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in our material world than the book.
— Patti Smith

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Plan to add new data center at 300 W. Adams

**Downtown data centers
may be answer
to some vacant sites**

Is there a solution to Chicago's glut of downtown office space in filling up some of those empty floors with data centers?

The short answer is "maybe." It depends on the building's location, design and engineering.

While urban high-rises offer great proximity to fiber networks and local business users, they face major hurdles regarding weight loads, massive power requirements, and heat dissipation to be converted into a data center.

Standard office buildings support around 50 to 100 lbs per square foot, whereas data centers packed with heavy server racks

require reinforcement for 150 to 250+ lbs per square foot. And elevator shafts, columns, and narrow floor plates make it difficult to layout continuous, high-density IT server rows.

But for the right building in the right location, the idea can work.

Chicago's Central Business District currently has an estimated 40 million square feet of vacant or available downtown office space, reflecting an overall vacancy rate hovering around 28%.

A data center does not have a single set size. It can range from as small as 100-square-foot local server room to a massive 1-million-plus-square-foot hyperscale facility.

On average, standard commercial data centers span about

100,000 square feet, but total space depends heavily on IT load, cooling equipment, and power needs. A keen local example might be the 5-story IMD1 MetroEdge building, situated along S. Damen Ave. within the Illinois Medical District, a facility that focuses on medical and biotech research.

Last week Chicago investor Igor Gabal closed a deal to partially convert a heavily-discounted Loop office building into a data center. Gabal partnered with investment firm Strategic Value Partners on the conversion of 300 W. Adams St.

Data centers demand up to 30 times more power per square foot than typical office buildings.

DATA CENTER see p. 12

Messy power struggle engulfs CPD superintendent search

**Oversight commissioners
split along ideological lines**

BY CWBCHICAGO

A bitter internal dispute has erupted inside the city's police oversight commission as a majority of members are trying to remove one of two commissioners leading the search for Chicago's next police superintendent, threatening to inject political infighting into one of the city's most consequential decisions.

Multiple sources told this reporter that a majority of the seven-member Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability [CCPSA] wants attorney and former CPD civilian director Sandra Wortham removed from the two-person superintendent search work group.

But Commission President Remel Terry, the other member of the work group, has refused to boot Wortham. According to multiple sources familiar with the discussions, that has prompted other commissioners to begin exploring changes to the CCPSA's bylaws that would allow a majority of members to replace Wortham without Terry's approval.

The behind-the-scenes battle began playing out days after CPD Supt. Larry Snelling announced his retirement on July 1. He stepped down two weeks later, leaving the commission responsible for identifying three finalists for the city's top law enforcement job. The two-

person work group will identify candidates, all seven commissioners will interview them, and each commissioner's vote will count equally in deciding which three names are forwarded to the mayor.



Sandra Wortham

On July 10, as the commission prepared to launch its search, CCPSA Vice President and North Side Youth Commissioner Angel Rubi Navarajo emailed colleagues urging that Wortham be removed from the search group, according to multiple sources. People familiar with the email said Navarajo argued that Wortham lacks a collaborative work style and cited a

CPD see p. 8



BEFORE



AFTER

Before (top) and after (bottom) repairs on sidewalk at 440 N. State St.

20-year struggle to fix a one-block section of sidewalk

**State St. sidewalk repairs
finally completed**

For decades, the sidewalk adjacent to 440 N. State St. has been a significant tripping hazard and difficult, if not impossible, for pedestrians using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility devices to navigate because of its steep slope and deteriorated pavement.

Last week, Alderman Brendan Reilly [42nd] posted numerous letters he had sent over the last 20

years to a variety of city departments with no actions ever taken to address the problem, claiming that his concerns had never even been "acknowledged." He explained that his office had tallied over 100 community complaints about the poor maintenance and dangers posed.

Since taking office in 2007, Ald. Brendan Reilly says he had repeatedly urged the Chicago

SIDEWALK see p. 12



The major corridor and bridge overhaul for Division St. will include a new five-lane tied-arch bridge over the Chicago River.

Image courtesy H.W. Lochner

Change coming to Division St.

**Streetscape at Dearborn
to get underway, bigger
changes further west**

Engineers at the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] have announced that work on the new Division St. streetscape project has been delayed due to weather and equipment availability, but should begin this month.

Among the streetscape changes, the project will reduce Division St. roadway widths from Dearborn to State streets. The city will

resurface the street, while adding more space for outdoor dining for adjacent restaurant and bars. It will also include new and wider paver sidewalks and ADA ramps and crosswalks. The area will also get new curbs, gutters and street lighting.

New street furnishings, pavement markings, signs, trees and landscaping are also planned.

Hardscape work is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving,

DIVISION ST see p. 12



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The dreadful state of erroneous news reporting on social media



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

Many of our readers grew up in a newspaper household, and frequently a lot of effort went into it. Newspapers were, of course, delivered. But afternoon editions needed to be acquired at the shops. My family had their favorites. In Chicago, the “golden age” of journalism meant there was always something for everyone.

You either started on page one, or jumped right to the sports section, or perhaps the comics. Others - the smarty pants - dug straight away into the crossword puzzle.

Prior to the arrival of the Internet was the heyday of newspapers, Chicago was a major newspaper town. Every newspaper had its distinctive edge. This newspaper you’re reading now got its start in 1904, in the Lerner Newspaper group growing out of a Rogers Park area weekly shopper. Lerner Newspapers focused solely on

community news. If something happened at the corner of Clark and Howard, Lerner Newspapers wanted to know. The news out of Washington D.C., New York, London or Paris was not really our concern.

That’s why we all got the Chicago Tribune, the world’s greatest newspaper, delivered daily. For some that was not because we were admirers of its Republican perspectives, but because it had the best obits. Very important dates in an Irish Catholic household. How else would locals get the notice of who was being waked at Drake and Sons, Smith-Corcoran, Cooney or Barr funeral homes?

Many also were fans of the Chicago Daily News. A good, solid Chicago newspaper. It’s where this newspaper’s most senior reporter, Don DeBat, first made a name for himself. And a big “to do” was always made over the Chicago American, an afternoon newspaper that got out an edition with all the scoops and news since morning.

My grandmother was a huge fan and needed the American by 3 p.m. each afternoon, which necessitated trips to a nearby shop. I forget how much the paper cost, but you’d always get change back from a quarter. It was easy to pocket the change and get a pack of smokes by the end of the week.

In eighth grade.

All these neighborhood and metropolitan newspapers kept us well informed about goings on down the block and across the globe.

We never, however, had a Sun-Times in this writer’s home. It was, of course, a tabloid. A strange size and shape. And presumed to be way left of center, but good at local sports. It still is, God bless their little hearts.

The rest of our daily collection of news was national news gathered from Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley and David Brinkley. Unless you worried about being drafted into the Vietnam War, you may not recognize those names.

The acquisition and dissemination of trustworthy news was a critical factor for our household, and I suspect also for a large portion of Chicago’s North Side.

There was no time for questionable news sources or shallow analysis about what was happening in the City. Chicago was on the move and we needed the facts, especially with the Soviet threat that they would “bury” us. And worse, the soul-crushing news that St. Rita High School had won the Chicago Prep Bowl in football, defeating Lane Tech High School.

We needed the news to be accurate, straight-forward and trustworthy.

So with this as our youthful training, it’s no wonder we are now so chagrined at the dreadful state of non-stop erroneous news and untrustworthy reporting on social media.

Perhaps you have had a similar experience with all the false reporting, twisted headlines, make-shift analysis, and unsupportive manufacturing of items made to shock the viewer and earn clicks and likes.

A well-established journalist or TV reporter is portrayed breaking a startling news story announcing a frightening headline or revelation. Facts are rattled off with frightening emotion. But the bulletin concludes without fully disclosing the complete story. We’re told that the full story appears online, and that we are supposed to go hunt for the full information.

And if you do take the bait, you discover you are swatting down pop-up ads for a new roof, a new diet, or some other product that an AI bot discovered about you while it was spying on you.

Thanks but no thanks Facebook, Google and TikTok, this newspaper does not spy on you.

Everything online is breaking news... hoping to create the highest level of alert, just to keep us clicking along, until hours have passed by and you forgot to say “goodnight” to your kids because you ventured into the “comments” section to take sides and fight with strangers.

That’s not the case here at your friendly neighborhood newspaper. What you see is what you get. There is no comment section, no sheriff of the Internet. Got something to say? Write us a letter. Maybe we’ll put it in the paper next week. No clicking, liking or AI bots staring back at you and cataloging your every thought, view and search.

What social media does bring to the uninformed is hours of buyer-beware and checking sources... and frequently finding out that none of the original purpose of your online search is real news, or even important to your daily life. What it has done is create a false sense of what is actually unfolding. Social media preys on the unsuspecting reader. And it provides confused context at best. We find out that we’ve been manipulated, and impoverished. The readers’ sense of rational, natural information gathering has been dulled by an item one stumbles upon about a boy in a bikini who won a Miss America pageant, or a dog who was attacked by an alligator but escaped alive.

It’s all part of the misinformation, the misdirection and dumbing down of the public. Confusion reigns supreme, as we gather in our confirmation bias camps, categorized and divided by bots and algorithms, weakened by the journey. We feel a false sense of urgency, dashing all common sense and rational intelligence as we find another fight to join on Facebook.

Friends, you will not find this

newspaper posting on Facebook for these very reasons. Mark Zuckerberg will just have to get along without us.

They couldn’t get away with such maneuvers in the golden age of journalism when there were four daily and 60 weekly community newspapers in Chicago, and Cubs baseball games on WGN. Before the Internet, truth-telling was an actual goal of reporting; not clicks, likes and views. When the news moved slower. More effectively. More honestly.

We have given up a lot for the sake of fast-paced journalism and less accurate reporting. Where once we demanded to get it right before publishing; today, many ‘content providers’ get it online first, then they’ll get around to getting it right sometime later, after you’ve already forwarded the misinformation to many others.

We have created new generations of Americans without the skills or natural BS detectors in navigational know-how to keep from being manipulated by the dishonesty and dishonor of social media. Moral and ethical lines are crossed daily online, and with them the judgement and ability to tell the truth even when it’s mundane, and unlikely to go viral on TikTok. Sometimes a church bake sale is just a church bake sale, no scandal to be exposed anywhere.

It’s time to stop believing the minute by minute false doctrines fed to us by computer bots, that litter our lives with propaganda.

CITY HALL FIASCO: As the summer dwindles down, plans are underway for the reopening of schools. However the reports, rumors and rumblings coming from the 5th floor are neither comforting or encouraging. Stories and failures abound with **Mayor Brandon “Kids Don’t Need to Know How To Read” Johnson**.

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DREADFUL see p. 8

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What you're missing on your Property Tax Bill

BY COOK COUNTY TREASURER
MARIA PAPPAS

Twice each year, my office mails out about 1.8 million tax bills to Cook County property owners. Most people glance only at the amount due. But your bill is much more than a dollar figure. It's a detailed breakdown of how your taxes are calculated and where your money goes. Taking a few minutes to read it can save you money and help you better understand your government.

Let's walk through it. In the top left corner, you'll find the "Total Payment Due" box. This shows how much you owe based on when you submitted your payment. Be sure to look at the due date. Paying late results in penalties, which are listed

clearly next to the words, "If paying late, please pay..." The longer you wait, the more you'll owe. To the right is your 14-digit Property Index Number or PIN. This number identifies your property in county records and should match the PIN on your deed. You must pay only on your PIN. If you pay on the wrong one, you could end up paying someone else's taxes and may not be able to get the money back. So always double-check the PIN before sending a payment or making an inquiry. In the middle section of your second installment bill, you'll see how your taxes are distributed among local taxing bodies—like schools, parks, and libraries. This portion compares your current bill to the previous year's and shows how much funding each agency receives. Next is the Tax Calculator, which helps explain how your tax bill was calculated. It starts with the prior year's assessed value, followed by:

- Property Value: The estimated market value set by the Assessor's Office.
- Assessment Level: For residential

properties in Cook County, this is 10% of the market value.

- Equalization Factor: A statewide multiplier set by the Illinois Department of Revenue to ensure fairness and uniformity in all 102 Illinois counties.

Don't ignore the Important Messages section. It may include notices about refunds, sold or forfeited taxes, or past-due balances. Following the messages can protect your property and wallet.

- Equalized Assessed Value: The adjusted value of a property after applying the equalization factor.
- Tax Rate: Calculated by the Cook County Clerk based on each district's budgetary needs.

If your property qualified for exemptions, such as the homeowner or senior exemption, a dollar amount will appear next to it. If you think you're eligible but

don't see it listed, you can apply for exemptions on our website. The installments section shows how your total property tax is divided into two payments. The first installment is an estimated 55% of your total bill. The second reflects the final calculation based on updated figures. Don't ignore the Important Messages section. It may include notices about refunds, sold or forfeited taxes, or past-due balances. Following the messages can protect your property and wallet. Finally, remember that the property location on the bill reflects where the PIN is located, not necessarily where you live. You can update your name and mailing address anytime at cookcountytreasurer.com. Your property tax bill isn't just a demand for payment—it's a financial statement, a government transparency tool and a civic guide. Read and understand it because the more you know, the more empowered you are to safeguard your home—and your future.

City's Finance Office a hot mess

Bad financial news, chaos and disruption coming from City Hall is hard to ignore these days. The Chief Financial Officer of the City, Steven Mahr abruptly resigned last week. Mahr is the third senior finance official to resign within the last six months, creating a serious problem with city finances. Mahr replaced Jill Jaworski in February after she abruptly resigned in January, making him the third professional finance official to resign from City Hall. Chicago faces a severe fiscal squeeze now with a midyear 2026 shortfall of \$130 million and a projected budget deficit topping \$1 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. The city's acting CFO will be Brendan White, who will have to figure out how to manage the city budget that kicks off by October. The Mahr resignation, along with the financial situation at the Chicago Public Schools [CPS] - which is facing its own projected \$732 million budget deficit - does not bode well for Chicago's taxpayers. CPS alone has added nearly 10,000 new staffers and grown new spending by \$4.2 billion since 2019, despite enrollment dropping by more than 45,000 students over the same time period. The annual crisis in Chicago now also raises serious questions about transparency and accountability, and whether the city's taxpayers should trust the fiduciaries now managing city finances. The routines should be clear by now. Rather than undertake thoughtful financial planning, public

officials intentionally create an annual financial crisis, which is then followed by demands for immediate action. The city's leadership knows that fomenting financial distress will create leverage to demand more taxpayer money.

The Chicago Public Schools alone has added nearly 10,000 new staffers and grown new spending by \$4.2 billion since 2019, despite enrollment dropping by more than 45,000 students over the same time period.

The abrupt exits of Mahr and Jaworski leave Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration a hot mess without a permanent top finance official just as the city faces a projected budget deficit exceeding \$1 billion, several upcoming investor conferences, and intense fall budget negotiations. Financial watchdogs like the Civic Federation warn that leadership instability sends a dangerous red flag to the bond market while Chicago debt hovers just above junk status. A major issue for Chicago now is all the massive new spending the city has undertaken due to the COVID pandemic and government-imposed economic lockdown that severely damaged the local economy undermining the city's tax base. The city never rolled back spending after federal

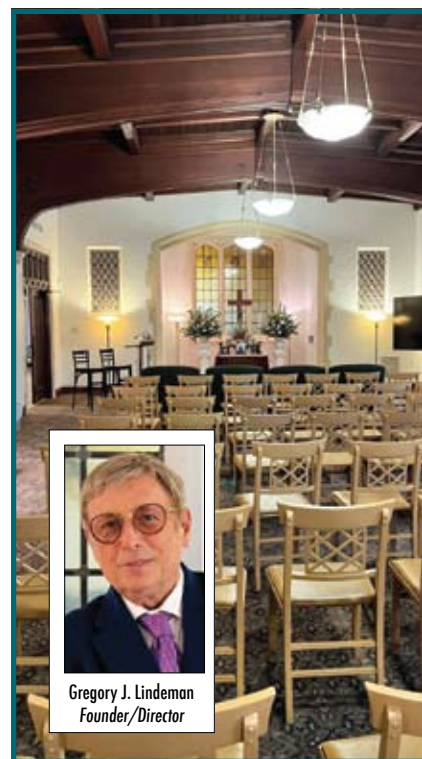
pandemic bailout cash dried up. Spending cuts and efficiencies were outlined late last year in the Ernst and Young [EY] report the city paid for in 2025, but the suggestions have been broadly ignored by the Mayor's office. Those suggestions included Land Sales; Special Events Cost Recovery, and Procurement Office efficiencies. City Council has pushed the Mayor to implement as many cuts as possible this year but barely 25% of the proposed spend-

ing cuts have occurred. Decisions made by the Johnson administration "to not follow through [on the EY report] have created the deficit, and that could continue into 2027 if he and council colleagues who follow his lead fail to follow the laws," said Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd], who served as the chairman of the Chicago City Council's Finance Committee from 2019 to 2023. "The administration is creatively trying to distract from the fact that they're not doing their job."

Grab a rake and shovel, citizens can help with flood control

It has been an exceptionally wet summer for Chicago, and one of the big problems now is flooding and standing water on the roadways that results from clogged sewers. While some of these clogs are due to a blockage beneath the catch basin lid that needs to be addressed by the Chicago Dept. of Water, many other blockages are within reach of local citizens. Blocked sewers are easily cleared by taking a rake or shovel to the debris in the street (or by preventing debris build up in the first place). City Hall works with the Cook County Courts to have people who have been sentenced to community service assigned to a coordinator to do manual tasks in the ward, and one of the tasks the perps perform is to clear off catch basins. Many

are successfully cleared just with a rake or shovel. But you don't have to be a bad boy subject of a court order to do a good deed. North Side residents who see sewer caps blocked with leaves or debris should take it upon themselves to help clear the blockages and win the good graces, gratitude, pat on the back and hearty handshakes of friends and neighbors. Citizens also need to continue reporting the bigger sewer problems beneath the street level to the Water Dept. So if you're able to, be a good neighbor and clean along your curb to keep the sewers flowing properly. It is quite viscerally satisfying watching the water circle down the sewers once you clear everything off.



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Regulations rising, landlords wonder why bother owning?



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

There is a sweeping regulatory movement underway, pushed by Mayor Brandon Johnson—an avowed Democratic Socialist—to take private property rights away from landlords, and give excessive protection to renters.

An estimated 54% of Chicago's residents - some 600,000 people - are apartment renters, according to the City of Chicago, so Mayor Johnson, who is up for reelection next spring against at least a half-dozen opponents, obviously needs votes.

Chicago currently has two so-called "renters protections ordinances" floating around like circus balloons. One being pushed by Mayor Johnson is the "Protecting Renters Ordinance" [PRO]. The other, the "Fair and Accountable Illinois Rental Ordinance" [FAIR] is being promoted by a group of aldermen.

Mayor Johnson's "Protecting Renters Ordinance" seeks to update the city's 40-year-old "Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance" [RLTO], which oversees the legal rights and responsibilities

of tenants and landlords.

The Chicago Assn. of Realtors' standard apartment lease already is so loaded with renter protection it weighs in at a hefty 37 pages with the 2026 addition of four pages to protect tenants from domestic violence and abuse. Currently, Chicago has one of the most anti-landlord ordinances in the nation.

Taxes and spending the real problem

For both big corporate rental-apartment operators and small "Ma and Pa" owners, experts are not mentioning the real problem. The Tyrannosaurus Rex in the room is soaring property taxes caused by exorbitant governmental spending in Chicago and Cook County. However, the Mayor doesn't mention that issue.

In 2025, one Old Town 4-flat owner was hit with a 21% property tax hike, and a 59% increase in fire-insurance premiums. Another landlord in North Lincoln Square was slapped with a 30% tax hike. And, a 3-flat owner in Logan Square is reeling from a 32% tax hike.

The high-cost of apartment rents is not totally the fault of landlords. In Chicago, rental property owners have to deal with the second highest property taxes in the nation, along with soaring insurance costs.

According to Mayor Johnson's PRO ordinance, which already is receiving heavy opposition from apartment managers, owners and investors, the following new restrictions would be added to the already weighty RLTO:

- A ban on "hidden fees," such as application and processing fees.
- A "Tenant Bill of Rights" and the requirement that landlords disclose if they're using algorithmic demand pricing that is popular in the hotel industry.
- The PRO ordinance would establish a "rental registry," and create a new bureaucratic administrative body that works with renters and landlords to resolve



(L-R) Ald. Gilbert Villegas, Ald. Brendan Reilly, Michael Glasser of NBOA.

disputes, among other measures.

The city now has no comprehensive record of its more than 500,000 rental units, nor does it keep a record of who owns the properties and whether they are complying with the law. However, property ownership is a public record available through the Cook County Assessor's office.

While the PRO ordinance has not yet been officially released, critics say it contains many troubling provisions that could significantly harm the multifamily housing industry.

It would make progress more difficult to provide quality affordable apartments, according to the Neighborhood Building Owner's Alliance [NBOA], a non-profit landlord group.

Some landlords say the rental registry essentially would be a "hit list" that would create another layer of taxes on top of city and Cook County property taxes, which are the wildfire-wind driving rent increases.

Other landlords say the proposed restrictions are so heinous that they wonder: "Why bother owning and managing apartments in Chicago at all? We probably could make more worry-free profits investing in the stock market."

The amount of the annual registry fee would be determined by building size and owner occupancy. Owner-occupied, Ma-and-Pa two-unit to six-unit buildings and nonprofit affordable housing would be exempt from the fee.

Larger building owners would be charged anywhere from \$20 to a whopping \$60 per unit.

Obviously, veteran apartment managers concerned with the bottom line would simply pass on the inflationary registry fees to renters in the form of higher rents.

Experts say higher rents could lead to vacancies in larger buildings, adding to the pressure of paying hefty property taxes, and eventually leading to deferred maintenance.

The city now has no comprehensive record of its more than 500,000 rental units, nor does it keep a record of who owns the properties and whether they are complying with the law. However, property ownership is a public record available through the Cook County Assessor's office.

When all the potential legal and administrative costs are considered, major landlords will be forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars to fight the ordinance. Rental experts say the proposed measure is guaranteed to increase average monthly rents on each unit in Chicago by at least \$100.

The annual fees, which the city expects could total around \$20 million, would help fund the initiatives laid out in the bill, according to Jung Yoon, the mayor's chief of policy. The funds would go toward improving inspections and enforcement.

The annual fees would also establish the "Bureau of Rental Housing Services," designed to be the city's first coordinated hub for rental housing. The bureau would administer the rental registry, provide emergency rental and

eviction help, provide compliance guidance for landlords and enforce tenant protections.

City officials say the renter-protection ordinance is designed to crack down on slumlords and profit-hungry landlords.

The alternative FAIR plan

Meanwhile, the counterproposal promoted by Ald. Gilbert Villegas [36th], one of the architects of FAIR, proposed the following less restrictive renter protections:

- FAIR includes protections against ill-intentioned landlords, illegal lockouts, retaliation for rule enforcement, unsafe living conditions and security deposit abuse.
- FAIR would rely on pre-existing state law requiring fee transparency, with added disclosure requirements, but not go as far in limiting and even outlawing various fees.
- FAIR would create a city rental registry, but would make a distinction between large and small landlords.
- FAIR also would create new incentives to encourage building owners to convert non-residential units, such as storefronts, into apartments.

Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] said the aldermanic measure strikes a balance between promoting growth and adding regulation without "costly mandates."

Rental apartment management advocate Michael Glasser, president of NBOA, said: "We welcome the opportunity the FAIR Ordinance presents to build toward genuinely healthy neighborhood housing—with the kind of stability tenants can count on—only when housing providers have it too."

The vast majority of landlords and real estate groups are skeptical of the Mayor Johnson proposed "Protecting Renters Ordinance," arguing the measures are burdensome and will drive up the cost of housing.

A review of Mayor Johnson's PRO plan by Marcus & Millichap, a major apartment manager, said the ordinance could "alter investment behavior" by placing pressure on the apartment industry because of "compliance obligations and restrictions."

For more housing news, visit www.dondebat.biz. Don DeBat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

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BY MARK RACZKIEWYCZ

At the behest of French King Louis-Phillipe, 25-year-old aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville left home to study the U.S. penal system in the budding democratic country.

Instead, after arriving on American shores in 1831, only 19 years after the country's second war with Great Britain, Tocqueville started to document all facets of a new form of governance that was known as democracy and modeled after the ancient Greek and Roman forms of governance.

Tocqueville's work was eventually published in two volumes in 1835 and 1840 and titled simplistically as "Democracy in America."

The young Frenchman may have a digital successor, Ryan Campbell, who has developed a free-to-use digital platform that doesn't require users to conjure usernames or passwords to monitor and track pending legislation



Ryan Campbell (left) Courtesy of Ryan Campbell. screenshot of livedemocracy.us, a free-to-use online platform that lets viewers monitor legislative matters that pertain to them.



that will affect them. Starting at the local, county, state levels and all the way to the federal level at livedemocracy.us.

"It's a one-stop shop," said Campbell, 30, adding that it only went live online one month ago, ahead of the November mid-term elections to better inform Chicago residents.

The civic technology developer of the legislative-monitoring plat-

form said "it's a free, nonpartisan tool called Live Democracy that brings every level of government into one feed, from Congress and the Illinois statehouse to the Cook County board and your local ward. It shows residents what is coming up for a vote before it happens and lets them weigh in with a single tap."

All the user has to do is enter their postal zip code or ad-

dress and residents can see what is coming up for a vote before it happens.

Regarding the news coverage area of these newspapers across the North Side, he said "that means each neighborhood's ward business and the county board sit in one feed [on the website], without hunting through meeting agendas."

At the core is the idea that came "from frustration conversing with friends realizing it is difficult to understand the policy that is coming our way. This solves the problem of understanding what is going on at every level of the government in a single place," he said.

Examples of pending ordinances or legislation include Tax Incremental Finance districts [TIF] that affect the 48th ward of Edgewater (amendment 0206-0027133).

Another one is a Foundry Park

LEGISLATION see p. 9



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This newspaper needs your help

This newspaper vs Sudler Property Mngt.

Inside Publications has hired legal representation to defend ourselves in Sudler Property Management's defamation suit against this newspaper.

But lawfare costs money, and we don't have a lawfare budget. So we are now appealing for your help, and donations.

Below is a link to a GoFundMe page that we established to help raise funds to fight this case in the Cook County Circuit Court. The page is titled "Your Friendly Neighborhood Newspapers."

We would appreciate you sharing this link with anyone in your network who might like to help out their friendly neighborhood newspapers.

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Police Beat...

Strong-armed robberies reported in Loop, Edgewater

Police are warning residents of recent armed robberies in the Loop, and Edgewater neighborhoods.

In the incidents, crooks approach unsuspecting victims on the public way and forcibly take gold necklaces from their person.

Incidents have occurred on the 1100 block of S. Columbus Dr. 6:30 p.m. July 2; on the 1200 block of S. Michigan Ave. 7:11 p.m. July 2; the 0-100 block of S.. Wabash Ave. 5:34 p.m. July 3; on the 0-100 block of N. Michigan Ave. 4:01 p.m. July 6, and on the 6200 block of N. Winthrop Ave. 4 p.m. July 7.

The offenders are described as one or two men described as male Caucasian and/or Hispanic (both described as approximately 5'-3" to 5'-8" tall, 120-170 lbs, and aged 18-25. The offenders' vehicles have been described as a 2-door gray sedan and/or a green sedan.

Those who may have any information on these crimes contact Area One Detectives at 312-747-8384 and/or Area Three Detectives at 312-744-8263 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use reference #26-CWP-019A.

Suspected mail thief killed man in 75 mph crash on Rockwell St.



Daron Lipscomb

A suspected mail thief sped away from Chicago police at nearly 75 mph, ran a red light, and crashed into another car, killing a man on the Northwest Side

earlier this year, prosecutors said as they filed charges against the man.

Officials said a woman called 911 around 5:30 a.m. on Feb. 20 after seeing a man tampering with mailboxes in the 3200 block of N. Rockwell St. and traveling in an SUV with Colorado license plates. Responding officers soon spotted an SUV matching that description nearby.

Prosecutors said the driver, identified as 31-year-old Daron Lipscomb, sped away on Elston Ave. at about 75 mph in a 30 mph zone. At the intersection with Kedzie Ave.,



Ali Abdullah

Lipscomb allegedly ran a red light and slammed into a Toyota Prius traveling south on Kedzie.

Ali Abdullah, a 25-year-old Naperville resident who was riding in the Prius, was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where he died from his injuries. His 37-year-old driver suffered a fractured pelvis and cuts to his face. According to a GoFundMe campaign, the driver spent 20 days in an intensive care unit, underwent multiple surgeries, and was not expected to work for several months. According to social media posts, Abdullah worked as an IT specialist and was on his way to work when he was killed.

Lipscomb ran from the scene, heading west on Addison St., according to a CPD crash report. Police recovered multiple pieces

of mail from the SUV that were addressed to residents living near the block where the 911 caller reported seeing someone tampering with mailboxes, according to a separate CPD case report.

The officers who responded to the mail theft call identified Lipscomb in a photo lineup later that same day, according to the case report. But authorities did not immediately find Lipscomb. This month, a U.S. Marshals Service task force set up surveillance outside his mother's home and arrested him when he left the residence.

Judge James Murphy III ordered Lipscomb detained on charges of reckless homicide by motor vehicle, two counts of failure to report an accident involving death, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Uptown man confronts car burglars, gets robbed at gunpoint instead

An Uptown man who stepped outside to confront two people breaking into his car on July 31 ended up being robbed at gunpoint by the pair, according to Chicago police.

Police said the 45-year-old man heard the sound of car glass breaking outside his home in the 800 block of W. Sunnyside Ave. at about 5:25 a.m. He went outside to investigate and found two males allegedly stealing items from his vehicle, police said.

The man confronted the two, and police said the pair displayed a gun before taking his belongings. The offenders then got into a nearby silver sedan, possibly a Toyota Corolla, and fled westbound, according to police. The victim described the offenders as Black males wearing ski masks. No arrests have been reported.

Woman critically injured when dirt bike slams into bicyclist on Lakefront Trail



A surveillance image of the motorcyclist who hit the woman.

A woman riding her bike on the Lakefront Trail suffered catastrophic injuries after a man on a motorized dirt bike crashed into her in the Gold Coast, according to Chicago police, who are now trying to track him down.

The crash happened around 3:47 p.m. July 20, when the 45-year-old woman was riding along the trail just south of North Ave. Police said a man wearing a black ski mask and dark clothing was riding a yellow dirt bike recklessly when he struck her.

The woman's injuries were serious enough that Chicago police turned the investigation over to the department's Major Accident Investigation Unit, which handles the most severe crashes.

Police have not identified the man and are asking anyone with video or information to call detectives at 312-745-4521 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com, referencing case number JK346606.

The crash is a flashpoint in what's become a growing complaint from regulars on the 18-mile trail: motorized vehicles speeding along a path where they don't belong. The trail was built for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists moving under their own power. But those users increasingly find themselves on the lookout as people riding motorized bikes and skateboard-style devices zip along at breakneck speeds.

Pedal-assist e-bikes get some of the blame, particularly when riders strip out the devices that are supposed to cap how fast they can go. But the bigger worry, according to those who use the trail regularly, is

heavier, faster machines that don't belong on a bike path at all: gas-powered minibikes, electric dirt bikes, mopeds and electric motorcycles built to look like bicycles — some of which exceed 40 mph. Those devices also accelerate faster and weigh more than standard bikes, raising the stakes when something goes wrong, as it did on July 20.

50 years for man who murdered girlfriend, hid body in duffel bag



Genesis Silva, left, and Brittany Battaglia.

A man was sentenced to 50 years in prison July 31 for murdering his girlfriend and stuffing her body inside a duffel bag that sat in his bedroom for days before police found her remains during a well-being check.

Genesis Silva, 37, was convicted by a jury earlier this year in the June 2023 death of Brittany Battaglia. Silva's attorneys argued at trial that he hid Battaglia's body after she died because he feared he would be blamed for her death, not because he killed her.

Battaglia's roommate last saw her around 6:30 p.m. June 2, 2023, when she left their apartment saying she planned to walk to Silva's nearby home before heading to a party. When she didn't return, the roommate and the roommate's boyfriend each filed missing person reports.

According to prosecutors, Chicago police detectives began staking out Silva's home after a friend of his called 911 and told dispatchers he had grown "concerned" about Silva following a lunch the two shared that day.

Detectives spotted Silva leaving the house and stopped him. He then walked them back to his apartment in the 2000 block of N. Kimball Ave., a red and black backpack draped over his shoulder, prosecutors said.

Inside his bedroom, detectives found Battaglia's body stuffed inside a large duffel bag, according to prosecutors. The Cook County Medical Examiner ruled her death a homicide caused by multiple sharp force wounds. Prosecutors said she had been nearly decapitated.

The backpack Silva was carrying when police approached him allegedly contained a machete. A second machete was later found in his car, prosecutors said. Both the machete from the backpack and the bag containing Battaglia's remains tested positive for blood.

In Silva's kitchen, investigators said they found two garbage bags near a tarp containing shoes, a bucket, a paint suit, gloves, bleach and a Swiffer. Prosecutors said police also recovered three handwritten lists of items, including cleaning supplies, chemicals and boots, along with a note that allegedly read: "Can you ask average time until smell, etc?"

Silva's past surfaced prominently during the case. He was charged with attempted murder and sexual assault of his wife in 2009, prosecutors said. According to the allegations, the couple argued after returning home from a party, and Silva strangled her, repeatedly asking, "Why won't you just die?" That case was ultimately resolved when prosecutors allowed Silva to plead guilty to a single charge of criminal sexual abuse in exchange for a two-year probation sentence.

His ex-wife, speaking to the Chicago Sun-Times after Battaglia's death, did not mince words.

"He had a deep hate for women," she said. "It's definitely one of those

American Psycho type of things because it's like two completely different sides of a person."

At Silva's initial bail hearing in the Battaglia case, his defense attorney urged the court to see a different side of her client. She described him as a Whitney Young graduate who owned Genesis Platforms, an audio-visual consulting company, and said he participated in harm reduction efforts by distributing Narcan and discouraging narcotics use.

"By all accounts, Mr. Silva has turned his life around," the attorney argued at the time.

Silva and Battaglia had been dating since the spring of 2022, prosecutors said. About six months after initially charging Silva with concealing Battaglia's death, prosecutors upgraded the charges to allege he had actually killed her.

Judge Mary Brosnahan oversaw the case and handed down the sentence. Silva must serve 100% of his 50-year term under state law.

Feds charge 12 in drug dealing operation that sold 'dawn till dusk'

Twelve people have been federally charged and more arrests could follow after a nearly two-year investigation into what prosecutors say was a large-scale open-air fentanyl and heroin market that operated "essentially dawn till dusk every day" in Chicago.

The investigation began around Sept. 2024 in the area of the 700 block of N. St. Louis Ave., where members and affiliates of the Traveling Vice Lords street gang were selling narcotics "at almost all times," a federal detention memorandum said. By the time it ended, investigators had wire-tapped multiple phones, installed surveillance cameras, carried out more than 180 controlled drug purchases from members of the group, and seized multiple shipments of narcotics, according to the memo.

Those purchases, usually involving \$10 bags of narcotics, yielded more than 16 lbs of fentanyl or heroin and a much smaller amount of crack cocaine, according to the filing.

Last summer, investigators learned through wiretaps that one of the operators, Barry "Big Barry" Spires, was going to pick up a supply of heroin, then pulled him over after he obtained the narcotics, the detention memo said. Afterwards, investigators intercepted additional phone calls in which other crew members discussed the arrest and seizure.

Spires "just got popped with \$10,000 worth of [expletive]," Tia "TT" Chambers allegedly reported to David "Big Boy" Collins, the alleged head of the operation.

Collins later reported that he and other members of the crew went to Spires's car after authorities arrested him and "bust[ed] the window" to look for the narcotics, not knowing law enforcement had already seized them, the detention filing said.

The investigation culminated on July 1 when agents executed multiple search warrants tied to the organization. Prosecutors said they recovered significant quantities of suspected fentanyl, several firearms, large amounts of cash, and other evidence of drug trafficking. During one raid, agents arrested Jamieane Ellis, described in the detention filing as "a supplier to the organization" who "managed the stash house" that federal agents raided.

Prosecutors alleged Collins directed the organization while Tyrone "Smooth" Thomas, Spires, and Cortney Hanes handled wholesale quantities of drugs that replenished street sellers. Darius "Cuz" Waters allegedly obtained bulk narcotics for the group, Deontario Prater supervised street sellers, and Chambers, Octavius "Mook" Kyles, Essex "Ese" Davis, and Erik Miller allegedly sold

drugs on the street.

Federal court system entries indicate that at least 15 defendants may be involved in the case, suggesting that additional arrests could be in the offing.

The case was handled by Homeland Security Investigations, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Chicago Police Dept.

Man used gay hookup app, Instagram to lure victims into sexual assaults, blackmail scheme

A Chicago man allegedly turned a gay hookup and Instagram into hunting grounds, luring men into consensual encounters, sometimes with promises of big cash payouts, before trapping them in a cycle of sexual violence, secret recordings, extortion, and terror that, in one case, culminated in an armed home invasion, according to Cook County prosecutors.

Prosecutors say Christion Brown, 28, preyed on at least three men he met through the gay dating app Sniffies and Instagram, recording sexual encounters, threatening to expose explicit videos to victims' families, employers, and friends unless the men agreed to additional sexual encounters or extortion payments. One victim said Brown later tracked him down at home and demanded money. Another told investigators Brown returned months later by posing as a new hookup before forcing his way into the victim's residence at knifepoint and sexually assaulting him.

Judge Shauna Boliker ordered Brown detained after prosecutors outlined allegations supporting charges that include multiple counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault, armed home invasion, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated criminal sexual abuse, and more.

According to prosecutors, Brown first contacted a 25-year-old man through Sniffies earlier this year. The two exchanged selfies on Snapchat to verify their identities, chatted for about a week, and eventually agreed to meet for sex at Brown's home around Jan. 25.

During what prosecutors described as an initially consensual encounter, the victim noticed Brown recording him with a cellphone and repeatedly told Brown he did not consent to being filmed and tried to pull away. Brown continued recording for 30 to 40 seconds before stopping, prosecutors said. But instead of ending the encounter, Brown allegedly grabbed the victim by the neck with both hands, pressing his thumbs into the man's throat. Fearing he would lose consciousness, the victim stopped resisting while Brown continued sexually assaulting him, according to prosecutors.

Afterward, the victim showered, took an Uber home, and realized the cards in his wallet had been rearranged. Later that day, Brown allegedly sent the victim the explicit video, which showed the victim's face, through Snapchat. Brown also sent screenshots of the victim's LinkedIn profile and social media accounts belonging to family members, threatening to distribute the video unless the victim paid him, prosecutors alleged.

The victim blocked Brown on Snapchat but soon began receiving text messages from unknown phone numbers demanding payment through Cash App. After blocking one number, another began sending the same demands. The man reported the assault to Chicago police that day and underwent a forensic

From VIP to IDOC: Spybar co-owner sentenced for hauling 14 pounds of ketamine through O'Hare

BY CWBCHICAGO

He climbed to the top of Chicago's nightlife scene as an owner of one of River North's best-known clubs. Now, Dino Gardiakos is headed somewhere with a far less exclusive guest list.

On July 28, the 46-year-old was sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to manufacturing or delivering narcotics, a case that began after he returned to O'Hare on an international flight with 14 pounds of ketamine. It marks Gardiakos' second guilty plea in a major narcotics case since 2022. The first one ended with probation.

In March 2024, officials said Gardiakos arrived at O'Hare on an overnight flight from London

carrying six kilograms of ketamine hidden inside six containers packed in his luggage, with more in a small container. After getting caught, Gardiakos allegedly told investigators he purchased the drugs in London and that the seller explained how to conceal them so he could make it through customs at O'Hare. Or not.

Court records show Judge Timothy Joyce handed down a six-year sentence after Gardiakos entered his guilty plea. Because Gardiakos remained free throughout the case and was not ordered onto electronic monitoring, he accumulated little credit toward his prison sentence.

The arrest came while Gardiakos was on probation in an-



Dino Gardiakos is seen in his Illinois Dept. Of Corrections mugshot and in a Facebook photo at the club.

other drug case that began with a May 2021 raid on his West Town home. In that investigation, prosecutors said U.S. Customs agents intercepted a suspicious package shipped from the United Kingdom and addressed to Gardiakos.

Inside, they allegedly found more than two pounds of ketamine.

Agents resealed the package and arranged for undercover officers to deliver it to his home, prosecutors said. After receiving an alert that someone had opened the box, investigators immediately executed an anticipatory search warrant that had already been approved by a judge.

According to prosecutors, the search uncovered an estimated \$240,000 worth of drugs, including more than 11 pounds of cannabis, nearly nine pounds of THC concentrate, about one pound of Psilocybin mushrooms, and another quarter-pound of ketamine. Investigators also alleged they found about \$25,000 in cash, packaging materials, a scale, ledgers, and other items consistent with narcotics distribution.

Despite those allegations, Gardiakos ultimately pleaded guilty

to a single count of possessing a controlled substance, and Joyce sentenced him to two years of second-chance probation and ordered him to complete 30 hours of community service. On July 28, Joyce terminated the probation as "unsatisfactory."

After Gardiakos' 2024 arrest, Spybar posted a statement on Instagram saying the club's "staff, management, and the operating owner" were "shocked and saddened" by the allegations. The statement described Gardiakos as a co-owner but said he had not participated in the club's day-to-day operations for more than seven years.

"Spybar has a zero-tolerance policy for illicit or illegal activities," the statement said.

The club also said it was "working with our team of professionals" to address the situation "swiftly and thoroughly."

Gardiakos' current ownership status with the nightclub was not immediately clear.

Rats winning, city's response fails

Watchdog agency recommends new rat control strategy

BY BOB ZULEY

Chicago has a well-known rat problem and the City's response to rely on poison isn't likely to improve the situation, according to a newly released city report. City rat abatement crews responded to every neighborhood in the city.

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General [OIG] has recently released its audit of the Dept. of Street and Sanitation's [DSS] Rat Abatement Program, led by the DSS's Bureau of Rodent Control [BORC].

The OIG sought to determine if BORC's approach to addressing rat infestation aligns with the widely accepted principles of Integrated Pest Management [IPM]. IPM emphasizes long-term prevention by addressing the root causes of rat infestation and using pesticides as a last resort, thereby reducing the risks to health and the environment.

IPM is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Agency, and the Illinois Dept. of Public Health.

OIG found that DSS's rodent control program is complaint-based, not integrated with other City services, and unlikely to achieve long-term control of the rat population.

Further, BOTC's primary method of rat abatement involves the use of rodenticide known to contribute to environmental harm. OIG concluded that there is opportunity for DSS to proactively monitor for rat activity and the root cause of infestation.

"Chicago's rat control team relies on poison to respond to reports of rat sightings and infestations," said David Glockner, Chicago's Inspector General, "but the City's approach doesn't consistently target sources of food and shelter. ... Without a change in tactics, it will be nearly impossible to make lasting progress, and Chicagoans will continue to face fresh crops of rats."

OIG recommends that DSS implement proactive surveying, establish meaningful thresholds for intervention, prioritize non-toxic methods such as sanitation and



This recently dug rat hole was observed in a parkway along Broadway in Edgewater. Photo by Bob Zuley

habitat modification, and evaluate efforts of abatement efforts.

"When the city responds to successive complaints without removing rats' food and shelter through sanitation and habitat modification, it engages in 'rat harvesting': eliminating one generation of rats only to make way for another," the report states.

Rather than simply going out and poisoning rats, the report recommends crews should be gathering information on garbage and alley conditions; looking for signs of active burrows; making observations about vacant lots, weeds, or green spaces; and factoring in

citations for restaurant and building violations.

Currently, Chicago's 311 handles complaints about rats in the order in which they are received, not by the scope of the problem being reported. This results in the possibility that a report of a single rat could wind up in queue ahead of an entire building infestation.

Based on city 311 service data and rodent complaints, West Town consistently ranks as the worst community area in Chicago for rat activity, followed closely by dense neighborhoods like Logan

RATS see p. 10

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CPD from p. 1

public hearing last year regarding proposed restrictions on Chicago police traffic stops.

During that hearing, an audience member described feeling intimidated when an officer shined a flashlight into her vehicle during a traffic stop. Wortham thanked the woman for her comments, empathized, and explained that officers shine lights into vehicles to keep the area illuminated in case someone has a weapon, according to people who attended the meeting. Those remarks drew a chilly response from fellow commissioners and members of the audience.

At the time, the commission was considering recommendations that would have limited police officers' ability to conduct pretextual traffic stops. Wortham, who is Black, spent most of her life living in Chicago's Black communities, and previously served as a CPD civilian deputy director, publicly opposed limiting traf-

Supporters of Sandra Wortham suspect her colleagues' real motives are political, an effort to remove the commission's only voice with direct law enforcement experience, and the only perspective that differs from the majority's. In addition to being a former CPD civilian employee, Wortham is the daughter of a retired CPD sergeant and the sister of a slain Chicago police officer.

fic stops. CWBChicago later reported that the commission's own polling found most Chicagoans agreed with her position.

Supporters of Wortham suspect her colleagues' real motives are political, an effort to remove the commission's only voice with direct law enforcement experience, and the only perspective that differs from the majority's. In addition to being a former CPD civilian employee, Wortham is the daughter of a retired CPD sergeant and the sister of a slain Chicago police officer.

Lending some credence to the suspicions of a political motiva-

tion: on July 29, one commissioner told this reporter that they believe Wortham "is biased toward conservative" viewpoints and has a "biased lens."

To that, a former Chicago alderman countered, "All Chicagoans deserve to have a voice on that committee. If they all have the same opinions, we can get rid of six of them."

On July 29, this reporter emailed all seven commissioners seeking comment; none would speak for attribution, citing the group's by-laws. Roughly two hours later, the commission informed us that the city had been unable to locate Na-

varijo's July 10 email, which we requested through the Freedom of Information Act the prior week. A CCPSA representative said they are continuing to search for it.

On July 29 another development emerged: Cmsr. Anthony Driver Jr., acting independently, released an open letter urging the City Council to postpone the superintendent search until after next year's mayoral election.

Driver, along with Terry, led the commission's search that ultimately resulted in Snelling's selection as superintendent. According to multiple sources, Driver is also among the commissioners who have sought Wortham's removal from the current search work group, despite serving as commission president when she was appointed.

Some commissioners were also frustrated that Terry did not place the issue on the agenda for the CCPSA's July 30 public meeting at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave. Even so, people close to the commission expected

the dispute to surface during the meeting.

"I expect the hyper-political ones to have people there to raise the topic and throw fuel on it," one source said.

Navarajo, the commissioner whose email launched the internal feud, traveled his own rocky road to the commission. In May 2024, the City Council's Police and Fire Committee unanimously advanced the nominations of six other people to serve four-year terms on the CCPSA, including Wortham, Terry, and Driver. But the committee declined to advance Navarajo because he was, and remains, a staff member for Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th]. The City Council ultimately confirmed his appointment several months later.

Angel Rubi Navarajo

**DREADFUL** from p. 2

The grim financial talk revolves around the dismissal of hundreds of Chicago Public School personnel in order to restore some fiscal order.

CPS faces a massive financial shortfall of roughly \$733 million driven by the expiration of federal pandemic bailout funds, lower student enrollment, and rising costs. The Chicago Board of Education is voting on a revised nearly \$10 billion spending plan designed to close the gap.

But when did this decision appear to be the reasoned and responsible action in light of the CPS financial disintegration incubated during the Johnson fiasco of irresponsible governance? Our failing schools may be Chicago's greatest moral failure.

CONTAGIOUS FIASCO: It appears that the mayhem of bad financial planning is also unfolding at the Art Institute of Chicago. Talk there is the mayhem arising from the decision to rid themselves of all personnel responsible for maintenance and cleaning services.

Now that the volunteer expul-



Irene Mojica (left), Karen Zupko and Mr. Mike (center), and Desiree Glapion Rogers.

sion is complete, it seems like the right time to put brooms and mops away. And they can always dust the artworks with steel wool pads and windex. I'm not sure if AIC President **James Rondeau** is working with a full deck of cards but it seems like the "magic" has left the building. Perhaps he could return to exotic pole dancing in the sky. Do you think they miss **Ken Griffin** over there, or at least his wallet?

GOOD LUCK: Secretary of State **Alexi Giannoulias** attempting to prevented license plate readers from targeting women seeking abortion care. In a world with 300 cameras per block, how exactly he'll enforce that is un-

known. More virtue-signaling we fear.

THE PILL: The Birth of the Pill—by playwright **Jessica Huang**, based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning Chicago author **Jonathan Eig**, directed by **Sandra Marquez**—is a bold story about the controversial creation that reshaped women's lives and got us all some guilt-free sex with no regrets or lifetime commitment.

Commissioned and developed by TimeLine Theatre, this eye-opening world premiere launches the company's 30th Anniversary season and serves as the first production of TimeLine's inaugural season at its new home in Uptown. Go see it.

DUCK: Chicago Duck Derby is Aug. 6 at 10 a.m., on the Chicago River at Michigan Ave. Watch thousands of rubber ducks race at Pioneer Court in support of Special Olympics Illinois, with family activities, food trucks, entertainment, and more. Stop in at Market Days at Pioneer Court, featuring rotating vendors, handmade goods, specialty foods, local restaurants, and food trucks in the heart of The Mag Mile.

MEET-UP AT THE MOVIES: On August 8 and 10, join Dead Heads in your neighborhood - and around the world - for the annual Grateful Dead Meet-Up at the Movies.

This year the audience will be dancing to the complete June 17, 1991 concert from Giants Stadium, featuring appearances by both **Bruce Hornsby** and **Vince Welnick**. The film will be showing at several Chicago theaters.

WHO'S WHERE: **Dan Balanoff** in Ogunquit, ME, at the wedding of a classmate and having fun time with the Carey Sisters... Belated birthday wishes to **Dr. Robert Sobel**... **Liz Teasley** in Ohio with son, **Caleb**, at the St. Ignatius soccer tournament where Caleb has been moved up to the JV/Senior soccer team as goalie... Belated Happy Birthdays to **Cathy Bell Bartholomay** and **Irene Mojica**... **John Reilly**, Chicago's most prestigious photographer, just celebrated birthday # 83 with homemade key lime pie... **Doug Van Tress** made a quick trip to Budapest and Paris sourcing things for The Golden Triangle... **Desiree Glapion Rogers** introducing her Fashion Fair cosmetics new foundation formulations at the Jack and Jill of America conference... **Karen Zupko** and **Mr. Mike** having a good time in Iceland... **Father Jeremiah Boland**, recently retired, in Dublin leading tour and genuflecting at the good pubs... **Doc and Jennifer Sutton Brievea** at the Ajax Tavern in Aspen, CO... Barrister **Bernard Dunleavy** is in our Sister City of Galway at their famed Arts Festival in the Heineken Bog Top... **Heather Farley** at Wrigley

taking in a night game.

GEN X: Catholic leadership is undergoing a generational shift that could shake up the future of the Church. The influx of Generation X bishops will impact Catholicism in a big way. Maybe eulogies will return at funerals. Someone alert **Bishop Dusty Springfield**.

MART ANTHONY'S: **Michael Campos'** Mart Anthony's Italian at Hubbard and Racine will host a fabulous Italian dinner on Aug. 6. Featuring the grand wines of Michigan vineyards. A unique seafood dinner of incomparable cuisine in five courses with **Maxx** and **Sydney** of the superb Stranger Wine Co. of Michigan. Seating is limited.

WASHINGTON BEAT: **Deborah Ziskind** attended a special dinner with Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** at the Four Seasons in Georgetown in memory of the late Sen. **Lindsey Graham**, who was always a friend to Israel and the Jewish people as well as to President **Volodymyr Zelinsky** and the Ukrainian people.

Almost everyone knows Deborah is a Democrat. But she went down both sides of the aisle for many policies and programs for healthcare. Sen. Graham was very supportive of the Global Health Policy and Clinical Institute they built. For that reason and so many others, it was important to be at this memorial dinner.

WATCH YOUR BACK: **Dr. Anthony Fauci** walked into a Senate hearing room on last Wednesday, got sworn in, and then refused to answer a single question, invoking his Fifth Amendment right more than a hundred times in what turned into one of the strangest oversight hearings in recent memory. Tony's worst days are ahead of him as more people come to realize the damage done, and what really happened in those lockdown days. Chicago has still not yet recovered.

The role of journalism is not to mindlessly affirm power, but to relentlessly examine it.

- Maria Ressa

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Cash for Gold Coast underpass



Repairs will be coming to the Gold Coast underpass to Oak St. Beach as US Rep. Mike Quigley [5th] has secured \$2 million in taxpayer funds to help rebuild and improve the underpass to the lake - one of the busiest underpasses on the North Side. On July 31, the official presentation of the funds to the pedestrian thoroughfare were presented.

History Museum names new President to lead city's oldest cultural institution

Michael J. Anderson has been chosen as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago History Museum [CHM]. Anderson, previously vice president of external affairs and development, was named Interim President after his predecessor, Donald Lassere, resigned in January. The announcement was made by Board Chair Warren Chapman.

Anderson joined the CHM - Chicago's oldest cultural institution - in 2014 and has worked with senior management and trustees helping to build and solidify relationships with major donors. He previously held key administrative positions at Columbia College Chicago and Southern Utah Univ. He earned his undergraduate degree in marketing from Southern Utah Univ., a master's in arts administration from Wayne State Univ., and attended the Quinlan School of Business at Loyola Univ. Chicago.

Anderson's appointment is effective immediately. He was selected after a six-month search that attracted more than 70 applicants from a nationwide pool.

"Michael is the right person to lead the Museum as cultural institutions nationwide rethink how to offer the best experience possible to visitors and members," Chapman said. "People changed their leisure-time habits during the pandemic, and we need to make sure our Museum offerings are compelling and meaningful. Michael has the vision and experience to lead these



Michael J. Anderson
Photo courtesy Alexis Goettsch

efforts."

Anderson says that leading the CHM at this moment "gives me a unique opportunity to continue making it the go-to place for all things Chicago—topical, thoughtful, fearless. By embracing new technologies, partnering with communities, and presenting dynamic, playful, and probing exhibitions and programs, our committed staff not only preserves the past but helps shape our city's future."

Anderson has been active in Chicago's arts and cultures scene for more than 30 years, first as a dancer with the Joffrey Ballet, then a fundraiser at Columbia College Chicago. He has served on several nonprofit boards, including Chicago Dance Health Fund and the Gerald Arpino Foundation.

"As interim president, Michael demonstrated his willingness and ability to tackle complex issues, and to ensure we remain a trusted and valued resource for scholarly research and a destination for learning, inspiration, and community engagement. We envision this transition to be seamless," Chapman said.

CHM typically welcomes more than 150,000 visitors annually, including student group visits of more than 30,000. To celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, the Museum has a variety of exhibitions, including four foundational documents in the Museum's collection, as well as a refreshed "Facing Freedom" exhibition that asks visitors, "What would you do for freedom?"

In October, an exhibition "Threads of a Nation: Preserving Presidential Clothing" will feature garments worn by former U.S. presidents George Washington, John Adams, and Abraham Lincoln. The clothing is from the Museum's extensive costume collection.

LEGISLATION from p. 5

TIF along the North Branch of the Chicago River, the 31-acre riverfront redevelopment centered at Cortland and Southport, straddling Bucktown and Lincoln Park.

A residential parking zone under Chicago Transportation Authority is pending as of July 15 in a City Council committee for Zone 383 (02026-0026413).

A citywide ordinance that will affect small businesses (02026-0027305) regarding small grants is also under consideration.

Also a requirement (SB2918) that parent-teacher advisory committees be part of writing school discipline policies, specifically the definitions of serious misconduct that trigger suspension or expulsion.

And more liquor stores are coming to Lawrence Ave. The City Council voted to allow new liquor store licenses along portions of Lawrence where they were previously off-limits and considered "dry." That ordinance (O2026-0026202) is now adopted by the council.

Campbell's concoction follows other legislative intelligence platforms in this area, such as Hilltop, LegiScan, USLege, Legislator, and others.

It "lowers the barrier to participating in democracy and keeps people informed at the local level which is often the least covered but most impactful," Campbell said.

Thirsty Ears Festival Aug. 22-23

Access to Contemporary Music [ACM] is once again hosting the Thirsty Ears Festival, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 22 and 23, at 1758 W. Wilson Ave.

Thirsty Ears is Chicago's only classical music street festival.

For those two days Wilson between Hermitage and Ravenswood are closed

to feature ensembles and soloists performing a range of classical music from all eras on the main stage. There will also be food and beverage booths, and kid-friendly activities. The suggested entry donation is \$10. In the event of rain, the event moves to the All Saints Church.

Black Ensemble Theater to offer free outdoor concert series in honor of 50th year

Fridays on the Green
Aug. 14, 21, 28

Uptown's Black Ensemble Theater [BET] continues its 50th Anniversary Season with the return of its outdoor musical celebration Fridays on the Green. The concert series is free and open to the public on the theater's front lawn at the corner of Clark and Sunnyside from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The summer line-up includes: The McNary Experience, featuring Qiana McNary on Aug. 14, composer and saxophonist Mark Felton on Aug. 21 and the Black Ensemble All-Stars on Aug. 28.

Guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. In the event of inclement weather, the performances

and activities are moved indoors.

Celebrating 50 years of history at BET, The Black Ensemble All-Stars will perform some of the greatest hits from previous productions. Featuring Black Ensemble's signature band and a cast of favorite performers, this will be a musical celebration for all ages.

Founded in 1976 by acclaimed producer, playwright, and actress Jackie Taylor, BET is the only African American theater on the diverse North Side. Through its Educational Outreach Programs, BET has served more than 10,000 young people. BET has produced more than 100 productions and employed more than 5,000 artists. For more information, visit www.BlackEnsembleTheater.org or call 773-769-4451.

Letter to the Editor

Today's concerns become tomorrow's regrets

Don DeBat's [July 29] column reminds us that Old Town's architectural treasures deserve more than admiration. They deserve stewardship. Old Town's character was shaped by generations of owners, preservationists, craftsmen, city officials, and neighbors. The Commission on Chicago Landmarks was created to help protect that architectural legacy.

Preservation is a delicate and dedicated task. It requires respect for history and a commitment to preserve a landmark's character for future generations. Half-finished restoration is not preservation. When serious questions arise about whether a landmark restoration is meeting preservation standards, the public naturally expects the city's preservation process to provide answers.

During this year's Old Town Art Fair, thousands admired the neighborhood's architecture, and many paused at the Wacker House. What they encountered raised legitimate questions about whether the restoration reflects the architectural standards Old Town has long represented. Those questions deserve thoughtful public answers.

The alderman should step up and step in by bringing together city departments,

the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, owners, preservationists, contractors, and neighbors before today's concerns become tomorrow's regrets. Old Town deserves restorations completed with care, craftsmanship, and respect for both neighbors and the neighborhood. It is time for everyone entrusted with preserving our architectural heritage to step up and step in. Anybody home?

Tim Carew
Old Town

*Have something on your mind
about your community?*

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RATS from p. 7

Square, Lakeview, Portage Park, West Ridge and Lincoln Park.

Studies have shown that sewer systems are common habitats for rats. Yet neither DSS nor the Dept. of Water Management “had assessed or monitored whether particular areas of the sewer system serve as reservoirs for rats or contribute to ongoing issues,” according to the analysis.

“The fact that DSS does not provide sanitation services to the entire city also reduces their ability to prevent infestations,” the report states. It is incumbent upon

You may report rats in Chicago by calling 311, using the Chicago 311 website, or using the Chi311 mobile app.

private waste haulers to maintain their bins and dumpsters. The same goes for decorative sidewalk waste cans – often paid for by chambers of commerce or Special Service Assessment areas – which tend to overflow from the top and leak from the bottom.

Certain types of rats – especially Norway rats found in Chicago – live in dug-out underground



City rat abatement crews responded to every neighborhood in Chicago. Courtesy Chicago Data Portal

burrows commonly referred to as rat holes. The tunnels usually go down about 18 inches and can span several feet with one or two hidden holes for safety.

Freshly excavated soil is often pushed out in a distinct fan shape outside the main hole. Nests are built under sidewalks, concrete slabs, foundations, or thick bushes near food and water.

You may report rats in Chicago by calling 311, using the Chicago 311 website, or using the Chi311 mobile app.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

examination at a hospital. Investigators documented injuries to his neck, abdomen, groin, and buttocks, prosecutors said. While at the hospital, the victim called his mother to reveal that he had been raped and also informed his friends and roommates about what had happened.

On April 13, while detectives were trying to locate Brown, prosecutors said, Brown appeared at the victim’s front door demanding money. The victim called police, but Brown had left before officers arrived.

The second victim told investigators he first met Brown on Sniffies in Nov. 2025 after Brown offered to pay him \$5,000 if he would allow Brown to perform a specific sexual act while the victim wore a construction worker outfit.

The man finally agreed to meet at Brown’s home, where Brown allegedly began recording the encounter with his cellphone. The victim objected until Brown offered even more money and displayed what appeared to be a completed money transfer. The victim later realized the payment was fake, prosecutors said. The two then had consensual sex.

The following day, after receiving no payment, the victim contacted Brown through Snapchat, prosecutors said. Instead of paying him, Brown allegedly sent the recorded video and told the victim it would remain private only if he performed sexual acts

whenever Brown demanded and followed Brown’s instructions. Brown also sent screenshots of the victim’s LinkedIn profile and employment information, prompting the victim to contact police, prosecutors said.

On March 23, the victim was communicating with a man on Sniffies and invited him to his home for what he expected would be a consensual sexual encounter. When he opened the door, though, Brown was standing there holding a knife, prosecutors said. Brown allegedly entered the home, locked the door, ordered the victim to undress and get onto the bed, then sexually assaulted him while holding the knife against the back of his neck.

At one point, Brown set the knife down. The victim grabbed it, held it to Brown’s neck, and placed Brown in a chokehold until Brown broke free and attempted to flee but struggled with the door lock before finally escaping. After pulling on his pants, the victim chased Brown for several blocks before stopping and calling police.

Prosecutors said Brown’s third alleged victim was an 18-year-old man whom Brown began messaging repeatedly on Instagram in March 2026. At the time, the victim was 17. After exchanging messages and explicit photographs, Brown allegedly offered the teenager \$1,000 to meet for sex. When that failed, Brown increased the offer to \$1,500 and eventually \$2,000, which the victim accepted.

During the encounter, prosecu-

tors said Brown ignored the victim’s requests regarding condom use and falsely claimed he had already sent payment through Cash App. When the victim refused one of Brown’s demands, Brown allegedly produced a knife and held it between the victim’s legs.

The victim later sought treatment at Rush University Medical Center. Chicago police officers who responded to the hospital recognized Brown’s address from the home invasion case, allowing detectives to connect the incidents, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors also said Brown has a prior felony case in Champaign County. In that situation, Champaign police responded to Brown’s residence in 2025 after a 26-year-old man called 911. The man told officers Brown had pulled a handgun during a confrontation, offered him \$100,000 to perform sex acts, and threatened violence if he refused.

“You can take the \$100,000 and be a good boy to daddy, or I can get violent to no end to get what I want,” Brown allegedly told the man, according to prosecutors.

The victim reported wrestling Brown’s gun away before calling 911. Brown was arrested on an unlawful use of a weapon charge and ultimately received court supervision, prosecutors said.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Plaintiff vs. Raphael Strzelecki aka Raphael D. Strzelecki; Imperial Towers Condominium Association; United States of America, Department of Treasury; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants; Defendant 24 CH 6259 CALENDAR 62 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on September 14, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-16-301-041-1323. Commonly known as 4250 North Marine Drive Unit 2812, Chicago, IL 60613. The real estate is: 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: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563. (630) 453-6960. 1422-201458 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13291969	WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF MFRA TRUST 2015-1 Plaintiff, -v- CORALIA CLAUDIA BOUDREAUX, WAYNE F. BOUDREAUX JR., JAMES L. BATES, 539-547 W BROMPTON CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 25 CH 1011 547 W. BROMPTON AVE., UNIT 1S CHICAGO, IL 60657 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 2, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on September 8, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 547 W. BROMPTON AVE., UNIT 1S, CHICAGO, IL 60657 Property Index No. 14-21-112-014-1023 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$278,679.81.	Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property 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 LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 357-1125 Please refer calls to the sales department. Please refer to file number 24-01660. 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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201 CHICAGO IL 60606	312-357-1125 E-Mail: pleadings@nevellaw.com Attorney File No. 24-01660 Attorney Code. 18837 Case Number: 25 CH 1011 T.JSC#: 46-1347 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 # 25 CH 1011 8277-967610 050505 ----- 292929 ----- 222222 ----- Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700

North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff, -v- Ralph A. Zajeski; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants; One East Scott Condominium Association Defendants. 2025CH10535 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 6/11/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 9/14/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on September 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 1 East Scott, Unit 2204, Chicago, IL 60610 Property Index No. 17-03-112-033-1221 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$77,797.46 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 1 East Scott, Unit 2204 into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. 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) (l) 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 AC-	CORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: MDK Legal (312) 651-6700 please refer to file number 25-024383. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 25-024383 Case Number: 2025CH10535 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. 13291867 050505 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST 2016-4, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE Plaintiff, -v- TANVIRBUKHT, 474 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 25 CH 9097 474 N. LAKE SHORE DR., UNIT 4108 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 27, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on September 1, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 474 N. LAKE SHORE DR., UNIT 4108, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-222-007-1297 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$571,418.51. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the	purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property 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 LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 357-1125 Please refer calls to the sales department. Please refer to file number 25-01711. 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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201 CHICAGO IL, 60606 312-357-1125 E-Mail: pleadings@nevellaw.com Attorney File No. 25-01711 Attorney Code. 18837 Case Number: 25 CH 9097 T.JSC#: 46-1320 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 # 25 CH 9097 8232-967496 292929 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY,	ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CHURCHILL MRA FUNDING I, LLC, as successor-in-interest to PEBBMAX LENDING CO, LLC, as successor-in-interest to W Financial Fund, LP Plaintiff vs. RAFFAELLO CHICAGO PROPCO, LLC, TERGESTE, INC., d/b/a PELAGO, and Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendant 26 CH 1885Calendar NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on August 17, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: Pin Numbers: 17-03-221-012-1005; 17-03-221-012-1006; 17-03-221-012-1007; 17-03-221-012-1008; 17-03-221-012-1009; 17-03-221-012-1010; 17-03-221-012-1011 17-03-221-012-1012; 17-03-221-012-1013; 17-03-221-012-1014; 17-03-221-012-1052; 17-03-221-012-1096; 17-03-221-012-1053; 17-03-221-012-1054 17-03-221-012-1055; 17-03-221-012-1056; 17-03-221-012-1057; 17-03-221-012-1058; 17-03-221-012-1059; 17-03-221-012-1060; 17-03-221-012-1061 17-03-221-012-1097; 17-03-221-012-1098; 17-03-221-012-1099; 17-03-221-012-1100; 17-03-221-012-1101; 17-03-221-012-1102; 17-03-221-012-1103 17-03-221-012-1104; 17-03-221-012-1105; 17-03-221-012-1015; 17-03-221-012-1062; 17-03-221-012-1106; 17-03-221-012-1016; 17-03-221-012-1063 17-03-221-012-1107; 17-03-221-012-1017; 17-03-221-012-1064; 17-03-221-012-1109; 17-03-221-012-1018; 17-03-221-012-1065; 17-03-221-012-1110 17-03-221-012-1019; 17-03-221-012-1066; 17-03-221-012-1111; 17-03-221-012-1020; 17-03-221-012-1067; 17-03-221-012-1112; 17-03-221-012-1022 17-03-221-012-1068; 17-03-221-012-1113; 17-03-221-012-1023; 17-03-221-012-1066; 17-03-221-012-1114; 17-03-221-012-1024; 17-03-221-012-1070	17-03-221-012-1115; 17-03-221-012-1025; 17-03-221-012-1071; 17-03-221-012-1116; 17-03-221-012-1026; 17-03-221-012-1072; 17-03-221-012-1117 17-03-221-012-1027; 17-03-221-012-1073; 17-03-221-012-1118; 17-03-221-012-1028; 17-03-221-012-1121; 17-03-221-012-1029 17-03-221-012-1075; 17-03-221-012-1120; 17-03-221-012-1030; 17-03-221-012-1076; 17-03-221-012-1121; 17-03-221-012-1031; 17-03-221-012-1077 17-03-221-012-1122; 17-03-221-012-1032; 17-03-221-012-1078; 17-03-221-012-1123; 17-03-221-012-1033; 17-03-221-012-1079; 17-03-221-012-1124 17-03-221-012-1034; 17-03-221-012-1080; 17-03-221-012-1125; 17-03-221-012-1035; 17-03-221-012-1081; 17-03-221-012-1126; 17-03-221-012-1036 17-03-221-012-1082; 17-03-221-012-1127; 17-03-221-012-1037; 17-03-221-012-1083; 17-03-221-012-1128; 17-03-221-012-1038; 17-03-221-012-1084 17-03-221-012-1129; 17-03-221-012-1039; 17-03-221-012-1085; 17-03-221-012-1130; 17-03-221-012-1040; 17-03-221-012-1086; 17-03-221-012-1131 17-03-221-012-1042; 17-03-221-012-1087; 17-03-221-012-1132; 17-03-221-012-1043; 17-03-221-012-1088; 17-03-221-012-1133; 17-03-221-012-1044 17-03-221-012-1089; 17-03-221-012-1134; 17-03-221-012-1045; 17-03-221-012-1090; 17-03-221-012-1135; 17-03-221-012-1046; 17-03-221-012-1091 17-03-221-012-1136; 17-03-221-012-1048; 17-03-221-012-1092; 17-03-221-012-1137; 17-03-221-012-1049; 17-03-221-012-1093; 17-03-221-012-1138 17-03-221-012-1050; 17-03-221-012-1094; 17-03-221-012-1139; 17-03-221-012-1051; 17-03-221-012-1095; 17-03-221-012-1140; 17-03-221-012-1141 17-03-221-012-1142; 17-03-221-012-1144; 17-03-221-012-1145; 17-03-221-012-1146; 17-03-221-012-1147; 17-03-221-012-1148; 17-03-221-012-1149 17-03-221-012-1180; 17-03-221-012-1181; 17-03-221-012-1182; 17-03-221-012-1183; 17-03-221-	012-1184; 17-03-221-012-1185; 17-03-221-012-1186 17-03-221-012-1187; 17-03-221-012-1151; 17-03-221-012-1152; 17-03-221-012-1153; 17-03-221-012-1154; 17-03-221-012-1155; 17-03-221-012-1156 17-03-221-012-1157; 17-03-221-012-1158; 17-03-221-012-1159; 17-03-221-012-1160; 17-03-221-012-1161; 17-03-221-012-1162; 17-03-221-012-1163 17-03-221-012-1164; 17-03-221-012-1165; 17-03-221-012-1166; 17-03-221-012-1167; 17-03-221-012-1168; 17-03-221-012-1169; 17-03-221-012-1170 17-03-221-012-1171; 17-03-221-012-1172; 17-03-221-012-1173; 17-03-221-012-1174; 17-03-221-012-1175; 17-03-221-012-1176; 17-03-221-012-1177 17-03-221-012-1178; 17-03-221-012-1179. Commonly known as 201 East Delaware Place, Chicago, Illinois 60611. The real estate is: multi-unit residential and mixed-use building. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, 111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 2600, Chicago, Illinois 60601-4208. (312) 527-4000. Churchill vs. Raffaello INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13290423 222222 ----- Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700

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Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to
"An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed
Business Name in the conduct or transaction
of Business in the State," as amended, that a
certification was registered by the undersigned
with the County Clerk of Cook County.
Registration Number: M26001858 on July 21, 2026
Under the Assumed Business Name of
ALL STAMPED MOBILE NOTARY
with the business located at:
646 Frances, Phoenix, IL 60426
The true and real full name(s) and residence
address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is:
Owner/Partner Full Name: KATRICE RANDLE
Complete Address: 646 FRANCES
PHOENIX, IL 60426, USA

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in
relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name
in the conduct or transaction of Business in the
State," as amended, that a certification
was registered by the undersigned with the
County Clerk of Cook County.
Registration Number: M26001834
on July 13, 2026.
Under the Assumed Business Name of:
PRETTY HABIT CO.
with the business located at:
6540 SOUTH KING DRIVE APT 2B,
CHICAGO, IL 60637
The true and real full name(s) and residence
address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is:
Owner/Partner Full Name: AYANI MURPHY
Complete Address: 6540 SOUTH KING DRIVE
APT 2B, CHICAGO, IL 60637, USA

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Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St.,
773-247-3000, is opening lockers:
(3D3362) Grace Barry, (3F3588) Angel L Lampkin,
(3F3569) Tobias Lewis, (3E3471) Kevin Regnier,
and (3F3634) James Shea
for public sale of miscellaneous items.
This sale is to be held on Thursday, July 30, 2026,
at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage, located at
429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312-644-2000),
is opening lockers: 4530X (Cornett, Donald),
6601X and 6910X (Glickman, Ross),
3520X (Parker, Kendral),
and 5520X (Halloran, Thomas)
for public sale on August 25, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
Cash only.

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien
on certain self service Storage Spaces in default
listed below on the 21st of August 2026
at 12:00 p.m. at 3632 E. Lake Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091 at www.storage treasures.com
with the sale to conclude no earlier
than 12:00 p.m.
F15 Diana Macedo
This public sale will result in the goods being sold
to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay
by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning
bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply;
see the Manager for additional details.

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien
on certain self service Storage Spaces in default
listed below on the 21st. of August 2026 at
12:00 p.m. at 2724 W. 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608 at
www.storage treasures.com
with the sale to conclude
no earlier than 12:00 p.m.
1110 Zimbalist Griffin
2015 Evgenii Alchin
2036 Yvette Jones
3013 Sashiana T Hemphill Lee
4009 Casey Whitley
4036 Isaac Pacey

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

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possessions to more easily
move into a smaller home.
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organize and clean for the
deceased in lieu of having the
bereaved needing to do the
preparation to sell or rent the
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absolutely not judgemental;
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than your job assignment.
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can we please help you?
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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
U.S. Bank Trust, National Association as trustee for
BKPL-EG 2025-RPL2 Series Trust
Plaintiff
vs.
Maria C. Quiroz; The Bank of New York Mellon
fka The Bank of New York, as Indenture Trustee
for CWHEO Revolving Home Equity Loan Trust,
Series 2006-1; State of Illinois, Department of
Revenue; 2323-25 West Morse Avenue Condominium
Association; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord
Claimants
Defendant
25 CH 12994
CALENDAR 62
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to
a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above
entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corpora-
tion will on September 14, 2026, at the hour 11:00
a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street,
Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to
the highest bidder for cash, the following described
mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 11-31-117-021-1001.
Commonly known as 2323 West Morse Avenue,
1E, Chicago, Illinois 60645.
The real estate is: 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 189.5 of the
Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the
bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the
Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds,
balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No re-
funds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens
or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open

Real Estate For Sale

for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished
to check the circuit court case record, property tax
record and the title record to verify all information
before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR
(HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO
REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER
THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c)
OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
LAW.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's
Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 Lucerne Drive,
Suite 210, Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130. (440)
572-1511. ILF2512002
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORA-
TION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13291957

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Plaintiff
vs.
Abayomi Ajayi; State of Illinois - Department of
Revenue; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Orlanti
Ajayi; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants;
Damon Ritenhouse, as Special Representative for
Orlanti Ajayi (deceased)
Defendant
25 CH 16
CALENDAR 56
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to
a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above
entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corpora-
tion will on September 14, 2026, at the hour 11:00
a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street,

Real Estate For Sale

Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to
the highest bidder for cash, the following described
mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 11-31-120-048-0000.
Commonly known as 2004 W. Farwell Ave., Chi-
cago, IL 60645.
The real estate is: single family residence. If the
subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a com-
mon interest community, the purchaser of the unit
other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments
required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the
Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the
bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the
Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds,
balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No re-
funds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens
or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open
for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished
to check the circuit court case record, property tax
record and the title record to verify all information
before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR
(HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO
REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER
THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c)
OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
LAW.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's
Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North
Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527.
(630) 794-5300. 14-24-07580
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORA-
TION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13291929

050505 -----
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY,

Real Estate For Sale

ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
AMERISAVE MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Plaintiff,
-v-
JENNIFER M BREWER, FIGURE LENDING LLC
Defendants
2024 CH 06061
7555 NORTH ROGERS AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60626
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursu-
ant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered
in the above cause on June 12, 2026, an agent for
The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on
August 31, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation,
One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35F, Chicago,
IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest
bidder, as set forth below, the following described
real estate:
Commonly known as 7555 NORTH ROGERS
AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60626
Property Index No. 11-29-301-002-0000
The real estate is improved with a single family
residence.
The judgment amount was \$420,398.61.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the
Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified
funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judi-
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 with-
out 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 af-
ter 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 pur-
chaser 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 (HOME-
OWNER), 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,
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Attorneys, 141 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD SUITE
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E-Mail: andrew.weiss@gwbaw.com
Attorney File No. IL-005858-24
Attorney ARDC No. 6284233
Attorney Code. 48947
Case Number: 2024 CH 06061
TJSC#: 46-1525
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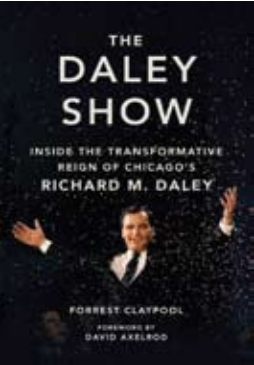
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Reign of Daley subject of Aug. 8 book talk

The Edgewater Historical Society and Chicago Public library are co-hosting a book discussion 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8



at the Edgewater Library on a book by Forest Claypool titled “The Daley Show: Inside the Transformative Reign of Chicago’s Richard M. Daley.”

Daley served as mayor for 22 years and managed several large and expensive projects like building Millennium Park, the demolition of failed public housing, and the controversial sale of the Chicago Skyway and Chicago’s parking meters.

Copies of the book are available in the library, 6000 N. Broadway.

DATA CENTER from p. 1

High-rise electrical risers and local grid connections are rarely scaled to deliver the necessary megawatts.

The cooling of those computer grids is also an issue. Moving massive amounts of hot air out of a sealed high-rise tower is difficult. Rooftop space is usually too small to house the massive industrial chillers and cooling towers required for modern high-density, AI-focused computing. So not every building can pull off such a conversion.

Gabal confirmed to TheRealDeal.com that he remains an owner of the building and plans to hold onto the property long-term, but declined to comment further. A \$12.5 million deed denoting the transaction was recorded publicly.

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The new money comes after Gabal successfully fought off a series of legal challenges after he bought the distressed 12-story, 240,000-square-foot building for \$4 million in 2023, which is about \$17 per square foot.

Since the legal matters were settled, Gabal said he has been able to advance his plans to convert the second through 6th floors of the building into a data center.

The building’s location along existing fiber networks and proximity to the Cen-Trio cooling facility reportedly help make the project more feasible.

Three floors are presently fully occupied, one is partially occupied and two are vacant, Gabal told the outlet. The first floor will remain retail space and vacant portions of the building will likely not be leased to new tenants during the conversion process, which could begin this year.

Not far away, Quintin Primo’s Capri Investment Group and Mike Reschke’s Prime Group sold the six-story, 385,000 square foot 400 S. LaSalle St. high-rise for \$40 million last fall to convert into a data center.



West side of N. State St. between W. Kinzie and Illinois streets.

SIDEWALK from p. 1

Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] and the Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] to “work together to repair this sidewalk and make it safe and accessible for everyone.”

Indeed the one-block stretch of sidewalk on the west side of State St. between Hubbard and Illinois streets was dangerous and in horrible repair, reported Ellen Condron in a 2016 letter to the city. She worked at 8 W. Hubbard and traveled past the mess on a regular basis.

“There have been numerous issues with people falling or tripping there. This is completely unacceptable,” she said in a 2016 letter. “The slope of it and crumbling cement make it oftentimes impassable where pedestrians need to walk ... on a busy street.”

The Alderman noted his concerns that the poor maintenance of the sidewalks was a financial risk to the city, as he thought the

city would get sued for failing to maintain this public sidewalk.

“I even attempted to dedicate a portion of my Aldermanic Menu funds to the project, but was informed that the repairs fell outside the scope of the program,” reported Ald. Reilly.

The Alderman noted his concerns that the poor maintenance of the sidewalks was a financial risk to the city, as he thought the city would get sued for failing to maintain this public sidewalk.

Over the years, he continued to advocate for this improvement, and after 20 years of fighting City Hall, the work has finally been done.

“After nearly two decades of persistent advocacy, I am pleased to announce that

DIVISION ST from p. 1

with some landscaping work happening in the spring of 2027.

Further to the west, major changes coming to Division St. all the way west out to I-90/94 are still in the planning phase.

Division St. from Cleveland Ave. west to the Kennedy Expy. is a heavily traveled corridor with two bridges that cross over the North Branch of the Chicago River and the North Branch Canal. Both have been deemed structurally deficient and functionally obsolete.

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Letter to Commissioner Thomas Byrne, dated June 10, 2009, requesting an inspection and repair of sidewalk on both sides of the 400 block of N. State St., signed by Ald. Brendan Reilly.

the sidewalk has finally been repaired and the hazardous sloped pavement has been removed. The improvements have created a safer, more accessible path for residents and visitors alike,” reported Reilly last week.

“While this project took far longer than it should have, it demonstrates the importance of persistent advocacy and the need to ensure our public infrastructure is safe and accessible for everyone,” he said in his weekly newsletter.

CDOT has initiated a project to replace the bridges as well as widen Division St. from two to four lanes with an exclusive left turn lane/variable median.

The existing Division St. bridge over the North Branch of the Chicago River is a single-span, two-lane, bascule bridge that will be replaced with a single-span, five-lane, tied-arch bridge. Planning and design firm H.W. Lochner is overseeing the design of the new structure, which will include a vertical clearance of 19-feet.

Because this section of river is a navigable waterway, the new bridge will also have a vertically lifting arch span that could be further elevated should the need arise for the passage of boats.

The existing bridge over the North Branch Canal is a three-span, two-lane, acrow bridge that will be replaced with a single span, five-lane, fixed thrust arch bridge. Lochner is designing the bridge with a 55-foot wide, curb-to-curb roadway section and sidewalks that will line both sides of the bridge and include ornamental pedestrian cable railings and crashworthy traffic barrier railings.

The bridge design also accommodates an under-bridge riverwalk that will connect to the already established riverwalk system through downtown Chicago.

A new roadway design is being developed for Division St. that hopes to improve traffic flow, increase vehicular and pedestrian safety, and enhance the overall environment along the corridor. The roadway will be widened from two to four lanes with an exclusive left turn lane/variable median. To allow for this exclusive lane across Goose Island, Lochner is overseeing the preparation of right of way plans for each side street intersection. The design includes ADA-compliant sidewalks on both sides of Division, new curb and gutter, and new street lighting.

Modernized traffic signals will be made at all existing signalized intersections within limits. The intersection of Division and Hickory streets will include a new traffic signal, and the Division St. intersections with Elston Ave. and Halsted St. will be reconstructed to accommodate changes to the corridor’s alignment. Lochner is also undertaking full topographic and underground utility surveys and designing drainage improvements.