

Let there be songs to fill the air.
— Garcia/Hunter

NEWS-STAR

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Senior Living,
page 7

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NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

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Two public art exhibits coming to Clark St.

The Rogers Park Business Alliance [RPBA] has received a grant to support a permanent placemaking and public art project on Clark St.

The installation, Cross the Street: Art on Clark, is part of RPBA'S ongoing Vision Clark Street Master Plan, which was developed over the course of a year along with local business owners and residents.

The project will feature two pieces of crosswalk art, which will be installed next to Clark Street along the Union Pacific North – Metra Commuter Rail Station, with one at Lunt Ave. and another at Greenleaf Ave., RPBA said.

The installations are expected

to be in place by December, funded by the \$10,000 AARP Community Challenge Grant.

“This project will transform several non-descript intersections by installing vibrant art on the pavement of the crosswalks to instill a memorable personal connection for all, as they walk through the core community area in Rogers Park,” RPBA executive director Sandi Price said.

Her organization is looking for more funding to place art at all of the crosswalks in the Metra Railway area in the Clark St. commercial core, she added.

“The goal is that, together, these interventions will encourage people of all ages to slow down, engage with the businesses in the

commercial district, look around, meet each other and experience nature and art,” Price said. “We hope this will build a feeling of economic vitality, warmth, safety and community.”

Cross the Street: Art on Clark is intended to increase safety, provide a memorable personal experience of the area, decrease crime and enhance the commercial corridor overall, RPBA said; the project builds on crosswalk art's growing reputation as an effective way to improve safety for people walking in urban and suburban areas.

For more information visit RPBA.org.



Onward, 6580 N. Sheridan Rd.

Restaurateur says Loyola U. shut him down over COVID, seeks to evict him with no recourse

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

The owner of now-shuttered upscale Rogers Park restaurant Onward, in a hotel building owned by Loyola Univ. Chicago, has taken to court to defend himself against Loyola's attempt to now evict the restaurant after locking down the restaurant for more than a year since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May, Loyola Univ. of Chicago filed suit in Cook County Circuit Court, seeking a court order allowing the university to evict Onward from its facilities at 6580 N. Sheridan Rd.

The restaurant is located in a building shared with a Hampton Inn and other businesses, just northwest of Loyola's campus on Sheridan Rd.

According to the complaint, Loyola asserts Onward owes more than \$268,000 in back rent, and hasn't paid its \$10,000 per month rent since Sept. 2019.

Loyola filed an amended complaint on July 1.

But Onward's owner Michael Olszewski has responded in court, saying there is more to this story.

In a motion filed July 14 by at-

torney Richard Carbonara, Olszewski says this case represents a raw deal doled out to him by an institutional landlord seeking to “get paid while it gets its act together.”

According to the motion, Onward landed at the hotel site in 2018 after more than a year of talks with Loyola. According to the motion, Loyola had leased the land it owned to a developer, to bring a hotel to the corner of N. Sheridan and W. Albion, purportedly to provide hotel space for visitors to the campus.

As part of that development, Olszewski asserted Loyola also recruited him, as a “highly accomplished restaurateur” and a Loyola “alumnus and benefactor” to open a “fine dining restaurant” in the hotel building.

Olszewski had previously operated the Grace restaurant, which was one of 14 restaurants in the U.S. at the time to be awarded three Michelin stars. The restaurant closed in 2017 following a falling out between Olszewski and the restaurant's chefs, according to published reports.

According to his July 14 motion,

RESTAURANT see p. 12

Community opposition to Aldine Ave. leg of 'Redefine the Drive' proposal

BY KATIE ROENIGK

The plan to “redefine” Lake Shore Dr. [LSD] – with southbound on and off ramps at Aldine Ave. in Lakeview East – is causing concern for some area residents.

“Those of us who live here think this is a terrible idea for many reasons,” resident Holly Reiter said in a letter to this newspaper. “I have been working, with many others in our neighborhood, to stop the massive, unnecessary, destructive ... and extremely costly project from progressing.”

Belmont

City officials said the current traffic configuration in the area causes higher vehicle volumes on Belmont Ave., leading to an increase in delays and crashes there.

“The singular southbound entrance ramp at this location can't adequately handle the demand,” city staff said in a recorded presentation available at nlsinput.org.

To avoid the congestion on Belmont, motorists tend to look for different routes to LSD, often utilizing the neighborhood's nearby one-way eastbound streets – like

Aldine Ave., according to the presentation.

“Currently, traffic filters through the neighborhood to access the outer drive due to lack of access between Irving Park and Belmont – which is undesirable,” city staff said.

Median

As part of its plan to “Redefine the Drive,” state and city planners say it will install a raised, concrete median at the intersection of Aldine Ave. and inner LSD “to prevent cut-through traffic on Al-

REDEFINE see p. 12

North Side schools tossing cops off campus

After long deliberations, the local school council at Lake View High School [LVHS], 4015 N. Ashland Ave., has decided to remove both Chicago police officers that were assigned to their school grounds.

While in Ravenswood, Amundsen High School [AHS], 5110 N. Damen Ave., has voted to keep only one of their two officers. In 2020 AHS voted 10-1 to retain both police on campus.

LVHS voted on July 8 to remove both officers, while AHS voted June 22 to remove one of their two officers.

In 2020, the LVHS local school council voted 9-1 to keep police officers on campus.

Of the over 70 schools city wide that once had Chicago police officers serving on campus, 17 have now voted to remove all

police from their schools. More than half of those schools were on the North Side.

Lincoln Park High School, 2001 N. Orchard St., voted 7-3 on Aug. 11, 2020, against the police program. Uplift Community High School, 900 W. Wilson Ave., also voted last August (8-1) against the police; and Senn High School, 5900 N. Glenwood Ave., narrowly voted to remove police from schools after a four-hour meeting last August.

To date, 31 schools have now moved to partially or fully reduced their presence. In 2020 schools voted the first batch of police out, and LVHS is now one of only seven schools city wide to have voted for full removal of on campus officers.

Also on Aug. 11, 2020, Lane Tech College Prep High School,

2501 W. Addison St., voted 9-3 to remove police.

North Side College Prep, 5501 N. Kedzie Ave., and Sullivan, 6631 N. Bosworth Ave., high schools also both voted against police on campus.

The move to removed police officers from campus came after growing anti-police rhetoric by racial justice activists in 2020.

Chicago high schools had until last week to vote on safety plans for the school year, the second such vote in 12 months. Schools that voted to remove police from their campuses in the summer of 2020 lost the money that would have paid those officers. This year they'll get to keep at least \$50,000 per expelled officer that can be reallocated toward other safety plans.

Lincoln Square parking lot update, page 4

Arts celebrations begin Friday in Uptown

Uptown Art Week starts Friday, featuring more than 150 pieces of public art including 40-plus new works going up on walls around the neighborhood.

Through Aug. 15, participating local businesses will host art exhibits, and there will be live paintings and interactive art activities for attendees of all ages.

An interactive map will be available for self-guided tours

around Uptown, with a variety of local business activations.

On Sunday, the Uptown Art Fair joins the festivities, with local artists setting up booths to display and sell their artwork from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Chicago Market, 4620 N. Broadway.

For more information about either event call 773-878-1064.



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Always dress like you are a country squire



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Having the right things around you is important. You know, those things that bring a sense of balance, safety and contentment.

There was a time when I thought that a shining Ferrari, well actually a 1967 British racing green Morgan four-seater, did the trick for me.

A sweet ride, but I think it wouldn't add much comfort now to this age of Uber.

The elements that bring me true calm and contentment are much more sweet and organic. Blueberries. Cantaloupe. Watermelon. Beefsteak tomatoes. Arugula salads with lobster meat. Oysters. Crab cake. Wet French scrambled eggs. Unsalted Irish butter. Haribo gummy bears. Ricci teas. Cold gazpacho. Old episodes of NCIS and Miss Marple. Vintage Stubbs and Wooten velvet shoes. Baggy khaki shorts. Polo golf shirts. Denim long sleeve shirts. Tweed jackets. Ivy league baseball caps. Lunch at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill. Key Lime pie. Jane Austen, this column and phone calls with

my sister.

Coming out of our house arrest of the pandemic, these are the things that have stabilized me and pushed me out the front door to find other humans again.

Baby steps. But I am intuitive enough to recognize that reluctance to travel outside my safe quarantine would necessitate some reason, beyond just feeling cooped up, to entice me to rejoin civilization.

Low and behold, without much fanfare I discovered that somehow the draw of these favorite things has allowed my tolerance of exiting the house and the 'hood to expand.

But what a quirky formula they are.

No Ferraris here. Or Morgans. Or Riviera journeys. But plenty of organic tidbits.

As a child and throughout my adult life, I had a loathing for the taste and texture of melon. Of course I had sampled a variety and declared my dislike. But recently the chilled crunch of sweet watermelon is the new taste of summer for me. And cantaloupe, all sweet and juicy, is like a taste of heaven. Unlike any other taste I know. Plain or with aged prosciutto, shaved see-through thin. I'm gobsmacked.

Farmers market produce has been a Godsend. The beefsteak tomatoes, especially the yellow variety, ring all my bells. Especially sliced with some olive oil and garlic.

Blueberries, though, have always been my true love. Each and every bite of them.

When we were children, my grandmother always rented a huge house in Michigan, and much of the family, especially the children, would wind up staying with her to roam the dunes.

Her favorite activity was taking everyone to the local blue-

berry farms, and spending hours picking berries. I still remember how much I disliked it. But imagine the haul you can pick if you come with your own army of children. So blueberries were in massive abundance, served every conceivable way. And bags of them to carry home to my reluctant mother. But I love consuming them. In cereal. Pies. Compotes. Shortcakes. I know now that they are high in antioxidants and magic for the human body's achievement of good health. I consume extravagant amounts, still. They are a stabilizer that allows me to be at my best. Not just physically. But socially.

I think they also increase the human charm component.

I used to spend a lot of time in Spain and Portugal. On summer days, the outdoor garden restaurant at the Ritz Hotel in Madrid served the finest gazpacho I've ever eaten. When plated, a boy with a huge sterling silver tray of chopped additions would sprinkle things into your soup. Chopped cucumbers, anchovies, croutons. Truly an out-of-body experience. Recently I discovered that an equally grand gazpacho is on the menu at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill.

But I no longer drink it out of a bowl. Instead, they serve it to me in a huge glass mug. I hold it by the handle and drink like it was a holiday eggnog. So tomatoey rich. Cold. I love the chopped shrimp on top. It is at least as good as Madrid's Ritz.

Oysters, lobster and crab cake are a psychological tie to my love for the state of Maine. And the freshness of all vittles in that ocean paradise of comforting American values and attitudes.

I think my fashion wear is similar. My advice is this: Always dress like you are a country squire. Layered with tweeds

and other natural fabrics. Great colors. Fashionable scarfs and cool baseball caps. Shoes, unless you are going sailing in Top-Siders, should look opera ready. Shoes you'd wear with a tux. You're in charge of how you look. The squire is a comfortable look, and has been so for the Irish for centuries.

So, the mayor of the most dangerous city in America gets a pass this week from me, despite three mass shootings, while I sift through the psychology of post-pandemic living.

Here's some more advice while the summer is still here. Get those great French Rose wines that we only have for this season. Try the Portuguese versions as well.

Make homemade potato salad. Stop putting hot sauce on oysters. Try home made "mignonette," savory shaved ice, instead. Drink lots of home-brewed iced tea. Eat the best key lime pie you can find.

Then, find a jumbleberry pie. That's pie with all the berries mixed together. Blackberries. Blueberries. Raspberries. Strawberries. And then, enjoy yourself. I mean be happy with the person you are.

Or make a change.

Start with melons. End with the pie. Balance, safety and contentment can be found.

With Jane Austen we can always change the world. Remember as she said in Emma, "Ah! There is nothing like staying at home, for real comfort."

SEE BS: After a lengthy investigation of all their 28 network stations for more than six months over concerns about the quality of their work environment at their CBS stations, characterized by some as hostile and abusive, local CBS2 general manager Derek Dalton is out. The external investigation pulled no punches. Dalton became boss in 2018. The boss in LA was also canned.

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED: Ed Judge, a dentist who chose tending bar at Petterino's Restaurant instead, died at 55. His twin passions were restaurants and theaters, both meticulously engaged at the bar adjoining the Goodman Theater on Dearborn. He was larger than life and is missed.

THE STAGE: Steppenwolf Theatre Co. announced new Co-Artistic Directors, each already an ensemble member of the treasured Chicago theater. Glenn Davis and Audrey Francis will start their new post in August... Marti Lyons has just been named the new artistic director of the Remy

Bumppo Theatre Company... word is that the shuttered Chicago improv comedy institution, iO Theater, will now reopen following its sale to new owners, real estate execs **Scott Gendell** and **Larry Weiner** who have also secured its building... treasured theater critic **Hedy Weiss** has not appeared on WTTW since the pandemic began in Feb. 2020, but the public television channel has announced she will soon return to "Chicago Tonight."

AND SCENE: Chris Jones, the longtime theater critic at the

Chicago Tribune has been named editor of their editorial page. For more than 20 years, Jones has led the band drumming up culture in Chicago. Now he joins a much smaller board of opinion shapers at the quizzical newspaper un-

dergoing heavy redecoration of late. Hope the filter that the arts instill works its magic for him on the paper **Colonel McCormick** ruled and haunts.

DRESS see p. 6



Ed Judge



Steppenwolf Theatre's new Co-Artistic Directors Glenn Davis and Audrey Francis.

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Strapped for cash, city lists four North Side parking lots for sale

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PETER VON BUOL

Hoping to raise more than \$10 million, the city of Chicago is planning to sell four parking lots it is describing as “underutilized” in order to convince the public they should be sold.

The \$10 million target provides a better idea of the true value of the parking lot City Hall wants to gift to The Community Builders [TCB] in Lincoln Square. The city is offering to gift the lot at 4715 N. Western Ave., giving it away to out-of-state developer TCB for only \$1.

Located in the Lake View, North Center and Portage Park neighborhoods, these parking lots range in size from 26 spaces to 111 parking spaces. These lots include two which serve the Lincoln, Belmont and Ashland shopping district, once one of the busiest neighborhood shopping districts in the city, but which now has many vacant store fronts.

These two parking lots are located at 1530 W. Barry Ave. and at 1635 W. Melrose St. The latter parking lot is built on the site of Math Iglers, once a very popular German restaurant known for its staff of singing waiters. The site was acquired by City Hall through eminent domain to replace a city parking lot that had been west of the restaurant. The Lincoln Belmont Branch of the Chicago Public Library replaced the older city lot.

After an apartment building for senior citizens was built at the corner of Bel-



Melrose parking lot



Barry parking lot

The City of Chicago hopes to raise \$10 million by selling four North Side parking lots to private developers, while giving a fifth Lincoln Square-area parking lot away for free to Boston-based developer The Community Builders.

mont and Greenview avenues, the parking lot at 1530 W. Barry Ave. has not been as readily visible from Belmont Ave. as it once had been. Some of the now-closed stores on Lincoln Ave. had back doors which enabled shoppers to easily access the parking lot.

Also for sale is the city parking lot located at 3840 N. Lincoln Ave. In addition to being important to nearby daytime businesses, this parking lot is important to Martyrs’, 3855 N. Lincoln Ave., a concert venue which attracts national and international recording artists. Months ago, Ald. Matt Martin [47th] had been asked about the possible sale of this lot but he had said he had no knowledge of a possible sale. Now some people in Lincoln Square are wondering if the parking lot at 4511 N. Lincoln Ave. may also soon be sold or given away for free? The city is also selling a

parking lot in the Portage Park neighborhood at 4050 N. LaPorte Ave.

Cmsr. Maurice Cox, of the Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development, used statistics from 2019 and 2020 to make the case for their sale. Due to the pandemic, most shoppers were locked in their homes and most businesses were forced shut by government edict. Neither stores, restaurants nor consumers were able to operate normally, since for a significant time period, many were not even allowed to open. Using parking numbers during the economic lockdown as justification for selling off commercial parking spaces seems at a minimum plainly deceptive.

“These City-owned properties have very limited demand for public parking anymore so we’re entertaining purchase offers that maximize their value for taxpayers,” Cmsr. Cox said. “Their sales will also

enable improvements that contribute to local development patterns and overall neighborhood livability.”

The North Center and Portage Park properties are in the process of being re-zoned to new district designations that are commensurate with adjacent land uses, Cox added.

Formal real estate appraisals are pending for each site. The real estate brokerage firm Cushman & Wakefield was retained by the City of Chicago this summer to market and solicit offers for each site. Each proposed sale would require approval by City Council, following a 30-day alternative proposal period from other potential buyers. For sales information, call Cushman & Wakefield directors Kathleen Nelson at 312-470-1874 or Dirk Riekse at 312-470-1817.

Lincoln Square parking lot update

Decision on fate of city parking lot due this fall

BY PETER VON BUOL

Lincoln Square’s retailers, restaurants, festivals and cultural organizations dodged the first and second bullets fired by City Hall over the gifting of their parking lot to an out-of-state developer, but they now know that there is yet a third bullet chambered and ready to fire.

When the mayor’s office on July 21 released a list of housing developments that will be receiving support from the city of Chicago through tax incentives and other financial mechanisms such as tax-exempt housing revenue bonds, it seemed as if Mayor Lori Lightfoot was sending a message to developers that she wants her administration to support new affordable

housing built on the city’s south and west sides.

At the time of the announcement, some believed this was an indication Lincoln Square’s city-owned parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave. would not be given away for free, or sold for \$1, and spared from having it turned into an apartment building.

However, that is not the case. Boston-based developer, The Community Builders [TCB], is currently awaiting a decision from the city’s Dept. of Housing [DOH] to see if their project will qualify for coveted federally funded Low Income Housing Tax Credits [LIHTCs]. That bullet may be fired at the community later this fall.



Supporters of the LIHTC program say it enables private developers to build housing for low-income tenants. After a developer is awarded LIHTCs by a government entity, they are monetized through a sale to wealthy outside investors, including multinational banks and hedge funds.

TCB is awaiting a decision from the DOH to see if the company will be awarded LIHTCs for their project to redevelop the city-owned parking lot which serves as critical commercial infrastructure for the Lincoln Square Mall. A spokesperson for the DOH has told this newspaper a decision will be announced in the fall as the department is still in the process of deciding which projects will receive 2021 LIHTCs. The DOH is currently in stage two of a two-stage process.

According to information posted on DOH’s website, the application process has two stages. Information submitted in stage one provides the DOH with information

necessary to compare a project’s responsiveness to the mayor’s policy priorities and neighborhood goals; evaluate the capacity of the development team; and to select projects to fund.

Applicants selected for funding in the first round, or through other processes, will be asked to submit a stage two application for their project. Stage two requires more in-depth information such as detailed architectural plans and environmental audits.

If TCB is awarded the LIHTCs for their project, they will be given a city parking lot for free. The tax credits are a way to have taxpayers pay for the construction of TCB’s planned multi-story mixed-use apartment development. The property was never offered for sale, and no Request for Proposal was ever issued. For reasons unknown, TCB is the only developer being considered on this insider deal. For two years

UPDATE see p. 9

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Come hear the music play



Heart of the 'Hood by Felicia Dechter

Longtime Uptown resident Kevin Wood wears a lot of hats.

His day job, is as a full-time parish church musician at St. Martha's Church in Morton Grove. It is there, also, that during the COVID pandemic, Wood started a food and clothing pantry, and he distributes those donations to organizations such as Care For Real, Niles Township Food Bank, and Catholic Charities, which he collected 250 winter coats for last year.

"I collect everything," said Wood. "I find a home for it."

But that's not why I'm writing about Wood, although what he does is inspiring. You see, Wood also produces and performs in cabaret, an art that blends singing and story-telling. And I'm hoping to catch an upcoming production of his.

For one night only on Aug. 27, (I'm telling you early because at \$20 a ticket, the evening is sure to sell out), Wood is producing a cabaret show as part of the month-long "Music In Chicago" celebration (Aug. 19 to Sept. 19).

Wood's "Songs In the Key of Chicago" features the music of composers, lyricists and performers with a tie to Chicago's rich music history. It will be held at the intimate Edge Theatre, 1133 W. Catalpa Ave. The

people represented vary and include Sophie Tucker, Benny Goodman, Susan Werner (a living composer/singer), Donny Hathaway and many more.

A mega-talented group of singers, drawn from Chicago's cabaret community, will take the stage that night, including, to drop a few names, the always-great Buena Park resident Carla Gordon; the ever-amazing Beckie Menzie; the world-renowned Cynthia Clary, making a statement with, "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother"; and the handsome, suave Terrence Patrick Davis, who will belt out "Old Man River."

Prior to the musical aspect, part of the script is historical and will include talks on the importance of the Green Mill and Uptown and the jazz history, era, and revitalization of the area, as well as the Aragon. It will feature info on old shows and posters, as well Chicago performers throughout our city's musical history.

It's going to be a hot time in the old town that night, so be sure to get your tix soon as seating is limited. Tickets are on sale now at Eventbrite. And free, off-street parking will be offered at St. Ita's Church.

"I want people to know early, get their tickets and commit," said Wood, who moved to Chicago for grad school in 1988 and met his hubby in 1990. "It's cheap! Bring your friends!"

We just had to know more about Wood and "Songs In The Key Of Chicago," so here's a bit more info. We thank Wood for taking the time to talk, and, break a leg Kevin!

Q: How long has the show been in the works and was it your idea?



Kevin Wood

A: The first version of the show was performed several years ago at the now defunct Uptown Underground, current home to the Baton Show Lounge on Broadway. The show is my concept and was very well received. It was booked into several venues and then, COVID struck. The idea behind the show is to be able to tailor the songs and singers to the specific needs of a venue and their patrons. With the flexibility of the casting I can hire the best singers that I can find within the cabaret community to bring new life and personal flair to a wide variety of musical genres. Our repertoire ranges from Sophie Tucker, who performed at The Green Mill back in the day, to contemporary songwriters like Anne Hampton Calloway and Susan Werner - with a whole lot of great music in between.

Q: How long have you been a performer? When and where did you start performing?

A: Performing has always been in my

blood, my first "role" was as one of the Wise Men at my rural church Christmas pageant as an elementary school student. Since then my performing experience has included opera, musical theater, international recitalist and, most recently, a nationally-recognized cabaret artist.

Q: You're producing the program, are you also performing and if so do you have a specific role?

A: Yes, I am also performing and I function as the emcee for the evening. The solo numbers that I bring to the show highlight Benny Goodman, Nat King Cole, Charlie Chaplin and the contemporary composing team of Mizer and Moore, Northwestern alums. My future vision includes soliciting the support of local ward offices, tourism groups and other interested parties in promoting Chicago as a musical tourist destination especially with the renewed interest and dedication to revitalizing Uptown as a center for the arts.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Until I entered high school I was raised on a 300-acre farm in Iowa. Our land bordered a town of 50 people. Yep, 50! As a freshman in high school we moved into a town of 1,700 people and a graduating class of 74.

Q: Who should come see the show and why?

A: If anyone has not experienced the art of cabaret, this is a great introduction. By definition cabaret is performed in an intimate environment and breaks down the fourth wall that generally is placed be-

MUSIC see p. 10



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City budget forums seek spending ideas

The Office of Budget and Management [OBM] has announced a series of budget engagement forums to update the public on key spending plans, including the upcoming 2022 budget. City Hall is also seeking budget recommendations on how to spend their American Rescue Plan funding.

On the North Side, that forum will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.

The discussions and feedback

received at these forums may aide OBM as they draft the proposed 2022 budget and try to respond to community initiatives. After the meetings end, these suggestions will be presented with OMB's 2022 budget recommendations.

The meeting will begin with presentations by Budget Director Susie Park and other political leaders, then provide an opportunity for residents to work in small group sessions. They'll end with time for public comment. The

budget forums will also be live-streamed on the City's social media channels.

"Each year, we plan a budget reflecting the needs of Chicago residents with the goal of improving citywide systems, services, and communication," said Park. "Last year, community feedback and engagement significantly enhanced our approach to what was the most challenging and unprecedented budget in Chicago's history."

DRESS from p. 2

REST EASY: Former Chicago Alderman Robert Shaw [9th], also a former Cook County Board of Review Commissioner, has died at 83. He was a loyal Democrat and ally of Mayor Harold Washington. Tight with his constituents and the needs of neighborhood life.

THE CUBS: No more can be said. Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo and Javy Baez take a chunk of Chicago with them.

CURTAIN DOWN: After a decade on the air, WLS TV 7's "Windy City Live" with co-hosts Val Warner and Ryan Chiaverini is ending, but the brand will live on with a new weekly show.

CURIOS PAS-SAGE OF TIME: Once it was America's Roman Catholic Cardinals who were entrusted with marrying members of the Kennedy

Family. Now it's non-denominational Mayor, Lori Lightfingers, taking time off from Chicago's neighborhood blood baths to marry a Kennedy couple, Chris Kennedy and Erin Daigle, over the weekend in Hyannisport, MA.

F-BOMB: Who knew Senator Tammy Duckworth was such an orator? Or is she, now, just one of the boys? Apparently her language has crumbled, and never more so than in haranguing on TV commentator Tucker Carlson.

RUSH ST: Ran into former Mayor Rahm Emanuel after a Gibson's lunch. He appeared to be roaming Rush St., wearing his ear plugs and shopping. We exchanged pleasantries while I was waiting for my Flash Cab (Uber wanted \$35 to bring me home).

IRISH GOLD: Gold medalists Paul O'Donovan and Fintan McCarthy won the men's lightweight double sculls final in Tokyo. In Ireland this is a cosmic event. The small tiny island has never had such a moment be-

fore in history. The lads are from my family's neighboring town. Skiberreen in County Cork.

SOCIETY BULLETIN: This column's pal, Karin Carlson will be relocating to Charlotte, NC. Her teary eyed gal pals, Bobbi Panter and Whynnis Mackie toasted her at the Four Season's bar. We wish this Gold-Coaster all the best with whatever adventures lie ahead.

VIENNA: Congratulations to Victoria Reggi Kennedy, widow of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who was appointed Ambassador to Austria by President Joseph Biden. A woman of reason, intelligence and patriotism, she is an excellent choice for the coveted refined post. Die besten Wünsche begleiten Sie Frau Botschafterin.

WHO'S WHERE: Eamonn Cummins with Jonny Egan, Brendan Nestor and John Walker at the

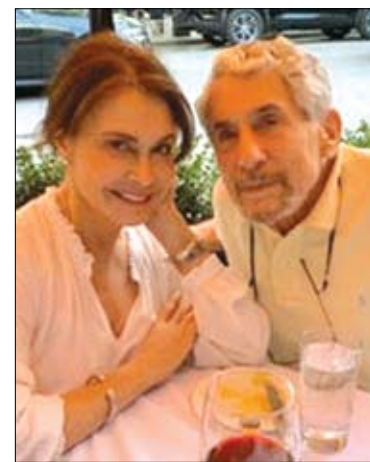
Columbia Yacht Club... Paul R Iacono dining at the very popular Adalina Chicago with his dearest dear aunt and uncle, Diana and Russ... Lauren Lein Cavanaugh with Thomas P. Cavanaugh, boss-man Chad Willetts, Barb Bailey and Fabulous Phoebe at Le Piano in Rogers Park. Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse, that's what's on the menu for Ms. Bailey whose new show debuts Aug. 30... Old friends having a drink Irene Michaels and Walter Jacobson... Sherry Lea Fox and Mary Lasky chowing at 48 Chicago... Anniversary boy Chuck Jordan and lovely Candace Jordan at Peter and Paula Fasseas' PAWS Farm Party... Noshing outdoors at Gibson's on Rush Eileen Howard Weinberg and Merle Elrod... Congrats to my former City Hall intern David Gorecki and his beautiful bride Shayla O'Brien on their recent Lake Geneva wedding... Bravo Farmhouse honcho Ferdia Doherty just finishing up a movie



Victoria Reggi Kennedy



Erin Daigle and Chris Kennedy married by Mayor Lori Lightfoot.



Irene Michaels with Walter Jacobson.



Stanley Paul, Robert Cutler and Abigail Hart.

he shot on location in Ireland... Curt Rose and Flavia Magdalin having a mini RL reunion... Cousin Maureen Canty and husband, Steve Donsbach, made it to the Field of Dreams in Lajatico, Italy for the Andrea Bocelli concert ... Maestro Stanley Paul, Abigail Hart and Robert Cutler at Topo Gigio.

When I figured out how to work my grill, it was quite a moment. I discovered that summer is a completely different experience when you know how to grill. —Taylor Swift

tog515@gmail.com



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Summer Games underway at The Clare

Just as the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics are underway in Japan, so too are The Clare Summer Games right here in the Gold Coast of Chicago.

During the last week of July and the first week of August, residents of The Clare are participating in various events to earn points and go for the gold. The Clare Summer Games was coordinated by Fitness Manager Kim Chelakian and Health Fitness Specialist Sandy Auriemma.

“Kim and Sandy have done a great job of creating exercise routines representing the various sports,” resident Lise Lawson says. “It has really given me insight into the preparation required by athletes for their sport and the muscle groups that are involved – some I didn’t know I had!”

Over the course of the two weeks, regularly scheduled group fitness classes have had Olympic event themes, with exercises loosely based around the sport. For instance, the schedule of events includes surfing aqua aerobics and skateboarding balance, as well as sailing chair exercises and fencing cardio. This is in addition to specialty classes, workshops and games such as Reiki, boxing and Olympics Trivial Pursuit.

“It has been fun to share creative exercises and health practices with residents of The Clare,” Sandy says. “Getting outside of the box with new themes has been a nice change.”

The Reiki workshop led by Sandy, in particular, was quite popular among residents.

“Reiki is a great way to connect the mind, body and spirit,” she says. “This connection is useful for owning our own power, which promotes strength. What’s more, Reiki developed in the Japanese culture, which goes along with the geographical location of the



(L) A group of residents headed north to Diversey Driving Range & Mini Golf. (R) The Reiki workshop led by Sandy Auriemma.



2020 Olympics.”

The idea for The Clare Summer Games originated as COVID-19 restrictions loosened in the city and in the community. The Clare’s fitness team sought to promote social interaction, camaraderie and competition among residents and encourage them to try something new.

“I had two main objectives: to get people out and socializing, and to reach those who may not have participated in The Clare’s fitness program recently,” Kim Chelakian says. “And it’s been successful – the residents have been excited, enthusiastic and extremely positive.”

“I had two main objectives: to get people out and socializing, and to reach those who may not have participated in The Clare’s fitness program recently,” Kim says. “And it’s been successful – the residents have been excited, enthusiastic and extremely positive.”

Not only does The Clare Summer Games take place within the community, but also in the city itself. A group of residents headed north to Diversey Driving Range & Mini Golf to either practice their long game at the range or their short game at mini golf. They also spent a morning at Navy Pier for a lakefront ride using Quad-cycles and competed in various track and field events at Lake Shore Park, such as shot put, discus toss, walking hurdle, speed walking and more.

“I love the fitness team’s inventiveness in putting everything together,” resident

Roberta Weisberg says. “The events are so imaginative, and they add additional fun to our normal daily exercise routines.”

The Clare Summer Games wraps up with a closing ceremony on Thursday, August 5 to celebrate participants and their accomplishments. The celebration includes awards for individuals and teams, a

prosecco toast and light snacks ahead of weekly Happy Hour.

“I feel The Clare Summer Games have benefited not only the residents, but also Sandy and me,” Kim says. “It’s forced us to look at fitness through a different lens and be even more creative.”



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City’s biggest bike ride returns Sept. 5

Bike the Drive will return to the North Lakefront on Sept. 5 providing an opportunity for biking enthusiasts and casual bikers alike to ride the wide open spaces not normally available to people, but for this one day each year.

After the event was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, Bike the Drive has returned with people eager to get out and enjoy the view.

This year the event is celebrating its 20th year, and will offer nearly five hours of car-free riding alongside the city’s most treasured asset, Lake Michigan.

In good years the event can draw 20,000-plus bikers up on Lake Shore

Dr. Bike the Drive will kick off at 5:30 a.m. when people can ride between Bryn Mawr Ave. on the north and 57th St. on the south. The event includes a festival with booths from 8 a.m. until noon. Participants are encouraged to begin riding by 7 a.m. to enjoy the car-free riding as long as possible.

The full route stretches 30 miles and participants are encouraged to ride as little or as much of the course as they would like. Riders who want to tackle the full route can sign up for the 30-mile challenge during registration. These riders will get a 30-Mile Challenge commemorative medal.

Pricing for participation is lower for early registrants and can be found on their website at www.53bikethedrive.org.

Learn more by calling 312-313-2558 or visiting TheClare.com today.



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Police Beat...

25 arrested in Sheriff's police "John" sting targeting sex buyers

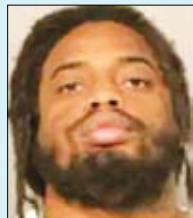
Officers from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Special Victims Unit issued citations to 25 men and towed 21 vehicles as part of an undercover operation targeting individuals seeking to buy sex, Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart announced July 23.

On July 22, SVU officers set up a sting operation in an area frequented by individuals seeking to purchase sex.

Over the course of the operation, 25 men approached members of the team and solicited sex in exchange for money. Each man was issued a \$1,000 citation for violation of the Cook County public morals nuisance ordinance, and 21 vehicles were towed under the ordinance, requiring the vehicle owner to pay \$500 to reclaim possession.

Man charged with shooting victim outside downtown McDonald's

A man was charged with attempted murder July 28 in connection with a shooting near the W Hotel City Center in the Loop earlier this month. Jeau Tapley, 30, was ordered held without bail by Judge Arthur Willis.



Jeau Tapley

Hotel surveillance video showed Tapley dropping someone off outside the hotel on the 100 block of W. Adams

and then driving away around 2 a.m. on July 17, according to Assistant State's Attorney Brian Burkhardt.

The person who got out of Tapley's car went to a nearby McDonald's walk-up window where he got involved in an argument with several people and swung his fist at someone who was in line for food, Burkhardt said.

Before long, Tapley pulled back up in front of the W, walked into the McDonald's, and walked a woman out of the restaurant, said Burkhardt. Tapley then pulled out a gun and fired multiple shots toward the people who were outside the restaurant.

The victim, a 25-year-old man, was shot twice in the arm and once in the chest. Both bones in one of his forearms were broken.

Tapley returned to his car and drove away.

CPD said in an initial media statement that the shooter was a woman. But Burkhardt said McDonald's surveillance cameras recorded the shooting and clearly showed Tapley's distinct hairstyle and a physical handicap on his arm. Video from the hotel clearly shows the

license plate of his car, according to Burkhardt.

The victim and two witnesses identified Tapley as the shooter in photo line-ups, Burkhardt said. Police arrested Tapley on July 27. He is charged with attempted murder and aggravated battery by discharging a firearm.

Woman arrested for stabbing



Jaqualah Norris

Jaqualah Norris, 28, was arrested at 3:14 p.m. July 13, in the 800 block of W. North Ave., after she was identified as the offender who, minutes earlier, stabbed

and injured a 25-year-old male on a CTA bus.

Norris was placed into custody on scene and charged accordingly.

More carjackings in West Rogers Park, at least 9 in a week

Police are investigating another carjacking in West Rogers Park July 27. The neighborhood and, to a lesser extent, Lincoln Square have been hit by an intense series of carjackings that began on July 19.

In the latest crime, a 47-year-old man was sitting in a gray Toyota Sienna minivan on the 2900 block of W. Jarvis when a man walked up and pointed a gun at him around 2:39 a.m., said Karie James, a CPD spokesperson.

The carjacker ordered the man out of the vehicle, took the victim's valuables, and then drove away eastbound with the minivan. According to a CPD report, the victim was borrowing the van from a local rabbi.

Officers at the scene described the carjacker as a Black male in his early to mid-20s who wore glasses, a black hoodie, and black shorts with white trim or stripes.

Those details align closely with the description of a serial carjacker that Chicago police warned about in a recent community alert: a Black male between 20- and 30-years-old who stands 5'-6" to 5'-10" tall and weighs 140 to 180 lbs who wears black-rimmed glasses.

Police said the man walks up to victims, displays a handgun, and demands their keys, wallets, and phones. He also orders victims to unlock their phones, and, in two instances, he forced victims to change their phone passwords, according to the alert. The man then drives away with the victim's car.

According to the alert, the pattern involves hijackings in the 6200 block of N. Whipple at 2:51 a.m. July 10; in the 3000 block of W. Hood around 7:45 p.m. July 19. The hijacker stepped out of a white Volkswagen, pushed a woman, and took her Lexus RX350; in the 5200 block of N. Washtenaw at 10:30 p.m. July 19, a carjacker displayed a handgun and took a man's blue Hyundai Sonata on the 5200 block of N. Washtenaw; at 10:45 p.m. July 19, a man got out of a white Volkswagen and took a woman's red Nissan Rogue at gunpoint on the 2500 block of W. Fitch; around 11:15 p.m. July 19, two 19-year-old men were sit-

ting inside a black Lexus RX350 on the 3000 block of W. North Shore when a carjacker walked up and demanded their property and the car's keys at gunpoint, and at 10:30 p.m. July 20, a man displayed a gun and demanded the victim's money and phone on the 7000 block of N. Rockwell.

Three more possibly-related crimes were reported just hours after police released the warning on July 21.

On July 26, a woman was carjacked at gunpoint on the 6700 block of N. Rockwell around 11:10 p.m. She was in front of her home when a man got out of a black Lexus, robbed her of her Apple Watch, keys, and phone, and drove away with her black 2019 Ford Fusion, according to a CPD report.

Also on the North Side, an off-duty Chicago police officer fired three shots at a man who pointed a gun at him during a possible carjacking attempt in Uptown on July 25.

The 37-year-old off-duty cop was in the passenger seat of an Audi A3 when a man walked up, asked him if he wanted some crack, and then pointed a handgun at him on the 1200 block of W. Ainslie around 11:31 p.m.

The officer drew his own gun and fired three shots through the car's window at the offender, who ran away southbound on Magnolia, the report said. Police searched the area for the suspect, but they came up empty-handed.

Woman carjacked at gunpoint in Ravenswood, carjacking reports climb

A carjacker took a woman's SUV at gunpoint in Ravenswood July 27, police said. The details of the hijacking are similar to at least nine other cases that have been reported in the area in recent days.

Officer Steve Rusanov, a CPD spokesperson, said the 26-year-old woman was sitting in her parked car on the 1800 block of W. Winnemac when the carjacker walked up around 5:35 a.m. The hijacker pulled a gun and ordered the woman out. She complied and was not injured, Rusanov said.

Her white Infiniti EX37 was last seen heading eastbound on Winnemac. The carjacker was described as a Black male who's about 20-years-old. He wore a red hoodie and black pants.

Earlier Tuesday, a 47-year-old man was carjacked at gunpoint as he sat in a minivan on the 2900 block of W. Jarvis.

Several other armed carjackings that targeted people as they sat in parked cars have been reported across Lincoln Square and West Rogers Park since early last week.

Typically, the hijacker walks up, displays a handgun, and demands the victims' keys, wallets, and phones. He also orders victims to unlock their phones, and, in two instances, he forced victims to change their phone passwords, according to the alert. The man then drives away with the victim's car.

Uptown man dies from injuries suffered in drive-by last week

One of two men who were shot in an Uptown drive-by shooting July 20 has died from his injuries. The death of Jarid Jefferson Lindsey, 20, was ruled a homicide, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Lindsey and a 19-year-old man were on the 4500 block of N. Sheridan when someone fired shots at them from a car around 5:38 p.m. The younger man was shot in the leg, but another bullet struck Lindsey in his head, leaving him in critical condition, police initially said.

He died the next evening, but the medical examiner did not release information about his death until this week.

No arrests have been made in the

shooting.

Lindsey, who lived on the 800 block of W. Eastwood, seems to have gone down a path that is all too common. He was arrested in Uptown on a felony gun charge in November and left a social media trail dotted with gang-related content and a photo of him posing with over \$2,000 cash on the Lakefront Trail.

Man sentenced to 18 months in prison for illegally possessing loaded gun

A man who illegally possessed a loaded handgun during widespread looting in downtown Chicago last



Javonte Williams

summer was sentenced today to 18 months in federal prison.

Chicago Police officers attempted to detain Javonte Williams, 28, for suspected looting near N. State St. and E. Lake St. in downtown Chicago 5 a.m. Aug. 10, 2020.

As officers pursued and arrested Williams, a semi-automatic 9-mm handgun fell from his body to the ground. The gun was loaded with multiple rounds of ammunition in the magazine and one in the chamber.

During the investigation, law enforcement uncovered multiple social media postings by Williams in which he boasted about looting in Chicago in the summer of 2020.

Williams, 28, pleaded guilty earlier this year to illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was prohibited from possessing a gun after previously being convicted of a felony firearm offense in the Circuit Court of Cook County, for which he was sentenced to probation.

U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Kendall imposed the 18-month federal sentence after a hearing in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

Armed robbers strike 14 times in under an hour across River North, West Loop

A group of assailants committed five armed robberies in under an hour July 27 in River North, the West Loop, and nearby neighborhoods, according to police. No arrests have been made.

The trouble began at 10:55 p.m. on the 300 block of W. Oak St. A 41-year-old woman was walking when three men stepped out of a green four-door sedan and robbed her at gunpoint of her purse and other items, said Karie James, a CPD spokesperson.

Around 11:09 p.m., the same scenario unfolded on the 300 block of W. Superior. James said a 69-year-old man was walking when three men exited a green sedan and robbed him of his wallet and keys at gunpoint.

Six minutes later, a 31-year-old woman was walking on the 700 block of N. Halsted when a man robbed her of a fanny pack at gunpoint. The gunman escaped in a sedan that another person drove, James said.

At 11:20 p.m., two men got out of a sedan and robbed another man of his wallet on a parking lot in the 200 block of N. Halsted while displaying a handgun.

Then, the robbery team returned to River North. Around 11:40 p.m., three men stepped out of a dark sedan and robbed a man at gunpoint on the 100 block of W. Chestnut.

No injuries were reported in any of the hold-ups, police said.

The suspects were described as three young Black males wearing hoodies and jeans who used a stolen green Ford Fusion that bears a license plate beginning with BL636. Victims and witnesses said the offenders

wore masks.

Tuesday's crime spree resembles a similar one-night crime wave that swept across the Loop and Streeterville on June 26. On that night, an armed robbery crew left one man shot, a driver carjacked, and at least five other people robbed.

Police later issued a community alert that said the crew used a carjacked Land Rover to commit a series of late-night robberies across the downtown area.

In each case, between two and four men stepped out of the Land Rover while wearing ski masks and displaying firearms to demand the victims' property, according to police. At one point, the crew tried to rob a man on the sidewalk at 222 S. Wabash using the same technique. But the victim refused to comply, and one of the offenders shot him in his right ankle, police said.

Incredibly, the crew struck again to carjack a man one hour after they shot the earlier victim, according to a timeline developed by investigators. The carjacking victim was smoking a cigarette on the fifth floor of a parking garage at 217 W. Washington when three offenders approached, and one of them implied they had a gun by holding their hand under their hoodie. The offenders took the man's phone and wallet, then drove away with his black Dodge Journey.

Police never announced any arrests in connection with the June crimes.

16-year-old charged with trying to carjack off-duty cop at gunpoint in Uptown

Police have arrested a 16-year-old boy in connection with the attempted carjacking of an off-duty Chicago police officer in Uptown July 25. The off-duty cop fired three shots at the would-be carjacker, but the offender escaped without injury, police said after the incident.

The teen, who has not been identified by name because he is a juvenile, was arrested July 27 on the 2100 block of W. Howard in West Rogers Park.

Around 11:31 p.m. July 25, a 23-year-old man and the 37-year-old off-duty cop were sitting in a car on the 1200 block of W. Ainslie when the boy walked up and tried to take their Audi A3 at gunpoint, police said.

The officer drew his own gun and fired three shots through the car's window at the offender, who ran away southbound on Magnolia, the report said. Police searched the area for the suspect, but they initially came up empty-handed.

CPD says the teen is also responsible for two earlier carjackings in the Albany Park neighborhood: Around 3 a.m. June 10, three men tried to carjack a driver on the 3100 block of W. Ainslie, but they couldn't get away because they didn't know how to drive a stick shift, according to a CPD report. So, they carjacked another driver of his white Kia, the report said.

At 12:41 a.m. July 4, a carjacker took a man's red Ford Explorer at gunpoint on the 3000 block of W. Ainslie.

The 16-year-old is now charged with two felony counts of aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm, one count of attempted aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm, and two misdemeanor counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, police said.

Police have been handling a surge in carjackings across the North Side.

In fact, just 20 minutes before

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Home buyers have a shot at 2% loans



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

The bargain-rate mortgage boat is cruising down the Chicago River again, giving would-be home buyers and families seeking to refinance a chance to jump aboard and lock in a loan in a historic low 2% range.

On July 22, the interest rate on benchmark 30-year fixed home loans fell to 2.78% nationwide, reported Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey. That lowers the gangplank for borrowers hoping to lock in a record-low mortgage rate in the mid-2%-range.

A week ago, the benchmark 30-year loan averaged 2.88%. Only a few weeks ago, borrowers were paying more than 3% for the same loan. A year ago, lenders were charging 3.01% for 30-year fixed mortgages.

Fifteen-year fixed mortgages averaged 2.12% on July 22, down from 2.22% a week earlier. A year ago, lenders were charging 2.54% for 15-year fixed loans.

The average interest rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage was 3.02% nationwide at the end of June. It quietly slipped to 2.99% on July 1 and has been inching lower over the past few weeks.

"Concerns about the Delta variant, and the overall trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic, are undoubtedly affecting economic growth," noted Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist.

"While the economy continues to mend, 10-year Treasury yields have decreased, and mortgage rates have followed suit," Khater said. "These declining rates provide yet another opportunity for homeowners to save money on their monthly mortgage payment through a refinance."

vide yet another opportunity for homeowners to save money on their monthly mortgage payment through a refinance."

Analysts said long-term mortgage rates are creeping lower because of falling interest rates on 10-year Treasury notes, which last week hit 1.28%. Earlier this summer, the Treasury note yield was 1.5%.

The Freddie Mac survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully amortizing home-purchase loans for borrowers who place a 20% down payment and has excellent credit.

Record low is 2.66% on 30-year loan

Thirty-year fixed-mortgage interest rates ended 2020 at a rock-bottom 2.66%—the lowest level in the Freddie Mac survey history, which began in 1971. Home-loan rates set new record lows for an amazing 16 times in 2020, and tens of thousands of homeowners refinanced.

"If a home buyer has the best of everything—a 25% down payment and a 740 FICO score, the going rate is 2.75% on a 30-year fixed loan and 2.125% on a 15-year fixed loan," said Huntington Mortgage broker William Bren. The rates apply to conforming mortgages with a loan amount of up to \$548,250.

Under an aggressive loan program involving a pledge of \$25,000 in money-market funds at Huntington Bank, North Side borrowers in many Chicago neighborhoods can lower these rates by .125%, Bren said. So, the rate on a 30-year loan could go down to 2.625% and 2% on a 15-year loan.

On July 22, Gateway Capital Mortgage in Chicago was quoting 2.666% on 30-year loans and 2% on 15-year mortgages with a 3% down payment, reported RateSeeker.com. First Savings Bank of Hegewisch was quoting 2.661%

on a 30-year loan and 2.1% on a 15-year loan with 20% down payment.

Mortgage-rate history

Archives of the now-defunct Federal Housing Finance Board show long-term mortgage rates in the 1960s were not much higher than the Great Depression, when lenders were charging 5% on five-year balloon loans.

Nearly six decades ago, between 1963 and 1965 you could get a mortgage at 5.81% to 5.94%. Between 1971 and 1977, the now-defunct Illinois Usury Law held rates in the 7.6%-to-9% range.

In the early 1980s, run-away inflation caused home-loan rates to skyrocket over the moon. According to Freddie Mac, benchmark 30-year mortgage rates peaked at a jaw-dropping 18.45% in October of 1981 during that Great Recession.

Rates finally fell below 10% in April of 1986, and then bounced in the 9%-to-10% range during the balance of the 1980s. In Aug. 1999—when some of today's Millennial borrowers were in diapers, lenders were quoting 8.15% on a 30-year fixed mortgage. Back then, that seemed like a good deal.

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.

UPDATE from p. 4

this newspaper and the greater Lincoln Square community has been asking why TCB is the sole candidate, but neither local Ald. Matt Martin [47th] nor City Hall will explain this decision. Public documents released by City Hall after Freedom Of Information requests came blacked out.

Upon completion, the building

Letter to the Editor

Merry Christmas

That's right, Merry Christmas. What, wrong season? No, not really.

Like a long lost aunt that gives you a Christmas present in July, the Chicago Machine is gonna use hundreds of millions of dollars in federal COVID relief funds to "reward" friends and supporters for future election support.

And Community Development Block Grants, Housing subsidies, Tax Credits and Tax Increment Financing Funds.

Think only the big players get taken care of?

No. Everyone gets their turn at the public trough. Everyone except the working poor, public school families and property tax payers.

How does it work?

How do you build up support?

By giving out 'Christmas presents' in the summer.

Let's say you are an alderman or democratic committee man who wants to size up a public asset and give it away for free to a private business. And of course you will want to shovel tens of millions of 'extra' dollars of public money to them.

So that maybe in the future when you run for County office, U.S. Congressman or Mayor, they will remember you and send you political contributions. Through their spouses under their maiden names, of course.

Does a publicly funded business group want to hire more people? Voila! They get an increase in their budget. Hello Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce, get on the gravy train.

Does a private business need money to expand operations and maybe open a second location? Hello Merz Apothecary, get on the gravy train.

Does a public school want more funding for additional programs, I mean in addition to the \$28,000 per student taxpayers already spend? You know, money that poor blighted communities of color never have the chance to get. Hello Waters and McPherson schools, get on the gravy train.

Does a private entity that serves children need donations to help offset the cost? Maybe from businesses that are already on the government gravy train? Hello music schools and little league, get on the gravy train.

There is no amount of government money an alderman and democratic committeeman will not spend to get re-elected. For decades, this has been going on, on the South Side in the 11th, 13th, 14th and 19th wards.

Now the North Side will get a taste of higher taxes and corruption.

Merry Christmas!

Michael Sullivan

would be worth tens of millions of dollars. Afterwards, TCB could then sell the property to the highest bidder and cash out capturing millions of dollars in profit.

The units billed as affordable units are only required to be affordable for a limited time period, and only 10 of the proposed 51 units would be considered affordable, the other 41 units would be rented out at market rates.

The parking lot today provides parking for those who shop, dine, and use the services of the Lincoln Square Mall. The park-

ing lot also serves customers of the nearby Brown Line CTA station, the popular Lincoln Square Farmer's Market, and serve as festival space for Lincoln Square's annual cultural festivals, including German Day, Maifest and AppleFest.

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Fall back into the PARKS

Register for Fall Programs at the Chicago Park District!

View programs online the week of August 9

Online registration opens Monday, August 16 & Tuesday, August 17

In-person registration opens Saturday, August 21.

Sessions run September 7 to October 24 & November 1 to December 19.

Scan for more information!

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MUSIC from p. 5

tween the performer and an audience in traditional performance practice.

This production offers a wide variety of musical styles so if one song isn't necessarily your type of music, chances are the next one will be.

We also use some of the music to offer a historical perspective. There is a pre-show PowerPoint presentation that highlights clubs and entertainers from Chicago's rich musical history. The pre-show band also covers a variety of songs including union songs and protest material. You might even

find yourself with the opportunity to "sing-a-long!"

Q: What else might interest us about you and your future?

A: I also host and produce shows at my church in Morton Grove. Next up is a commemorative concert honoring the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Information will be posted this month at www.shrine-fallsaints.org.

I'll be returning to Don't Tell Mama (NYC) in October with my solo show, "Taking A Chance." COVID delayed the return performance but I'm back on track. I'll also be debuting a new show featuring the lyr-

then went back to prison for two narcotics cases. He was released again in 2018. And he was arrested the next year for being a felon in possession of a firearm. State officials released him on May 28 after he served half of the three-year sentence he received in the gun case.

Around 11:10 p.m. Monday, a Roscoe Village man was walking through the back gate of his home on the 3400 block of N. Lincoln when Wilkins and a woman approached him, and Wilkins asked for a cigarette, Assistant State's Attorney Robert Cannatello said July 28.

As the victim handed over a cigarette, Wilkins punched him in the head, knocking the man to the ground and causing him to lose consciousness temporarily, Cannatello said. The victim noticed Wilkins going through his pockets and eventually realized that about \$200 cash and a phone were missing from his pockets.

Police found Wilkins as he and the woman walked into a CVS at 3630 N. Southport shortly before midnight. The victim identified him as the attacker, Cannatello said.

ics of Lorenz Hart in Palm Springs, CA, in Feb. 2022, as part of the Life Is A Cabaret series at the Arthur Newman Theater.

I'm part of the production team for a new television station! Onest TV is an international television network that launches this coming September with the content that educates, entertains and inspires (the show will actually be filmed that night for a future program). The network features a nonprofit initiative called Artists 4 Justice where artists from around the world perform to show support to a certain cause raising funds for a specific set of organizations. Our next event is dedicated to

Prosecutors charged Wilkins with robbery and burglary, but Cannatello did not provide the burglary allegations. On July 27 a North Center man identified Wilkins as the man who burglarized his car on the 4000 block of N. Campbell around 9:40 p.m. July 26.

Judge Arthur Willis ordered Wilkins held without bail at the request of the Illinois Dept. of Corrections, which may revoke Wilkins' parole. Willis set bail in the new cases at \$50,000 and ordered Wilkins to go onto electronic monitoring if he becomes eligible for release.

Two in custody after man's punched and robbed in Roscoe Village

A man and woman are in custody after a 61-year-old man was punched and robbed in Roscoe Village July 26, according to a CPD report. The couple may also face charges for an auto burglary that was reported nearby earlier in the evening.

Police said the robbery victim was on the 3400 block of N. Lincoln when the male offender asked him for a cigarette around 11:10 p.m. As the victim reached into his pocket, the robber punched him in the face and took cash out of his pocket, according to a CPD statement. The couple then fled south on Lincoln.

The victim suffered swelling to his face and injuries to his right arm but police said he did not want to be taken to a hospital.

Officers searched the area and found a man and woman who matched the suspects' descriptions at CVS, 3630 N. Southport, around 11:50 p.m. The robbery victim identified them as the offenders.

The couple was also identified as the people who burglarized a man's car on the 4000 block of N. Campbell around 9:40 p.m. Monday, according to a police report.

Robbery spree is work of 3-person crew, cops link cases in Lincoln Park, West Loop, West Rogers Park

Police detectives have linked recent armed robberies in Old Town, the West Loop, and West Rogers Park to a group of armed offenders, according to a CPD community alert.

The hold-up crew, which consists of two men and a woman, targeted people alone on the street four times on July 25 and 26, police said. According to the alert, the robberies include one on the 400 block of W. Wisconsin around 9 p.m. July 25. A man hopped out from a black SUV's passenger seat with a handgun and confronted a 30-year-old woman, taking her purse and phone. He then returned to the SUV and fled the scene.

On the 2000 block of N. Racine around 9:30 p.m. July 25, a 30-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint of his phone by an offender who reportedly emerged from the passenger side of a black SUV with a handgun.

On the 6700 block of N. Rockwell around 10:50 p.m. July 25, a woman was in front of her home when a man got out of a black car, robbed her of her Apple Watch, keys, and phone, and drove away with her black 2019 Ford Fusion, according to a CPD report. The Lexus followed him.

And on the first block of S. Desplaines around 12:40 a.m. July 26, a black SUV stopped in front of a 68-year-old man who was driving and a woman and a man who had a gun stepped out. The man demanded the victim's valuables and fled with his wallet and phone, police said.

The suspects are described as a Black male between 20- and 30-years-old who wore a black sweatshirt with black pants; a Black male between 20- and 30-years-old who wore a green sweatshirt and gray sweats, and a Black female between 15- and 20-years-old.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 about crime pattern P21-3-089.

the LGBTQ+community with a big event scheduled for Oct. 11 - National Coming Out Day - to celebrate love, equality and everyone's uniqueness.

I will also be hosting and performing in a six episode series, "Kabaret With Kevin" that will begin in late November/early December with a holiday special featuring secular holiday favorites as well as Hanukkah and Christian - old and new. Other episodes will include singers from Boston and this production of "Songs In The Key of Chicago" which also feature interviews and other material.

Loop man shot in gang crossfire dies from injuries

A man who police believe was shot when a group of gang members opened fire on a group of rival gang members who were trying to rob him Monday night has died, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Raymond Soni, 52, was pronounced dead at 7:25 a.m. July 28, medical examiner records showed. With Soni's passing, Chicago recorded its 100th homicide for July, according to statistics maintained by HeyJackass, an independent crime tracking site.

Soni was walking into the Presidential Towers high-rise complex, 555 W. Madison, around 11:22 p.m. when three men walked up and tried to rob him at gunpoint, according to a CPD report. Soni lived in one of the residential towers.

As he gave the men his wallet, a four-door sedan pulled up to the corner of Jefferson and Madison, the report said. Three gunmen emerged from the car and began shooting toward the robbers and the victim. One of the robbers returned fire, according to the report. The robbers ran into a nearby parking garage while the carload of assailants sped away. No one in either group was apparently injured.

At least 20 rounds were fired during the melee, the police report said. One bullet struck Soni in his lower back. Police initially said he was in serious condition.

The gunman was described as a light-skinned Black or Hispanic man with a beard who stands about 6'-1" tall, weighs 250 to 260 lbs, and carried a crossbody bag. He wore a dark hat, white t-shirt, and blue or tan shorts, according to witnesses. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Area Three detectives are handling the investigation.

Area Three detectives are now conducting a homicide investigation.

Two Lakeview women mugged in 30 minutes

Police are investigating two robberies of women that unfolded in Lakeview East on July 29. One of the muggings took place just a block from where a food delivery driver was carjacked July 28, raising concerns that a hold-up crew may be frequenting the area.

Around 3 p.m. July 29, police say a man jumped out of a blue or black Infiniti sedan and wrestled a woman's purse away on the 900 block of W. Barry.

About 15 minutes later, the same thing happened on the 500 block of W. Cornelia. The mugger pushed that woman to the ground while taking her purse. He jumped into the passenger seat of a four-door Infiniti that sped from the scene.

Witnesses and the victims said at least two more people were in the getaway car. The primary suspect is a thin Black male in his late teens or early 20's who stands about 5'-10" tall. He wore a hoodie covering his head in the Cornelia robbery, but a witness saw twists in his hair during the first incident.

On July 28, a 60-year-old delivery person was dropping off food in the 3600 block of N. Pine Grove when a man walked up and took control of his car at gunpoint, according to Karie James, a CPD spokesperson. A total of four offenders then got into the driver's silver Toyota Camry and headed south on Pine Grove around 7:15 p.m., she said.

According to the victim, the primary carjacker was a skinny Black male who stands 5'-10" to 6' tall.

Witnesses reported seeing a group of men lingering and approaching drivers on the 500 block of W. Cornelia shortly before the carjacking took place about a block away.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

the off-duty officer was targeted, a woman was carjacked at gunpoint on the 6700 block of N. Rockwell. The woman was in front of her home when a man got out of a black Lexus, robbed her of her Apple Watch, keys, and phone, and drove away with her black 2019 Ford Fusion, according to a CPD report. The Lexus followed him. At least nine other cases have been reported in West Rogers Park, Lincoln Square, and Ravenswood since last week.

Parolee knocked Roscoe Village man unconscious during robbery

A four-time convicted felon who was released early from prison on a gun charge just two months ago knocked a 61-year-old unconscious during a street robbery in Roscoe Village, prosecutors said.

Elaheem Wilkins, 27, first went to prison after he unwittingly targeted an off-duty cop during a 2013 home invasion. He was released in 2016

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LIMA ONE CAPITAL LLC; Plaintiff, vs. ROBIN HONG SOON KIM; CITY OF CHICAGO; CHRISTOPHER TURNER; CTC BUSINESS GROUP LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 21 CH 357 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 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. 20-27-418-042-0000. Commonly known as 7750 South Rhodes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60613. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiffs Attorney, Anselmo Lindberg & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563-1890. (630) 453-6960. F20110034 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3173060

Real Estate For Sale

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, HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 401788. 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.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 111 East Main Street DECATUR IL, 62523 217-422-1719 Fax #: 217-422-1754 E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com Attorney File No. 401788 Attorney Code. 40387 Case Number: 20 CH 02877 TJSC#: 41-917 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 # 20 CH 02877

Real Estate For Sale

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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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, Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT Plaintiffs Attorneys, 175 N. Archer Avenue, Mundelein, IL, 60060 (847) 537-0500. Please refer to file number CPA58-39010. 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.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. THOMAS M. OLSON KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT 175 N. Archer Avenue Mundelein IL, 60060 847-537-0500 E-Mail: tolson@ksnlaw.com Attorney File No. CPA58-39010 Attorney Code. 38862 Case Number: 2019 CH 07207 TJSC#: 41-864 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. 282828 212121

040404 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CSMC 2018-RPL6 TRUST Plaintiff, vs. IOANA A. MINGHIAT, SKYVIEW CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants, 20 CH 02877 2729 W TOUHY AVE APT 2D 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 8, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on September 9, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 2729 W TOUHY AVE APT 2D, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-36-200-046-1007 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$192,898.53. 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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION PARK PLACE CHICAGO CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION Plaintiff, vs. SAMY HAMMAD, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants, 2019 CH 07207 600 N. KINGSBURY STREET, PARKING SPACE 424 CHICAGO, IL 60654 NOTICE OF SALE FOR A JUDGMENT LIEN AND ASSESSMENT LIEN PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 26, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on August 31, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 600 N. KINGSBURY STREET, PARKING SPACE 424, CHICAGO, IL 60654 Property Index No. 17-09-126-022-1222 The real estate is improved with a parking space. The judgment amount was \$19,475.53.

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RESTAURANT from p. 1

Olszewski expressed misgivings to Loyola officials over the chances of successfully operating such an upscale restaurant in the East Rogers Park neighborhood.

He particularly noted other development activities pursued by Loyola in that neighborhood had engendered hostility from some neighbors over concerns about “gentrification.”

However, the motion said Olszewski “answered the call of Loyola, his alma mater” and personally invested \$1.5 million into the project, despite his concerns.

“Olszewski correctly anticipated that a fine dining establishment in a challenged area would take a while to catch on, as its demographic would need to be lured from the tonier area of the city and suburbs,” Olszewski said in the July 14 motion.

“He warned ... Loyola officials of the same, and they agreed to work with Olszewski as a team. Olszewski’s anticipation was prophetic.

“Business was slow at first, but Onward began to be noticed. It achieved notoriety and praise, and things were looking up.”

However, following the onset of COVID-19 lockdown and the imposition of various societal and economic restrictions ordered by Gov. JB Pritzker, Mayor Lori Lightfoot and others, the restaurant was forced to close.

Ever since, Olszewski said his restaurant has been “precluded by Loyola from open-

ing its doors, or even from offering carry-out.”

At the same time, Olszewski said Loyola has continued to demand its rent.

“Onward was left with no avenue to generate any revenue,” Olszewski wrote. “But, none of that matters to Loyola, who interprets its Lease to require rent nonetheless, notwithstanding the generosity of Olszewski...”

Olszewski has asked the court for more time to build his case, before allowing Loyola to evict Onward.

In the motion, Olszewski indicated he will file a formal response to the eviction suit, and may also file counterclaim against Loyola.

In response to questions from this reporter, Carbonara said:

“This case involves a tenant (an Alumnus, no less) who spent a fortune of his own money building out space to fulfill the concept Loyola wanted, despite its apparent incongruity with the area. They were then prevented by the pandemic and Loyola’s own reaction to it from generating any revenue whatsoever. His reward for his generosity is a Landlord who jumps to court before exploring alternatives.”

He said the case is “far from cut and dried.”

A spokesperson for Loyola declined to comment on the case, saying the university does not comment on pending litigation.

REDEFINE from p. 1

dine.”

But Reiter said she and many other neighbors think the median idea is “unworkable,” as it will “make it impossible for large vehicles coming down Aldine – such as tow trucks moving stalled cars, moving vans, some city trucks and possibly even garbage trucks – to make either a right or left turn at the inner drive.”

“There is no room for your median,” she wrote in a letter to the planners.

Traffic

Plans also include a new traffic signal at Aldine, planners said, citing feedback gathered from area residents during a fall 2020 public input opportunity.

“What we heard is that Aldine is a neighborhood street that can’t handle existing – let alone any additional – traffic,” staff said. “The project team took this feedback and performed a deeper dive on the overall anticipated traffic changes, including the adjacent neighborhood traffic volumes, which confirmed resident concerns.”

Three hundred vehicles use Aldine Ave. in this area every hour, staff said – twice the preferred rate for residential streets in Chicago.

Ramps

The city has developed several strategies for minimizing or reducing neighborhood cut-through traffic on Aldine and other east-west neighborhood streets nearby, all of which involve the installation of a new southbound exit ramp at LSD in line with the intersection of Aldine and inner North LSD.

Staff noted that, because Aldine is a one-way street, no traffic exiting LSD will be able to utilize the neighborhood road. And if a southbound LSD entrance ramp also goes in at Aldine, staff said the concrete median that will be installed at the intersection of Aldine and inner North LSD will “disallow Aldine traffic from directly accessing the southbound ramp.”

“Aldine traffic will only be able to turn left or right onto inner (North LSD),” staff said.

Instead, drivers already on inner North LSD will use the ramp, easing traffic congestion at Belmont and Sheridan.

Reiter countered that motorists who are unfamiliar with the area will not be aware that the median is in place and will attempt to access LSD via Aldine Ave. anyway. When they find they cannot access LSD, drivers may turn right and head toward Belmont, adding to traffic issues there.

“Just the presence of the on ramp ... would attract much more traffic to Aldine,” Reiter wrote. “Any ramps at Aldine would be unsatisfactory.”

Larry Nutson, president of the 3300 NLS D Condominium Assoc., said his organization also opposes the ramps at Aldine Ave., but “in spite of overwhelming community-wide opposition expressed in previous public forums the project team continues to pursue this proposal.”

“The project (seems) committed to ... on and off ramps at Aldine, without taking into consideration the wishes of the community affected by it,” Reiter wrote, adding, “No survey has been done to determine whether people in this community want this.”

Addison

Instead of undertaking a major construction project, Reiter said the city could make “small tweaks” at the Belmont Ave. intersection to address the congestion issues there.

Both Reiter and Nutson also suggested opening a southbound LSD ramp at Addison Ave. – an idea that the city already has incorporated into its “Redefine the Drive” plan.

Staff said motorists from Cornelia Ave. north will likely utilize the Addison ramps, further easing traffic at Belmont, as well as Aldine.

“From a design standpoint, a goal was to put cars in the arterial network, not on residential streets,” staff said.

As a result of the “Redefine the Drive” project, staff said the rate of traffic will fall on Aldine Ave. from one vehicle every 12 seconds to one vehicle every 20 seconds.

“There is a noticeable difference in the gaps between vehicles,” staff said.

The “Redefine the Drive” initiative will be “further refined” throughout the year, with another public meeting planned for the winter. Feedback will be accepted on an ongoing basis, however, by visiting nlsdinput.org/lakeview or emailing info@nlsd.org.