fiber of being human.

And not just cruelty among the media celebrities. What about the epidemic of "bullying" that is so rampant among young people. Rabid little "stinkers" whose low self-esteem and lopsided view of themselves make them despots of cruelty and hurt to weaker, smarter fellow students.

What have we done to the lives of aging folk whose own offspring toddle them off to distant zip codes and remote relationships of any healthy meaning? With no conflicts 'cuz the weather's warm.

What about the poor. The new immigrants and the economically broken? People still filled with meaning and purpose. Poetry and wisdom. And art. And song. Does our code of moral purpose make room for them? Or are we isolated into troubled social and political paths of thought as erroneous as slave owners on a cotton plantation?

We need not search the heavens for the moral images of solutions. We need to form a righteous human conscience. If people are

strengthened and respected then we are on the right track. If we share from our own basket of vintles, then we are on the right road. When people are more important than things. A real balance is achieved.

When politicians have importance because they reinforce our racism, our exclusive American fascism, our distorted, irrational sense of political error, our tires are flat as pancakes. When we crave bolstering white racist philosophies, then we have lost our wheels and our common sense. Good for nothing, then, but NASCAR races on Lake Shore Drive. And embracing presidents trying to break federal law and attempt to usurp the Constitution.

When we cannot abide the aging value of American politicians, our own thoughts should shout out to us that strange winds move across our earth. We are no longer American. Your conscience is diseased.

Was it for this Normandy sands went red?

CLOSING: Revival Food Hall announced it is closing its doors in the Loop at the end of July, after eight years.

EARNED HIS WINGS: **Jose Lopez**, owner of BadaBing Wings at 4754 N. Clark St., died suddenly June 14, he was 42. BadaBing Wings, which opened in 2022, was named one of the best wing spots in Chicago. Lopez possessed a rock solid work ethic and was one of the friendliest and most enthusiastic business owners in the neighborhood. He will be missed by many.

DINNER: The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents Farmers Market will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary 6 p.m. Sept. 12, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago with a farm to table dinner at the museum prepared by celebrity Chef **Jason Hammel**. Tickets will be going on sale soon. Don't delay, seats at the table will be very popular.

VATICAN VISIT: **Pope Francis** got a boost from the Gainer women. Cook County's **Bridget Gainer** was roaming Rome with her top aides, daughter, **Lily Kibby**, and **Noreen Reilly**. They looked like they belonged there. I think that's what they told the pope. He looked thrilled to see their happy faces and listened to their commentary about the gathering in Beverly at St. Barnabas Church earlier this year about the role of the laity in Church life, especially women. Fortuitous.

SUN-TIMES: Anyone else embarrassed by the low quality of the journalism at the Sun-Times? While I came from a family of newspapers readers, all of the papers except the Sun-Times, it was not permitted entre into our Tribune, New York Times, Herald American, Daily News, Southtown family circle of everyday readers. Comparing the paper today to

what it was decades ago, makes it look like The Times of London, back then, in comparison. I read it in high school for **Mike Sneed** and **Irv Kupcinet**. But that was it. Today I rarely see the Sun-Times. You can't even find a copy while having breakfast at Lou Mitchell's anymore. But I hear from the paper practically daily, though. Trying to sell me a subscription



Jose Lopez.
Photo courtesy Joe Ward/
Block Club Chicago

online. Over and over. I know a couple of folk who only read it for sports news. And watching them trying to buck up **Mayor Johnson** is just too painful. What can be done?

W H O ' S WHERE: **Peter Q. Thompson** in Montana at Custer National Forest with uncle, former Mayor **Richard M. Daley** and cousin, **Patrick Daley**, enjoying the wide open range... **Peggy Snorf** returning home after seeing the beautiful historic Bayeux Tapestry...

Jim and Margaret Houlihan Smith (former aviation czarina) enjoyed the weekend downtown and watched the world slowly sail by... **Bobbi Panter, Sherrill Bodine, Sheree Schimmer** and **Wynniss Mackie** toasting birthday girl, **Sherry Lea Fox**, at the elegant bar of the Women's Athletic Club... **Kerry Grady** at the Rolling Stones concert with daughter, **Mia**... **Julie Barrish** looking sophisticated in an ad for the shops of Water Tower Place... **JoAnn Fakouri, Harry Garcia** and **Eddie Volkman** with DiscoHeadsLive in studio with **Eddie V** on Star 96.7FM new music release "Dancing With Someone Else"... **Kim Duda** at

PEOPLE see p. 8



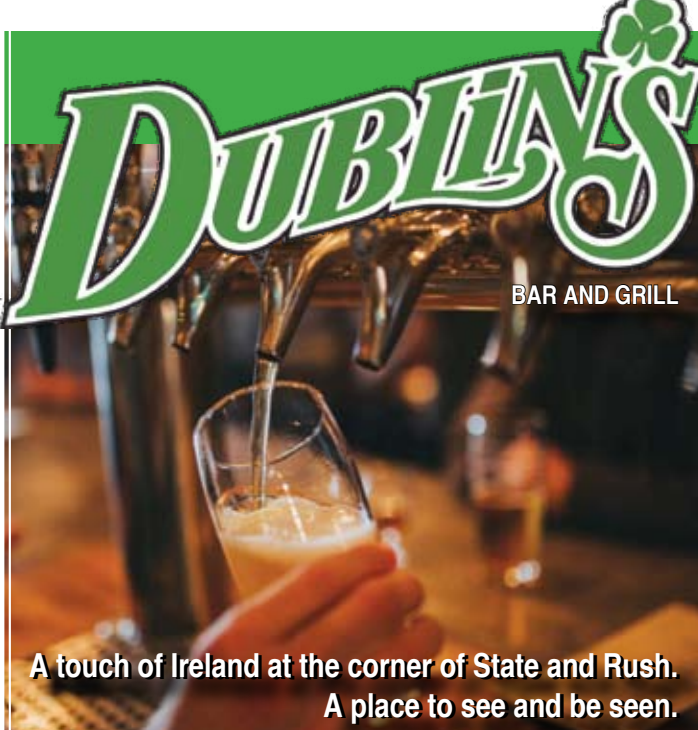
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INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications
6221 N. Clark St., rear Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 465-9700
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CPS budget talks underway, public may comment this week

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The Fiscal Year 2025 budget for Chicago Public Schools [CPS] includes a capital budget totaling \$611.1 million in spending that will reportedly focus on facilities needs.

The community is invited to attend virtual hearings regarding the CPS 2025 Capital Plan. Those meetings will be held Tuesday, July 16, and Thursday, July 18, both noon to 1:30 p.m., and again on July 18 at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The public will have access to

the meeting via live stream at [youtube.com/chipubschools](https://www.youtube.com/chipubschools), and the public participation will be held via Zoom. Taxpayers who wish to submit written comments related to the Plan can do so via cps.edu/capitalplan2025 until 7:30 p.m. on July 18.

Spending at neighborhood schools will be used to fund mechanical systems that control the indoor environment and air quality of our schools, building improvements for roofing systems, ADA accessibility, restroom modernizations, student recreation and athletic improvements, site improvements, and continued expansion of technology upgrades

and other academic priorities. The budget also includes investments for enhancements to Career and Technical Education and science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics programming.

Meanwhile, property owners in the city just last week received their property tax bills in the mail, and they show that CPS once again collect over half the total taxes collected in Chicago.

But are Chicago's taxpayers getting real value for their taxes?

While school taxes continue to rise, CPS reports show enrollment at CPS dropped by 31,905 students between the 2019-2020 and 2023-2024 school years. Those

reports also show that employment in CPS has increased by the equivalent of 5,472 full-time staff members between Dec. 2019 and

space-use problem – they're too empty.

Citywide nearly 60% of schools are underutilized while 5% are

Meanwhile, property owners in the city just last week received their property tax bills in the mail, and they show that CPS once again collect over half the total taxes collected in Chicago.

Dec. 2023. That's a 15% increase in full-time staff members despite a 9% decrease in enrollment.

According to The Illinois Policy Institute, one serious financial problem that CPS has is that they are underwriting hundreds of school buildings that have a

overcrowded. Only 37% of the schools are at ideal capacity.

When students return to school on Aug. 26, many will see empty desks near them.

More than 3 in 10 seats in CPS

BUDGET see p. 4

Paying tax bill online is easy and safe, but you can also pay by mail or in person

BY MARIA PAPPAS

Property owners face an Aug. 1 due date to pay their Second Installment 2023 tax bills.

Many homeowners authorize their mortgage company to pay their two annual property tax installments from an escrow account. They pay their mortgage company an amount every month to cover the cost of taxes as well as principal and interest on their home loan.

But many others are responsible for paying tax bills themselves. Those property owners have several ways to pay their property taxes:

- Pay online (for free with your bank account)
- Pay at Chase Bank
- Pay at a community bank
- Pay by mail



Maria Pappas

- Pay at the Treasurer's Office
- Pay by credit card

Paying online is the quickest and easiest way to pay a tax bill. There is no fee to pay online by transferring funds from your bank account. The option is

convenient because you can pay from home at any time, day or night. Plus, this method is secure and avoids the risk of someone stealing your check from a mailbox and draining funds from your bank account.

A second option is to pay in person at any one of nearly 400 Chase Bank locations in Illinois, including those located outside of Cook County. You must present a tax bill

payment coupon with your tax bill. Payment coupons may be detached from the bottom of tax bills that were mailed in early July to owners of nearly 1.8 million parcels or printed online.

When paying at a Chase Bank, your check must include the following information:

- Property Index Number (PIN)
- Taxpayer name
- Property location, including unit number
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Tax year/installment

Another option is to pay at a community bank. Payment is accepted at more than 100 community bank locations. A list of community bank locations that accept tax bill

payments is available online at cookcountytreasurer.com. Bring your entire original tax bill with you, and a cashier will give you a receipt for your payment.

For those opting to pay by mail, your check must include a PIN and other information listed above for paying at a Chase Bank. Your canceled check is your receipt. Mail checks for current tax bills to the Cook County Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 805438, Chicago, IL 60680-4116.

The Treasurer's Office welcomes walk-ins who prefer to pay their tax bills in person at 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, in downtown Chicago.

You may submit payment via credit card online at cookcountytreasurer.com. There is a 2.1% convenience fee associated with

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Taco Thursday in Rogers Park

The center of Mexican cuisine on the North Side today may be on Clark St. in Rogers Park, and now Taco Thursday is coming to the area.

The Rogers Park Business Alliance [RPBA] is hosting a Taco Crawl on Clark St. between Devon and Touhy 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 18.

Two routes will be offered this year: The Maiz Route and the Cilantro Route. Each will offer a unique curation of restaurants and available dishes, and crawlers will get to choose their route.

Tickets are available for this event and are currently being offered at \$20 per person. At event registration, RPBA will be offering a very limited number of additional tickets for \$30 per person. For more information visit <https://rpba.org/>.

A Parade for Pups July 28

For the first time ever, the Taste Of Lincoln Ave. and Wrightwood Neighbors Assoc. will be hosting a dog parade.

Their first Dog Parade will be held at noon Saturday, July 28, and the Wrightwood Neighbors are looking for the neighborhood's cutest fluffy friends.

They will present awards rang-

ing from Best in Show, Best Small Breed, Best Large Breed, Best Rescue, and Best Costume. Creativity is encouraged as they welcome all the cutest pups.

Sign ups are open now for those who would like to participate. They are limited to 100 spots so contact them at tasteoflincolnchicago@gmail.com.

Lakeview Township property tax workshop July 22

There will be a Lakeview Township property tax appeal workshop 6 p.m. Monday, July 22, at Truman College, hosted in partnership with the Cook County Assessor's Office and Cook County Cmsr. Bridget Gainer [10th]. Taxpayers will have the opportunity to hear from the Assessor's Office to help understand the recent reassessment notice and ask questions.

Onsite staff will provide one on one assistance following the presentation.

This event is open to the

public and there is no need to RSVP. Lakeview Township runs approximately from Armitage Ave. north to Devon Ave.

The Cook County Assessor's Office will holding other events virtually and in-person so those who can't make this event will have an opportunity to ask questions later. To view all upcoming events visit www.cookcountyassessor.com/event-list; or www.cookcountyassessor.com/assessment-calendar-and-deadlines, or call 312) 603-4210.

ciency in math.

Costs soared at those schools. Average spending per student was \$34,642 compared to the district average of \$18,287. That's over \$16,000 more per student at the 10 emptiest schools for much poorer results than the district's average.

The least utilized school in CPS is Douglass Academy High School. It's at just 4% of its capacity and enrolled 35 students in the 2023-2024 school year. It employs 21.5 full-time staff members for a staff-to-student ratio of 3:5.

Reading and math proficiency rates were redacted in spring 2023 because of the Illinois State Board of Education's rules for results involving fewer than 10 students. But the most recent test data available shows no 11th grade students could read or perform math at grade level on the SAT in the 2021-2022 school year, and 86% of tested students scored in the lowest proficiency level for reading. Douglass Academy's chronic absenteeism rate was 64%.

These poor metrics came at a price tag of \$68,091 per student in site-based expenditures, according to Illinois Policy. That's nearly \$50,000 more per student than the district average.

That spending encompasses "site-based expenditures," which are defined as "the total of per-

There were more successful outcomes and efficient spending among the 10 most overcrowded schools in CPS compared to the 10 emptiest schools.

The 10 most overcrowded schools in CPS averaged 137% of their capacity met, ranging from 126% at William Howard Taft High School to 148% at Robert A. Black Elementary School. On average across the 10 schools there was one staff member for every nine students.

Chronic absenteeism was 36%, lower than the district average and lower than in the 10 emptiest schools. The highest chronic absenteeism rate among the most-crowded schools was at Hubbard High School with 67% of their 1,673 students chronically absent.

The average percentage of students meeting grade-level standards in state assessments was 46% for reading and 36% for math in spring 2023, also better than at the 10 emptiest schools.

Average site-based spending per student was \$16,655, which averages \$20,000 less per student than at the 10 emptiest schools.

The most overcrowded school in CPS was Robert A. Black Magnet Elementary School. It has surpassed its capacity at 148% space utilization and enrolls 356 students with 43 teachers, for a staff to student ratio of 1:8.

Reading and math proficiency rates were redacted in spring 2023 because of the Illinois State Board of Education's rules for results involving fewer than 10 students. But the most recent test data available shows no 11th grade students could read or perform math at grade level on the SAT in the 2021-2022 school year, and 86% of tested students scored in the lowest proficiency level for reading. Douglass Academy's chronic absenteeism rate was 64%.

pupil school-level expenditures and per-pupil centralized expenditures funded by federal and state/local source of funds." Those expenditures include the cost of school staff, transportation and central office staff. It does not include capital expenditures or the cost of the school building.

Most overcrowded schools in CPS do better than the emptiest schools

In spring 2023, 51% of its students in third through eighth grade met grade-level standards in reading, exceeding the district average, and 17% in math, less than the district average. It had a low absenteeism rate at 11% and spending per student surpassed the district average by nearly \$2,000 at \$20,121 spending on site-based expenditures per student.

BUDGET from p. 3

schools remained empty during the 2023-2024 school year. In many schools the rate was higher.

Space utilization is measured annually by the CPS, which reports on school buildings operated by CPS, excluding charter schools operated in their own buildings and alternative schools. An elementary school's ideal capacity is 77% of its maximum capacity and a high school's is 80%.

Data shows 58% of schools – or 275 schools – were under-utilized in the 2023-2024 school year, 37% were efficient and 5% were overcrowded. Seven of the 25 overcrowded schools are selective enrollment schools which the Chicago Board of Education has resolved to close. Meanwhile, only one "sustainable community school" is overcrowded.

The average "space utilization rate" in the 2023-2024 school

year is 65% across 474 schools analyzed from district data. That means the average school in CPS has 35% of its seats unfilled.

Despite under-enrollment in many CPS schools, the Chicago Teachers Union's leaked contract demands include mandates for eight new staff members at each school in CPS at an additional cost to the district of \$1.7 billion, according to Illinois Policy.

The 10 least-utilized schools in CPS were at just 12% capacity on average, ranging from 4% at Douglass Academy High School to 16% at Sumner Elementary School.

There were two staff members for every seven students at those schools on average.

But a lower staff-to-student ratio hasn't helped those students, with those schools seeing high absenteeism rates and low proficiency rates.

Over 61% of the already few students were chronically absent, with as many as 84% chronically absent at Austin College and Career Academy High School alone.

The average percentage of students meeting grade-level standards in state assessments for reading and math was 9% and 2% in spring 2023 for those 10 schools. In three of the schools, no tested students met proficiency in reading and five of the schools saw no tested students meet profi-

PAYING from p. 3

credit card payments that is paid to the payment processor.

State law requires that those who fail to pay their bills in full by the due date will be charged 0.75% per month in interest, or 9% per year. The Treasurer's Office allows taxpayers to make partial payments over time as their budgets allow. Taxpayers are responsible for paying the to-

tal tax amount owed, along with any interest associated with late tax payments.

A payment plan calculator will be available Aug. 2 at cookcountytreasurer.com at no cost to help property owners who are late paying their taxes. The calculator will help taxpayers budget their property tax expenses over monthly installments or every two weeks.

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Home buyers may see lower summer mortgage rates



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Mortgage interest rates appear to be headed lower at last, making the late summer home-buying market in Chicago more affordable and attractive.

On July 11, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans averaged 6.89% nationwide, down from 6.95% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed loan rate averaged 6.96%. The survey charts average contract interest rates of 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with conforming loan balances of \$766,550 or less.

Noting recent reports that show the labor market and inflation are continuing to cool, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome H. Powell said last week that "more good data" could open the door to interest-rate cuts as soon as September.

At its June meeting, the central bank left its benchmark Fed-funds rate unchanged at 5.25% to 5.5%--the highest in 23 years. The Fed penciled in only one rate cut in 2024, versus its previous forecast of three cuts this year.

U.S. inflation cooled in June for a third straight month to a 3%, down from 3.3% in May, but still higher than the Fed's 2% target rate.

"Following June's jobs report, which showed a cooling labor market, the 10-year Treasury yield decreased this week and mortgage rates followed suit," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

Speaking at a Senate Banking Committee hearing last week, Powell noted that the Fed is concerned with the risks of waiting too long to cut rates. The next "likely direction seems to be that we loosen policy at the right moment," Powell said, adding that he believed it would be unlikely for the Fed to increase rates at its next meeting.

Should inflation remain low through the summer, most economists expect the Fed to begin cutting its benchmark rate by a quarter of a percentage point in September, which could push 30-year fixed mortgage rates into the 6.5% range.

"Following June's jobs report, which showed a cooling labor market, the 10-year Treasury yield decreased this week and mortgage rates followed suit," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

On July 12, the 10-year Treasury yield, which is used to monitor the Fed funds rate, eased to 4.21% from 4.28%.

"We're also seeing more home listing inventory on the market,

including a fair number of listings with price cuts, which is an encouraging sign for prospective buyers," Khater said.

On July 11, the Freddie Mac survey also reported that average 15-year fixed mortgage rates eased to 6.17% from 6.25% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed-loan average was 6.30%.

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

Adjustable-rate option

However, there is another road to homeownership—the affordable adjustable-rate mortgage [ARM].

An ARM typically starts with a fixed interest rate for a set period of time, and then adjusts at intervals. ARMs come in differ-

ent options in which the interest rate is set for three, five, seven or 10 years.

After the initial fixed-rate period, the rate can adjust in six-month or 12-month intervals depending on market conditions. The adjustments are based on an index, such as Treasury yields, or a Secured Overnight Financing Rate, and the lender's profit margin also is tacked on.

If a home buyer takes out a five-year ARM, the interest rate is locked for that initial period. After five years, the rate can adjust with the index rate every six months or each year thereafter.

ARMs are a roll of the dice. Consumer advocates say borrowers should worry that interest

rates may go up over time, and that would mean payments could increase, or negative amortization could occur, causing the loan balance to grow. However, rates also can go down over time. At that time, it might be a good idea to refinance and lock in a fixed-rate loan.

Experts say that if you are likely to move in five to seven years, and the residence you are looking to buy won't be your "forever home," an ARM may make a lot of sense.

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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Police Beat...

Woman who killed and butchered landlord won a \$3 million lawsuit against the CTA while murder case was pending



Sandra Kolarou (left) in a Jan. 2022 mugshot and Frances Walker (right) are seen inset with a crash report diagram of the CTA bus incident.

Sandra Kolarou, the woman sentenced to decades in prison last week for murdering and dismembering her landlord, won a \$3 million lawsuit against the CTA while she was in jail awaiting trial on the charges, court records show.

The judge overseeing the ongoing civil suit permitted Kolarou to proceed under her maiden name, Sandra White, following her arrest for the murder and dismemberment of Frances Walker.

Jurors were never told about the murder allegations or why Kolarou wasn't in court for the civil trial (She was in jail.).

The 2019 lawsuit stemmed from a March 1, 2018, accident in Rogers Park. Kolarou was crossing the street in a crosswalk when a #22 Clark bus struck her while making a left-hand turn at Clark and Howard.

Kolarou sued the CTA and the bus driver, claiming permanent back injuries, the possible need for surgery, and regularly experiencing "10 out of 10" severe pain in her lower back and legs.

Just four months before the case was set for trial, prosecutors charged Kolarou with murdering her landlord, Frances Walker, in their West Ridge home.

Within weeks, her civil attorneys sought to have the jury sequestered during the upcoming trial, an effort that failed. However, they succeeded in convincing a judge to prohibit anyone from using the name Kolarou during the trial due to a "strong prejudice against murderers."

Instead, the case proceeded with her being identified as Sandra White, even though she continued to live under her married name after getting divorced years earlier.

On Feb. 27, 2023, a jury handed Kolarou a \$3 million award at trial, plus costs.

Court records show the CTA filed a motion for a new trial in May 2023, citing the poor audio quality of Kolarou's deposition, which had been recorded inside the Cook County jail, and her alleged failure to disclose social media accounts.

Those social media posts showed Kolarou "cliff-jumping, swimming with the dolphins, roller-skating, playing tennis, wearing high heels, and traveling to far-away destinations such as Egypt, South Africa, and Mexico" while she was experi-

encing debilitating leg and back pain, the CTA claimed in a filing.

Last fall, a new trial took place, and the second jury nearly reached the same verdict as the first, awarding Kolarou \$2.8 million plus costs. At least one expert testified during the trial that the social media photos did not contradict her claims of experiencing severe back and leg pain.

Restaurant employees tied up during after-hours robbery in the Loop

Two pizzeria employees were tied up during an after-hours armed robbery in the Loop July 14. An employee at Lou Malnati's, 805 S. State, called 911 after freeing themselves around 1:45 a.m.

Without identifying the business by name, Chicago police said a man and woman confronted a male employee as he exited a back door near a garbage area. The male robber grabbed the employee, put a knife to his throat, and forced him back into the restaurant, police said.

Once inside, the female robber pointed a gun at a second employee and demanded money from the safe. The male victim fell and suffered a head injury during the robbery. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

CPD said both victims complied and the robbers escaped. An officer who responded to the scene described them as a Black male wearing black clothing and a Black female wearing brown and red clothing.

Girl, 15, charged with 4 attacks and robberies aboard the Red Line

A 15-year-old girl has been charged with participating in four attacks and robberies of CTA passengers along the CTA Red Line this year, Chicago police said.

Investigators arrested the girl July 9 in the 1200 block of S. Wabash, not far from the Roosevelt CTA station.

She is accused of participating in the physical attack of a 26-year-old woman aboard a train at the Roosevelt station around 9:30 p.m. Jan. 8, police said.

The girl also participated in three robberies of CTA passengers:

- A 23-year-old woman was physically attacked and robbed while riding a Red Line train at Cermak around 8:30 p.m. May 6.

- A 34-year-old man was battered and robbed on a Red Line train at the Thorndale station around 2:34 a.m. May 11.

- A 30-year-old man was robbed at the 47th Street Red Line station on July 4, but the time and exact location of the crime were not available.

The girl faces three charges of robbery and three counts of aggravated battery of a transit passenger, according to CPD.

No other information is available about her because the charges are filed in juvenile court. State law shields those records from public review.

Pickpockets ravaged Pride Fest and Pride Parade, with 31 thefts reported in one evening

Pickpocket crews ran rampant during the annual Chicago Pride festivities in Boystown last month, police records show. At least 57 people reported having phones or wallets stolen while they attended the Pride Fest weekend or the annual Pride Parade.

On Saturday, June 22, alone, police

reported an incredible 31 thefts within and immediately adjacent to Pride Fest. Even more astounding, police reported 25 of those 31 thefts in less than three hours, beginning around 7 p.m.

A reader was one of the unfortunate victims. "I just bought a new one at the store and they said I was the fifth person coming in today with the same story," the Pride Fest reveler told us last month.

The thefts on that Saturday evening ground to a halt after Chicago police officers arrested a Florida man who allegedly stole a phone from a 42-year-old man in the 3700 block of N. Halsted, records show.

Juan Pablo Giraldo Ruiz, 40, of Orlando, reached into the man's pocket, took the phone, and handed it off to an accomplice who got away, according to a CPD arrest report. Officers who searched Ruiz found "multiple credit cards that did not belong to [him]... and another cell phone," the report said.

He was released from police custody after being charged with misdemeanor theft.

The second day of Pride Fest saw only three reported phone and wallet thefts.

Another, smaller wave of thefts popped up on the Boystown nightlife strip early on June 29 and 30. We found seven total cases filed during those time periods. Six more cases were reported along the Halsted strip during and immediately after the Chicago Pride Parade. We found five more cases reported on Halsted that evening.

Organized theft crews, usually operated by people from out of state, have targeted Pride Fest, the Pride Parade, and other major events like Lollapalooza since at least 2019. However, this year's Pride Fest tally exceeds what we've seen in other years.

The thieves love working dance floors, crowded bars, and other tightly-packed areas where victims are less likely to be suspicious of random bumping and touching.

Police have arrested some crews in the past, most notably at Lollapalooza. Prosecutors eventually dropped most of the cases.

Migrants raided Ulta store, taking colognes worth \$1,740



Mugshots of Juan Tavares Bermudez, left, and Jose Arbolea Rincon.

Two Venezuelan migrants face felony charges for allegedly stealing \$1,700 worth of cologne from an Ulta Beauty store. Chicago police tracked down Jose Arbolea Rincon, 32, and Juan Tavares Bermudez, 19, by following a GPS tracker hidden inside one of the cologne boxes they took, officials said.

Prosecutors said the men entered the Ulta at 1300 N. Ashland around 12:30 p.m. June 24 and loaded boxes of cologne into a book bag. The duo allegedly damaged a display case on their way out.

Cops followed the GPS tracker until they saw Bermudez and Rincon in the 400 block of S. Plymouth Court holding a bag similar to the one the shoplifters used, a CPD report said. Officers allegedly found colognes worth \$1,740 inside the bag. They arrested the men after an Ulta employee identified them as the shoplifters.

Rincon lives at the Standard Club shelter, 320 S. Plymouth, while Bermudez listed the 344 N. Ogden shelter as his home address.

Both men were released to await trial on charges of felony retail theft and misdemeanor criminal damage

to property.

Bermudez was already on pretrial release for a misdemeanor retail theft charge, according to court records. On May 16, he was arrested after employees at Nordstrom Rack, 24 N. State, accused him and an accomplice of stealing shoes.

Armed carjackings reported in West Loop, Edgewater, Albany Park

Three armed carjackings have been reported since July 7, according to Chicago police, with two delivery drivers targeted on the North Side and a third motorist hijacked in the West Loop. A suspect is in custody for one of the crimes.

The first delivery driver was carjacked around 7:05 p.m. in the 3000 block of W. Wilson. He told police he was inside his gray Ford sedan when a gunman walked up and ordered him to get out, a CPD spokesperson said. The 43-year-old Amazon driver complied. Several packages that were in his car for delivery were also taken.

An officer at the scene described the hijacker as a Black male wearing a blue and black jacket with skinny jeans. He had a beard and dreadlocks, stood about 5'-10" tall, and weighed about 140 pounds.

Another delivery driver was hijacked around 7:25 p.m. in the 1000 block of W. Balmoral, according to preliminary information. He reported that he was making a delivery when a man confronted him with a gun and took his red Ford Escape.

CPD's hijacking task force used the city's network of license plate readers in the Loop about two hours later. The driver crashed on I-90/94 near Randolph and ran away as cops moved in. They found him hiding in a dumpster. Charges were pending overnight.

Then, around 12:26 a.m., another man got into a physical altercation with two armed carjackers who confronted him in the 300 block of N. Green, a police spokesperson said. Ultimately, the pair got away with the victim's phone, wallet, and blue Mazda. No suspect descriptions were available.

Eight-time felon gets 11 years for shooting at cop in Rogers Park

An eight-time convicted felon has been sentenced to 11 years after pleading guilty to shooting toward Chicago cops who were chasing him in Rogers Park.

Timothy Thomas, 33, pleaded guilty to aggravated discharge of a firearm toward a peace officer. Prosecutors dropped 21 other felonies that he faced, including multiple counts of attempted murder.

In Sept. 2021, Chicago police officers pulled Thomas over after seeing him run a stop sign while turning near Jonquil Terrace and Bosworth.



Timothy Thomas

The cops, driving an unmarked car in full uniform, activated their blue lights and pulled Thomas over. Prosecutors said he got out and began walking toward the officers' car, disregarding their orders to get back into his vehicle.

Thomas allegedly slammed the squad car's passenger door on the leg of an officer and then ran. The cop chased him.

As they turned a corner, Thomas pulled out a gun and fired one shot toward the officer, prosecutors said. The bullet struck the window of a home on the 7600 block of N. Bosworth, but no injuries were reported.

Thomas fell on the sidewalk and allegedly tossed the gun into the street before getting up and running into an alley. Cops allegedly found him hiding on the third floor of a rear porch.

Lab tests determined that the shell casing from the fired shot was ex-

pected by the recovered firearm, prosecutors claimed. A surveillance camera also captured the shooting.

His previous felony convictions include being a felon in possession of a firearm in 2018, three narcotics cases in 2018, DUI in 2013, and attempted robbery in 2008.

Judge Anjana Hansen oversaw the case and sentenced Thomas.

Robber slashed victim, stole their car, got tracked down by city license plate readers



Antonio Tapia

Prosecutors have charged a man with slashing a robbery victim and driving away with their car, only to be tracked down by Chicago cops, who located the stolen vehicle on Lake Shore Dr. via the city's license plate reader network.

Antonio Tapia, 30, is charged with armed robbery and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon in connection with the holdup, which occurred in the 6200 block of N. Sacramento.

Prosecutors said the victim, 33, was outside his home when Tapia struck up a conversation by asking for the time. It was 10:55 a.m. July 4.

Tapia proceeded to shove a knife toward the victim while demanding his keys, officials said. Even though the victim was complying, Tapia slashed the man's right hand and fingers, according to court filings.

He allegedly drove away with the man's 2019 Kia Forte and, less than two hours later, a city license plate reader spotted the vehicle heading south on Lake Shore Dr. at North Ave.

Chicago cops stopped the car near Buckingham Fountain and arrested him. They said Tapia had the car keys and a large folding knife in his cargo pocket.

Judge Ankur Srivastava detained Tapia, calling the robbery "particularly violent and brazen."

Tapia has previous felony convictions for burglary, resisting police, and retail theft, according to court records. He also had a misdemeanor trespassing case pending when the carjacking occurred. Court records show he failed to appear in court on Feb. 1, and Judge Aileen Bhandari ordered the clerk to send him a postcard reminder. When he failed to appear at the next court date in March, Judge Joseph Gump ordered the clerk to send another postcard. Finally, on April 22, Gump signed an arrest warrant, which was active at the time of the robbery.

Huge heart tattoo helped cops identify North Side killer who was on electronic monitoring

Prosecutors say the man who shot and killed an unintended victim on the Far North Side last month was wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet while on juvenile parole.



Nicolas Novak

Nicolas Novak, 18, was assigned to live at a Thresholds facility in the 2000 block of W. Arthur when he killed William Youkhana, 31, on June 8, Assistant State's Attorney Anne McCord Rodgers said in a written proffer. He had been adjudicated delinquent for possessing a stolen motor vehicle and aggravated fleeing in Kane County, Rodgers said.

A few hours before the murder, surveillance cameras at Thresholds recorded Novak leaving the facility. A large heart tattoo on his face was

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Lincoln Park mail thieves caught on camera

BY CWB CHICAGO

A new surveillance video shows two thieves using master keys to enter a Lincoln Park condo building and steal the residents' mail. The video was recorded Monday evening in the vestibule of a building at Fullerton and Janssen, according to a reader who lives in the complex.

While most mail thieves try to minimize the time spent inside a building, this duo took their sweet time, sorting and analyzing the value of individual pieces of mail for nearly 90 seconds. One of them even scoped out a couple of packages in the vestibule but apparently judged them not worth taking.

Mail thieves might occasionally score a valuable package or an envelope containing a birthday gift card from someone's grandma. However, experts say the real value comes from identity theft and check fraud mills, which use information from stolen mail to steal people's identities and checks.

Armed men have frequently robbed mail carriers of their USPS master keys in Chicago.



Thieves sort through a mailbox in Lincoln Park on July 8.

Some keys are stolen from the postal service in less violent ways. Counterfeit keys have also popped up.

Highly organized identity theft and fraud organizations use stolen postal service master keys, called "arrow keys," to steal large volumes of mail from public mailboxes and residential building mailrooms.

While mail theft is a federal crime, most people accused of stealing mail in Chicago are prosecuted in state court. Federal prosecutors here have been more

willing to pursue charges against people accused of robbing postal workers of master keys.

Reward offered by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service have reached \$150,000 for information that leads investigators to robbers. Lesser amounts have been offered for information about mail thieves.

Residents of the Lincoln Park building grappled with that state-federal confusion when they tried to file complaints with the Chicago Police Department.

"CPD said we can't file a report because it's not their jurisdiction and we have to contact the post office," the reader explained. The residents decided to file a report with CPD online anyway. It got rejected because the filing "requires officer assistance to complete," according to the reader.

It was not clear if the city worker who declined to file a report was a Chicago police officer or a 911/311 dispatcher who works for a different city agency.

On July 9, one of the building's residents finally succeeded in filing a report with CPD.

Investigation leads to recovery of \$2.4M in suspected stolen merchandise

A Cook County Sheriff's Police investigation into a fencing operation at a Chicago store led to the recovery of approximately \$2.4 million in suspected stolen merchandise and five firearms, Sheriff Thomas J. Dart announced July 11.

On July 2, Sheriff's Police executed a search warrant at a store in the 2200 block of W. Taylor Ave. after an investigation by the Sheriff's Police Organized Retail Crime Team found store employees knowingly purchased stolen



Darris Kelly

items to resell them to their customers. Officers also learned that store representatives instructed individuals to steal specific apparel, shoes, and fragrances.

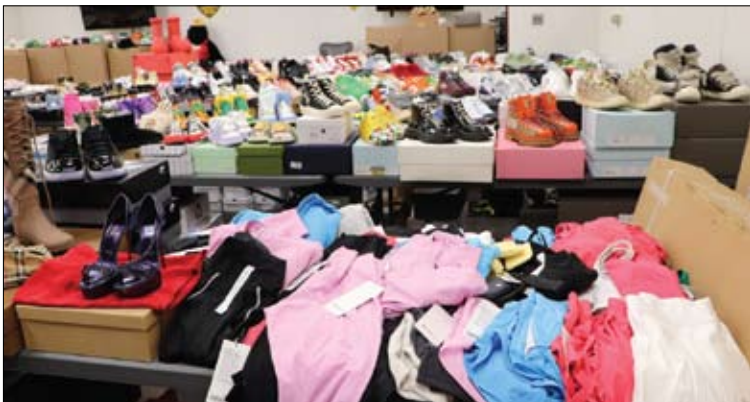
While executing the search warrant, Sheriff's Police officers recovered thousands of suspected stolen items with a retail value totaling approximately \$2.4 million. The store is not an authorized dealer for those items, and the Sheriff's office is working with the manufacturers to determine their authenticity.



Jerry Walker

Officers also found five firearms, multiple magazines, including an extended magazine and a large capacity drum magazine, and nearly 200 rounds of ammunition.

On July 3, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office approved felony charges against store owner Darris Kelly and employee Jerry Walker in connection with the stolen merchandise. Kelly, 44, of Maywood, was charged



While executing the search warrant, Cook County Sheriff's Police officers recovered thousands of suspected stolen items with a retail value totaling approximately \$2.4 million.

with Class 2 felony theft. Walker, 50, of Broadview, was charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, a Class 3 felony, and Class 2 felony theft.

Both men appeared at the

George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse on July 4, for initial appearances where they were ordered released from custody. Their next court date is July 26.

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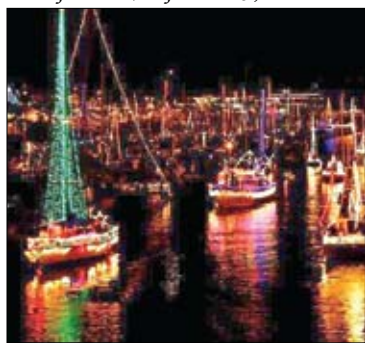
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Annual Venetian Night on Lake Michigan July 20

Chicago's 4th Annual Venetian Night on Lake Michigan will be held 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at Queens Landing (Monroe Harbor) across from Buckingham Fountain. The event is produced by the Italian American Human Relations Foundation [IAHRF] in partnership with the Chicago Yachting Assoc.

Venetian Night brings the charm of the famous Venice boat parades along with decorated boats, musical and costume strollers and a grand fireworks display at Navy Pier. Food trucks will be serving pizza, Italian beef and sausage and Italian desserts. Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs and enjoy the boat parade at sundown.

Boat owners can still register their boat for only \$50 and be part of the celebration.

Since 1958, Chicago has celebrated this nautical parade that is named after the ever-popular boat parades of Venice, Italy. "This is such an honor to bring a fantastic part of our Italian culture to the City of Chicago," said Lou Rago, President of IAHRF.

For more information and to register, visit venetiannightchicago.com.

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Noreen Kibby and Pope Francis.

PEOPLE from p. 2

family reunion with aunts, uncles and cousins... **Rodney Alex** at 312 Fish Market holding a beautiful iced bowl of a fish head and shellfish, so I need to know more details... **Eamonn Cummins** celebrating the real meaning of America with photo of parents from Ireland and nieces from Spain... **Cynthia Olson** had a Colorado visit with her artist daughter and granddaughter, **Ashley**, a biochemical engineer and lots of great grandchildren... Happy 98th Birthday to **Grandma Haring**, mother of **Michael Haring** and the delight of her cherished family... Architect **Lucien Lagrange** in Naples, FL on Bastille Day... the Merchandise Mart is "Stars & Strips" forever... **Tom McGuire** and **Tom Hackett** have returned from their Italian Wedding and apres R&R in France, ran into them for an impromptu Independence Day dinner at Gibson's Steakhouse with the fascinating **Sarah Tuohy**... Judge (Ret.) **Rhoda Sweeney** and husband, **Fred Drucker**, joined celebrated former Chicago TV anchor **Walter Jacobson** and friends for 4th of July... Broadway's **Richard Robin** played golf with sons, **Jason** and **Neal**, to celebrate his birthday at Bryn Mawr Country Club... Bravo Brit runway model **Kit Price** opening his first show in Milan for Fashion Week... So thrilled that newsy **Candace Jordan** will now be working with WGN Radio's **Rick Kogan**, that's real Chicago... Lake Forest's **Jim** and **Anne McNulty** made the most of having their five daughters in Chicago

for the 4th from Kennebunkport, ME, Long Island, NY, San Francisco, CA, Portland, OR and Ann Arbor, MI with husbands and children, there's only one place to go then, your own sports deck at Wrigley Field... Irish Folk sensation, The High Kings, had an honored place at the University of Notre Dame's Commencement singing their salute to ND called "Glorio Notre Dame"... they also brought tears to eyes singing the Alma Mater

PAX TIBI: **Leslie Hindman** said goodbye to her 97 year old father, **Donald DeForest Hindman**, passing away peacefully in his sleep, joining his beloved wife, **Pat Hindman**, who passed in November after 72 years of marriage. Prayers and sympathy, Leslie dear.

MON AMI GABI: Had a spectacular French supper at Mon Ami Gabi in the Belden Stratford across from the Lincoln Park Zoo. The best onion soup and pot of fresh steamed mussels in onion, cream, garlic and wine, with a baguette for soaking up the juices. And some pommes frites. The atmosphere is so Parisian. **David Koehn**, Executive Chef, always outdoes himself. He stopped by my table to say hello. Met some delightful folk in the banquet next to me. **Mary DeLargy** visiting from Pittsburgh, dining with her son, **Michael**, and son-in-law, **Kevin**, who live in town. The Tarte Tartin brought us together, and that turned into a great Chicago food palaver. Charming folk.

REQUIEM: **Betty Stoll Groth**, a well-known Chicago debutante, and pride of the Madame's of the Sacred Heart Schools, died in



Judge (Ret.) Rhoda Sweeney, Fred Drucker, Walter Jacobson and friends.



O'Gorman Art Studio paintings.

Palm Beach at 96. Her rarified Chicago life unfolded in the days before she married her beloved husband of 72 years, **Johnny Groth**, a star centerfielder for the Detroit Tigers beginning in 1946. Then a life-long Tigers' scout for decades. The Groths made their home in Palm Beach for the rest of their lives living directly across the street, on Queen's Lane, from **Rose Kennedy**. They raised their tribe there, so many I now have lost count. Eleven children in all. Betty was the pride of St. Edward's Parish and **Monsi-**

gnor Jeremiah P. O'Mahoney. The delight of **Mother Mary Clark, RSCJ**, the famed American Superior of the Sacred Heart order. I remember meeting her with Betty on a Palm Beach visit. Betty was a lifer at the Sailfish Club and countless charities, all the recipients of her generosity and life-long work for justice, often with her late sister **Margo Stoll Crawford**. I remember the hospitality and the hilarity of the Groth house, brimming with great vittles and humorous anecdotes from the life of the party, **Johnny Groth**. Dear Betty was my Stoll cousins' aunt. Together, they over-populated Palm Beach with faith and loyalty and a cohesion of values. I will miss Betty very much. That whole generation is now gone. But Stolls have been an important piece of Chicago history, too, since her father, **John Otto Stoll**, began his publishing house. As well as the efforts of **Grandmother Stoll's** brother, the famous Gold Coast Chicago Alderman, **Dorsey Crowe**.

IRELAND IN PAINT: The O'Gorman Art Studio held a fresh exhibition of new art last Saturday and Sunday, which included many fresh new paintings, Irish botanicals, landscapes, architecture and historic portraits. Prices were good. Stay tuned for a sale in the future.

Far too many people are looking for the right person, instead of trying to be the right person.
 -- Gloria Steinem

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National Amelia Earhart Day is July 24, famous aviatrix had Chicago connections

BY BOB KITSOS

July 24 marks the birth date of Amelia Earhart, the most famous aviatrix and a pioneer in aviation history. Among her many accomplishments are that she was the first woman to fly solo across North America and back.

In 1932, she was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and the first person to fly across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

But few today know that this iconic aviator and feminist had a connections to Chicago. Earhart lived in Chicago for a short time and graduated from Hyde Park High school on the South Side in 1915.

In 1928, "20 Hrs., 40 Min.," her book about aviation and her transatlantic experience, was published and she began lecture tours to promote it.

Her message encouraging women to get involved in flying was especially clear during her visit to the Windy City in July 1928. She told those who attended a dinner at the Congress Hotel, "It is up to women to get behind the aviation program and aid it in every possible way."

In 1929, she founded the Ninety-Nines, an organization aimed at nurturing the aspirations of women in aviation. The Chicago chapter of the Ninety-Nines was founded in 1934. The name was chosen to represent the 99 charter members; membership was later extended to other licensed women pilots.

These women were passionate about aviation and held annual transcontinental races. The organization is still going strong today.

In 1932 after Earhart made her historic trans-Atlantic flight, the Chicago City Council adopted a resolution to formally invite her to Chicago to celebrate the occasion. The next year, she visited again for the Chicago World's Fair – but stayed low to the ground, choosing a rickshaw as her mode of transportation around the fairgrounds.

Final flight

On May 21, 1937, she and Fred Noonan, an experienced air navigator, started the first leg of their 29,000-mile flight to circumnavigate the world at the equator. Noonan, who was born in Cook County – in or



On May 21, 1932, Amelia Earhart landed in County Donegal, Ireland. She was the first woman to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic, completing the 2,000-mile historic flight from Newfoundland in just under 15 hours.

near Chicago -- navigated the first round-trip flight from San Francisco to Honolulu and mapped commercial routes across the

Pacific when he worked for Pan Am.

The pair flew from California to Florida, across South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Australia. On June 29 they landed in New Guinea to rest and refuel before setting out for Howland Island, which is midway between Australia and the Hawaiian Islands. Then they planned to begin the final leg of the flight across the Pacific Ocean to California.

However, thick clouds and radio transmission issues contributed to the plane's disappearance on July 2, 1937. Many theories have floated about what may have happened. The most widely accepted theory is that the plane was off course, ran out of fuel and plunged into the ocean and sank, killing Earhart, age 41, and Noonan, age 45. She was declared dead in absentia by a court on Jan. 5, 1939.

In a letter to her husband George Putnam shortly before her last flight, Earhart wrote, "Please know that I am aware of the hazards. I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be a challenge to others."



Artist Russell Muits painted tree grates with designs inspired by the facades and architecture of the Aragon Ballroom, Sheridan Trust Bank, Graceland Cemetery and the Green Mill.

Decorated tree grates greet residents of Uptown

BY MARTHA ROSENBERG

Pedestrians venturing down Broadway in Uptown had a colorful surprise in June. Nine tree grates have been decorated with colorful designs inspired by local buildings, signage and other images representing the neighborhood's visual history.

Commissioned by the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, the public art was created by graphic designer, print maker, street artist and muralist Russell Muits, 46.

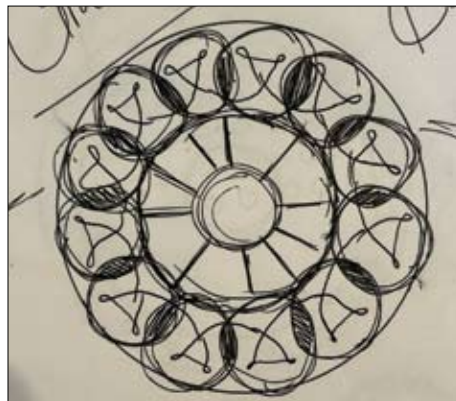
Muits says he enjoys "beautifying neighborhood streets" and the "release from computer art" that it represents. "While I was painting them [the tree grates], everyone who walked by -- all ages and demographics -- thanked me for making 'their block look nice.' It was so nice and so en-

couraging."

The grates are close to the location of a community coop grocery planned to debut soon in the Wilson Ave. CTA Red Line station.

In case you haven't visited for a while, Uptown -- bounded by Irving Park on the south to Foster on the north, Lake Michigan on the east and Ravenswood on the west -- is on the move. Muit's tree grates were timed to coincide with an annual art walk in which over 50 local artists sell their creations, some painting live on wood panels to be installed outside stores.

Muits has been fascinated with the art found in the old ironwork of utility covers -- and electrical, gas, coal, water meters, storm drains, sewers -- for at least a decade and traveled to over 59 cities making prints



Artist's sketch inspired by Graceland Cemetery.

of them for canvases and even T-shirts.

At first, even though he was working with water-based paints, Muits, worried

that municipal authorities would object to his mission of finding "the most ornate piece of iron" and accuse him of defacing the metal. But it was just the opposite. A representative of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce saw him transforming the design on a utility cover, and commissioned the tree grate designs. Law enforcement personnel also admired his work and even protected him.

In the early days, utility covers were marked with their foundry names which almost functioned as competing ads replete with their names and addresses showing. "You could find at least 15 names," in some places he says.

Seattle, a city that Muits delights in

GRATES see p. 10



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Rogers Park man robbed victim of phone, e-bike

BY CWB CHICAGO

A North Side man is charged with pulling a gun on a Rogers Park resident and taking the victim's electric bike and phone. Judge Deidre Dyer detained Nehemiah Jones, 18, to await trial on a charge of armed robbery.

The robbery occurred around 7:45 p.m. June 12, but police recently arrested Jones to face charges in the case after seeing him walking in Rogers Park while wearing a sweatshirt identical to the robber's, officials said.

Jones initiated the robbery by asking to borrow a 22-year-old man's phone to call for a ride, prosecutors said. The victim agreed and handed over the device. That's when Jones demanded the phone's passcode.

When the victim asked why Jones needed the code, Jones pulled out a gun and demanded

his other valuables, prosecutors said in a detention petition. Upon seeing the weapon, the victim got off his e-bike, ran into his nearby apartment building, and called 911.



Nehemiah Jones Jones allegedly left with the victim's phone and bike. A witness and the victim identified Jones, officials said, and Jones allegedly identified himself in surveillance images of the robber.

Chicago police records show that another victim reported that someone tried to rob them at gunpoint in the same alley just two hours before the holdup Jones is accused of committing. No one has been charged in that case.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

visible as he strolled outside, dressed in red pants, a black hoodie, and a black balaclava.

Rodgers said he eventually boarded a CTA bus near Wabansia and Kimball and exited near Devon Ave. As he walked along the south side of the street around 9:45 p.m., an unarmed man on the north side of the street was seen "confrontationally waving his arms in the air," according to Rodgers.

Novak crossed the street to exchange words with the man. Youkhana placed himself between the two men, and Novak walked away, according to Rodgers.

She said video showed Novak looking over his shoulder and pulling a firearm from his hoodie. He turned around, returned to the two men, and fired several shots. One round struck Youkhana in the torso, but the man who apparently confronted Novak was not injured, Rodgers said.

Additional video footage showed

Novak's escape and his return to the Thresholds facility. Several Thresholds employees and Novak's juvenile probation officer identified him in surveillance images. She said Novak's ankle monitor stopped pinging after he boarded the CTA bus because its battery was low. After Novak returned to Thresholds, it started emitting signals again.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

GRATES from p. 9

almost as much as he does in early utility art ("I loved the white capped mountains on a summer day," he says), was the first city in the country to commission local artists to design utility covers, no doubt recognizing their historic and artistic value. The utility covers were renamed "hatch covers" to avoid the possible sexism of "man hole"-- after all, "women go down there too," Muits said. When he lived in Seattle, Muits and a colleague gave tours of utility art, sometimes even giving participants a canvas souvenir of the art they were tracking.

Beautifying Uptown

One quick look at the new Uptown tree grates shows that, in addition to the compelling, geometrical shapes that adorn the grates themselves, a 10-foot by five-foot black border has been added over the surrounding areas. As for the tree grate designs themselves, "I hand painted the base layer, then made stencils that are a quarter of a circle, so I could position them four times to create the full thing."

Muits love of "real world," non-computer art dates back to his first years after art school.

"I was still doing traditional mockups and pencil markups back then and only got into computer



Russell Muits says this design was inspired by the arch in the The Carrie Eliza Getty Tomb which was commissioned in 1890 by Henry Harrison Getty, for his wife. It was designed by the noted American architect, Louis Sullivan of the firm Adler & Sullivan.

work in in 2000," he says. Over the years, Muits has worked for varied companies including children's book publishers Scholastic and Macmillan, graphic design companies and digital education companies who create digital textbooks for homeschooling.

But his first love is finding new and unique way to beautify local street designs -- as he just did in Uptown.

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
<p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- LATRICE FOULES, AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF STANLEY FOULES, DECEASED, ANGELO BRANDONISIO, PARK PLACE TOWER I CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, LATRICE FOULES Defendants 23 CH 03556 655 W. IRVING PARK RD., #2608 CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 8, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 A.M. on August 13, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: UNIT (S) 2608 AND C62 TOGETHER WITH ITS UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS IN PARK PLACE TOWER I CONDOMINIUM AS DELINEATED AND DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 0011020878, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN,</p>	<p>IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 655 W. IRVING PARK RD., #2608, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-21-105-054-1787 f/k/a 14-21-101-047-1787; 14-21-101-054-1399 f/k/a 14-21-101-047-1399 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$116,758.02. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property</p>	<p>is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 601 E. William St., DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 1676223. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 601 E. William St. DECATUR, IL, 62523 217-422-1719 Fax #: 217-422-1754 E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbtattys.com</p>	<p>Attorney File No. 1676223 Attorney Code. 40387 Case Number: 23 CH 03556 TJS/C#: 44-1332 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 23 CH 03556 13248156 171717 ----- 101010 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, -v- CONNOR R CREEVY; MOLLY M MCEVOY; 3150 CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, Defendants. 2022CH10663 3150 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE UNIT 21F, CHICAGO, IL 60657 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 5/13/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 8/14/2024 located at 100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below,</p>

Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
<p>171717 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE OF THE BUNGALOW SERIES IV TRUST; Plaintiff, vs. ALONZO COMMON; 1441 WEST FARWELL CONDO ASSOCIATION; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 23 CH 8617 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 11-32-121-021-1015. Commonly known as 1441 West Farwell Avenue, Unit 3E, Chicago, IL 60626. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The</p>	<p>property will NOT be open for inspection For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. (440) 572-1511. ILF2306016 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13247438 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NEWREZ LLC DBA SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING; Plaintiff, vs. STEVEN HERMAN A/K/A STEVE HERMAN; CARA HERMAN; BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION S/I LASALLE BANK MIDWEST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK S/I TCF NATIONAL BANK; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; CITIBANK NA; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 23 CH 9172 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged</p>	<p>real estate: LOT 33 IN SMITH'S ADDITION TO ROGERS PARK, A SUBDIVISION IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 11-31-119-004-0000. Commonly known as 2137 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, IL 60645. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. THE SALE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO GENERAL TAXES, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AND TO A PRIOR RECORDED FIRST MORTGAGE Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6960. 1496-195754 ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13247439 101010 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP.</p>	<p>Plaintiff, -v- JOSETTE H. TERRELL A/K/A JOSETTE TERRELL, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, CITY OF CHICAGO, VELOCITY INVESTMENTS, LLC, SYMPHONY OF EVANSTON HEALTHCARE, LLC, 1239-41 WEST JARVIS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2023 CH 00436 1241 WEST JARVIS AVE #G2 CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 12, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 29, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1241 WEST JARVIS AVE #G2, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-29-315-027-1010 The real estate is improved with a residential condominium. The judgment amount was \$32,353.45. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of</p>

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Race for Melanoma research this Saturday at Montrose Beach

The Melanoma Research foundation is hosting its "Miles for Melanoma" 5k race 9 a.m. Saturday, July 21 at Montrose Beach, 4400 N. Lake Shore Dr. The event will help support the Chicago community by raising money for Melanoma Research. Each participant receives a UPF50 long sleeve Cabana Life shirt.

This year's event emcee will be Whitney Reynolds, from "The Whitney Reynolds Show." To register for the race visit https://donate.melanoma.org/site/TR?fr_id=1892&pg=entry.

Socks and shoes drive

A socks and shoes drive is now underway to support those suffering from mental illness.

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Notice of Public Sale

Honore Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 31st of July, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at 3215 West Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60625 at www.storage-treasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m.

007 Lenny Garcia
360C Jennifer Jannusch
650 Mohammed Chealb
683 Charles Dority

This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 31st of July, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at 2724 W. 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608 at www.storage-treasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m.

2025 Eddie Cruz
1027 Iesha Walker
1041 Savannah Lash
1021 Maia Space

This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St., 773-247-3000, is opening lockers:

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3C3233 (Harold Chapman)
1D1360 (Vivian Clear)
3D3303 (Mark Jaroszewski)
3D3303 & 3F3548 (Dayo Laoye)
3F3629 (Tiffany McCaskill)
3E3449 (Moises Salazar)
3F3634 (Nancy Shea)

for public sale of miscellaneous items. This sale is to be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

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G23 John Dudley
K5 Karen Gottwald
K6 Karen Gottwald
O4 Karen Gottwald

This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

Notice of Public Sale

Honore Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 31st of July, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at 5147 North Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640 at www.storage-treasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m.

008 Stanislav Shilshut
021 Nadiya Yakovenko
355 Sara Locatelli
411 Peter Peskoff
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Patience is also a form of action.
— Auguste Rodin

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Audiences to bid on favorite Sinatra songs, to be performed Aug. 25

Almost everyone can name one of their favorite Frank Sinatra songs. Whether it's "Come Fly With Me," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "All of Me," "Chicago" or "New York, New York," many of Sinatra's songs have become famous across generations.

Now Sinatra fans can come hear their favorite Sinatra songs with the original big band arrangements at "Sinatra by Request: A Tribute to the Recording Legacy of Frank Sinatra" with Paul Marinaro and the Chicago Jazz Orchestra [CJO], taking

place at the Studebaker Theater in the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25. Tickets range from \$44.50 to \$54.50 for adults and \$31 for students with a valid student ID.

But in an unusual twist, the songs in this concert won't be selected by the orchestra. Instead, the songs will be selected by the fans themselves through an online contest.

In the contest, which was the brainchild of the CJO's artistic director Jeff Lindberg, fans can donate \$1 to place a vote for their

favorite Sinatra song on the orchestra's website (<https://www.cjomusic.org/sinatra>). The songs that get the most votes will be performed at the concert.

Votes are currently being accepted from now through July 31. Participants can cast as many votes as they like, and multiple votes per selection are allowed and strongly encouraged.

"In the typical Chicago tradition, vote early, often, and feel free to stuff the ballot box!" Lindberg says.



SCHEME from p. 1

ed. The vaccines were meant for the city's poorest people but ended up in areas where Chicago's wealthiest lived and played.

Also named in the indictment was Heather Bergdahl, Loretto Hospital's former Chief Transformation Officer. But documents show that Ahmed was deeply involved in the investigation. Prosecutors have charged Bergdahl, 37, with 14 counts of wire fraud, 21 counts embezzlement and one count of money laundering. She was arrested just as federal authorities learned she was already in a jet plane ready to depart for Dubai. Reportedly agents rushed to the airport to stop the flight and remove her, and took her into custody.

Prosecutors now claim that Ahmed, who was in charge of managing Loretto's finances, schemed with Bergdahl and Suhail to send vendor payments for goods and services not provided to the hospital. Many of the companies were created by Suhail and Ahmed under various names to conceal their association with the companies and the fraudulently obtained payments they would receive from the hospital.

Federal prosecutors say that Suhail and Bergdahl billed the hospital 26 different times between Sept. 2020 and Feb. 2022

After Ahmed resigned in March 2021, Bergdahl continued to work at the hospital, and issued \$486,540 in checks from the hospital to companies where Ahmed was the CEO.

for services under Suhail's sham companies.

According to Block Club reporting, when hospital officials questioned a payment to a company Suhail owned, he and Bergdahl falsely represented that the company had delivered medical supplies to the hospital, according to the indictment.

After Ahmed resigned in March 2021, Bergdahl continued to work at the hospital, and issued \$486,540 in checks from the hospital to companies where Ahmed was the CEO.

According to the federal complaint, Ahmed would then deposit the money into the bank accounts for those companies, then move them to other accounts he controlled. None of the companies provide services or goods to Loretto Hospital.

The accounts listed an address in the 400 block of N. Wabash Ave. Ahmed had a home at Trump Tower. The complaint al-

BURNHAM from p. 1

Newmark take over the land as a receiver to steer the property through the foreclosure process.

This is the third instance of a ground lease issued by Shidler playing a role in the demise of a major Chicago-area office building.

The future of the Burnham Center building itself is unclear. It's uncertain whether either Golub or its lender CIT Group have a path to recoup their investments, as ground owners and their lenders traditionally have senior interests in a property over leasehold owners.

Golub put the struggling Loop office building on the market last year but it appears the firm has yet to find a buyer. At the time, the building was struggling to stay financially solvent, and had an occupancy rate of just under 65%. In March, the building took another hit when a big ten-

leged that around Nov. 2021, the accounts' addresses were changed to an address in Houston — where Ahmed had a condo.

While Bergdahl was employed at Loretto Hospital, she allegedly also received more than \$419,000 from two of Ahmed's accounts.

ant, food delivery service GrubHub, signed a lease for 95,000 square feet at the Merchandise Mart. That was a major downsize from the 164,000 square feet GrubHub had in the Burnham Center.

In March, the building took another hit when a big tenant, food delivery service GrubHub, signed a lease for 95,000 square feet at the Merchandise Mart.

Golub - and much of the downtown area - are suffering from low demand in the office market as vacant space coming out of the pandemic combines with higher interest rates to make it difficult for many landlords to refinance or pay off debts secured by their properties.

Golub is also expected to take a loss on 444 N. Michigan Ave., according to TheRealDeal, where it has an interest in the property along with CIM Group. The ownership missed a deadline earlier this year on a \$123 million debt for that 36-story building. The 444 N. Michigan Ave. building is now for sale, and is expected to draw about half the value of the debt.

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