

Music is forever; music should grow and mature with you, following you right on up until you die.

— Paul Simon

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Rogers Park murder, Edgewater shooting may be linked to reignited North Side gang war

Cops are warned about four areas with 'strong possibility of retaliatory shootings'

BY CWBCHICAGO

There are increasing indications that an internal Chicago Police Dept. warning was right about four North Side areas with a "strong possibility of retaliatory shootings."

A drive-by shooting just outside one of the zones that left a man dead and a woman injured on July 30 was targeted, a local alderman said. Hours later, gunmen in two cars chased after another driver, firing shots at him until he crashed, uninjured, into an Edgewater restaurant. The chase began smack in the middle of one of the areas CPD flagged for retaliation.

Police were told to expect retaliation in two parts of Uptown, a section of Edgewater, and part of Rogers Park as a long-running feud heats up between the Wicked City faction of the Black P Stones street gang to the south and the Gangster Disciples to the north.

Officials suspect that a 30-year-old man shot and killed in the 1300 block of W. Devon around 1:43 a.m. July 30 was targeted as he left Samah Hookah Lounge at closing time, Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] said on Facebook. A woman was also shot in the leg.

"This is not the first shooting to take place outside this business and since it borders our ward, we are working with the 48th Ward [office] and police as Area 3

Detectives investigate," Hadden wrote.

The shooting scene was just two blocks north of a hot zone CPD flagged for retaliatory shootings between Granville, Ardmore, Broadway, and Sheridan.

Then, around 5 a.m., a 42-year-old man was targeted by two gunmen as he drove in the 5000 block of N. Winthrop. That's in the center of a second CPD hot box running from Foster to Lawrence and Broadway to Sheridan.

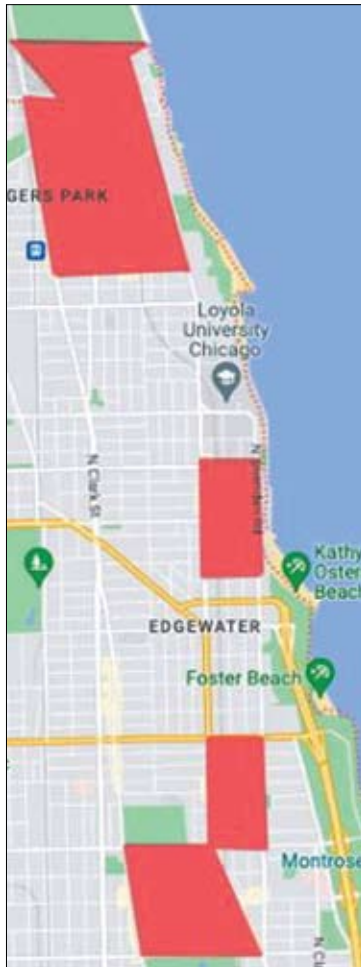
The man was driving when gunmen in two cars began shooting. They chased him all the way to the 5500 block of N. Clark, firing shots along the way, until he crashed into Little Bad Wolf restaurant, 1541 W. Bryn Mawr, a CPD traffic crash report said.

Witnesses said the shooters' two cars split up after the crash, with a white Hyundai heading north on Clark and a white Hyundai truck heading south on Clark.

The victim's car was struck by bullets, Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] said on July 30. He was not injured. Manaa-Hoppenworth said police made an arrest in connection with the incident, but a Chicago police spokesperson said no charges were pending as of Sunday evening.

CPD's crash report said the two cars cut the victim off at Bryn Mawr and Clark, and the gunmen fired more shots toward him in the intersection. That caused him to "swerve and uncontrollably collide onto [sic] the wall of the restaurant."

This new cycle of gang violence began on May 23 with the shooting of a 22-year-old man in



Chicago police investigators have deemed the areas shaded red to have a "strong possibility" of retaliatory shootings as a North Side gang war heats up.

the 4500 block of N. Magnolia, according to the bulletin. A gunman literally fell out of a moving SUV as he shot at the victim around 3:30 p.m., said an officer who reviewed surveillance video of the incident.

GANG WAR see p. 12



Prior to the July 27 community meeting, individuals from Save Our Broadway Armory Park Coalition rallied to oppose the city's plan to close Armory Park to most of the 1,000 local program users. Photo by Joanne Kitsos

Broadway Armory now a temporary home for asylum seekers

Lack of transparency, community input riles park users

BY BOB KITSOS

After several months of rumor and speculation, city officials confirmed at the July 27 community meeting that Broadway Armory Park, 5917 N. Broadway, will be used as a temporary housing site for refugee asylum seekers with young children beginning Aug. 1.

At least 250 individuals - and possibly 350 - will call the gymnasium their home at the Armory for at least six months while they are processed through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

More than 400 Edgewater community members and representa-

tives of local mutual aid organizations attended the meeting at the Broadway Armory to hear from the panel of city officials and Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th]. They described the city's current migrant housing crisis, the search for suitable, emergency temporary housing sites and the efforts to retain and relocate some of the programs that were offered at the Armory.

Current situation

Since August of last year, Chicago has provided resources to more than 11,500 men, women and children who have arrived homeless and without sponsors. To date, over 5,700 asylum seekers are in temporary shelters and

ARMORY see p. 12

Devon will be closed due to two Independence Day parades

Both the India and Pakistan Independence Days are coming up, and the West Ridge and Rogers Park communities will soon celebrate several festive parades. In commemorating the day with three parades, residents can expect street closures on Devon Ave. and along side streets during these parades.

The Federation of Indian Associations Parade will be on Saturday, Aug. 5, starting at 11:30 a.m. The parade route runs along Devon Ave. from Western to Fairfield.

The Coalition of Pakistan Or-

ganizations parade will be on Sunday, Aug. 6, starting at 2 p.m. The parade route runs along Devon Ave. from Damen to Western.

The Pakistan Independence Day Parade will be on Sunday, Aug. 13, starting at 12:30 p.m. The parade route runs along Devon Ave. from Damen to Western.

In 1946, Britain announced it would grant India independence. No longer able to afford to administer the country, it wanted to leave as quickly as possible. The last viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, set the date as Aug. 15, 1947. On

that day, India was declared independent from British colonialism, and the reins of control were handed over to the leaders of the country.

In 1947 Pakistan also emerged from a British India. The former colonies were partitioned into two Dominions, India and Pakistan. On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan achieved independence one day prior to Indian independence. India was partitioned, and an East and West Pakistan were created from Muslim majority areas.

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Every day is a great day for Barbie; but Ken only has a great day if Barbie looks at him



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

I'm not so sure I can stand the cultural assault of a full out Barbie film. How can this be happening?

Welcome to the world of the "sidechick."

To begin with there's the avalanche of bright pink. That in itself is an design disaster.

I'm certain that the dialogue in the film and in the theatre seats will be "awesome." But I am disappointed the sophisticated actor Ryan Gosling has the need to climb aboard this dinghy.

No fear I will ever have to view the film. No one will ever mistake it for a Merchant Ivory epic or a fresh chapter of Downton Abbey. Even with Margot Robbie.

Besides the blinding blur of pink, there's the serious age gap with its hoped for audience. I can hear the screams now of 10 year olds who all want to be Barbie. Not a princess of the Royal Windsors.

Well get ahold of yourselves,

girls. I've got a bulletin for you. You're already Barbie.

Magical isn't it? Can't wait to hear the lyricism of the Dua Lipa, Lizzo and Billie Eilish tunes.

Just think. Barbie's girlie viewers can put all those letters together and speak the words they actually spell out. Guess what? You're really reading. You must be the smartest

and cleverest girl in your suburban subdivision. Sounds like someone's getting ready to walk up the aisle of celebrity.

Too cynical? Not in a world where no one even remembers who Abe Lincoln was. Or Ron Santo and Ted Kluszewski.

Wow. That sounds pretty strident, even for me. But it's just because there appears to be such colossal nonsense at work.

I fear, of course, a full assault by girls in blonde wigs riding around in pink sports cars.

Perhaps they can parse the verb "to be." But culture needs a stronger glue. No fear that French Modernist painters can pick up the slack. Or even a mop-headed foursome from Liverpool. Or the crushing political tones of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Ronald Reagan or Winston Churchill.

Someone help.

Is there some secret, mystical consciousness at work here in Barbieland? Tell me there is something more ringing in the atmosphere of the followers of Barbie. Did the story really need to be told? Is there some element of human accomplishment that needed to be exposed? Does Ken really hijack Barbieland to make it a brew haven for his bros?

Just how does Barbie maintain her relationship with Ken?

Is she cooking on all the burners?

What's the secret recipe for her distinctive brand of friendship? Is it her clothes? Her shiny lips? Her complex vocabulary? Her use of big words? Her squeal? Does Ken's masculinity actually turn "toxic?"

What will second, third and fourth graders make of Miss Bar-



Barbie and Ken go for a ride.

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

bie's flat feet? Is this the toy store apocalypse? Or just a shoe glitch? And her beachwear and bathing togs, will they give Ken and his blond pompadour a chance?

What will older girls have to learn from Barbie? Is she a true woman of the world or just a good egg?

I'm not sure Barbie has been cut out for leading the troops of Blondies into battle. I think of that more as a challenge for those with the full range of the battleground in place. Without the unsettled distinction of seeing just what you want. The blond ones need the full picture. A clarity of vision. The Cinescope perspective of everything from eyebrow to eyelash.

Barbie and her Blondie entourage appear to me to be the vanguard of the suburban woke manhunt.

Not a hair out of place. Moisturized from bikini line to bikini line. Regurgitating the lockstep protocols of socialist fundamentalism, like it was the manifesto of the local parish altar and rosary society.

All the abiding segues and side-steps of dreamy romance that little white girls can hang on to with out alerting the color of their nail polish or the pink ruffles on their undies.

The package is protected while rearranging the social context for the intellectual and cosmetic restoration of the left wing socio-political agenda. Sounds like the job description for the president of the Art Institute. And his sad sack sidechicks.

Just ask the former docents of the Art Institute of Chicago. Stop by the bar at the Onwentsia Club. Or the latest Athletic Dept. staff meeting at Northwestern Univ. where they're plunging the men to the bottom of the pool. Did you see that one coming?

I'm not quite sure where platinum Ken and his brewski-belching bros are with the complexity of the wokist manifesto on paper. Though I do suspect more investigation is needed to understand his campfire tunes that appear to define and rationally explain his etherial romantic longings for the girl in pink.

I think Ken's constant strumming means she can count on Ken's vote every time. And little blond girls from Lake Forest to South Shore can smile having learned the secret victory of blondies over boys everywhere. More complex than the formula for an Oppenheimer joke. But with the same kaboom.

"Barbie" is the saga of a pink road trip that takes you beyond fashion and hairstyles.

Ryan Gosling is smart. He knows Ken is no Fred Flintstone. He's more a Max de Winter motoring home to the grandeur of Mandalay and the ghost of his lost Rebecca. His new precious love more at hand than Daphne de Maurier dialogue.

neighbors jumped to their death in July from the the Ritz-Carlton on Michigan Ave., a 77-year-old female, followed by a 79-year-old male, both leaping to their death on two consecutive days. There is a story in there that may never be told.

CLOSINGS: One of the city's oldest Italian restaurants, "Bella Note" on Grand Ave., just announced it would be closing its Chicago location and moving to Downers Grove. The popular Howard St., bistro, Sol Cafe is no more, having shuttered its doors in Rogers Park after 10 years. Many residents are heartbroken for the financially strapped favorite reeling from neighborhood issues of crime and floods. And Andersonville's Land & Lake finally locking up after two years.

RIVER LIFE: Legal Sea Foods replacing Dick's Last Resort in Marina Towers.

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE: Fifty-four years after the first house he designed, architect Larry Booth is now finishing up his latest. Now turning 87 years old, Booth has co-written a career-retrospective book, "Modern Beyond Style & the Pursuit of Beauty." Published by Chicago Seven Press and co-written with Jay Pridmore, the book covers dozens of buildings of all types, including high-rises, golf course clubhouses and the restoration of Old St. Patrick's Church on Adams Street in the West Loop.

TREE HUGS: Susan Darnall tells us she only has energy left to speak for green stuff, like trees, and asks the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce about their lack of a green policy to protect trees being abused by Andersonville's outdoor cafes. Apparently they can't tell the

BARBIE see p. 8

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Thirsty Ears Festival this weekend in Ravenswood

Access Contemporary Music [ACM] is hosting their annual Thirsty Ears Festival this weekend in Ravenswood. It is the only classical music street festival in Chicago.

For two days Wilson Ave. between Hermitage and Ravenswood are set up to feature stellar ensembles and soloists performing music from Beethoven to Shostakovich, to Reich, to Baroque, to contemporary and everything in between on the main stage.

The hours are Saturday, Aug. 5, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 6, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ACM's mission is to bring musical

creativity to life every day through performances of the music of diverse living composers, collaborative events designed to reach new audiences, innovative commissioning projects that foster the creation of new music and through storefront music schools that teach musical creativity.

All of ACM's programs also include their School of Music, and the Sound of Silent Film, where ensembles accompany silent film screenings.

Food and beverages will be available on site too.

Gunmen targeted victims at bank ATMs during robbery spree

BY CWBCHICAGO

Armed men traveling in stolen cars robbed five people July 30, four of them at ATMs on the North Side, Chicago police said in a community alert released Monday morning.

Each time, the crew jumped out of the car while wearing masks and brandishing more than one gun, including a rifle or long gun, and four of the robberies occurred as victims left bank ATM vestibules.

The holdups began at 4:30 a.m. in the 7500 block of N. Western Ave. Four more were reported in under an hour on Sunday afternoon in Lakeview and Lincoln Park

CPD's community alert said the group is composed of three to five Black males between 18 and 25 years old. They wore dark clothing and ski masks. Tips about the robberies can be shared with detectives at 312-744-8263. The community alert reference number is P23-3-052.

North Side based Midnight Circus to take unexpected 2023 hiatus

BY PETER VON BUOL

The show must go on! Or not? After nearly two decades of performing at city parks as a perennial fundraiser for park programming, the Chicago-based Midnight Circus has announced it will not be resuming a full schedule of performances.

In a July 27 email sent to its supporters, founder Jeff Jenkins explained the circus has curtailed its 2023 season, due to lack of funding from the Chicago Park District [CPD].

In the past, performances by the Midnight Circus had been supported by the CPD, as well as by other sponsors. The

performances at individual parks served as fundraisers for the host parks.

"Our ability to defy gravity while battling bureaucracy has proved to be our toughest challenge, yet. We are facing a post-pandemic shift in how [the non-profit] Midnight Circus is supported, funded and allowed to operate in Chicago. It is with a heavy heart that we announce we will not be able to produce a full-scale, city-wide Midnight Circus in the Parks Tour for the 2023 season," wrote Jenkins.

Since 2007, Midnight Circus has raised more than \$960,000 for community

CIRCUS see p. 4



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Home shoppers feel the bite as Fed again hikes rates



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Much to the dismay of would-be home shoppers in Chicago, the Federal Reserve Board continues to raise interest rates, driving a nail through buyer wallets.

In an effort to curb inflation, on July 26 the Fed raised its key interest rate for the 11th time in 17 months. The 0.25% increase boosted the Fed's benchmark short-term funds rate to 5.25% to 5.5%—the highest since 2007.

On July 27, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans nationwide averaged 6.81%, up from 6.78% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year loan averaged 5.30%.

"Higher interest rates continue to dampen activity in interest rate-sensitive sectors, such as housing," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

Fifteen-year fixed mortgages averaged 6.11%, up from 6.06% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed-rate averaged 4.58%.

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

Borrowers who shop around may find better deals, according to Rate Seeker.com. For example, on July 27, First Savings Bank of Hegewisch was quoting 6.084% on 30-year fixed rate home loans with a 20% down payment. The bank charges a loan origination fee of \$615.

3% Inflation still too high

Though inflation has eased to from 9% to 3%, its slowest pace in two years, the Fed-rate hike shows concern that the economy is still growing too fast for infla-



Illinois Realtors reported that the median sales price of a home in Chicago was \$355,000 in June, up from \$335,000 in May, and \$340,000 in April.

tion to fall back to the 2% target.

"The process of getting inflation down to 2% has a long way to go," said Fed Chairman Jerome Powell, who stressed that central bank policymakers will assess incoming economic data for the Fed's next meeting in September.

However, overall U.S. consumer confidence is unwavering, surging to a two-year high in the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index for July 2023, Khater said.

Apparently, there's no stopping Americans. They keep spending, traveling overseas and flocking to concerts and movie theaters, experts say. And, businesses keep

hiring, pushing the unemployment rate near a half-century low.

"Rising consumer confidence often leads to greater spending, which could drive more consumers into the housing market," Khater said.

Median home prices rise

Illinois Realtors reported that the median sales price of a home in Chicago was \$355,000 in June, up from \$335,000 in May, and \$340,000 in April. "The trend of rising prices and declining sales continued during June," said Daniel McMillen, head of the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago's real estate department.

While mortgage rates have more than doubled over the past two years, higher interest rates also impact charges on other types of loans:

- Credit cards: The average Annual Percentage Rate on a credit card that charges interest is 22.16%, according to the latest data from the Fed. That's up about 6 percentage points from the average rate in the first quarter of 2022.

- Auto loans; While there may still be a few special 0% offers out there on left-over models, auto loan rates, which averaged 4.5% in March 2022, rose to 7.2% in June 2023.

The average price paid for a new vehicle last month was nearly \$48,000—about 25% above the pre-pandemic average. The average monthly auto payment now is \$736, reports Edmunds.com. Over the six-year life of the average loan a borrower pays nearly \$9,000 in interest.

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.

Non-profit organizations can apply for CTA's Holiday Food Program

The CTA's 2023 Holiday Food Program is now accepting requests from non-for-profit organizations that serve the homeless community and/or low-income individuals.

All organizations interested in being considered to receive a donation of holiday food boxes must email a formal request by Aug. 22. Requests should be written on the organization's letterhead and sent via email to Maria-Teresa Roman at mroman@transitchicago.com

Requests must state their organization's mission statement, who they serve, how and why, indicate why the organization would benefit if selected to receive a dona-

tion of holiday food baskets and provide the name/title/office and cell phone number of the organization's staff person that will be CTA's contact person.

To be selected a staff member must meet CTA staff at their assigned delivery/location time.

The CTA's holiday food donation will include non-perishable ingredients for a traditional American holiday meal to serve six servings (as indicated by the FDA). These items are purchased with funds donated by CTA staff.

Organizations selected to receive a donation will be notified by Nov. 2. For more information, email GCR@transitchicago.com.

CIRCUS from p. 3

groups, play-lot renovations, and park programs. In 2017, the circus also raised more than \$18,000 for the American Red Cross to help relief efforts in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

The goal of Midnight Circus in the Parks program, added Jenkins, has been to foster community support and to build a foundation for the long-term success of these parks.

"All performances [were meant to be] affordable, accessible, and provide a platform for community groups to volunteer, fundraise and become active arts participants," he wrote.

The Welles Park Advisory Council [WPAC], 2333 W. Sunnyside, urged supporters to send messages of support to the CPD superintendent at 312-742-4200 and to the head of the park district's Night Out in the Parks pro-

gram. The council also suggested supporters call 312-742-4197 or send an email to play@chicagoparkdistrict.com. The WPAC also urged supporters contact Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration at 312-744-5000 as well as his Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events [DCASE] Cmsr. Erin Harkey at dcase@cityofchicago.org.

"As the original park hosting Midnight Circus and long-time supporter, we wanted to encourage you to use your voices to support this family-run Chicago parks tradition. While it may not have an impact for this year's performance season, if you have social media, a newsletter, or active members and neighbors, please encourage them to reach out and voice how important the circus is to your park!" wrote Aaron Durnbaugh, president of WPAC.

In addition to the city's DCASE, Durnbaugh also urged supporters

contact the city's Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity at 312-814-7179. "Specify [you are calling] about the handling of the Back to Business grants that have yet to reach artists," he wrote.


According to the state's Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the state's "Back to Business" Creative Recovery Grant program was meant to provide recovery grants for businesses (including non-profits) hardest hit by the pandemic, including the Creative Arts. All applicants who had properly submitted paperwork were to receive grants. The program for B2B Arts was based on legislation which established the Illinois Creative Recovery Grant program (30 ILCS 709/40).

In the email he sent on behalf of the WPAC, Durnbaugh suggested supporters mention what it has meant to local parks.

"Midnight Circus has brought joy and wonder to our community and is a tradition that is under threat. With pressure on so many arts organizations, don't let this Chicago experience be lost. Hosting the circus not only brings family-friendly programming to our parks, it helps fundraise for activities year-round. Please support Midnight Circus through your programmatic funds and with arts-themed grants," wrote Durnbaugh.

In his own email, Jenkins said he appreciated the support from those who had attended performances of the Midnight Circus and had made donations.

"We are forever grateful to the talented artists who have graced our little circus ring over the years, and the committed community partners that have believed in our mission and have partnered with us to strengthen Chicago communities. It's been a privilege to grow our own family up alongside the families that return year after year to support our show," wrote Jenkins.



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Illinois unemployment agency made \$5.2 billion in 'overpayments' during COVID-19

BY ANDREW HENSEL AND GREG BISHOP
The Center Square

Illinois lawmakers are calling for accountability into the state's handling of unemployment payments during the COVID-19 pandemic after an audit showed \$5.2 billion was overpaid, including tens of millions to some who were incarcerated or deceased.

Unemployment spiked at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 after Gov. J.B. Pritzker instituted an economic lockdown and issued stay-at-home orders impacting the economy in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

The Illinois Auditor General report published July 26 shows billions of unemployment tax dollars were improperly paid out by the Illinois Dept. of Employment Security (IDES) during that time. The audit looks at IDES from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2022.

"Beginning in March 2020, IDES suspended some routine identity cross-matches performed on all regular UI claims filed because the cross-matches required time to run and constricted the processing system severely," one audit finding said. "These cross-matches were temporarily suspended and/or processed offline. This allowed IDES to better handle the increase in claims processing traffic; however, this left the unemployment programs more susceptible to fraud."

Previous reports from the auditor found at least \$2 billion in fraudulent payments, but noted poor record keeping at the agency prevented inspectors from getting

the full picture.

The report shows the state made \$5.2 billion in overpayments and made \$46 million worth of payments to some who were incarcerated or deceased.

A statement from IDES puts some of the blame on the Trump administration and their imple-

ment was shocked to hear the amount of money the agency lost.

"When I read this report, I am on fire. This is beyond comprehension," Caulkins said. "They ought to sue. They ought to be sued for not performing and honoring their contract. This is criminal."

"How do you think somebody who filled out all the forms, and did all the paperwork and never got one red cent from the state of Illinois when they needed it most, how do you think they will feel when they pick up the paper and find out that Pritzker lost billions of dollars," said Rose. "Literally, this is not hyperbole; billions of dollars just gone missing."

mentation of a "poorly designed and brand new unemployment insurance program" for the state to manage.

"Because the federal program did not require the routine and necessary crossmatching identity controls incorporated within the state's regular unemployment insurance system, the likelihood that overpayments and fraud recovery efforts would be negatively impacted is unsurprising," the statement reads.

The auditor said IDES delayed implementing fraud prevention tools the U.S. Dept. of Labor suggested.

"IDES chose to not utilize the Integrity Data Hub tools because other IT-related projects were deemed to be of greater urgency during the pandemic," the auditor said. "IDES began utilizing the Integrity Data Hub tools in Sept. 2021."

State Rep. Dan Caulkins said he

Additionally, IDES entered into eight contracts during the audit period for services and software related to administering unemployment insurance totaling \$226.4 million, according to the audit.

State Sen. Chapin Rose said thousands of Illinoisans could not pay their bills on time or keep their businesses open due to the agency's handling of the funds.

"How do you think somebody who filled out all the forms, and did all the paperwork and never got one red cent from the state of Illinois when they needed it most, how do you think they will feel when they pick up the paper and find out that Pritzker lost billions of dollars," said Rose. "Literally, this is not hyperbole; billions of dollars just gone missing."

Caulkins said this massive overpayment of taxpayer funds needs to now be looked at by law enforcement.

Medical Examiner says record 2,000 opioid overdose deaths for 2022

Overwhelming majority of cases involve fentanyl

The opioid and fentanyl crisis is a public health epidemic taking lives at an alarming rate, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Open air drug markets operate in several communities in Chicago and city officials have so far done very little to address the problem. What's hidden in those illicit drugs usually is fentanyl. And with Lollapalooza in town, sales are expected to pick up.

Last week the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed a record 2,000 opioid overdose deaths for 2022, breaking the previous record of 1,935 set in 2021. Just over 70% of the overdose deaths occurred in Chicago.

More than 91% of opioid overdose deaths involved fentanyl smuggled over America's wide open 2000-mile Southern border. Traffickers also smuggle large amounts of illicit drugs, primarily marijuana, into the United States from Canada and Mexico through Native American Indian reservations that border these countries, namely the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation in New York, commonly referred to as the Akwesasne, and the Tohono O'odham

Reservation in Arizona.

The most recent survey by the Drug Enforcement Agency shows 8.55% of Illinois residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82%. Additionally, 3.06% of Illinois residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month (the national average was 3.33%).

African-American and Hispanic street gangs have a virtual stranglehold on street-level distribution, which is their main source of income. Organized street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, Traveling Vice Lords, Vice Lords, New Breeds and Latin Kings control the distribution and retail sales of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana throughout Chicago.

Two weeks ago 13 Chicago men were arrested and accused of running an open-air drug market on the Northwest Side. Federal prosecutors said the men sold cocaine, crack, heroin, and drugs laced with fentanyl at an open-air drug market near W. Chicago and N. Trumbull.

Prosecutors said many of the men charged, including the group's leader, are allegedly members of the Traveling Vice Lords street gangs. Prosecutors allege a complex system of distributing fentanyl-laced heroin in

their 106-page complaint.

Most federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Illinois cite the violent crime associated with gang-related drug trafficking as the most serious criminal threat to the state. The gang shootings going on in Rogers Park, Edgewater and Uptown now are primarily over drug dealing turf.

Overdose deaths in the county have risen every year since 2018. Opioid deaths were only a fraction of today's levels in 2015, when 676 overdose deaths were recorded.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine.

Approximately 78% of the opioid overdose deaths are male. African Americans make up 56% of the deaths, Latinos account for just under 15% and whites constitute 29% of the deaths.

The age group most impacted is 50- to 59-year-olds, accounting for 27% of the overdose deaths. The year's youngest opioid overdose death in Cook County was a 12-year-old boy from Chicago; the oldest was an 84-year-old woman from Chicago.

Zen Leaf now a union pot shop

Teamsters Local 777 has reached tentative agreements for cannabis consultants and agents-in-charge at Chicago's Zen Leaf dispensaries.

Zen Leaf is located at 7305 N. Rogers Ave. in Rogers Park, and is owned by multi-state cannabis company Verano. It is the third multi-state operator the union has successfully bargained agreements with after it launched its campaign to organize the commercial weed industry less than three years ago.

The agreement includes wage increases ranging from 17% to 20% over the next three years, paid time off, employer-funded retirement contributions, overtime allocated by seniority, and the replacement of "at-will" employment with a just process for addressing disciplinary matters, the union said.

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Police Beat...

Hit-and-run driver kills 69-year-old woman in Uptown

A hit-and-run driver killed a 69-year-old woman as she crossed the street in Uptown on July 25, Chicago police said. The Cook County medical examiner's office identified her as Soyfa Athamanah of the 4400 block of N. Wolcott.

Athamanah was in a crosswalk in the 5100 block of N. Broadway when the driver of a black sedan struck her around 10:35 p.m., according to an alert from CPD's major accident investigations unit. The driver continued north on Broadway from Winona after hitting her.

Police said the car may be a Honda, possibly with front-end damage.

On Twitter, Tyler Pasciak LaRiviere, a Sun-Times photojournalist, said he witnessed the crash.

"I cover this stuff a lot for the @Suntimes, but it's a different perspective to actually witness it and be a part of the story," he wrote. "I can't detach myself like I'm normally able to do. I've seen a lot of sh*t over the years but this might be something that sticks."

He noted the woman was carrying takeout food, which was spread across the crosswalk after she was hit. He speculated that the woman may have been heading home from a shift at one of the nearby restaurants, which usually close by 10 p.m.

CPD is asking anyone with information about the case to contact them at 312-745-4521. The case number is JG-356129.

UPS driver stole Louis Vuitton shipments worth \$50K

A UPS driver is accused of stealing two Louis Vuitton shipments worth more than \$50,000 from the company's shipment center near downtown Chicago, according to a CPD arrest report.

If that scenario sounds familiar, it's because another UPS driver working out of the same facility was charged last year with stealing more Louis Vuitton shipments worth \$187,000.

In the new case, UPS security agents began investigating after a package containing \$17,585 worth of Louis Vuitton goods was not delivered as scheduled on July 15, the report said.

A week later, on July 22, the company's security team working in the warehouse at 1400 S. Jefferson saw a driver take Louis Vuitton packages from carts that weren't assigned to him, according to police.

They stopped the driver after he put the packages worth \$32,640 on his truck and prepared to start his route.

Police were called to the warehouse to take the driver, Erick Carbajal, 28, into custody on July 22. The UPS agents told the police that Carbajal admitted to taking the packages on both days.

He's charged with felony theft of \$10,000 to \$100,000 and attempted



Erick Carbajal

theft of \$10,000 to \$100,000. Judge Maryam Ahmad required him to pay a \$200 bail deposit to get out of jail.

Last April, prosecutors charged another UPS driver with delivering packages containing \$187,000 worth of Louis Vuitton to his home.

Officials said Pedro Caudillo, 27, loaded boxes of the luxury designer's shipments that were not assigned his route onto his truck at the UPS warehouse on Jefferson. Then he allegedly delivered the merchandise to his house.

UPS called the Chicago Police Department's organized retail crime task force to tackle that investigation. The company reported several Louis Vuitton boxes had gone missing since mid-April 2022.

Late that month, a witness allegedly saw Caudillo load three Louis Vuitton boxes onto his truck that were supposed to go on other routes, prosecutors said. Those shipments alone were worth \$35,000.

Police arrested him when he returned to the warehouse after delivering the goods to his home, prosecutors said. After his arrest, police searched his house and found the three boxes he had earlier in the day along with Louis Vuitton merchandise worth \$100,000, according to the allegations. Caudillo's case is still pending. Court records indicate the parties may be getting close to reaching a plea agreement.

Sheriff's officers quit after on-duty theft of NASCAR banners from River North bar

Two Cook County sheriff's officers have resigned after surveillance cameras recorded them stealing two NASCAR banners from outside a River North bar last month.

Officers Patrick Felker and Paul Gregoire quit on July 14 upon being questioned about the incident by the sheriff's office of professional review, a sheriff's office statement said.

City of Chicago surveillance camera footage obtained by this reporter through a Freedom of Information Act request shows what happened.

Around 8:25 a.m. July 12, a sheriff's office patrol car turned onto the first block of W. Hubbard from State St. The squad car stopped and pulled a three-point turn in front of Mother Hubbard's, the bar at 5 W. Hubbard that decorated its outdoor fencing with the banners.

The squad car drove away, then returned just over an hour later.

Once again, the driver pulled a three-point turn. This time, he parked in front of the bar. An officer in the squad car's passenger seat got out and seemingly worked as a lookout, standing in the middle of the sidewalk as the driver headed to the fence to remove a banner.

He folded the banner neatly, placed it in the squad car's trunk, and returned to take the other banner.

Both officers then returned to their seats, and the squad drove away.

Mother Hubbard's management

filed a report with the Chicago Police Dept., and CPD contacted the sheriff's office.

"The Office of Professional Review immediately opened an internal investigation and summoned the officers to meet with investigators," the sheriff's office said in a written statement. "On Friday, July 14, both officers resigned following individual interviews with OPR investigators. The Office is cooperating fully with Chicago Police regarding the initial complaint."

"Gregoire and Felker are both retired Chicago Police officers hired by the Sheriff's Office to conduct community-focused operations," the statement continued. "Gregoire was hired in March 2022, and Felker was hired in Oct. 2022."

Mother Hubbard's did not respond to an email about the incident.

Three shot near Wilson CTA station

Three people were shot near the Wilson CTA station in Uptown on July 25, Chicago police said. All of the victims are expected to be OK.

The men were standing in the 4500 block of N. Broadway when a gunman shot at them around 5:03 p.m. Some witnesses said the shooter ran to the CTA station, while others believed the gunman was in a car that sped south on Broadway. The police did not release any information about the offender.

An officer said police found seven shell casings at the scene, all from a rifle. A bullet broke a window in a nearby photo studio.

Police said two men were shot in the leg, a 21-year-old and a 32-year-old. They were taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in good condition. A 38-year-old man was taken to Weiss Hospital with a gunshot wound to his foot.

The men are the eighth, ninth, and tenth people shot in Uptown this year. That compares to ten at this point last year and eleven as of this date in 2021.

On July 20, a 29-year-old man was shot as he stood in the 4000 block of N. Broadway.

Gunmen carjack couple at gunpoint in Lakeview

Armed men carjacked a couple in Lakeview July 26, Chicago police say, but cops found the victims' car and another stolen car abandoned in the area less than an hour later.

The victims, a man and woman both 43 years old, said they were sitting inside a parked Acadian Beaumont in the 1500 block of W. Wolfram when the carjackers pulled up in a black car around 2:18 a.m., a CPD spokesperson said.

Two men got out of the other car, displayed guns, and demanded the couple's property and their car. They complied, and the carjackers drove away with the vehicle, followed by the black car.

Police found both vehicles and some of the victims' property near the 1400 block of W. Oakdale around 3 a.m. The other car was a stolen Hyundai Elantra.

CPD did not release descriptions of the suspects. One of the victims had a firearm in the vehicle when it was taken, but it is unclear if police recovered the weapon with the car.

Man charged with Lincoln Park sexual assault

Reggie Brown, 31, of the 1500 block of S. Drake Ave., has been arrested and charged with three felony counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault/Threat Life, one felony count of Unlawful Restraint, and one felony count of Aggravated Robbery for the sexual assault of a Lincoln Park woman on July 8.

Brown was arrested July 26 by the Chicago police in the 1500 block of S. St. Louis Ave. He was identified as the offender who at approximately 3:29 a.m., sexually assaulted and unlaw-



Reggie Brown

fully restrained a 28-year-old female in the 1900 block of N. Sheffield Ave. after she exited a ride share vehicle.

As she walked up the stairwell to the second floor of her building, a man pushed her from behind, grabbed her by the neck, and sexually assaulted her, police said.

The offender was placed into custody and charged accordingly.

Cops look for gunman who robbed CTA passenger in River North



Police are trying to locate a man who robbed a CTA passenger in River North on July 30.

The man seen wearing two different hoodies

in these CTA surveillance images confronted a 43-year-old man with a handgun as they rode the train near the Grand station around 2:15 a.m., according to Chicago police. He took the victim's property and fled.

CPD said the suspect is between 20 and 30 years old.

Tips can be shared with detectives at 312-745-4706. The case number is JG-361577.

Chicago newcomer charged with committing five more robberies in the Loop



Jorge Gonzales

A man charged last month with committing a series of armed robberies in the Loop is now accused of committing even more holdups

in the neighborhood, Chicago police said July 26.

Jorge Gonzales, 23, has only lived in Chicago for about six months, officials say. But he's making quite a splash if the allegations against him are true.

Late last month, prosecutors said Gonzales and another man rode bikes from one robbery to another early on June 25 and ultimately carjacked a man. So far, Gonzales is the only person officials have charged.

The June 25 spree began around 2 a.m. in the 100 block of W. Ida B. Wells. A CPD spokesperson said two victims, a 20-year-old woman and a 23-year-old man, were walking when the two robbers confronted them. The men displayed a gun, took the victims' property, and fled north on Federal St.

Officials said he and an accomplice committed more robberies the next night while riding a bike from crime to crime. They ultimately carjacked a 22-year-old as he sat in his vehicle in the 1100 block of S. Wabash. The man told police two gunmen displayed a gun and forced him out of his gray Honda Civic.

Several hours later, police arrested Gonzales as he drove the hijacked vehicle on the Kennedy Expy. near Chicago Avenue, Chicago police said. Gonzales is being held without bail.

Now, CPD says Gonzales is being charged with more crimes.

On June 25, Gonzales and his accomplice tried to rob four people in the 100 block of N. Michigan near Millennium Park. The victims, a 20-year-old man and women ages 19, 20, and 21, managed to escape without losing anything, according to CPD.

About an hour before the carjacking on June 26, he and an accomplice robbed a 30-year-old woman at gunpoint in the 1100 block of S. Michigan, CPD said.

Migrants face charges for recent incidents downtown



(L-R) Alejandro Jose Paipa Fernandez, Jefferson Bozo Santiago, Gabriel Munoz Marquez

At least three migrants face charges for recent incidents in downtown Chicago, including one accused of threatening passersby with a knife and another arrested for shoplifting twice in July.

Alejandro Jose Paipa Fernandez, a 25-year-old resident at the Standard Club migrant shelter at 320 S. Plymouth, was arrested July 23.

A Chicago police officer said he was on the block handling a separate incident when people began flagging him down around 6:30 p.m. The passersby directed him to Fernandez, who was waving a knife at pedestrians, according to a CPD arrest report.

The officer said Fernandez's knife was about 12 inches long.

Judge Charles Beach released Fernandez on a recognizance bond July 24. He's charged with misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon.

In another incident, a migrant who lives at the Calumet 5th District police station was charged with felony retail theft near the Magnificent Mile.

Security officers at Nordstrom Rack, 101 E. Chicago Ave., told police Gabriel Munoz Marquez, 31, brought a bag into the store July 14 and began stuffing it with sunglasses and a purse.

Marquez walked out with the bag, which contained merchandise worth \$1,783, a CPD arrest report said.

Judge William Fahy released Marquez on his own recognizance.

Then there's Jefferson Bozo Santiago, 23, another resident of the Standard Club shelter. He managed to get arrested twice this month for misdemeanor shoplifting.

Back on the Fourth of July, security officers at Macy's, 111 N. State, detained him for putting a bottle of Prada perfume and four Puma shirts into his hoodie and a book bag, according to an arrest report. Total value: \$260.

He was released from the police station on a recognizance bond.

Just twelve days later, he was arrested at Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan.

Security officers told police they saw him put a pair of \$247 sunglasses into a bag and walk out, according to a police report.

Judge Susana Ortiz set bail at \$3,000 on July 18, but Judge Daniel Gallagher reduced it to a recognizance bond on July 24.

In the interim, Santiago entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with prosecutors for the July 4 incident, according to court records. He is expected to complete 20 hours of community service.

The men join a growing list of migrants who've found themselves in hot water since arriving in Chicago.

- A 23-year-old resident of the Standard Club is accused of hitting a server in the face with a bottle at Whispers, a lakeside cafe at Oak Street Beach.

- Another migrant was arrested three times during his first three weeks in the city.

- And another was charged in June with trying to shoplift \$3,100 worth of merchandise from Macy's in the Loop.

- In May, a resident of the Standard Club shelter was charged with stabbing another resident during an argument.

Migrants have also been the victims of crimes recently.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Couple charged with using postal service keys to burglarize Chicago mailrooms

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Chicago man with a history of ID theft and forgery, charged in April with repeatedly burglarizing the mailroom of a Lincoln Square condo building, is now linked to two more mailroom break-ins from 2021, according to court records. And it's interesting how police put the new case together.

Alex Petik, 35, was charged this spring with burglarizing a mailroom in the 4800 block of N. Bell four times in October and November. Two days after the last break-in, one of the residents learned that someone was trying to open multiple credit card accounts in their name.

A Lincolnwood Police Department sergeant and a U.S. Postal Inspector recognized the thief as Petik, prosecutors said.

A backpack he was carrying when police arrested him in April allegedly contained a Russian passport, two fake IDs with his photo but other people's personal information, four credit cards with different names, five checks issued to various businesses and individuals, and 14.2 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine.

Judge Susana Ortiz released him on electronic monitoring with no monetary bail required.

But when Petik didn't show up for his court date on June 12,

Judge Peggy Chiampas put out a warrant for his arrest. Police found him a few days later in the suburbs.

Officials say he had used a phony driver's license with someone else's name and birthday on it to rent a U-Haul in Chicago, which he drove to an Infiniti dealership in Hoffman Estates with 35-year-old Amanda Solis.

Petik parked the truck behind the dealership, and Solis went inside, using a fake ID bearing her picture and another woman's personal information to apply for a car loan, Hoffman Estates police said in criminal complaints.

Prosecutors charged them both with forgery and other counts.

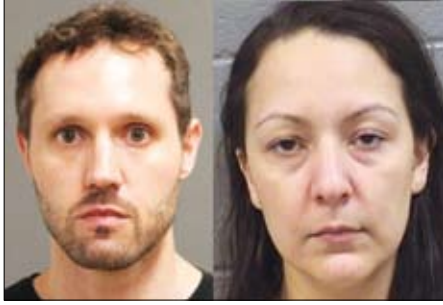
Now, U.S. Postal Inspectors, working with surveillance videos, have determined that Petik and Solis teamed up to burglarize the mailrooms of two residential complexes in Dec. 2021, according to court records.

In a new complaint filed this week, officials said the duo used postal service master keys, known as "arrow keys," to break into mailrooms in the 1900 block of S. Michigan and the 2100 block of W. Wellington on Dec. 15, 2021.

Prosecutors charged both of them with two counts of burglary for the new allegations.

Petik is currently being held without bail in two cases, plus

a \$105,000 bail on three others. Solis is held without bail in three cases plus \$35,000 in three others.



Alex Petik and Amanda Solis. Image courtesy Chicago Police Department; Cook County sheriff's office

Mail theft by crews using stolen postal service master keys has become so widespread that the U.S. Postal Service has advised people not to put mail into its blue mailboxes after the last collection time.

Mail thieves might occasionally score a valuable package or an envelope containing a birthday gift card from someone's grandma. But 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 "arrow keys" in Chicago. Some keys are stolen from the postal service in less violent ways. Some coun-

terfeit keys have also popped up.

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

In May, a joint operation involving postal inspectors and Chicago police netted an arrest after investigators allegedly saw a man use an arrow key to steal mail from one of the postal service's ubiquitous blue mailboxes in the West Loop.

And in March, another man was charged with possessing two forged postal service master keys during a traffic stop on the North Side. Prosecutors said the man also had a trove of financial information, including W2 forms and checks.

Prosecutors charged another man in February with burglarizing the mailroom of a single Lakeview apartment building 14

KEYS see p. 9

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Home Depot employee issued \$873,900 worth of fraudulent gift cards

BY CWBCHICAGO

A fourth person has been charged with participating in a massive fraud scheme that bilked North Side Home Depot stores out of more than \$6 million.

We reported on the racket in May. Officials said Home Depot stores in the city were defrauded by scammers who collected \$900 credits more than 6,000 times for a single purchase made three years ago.

Officials said the scam began in March 2020 when someone purchased more than \$6,000 from the home improvement chain's 2570 N. Elston location. Days later, someone returned to the store and said the purchase was for a tax-exempt church. A store employee accepted the tax-exempt documents and issued the representative a \$900 gift card for the tax value.

That's weird enough because the taxes for the purchase only totaled \$555, according to a Chicago police report.

The same receipt was used for over three years to generate more than 6,000 gift cards, mostly for \$900 each.

Cashiers scanned the receipt bar code from an accomplice's phone each time, manually entered the tax exemption information, and then cut a gift card for the difference. Some cashiers issued multiple gift cards for the same purchase in one sitting. And some cashiers even had a copy of the receipt stored on their personal phones so they could issue gift



(L) Mugshot of Tyler Clark.

cards by themselves.

On July 27, prosecutors said Tyler Clark, 25, was involved in the scam while working as a cashier at the company's 4555 S. Western location. Prosecutors said Clark used his employee credentials to issue \$900 gift cards for the same 2020 purchase on 971 occasions, costing the company \$873,900.

Clark sometimes issued multiple gift cards from the receipt at a time, according to the CPD report.

Between May 1 and May 11, when investigators were actively investigating the scam, he issued \$108,900 worth of \$900 gift cards using the receipt, officials said.

Prosecutors charged him with continuing financial crimes enterprise and theft of \$500,000 to \$1 million. Judge David Kelly released him on his own recognizance during a bail hearing Thursday afternoon.

In May, officials estimated the company's loss at \$5.5 million. But that number is now north of \$6 million, according to the police report.

Officials said the scam started slowly, with unknown persons using the receipt to get \$900 gift

cards 15 times in 2020. In 2021, the receipt was used to generate gift cards 33 times.

Last year, 1,372 gift cards were issued for \$900 in "tax credits" on the same purchase.

And, as of mid-May, Home Depot had issued \$900 gift cards for the exact same receipt 3,200 times this year, officials said in May.

In addition to the Western Ave. location, Home Depot stores in the 1300 block of S. Clinton and the 2500 block of N. Elston were involved.

In May, prosecutors said Lamont Thompson, 49, was one of the "customers" who presented the three-year-old receipt to receive \$900 in gift cards after Home Depot alerted Chicago police on May 5. Thompson allegedly received ten gift cards worth \$9,000 on May 10, another 39 cards worth \$35,100 during two sessions on May 12, and three cards worth \$2,700 on May 15.

When police arrested Thompson, he had 33 Home Depot gift cards worth \$29,700 on him, prosecutors said. He is charged

EMPLOYEE see p. 10

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Family day at Surgical Museum

It's family day at the International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Dr., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19.

There will be multisensory activities, a scavenger hunt, a medical history game, and access to the museum's entire permanent exhibition, and rotating contemporary art installations. Tickets are \$7 to \$13.

Bugapalooza Aug. 6 at Science Museum

Bugapalooza will be held 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Aug. 13, at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Dr. Tickets cost \$20 to \$30.

Stop by the bug zoo to get up close and personal with native insects and spiders – don't forget to visit the petting zoo while you're there and meet their entomologist, watch insect pinning demonstrations, and learn to dance like a bee.

Then grab a net and head outside to discover the insects and spiders that call Lincoln Park home.

Ticket price includes museum admission. All ages are welcome – this event is designed for families. Email programs@naturemuseum.org for reservations.



River wellness weekend Aug. 19

Fans of the Chicago River may join Urban Rivers and other community members for a weekend of a free wellness festival 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19 through 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20 at 905 W. Eastman St., adjacent to The Wild Mile on the river.

Guests may kayak on the river, enjoy a yoga class, explore local health and recreation businesses, and enter a drawing to win outdoorsy prizes. The activities are entirely free and open to participants of all ages.

For more information visit www.urbanriv.org/.

The Wild Mike is a 17-acre in-stream river park that is open to the public along the North Branch Industrial Corridor.

BARBIE from p. 2

difference between a live or dead tree. She's watched one decline slowly for years, now integrated into a new cafe decor, after the now departed Hamburger Mary built seating over the rain grate. "Any 3rd grader would know this is a problem."

LOST DOG: Thanks to a tip from reader **John Furlong**, we know that 'Muddy,' the blue K9 for Cops statue was stolen from outside the Chicago Police Foundation offices, 700 N. Dearborn, July 25.

If you know where this K9 is, a tip can be filed online at cpdtp.com.

A lot of work, money and love go into these painted K9s, so it's a real shame when anything bad happens to them. Help protect them when you can.

CHICAGO ART: 'Monument with Standing Beast' is a provocative modern sculpture by French artist **Jean Dubuffet**. At the Thompson Center since 1984, this dynamic expression of modern sculpture is heading to the Art Institute of Chicago in a moment meant to invigorate the art museum's tarnished reputation.

With other artists I'm heartbroken that his holy grail of French Art must wind up in the museum of barnacles and seaweed. By back room negotiations. All nervously following the removal of high end art by billionaire collector Ken Griffin. The statue leaves the former Thompson Center being redeveloped for Google Inc., before it moves in. The sculpture will be on long-term loan to the Art Institute from the Illinois State Museum, and it will undergo conservation work before settling in its new home. Another victory for wokism and the sad loss of artistic merit.

HALL OF FAME: Cubs fans everywhere still singing the praises of number 31, **Fergie Jenkins**, installed in the MLB Hall of Fame in 1991.

GARDEN: This August, treat the entire family to a sensory, hands-on theatrical experience—for all ages. After appearances at 13 Chicago park locations citywide, In My Granny's Garden by **Pearl Cleage** and **Zaron Burnett Jr.** bows in two special encore appearances at Chicago Botanic Garden. With music by **Malkia Stampley**, Goodman's Artistic Producer. Cleage's 60-minute play

helps kids understand that food doesn't just come from the grocery store: it's grown in the ground. Through a performance that includes an interactive workshop for youth under age five and their caregivers, Granny explains why the food that comes out of her garden tastes so good.

FRENCH BELLS: Notre-Dame Cathedral has 10 bells, of which, the "bourdon" dates back to the 15th century. The bourdon is the heaviest bell and produces the lowest tone. It was recast in 1681, upon the request of **King Louis XIV** who named it the "Emmanuel" bell. This bell, considered one of the most beautiful in Europe, rings in F sharp. It is planned to reopen the cathedral in Autumn 2024.

PAGING MR. HERMAN: **Paul Reubens**, creator of Pee-wee Herman and the cult classic film Pee-wee's Big Adventure, died at age 70. His comedic brilliance will be sorely missed. "I know you are, but what am I?"

MELODIC MUSE: **Susan Gohl** in Providence, RI, tracking her musically talented grandson, 16-year-old **Colton Griffiths**, along the East Coast where he's touring with School of Rock winners in musical competitions across the country. Big honor.

WHO'S WHERE: Christie's **Steven Zick** at the Merchants Museum in NYC... **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** in the old City of Jerusalem... an evening sail skippered by **Jim Kinney** with **Peggy Snorf, Rodger and Janet Owen, Mr. Mike** and **Karen Zupko**... Political powerhouse **Jacky Grimshaw** with her man, grandson **Lalo** at Wrigley... the family was out in full force to celebrate the anniversary love for **Ken and Mary Claire Scorsone Moll** in Sardinia... **Heather Farley** embracing the wonders of NYC... Celebrating a birthday was lovely **Julia Jacobs** and with son, **Drayden**... **Edmund Lester** at Pausa Bar & Cookery in San Mateo, CA, joined by **Andrew Lester**... **Rich Lane** and **Mindy Segal, Anthony Selna** and **Jaime Lauritm**, four friends and a wedding... **Susie Forstmann Kealy** in Athens cruising to islands off the eastern Mediterranean and the holy land... **Shawn Rajah** doing a 43rd birthday, luv 'ya... **Erin** and **Bill Kresse** lunching at **Aba**... **Maria Pappas** surrounded with young Greek security guards while visiting official Greek government leaders... Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stoll** on their elegant wedding and sweet character that melted hearts... glad to see **the Kammerers** and **the Rooks** still standing on the Irish turf re-awakened now to Irish roots... **Hickeys** and **Fustins** still making magic in the Chicago summer. Bride and groom alert, **Andrew** and **Bethany Kitick** still dancing on air and cherishing their vows... **Tina Gravel** celebrated a birthday with **Ireen Mojica, Lauren Lein Cavanaugh, Robin Hansen** and **JoAnn Fakhouri**... **Julia Jacobs** filled with birthday excitement and great tunes from pal, **Ireen Mojica**, and her son, **Drayden**, keeps the love going... **Eamonn Cummins** and **Pennie Taylor** move the party to the river for Eamonn's sister **Dawn**, and niece **Hannah**, visiting from Madrid, Spain, and buddy, **Chuck Smith**... **BJ Murray, Jeanne Paul, Barb Bailey, Kim Duda** and **Ireen Mojica** gather on Thursday night at **Salerno's** on Grand to hear the sweet glory of songstress **Mojicas'** regular night of tunes... famed DJ **Steve Dahl** and wife, **Janet**, preside over an army of grandchildren... **Dr. Rose Gomez** looks fabulous thanks to the Swiss Al-



Susie Forstmann Kealy



Paul Reubens aka Pee-wee Herman



Shawn Rajah



Jacky Grimshaw and Lalo (left).



Fergie Jenkins



Erin and Bill Kresse.



"Muddy" the missing Police K9.

pine sun and glacier water... **JoAnn Fakhouri, Tracy DiBuono** and **Sheryl Mackey**, Service Club's Team for Aug. 7 Day on the Terrace... **Colleen Hartigan Dolan** and husband, Hon. Judge (ret.) **Frank Dolan**, have the grandchildren at Grand Beach, MI, with daughter, **Emily Dolan** and son, **F.J. Dolan**.

Barbie is my role model. She might not do anything, but she looks good doing it.

- Paris Hilton

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STOP IN. WE'RE OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

S&C Electric unveils new garden

On July 27 S&C Electric hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony with officials from the Field Museum, 49th Ward and community members to show off their new pollinator garden and park at the corner of Ridge and Pratt Boulevards.

In late 2019, S&C, 6601 N. Ridge Blvd, began consulting with representatives of the Field Museum and their Science Action Team to explore ways they could partner to create greener, more sustainable landscapes at S&C Electric Company's Chicago campus.

The company's campus has a number of areas with the potential to act as sustainable, native garden gateways with habitat for native bird and insect species, and in typical S&C fashion, they got to work.

"We identified the Arlys Conrad Memorial Park, at the northwest corner of our campus, as the perfect location to highlight our commitment to corporate responsibility and sustainability," the company said in a released statement.

"The park, dedicated to the late Arlys Stre-



Research shows that residential and corporate landholders can be valuable partners in creating habitats that protect the Monarch butterfly and other essential pollinators.

plants that bloom throughout the entire growing season.

Adopting native landscaping can provide myriad other benefits that align with S&C's core value of Environmental Stewardship. The garden establishes nature-rich, people-centric landscaping that increases biodiversity and habitat, manages stormwater runoff and soil erosion, draws down greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and enhances the Rogers Park neighborhood.

Not only does it create a serene space for staff, visitors, and neighbors to enjoy, but it also provides food and shelter for insects

and birds. Native plants and insects form the basis of the food chain, meaning their health is critical to the health of those higher up on the chain, including humans.

Research has shown residential and corporate landholders in metropolitan areas can be valuable partners in creating habitats that protect the monarch butterfly and other essential pollinators.

itmatter Conrad, wife of longtime President and Chairman of the Board John R. Conrad, has served as a tribute to her contributions to our company, community, and neighborhood for many years."

In collaboration with landscape designer Pizzo & Associates Ltd., the Arlys Conrad Memorial Park was transformed into a native pollinator garden in 2022. The native garden is a beautiful mix of prairie and woodland

Letters to the Editor

Taking public open space for off-label use

When Chicago and Illinois declared themselves "sanctuary" jurisdictions, they only said that they would not cooperate with Federal efforts to enforce existing immigration laws against illegal aliens, foreigners who come here illegally on their own. The asylum-seekers (most of whose applications will likely be denied) being "trafficked" here by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott are not in exactly the same category as the foreigners the "sanctuary" declaration was made to shield.

The 5th Amendment to our Constitution says in part "...nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." The planned commandeering of Broadway Armory Park to

house asylum-seekers is part of a new national trend: the taking of public open space for off-label uses with no compensation.

When a city allows people to set up tents on public sidewalks which create a violation by the city of the Americans with Disabilities Act, that's a new "taking."

When a city allows people to be in its public parks past the posted closing time, with or without tents, that's a new "taking."

When a mass-transit agency allows passengers, in violation of its explicit rules, to live in rapid-transit stations, and bus shelters, and to lay down across several seats to sleep, and to ride back and forth on the same line with-

out paying new fares for each trip, that's a new "taking."

When a city allows "new arrivals" (the current euphemism for asylum-seekers) to live in lobbies of police stations, a practice which is not suitable for either the foreigners or the police [News-Star, May 17], that's a new "taking."

Some, including Ald. Jeanette Taylor and myself, think that the distribution of asylum-seekers in off-label shelter locations, is inequitable. I also think the locations and tolerance of park closing-time violations is inequitable. I think the inequity is related to the distribution of clout. Neighborhoods without enough clout near these locations get stuck with these off-

label uses of parks, sidewalks, and police stations. Entire categories of people without enough clout get stuck: mass-transit riders, public park users. Even our police themselves apparently don't have enough clout to keep their station lobbies clear, let alone the other disrespects they are subject to.

Immigration law is a Federal matter. Our country has not, for decades, adequately enforced its existing immigration laws, both at our borders and internally (in workplaces). This refusal to adequately enforce is bipartisan. Gov. Abbott would be better advised to send his asylum-seekers to Federal properties - in Texas.

Jean SmilingCoyote
West Ridge

This is what we voted for

This is what we North Siders voted for. A complete Marxist takeover of our lives. Brandon Johnson would not have won the Mayor's seat without the help of many North Side Wards. Especially the 48th Ward.

The 16th precinct, home of the Broadway Armory, voted 67% for Johnson.

The 1st precinct, across the street, voted 75% for Johnson. The 48th Ward as a whole voted 63% for Johnson. Now Brandon is using the mandate you gave him to take the Broadway Armory away from the neighborhood residents, taxpayers, seniors and schoolchildren. And to give it to the migrants. This is what happens when you vote for Marxists.

Chicago is a sanctuary city. The migrant refugees arrive almost every day. The refugee river continues to flow north and the Marxists we elected can take away public property and give it to them. Look around, they're already doing it.

They cannot take private property, factories nor empty churches. So far.

So they will give the migrants the Broadway Armory, several schools, the Leone Park Field House and YMCA.

What's next, will they give the

migrants Welles, Warren, Touhy, Hamlin and Chase Parks?

After that, might they close schools and pack Chicago schoolchildren into overcrowded facilities?

Did you think they were gonna use the City property they already promised to out-of-town developers?

Quit being greedy. Sacrifice for the migrants. You already sacrificed your say on election day.

Mike Sullivan
Avondale

KEYS from p. 7

times in nine weeks. Patrick Slagel allegedly admitted to being a "jogger," the slang term for people who collect bulk mail in theft scams, and to using postal service master keys that were either provided by relatives of USPS employees or were bought or stolen.

Death in the Disabled Stall!

The richest guy in Chicago has been in the disabled stall at his lawyer's office a mite too long. Shall we look?

See *The Dead One Stinks* at: donniesyellowballbooks.com



Historical Society presents

Legal Limits, Aug. 6 tour of historic bars and pubs

Drinks for all your friends are part of the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society historic bar tour led by Stephanie Barto.

From the earliest days of settlement along the Ridge to today, taverns, corner bars and neighborhood pubs have been important gathering places for Rogers Park and West Ridge residents and visitors.

Walkers will learn how battles over prohibition, dancing and movies shaped local bar culture as well as created the very boundaries of the neighborhood. Along the way, perhaps guests will find a new place to wet a whistle or see an old favorite through new eyes.

The tour will meet at 5 p.m. Aug. 6 at Cunneen's Bar, 1424 W. Devon, and will make another stop before ending at the Rogers Park Social, 6920 N. Glenwood at approximately 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per person, and \$15 with historical society membership. Barto is a long-time resident of Rogers Park, where she serves as office administrator for the historical society. She's also a researcher of neighborhood history, and according to bar flies all across the community, she's an all-around fun person to be around, giving her a unique understanding of local nightlife she will share on the tour.

Participants must be 21 or older, so bring an ID. The cost of drinks is not included in the ticket price. Bring cash or a credit card if you plan to try a beverage or 10 along the way.

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— Sinead O'Connor

Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff, -v- THOMAS QUINN, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF BEVERLY FISHER, DECEASED, 2424 W. ESTES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DIANE FISHER, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BEVERLY FISHER Defendants 2022 CH 07336 2424 WEST ESTES AVENUE UNIT 3A CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 5, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on September 6, 2023, 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 2424 WEST ESTES AVENUE UNIT 3A, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-36-207-013-1016 & 10-36-207-013-1044 The real estate is improved with an apartment building. 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.

Real Estate For Sale

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 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. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. 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. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602 312-346-9088

Real Estate For Sale

E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 22-09252L-778634 Case Number: 2022 CH 07336 TJSC#: 43-2548 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 # 2022 CH 07336 **13226145** 020202 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC. Plaintiff, -v- JANICE L. STEWARD A/K/A JANICE STEWARD, OAKLEY PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2022 CH 08663 7542 N. OAKLEY AVENUE, APT. 2W CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 24, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on August 28, 2023, 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 7542 N. OAKLEY AVENUE, APT. 2W, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 11-30-301-044-1005 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$115,177.23. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial

Real Estate For Sale

cial 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 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 JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650, Chicago, IL,

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60602 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 22 9694. 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. JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650 CHICAGO, IL, 60602 E-Mail: ipleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. 22 9694 Attorney Code. 40342 Case Number: 2022 CH 08663 TJSC#: 43-2341 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 # 2022 CH 08663 **13225409** 262626 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee for LB-Cabana Series IV Trust, Plaintiff, vs. Josefina B. Jimenez AKA Josefina Jimenez; Pratt-Artesian Condominium Association; CitiMortgage, Inc. successor by merger to ABN Amro Mortgage Group, Inc., successor by merger to Atlantic Mortgage & Investment Corp Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants, Defendants, 19 CH 10385 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant

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to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 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. 10-36-407-037-1012. Commonly known as 2425 West Pratt Boulevard., Unit 13, Chicago, IL 60645. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 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 Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sotille & Barile, LLC, 7530 Lucerne Drive, Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130. (440) 572-1512. ILF2112037 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13224633** 191919 ----- **Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700**

ARMORY from p. 1

over 800 refugee asylum seekers are awaiting shelter placement in police district stations across the city.

According to a Chicago police, there are 766 asylum seekers in the 20th Police District and more than 100 are sleeping on floors in the police department lobby. He explained how difficult it is for asylum seekers - many with children - as well as police officers and individuals who come into the station seeking assistance.

He said they literally are stepping over people who are trying to sleep.

Since January, 68 buses filled with illegal border-crossing asylum seekers have arrived in Chicago; they're generally from Texas and Colorado and they arrive with no notice.

Sixty of those buses, averaging 50 people on each bus, have arrived since May.

On any given day, Chicago's homeless shelter system is at or near capacity with only 3,000 shelter beds. To serve both the Chicago homeless population and new arrivals, the city needs to increase the capacity of its shelter system. While most asylum seekers are fleeing economic and political chaos in Venezuela, individuals and families are also from all over the world, including from Africa, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean and the Middle East. America's southern border today may be one of the most ethnically diverse parts of the world today.

Finding suitable locations to quickly house people has proven challenging. Matt Doughtie, manager, Office of Emergency Management and Communications, said there are 16 new arrival shelters across the city—from Rogers Park on the North Side to Roseland on the Far South Side.

He said, "We need large, congregate spaces that will accommodate more than 250 people. We also need space for meals, and showers." He added that the buildings must be in good condition and not in need of major repairs, such as plumbing.

Doughtie said, "We've looked at more than 200 locations, but many don't meet our criteria." He said commercial properties also were considered but leasing them is a financial issue. The Broadway Armory, which is publicly owned, made it a desirable location as it is spacious, well maintained and can be activated relatively quickly.

Lack of community input

During the open forum portion of the meeting, many Edgewater residents and representatives from mutual aid organizations in the community expressed their desire to welcome the asylum seekers. Some explained how they or their relatives were immigrants and found the community to be welcoming. Others suggested that the community's support can be a model for other shelters.

Several issues connected with the decision to use the Broadway Armory for temporary housing angered some community

members. First is the lack of transparency about the process from the city.

In a letter to constituents from Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth, she wrote, "Despite our efforts to facilitate a community-driven process, the city decided to move forward with using the Armory as a shelter. I am disappointed with the way [the] process has unfolded. While I disagree with the decision-making process, I agree with the mission of supporting new arrivals. We have a moral responsibility to help those who arrive [in Chicago]."

The second issue is the closing or transferring of programs at the Armory. More than 1,000 residents use the space each week for various programs and activities, after-school camps and teen sports. It also is the site for the Edgewater Satellite Senior Center which offers programs and hot lunches Monday through Friday for mostly low-income older adults.

"The Armory is exactly the type of facility that Mayor Johnson has said is needed all over Chicago to provide a positive alternative for Chicago's young people," said community organizer Pat Sharkey. "While we appreciate the City's need to find suitable shelter for arriving migrants, there are numerous vacant properties around the North Side that can be utilized for this purpose without upending the lives of families."

Sharkey and other members of the Save Our Broadway Park Coalition held a pre-meeting rally in front of the Armory to protest the city's decision to discontinue or move some of the programs. One concern is that many people in the community who use the Armory don't drive and will not be willing to take two or more buses to other locations, thereby losing their activities and social connections.

Linda Jackson, a representative from ASCO (Assoc. of Sheridan Road Condominium/Co-Op Owners), said, "Edgewater is—and has long been—a welcoming community. Edgewater residents want to help these new arrivals, but many of us take issue with the thoughtless way the City has handled this matter. A better use of the Armory Park might be as a recreational and socialized hub for these new arrivals and resident alike."

"There are numerous empty buildings all around Chicago, including many in and around Edgewater, but the city failed to work with community leaders to identify other options here in Edgewater," she said. "The city made this fast, top-down, unilateral decision without community input."

Another issue the city is grappling with is the lack of federal funds for temporary housing. The U.S. Constitution defines managing the nation's borders and immigration as federal responsibilities. It is a task the federal government is now broadly failing at.

There also is the challenge for asylum seekers to seek quick employment. New arrivals may not apply for work permits for 150 days after they have a pending immi-

gration application.

Immediate need

In her July 28 newsletter, State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, [14th] said she attended the community meeting. "Based on the sheer volume of folks already here in need of immediate shelter to get out of police district lobbies, it sure sounds like we need all the space we can get. There's not really a question of where they can stay instead—it's how many places can we get online and how quickly and how many more can we find for the next wave."

And there will be more, the buses still arrive daily.

"There are numerous empty buildings all around Chicago, including many in and around Edgewater, but the city failed to work with community leaders to identify other options here in Edgewater," said Linda Jackson.

"I understand people's frustrations around feeling like they were not provided clear info on what was going to happen with this site. The city needs to be more transparent and engaging with communities being asked to convert facilities into shelters."

"It is my hope that the city is actively in discussions with property owners such as the Archdiocese and others who may have vacant school buildings or other large facilities that can be converted to add capacity. Additionally, I am hoping to step in to get some information about ways families who may not have the capacity to get to the alternate facilities can be supported while the Armory is used for shelter space."

"I am hopeful that swift action can be taken at the federal level to grant asylum seekers work permits. This is the thing I hear most often from the folks in the shelters, they want to work, they want to be self-sufficient. Failing to grant them work permits not only perpetuates the problem but also leaves them vulnerable to exploitation if they choose to work in the underground economy, [as it] jeopardizes their asylum application."

GANG WAR from p. 1

Retaliation came almost immediately.

About 20 minutes after the shooting, a 33-year-old man was killed in an alley behind the 5900 block of N. Winthrop. Witnesses reported that a car rolled through the alley, and a gunman fired from the vehicle. An officer at the scene said police found a handgun in the victim's possession.

Last month, four people were shot in Oak Park during a funeral procession for Jamal Goings, the man who was killed on Winthrop.

Plans

"Our goal is to welcome asylum seekers—to get them in a place to resettle... to help them be self-sufficient and independent," said Beatriz Ponde de Leon, Deputy Mayor for Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Rights, at the community meeting. "Safety is a high priority for those in the community and those who are staying here."

On-site security will be provided by city contractors 24/7. The city has greatly expanded the use of private contracted police services in the last two years as city officials now find it difficult to recruit new police.

The new arrivals also will be provided with cots, blankets, three meals a day, showers and laundry service. In addition, they will receive access to health care, school enrollment and youth enrollment activities. Bilingual staff from a staffing agency will be used and there will be case management services while individuals are in the shelter and later when they're moved to permanent housing.

In the Senior Center area of the Armory, meals will continue to be offered five days a week and some programs will be moved to the second floor; however, the computer lab and fitness center are closed. The building also will continue to serve as a cooling center. The front entrance of the building will be used by the Senior Center; a separate entrance will be used by asylum seekers.

Adult sports and exercise classes ended early as were some field trips planned for children. Day camps and teen volleyball camps will move to Margate Park, at Marine Dr. near Lawrence. All gymnastics programs will be relocated to the Peterson Gymnastics Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. There are discussions regarding the possibility of adding programs at Swift School, Senn High School and the Edgewater Branch Library.

In addition, various local organizations such as the Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Edgewater Mutual Aid Network, 48th Ward Neighbors for Justice, several nearby churches, South-East Asia Center and others are already helping migrants and need volunteers and other assistance. A list of organizations and their needs is posted on the website, the48thward.org.

Since then, shootings occurred in Uptown on July 2, July 19 and July 25.

In Rogers Park, there were shootings on June 9 and June 22, and then a triple shooting on June 25. Another person was shot on July 5, and five were shot during a single incident on July 7. Most recently, a man was shot on July 8. Many of the Rogers Park shootings occurred in the 1600 block of W. Howard.

CPD issued the warning to officers after three men were shot on July 25 near the Wilson CTA station in Uptown.



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