

History never looks like history when you are living through it.

— John W. Gardner

INSIDE-BOOSTER

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NEWS OF LINCOLN PARK, LAKE VIEW, NORTH CENTER & LINCOLN SQUARE

insideonline.com

Clout motivating factor behind City's planned giveaway of Lincoln Square parking lot

BY PETER VON BUOL

The board of directors of the Boston-based developer that may be gifted the city-owned parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave. has a familiar name to those well-versed in Chicago history, Patrick Nash.

Patrick J. Nash, a director for The Community Builders [TCB], is the grandson of the late Patrick A. Nash, co-founder of Chicago's Kelly-Nash Democratic Machine. That machine dominated Chicago politics and government from 1933-1947 and became the basis for the political machine operated by the late Mayor Richard J. Daley. In 1989, many of Daley's al-

lies supported the election of his son, Richard M. Daley as mayor. The younger Daley would surpass his father's tenure and served 22 years in office.

And now Ald. Matt Martin [47th] is providing cover to the Nash clan - and TCB - in helping them to gain millions of dollars in new wealth courtesy of the taxpayer.

Nash, who worked for Chase Bank, may be serving as the syndicator for several of TCB's development projects in Chicago, selling tax credits to fund construction, including the proposal for 4715 N. Western Ave. Nash, director at TCB, retired in 2015 from his role as managing direc-

tor at J.P. Morgan Capital Corp. [JPMCC] and the head of its Direct Housing Investments Group. According to information posted in Nash's biography on TCB's website, JPMCC invests throughout the country in what are described as "Section 42 Affordable Housing" transactions.

He is a very influential part of the financial network that utilizes Low Income Housing Tax Credits [LIHTC] to build housing projects, over the years working with some of the largest investors in the field.

These LIHTCs are monetized through their sale to banks, hedge

CLOUT see p. 12

Lightfoot administration once again promises "all hands on deck" to fight violence

BY CWBCHICAGO

On June 11, 2019, Mayor Lori Lightfoot called a press conference to announce that she would take an "all hands on deck approach" to fighting violence in Chicago.

"This has to be an all hands on deck approach to making sure that we're strengthening our communities, but also addressing the issue of violence," she said.

Later that summer, Lightfoot built on the all-hands theme: "We're bringing everyone to the table to build on our 'all hands on deck effort' to create real, widespread and lasting public safety by addressing these issues head-on in a coordinated and collective effort."

Over the next year, Chicago's shooting and murder tallies increased by more than 50%. This year is outpacing last. And July, the month that just ended, will go down as the third-worst month for murders in Chicago since the police department's modern record-keeping system began in 1957.

On Monday police charged Eric Morgan, 22, and Emonte Morgan, 21, in the fatal shooting of one Chicago police officer and wounding a second officer at 9:08 p.m. Aug. 7, in the 2200 block of W. 63rd St. All hands were on

deck, but it still wasn't enough.

So, of course, the mayor's office on Thursday called a press conference to rally "all hands on deck" to fight the violence. Lightfoot's new press secretary, Cesar Rodriguez, announced the latest "all hands on deck" approach on Twitter Aug. 5.

"The press conference starts in 15 minutes," Rodriguez tweeted. "It will be an all hands on deck approach to reducing violence."

Then, he backed it up with a selfie video from outside the soon-to-happen press conference.

"Mayor Lori Lightfoot is making a big announcement," Rodriguez told the camera. "It starts with all hands on deck approach."

In June, Lightfoot tweeted that her Director of Violence Reduction, Norman Livingston Kerr, "leads our all hands on deck approach to public safety and violence prevention."

"ALL hands on deck!" Kerr said on Twitter a few weeks later with photos of Lightfoot at a community rally.

Heading into the Fourth of July weekend, Lightfoot again vowed to have all hands on deck. But her deputy mayor for public safety and her chief of staff both took days off in the week before the holiday, the Chicago Tribune

reported: "Leading up to the summer months when Chicago historically sees its highest levels of violence, Mayor Lori Lightfoot vowed to take an "all hands on deck" approach to stopping the city's shootings.

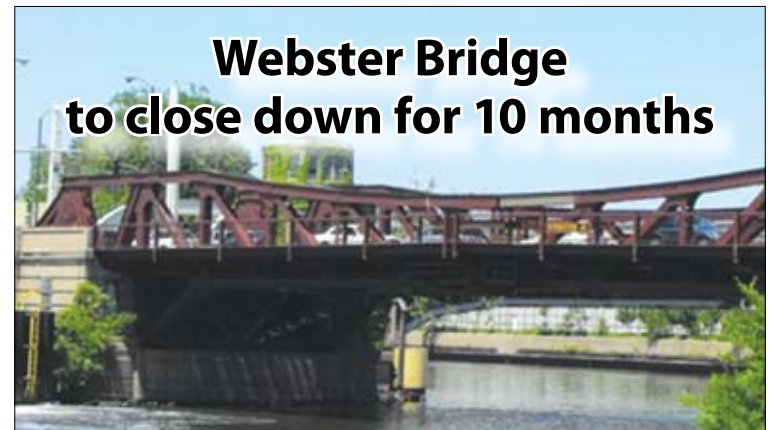
We found over 100 references to the city putting "all hands on deck" to fight violence over the past 26 months on city websites and various city officials' social media accounts.

But even as the city canceled days off for Chicago cops and forced them to work 12 hour days, two of the mayor's top aides took time off leading up to the Fourth of July holiday, where at least 108 people were shot, 17 fatally."

After looters ripped through the city on Aug. 10, 2020, Lightfoot rolled out an "all hands on deck safety plan." She did that just six weeks after deciding to "double down on our all hands on deck public safety efforts."

In fact, we found over 100 references to the city putting "all hands on deck" to fight violence

PROMISES see p. 12



Webster Bridge to close down for 10 months

Work on the Webster Bridge is scheduled to start this week when the bridge will be closed from Ashland Ave. to Dominick St. The bridge closure is expected to last through May of 2022.

The bridge is one of the key east-west crossings over the river between Lincoln Park and Bucktown.

The Dept. of Transportation will be reconstructing existing bridge structural steel, bridge approach, bridge houses, roadway lighting, and ADA ramps.

One sidewalk will be open at all times during construction.

The detour route for both eastbound and westbound traffic is:

- Westbound car detour: Webster to Clybourn, and South on Ashland to Webster
- Westbound truck detour: Webster to Halsted, North to Fullerton, South on Ashland to Webster
- Eastbound car detour: Webster to Ashland, North to Clybourn, and South to Webster
- Eastbound truck detour: Webster to Ashland, North to Fullerton, East to Halsted, South to Webster

Nine robbed, another carjacked in 30-minute Lakeview robbery spree

BY CWBCHICAGO

Police have now issued a community alert about nine robberies in Lakeview Aug. 7 which detectives described the suspects as four Black males between 16- and 25-years-old who wore black hoodies and stood 5'-6" to 6' tall.

Early Saturday, the nine robbery victims and a separate carjacking victim in their wake, during a 30-minute crime wave.

It all started around 3:45 a.m. when a man was robbed by two armed offenders near his home on the 1500 block of W. Cornelia. The offenders pressed a gun to the man's body, took his wallet, phone, and keys, then fled westbound in a dark sedan, according to the victim.

The carjacking came next around 3:50 a.m., according to Officer Jose Lemus-Cortez. A 51-year-old man was sitting in his red Honda Civic on the 3900 block of N. Clark when three men battered him and dragged him from the car, a CPD report said. They then drove south on Clark with the man's vehicle. An ambulance took the victim to Thorek Hospital for treatment of a head wound. Around 4:30 a.m., police pinged the stolen car to the Austin neighborhood, according to the report.

Police did not release descriptions of the offenders.

At 3:57 a.m., three offenders confronted two 23-year-old men who were walking on the 1200 block of W. Addison, Lemus-Cortez said. The robbers held the men at gunpoint and removed the victims' property from their pockets before fleeing in a waiting vehicle that fled the scene, according to Lemus-Cortez. Phones taken from those victims later pinged near the 3400 block of N. Southport and near the 3000 block of N. Mildred.

Next, three men were robbed at gunpoint as they walked on the 3100 block of N. Halsted around 4:15 a.m. Police said a sedan pulled up next to the victims, and two men got out of the car to rob them at gunpoint. The victims, ages 25 and 26, surrendered their valuables to the men who fled in a car bearing orange license plates that end with the letters "DL."

Finally, four men — two age 32, another 42, and the third 45 — were robbed at gunpoint as they walked on the 600 block of W. Belmont at 4:22 a.m. The victims said a car pulled up on the street, and two men got out displaying handguns. The offenders

SPREE see p. 12



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Picasso taught the world that art is life and love



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

It's a very hot summer morning and I need to take myself somewhere to write, eat and bathe in fresh summer iced tea.

So I flee the studio, indulging myself at Greek Islands in Greentown. Time for thoughts and reflections on my pal Pablo Picasso 1881-1973. He's always a responsible summer's day business for me. I am his avid student. He was a Chicago kind of guy. That's why he gave us "Tete du Femme," Head of a Woman, the sculpture in Daley Plaza. He'd fit right in here, today.

Picasso is always just a great art museum away. While any city becomes an opportunity to view his work, our own Art Institute has some of his best. "The Old Guitarist," 1903. "The Red Armchair," 1931. "Mother and Child," 1921. "Weeping Woman," 1937. "Nude Under A Pine Tree," 1959. All true Chicago treasures.

Some ten years ago, I visited his great biographer, the late Sir John Richardson, with painter Adam Umbach, in the biographer's fabulously huge apartment down on the lower end of Broadway. Filled with rare Picassos, Warhols and Freuds. The afternoon was spent at Union Square Cafe, lunching and talking about Picasso and all the intricacies of an artist's life.

For as long as I can remember, Picasso has been a filter through

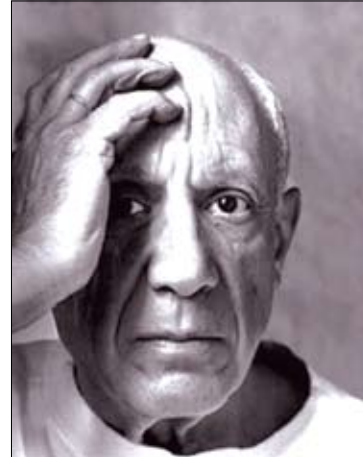
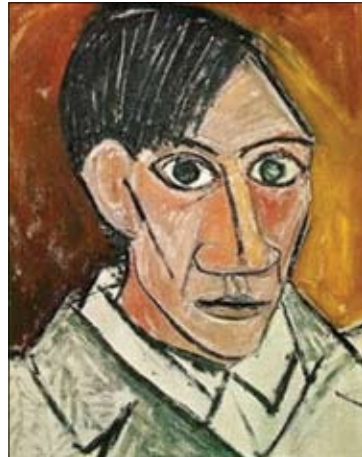
which all art passes. An eternal teacher about color, texture, form and shadow. Surface depth and composition. His hand shapes my brain, like a great gazpacho. Serious and spicy. But too often, Picasso is misunderstood. The victim of the public's misinformation artistic ignorance and lack of appropriate experience of his work. He's frequently trivialized. A painter's worst nightmare.

Picasso was a burly, he-man painter. Filled with Spanish bravado, crude humor and love for strong, shapely females. Women like his wife, the Yugoslavian ballet dancer, Olga Khokhlove, whom he would never divorce. Or his devoted mistresses Marie-Therese Walter, Dora Marr, Françoise Gilot (still living at 100) and second wife, Jacqueline Roque, who put a bullet in her brain shortly after his death.

Devoted to bullfights, he had a pension for good food, bold wine and chit chat among the peasants. He saw the world through Spanish eyes, but painted in France his whole long life. Paris was where the money was. Clients with refined tastes. A love for the radical. A tempting aesthetic for the grotesque. The asymmetrical. The human form reinvented beyond his cubism to new shapes of the physical. The re-invention of style in almost every decade. Painting the interior disposition of his sitters. Subjects contorted by his brush. The edgy works that dangled his most modern of canvasses before the refining seasoned tastes his collectors' embraced.

He created vast rooms of paintings. Worked everyday. Painted all day. More than any painter I know.

The canvas was romance for Picasso, revealing all of himself and his subjects. Round and bul-



(Top) "Guernica." (Bottom left) The artist's Self Portrait (Right) Pablo Picasso.

bous women. Voluptuous. Tangy. The mis-shaped beauties who unleashed his sexual demons. Equine. Truly Spanish and not French. What his nemesis, the ex-patriot American busy-body Gertrude Stein never quite understood. Though her brother, Leo, became an early collector in their Paris residence. Picasso's 1906 portrait of Miss Stein is curiously grotesque. Burly and brutal, it suits Miss Stein and became the centerpiece of her cocktail soirees at 27 rue de Fleurus. There Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald sipped their drinks, while Cole Porter played her piano. And Alice B. Toklas answered the front door for the likes of Sinclair Lewis, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Thornton Wilder, Juan Gris, Sherwood Anderson and much of intellectual Paris. Though Picasso never seemed to take to Stein's "center of attention" brand of Americanism.

Picasso was a true successful painter as The Great War arrived in 1914. By then, his fellow artists from France, Italy, and assorted European nations were drafted into military service. But as a Spaniard, Pablo never had to serve. Because he could not predict how severe the war might be, he withdrew 100,000 French francs from his bank to meet any eventuality. A vast sum of money, especially for a young painter. Few contemporaries could have done that.

He went to the South of France to escape the harsh changes in Parisian urban life and paint. Whatever he created, enhanced his artistic reputation. He was sought after. Celebrated. Most importantly, when the war ended, he was alive. Some of Europe's best poets, painters, playwrights and musicians did not return from the carnage of the front. Many more perished in the great Pandemic of the Spanish Flu. Picasso escaped that too.

His post-war life was filled with opportunity and design challenges, like Sergei Diaghilev's ballet sets. His studio relocated from the Marais to Paris' Left Bank at

7 Rue de Grand-Agustin. Not far from the Louvre.

That's where the Spanish delegation came to ask him to execute a large painting, the center piece for an international art exhibition at Chaillot near the Eiffel Tower in 1937. He was not open to the idea.

But then Hitler sent his Luftwaffe to aid Generalissimo Franco during the Spanish Civil War, ultimately wiping out the Basque city of Guernica. Obliterating all life.

Picasso rose to the occasion. When the delegation returned to plead their case, they found Picasso already working on the massive painting "Guernica." And the surrealist-photographer Dora Marr catalogued its completion.

The painting became a symbol of anti-Fascist resistance. It was the most controversial Spanish painting at the World Exhibition. And anywhere in Europe. Ironically Spain's pavilion was next door to Hitler's.

Later Picasso secretly shipped it to the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York. Along with hundreds of other works he hoped to save from the impending doom of World War II.

MOMA staged an important Picasso exhibition on November 15, 1939 that remained on view until January 7, 1940, in collaboration with the Art Institute of Chicago. Three-hundred and forty-four works, including "Guernica" and its studies, as well as "Les Femmes d'Alger." During the post-war era, "Guernica" came twice to the Art Institute of Chicago. There Chicagoans balked at its style and importance. Exhibiting a rural unsophistication that appears comic today.

When the Germans invaded Paris, the Gestapo set out to find "Guernica," to destroy it. They frequently barged into Picasso's studio to frighten him. They'd show him photos of the work. "Did you do this?" they would ask. Picasso would go silent. Then say, "No. You did. Actually," settling where blame should rest for the Spanish massacre.

Picasso gathered his wife, mistresses and their assorted children and relocated to the South of France. He bought a large villa that would suit them. And paid the seller one painting for the vast estate, so successful had he become.

Picasso's last will instructed that "Guernica" and those hundreds of other works must stay at MOMA until there was a democratically elected government in Spain.

Franco's death in 1976 was followed by democratic elections, but MOMA dragged their heels on returning their most important in-house treasure. They could not let go. They were challenged with a stern warning from the oldest and youngest members of the U.S. Senate, Strom Thurmond and Joseph Biden.

"Guernica" finally returned to Spain in 1981. People were unaware of its arrival. But word spread quickly as the painting made its way from the airport in Madrid. As the truck carrying the treasure moved closer to the city, it is said millions of people rushed out of offices, shops and schools and lined the streets as it made its way to the Prado Museum. People openly wept at the return of the Picasso treasure. That moment lifted the painter's career to its highest ebb more than a century after his birth.

Picasso taught the world that art is life and love. Politics and poetry. Lyrical in its collision with us and true in its ability to consume and reflect the form and spirit of the age. True at the sacred space of MOMA. And in a

PICASSO see p. 6

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Demand for Chicago vacation-home units on the rise this summer



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

After a year-and-a half-long year battle against the effects of the COVID-19 virus on Chicago's vacation-home and shared-housing industry, travel volume and bookings for units are rapidly returning, analysts say.

Nearly half of Chicago Airbnb hosts delisted their property as COVID-19 lockdowns surged in 2020, and inventory of available rentals fell to about 5,400 units from about 10,600 listings.

However, demand for vacation-home units apparently is skyrocketing back to 2019 levels this summer, according to industry sources.

"Many Chicago vacationers are choosing private homes and well-appointed apartments over downtown hotels as the travel industry rebounds," noted Realtor Sara E. Benson, president of Chicago-based Benson Stanley Realty, who works with owners of income properties.

In Old Town and Lincoln Park, some Airbnb rental rates for upscale two-bedroom units with private outdoor space and an in-unit washer/dryer are running more than \$300 per night, Benson said.

In the summer of 2020, the Chicago City Council approved regulatory measures to combat



An industry survey of Chicago vacation-home and shared properties shows that summer bookings are currently running 40% or more over 2019 levels.

use of short-term rentals as "party houses" or hubs of prohibited activities.

New amendments to Chicago's policy on vacation-rental homes and short-term rentals include a ban on single-night stays. There also are tougher rules on excessive loud noise and/or vibrations generated from within the rental unit, in any private open space

adjoining the rental, or on the adjacent public way.

Property owners who list homes as vacation rentals on popular booking sites such as Airbnb and VRBO must submit their registration information with the city and not only with the home-sharing platforms. Changes also increase the annual owner license fee to \$125 per unit from \$60.

This change should help the Dept. of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection track violations. Owners who violate the law will face fines of between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

An industry survey of Chicago vacation-home and shared properties shows the following trends in the marketplace:

- Summer bookings are currently running 40% or more over 2019 levels.
- Larger home and apartment properties offering three or more bedrooms are seeing the most significant increases in demand.
- Many properties are being booked at record-high average-daily rates for the months of August through November of 2021.
- Average length of stay continues to trend upward and significantly exceeds pre-2020 levels.

If you are a property owner thinking about joining the booming shared-housing and vacation-home industry, it is important to remember there are some drawbacks even for well-managed units.

"Many Chicago vacationers are choosing private homes and well-appointed apartments over downtown hotels as the travel industry rebounds," noted Realtor Sara E. Benson.

"We had a long-term vacation-home visitor from New York who apparently did not read our rules on garbage-can use," said one irate owner. "They repeatedly tossed their kitchen garbage bags out on the rear deck, creating a buffet for rats."

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.

Who's still living the wild life?

What kind of wildlife animals invade your attic in Chicago?

BY JESSICA LOTICUS
Loop North News

You may not yet be ready to rekindle your pre-pandemic wild life, but the local wildlife is. In fact, they never stopped.

Attics are perhaps a wild animal's favorite hiding spot, in the entirety of your home. Why is that? Well, it's fairly simple. While wild animals may come across as pushy in the fact that they're barging into your house unannounced, they're actually fairly reclusive creatures.

Most wild animals don't really want to risk running into you by accident, so they're most likely to inhabit the parts of your home that are least inhabited. And that's your attic. Since nobody goes up there much, and there's usually a lot of clutter, attics can be an ideal hiding spot for a wide range of different animals.



Most wild animals don't really want to risk running into you by accident, so they're most likely to inhabit the parts of your home that are least inhabited.

And which animals are those, exactly, in the Chicago area?

Squirrels

It can be tricky to remove squirrels in the attic, largely because they're small and sneaky, so you'll probably need to call a professional wildlife removal service to help you with your squirrel problem.

Squirrels usually get into the house by scaling trees, and finding a gap in the roof or the wall structure. Once inside the attic, they can cause serious damage to the structure, not to mention spread serious diseases, such as rabies or Lyme's disease. This is why you need to pay attention to the noises coming from your attic. Most likely, if there are scratching noises at night, you've got one or two squirrels living it up inside your attic.

Raccoons

Raccoons are another big house guest, particularly when it comes to attics. Like any other wild ani-

mal, raccoons (known for their non-picky nature when it comes to feeding) are coming to your property to find a readily available source of food. And like squirrels, they may look cute and cuddly on the outside, but trust us, raccoons can be rather vicious if they want to be, which is why it's best to keep a safe distance and arrange for the speedy removal of the raccoon in question.

Of course, it's always a good idea to call a wildlife removal professional, as they generally have a lot more experience doing this, but if you're attempting to do it yourself, you can learn how to properly remove a raccoon in an attic at raccoonsattic.com.

Rodents

Another common house guest in the Chicago area is, of course, the ever-popular rodent. By this, we could mean either rats or mice, as both are hugely common in most urban areas, unfortunately. What's more, rats and mice love a good attic, since it's very easy for

them to access and inhabit without kicking up much of a fuss, or indeed, attracting the attention of the house's owner.

As you no doubt know by now, rodents are big carriers of diseases, and so definitely not a house guest you should want on your property.

Bats

Lastly, another wild animal that's known for its proclivity towards attics is the bat. Since attics are darkened, often damp areas of the home, that makes them ideal for bat colonies looking for a place to nest and maybe even raise their young.

Bats are considered helpful for the environment, so bat removal is restricted, or even forbidden, in many areas of the United States. In other words, attempting to do so can land you in some serious legal trouble, which is why it might be wise to call a wildlife removal professional, as they're bound to be familiar with all the specific rules.

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A warning to all, Delta variant is mighty, be careful out there



Heart of the 'Hood
by Felicia Dechter

One year ago this month, my then 30-year-old daughter, Andie, contracted COVID. Thankfully, she came out of it OK.

By April, she was fully vaccinated.

Two weeks ago, Andie started feeling really sick. Her throat was raw, she had a runny nose, a horrible headache, and she was nauseas and light-headed. She went to Walgreens and had a rapid COVID test -- the result was negative. Knowing how she felt and having had COVID before, Andie then went and got tested two more times -- another rapid test and also a test that took a couple of days for results. She wanted to be especially careful, because if she had COVID she needed to stay away from her dad and me. Each of her three tests came up negative. We figured she had a bad cold.

Because of that we didn't really stay away from Andie but she did mask up around us. We live in the same house, and life went on as usual due to the negative test results. We watched TV and ate dinner together, actually hanging out more than usual because her dad and I were leaving for Wisconsin in a few days.

We had been in the car a couple of hours, on our way to Door County, when we got the call. Andie had woken up feeling worse, could barely move and was heading to the Emergency Room.

The next call came not too long after that: Andie had the Delta variant. She was one of the breakthrough cases. Around 10,262 COVID vaccine breakthrough infections have been reported to CDC as of April 30, 2021. (Beginning May 1, 2021, CDC transitioned from monitoring all reported COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infections to reporting only those among patients who are hospitalized or die.)

"I feel like it's different than last time I had it," said Andie. "My head... I'm just dizzy. I can't walk straight. I can't do anything."

At the ER, Andie was told that they've been seeing a lot of positive testing of vaccinated people. But I still urge the unvaccinated to get vaccinated, and here's why: Both Andie and I honestly feel that if she hadn't been vaccinated, she may have gotten a lot sicker or worse. She was so ill as it was, that we can only imagine the 'what ifs.'

I get it about not wanting to get vaccinated. Even though my doctor has advised me to do so, I have never gotten a flu shot,

even after I got the flu in Jan. 2019 and in Dec. 2019, twice that year.

And when my good friend Debbie, who'd had a terrible case of shingles, suggested that I get the shingles vaccine I laughed at her and said, I'm not going to get shingles! I felt that because I'd had a very mild case of them when I was in my 20s that I was safe.

About four months later, I came down with the most painful illness ever. Worse than any broken bone. The shingles. They attacked my left breast, where I had been radiated for breast cancer and the pain went around to my back along the radiated nerve and it was the most horrible pain.

That was at the end of 2017. Being a non-vaccine kind of person, I still have not had the shingle's vaccine. (I just may get it next time it's offered to me.)

But I did get a COVID vaccine. Pfizer. Since mid-March I've been fully vaccinated. But just to be safe, my hubby and I stayed up north much longer than expected so we would not be around Andie.

As I write this, it has been almost two weeks since we were exposed to her. Neither one of us, thus far, has shown any signs of the virus. So I assume if we don't get sick that for us, the vaccine has worked.

One thing Andie mentioned was that she couldn't believe Mayor Lori Lightfoot let Lollapalooza go on. (Did you hear the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Fest has now been cancelled?). "With cases going up, why would Lolla be allowed?" Andie asked. "If only people knew how sick they really could get..."

I agree. I just got back into town and have not heard anything about Lolla being a super-spreader event, so that's a good thing. But some 385,000 folks attended. That's a lot of germs. (Cases usually don't start to pop up until 10 to 15 days after an event.)

We did get a call at this newspaper though from Rogers Parker David Johnson, who was very concerned about the recent "super-spreader" festivities occurring for the final Mass at St. Ignatius Church, 6559 N. Glenwood Ave. Johnson's best friend attended and he is now worried about her health.

Apparently 1,000 or so of the church's parishioners were packed in for the final weekend, which really was "disturbing" to Johnson. He said that the church shared its plans with no one, not the alderman's office, the Chicago Police Dept. or the Dept. of Public Health. Neither Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] nor her office staffers knew about the event until Johnson called and informed them.

"She was totally in the dark, which was also disturbing to me," he said. "By design or by defeat it flew under the radar, when the variant is up-ticking." It was reckless



A jam-packed CTA station after Lollapalooza.

and possibly criminal behavior on the church's part, he said.

"I think that was a very foolish move," said Johnson. "Foolish and ill-advised."

If the event becomes a super-spreader in the near future, contact tracing would be near to impossible, said Johnson. "That's very concerning to me," he said. "I'm really distressed the church chose to share no knowledge of the event."

I agree with Mr. Johnson. I will add though that I went online and found some video footage from the final Mass. People did seem to be masked so I'm hoping - make that praying we're talking church - that all who attended will stay safe.

I'm also praying that any upcoming large-scale events will be well-thought out, if they are still happening as planned. Because I pity the fool who gets the Delta variant -- it's mighty.

And now, some good news coming out of the pandemic.

Each and every afternoon during the height of COVID, we watched public officials and Illinois Dept. of Public Health director Dr. Ngozi Ezike provide updates on the numbers -- both cases and deaths -- and told us what was going on. I found that time to be one where I could sit down, take a deep breath, and find out the status of a virus that was raging through our world, communities and our lives.

I watched Dr. Ezike transform. She seemed to start out a little quiet, but in time I saw her confidence grow, as well as her frustration. I remember seeing her cry. And we all witnessed a sort of physical transformation about her too that was possibly a result of being on TV every day. Her outfits and makeup started being glammed up a bit, and I know it just wasn't me who noticed how good she was looking.

A woman who has both brains and beauty. How lucky can you get?

Yet Dr. Ezike apparently has a lot more than that to her too. At its 36th Annual Gift of Life Gala being held Oct. 28 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) will present Dr. Ezike with the "Gift of Life Award," in recognition of her

"resilient and compassionate leadership through the pandemic on behalf of the residents of Illinois."

It's an honor well-deserved. We congratulate Dr. Ezike and thank her for her help in keeping us calm and informed during those crazy and unpredictable, dark days. And although we loved seeing Dr. Ezike on the telly every day, we hope that we don't have to have the doc and other public officials

start coming on again to give us any more grim news.

Please mask up folks. Get vaccinated to avoid hospitalization or worse. I have a feeling it's going to be another long, bumpy ride. Be smart and stay safe.



Dr. Ngozi Ezike

CloudKitchens is proud to partner with the Chicago Park District to provide free meals for two upcoming Teens in the Parks events!

Karaoke & Flag Tag at Chase Park
5p-8p on Friday, August 6, 2021 – **FREE**

Splash Bash at Chase, Gompers, Holstein, Norwood, Riis, and River Parks
6p-8p on Friday, August 13, 2021 – **FREE**

All registered participants will receive a free and balanced meal, courtesy of Monti's Chicago, located in CloudKitchens' Rockwell facility.

Space is limited. Visit the Chicago Park District's Program Registration page to sign your teen up today!



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On Oct. 8, 1871, the city of Chicago caught fire.

The rest is history. Now, 150 years later, that history will now be reviewed in a new exhibit coming to the Chicago History Museum [CHM], 1601 N. Clark St.

City on Fire: Chicago 1871 will open on the 150th anniversary of that fatal day and will guide visitors through the crucial events and conditions before, during, and after the fire.

This family-friendly exhibition will feature over 100 artifacts from the CHM's collection, interactive and multimedia elements,

and personal stories from survivors of the fire.

On that day in 1871, Chicago's busy streets were taken over by flames for three days, overwhelming a city built of wood and causing severe destruction, that ran north, west, south and north, burning out on the North Side just south of Webster St. in Lincoln Park.

After the fire died, recovery efforts exposed deep social and economic inequalities when more than 100,000 people became homeless, and society placed blame upon the Irish immigrant O'Leary family. It destroyed ap-

Just missed...

Located at 2121 N. Hudson St., this is the home that Chicago policeman Richard Bellinger saved from destruction while virtually all other buildings in the path of the fire area burned down.

It is generally considered the point where the fire ceased its travels north.

Although the late-1860s structure has been much renovated, it retains the charm of the original Italianate design by W. W. Boyington, who was also the architect of the Court House, the Water Tower, and many other pre-fire buildings.

According to the popular story, Officer Bellinger first used water to wet down the house, and, when that ran out, turned to his store of



Barringer cottage.
Photo courtesy Stefani Foster

proximately 1,700 structures and buildings, killed an estimated 300 people and caused an estimated \$200 million in damages.

The devastation also sparked change and regrowth in Chicago by introducing new fire safety guidelines and rebuilding as the resilient city known today.

For more information visit www.chicagohistory.org or call 312-64-4600.

was lifted several weeks later.

The disaster prompted an outbreak of looting and lawlessness. Companies of soldiers were summoned to Chicago and martial law was declared on Oct. 11, ending three days of chaos. Martial law



Chef Bernard Cretier



Dayle D Ann Edgeworth



Buddy Guy

PICASSO from p. 2

Greek restaurant in Chicago on a summer's afternoon. Pass the moussaka, please.

TRUE STAR: This column had no bigger fan than Chicago chanteuse **Dayle D Ann Edgeworth**, headliner for many years at the Gaslight Club. After two months of noble preparation for departure, she has returned to God with no unspoken love and affection. She was the heart-filled girl of grand exits. Be at peace, dear one.

EXPANDING IMPORTANCE: Treasurer **Maria Papas** spoke before the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association at the Greek Parliament in Athens. Her office is becoming an international model for efficiency and transparency.

BOOKS: Chicago's newest independent bookstore. Volumes Bookstore, 900 N. Michigan Ave., fifth floor.

NO SMALL PLANS: Architect **Lucien Lagrange** plans a new design for the proposed RIU Hotel 150 E. Ontario St. His 30th building in Chicago. RIU is a fabulous Spanish hotel chain.

CUISINE SERIEUSE: Famed **Chef Bernard Cretier**, who established Le Vichyssois restaurant in Lakemoor, IL in the 1970s, has died. His food was a landmark of high French cuisine and helped make Chicago a culi-



Ruete Butler and Jorie Butler Kent.



Josie Falbo

nary destination.

CHEZ STE. MARIE: Support the Little Sisters of the Poor September 9 at St. Mary's Home, 2325 N. Lakewood, with a House of Glunz wine tasting from the major regions of France. Tickets \$60, \$75 at the door. Call 773-935-9600 or visit www.littlesistersofthepoor.org.

STAR TALENT: Don't miss **Barb Bailey's** new show at Le Piano, 7 p.m., August 30 at 6970 N. Glenwood hosted by **Chad Willets**. \$25 cover charge.

BELIEVE: Proud to announce **Josie Falbo's** CD release of "You Must Believe in Spring" at The Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. Tuesday, August 17, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WHO'S WHERE: Blues legend **Buddy Guy** just turned 85... **Candace** and **Chuck Jordan** hosted birthday dinner at Adalina

for **Todd Hatoff**. **Paul R Iacono**, **Frank N. Jeffery**, **Dr. Joaquin C. Brieve** and **Jennifer Sutton Brieve** joined the salute... **Bobbi Panter** and **Matt Arnoux** enjoying the beauty of Eden Roc, Cap d'Antibes... **Ester** and **Chris Magdalin** joined son, **Chris** and daughter-in-law **Flavia Magdalin** for Grandmama's birthday at Gibson's... **Ben Stemwedel** and classmates can truthfully say Victory! St. Ignatius College Prep Robotics won the Rock River Robotics Competition. Go Wolf-pack... **Adam Scott Umbach** and **Nora Dankner** celebrating their first anniversary in Tulum, Mexico... radio diva **Anna Devlantes** counting another year of blessings... **Sarah Q. Crane** under the "Bean" with **Holly Yeager**... **Reute Butler** and mom, **Jorie Butler Kent**, looking fabulous at Oak Brook Polo Club... **Lily Hauf** in

the Pink City, as the French refer to Toulouse 'cuz of all the urban brickwork... **Dino Impagliazzo**, known as Rome's 'Chef of the Poor', has died in the capital at age 91... **Scott Martin** at Ardmore Hollywood Beach with the boys **Jewcy John**, **Scottie Paitl**, **Dave Laborde** and **Matthew J. Roeder**... **Shelley Howard**, **Shaun Howard** and **Dan Navarro** celebrating **Joe Navarro's** birthday... Her gal pals had a great time celebrating **Caitie Taylor Gorecki's** bachelorette bash in Austin, TX with one more month until the big day... Happy Birthday **Dan Kirk**, run for something... **Rhonda Liesenfelt** swimming in Lake Superior... **Nikki Friar** and **James Weber** on Oak St... **Eamon Cummins** took nephew and niece, **Brendan** and **Devyn**, to their first Chicago street fest, Wicker Parkfest, they loved it... **Lindor Novillo Corvalan** for Brinker Hill | Sanfillippo raced with **Tomas "Toto" Obregon** of the Oak Brook Polo Club... Wonderful performance by **Isabella O'Toole-Boyd** on Cupid Solo with the Royal Ballet School, mom, **Holly O'Toole-Boyd** was there tapping she was so proud.

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.

— Pablo Picasso

tog515@gmail.com

Alleged cop killer got probation for 2019 robbery in Old Town

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Chicago man accused of killing Chicago Police Officer Ella French and shooting her partner during a traffic stop over the weekend received two years probation after he pleaded guilty to robbing a man on the North Side in Aug. 2019. This newspaper reported on Monty Morgan, formally known as Emonte Morgan, shortly after that victim beat Morgan in self-defense following the Aug. 8, 2019, robbery attempt.

Two years ago, prosecutors said Morgan arranged to meet a 36-year-old Bridgeport man in the 1200 block of N. Larrabee so Morgan could purchase the other guy's \$900 iPhone. But, when the two got together around 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 8, Morgan took the phone and ran away, the victim alleged.

The victim tackled Morgan in a nearby parking lot, and a fight broke out. Police said Morgan punched the man repeatedly,

prompting the alleged victim to "defend himself." A passerby also jumped into the fray to help detain Morgan until police arrived.

Morgan's face was visibly battered and scratched when cops took his mugshot a few hours later.

Prosecutors initially charged Morgan, who listed an Old Town address at the time of his arrest, with felony theft and misdemeanor battery. He pleaded guilty to one count of robbery on Nov. 25, 2020, in exchange for a sentence of two years probation from Judge William O'Brien, according to court records. That probation is still in effect and prosecutors filed a motion for violation of probation on May 18, records show. The reason for the violation filing is not included in available court records.

On Monday, prosecutors charged Morgan with first-degree murder of a peace officer, two counts of attempted first-degree

murder of a peace officer, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon by a felony, and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in connection with the death of French, the shooting of her partner, and the attempted shooting of another cop over the weekend. He was shot by officers who returned fire, police said, and was listed in serious condition.

Morgan's brother, Eric, was driving the car that French and other officers pulled over for expired plates, according to CPD. Eric Morgan is charged with two felony gun counts and obstruction of justice in connection with this weekend's events.

But Eric Morgan also has a history of robbery.

In June 2018, Eric Morgan and another man were charged with robbing four people of \$180 in Madison, WI. He later pleaded guilty to felony theft.

Off-road motorcycle riding, street racing a daily problem for North Side

One of the unexpected consequences of not allowing police to pursue law-breakers in the Chicago is a growing problem with motorcyclists who use social media to organize road rallies, drag racing and off-road riding.

Off-road includes riding through red lights, onto sidewalks and bike lanes, using pedestrian lakefront bridges to get their motorcycles onto bike paths and into lakefront parks, or even the plaza at Wrigley Field.

Packs of motorcycles, some with hundreds of riders, have become an increasingly common sight and sound on the North Side, especially late at night.

In 2020 the city received about 4,000 complaint 911 calls about motorcycles. On July 31, a rogue stunt biking gang caused a fiery crash on the Stevenson Expy. that was caught on video.

In 2014, Chicago aldermen secured City Council approval for an Altered Motorcycle Muffler Ordinance, which amended Municipal Code to allow the Chicago Police Dept. [CPD] to issue citations for altered mufflers. In addition to improving the CPD's ability to enforce Municipal Code, the amendment increased the fines for operating a motorcycle without a muffler from \$100 to \$1,000 per incident.

But now seven years later, that enforcement effort - like enforcement of a lot of criminal activity - is almost nil.

Police are over-worked, understaffed and can hardly keep up with incoming 911 calls. Many veteran officers have retired, and City Hall is having trouble enticing new recruits to accept jobs as police in Chicago.

Some North Side aldermen are now openly expressing their frustration with the city's inability to deal with the large groups of motorcyclists and drag racers

who disrupt the quality-of-life for area residents. Aldermen Michele Smith [43rd], Brendan Reilly [42nd] and Brian Hopkins [2nd] have all issued statements lately on their weekly newsletters critical of the lack of enforcement of Municipal Code and State of Illinois Vehicle Code Statutes.

But perhaps the recent downward spiral of enforcement of laws and ordinances started with the U.S. Justice Dept. [DOJ] Consent Decree. That is when City Hall turned CPD over to the Feds.

For the first time in Chicago's history, there is now a court order mandating broad police reform. The goal of that decree is to put in place reforms that govern police training and policies and provide officers the support they need

to implement safe and constitutional policing practices. Federal, state and city political leadership thought this was an effective path toward lasting reforms, and the only way to begin to build trust between local residents and police. But some of Chicago's criminal element may just have seen it as a free pass to misbehave.

In 2017, the DOJ concluded a yearlong civil rights investigation of the CPD, concluding that CPD has a history of serious problems endangering the lives of both residents and police officers. That history has had terrible consequences for both police and residents. African American and Latino communities in particular have felt targeted by racially dis-

RAGING see p. 10



Top: Adriana Avellaneda; Luis Emilio Contreras-Castro; Juan Barrera-Ramirez; and Manuel Edgney Gonzalez. Bottom: Adriana Guitierrez-Marino; Gilberto Marrero; Orlis Luis Martinez Cruz

Seven charged with phone thefts at Lollapalooza; over 120 devices recovered

BY CWBCHICAGO

Seven people, all from out of town, are accused of stealing or possessing stolen phones at Lollapalooza, according to CPD records. One man was allegedly carrying 44 stolen phones. Another allegedly had 31.

Chicago police recovered more than 120 phones at the four-day festival, CPD First Deputy Supt. Eric Carter said Monday.

Four Florida men each possessed "numerous iPhones" when police arrested them together on the 300 block of E. Balbo at 5:17 p.m. July 31, according to CPD reports.

- Orlis Luis Martinez Cruz, 26, of suburban Miami, was charged with 10 counts of theft and then released on a recognizance bond.

- Manuel Edgney Gonzalez, 26, of Orlando, was released on a recognizance bond after being charged with 10 counts of theft.

- Adrian Gutierrez-Mariano, 31, of Miami, was charged with eight counts of theft and released on a recognizance bond.

- Luis Emilio Contreras-Castro, 55, of Miami, was released

on a recognizance bond after being charged with eight counts of theft.

Other individuals charged are:

- Juan C. Barrera-Ramirez, 36, of New York City. He had 36 phones in a bag and eight phones on his person when police arrested him on the 900 block of S. Columbus at 9:30 p.m. Saturday. He was released on a recognizance bond after being charged with fourteen counts of theft of lost or mislaid property.

- Adriana Avellaneda, 44, of suburban Los Angeles, allegedly had 31 phones in a backpack when police arrested her near a row of portable toilets on the 800 block of S. Columbus at 8:17 p.m. July 30. She was released on a recognizance bond after being charged with one count of theft of lost or mislaid property and one count of criminal trespass to land.

- Gilberto Marrero, 36, of Miami, was charged with three counts of theft of lost or mislaid property after police arrested him in the 500 block of S. Columbus at 10:30 p.m. Aug. 5. He was re-

PHONE see p. 10

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City Colleges launches Future Ready, on a first-come, first-served basis

70+ high-demand, short-term programs at no cost to qualifying Chicagoans

To prepare Chicagoans to seize career opportunities in the post-COVID recovery, City Colleges of Chicago [CCC] has announced Future Ready, offering high-demand, short-term college programs at no cost to qualifying resident on a first-come, first-served basis this fall.

Those interested in pursuing careers in fields as diverse as: healthcare, technology, transportation, distribution, and logistics, cannabis operations, auto tech, criminal justice and more have never had a more direct route to earn a college credential.

Students who are new to CCC are eligible, along with those returning after two

or more semesters (fall/spring). Students who previously took adult education (GED/ESL) or continuing education are also able to take part. Undocumented students are included too.

“More often than not, students who are weighed down by significant socioeconomic burdens are kept away from opportunities to further their education and enter sustainable, good-paying careers,” said Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. CCC has found a way “to help alleviate these burdens and for finding ways to creatively support our residents as they chase after their academic and professional goals.”

The programs may be offered in-person at one of the seven City Colleges or its satellite sites or online, and may offer college credit, depending on the program select-

ed. Programs range in length, with some as little as one day in length up to three semesters.

A complete list of the 70+ eligible programs can be found at www.ccc.edu/future-ready.

“The time is now to get the education Chicagoans need to be a part of the COVID economic recovery,” said Juan Salgado, Chancellor, CCC. “There is no better way to launch a career path than by taking advantage of CCCs’ Future Ready program this fall.”

Future Ready will only cover classes on a student’s program plan, and is good for one credential only.

Students will need to complete their program within 150% of time (For example, three semesters, if it is a two semester

program). This is a last dollar scholarship for credit programs, meaning students will apply for financial aid if they are able and Future Ready will make up the difference in their tuition cost after the application of financial aid or other scholarships.

The funds are made possible through the use of federal tax dollars and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Chicagoans seeking to return to CCC with previous debt are encouraged to apply for the Fresh Start Debt Forgiveness program. Fresh Start offers former CCC students the opportunity to return to college, “learn off” their debt, and earn a college certificate or degree. For more information visit www.ccc.edu/future-ready.

Registration is underway for fall 16-week classes through Aug. 26.

CLOUT from p. 1

funds and wealthy investors, who use them to lower their income taxes. To complicate matters, these sales are brokered through a person known as a “syndicator.” Using a syndicator clouds the sales process, making it difficult to see where - or with whom - the tax credits actually end up. Investors are happy because they covertly claim huge tax reductions. Flush with cash after their sale, developers like TCB are also happy as they can proceed with their projects with little of their own money at risk.

The LIHTC program is now the largest source of affordable housing in the U.S., supporting 90% of all affordable rental housing developments. There are over 2.7 million tax credit units nationwide today and this number continues to grow by an estimated 100,000 annually.

In 1933, following the assassination of the late Mayor Anton Cermak, Patrick A. Nash had quickly worked behind-the-scenes to have Edward J. Kelly (no relation to the former 47th Ward committeeman) installed as Cermak’s replacement. Cermak had been elected in 1931 by defeating William Hale Thompson, the city’s last Republican mayor.

Prior to 1931, the city’s Democratic Party had been largely controlled by the city’s ethnic Irish community. Cermak, however, had been elected with strong support from Chicago’s Central European communities and had appointed representatives from those communities to leadership positions. After Cermak’s death, Nash and Kelly had worked quickly to restore the power and influence of the Irish-American community.

Kelly left office in 1947 and was replaced by Democrat Martin H. Kennelly. While a Democrat, Kennelly was not a part of the Kelly-Nash Machine. In 1955, the machine slated Richard J. Daley as a primary challenger against Kennelly. Daley won both the primary and the general election. For more than two decades, the elder Daley served as Chicago’s mayor.

Decades ago, Patrick J. Nash, senior, served in the administration of Mayor Jane Byrne, who was a relative, through marriage. Byrne had appointed Nash to her administration’s Dept. of Housing [DOH] advisory committee, and he also served on the Chicago Housing Authority’s [CHA] Board of Commissioners from 1979-1983.

At the time Nash began his tenure on the CHA’s Board, the agency had been headed by Charles Swibel, a real estate developer who had been Byrne’s biggest campaign contributor. Swibel was also a close friend of her husband, Jay McMullen.

As a real estate developer, Swibel and his brother had pioneered the concept of what today are known as public-private partnerships. Among their most innovative ideas was Marina City, the two-tower, corn cobb-shaped high-rise housing develop-

ment built using air rights available over railroad tracks. The project was financed partly by an investment from the Building Services Employees International Union, a union headed by William McFetridge, who at the time was also serving as an official with the Chicago Park District. McFetridge was one of late Richard J. Daley’s closest friends.

In the early 1980s, federal officials began questioning Swibel’s stewardship of federal funds and had expressed concerns about him remaining at the CHA. Swibel quickly also became a daily target for local news outlets. These stories were not only about problems at CHA properties but also about the conditions at some of his privately-owned affordable housing units.

Despite his family ties to Byrne, Nash openly criticized Swibel’s management and

Investors are happy because they covertly claim huge tax reductions. Flush with cash after their sale, developers like TCB are also happy as they can proceed with their projects with little of their own money at risk.

newspapers often looked for him to give a quote about Swibel’s tenure at the CHA. At one point, Nash said he would have stepped down as a CHA commissioner if Swibel had not resigned.

TCB - and most citizens in Lincoln Square - are now awaiting a decision from the city’s DOH to see if the company will be awarded LIHTCs for their project to redevelop the city-owned parking lot, a critical piece of commercial infrastructure which serves the businesses and cultural institutions of Lincoln Square.

A spokesperson for the DOH has told this newspaper a decision will be announced in the fall as the department is still in the process of deciding which projects will receive 2021 LIHTCs. The DOH is currently in stage two of a two-stage process.

Used daily by the patrons of the local businesses and cultural institutions, the parking lot serves as festival grounds and logistics for the city’s annual German Day, Applefest and Maifest celebrations, and as customer parking for the popular Lincoln Square Farmer’s Market.

In the 1970s, the city of Chicago had acquired the six parcels through eminent domain. At the time, the businesses of the Lincoln Square Mall had a difficult time competing with their suburban competitors and adding a nearby parking lot enabled them to survive. Interestingly, pre-COVID, the parking lot received such heavy usage from patrons who spend a lot of time in Lincoln Square that its meter boxes rented spaces in increments of three hours, rather than two hours.

SPREE from p. 1

took the victims’ property and also fled in a car bearing orange license plates that end with the letters “DL,” according to a CPD report.

Saturday’s robbery spree is similar to the wave of armed hold-ups that swept across River North, Old Town, and the Near North Side July 30. Police said a group of armed men traveling in a car robbed 14 people during eight separate incidents in about 45 minutes that night. An hour-long spree involving five robberies hit the same downtown areas on July 27.

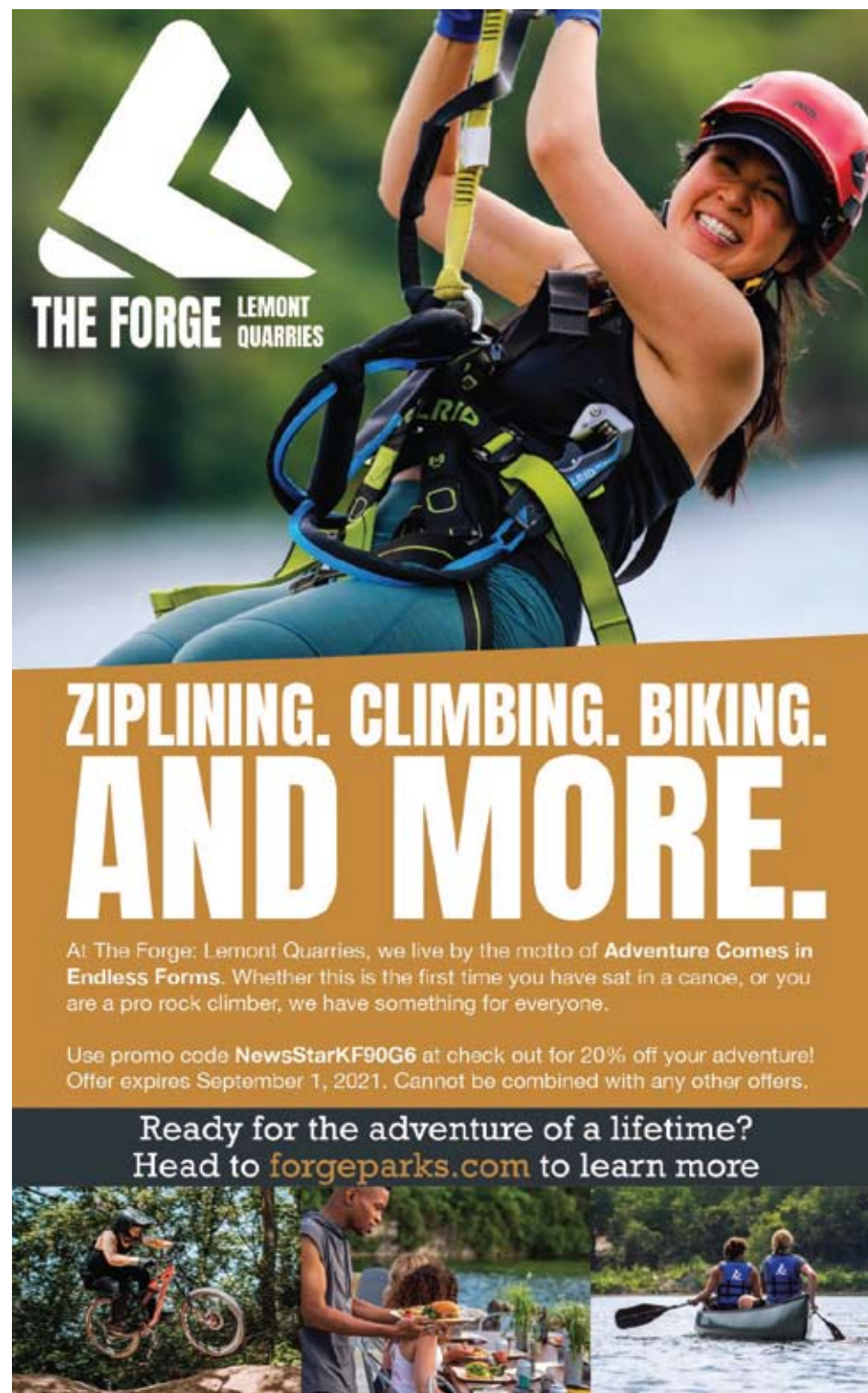
Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 about crime pattern P21-3-092.

PROMISES from p. 1

over the past 26 months on city websites and various city officials’ social media accounts. Some of those officials have since decided to abandon ship for other opportunities.

On Facebook last month, Lightfoot hatched a new safety strategy that “differs from past years in that it is truly an all hands on deck effort.” So, apparently, the previous year wasn’t truly all hands on deck.

There’s an obvious question to be asked here — did the city stop putting “all hands on deck” at some point and she’s now putting all hands on deck again? Or is Lightfoot’s plan sinking?



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