

If you smile when no one else is around,
you really mean it.

— Andy Rooney

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Feds charge former Brennemann School principal with fraud

'At least \$200,000' of CPS money stolen

BY CWBCHICAGO

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday charged the former principal of Joseph Brennemann Elementary School, 4251 N. Clarendon Ave., in Uptown with 10 counts of wire fraud for allegedly embezzling money through an overtime payment scheme.

Chicago Public Schools removed Sarah Abedelal, 57, from the school in April 2019 after an internal investigation allegedly found financial irregularities. Now, the feds have stepped in.

Between 2012 and 2019, Abedelal authorized overtime payments for some school employees who were not required to actually work for the money, the U.S. At-



Former principal of Joseph Brennemann Elementary School, Sarah Abedelal.

torney's Office in Chicago said in a media statement.

Abedelal, 57, directed the employees to give her or the school's assistant principal the fraudulently paid overtime money from their checks so she could use it to pay school expenses, prosecutors said. In fact, Abedelal alleg-

edly spent the money — at least \$200,000 — on herself.

According to the indictment, school employees who received the unearned payouts were ordered to withdraw the overtime funds on payday and immediately deliver the cash to Abedelal in her office or classrooms. She then converted the cash to money orders that she used to pay personal expenses, including her mortgage, according to prosecutors.

The federal indictment said three of the school's business managers prepared fraudulent overtime sheets at the direction of Abedelal and the assistant principal and that the business managers knew the overtime hours weren't being worked.

No other Brennemann School employees are named in the federal indictment.

Alderman receives significant contribution from wife of GrubHub CEO in ongoing controversy with CloudKitchens

STORY BY PETER VON BUOL

Ald. Matt Martin (47th) on July 15 received a \$2,500 campaign contribution from Merritt DeWitt, whose husband, Adam, is chief executive officer of Chicago-based GrubHub, the online food ordering and delivery platform whose drivers have been one of the main sources of complaints from the neighbors of CloudKitchens, a food preparation kitchen which prepares the menus of numerous restaurants for delivery.

As CEO of GrubHub, Adam

leads all functions associated with their US business interests.

Since opening in 2020, the neighbors of CloudKitchens, 4131 N. Rockwell, have been complaining to Ald. Martin about the increased traffic from food delivery drivers associated with GrubHub and its rival, UberEats.

This is not the first donation DeWitt has contributed to Martin's campaign. In March 2019, she had made a \$1,000 contribution. Interestingly, in February

CONTRIBUTION see p. 8



GrubHub CEO Adam DeWitt with wife, Merritt DeWitt. Photo by Dan Rest, courtesy of Chicago Splash

Illinois Supreme Court to 'triage' eviction cases

Moratorium ends Aug. 1, courts will refer new cases to rental assistance programs

By PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois

With the state-imposed moratorium on residential evictions set to expire Aug. 1, the Illinois Supreme Court announced a plan Thursday that provides an additional one-month "triage" period for tenants and landlords in certain cases to seek rental assistance.

Due to the extended nature of the 16-month long state-imposed moratorium, Chicago is expected to face a rush of evictions and foreclosures once it is lifted. Gov. JB Pritzker first issued an executive order prohibiting residential evictions in March 2020

in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That order has since been revised and extended several times, to the general dismay of local landlords.

According to a survey by Chicago's Neighborhood Building Owners Alliance, 79% of landlords surveyed in Dec. 2020 said they had tenants behind on rent. Some estimate that as many as 21,000 eviction notices may be issued once the moratorium is lifted.

On July 14, he announced that he plans to issue a new executive order on July 23 that will allow new eviction cases to be filed beginning Aug. 1 against people who are currently covered by the moratorium. That includes people whose income is below certain thresholds and who are unable to

make their full rent or mortgage payment due to a COVID-19 related hardship.

However, a prohibition on enforcement of eviction orders against those people will remain in place through Aug. 31.

In an order released Thursday, the Supreme Court said during that window, it will implement a triage period in which Illinois courts will focus on referring newly filed cases to state programs providing financial assistance to landlords and tenants.

The order states that in any eviction case filed against a person covered under the current executive order, a landlord must certify that the defendant has provided with a tenant declaration

EVICTON see p. 8



Rollin', rollin', rollin'

This week work crews will create rolling street and parking lane closures along the CTA's Red Line from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both sides of W. Hollywood between N. Broadway and N. Winthrop Ave. Later closures will be in place on W. Balmoral, W. Bryn Mawr, W. Berwyn, and W. Catalpa avenues that will last through Aug. 20, starting at the northern streets and moving south. Above, CTA's Red Line reconstruction track and viaduct demolition over Ardmore Ave.

Photo by Erica Ruggiero

Two lakefront high-rise projects get the go-ahead

Two lakefront high-rise projects along Lake Shore Dr. passed muster in City Hall last week.

One was a proposal by City Club Apartments [CCA] to erect two connected buildings of six and 19 stories on the front lawn of 3660 N. Lake Shore Dr. The project at Lake Shore and Waveland Ave. will have 333 total units.

Located at 3630-3636 N. Lake Shore Dr. and 601-627 W. Waveland Ave., the CCA project fills in a long-vacant empty lot that was always intended to be developed.

A little more controversial are the plans for the southern section of the Weiss Hospital's block-long site, where a developer plans to build an apartment complex. It received the city's backing, bringing the controversial development

one step closer to approval.

The Lincoln Property Co. plans to construct a 12-story, 314-unit tower in Uptown on a Weiss Memorial Hospital parking lot at 4600 N. Marine Dr. which also got the go-ahead by City Hall on July 15.

Those in opposition to the Uptown project showed up in City Hall to protest the plans.

The proposal to bring 314 apartments to 4600 N. Marine Dr. was approved by the Plan Commission in a 9-3 vote after a bit of debate on the development's affordable component and Weiss' future in the neighborhood. Next it must receive support from the Committee on Zoning and the full City Council support before work can begin.

GoFundMe set up for 9-year-old killed in West Rogers Park

In a tragic accident for all involved, a young boy was struck and killed while riding his bike July 7 in West Rogers Park.

A pickup truck driven by an off-duty Chicago police officer hit 9-year-old Hershel Weinberger, who was riding a bicycle.

The officer said he didn't see Hershel before hitting him around 8 p.m. in the 7300 block of N. Sacramento Ave.

"We must all take this as a stark reminder to always drive safely—especially on residential streets," said Ald. Debra Silverman [50th] in a released statement. "Drive slowly and always be extra cautious around schools, parks, and places of worship. We are fortunate to live in a vibrant community and the side streets



Hershel Weinberger

are packed with children playing and families enjoying the summer. We all need to act to keep our neighborhood safe."

A GoFundMe account has been set up to help the family during these difficult times. You can donate at <https://gofund.me/eb3b1e84>.

Mayor has no wagons to circle, time for a palace coup



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Cookery writing takes my mind off what appears to be the necessity of a Chicago-style palace coup at City Hall. The special City Council meeting on urban violence called by the council itself.

My criticism, so focused on Mayor Lightfingers, is offered because I love Chicago. I cannot see it damaged further. Broken. Shattered by ineptitude, the chaos of bad decisions. The mayhem of deal making with no payoff or purpose. Our city has had two years of strategies that never panned out. Decisions ill-timed and poorly thought through. And seldom having the benefit of practical wisdom required for success.

My heart aches for Chicago and the violence that surrounds us. It is reflective of the bad decisions that rob us of purpose. The murders that are ripe across the streets and alleys of the city

are themselves a condemnation of countless poor plans and vapid ideas.

How is it humanly possible to not see the damage that is being done? The traumas so many families are experiencing with the deaths of innocent children.

How do political leaders sleep at night?

I am convinced they can slumber because many do not have the ability to understand what is going on. They themselves have lives without discipline. Or a sense of order and harmony. They live in chaos. They strive for the inconsequential. They have no judgment for moral decisions. Just mayhem. Violence. Cruelty in a thousand acts of hurt and harm.

The most vulnerable among us often have no one to protect and defend them. There is no quality to life. Neighborhoods are populated by the victims of crime. You are safe no where.

Is this what it means to be an American? Is this what being a Chicagoan is all about? I say, not by a long stretch. There must be alternatives that have the chance to change things.

Alter the terrain.

Get the shooters and slashers off the streets.

Protect the city's citizens.

Urban crime and mortal bloodshed are not a tropical disease or a virus. It's not a failure of the body's mechanics. It's a moral morass. A failure of peoples' souls. A loss of humanity and the embrace of evil.

What else can you call the murder of children? The liquidation of the family? The collapse of human decency?

Maybe it is time for a palace coup. And more special city Council meetings. Not so much

for what they might accomplish, but because they hold such a light of truth up to the mayor's inadequacies to lead an urban metropolis. Her "powerlessness" and unfitness for leadership is poignantly floodlit by the freedom and "power" by which the aldermen chose to assemble in special session.

Her curious criticism of my old boss, Ald. Ed Burke [14th], is almost comical in its gallows humor. To blame him as the source and incubator for her present troubles is almost side-splitting. How could anyone so misread the current code of political frenzy? The mayor's paranoia becomes a magnifying glass with which to examine the present state of her blunders and mis-steps. Chicagoans are too sophisticated politically to fall for her cheap defensive stance.

She has no wagons to circle.

She lacks the capital with which to bargain. The last time we looked people were running from her in the opposite direction. Chicago really is a toddlin' town. I once saw a man. He danced with his wife.

MEMORIAL: Viet Nam War Memorial art installation, 58,000 dog tags representing those Americans who fell, on exhibit at the Harold Washington Library.

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE: The Chicago Architecture Center announces **Helmut Jahn:** Life and Architecture, a career design retrospective of Jahn's innovative work that has left an enduring legacy around the world and in his adopted home of Chicago. The exhibit, organized after Jahn's death in May, will include numerous scale models of Jahn's pathbreaking designs throughout his career. 'Helmut' opens July 23 and runs through October.

CLIPPER: Word is plans are underway to bring back the California Clipper in Humboldt Park, the favorite watering hole that tragically closed in the government imposed pandemic lockdown.



(L) Dr. Jane Goodall. Photo by Michael Nichols, National Geographic (R) The Clipper Lounge.



ADIOS: His Excellency, Consulate General of Spain **Federico Palomera**, has bid Chicagoans farewell upon the return of the popular diplomat to Spain.

BOOKLESS: Veteran Irish newspaper editor and column fan **David Caldwell** reports the sad news that the beloved Kinsale Book Shop, in the picturesque oceanside town of Kinsale in County Cork, will close its doors after 33 years, a sad fact of the terror wrought by COVID-19's economic disaster. The shop was world class.



Susann Eickmeyer Craig

OLD SCHOOL: Are Chicago's original South Side clout, the ancestors of the **Kelly-Nash Machine**, still picking pockets in City Hall? What North Side alderman is now sporting a new jacket and eating a stinky sandwich?

PURE POLO: Keep your eyes peeled for the Ralph Lauren Airstream Hot Dog Trailer, aka "Ralph's Airstream," serving hot dogs, pretzels, pop-corn etc... it will be roaming the city.

INTUITIVE ART: **Susann Eickmeyer Craig** was a woman of broad artistic tastes and aesthetics. She had the gift of seeing beyond the cosmetics of life that distorted the full understanding of fine art. She was also a rabid collector of artistic and cultural refinements. The work of trained art master, as well as the wonder-

ment from the hands of primitive untrained artistic achievers. She saw what mattered. What stirred the soul. She was a visionary. Her passion for art that unfolded meaning was best expressed in 1991 when she and other artistically wise Chicagoans founded "Intuit," a center for Intuitive and Outsider (untrained) Art. An act that helped to deepen the value of works by artists whose careers rose from simple passions to create. Craig died some weeks ago in Santa Monica, CA. Her influence on the world of American

Art is powerful and essential. She enriched deeply the landscape of Chicago art.

FIELD MUSEUM: Plan your visit to "Becoming Jane: the Evolution of **Dr. Jane Goodall**." Organized and presented by National Geographic Museum and the Jane Goodall Institute.

NOT TO BE MISSED: Tecalitlan Mexican Kitchen & Marga-

COUP see p. 6

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Special Olympics Illinois fundraiser is just ducky



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

On Aug. 5, somewhere around 65,000 little yellow duckies will descend on downtown Chicago for a leisurely-yet-purposeful swim in the Chicago River.

What will set those tens of thousands of web-footed, broad-billed, waddling birds apart from other river-bound mallards is two things: One, they're rubber duckies! Two, they'll be afloat for a reason: To raise money for Special Olympics Illinois during its Chicago Ducky Derby.

"It's one of our biggest single day fundraisers of the year," said Chris Winston, chief marketing officer for the West Loop-based Special Olympics Illinois [SOI]. "We'll make over \$400,000, including duck sales."

Here's how it works. It's kind of a raffle "with a lot of fun stuff added to it," said Winston.

The grand prize is an all-new, 2021 Chevy Trailblazer. Other prizes include an Apple Vacations all-inclusive trip for two adults to RIU Palace Mexico in Riviera Maya, \$2,000 cash prize and a Chicago Day Getaway package.

You can adopt one duck for \$5. Or, you can adopt several for \$5 each. You are actually purchasing a number as well, which will be put on the bottom of a rubber ducky (Jeez, I wish that song would get out of my head!) and will correlate with your name. Last year's event sold out so you might want to get your rubber ducky now.

Ducks are available for adoption at www.chicagoduckyderby.com and in person on race day beginning at 9 a.m. at Pioneer Court, 401 N. Michigan Ave. Sales close prior to splashdown at 12:30 p.m. or until sold out.

"You can adopt a duck from anywhere around the world," said Winston. He added that 81¢ of every dollar raised goes for competitions and athlete programming. No athlete is charged to be at an event and food, venues, and certain team specifics, as well as entry fees for tournaments, are all paid for.

At 1 p.m. that day, at the river and the Columbus Bridge, the National Toy Hall of Famers will migrate downtown and make their splash down for the this year's derby, which last year, although virtual due to COVID-19, still raised more than \$400,000. A boon will drop the duckies into a big funnel-looking type of gizmo and a Chicago Fire Dept. rep will help them waddle their way



Special Olympics Illinois athlete, Mallory Taylor, will serve as the 2021 Duck Derby Ambassador.

down to the end. All rubber ducks are scooped out of the water by a crane at the derby's end.

There, at the finish line, SOI athlete and 2021 Duck Derby Ambassador Mallory Taylor will pluck the winning ducky from the water. Taylor has been competing as a SOI athlete since she was eight-years-old and has won more than 75 gold, silver, and bronze medals in bocce, softball, track and field, golf, basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey and speed skating. Wow, you go girl!

Now, here are the cool prizes, should your ducky be the strongest swimmer and win the derby. Grand prize is an all-new, 2021 Chevy Trailblazer courtesy of the Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana Chevy dealers. Other prizes include an Apple Vacations all-inclusive trip for two adults to RIU Palace Mexico in Riviera Maya, \$2,000 cash prize and a Chicago Day Getaway package. I'd take any one of them, gladly. I hope I'm a lucky ducky and win!

Special Olympics is the largest



About 65,000 rubber duckies will be dropped into the Chicago River to raise funds for Special Olympics Illinois.

public health organization in the world for the intellectually disabled community, said Winston. SOI is a not-for-profit sports organization that offers year-round training and competition in 18 sports to more than 23,100 athletes with intellectual disabilities and over 13,000 Young Athletes ages two to 7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Yet Winston let me know that although SOI is a sports organization, there's definitely more to it than sports. Its mission is also to focus on better health as well as unification and inclusion among all people.

"You meet with these athletes and find out its more about ability than disability," he told me.

Come down early and meet some of those athletes and join in the fun starting at 10 a.m., which is when the Family Festival begins in Pioneer Plaza. It will fea-

ture games, prizes, and Ducky Derby mascot Splash as well as a live performance by 90s Pop Nation, a local band bringing all of the biggest pop hits, one-hit wonders, sing-a-longs and dance hits from the '90s.

"Family Fest is a lot of fun," said Winston.

Can't make it downtown that day? Not comfortable being in a big crowd, which is expected to attend? This year, beginning at noon, SOI will also offer an abbreviated Chicago Ducky Derby Virtual Festival for those that can't join in person. From the comfort of your couch and air-conditioned house, you can enjoy live entertainment from special

guests, as well as athlete interviews and more online via the Special Olympics Illinois Facebook Page, Twitch Channel and www.chicagoduckyderby.com.

But if you can get there, anybody, whether they have a Special Olympics Illinois affinity or not, should come, said Winston. "Everyone is invited," he said.

"It's just a fun event to come down to and a great opportunity for people to find out more about Special Olympics Illinois," said Winston. "Go downtown and see who we are and hang out with the athletes. All this is about is getting together -- we're all about inclusion."

"Thousands of people will be on both sides of the river watching," he added. "Come be a part of this."

And now, I leave you with a couple of duck jokes that hopefully, you'll quack up over:

What do you call a rude duck?

A duck with a quackitude.

What did the duck say when the waitress came?

"Put it on my bill!"

Anyone interested in being a part of SOI and its vision should call 800-394-0562 or visit www.soill.org.

Von Stuben sprints to the clean up

The River Park Advisory Council reports that members of the Von Stuben High School Cross Country, Track and Field, and soccer teams participated in a volunteer clean up of River

Park, 5100 N. Francisco Ave., on July 16.

Next on the list are Legion and Ronan parks which have a lot left to clean up.

Fridays on the Green with BET

Uptown's Black Ensemble Theater is hosting Fridays on the Green, an intercultural music festival, Friday nights (July 23, July 30, Aug. 6, Aug. 13) from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Clark St. and

Sunnyside Ave., adjacent to the theater.

There will be free live performances from Uptown musical gems, food, and tours of the theater.

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Police Beat...

Man with pending juvenile robbery case had gun after Near North Side phone snatching

An 18-year-old man with a pending juvenile robbery case was carrying a handgun when police arrested him for stealing a man's phone July 13 on the Near North Side, prosecutors said.

The alleged victim was near Orleans and Oak when someone grabbed his phone around 11:30 a.m. and ran away, according to a CPD report.



James Hardin

The man chased after the thief and managed to get his phone back before flagging down a patrol car to report what happened, Assistant State's Attorney Darryl Auguste said.

Witnesses kept an eye on the thief and pointed officers in his direction. When officers arrested James Hardin nearby, he had a loaded 9-millimeter handgun in his waist. Prosecutors charged him with felony counts of theft and unlawful use of a weapon.

Judge Mary Marubio noted that the theft charge is "similar to a robbery" in that it involves allegations of taking property from a person directly. "There's a lot going on here," the judge said as she reflected on a defense attorney's statement that Hardin is experiencing homelessness.

She then set Hardin's bail at \$5,000. He must go onto electronic monitoring if he manages to post a 10% deposit bond. Hardin will also be held without bail on the juvenile robbery warrant.

Charges filed against man who was shot while allegedly charging at cops with knife

A suburban man who was grazed by a Chicago police officer's bullet while allegedly brandishing a knife in the middle of Devon Ave. was charged with six felonies on July 14.

Two restaurant patrons initially saw 31-year-old Zach Alkoury pacing outside an eatery near the 2600 block of W. Devon on July 18. As they left after dinner, Alkoury lunged at one of them with both of his fists in the air, Assistant State's Attorney Kevin Deboni said.

One of the witnesses went across the street to call 911 while Alkoury began running in circles around the other one, Deboni continued. When police arrived, the second witness ran across the street and told police that Alkoury had a knife.

Alkoury ran in circles around the intersection with a knife in his hand as pedestrians passed and cars stopped in traffic. Officers ordered Alkoury to drop the knife and tried to stun him with pepper spray, but those efforts failed, according to Deboni.

During the incident, which was recorded by multiple cameras, Alkoury allegedly ran toward police more than one time with the knife in his hand. Deboni said Alkoury eventually ran directly at an officer with the knife exposed and that officer responded by firing a shot.

The bullet ripped through Alkoury's tunic and caused a "minor

injury" to his left thigh, Deboni said. Shortly after the shot was fired, another officer deployed a Taser that sent Alkoury to the ground. Cops took him into custody.

Prosecutors charged Alkoury with six counts of aggravated assault of a police officer. Deboni said Alkoury has two pending cases in the suburbs — one for aggravated battery to a police officer and one for criminal damage to property.

Alkoury remained hospitalized for a psychiatric evaluation, according to a police officer who spoke at the bond hearing. Judge Mary Marubio set Alkoury's bail at \$100,000. She also ordered him held in lieu of \$105,000 for violating the terms of bond in the suburban cases. He'll need to post \$20,500 to get out of jail.

Man accused in series of Grindr date robberies gets probation

A suburban man accused of robbing men in downtown hotel rooms after meeting them through the Grindr gay dating app has pleaded guilty in two of those cases — and received a sentence of two years probation.

Davion Johnson, 21, received the sentence in a plea deal with prosecutors that Judge Alfredo Maldonado approved.

In Feb. 2020, prosecutors said Johnson pushed and took the wallet of a 42-year-old man inside a condo at 1255 N. State Pkwy. on Nov. 4, 2019; he stole the wallet of a 57-year-old Miami Beach man from a guest room at the Trump International Hotel & Tower on Nov. 6, 2019; displayed a stun gun and took valuables from a 42-year-old man from Sesto San Giovanni, Italy, at the W Lake Shore Hotel on Jan. 23, 2020, and he was separately charged with stealing from a 65-year-old man after meeting him in a room at the Inn of Chicago, 162 E. Ohio, in Dec. 2019.

Police suspected Johnson in at least three more cases with similar details, but investigators had trouble getting cooperation from some victims who lived out of town or were embarrassed by the circumstances of their meeting.

Armed robbers strike in Old Town, Gold Coast, West Loop

Police are investigating a series of armed robberies reported in about 90 minutes overnight across Old Town, the Gold Coast, and the West Loop. No arrests have been made.

The crime spree began around 12:15 a.m. July 14 when two men climbed out of a car and pistol-whipped a man near Larrabee and Armitage in Old Town. The offenders then took the victim's wallet and phone at gunpoint and fled southbound on Larrabee.

Less than 20 minutes later, two men walked up to a victim who was sitting in his car on the 2000 block of N. Lincoln. They pointed a gun at the man's head and took his wallet and keys. But they didn't take his car. According to the victim, the offenders reportedly escaped in a vehicle driven by a third person.

Both victims were treated for injuries. In both cases, officers said the suspects were Black males who stand 5'-5" to 5'-9" tall and wore red shirts or hoodies with COVID masks.

Then, around 1 a.m., a 38-year-old woman was sitting inside her car on the 500 block of W. Randolph when two men climbed inside and displayed a handgun, according to Officer Alexis Interrante, a CPD spokesperson. They demanded her belongings and then fled westbound in a sedan, which may be a Toyota, Interrante said.

About 45 minutes later, armed men robbed a couple in the Gold Coast. Interrante said a 36-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman were outside on the 1200 block of N. State when three offenders stepped out of a black vehicle and demanded their valuables.

Two of the men displayed handguns, according to Interrante. After getting the victims' wallets, phones, and jewelry, the offenders fled north in the black car.

No description was available for the offenders in the two most recent hold-ups. Area Three detectives are heading up the investigations.

Cops seek hammer-wielding man in a series of incidents around Boystown

Police are on the lookout for a man who has been threatening and robbing people while armed with a hammer over the past few days, according to a source. The man is linked to an armed robbery at the Belmont CTA station, threats to bar-goers on the Boystown strip, and the battery of a CTA bus passenger, among other incidents, the source said.

Shortly before 9 p.m. July 14, the man chased after a CTA customer while wielding a hammer on the Belmont station's northbound platform, 945 W. Belmont. He threw the victim's backpack and other property onto the tracks and fled with the man's phone, according to information provided to this reporter.

Witnesses also saw a man running down the station's stairs with a hammer. Officers drove the victim to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment.

CPD's media affairs office was unable to confirm details of the attack Friday morning because the police report had not been finalized.

About four hours after the CTA station incident, 911 callers reported that a man was trying to attack people with a hammer along the 3400 block of N. Halsted, according to dispatch records.

On July 15, a passenger was battered while sitting on a CTA bus on the 3700 block of N. Broadway. The offender ran toward Halsted St. and the victim refused to cooperate with police, officers at the scene said. CTA's security office reportedly linked the bus and train station incidents after reviewing surveillance images of the suspect.

CPD's strategic support center distributed a bulletin about the man to officers, but he remained at large as of July 16. He is described as a Black male in his 30's. According to witness descriptions, he wore an orange or red shirt with khaki shorts or pants at the Belmont station; no shirt with light-colored pants on Halsted St.; and a black do-rag with red gym shoes on the bus.

According to CPD's internal bulletin, he is suspected of committing other crimes, including robberies, in the area, a source said.

Group of teens rob, batter victims in Edgewater and Uptown

A group of juveniles rollicked through Edgewater and Uptown on July 15, robbing victims and apparently trying to steal a man's car before leaving the area on a Red Line CTA train. Cops caught up with the group and recovered property belonging to at least four victims at the Belmont CTA station, but they had to let them all go, at least for now.

The burst of mayhem began shortly before 6 a.m. when five juveniles jumped in a man's car and tried to steal it on the 5700 block of N. Broadway. They failed and walked east on Thorndale, according to a CPD report.

A few minutes later, a man called 911 to report that a group of teenagers tried to rob him near Winthrop and Hollywood. He ran away and they didn't get anything.

The next two victims weren't so lucky.

About 6:30 a.m., a group of teenagers robbed a man of his bag on the 5000 block of N. Sheridan as he

walked to work. According to a police report, they ran away and eventually dropped the man's bag — but not before taking a \$20 bill from inside.

Around the same time in the 4900 block of N. Winthrop, four young offenders punched a 60-year-old man, which knocked him to the ground, according to Officer Michelle Tannehill. They took his wallet and ran. The group then made their way to the Argyle Red Line CTA station, where they jumped the turnstile and boarded a southbound train.

Officers intercepted the train at Belmont and rounded up a group of teens who ran from the station shortly after 7 a.m. Cops also recovered four driver's licenses and several credit cards belonging to different people from the train car the juveniles were in — including an ID that belongs to the 60-year-old man who was robbed on Winthrop, a CPD report said. It's not clear where the other IDs and cards came from.

Police brought the Winthrop victim to the Belmont station to see if he could identify the teens as the people who attacked him, but he couldn't pick any of them out. Officers then drove the man to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for an evaluation.

The victim who was robbed of his bag had already arrived at work and couldn't make the trip to Lakeview to potentially identify the teens. Officers collected the juveniles' information and released them.

Prosecutors charge woman with CTA bus attack, man with robbery at Loop "L" station

Prosecutors have charged a man and a woman with separate attacks on the CTA system — one on a bus in Lincoln Park and the other on a Loop train platform. Both of the accused are homeless and have mental health conditions, according to their lawyer.

Jaqualah Norris, 28, is accused of slashing another bus passenger's face on a #72 North Avenue bus around 3:10 p.m. July 13.

Norris was sitting behind the 25-year-old man when she got up in the middle of the ride and slashed his face from behind with a box cutter, Assistant State's Attorney Brian Burkhardt said. She didn't know the man, and they didn't have any interactions before she attacked, according to Burkhardt.

The quick-thinking CTA driver hustled all of the other passengers off the bus and locked Norris inside until police arrived. She still had the boxcutter when police went inside to arrest her.

The victim was released from the hospital after doctors closed the cut on his face with 13 stitches.

Prosecutors charged Norris with felony aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Assistant Public Defender Genevieve O'Toole said Norris has been homeless for three months and suffers from mental health conditions.

Judge Mary Marubio set bail at \$100,000 after noting the apparently random nature of the alleged attack. Marubio ordered Norris to go onto electronic monitoring if she can post bond.

In the second case, prosecutors charged Michael Mateus with pulling another passenger down the stairs of a Loop "L" station and robbing him at knifepoint.

The victim was walking on the State-Van Buren platform around 7 p.m. July 6 when Mateus attacked him from behind while holding a knife, according to Burkhardt and CPD records. Mateus, 59, allegedly fled after getting the man's phone. Burkhardt said CTA's surveillance system recorded the robbery.

On July 14, the victim called the police after coincidentally crossing paths with Mateus again. They arrested him,

and prosecutors filed armed robbery charges.

O'Toole, the public defender, said Mateus has a mental health condition and has been homeless for five months.

Judge Marubio set bail at \$25,000 and said Mateus must go on electronic monitoring if he posts bond.

Nine years for Old Town shooting

A Garfield Park man with a history of gun convictions has been sentenced to nine years in prison for shooting a man in Old Town two years ago. Kewon Wright, 30, faced multiple counts of attempted murder for the shooting and had a separate gun case, too. But he cleared all of that up by pleading guilty to a lesser charge.

Wright pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated battery by discharging a firearm. In exchange, prosecutors dropped the attempted murder charges and the gun case. Judge William Raines oversaw the case and sentenced Wright to nine years in prison with credit for the 870 days he spent in jail awaiting trial.

Wright is scheduled to be paroled in Sept. 2026.

Prosecutors said Wright shot a 22-year-old man three times in the back on the 400 block of W. Evergreen around 11:50 a.m. on Jan. 16, 2019.

About three weeks after the shooting, before police pegged Wright for the shooting, sheriff's police officers allegedly found him carrying a gun illegally on the 400 block of N. Cicero. He was charged with armed habitual criminal multiple counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and other charges. But prosecutors ditched the case in the plea deal.

In Oct. 2015, Judge Carol Howard sentenced Wright to two concurrent three-year terms for separate gun possession charges. Before those cases, Wright was sentenced to 24-months probation and 30 hours of community service for unlawful possession of a handgun in 2014.

"In-And-Out Burglar" gets probation this time

Ryan Brandis, possibly the most-mentioned criminal defendant who has appeared on this page, has resolved his latest burglary charge.

You may remember we once dubbed Brandis the "In-And-Out Burglar" because he kept getting arrested for theft and burglary every time authorities released him from jail or prison.

That nickname remains accurate as prosecutors agreed to reduce his latest burglary charge to theft in exchange for his guilty plea and a sentence of two year's mental health probation.

In March 2020, Chicago police issued a bulletin after Brandis went "missing" while on parole.

Cops located Brandis a few days later after a witness saw him kick in the front door of a home on the 800 block of W. Cornelia. Neighbors helped cops locate Brandis on nearby Halsted St., where the officers took him into custody after a short foot chase.

Judge Carol Howard handed down the probation sentence.

Man shot on Hubbard St.

A man is in serious condition after someone shot him in River North on July 18, police said. The offender remains at large.

Police officers reported hearing gunfire and quickly found the victim lying on a sidewalk in the 100 block of W. Hubbard St. at 2:52 a.m.,

Spring resale-home market was lava hot



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicago's North Side spring resale single-family home market was lava-hot despite the illegal firearm lead flying through the air in some Windy City neighborhoods.

Home sales volume spiked into record territory across the North Side during the April-June quarter of 2021, a feat achieved despite a shortage of single-family listings.

Combined sales of attached and detached homes totaled 4,470 transactions, which is the most since at least 2006 and likely an all-time high for the second quarter, according to the quarterly Chicago North Side Market Report prepared by Mary Jo Nathan of the Charese Team at Compass Roscoe Village, 2044 W. Roscoe St.

It was not surprising that sales were up sharply over last year's second quarter when the pandemic lockdown that began in March significantly slowed spring home sales, said Nathan, a 20-year brokerage veteran. Second quarter sales this year came in 110.6% above the same period last year. More notably, they were also 40.9% higher than in the second quarter of 2019.

The North Side Market Report analyzes MLS data and tracks home sales in nine community areas: Edgewater, Lake View, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, Near North Side, North Center, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Ridge.

"The comparison with 2019 gives a good sense of just how strong demand has been, and it also partially explains why inventory levels remain quite low by historic standards," explained Nathan.

"If you combine the on-market inventory at the end of June with the homes sold during the second quarter, the total last year was

about 5,500 units. This year it was around 8,000 units, so there were many more homes on the market, but they didn't stay there. Most sold quickly," Nathan said.

Aside from the big jump in sales volume, the overall market looked fairly placid in the second quarter. The median price of all homes sold was \$395,000, up just 0.9% from the same period last year but a record for the quarter. The average time it took a home to find a buyer was 80 days, down from 86 days a year earlier.

However, that picture is somewhat deceiving, according to Nathan, because the attached and detached markets delivered strikingly different results on home prices and market times during the second quarter, even as the sales volume in both categories increased by similar percentages.

Detached single-family home sales on the North Side were up 108.4% to 448 units, while attached sales—condominiums, townhomes and co-operatives—which have long dominated the North Side market, rose 110.8% to 4,022 units. In both categories, the increase in second quarter sales was about 40% when compared to those same months in 2019.

"Sales of smaller, less expensive condos were depressed more by the pandemic than were sales of larger units, but now those smaller units are selling well again, and that has changed the mix and impacted the median," she said.

Demand for attached units was especially robust in Lake View, with 989 sales, a gain of 104.3%; Near North, with 964 sales, a gain of 123.1% and Lincoln Park with 636 sales, a gain of 117.1%. Yet, the biggest winner was West Ridge, where 148 sales represented an increase of 155.2%.

Every North Side neighborhood also saw an increase in the median sales price of detached homes compared to the second quarter of 2020, with Near North enjoying the largest gain at 85.2% to \$1.88 million.

The median price was up 37.6% in Rogers Park to \$622,500, up 30% in Lincoln Square to \$945,750, up 17.6% in Lake View

North Side Median Prices—2Q 2021

	Median Price	% Change
Edgewater		
Detached	\$900,000	+16.1%
Attached	\$242,500	-8.5%
Lake View		
Detached	\$1,354,950	+17.6%
Attached	\$400,000	-6.8%
Lincoln Park		
Detached	\$1,700,000	+13.3%
Attached	\$517,000	+5.5%
Lincoln Square		
Detached	\$945,750	+30%
Attached	\$320,000	-5.9%
Near North		
Detached	\$1,880,000	+85.2%
Attached	\$408,750	-0.4%
North Center		
Detached	\$1,150,000	+14.4%
Attached	\$455,000	+2%
Rogers Park		
Detached	\$622,500	+37.6%
Attached	\$199,000	+12%
Uptown		
Detached	\$1,020,500	+8.6%
Attached	\$315,000	+7.2%
West Ridge		
Detached	\$425,000	+9%
Attached	\$170,000	+1.9%

to \$1,354,950, up 16.1% in Edgewater to \$900,000, up 14.4% in North Center to \$1,150,000, up 13.3% in Lincoln Park to \$1,700,000, up 9% in West Ridge to \$425,000 and up 8.6% in Uptown to \$1,020,500.

Mortgage rates falling again

Affordable home-loan rates in recent months also buoyed the market. Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported on July 15 that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans nationwide slipped to 2.88%, down from 2.90% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-loan average was 2.98%.

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.

SEA Blue prostate cancer fundraiser is on for Sept. 26

One of the larger lakefront fundraisers is back on for this year as registration is now open for the 2021 SEA Blue Prostate Cancer Walk/Run.

SEA Blue, the largest and longest running prostate cancer event in Chicago, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, Sept. 26, along the lakefront in Lincoln Park.

SEA Blue is a celebration of life, of those who have risen to the challenge to fight prostate cancer, of the lives that have been lost to the disease, and of the people we will help to combat it in the future through Support, Education, Advocacy and Awareness (the SEA in SEA Blue).

People affected by all stages of the disease band together and build camaraderie at SEA Blue through togetherness, tears and triumph. "Last year was a virtual event, so we are so excited to gather in person to raise funds to help those affected by prostate cancer," said Terri Likowski, program director for event presenter, Us TOO International.

In addition to a 5K run and celebration walk, this year's SEA Blue will include live music, free lunch, and snacks. The event will be emceed by prostate cancer survivor and former WGN-TV news anchor Steve Sanders. SEA Blue is also recruiting participation from

outside of Chicago area through virtual fundraising and by setting up small, satellite events. There is no registration fee for this year's event, but registration is required to attend.

For more information visit www.seablueprostatewalk.org, call 630-795-1002 or email seablueinfo@ustoo.org.

"September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and there is an urgent need for prostate cancer support, education, advocacy, and awareness here in Chicagoland and across the country," said Likowski. "This year alone, nearly 250,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer," she added.

Money raised for SEA Blue will help fund the work of Us TOO International (www.ustoo.org), a nonprofit organization which offers educational resources and support services to the prostate cancer community at no charge.

Ravenswood Manor garden walk

The Ravenswood Manor Garden Walk is 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 25, and will be held in gardens throughout the historic Ravenswood Manor neighborhood.

The walk features a wide variety of gardens and personal green spaces throughout the community. Maps may be picked up at the pergola in Manor Park, 4626 N. Manor Ave.

The walk is sponsored by the Manor Garden Club and the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Assoc.

Drink beer at Malt Row on Damen

The Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce is again hosting its annual beer stroll, Malt Row on Damen, on the evening of Wednesday, July 28.

Chicago's Malt Row is pairing up with businesses along Damen Ave. for one glorious evening of beer drinking. Guests will enjoy a fantastic selection of craft beers as they stroll between a variety of local shops, boutiques, and galleries.

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Levy Center Village meeting July 28

The Northeast Levy Center Village collaborative is meeting 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 28 on Zoom. They will be meeting virtually with U.S. Rep Mike Quigley. Community updates will also be shared by partner organi-

zations.

The Village hopes to increase the accessibility of resources for older adults in our community.

To register for the meeting and obtain the Zoom link, email sean.dolan@cityofchicago.org.

Joint North Side networking event is in-person this year

The 2021 North Side joint chambers networking event will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Join fellow local business owners and operators in person, on the roof deck at Lakeshore Sport

& Fitness, 1320 W. Fullerton, for the event with the memberships of the Lincoln Park, Lakeview Roscoe Village and Lakeview East chambers of commerce.

For more information call 773-880-5200.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

POLICE BEAT from p. 4

according to officers at the scene. The man, 28, was standing on the sidewalk when a gunman fired shots, striking him in the abdomen, according to a CPD statement.

The offender then ran west on Hubbard. Witnesses said he is a skinny Black male who was wearing a white tank top and jeans.

Passersby saw paramedics treating the victim on the north side of Hubbard, about 100 feet east of LaSalle St. The block is home to many bars, clubs, and restaurants. Police said the victim is in serious condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

At least seven other people have been shot in River North this year, with six of those happening since mid-May

Loop shooting leaves man critically wounded

Police are investigating another shooting in the Loop on July 17 — the ninth for the downtown neighborhood since June 1.

The shooting unfolded just after 2 a.m. on the 100 block of W. Adams, steps from the W Hotel City Center's front door. Police said a 25-year-old man got into an argument with a group of people when a woman pulled out a gun and shot him in the chest and arm. The Fire Dept. took him to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in critical condition. Police said he does not appear to have a history of contact with CPD.

Police taped off the 100 block of W. Adams as investigators spoke with witnesses, and an evidence technician worked on the sidewalk just west of the W's marquee.

The hotel's surveillance video re-

portedly shows the shooter getting into a black four-door car after the incident. Police said she is Black, about 5'-8" tall, and has dreadlocks. She wore a white t-shirt, blue jeans, and a black hat.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

This is the 15th person shot in the Loop so far this year. The neighborhood had recorded eight shooting victims at this point last year and three as of July 11, 2019.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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COUP from p. 2

ritas, 1538 N. Clybourn. Tacos are terrific. Great new SoNo restaurant. Sa broxada.

WHO'S WHERE: Jeff Morrow and Rich Daniels back at Cinespace Chicago Studios collaborating on another new TV show... At the RH Gallery of the Three Arts Club, Sally Jo Pfaff and Kathy Wolter Mondelli ... Sebastian Steve Albergo and Larry Meacham at Le Colonial ...RL's Molly Ranger Castellanos smooching her baby, pure-bred St. Bernard "Duke Montgomery" ... Bondgirl Diane O'Connell reminds us that \$6 bottles of great Antica Osteria wine is available at Quartino's on State... Eamonn Cummins and Pennie Taylor at Windy City Smokeout, country music and BBQ festival. Also there was Collin Hughes and girlfriend Jazmin Rosario... Julia Jacobs had an evening concert on the grand piano at the Cumberland Club... lunch at the Yacht Club for Eileen Howard Weinberg, Julia Jacobs and Lori Twombly reminiscing about Hazel Barr who brought these ladies together... Heather Farley on Hansen's Island... Julien Landais at Festival de Cannes... Sherrill Bodine, Rhonda Liesenfelt, Karen Peters, Heather Jane Johnston, Sheree Schimmer Valukas adding glitter and glamor to the Hamptons ... WGN Radio lawyer Karen Conti at La Scarola with some of my favorite people, owner, Joey



Demeko Taylor



Molly Ranger Castellanos and "Duke Montgomery."



Diane O'Connell, Cindy Fisher, Vanessa Ford, Lyn McKeane, Val Sanders and Tina Bush.



Nina and Molly Borg.



Emily Shirley, Ben Shirley, Ty Rhoad, Adam Schlesinger and Dan Balanoff.

Mondelli, radio diva, Anna Davlantes, Cobblestone remodeling owner Bill Conforti, and news legend Walter Jacobson... Dan and Lauri Baker Lawler aboard the National Geographic Venture exploring Alaska's coastal wilderness ... Ken and Dana Labrot Dooley with family in New Buffalo, MI... Bill Zwecker with the boss doing dinner at Adolf Garcia's first Northshore restaurant, The Summerhouse, in Highland Park... Architect Lucien Lagrange hitting the farmers' market ... Jim Kinney on the rooftop of the Chicago Club with Bill Fox and Kate Horne Rutledge... Hector Gustavo Cardenas and Marius Morkvenus

exiting Mykonos in the Greek Islands, stopping in Rome for a few days ... Barb Bailey, Eddie London, Paul Loaiza and birthday boy Jack D'Amico making a toddlin' sound... Emily Shirley, Ben Shirley, Ty Rhoad, Adam Schlesinger and Dan Balanoff at Windy City Smokeout... Tera and Jon McGreal near Gatlinburg, TN, in the wilderness of the Daniel Bine National Forest... Tom Hackett and Tom McGuire swept up in the vistas of Boulder, CO... Victoria Harring, Lois Dal Santo Harring and Michael Harring at Wrigley Field... Deirdre Holden Erulker reports hatches are all bolted on Martha's Vineyard, the calm preceding the storm... Bobbi Panter, Melissa Babcock and Jolanta Ruege on the Ritz Carlton roof... Ken Norgan at the Stevensville Grande Mere Inn in Michigan with David, Abby, Jim, Marc and Eric ... Birthday [and anniversary] wishes to former NU Dermatologist Henry Roenigk and wife Kathie... Shelley Howard dining on Fantom Friday at Gibson's

Steakhouse with Joshua Herrendorf, Irina Zelikov, Larry Wright, Susi Glassman... Eileen Howard Weinberg, Phyllis Lippman and Micki Reich Brost celebrating a Fried Chicken Birthday at Gibson's... Demeko Taylor looking tailored and summery in the Gold Coast historic district... Cindy Fisher, Vanessa Ford (mother of the groom), the Lodge saloon's boss Lyn McKeane (mother of the bride), Val Sanders, Tina Bush at Quartino's on State lunching, busy with all the details for the Shanan McKeane and Paroune Mulrain forthcoming wedding... Ken Norgan, Abbey Hart and George Jewel in his Michigan garden estate... Julie Harron and Karin Carlson at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill... Nina and Molly Borg turned 25 last week. Happy birthday to these two beautiful, brilliant lovelies... Linda Robin playing canasta and having lunch with the girls in Highland Park... Sam and Honey Jacobs Skinner having a swell summer... Maestro Stanley Paul dining at Topo Gigio in Old Town with pals Linda Heister and Shelley



Lucien Lagrange

Howard... Bravo to Christina Dombrowski, a U of Wisconsin rower, a born sailor, who crewed her very first Mackinac Race ... Stephanie Leese Emrich will be a guest with superstar entrepreneur Hrabinka Agnieszka, owner of TeaGschwendner US for her Let's Talk Womxn.

Children should be taught how to think, not what to think. — Margaret Mead tog515@gmail.com



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Cocaine dealer fatally beat Edgewater amputee and injured another man over \$600 debt

BY CWBCHICAGO

A drug dealer kicked down the front door of an Edgewater apartment and beat the two occupants who owed him \$600 for cocaine, prosecutors said. One of the victims, an amputee, died. Ronald Armour, 41, of Englewood, is charged with first-degree murder, home invasion, and aggravated battery of a victim over the age of 60.

The two victims, who are partners and have purchased cocaine from Armour for five or six years, texted him on July 1 to assure him that they would pay their debt, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.

Around 11:40 that morning, Armour



Ronald Armour

knocked on their apartment door in the 6000 block of N. Kenmore. When they didn't answer, he allegedly kicked it in and went to the bedroom where the men were lying down together. He then began beating both men, ages 63 and 53, with his fists. The older man, who managed to get away from Armour, suffered an eye injury, damaged teeth, and facial bruising, Murphy said.

But the 53-year-old, identified as Darren Williams, was unable to get out of bed during the attack because he only had one leg.

He died with bleeding under the scalp, a broken nose, and injuries to his face. Williams had other health problems, but the medical examiner told investigators that his death would probably be a homicide regardless of whether the beating was the main cause of death or a contributing factor, according to Murphy.

The surviving victim called 911 and told police a man named "Ziploc" was responsible for the attack — and he gave cops his phone number. While the older man was being treated for his injuries at the hospital, Armour allegedly texted him, saying he was outside the couple's home and wanting to know why police were at the scene. And, Murphy said, Armour continued to send

texts demanding his \$600.

Armour has several felony convictions dating back to the late 1990s for things like DUI, fleeing and eluding, possession of a controlled substance, and distribution, Murphy said. He has nine children, one grandchild, and recently started a job as a dishwasher at a club, according to his defense attorney.

Judge Susana Ortiz declined a state request to have Armour held without bail, saying the case fell short of meeting the necessary criteria. But she did order Armour held in lieu of \$750,000 bail. He'll need to post a \$75,000 deposit and go onto electronic monitoring to get out of jail.

EVICTION from p. 1

form available through the Illinois Housing Development Authority stating that they are eligible for protection from eviction. Landlords also must certify that they either haven't received the form back from the tenant or that some other exemption in the executive order applies in their case.

Also during August, all trials and judgments involving qualifying individuals will be under a temporary stay. Courts will be allowed to hear motions for default judgment against people who fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, but "only after the defendant is given notice to appear at a separate hearing on a motion for default."

"These cases could not be enforced until the governor's moratorium completely expires, so this process will not delay the ultimate resolution of cases in the court system," said Judge Eugene Doherty, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit and vice-chair of the Supreme Court's COVID

Task Force.

The American Bar Assoc. [ABA] suggests that once the moratorium is lifted, attorneys representing both landlords and tenants anticipate an avalanche of eviction cases that have been stayed for a year. The backlog may take a year to clear.

The ABA says that not only will the courts be jammed with pending and new cases, but judges may take a range of stances on legal defenses asserted by the tenant due to the pandemic.

"We may see varied rulings from judges from district to district," says Mario Sullivan of Johnson and Sullivan, Ltd. Sullivan practices in landlord/tenant law in Chicago. "We may even see varied rulings for judges within the same district."

Defenses such as force majeure, a relatively rarely used tactic, can be anticipated to be employed with great vigor. Attorneys for tenants may use very creative defenses in light of the unprecedented impact of the

pandemic on the U.S. rental market.

In May, \$1.5 billion was made available through the Illinois Rental Payment Program, which provided up to \$25,000 to support households unable to pay their rent due to a COVID-19 related hardship. The program was funded with money the state received through the federal Coronavirus

CONTRIBUTION from p. 1

and March of 2019 she had also contributed to two of his opponents, Michael Negron and Heather Way Kitzes. Previously, she had contributed \$3,000 to Rahm Emanuel in Nov. 2010 and \$150 to Lisa Madigan in March 2010. Madigan's husband is one of those who have voiced opposition to the operation of CloudKitchens.

Update

In our June 30 newspapers we reported a blind item regarding funding for a mass-mailed letter Ald. Martin sent to the community explaining his side of his fight with CloudKitchen. In that story we stated that

Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES Act. Applications for those grants closed Sunday, July 18.

On Wednesday, Pritzker announced that another \$500 million will be made available in an additional round of applications that will open in the fall, bringing the total amount of rental assistance to \$2 billion.

the letter's "Fine print seems to indicate the sender was the 47th Ward Regular Democratic Organization. But sources within that organization have told this newspaper the mailer was not from their office."

State records show that \$5,000 was donated to 47th Ward Committeeman Paul Rosenfeld on June 21 through Government Group Inc., which was about the same time the letter signed by Ald. Martin was sent out, and those funds could have been used to pay for the letter. That may explain the fine print in that letter.



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