

Gender is probably the most restricting force in American life.
— Gloria Steinem

News-STAR

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Ravenswood Art Walk Sept. 12-13

The 24th annual Ravenswood ArtWalk will be held 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 12 and 13. It is a celebration of community art, featuring open studios and galleries, pop-up performances and activations, and an outdoor arts market featuring 80+ local vendors.

Stretching from Lawrence Ave. south to Irving Park along Ra-

venswood Ave., there will be two music stages, and a pop-up beer garden.

The former Ravenswood manufacturing zone is now home to many artists and creators. This century old district is a vital workspaces for the next generation of local artists, artisans, manufacturers, and brewers.

Dope deal gone bad

Lawsuit claims ZBA ignored City Ethics Ordinance to push illegal pot permit

BY RONALD ROENIGK

A controversial 3-2 vote last year by the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals [ZBA] is now under heavy fire in the Cook County Circuit Court, where a local lawsuit [Padera v. ZBA] seeks to void a cannabis dispensary permit granted at 620 N. Fairbanks Ct. in Streeterville.

This case should be a good test to see how much clout plays a part in the issuing of legal, retail drug-dealing licenses.

The lawsuit alleges the ZBA's approval was doubly tainted by first ignoring definitive rulings from both municipal and state regulators that the proposed site is within an illegal 500-foot school buffer zone, and second, by a major undisclosed conflict of interest involving a ZBA board member, who was subsequently appointed chair.

In 2024, Mayor Brandon Johnson appointed former-46th Ward Ald. Helen Shiller to the ZBA. Then in Aug. 2025, Johnson tapped her to be the ZBA chairman after ousting the previous chairman, Brian Sanchez.

Shiller initially joined the five-member panel as a commissioner in July 2024 and her term on the board runs through July 1, 2029.

But Johnson may now regret that decision after actions by

Shiller put the ZBA in court over charges of violating the City of Chicago Ethics Ordinance.

The city and dispensary spent the first few months of 2026 trying to convince a judge to throw out the case [number 2025 CH03390]. On Jan. 20, the defendants Motion to Dismiss was denied without prejudice, and now the case is moving forward.

The City and ZBA are scheduled to be in court - today - Sept. 9, in room 2301 of Richard J. Daley Center.

The case rests on a 2025 vote by Shiller on a zoning matter that directly benefitted her son.

Last year this newspaper did a series of articles exposing how Shiller allegedly used her City Hall clout to taint a ZBA vote that benefitted her son Brendan Shiller. A clear ethics violation, she was the deciding vote on a proposed license to open up a pot dispensary at a location too close to a school.

The proposed location for G.P. Greenhouse LLC's Guaranteed Dispensary at 620 Fairbanks Ct., was within the 500-foot proximity of Guidepost Montessori School at Magnificent Mile, 226 E. Illinois St.

Only the pot shop operators - through their lawyer - argued

DEAL see p. 16

Corporate centenarian, Barr Funeral Home listed for sale at \$1.7M



(L) Tim Harrington, owner of Barr Funeral Home. Reprinted by permission (R) Barr Funeral Home, 6222 N. Broadway. Photo by Bob Zuley

Funeral director-owner hopes to remain in business at same address

BY BOB ZULEY

After 103 years in business at 6222 N. Broadway in Edgewater, Tim Harrington, the late founder's grandson and current owner, has decided to put Barr Funeral Home on-the-market. The property is listed for \$1.7 million by Michael Zyung of Baird & Warner.

The family-owned neighborhood legacy business began in 1923 when it was founded by William M. Barr and his wife, Ellen. In 1991, Tim Harrington, the third-generation funeral director, took over management and opera-

tion of the mortuary.

In addition to operating the day-to-day business of the funeral home, Harrington prides himself on being an active member of the Edgewater community. He boasts about his memberships on the Board of the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce, a 10-year volunteer of the United Service Organization [USO] at O'Hare International Airport, and the top adult leader of the Chicago Area Sea Scouts among his accomplishments.

The immediate community may think of adding Barr to the list of the now-defunct Maloney and Weinstein Funeral Homes on the 1300 Block of Devon Ave., and the Piser Weinstein Home on the 5200 Block of Broadway

— but community members would be remiss.

Harrington tells this newspaper that he has no intention of retiring, and plans to continue helping his Edgewater neighbors as a funeral/cremation service.

"My plan is to rent a storefront as close as possible to my current location, and ultimately hope to rent in the new building once it's built. Ideally, I would have the same 6222 address," Harrington wrote.

"Most of the families I serve use my current building only to make the initial arrangements. Cremation with no viewing, or meeting at a church for viewing before a service makes up the bulk of my

BARR see p. 16

Group of City Council members blasts Mayor's 2027 budget forecast

BY PETER VON BUOL

A group of Chicago alders blasted Mayor Brandon Johnson's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Forecast Sept. 3 as disingenuous.

"Looking ahead, the City faces a projected \$882.4 million gap in 2027 — \$283.9 million less than estimated for 2027 in last year's forecast," said Johnson in his 2027 Budget Forecast which was distributed to the Chicago City Council and which is located online at [Chicago.gov](https://www.chicago.gov).

"This reduction is driven by

the performance of our progressive revenues and demonstrates that our approach is working. Our responsible stewardship of public dollars and our progressive revenue measures are addressing Chicago's structural gap, a challenge that has persisted for many years," he said.

Members of the Chicago City Council who oppose Johnson's accounting methods said his 2027 budget forecast is unrealistic.

"While the Johnson administration works overtime to deflect from failures of its own making,

the reality is straightforward - this administration abandoned Chicagoans on the most basic responsibility of governing: executing the budget," noted a written statement issued from the office of Ald. Samantha Nugent [39th]. "They slow-walked multiple FY26 revenue measures that could've generated hundreds of millions towards reducing our structural deficit, then pointed fingers at everyone else for not getting the job done."

BUDGET see p. 4

Montrose Beach clean up Sept. 19

A Montrose Beach cleanup will be held 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, along with the Alliance for the Great Lakes and the Truman College Environmental Club.

Volunteers will collect and catalog all the debris found to help analyze the cleanliness of the beach.

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If you can't measure it, you can't improve it



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

From the beginning of time human beings have sought to control a way to measure their place in the universe.

For early humans it might have meant the width of their cave. Or the height of their treehouse. Or the weight of the beast they hunted and the fish they caught.

Measuring was a way to grip the world. Evaluate stability to defend or keep them safe. It was a way to name the world and the wonders which they experienced all around them. No matter how much they changed, they still needed to measure the size, shape and value of their world, and what it told them about their place in the world.

Measurement told one what they needed to survive. Measurement was practical. Trustworthy and essential.

Instruments that enhanced the ability to measure with accuracy were critical to survival. Humans discovered these methods based on their ability to learn from their experience. This meant they could look beyond the present at the longer measure of time with further dependability and accuracy.

Measurement never ends whether in baking, fashion design, fishing, floods, fireworks, baseball, football or bowling.

Measurement permits us the ability to wear shoes that fit, trou-

sers that won't fall down, or buttons that won't pop off your shirt, no matter how much you ate. We rely on measurement when we order a pizza, a taxi, or elect a political leader.

Chicago has always been a city of powerful measurement. Driven by skilled accuracy and clever ability to measure our place in the universe.

Chicago has always been guided by professional politicians who either have the gift of accurate measurement of our urban life or are useless to finding our city's place in the world.

We have had fabulous examples of highly intelligent leaders who were gifted with the skill of political measurement that lead to greatness. Leaders like William Butler Ogden, our first mayor. And Buckner Morris our second. Walter Gurnee, our 14th mayor, was a man of reason and sharp wit. Levi Boone, our 17th and 21st mayor back in 1853 was also a character of groomed political measurement.

But all paled in comparison to "Long John" Wentworth, our 17th and 19th mayor as we marched toward Civil War. He had the fortitude to ensure Abraham Lincoln got on the ballot and saved the Union.

Tribune boss, Joseph Medill, came to office in 1871, the year of the Great Fire. He had the gift of true measurement critical to Chicago's post-fire recovery. The city changed as we rushed to decades of recovery and growth. But measurement was essential.

Rebuilding Chicago as the capitol of the heartland filled more critical contours of promise. Meat packing and railroads saved us. Both marked the real measure of recovery.

Post-fire mayors were strong-willed and ripe for rebuilding. Chicago was the nation's mea-

surement capitol in an era of invention, producing great architecture and political leadership that could steer the nation.

From 38th mayor, Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne, first president of the Irish Fellowship Club, to Richard J. Daley, our 48th mayor, the 20th century offered a fresh measure of this American city.

Dunne is the only mayor of Chicago to also serve as Governor of Illinois. And Daley, was the 56th President of the Irish Fellowship Club and totally reorganized the club in 1956 with the help of his chief of staff, Butch McGuire.

Daley was also strategic in putting John Fitzgerald Kennedy in the White House.

That's why our upcoming mayoral election is so critical. It's time to recalibrate our political measurement. We need a politico with x-ray vision. We need, once again, a measurement that is practical, trustworthy, reasoned and a nimble, sharp thinker. We need a wheeler-dealer of intelligence who can act quickly and one who is not tied up in puppet strings to a radical Marxist union stuck on failed 19th Century concepts, as is our current mayor. We need fresh, bright ideas and hope, to grip the world we exist in and offer citizens an honest measure of success and failure.

THE IRISH: George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "An Irishman's heart is nothing but his imagination." Shaw's hilarious but unrelenting curmudgeonry had the ability to touch his fellow Irishmen where they were often most vulnerable - for in actions of the heart, the Irish have neither defense nor excuse.

For 125 years, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago [IFCC] has been about the business of the heart, that long tether connecting the Irish to the inescapable consequences of our destiny. IFCC sought to affirm the identity and cultural heritage of a great people, forced by the circumstances of history to live outside the homeland of their tribe. IFCC has also continuously sought to celebrate good fortune unearthed by the Irish in the splendor of the USA.

The IFCC was founded by a gracious breed of Chicago

gentlemen, hyphenated by their Irish-American character and the double loyalty of their patriotism. They were tired of the internecine rivalries and age old bickering that seemed to follow the Irish in their clubs and fraternal organizations. From the beginning the IFCC was to be above such banalities. For 125 years, the refined traditions of its founders have signaled a special pride found in being Irish and American. It has spilled over into the character and spirit of the city that has been its home and that has so uniquely nourished it.



Enda Kenny

Those so inclined are invited to join the IFCC for a true Irish celebration on Sept. 17 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Theater on The Lake, Fullerton and Lake Shore Dr. Former Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) **Enda Kenny** will attend the event recognizing this outstanding anniversary as a honored guest. A special fireworks show will cap off the evening.

BIG SPENDERS: North Side homeowners face a sharper increase in property taxes this year compared to businesses — a result of home values climbing much faster than commercial real estate values, according to an analysis by Cook County Treasurer **Maria Pappas**.

The tax increase is a result of spending by local governments, who are continually seeking more money from property owners. This year marks the 32nd annual increase in a row they've taken more of your cash. This one is an

increase of about 3.9% — well above the annual regional inflation rate of 3.1%. Over the past 30 years, tax increases have pushed up the total tax tab by \$12.9 billion, or 184%, twice the 91% increase in the local cost of goods and services.



Greg Cameron

BALLET: The Joffrey Ballet last week announced that CEO **Greg Cameron** will leave in Dec. 2027, concluding a 15-year tenure adding to the organization's financial and institutional strength and elevated its standing in the dance community. The transition follows a succession plan Cameron, Board Chair **Jim McDonough** and the Joffrey Directors developed three years ago.

GREEKTOWN FEST: The crowds dodged the raindrops on Halsted St. for Greektown's annual fest of the fabulous Greek cuisine that is delicious, exotic and sophisticated. Greek music filled the air mixed with the heavenly aromas of baklava, gyros, leg of lamb and Greek pasta. Greek Island's **Stefanos** and **Gus** brimmed with courtly pride.

SAIL AWAY: **Rick Kogan** had fine words on the death of Classic Chicago newsmen, **Jim Ruddle** who died recently at 94.

MEASURE see p. 12



35th Annual
Edgewater Home Tour

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Sunday, September 20, 2026



Register at:
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For more information about the Tour,
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City drops plan for city-owned grocery; will now offer food market grants

BY JIM TALAMONTI AND JON JOSKO
The Center Square, Illinois Policy

Chicago plans to spend up to \$500,000 on a new grant program for neighborhood markets, as city officials indicated a shift away from earlier plans for a city-owned grocery store.

The Neighborhood Market Grant Program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] and the nonprofit Allies for Community Business, with one-time grants of \$10,000 offered to support small food business owners and farmers market operators.

Chicago Dept. of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Cmsr. Ivan Capifali said not every neighborhood has the same access to fresh food. This program hopes to help address the inequity by directing resources toward businesses and markets," Capifali said during an Aug. 28 media

event.

The city's goal is to attract small, local retailers as well as larger chains. Grocery stores are closing in Chicago because of heavy financial losses, criminal theft, a major drop in SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] benefit use, and high operating costs.

Illinois food stamp enrollment fell in July to its lowest level in at least 13 years, a drop driven by new federal work requirements.

About 1.5 million Illinois residents received SNAP benefits in July, down more than 23% from July 2025, and the lowest monthly total in state data going back to 2013. Since April, the last month before

those rules took hold, the state has shed about 173,000 SNAP recipients, a 10.5% drop in four months.

Chicago alone accounted for nearly a third of the state's SNAP recipients in July, with about 16.5% of the city's population enrolled.

"This is just the approach that I believe is so critical in this moment, that businesses recognize that my administration is committed to not just incentivizing fresh grocery to participate in our economy, but to put some skin in the game," said Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Johnson also said last week that the city might use its remaining ARPA funds to close its budget deficit for the current fis-

cal year.

In Sept. 2023, Johnson announced a partnership with the Economic Security Project, with the intention of opening a city-owned grocery store. A reporter asked the mayor about those plans on Friday.

"The brick and mortar standup was one, yes, that we did contemplate, but after further review and spending time in the community, there are a number of people who are already doing this work," Johnson said.

The mayor said the grant program offers a broader approach.

"It reaches more people when we can

GROCERY see p. 14

Our Sept. 2 micro-mobility story was edited and altered

This newspaper published a story Sept. 2 by reporter Ben Szalinski of Capitol News Illinois [CNI] regarding recent state-sponsored e-bike and e-scooter regulation.

That story was copy edited and altered by this newspaper which was a violation of the CNI's Republishing Guidelines.

Specifically we added items to Szalinski's story related to local enforcement of the new state regulations and added a reference, and analogy, to a famous old cartoon "Mr. Magoo," whose main character's poor driving skills resulted in many accidents. We saw it as a good analogy to use in describing the ongoing behavior of many North Side e-scooter and e-bike motorists.

We also added other items to the CNI story over the potential use of existing red light and speeding camera technology for enforcement of the new micro-mobility legislation, since many North Side drivers get nabbed by that technology.

Szalinski and CNI asked that we run this notice, on the record, stating that this newspaper edited and made additions to this story.

Capitol News Illinois, founded in Jan. 2019 by the Illinois Press Foundation, is concerned that their reputation as an unbiased news organization is jeopardized by having their stories edited or altered in anyway. Whereas this newspaper has a century-old policy of copy-editing content submitted by all contributing writers.

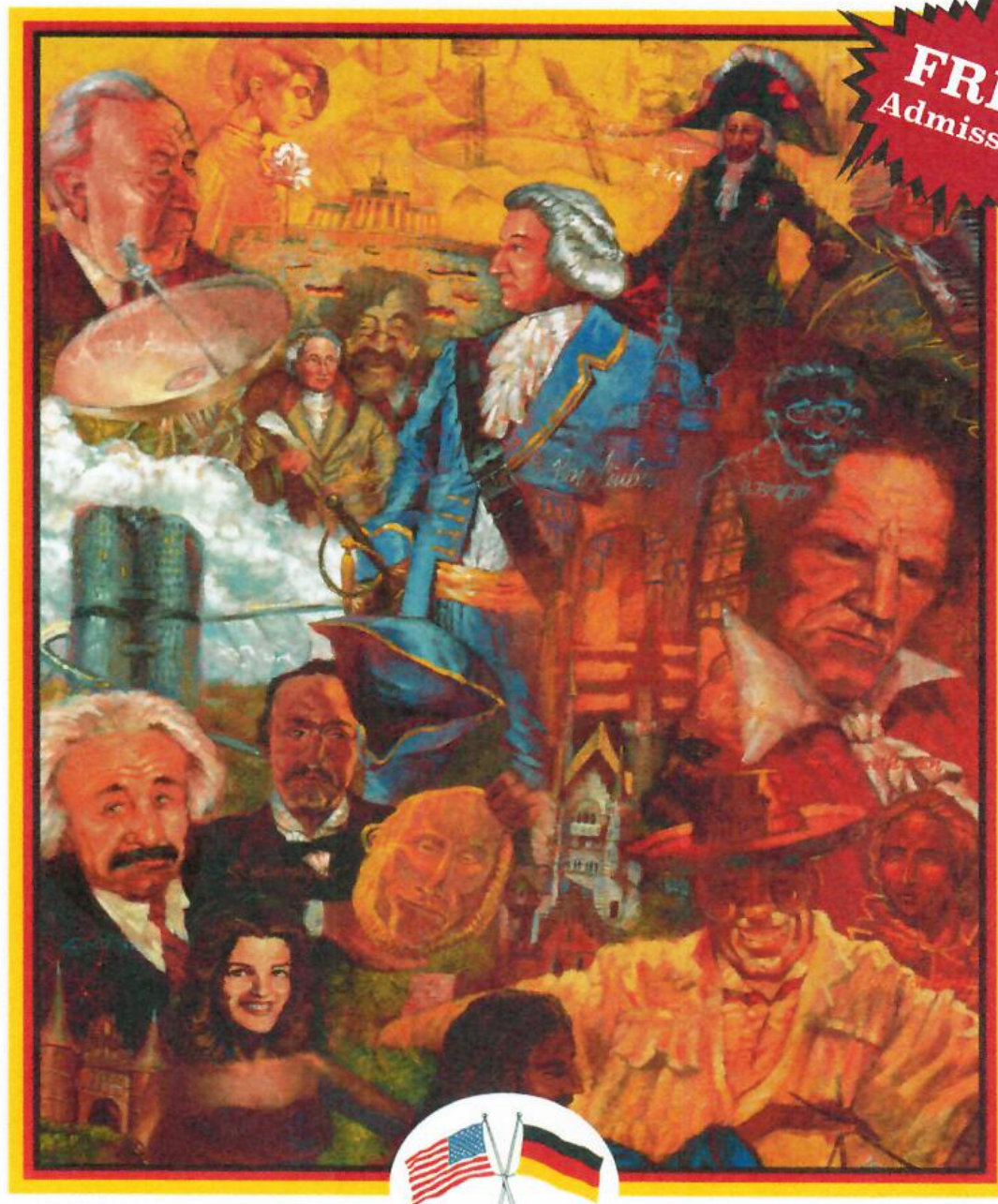
That leaves this newspaper's policies and those of CNI at odds.

Inside Publications will continue to edit all content of all writers prior to publishing, as needed.

CNI and their staff of writers do solid journalism, and in an era of dwindling statewide reporting, they provide coverage to Illinois-based media on many statewide issues. This newspaper would not likely publish much, if any, statewide content were it not for CNI. Our primary news focus is Chicago's North Side.

Copy editing is standard procedure for most newspapers. American newspapers started using copy editors in U.S. newsrooms shortly after the Civil War, with the role growing widely popular by the 1890s. This newspaper first utilized copy editors in 1904.

We encourage our readers who wish to read CNI content to visit <https://capitol-newsillinois.com/>, where you can find Szalinski's original micro-mobility regulations story, minus any of our edits, as well as a broad variety of other statewide stories.



German-American Oktoberfest September 11-12-13, 2026



FRIDAY — 5:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

8:00 PM OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

SATURDAY — NOON TO 10:00 PM

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Theater group to stage award-winning play at Tattler Post American Legion Hall

‘What the Constitution Means to Me’ - Oct. 1–25

Ways & Means Theatre will present Heidi Schreck’s Pulitzer Prize finalist “What the Constitution Means to Me” Oct. 1–25, at American Legion Tattler Post 973, 4355 N. Western Ave. The production, directed by Kaeli Meno, is staged inside the noted North Side American Legion hall: the very kind of room in which the play is set. Schreck’s play premiered off-Broadway in 2018 and transferred

to Broadway in 2019, where it received two Tony Award nominations and was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. A filmed version premiered on Amazon Prime Video in 2020. Schreck’s play retraces her teenage years earning college tuition by winning American Legion-sponsored debate contests on the U.S. Constitution, then opens outward into a sharp, funny, and personal examination of how that document has shaped four generations of women in her family. Each performance closes

with a live debate over whether the Constitution should be kept or rewritten. Ways & Means reimagines the work through a rotating cast: four performers share the central role of Heidi, with a different actor taking the part each night. The four women sharing the role are Samantha Garcia, Salome Mergia, Amanda Roeder, and Anne Trodden. The run is timed to the weeks leading into the November mid-term elections, when questions of representation, voting, and civic

power are of high interest. Post 973 was chartered in 1946 and takes its name from The Tattler, a neighborhood newspaper that local World War I veterans published and mailed to service members stationed overseas during World War II — a story about who counts as “we the people,” staged in a room built by people asking that question. Tattler Post 973 will be hosting the event. The production is presented alongside community partners the League of Women Voters Chicago, The Network:

Advocating Against Domestic Violence, and the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights. The ACLU of Illinois will provide pocket Constitutions for audience members to take home. Tickets are \$40 and the show runs 90 minutes. The show contains discussion of domestic violence, sexual assault of a minor, and abortion, so it is suggested for audiences ages 12 and older, for more information visit www.wam-theatre.com.

DANKHaus hosts Germans in America 250 presentation

Resident historian presents talk on American Revolution
BY PETER VON BUOL

On the eve of Chicago’s German Day and the 60th Annual Chicago Steuben Day Parade in Lincoln Square, and to celebrate America’s 250th birthday, resident DANKHaus historian Michael Haas will give a presentation on German-Americans in the American Revolution.

The namesake of the Steuben Parade is Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a German general who arrived at Valley Forge and transformed George Washington’s American troops into a professional fighting force. Steuben was not, however, the first German-American immigrant to have a major impact on the country.

“There was a significant German element in the British Colonies, prior to 1776. An estimated 100,000 German immigrants had already come, mostly as peasant farmers, tradesmen and religious refugees,” said Haas.

Haas will be hosting two lectures about German-Americans and the American Revolution.

The first will be a virtual event and will be held on Wednesday, September 9. The second, on Thursday, Sept. 10, will be an in-person discussion in the Brauhaus Room of the DANKHaus, 4740 N. Western Ave. Both versions start at 7 p.m. and are projected to last 90 minutes, and tickets run \$20 to \$25.

The first group of permanent German immigrants had arrived in 1683 as religious refugees and founded a Quaker settlement in Germantown, PA. In 1688, it was a Germantown resident, Francis Daniel Pastorius, who published an opinion-editorial against the evils of slavery, the first in the British colonies of North America.

“My presentation will provide a description of the ‘Old World’ this ‘first wave’ of German immigrants had left behind and about the ‘New World’ they had sought refuge in,” said Haas.

One of these early German immigrants was Peter Zenger, who had emigrated from a region which today is in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate. As a youth, Zenger had been apprenticed to a New York printer. By 1733, Zenger operated his own newspaper, the New York Weekly

Journal, which became successful because it tackled government corruption.

Unfortunately, British authorities did not approve of his newspaper reporting and he was jailed for his coverage. At the conclusion of his sensational trial, a jury found Zenger not guilty. His attorneys had successfully argued that because Zenger had only reported the truth, he could not be convicted of libel.

“Zenger’s case was well-known to the nation’s founders and his case had a significant influence

on the drafting of the future U.S. Constitution,” said Haas.

The faith in free speech - and the principle that truth is a defense for libel - remains a cornerstone of American freedom today.

After Washington’s army was victorious at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781 (the final land battle of the war), the United States of America would continue to be a beacon for future German immigrants. At Yorktown, Steuben was the only officer on Washington’s staff who had prior experience in the siege of a town. That vic-

tory directly resulted in the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which ensured American Independence.

“From peasants to patriots, subjects to citizens, the unique experiences of these early German immigrants to the former British colonies would carve out a “German American” legacy for all of those who would follow after them,” said Haas.

For more information visit dankhaus.com to register on-line or call 773-561-9181.

BUDGET from p. 1

Among the coalition members who have wasted no time blasting Johnson’s accounting methods has been Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd], who said more time is necessary to examine all of the forecast’s details but so far, he does not like what he has read.

“We’re going to be going over [the forecast] in more detail, but this was something that we had to put together quickly. It’s amazing how much this mayor and his allies contort all the budget and finance issues,” said Waguespack.

In their written statement, the coalition took issue with Johnson

“We understand an election is around the corner, and silly season is here. But Chicagoans know spin when they see it and we will continue to work to do what’s in the best interest of our residents, families and businesses and focus on putting Chicago on its best financial footing possible,” notes the coalition’s statement.

taking credit for outcomes for which he had done nothing.

“They’re taking credit for outcomes they had nothing to do with: a Personal Property Lease Transaction Tax [PPLTT] revenue stream they didn’t execute, a budget the Mayor refused to sign, and a pension payment City Council forced them to make. Meanwhile,

debt owed to the City has grown nearly \$2 billion on Johnson’s watch- money Chicagoans are counting on to help close this very deficit. They make claims of monetizing assets that don’t exist, and tout “expenditure reductions,” which means hiring fewer police officers to serve communities living with violence every day,” says the coalition’s statement.

Johnson’s budget tricks, they added, are simply a way for him to attempt to confuse voters in the upcoming 2027 mayoral election and they warned the mayor they will continue to oppose what they say are budget tricks and sleight-of-hand tactics.

In 2025, many of these alders had to work overtime nights and weekends crafting a budget over the Christmas and New Year holidays, without Johnson’s help of the City’s Finance Office, which serves at the pleasure of the Mayor’s office.

At the end of 2025, a coalition of more than 26 alderpersons had passed a budget that had bypassed Johnson’s budget. That budget did not include Johnson’s much-discussed \$33 per person job-killing monthly corporate employment tax.

“We understand an election is around the corner, and silly season is here. But Chicagoans know spin when they see it and we will continue to work to do what’s in the best interest of our residents, families and businesses and focus on putting Chicago on its best financial footing possible,” notes the coalition’s statement.

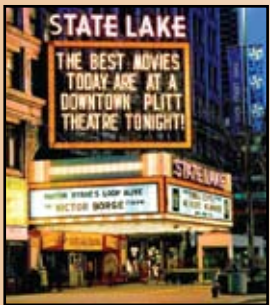


RAVENSWOOD-LAKE VIEW HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Fall 2026 Lecture Series

CHICAGO MOVIE THEATER HISTORY

WITH PATRICK STEFFESS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 6:30 PM



Join Patrick Steffes for an exclusive presentation on Chicago movie theater history! From grand downtown movie palaces to former neighborhood anchors, Chicago has long been a leader in the development and evolution of the American movie house. Featuring many rare images, many not seen in decades, you’ll be sure to enjoy the lesser-known history of movie exhibitions in Chicago. We will take a look at everything from still-standing 110-year-old former Nickelodeons to vanished palaces and long-closed theaters waiting for restoration.

Patrick is an expert on Chicago’s cultural and development history, and has collaborated with the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development at DePaul University since 2014. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications and a Bachelor’s Degree in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Patrick is a former editor at Forgotten Chicago, an organization that researched and explored Chicagoland’s overlooked built environment and infrastructure.

All programs are held in the Lerner Auditorium, Conrad Sulzer Regional Library at 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.

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Is plan for Whole Foods in Old Town a smoke screen?



The Home Front by Don DeBat

Thousands of Old Town neighborhood residents are gleefully doing cartwheels over the planned opening of a classy Whole Foods Market store on the 1600 North block of Wells St. after experiencing eight-years of a vacant grocery storefront.

However, some real estate insiders are skeptical about the mystery behind the sudden announcement. Is it all part of the sophisticated chess game developer Fern Hill is playing at the intersection of North Ave. and Wells?

Last week, Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] announced that Whole Foods has signed a lease at the defunct Treasure Island [TI] food store chain's former location at 1639 N. Wells. The space has been vacant since TI shuttered all of its locations in 2018.



Ald. Brian Hopkins

The 44,000-square-foot retail property is adjacent to 1600 N. LaSalle Dr., where controversial developer Fern Hill plans to build a 349-unit apartment tower. Ald. Hopkins said bringing in a new grocery store was always a priority when he evaluated the developer's plans for the properties.

Critics wonder if the proposed Whole Foods lease is a smoke screen to take the heat off over the massive opposition to the Fern Hill high-rise.

Skeptical critics say the Whole Foods deal is really about throwing grocery-starved Old Town residents a steak bone—a convenient place to buy gourmet coffee, egg-salad sandwiches, wine and that good steak.

Meanwhile, Fern Hill continues its secret master plan to turn Wells St. and Piper's Alley into an ever-expanding high-rise enclave.

Real estate insiders whisper to this reporter that Fern Hill's long-range "Old Town Canvas" plan also includes the Piper's Alley tract, now owned by Old Town Development Associates, LLC, a partnership headed by politically connected Thomas M. Tully, who served as Cook County Assessor from 1974 through 1978.

These insiders suggest Fern Hill's proposed 36-story high-rise at North and Wells apparently is the first planned pawn to stretch the "land-canvas"—through



The proposed "Old Town Canvas" high-rise at North Ave. and Wells.

various partnerships—for at least two additional towers along North Ave. west of Wells St.

Mayors Daley 1958 and 2045 Plans

Some may recall Mayor Richard J. Daley's plan to expand the parameters of downtown Chicago northward to North Ave. was formally laid out in the historic 1958 Development Plan for the Central Area of Chicago.

Commissioned by Daley in 1957, and prepared by the then newly formed Dept. of City Planning under Cmsr. Ira Bach, the document explicitly expanded the boundaries of the "Central Area" to run from North Ave. south to 26th St., and from Lake Michigan west to Ashland Ave. This master plan sought to dramatically expand the city's definition of its core commercial and cultural footprint.

That 1958 plan was followed later by Mayor Daley's son, Mayor Richard M. Daley, in The Central Area Plan 2045, which was completed in 2024.

The 2045 Plan planning area reflects Chicago's Downtown Zoning District, which is approximately bounded by Division St. on the north; portions of Ogden Ave., Ashland Ave. and Halsted St. on the west; portions of Cermak Rd. and 25th Street/I-55 on the south; and Lake Michigan on the east.

This expansion northward laid the groundwork for revitalizing the Near North Side, and paved the way for massive high-density residential and commercial modernizations. The plan sought to anchor middle-class residents and commercial investments firmly within an enlarged downtown core to combat post-war suburban migration.

Fast forward to 2026, and apparently also in play in this rezoning chess game is the Piper's Alley complex, including the recently closed X-sport Fitness Club, Starbucks, Second City Theater, and more than a dozen high-rent commercial properties that ring the northwest corner of North and Wells running west to North Park Ave.

Patrons say Piper's Alley garage now is rapidly deteriorating with spalling concrete ramps, chipped steps, and a malfunctioning elevator.

Zoning experts say the rezoning of the 84,078-square-foot Piper's Alley site to allow a floor-area-ratio of 420,390 square feet could eventually pave the way for two additional high-rise towers on the north

side of North Ave. between Wells and North Park.

Real estate insiders say the value of the Piper's Alley site eventually could double if it were developed with high-rises and 300-plus parking spaces.

With all the current real estate intrigue unfolding along Wells St., analysts say it is not farfetched to imagine Walgreens moving permanently into the former TI, and soon Whole Foods building.

Then, a swank new LA Fitness health club eventually could open on the ground floor of the Fern Hill high-rise planned on the northeast corner of North and Wells.

"Whole Foods Market is an established operator with the capacity to serve the neighborhood for the long term," Ald. Hopkins said. "There is still work ahead, but the signed lease is a concrete and welcome step forward."

No opening date has been set for the new Whole Foods store owned by Amazon.

While a Fern Hill affiliate owns both the properties at 1639 N. Wells and 1600 N. LaSalle, the planned Whole Foods can proceed separately from the high-rise development, which is the subject of an ongoing legal battle.

Fern Hill won City Council approval for a 36-story apartment tower on the site in April 2025. Three months later, a group representing residential owners adjacent to the site sued to stop the project from moving forward, arguing that the city improperly rezoned the property.

Last April, a judge sided with attorneys for the city and Fern Hill in granting their motion to dismiss that lawsuit. The project's opponents have filed notice that they plan to appeal the judge's decision, accord-

WHOLE FOODS see p. 10



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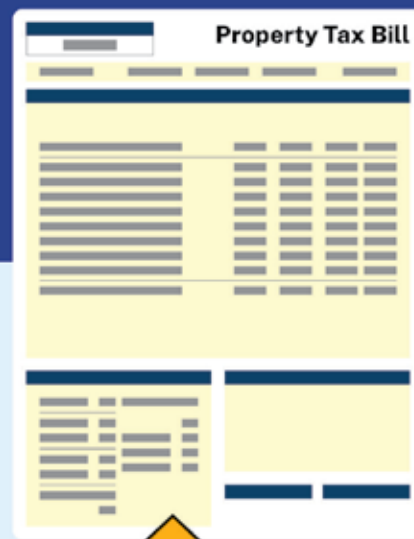
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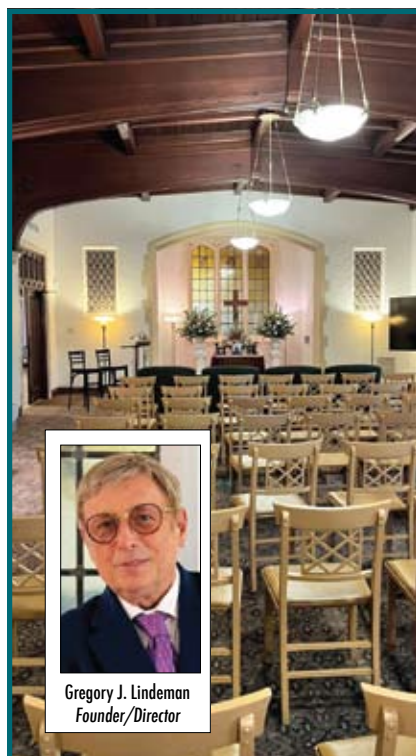
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Public places to sacred spaces:

Commemorating the 1926 International Eucharistic Congress

BY REBEKAH COFFMAN
Chicago History Museum

This year marks the centennial of the 28th International Eucharistic Congress, which was held in Chicago from June 20 to 24, 1926. Rebekah Coffman, Curator of Religion and Community History, writes about the event and how public spaces in Chicago have been adapted into temporary sacred spaces.

You may have seen recent news from Mayor Brandon Johnson and his entourage traveling to the Vatican to visit Pope Leo XIV, the first Pope hailing from the US. As part of his visit, Mayor Johnson invited him to celebrate a mass in Grant Park, recalling Pope John Paul II’s visit to Chicago in 1979.

Pope John Paul II, born Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, had taken the world by storm as the first non-Italian pope elected in 500 years. At the time of his 1979 visit, Chicago was the largest Catholic diocese in the country and claimed one of the largest Polish diasporas outside of Poland.

More than 200,000 (some estimates say up to 1 million) people were in the crowds of his Grant Park Mass, with thousands more lining the streets in neighborhoods around the city as he made visitation rounds.

When it was announced in 2025 that the new global leader of the Catholic church hailed not only from the US but more specifically Chicagoland, it seemed fitting that the Church and the city have wanted to mark the moment with large-scale fanfare again, including the public mass held at Rate Field in 2025.



(L) Clerical procession during the International Eucharistic Congress at Soldier Field, 1926. *Courtesy DN-0081753, Chicago Sun-Times/Chicago Daily News Collection, Chicago History Museum* (R) Pope John Paul II, along with local bishops, gives mass to crowd in Grant Park, Chicago, Oct. 5, 1979. *Courtesy ST-19070082-0016, Chicago Sun-Times Collection, Chicago History Museum*



When we imagine sacred spaces across the city of Chicago, any number of beautiful architectural monuments may come to mind. However, as papal visits and large-scale masses in Grant Park demonstrate, there are innumerable locations in the city that have served as temporary—even spontaneous—places of spiritual encounter.

Often, these traces of gathering moments are erased from our visual memory of the city’s landscape but have powerfully shaped our collective history.

Parks, beaches, stadiums, theaters, and countless other spaces in the city demonstrate these lesser-known sacred connections. The Municipal Grant Park Stadium, renamed Soldier Field soon after, is an example of how spaces evolve and transform in both sacred and contested ways. The original stadium was designed by Holabird & Roche in 1924 and opened to the public

in October of that year.

On Nov. 11, 1925, it was renamed as a form of memorial for soldiers lost in World War I, becoming thereafter known as Soldier Field. Since its opening, Soldier Field has been home to athletic games, concerts, and a host of other large-scale events. It has served as the home field for the Chicago Bears since 1971 and home stadium of the Chicago Fire FC twice, first from 1997 to 2006, and again since 2020.

As with many buildings in transition, the uncertain future of Soldier Field can be a time to remember the many ways its history has transformed. Held June 20–24, 1926, the 28th International Eucharistic Congress was the first of its kind in the US.

The events took place across a network of places across Chicagoland—some dedicated religious spaces such as Holy Name

Cathedral, with others transformed specifically for the congress, including Soldier Field.

The goal of Eucharistic Congresses was to reengage people with the Catholic Church and Christianity, especially during an age of what was then seen as increasing secularization. It gets its name from the eucharist, meaning the process of giving and receiving communion, and church leaders believed large, public displays would remind the public of the importance of the Church. Functionally, they served in many ways as a religiously oriented World’s Fair, bringing together representatives of different nations.

The first Congress was held in Lille, France, in 1881, followed by a series of other congresses in France, Belgium, Swit-

SPACES see p. 10

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Community debate Sept. 27 on city services

Braver Angels, an organization that promotes constructive discussion across political lines, is hosting a community debate on the theme “Resolved: Requests for city services should not go through aldermanic offices.”

The debate starts at 2 p.m. Sunday Sept. 27 at Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.

During this moderated event, a debate chair will conduct the discussion, and all attendees will have the chance to speak for or against the resolution and to question speakers. The program is free; however, advance registration is required, as space is limited.

This concept was recently introduced, when the Edgewater Glen Neighborhood Assoc. announced a Neighborhood Service Request page that allows the association to collect requests from across their neighborhood, identify recurring issues, and batch-submit them to the Alderman’s Office and appropriate City departments to help prioritize issues and get repairs completed faster.

The Braver Angels notes that while in some debate programs, the point isn’t to win; their goal is to “understand the other side a little better.” They use a special parliamentary debate format to encourage “everyone to participate, to support good faith, accurate disagreement, and to promote better understanding for all.”

Response Team training program starts Sept. 15

The City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management & Communications is seeking residents to register for the Community Engagement Response Team [CERT] training program for Fall 2026.

Fall Classes are being held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m. starting Tuesday, Sept. 15 and run through Thursday, Oct. 15. For questions, contact: chicagocitizencorps@cityofchicago.org.

This volunteer program was implemented nationally by FEMA in 1993. CERT members train for a minimum 27 hours of classroom and 3 hours hands-on practical skills in the following areas before becoming a registered volunteer working with disaster preparedness.

Training will include tire safety and utility controls, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, terrorism response and disaster medical operations.

Upon completion of the class, participants have the option to become a Chicago Citizen Corps CERT volunteer and assist professional emergency services in various deployments.

Past participants have played a role in emergency exercises and assisted the City of Chicago during various large-scale emergencies and public events.

Self-funded local nonprofit marks 25-year milestone

Federal spending cuts spark a spike in food needs

The Chicago Help Initiative [CHI] will celebrate a quarter-century of serving Chicago’s homeless, hungry and poverty-stricken at its 2026 Helping Hands Fundraiser, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at The Godfrey Hotel’s I/O Rooftop, 127 W. Huron St.

Since its founding in 2001, CHI has served over 1.1 million meals, helped 375 individuals secure permanent housing, and completed more than 42,000 resource navigation appointments—accomplishing this with a lean staff powered by dedicated volunteers.

That community-driven approach has taken on vital urgency in 2026, as deep federal spending cuts leave some North Side neighbors increasingly vulnerable.

These federal cuts to food assistance take hold this year, and the consequences are playing out in ordinary, everyday ways across

Chicago, which alone accounted for nearly a third of the state’s SNAP recipients in July, with about 16.5% of the city’s population enrolled.

Beginning in October, Illinois takes on an estimated \$705 million in new SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] administrative costs, as federal costs are shifted to states.

Illinois traditionally receives about \$4.7 billion in federal SNAP funds annually. Cuts in food assistance mean fewer neighbors can afford basic groceries, forcing families to make impossible choices every week.

Illinois recently launched the state-funded FRESH [Families Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger] program, setting aside \$70 million in state funds for one-time \$400 relief payments to residents who lost federal benefits.

Illinois food stamp enrollment fell in July to its lowest level in at least 13 years, a drop driven by new federal work requirements.

About 1.5 million Illinois residents received SNAP benefits in July, down more than 23% from July 2025, and the lowest monthly total in state data going back to 2013.

Since April, the last month before those rules took hold, the state has shed about 173,000 SNAP recipients, a 10.5% drop in three months.

Small, family-run markets have relied on for generations on their customers using government funds to pay for food—and will struggling to stay open, leaving entire areas with even fewer places nearby to find fresh, affordable food.

The coming federal food funds crisis is precisely the void CHI says they were built to fill: providing meals, community, and a path toward stability for anyone who walks through its doors.

CHI receives donated food products from manufacturers and stores like Costco, plus full donated meals from chefs and

restaurants that regularly supply their Wednesday suppers and Saturday bag-meal distribution. These are good, healthy product, not just leftovers, that CHI turns it into meals.

“As federal safety nets falter, we stand strong. We remain a consistent, uninterrupted sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness and hunger,” said Doug Fraser, Executive Director of The Chicago Help Initiative.

CHI’s Helping Hands Fundraiser will feature a cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, the presentation of the Helping Hands Awards, and information on a new Associates Board designed to engage next-generation community leaders. Featured speakers include Fraser, Board Chair Chris Stathopoulos, and Jacqueline Hayes, Founder and President Emerita. For tickets or more information, visit www.chicagohelpinitiative.org.



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Police Beat...

Man clinging to life after shooting outside Uptown park

A man is clinging to life after being shot outside the entrance to a city park in Uptown on Sept. 4, police said. No one is in custody.

Just before 8:30 p.m., multiple 911 callers reported hearing gunfire and seeing people running from the area of Buttercup Park in the 4900 block of N. Sheridan Rd. Officers arrived and found a 37-year-old man unresponsive just outside the park entrance. He was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in critical condition.

CPD provided little additional information about the shooting. Police were not given any descriptions of suspects to search for in the area. An officer at the scene said police recovered four shell casings at the mouth of Buttercup Park.

Friday's victim is the fourth person shot in Uptown this year, although that total includes a murder suspect who was shot by CPD. The number is exactly even with this point last year and remains well below the levels recorded in the neighborhood by this date in previous years: 11 in 2024, 12 in 2023 and 2022, and 15 in 2021 and 2020.

Rash of North Side commercial break-ins

Chicago police are giving notice of recent, rash commercial burglaries on the North Side. In all incidents, offender(s) enter into small retail stores by breaking a window-pane or a glass door insert. Upon making entry, offender(s) remove currency while present inside the businesses.

Incidents include burglaries on 2700 block of N. Elston Ave. 1:42 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1; three incidents in the 3200 block of W. Addison St. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 1:51 a.m., 1:52 a.m., and 1:53 a.m.; the 1800 block of W. Irving Park Rd. 1:55 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1; 1400 block of W. Irving Park Rd. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026 at 1:58 a.m.; two incidents in the 3700 block of N. Southport Ave. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, between 2 a.m. and 2:20 a.m.; four incidents in the 3800 block of N. Southport Ave. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, between 2 a.m. and 2:20 a.m.; 3700 block of N. Southport Ave. 2:04 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1; 3200 block of N. Clark St. 2:12 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, and on the 3100 block of N. Halsted St. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 2:15 a.m.

The offenders are described as five people wearing dark colored clothing, who were traveling in a small grey colored sedan.

Those who may have any information on these crimes can contact Area One Detectives at 312-747-8384, Area Three Detectives at 312-744-8263 and Area Five Detectives at 312-746-7394, or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use Reference # 26-CWP-024.

Man charged with Michigan Ave. theft

A 57-year-old Chicago man is facing felony charges after Sheriff's Police identified him as the person responsible for thefts at an upscale Michigan Ave. athleticwear store.

Sheriff's Police Organized Retail Crime investigators took Minister Bey into custody on Aug. 27 following their investigation into thefts at the Alo Store in the 700 block of N. Michigan Ave. that occurred on May 19 and July 4, in which the

same man took nearly \$8,000 in merchandise between the two thefts.

Following his arrest, investigators learned that Bey had active retail theft warrants from DuPage and Kane Counties as well as from Fairfax County, VA. Later that day, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office approved two counts of felony retail theft against Bey. He was ordered released from custody on those charges on Aug. 28, but he remains in Cook County Jail custody on the warrants.

Bey is believed to be involved in other retail thefts in the Chicago metro area and across

the Midwest. Those investigations are ongoing.

Man gets 61 years for killing Red Line passenger over a Pepsi

For nearly a year, Isaac Anderson worked as a security guard at some of the city's biggest annual events. That career, and whatever Anderson hoped to achieve with the rest of his life, derailed on an October morning in 2022 when he murdered a man aboard a Red Line train, a killing prosecutors said was sparked by Anderson's desire to have the victim's Pepsi.



Issac Anderson

Jurors needed just three hours in June to find Isaac Anderson, 30, guilty of the slaying. On Sept. 3, Judge Angela Munari-Petrone handed down his sentences: 55 years for murder

plus a consecutive five years for robbery. By law, he will have to serve all of the murder term plus half of the robbery sentence before being eligible for release.

Prosecutors said CTA surveillance footage captured everything, starting when Anderson used his own Ventra card to enter the State-Lake CTA station on the morning of the shooting.

He boarded a southbound train, and 60-year-old Oral Woods boarded the same car a few minutes later. After about 30 to 40 minutes, Anderson got up from his seat and sat down next to Woods. They talked for a few minutes before Anderson grabbed Woods' backpack and looked inside, prosecutors said.

Video showed Anderson taking a Pepsi from the backpack and tossing the bag onto the seat next to Woods. Prosecutors said Anderson returned to his original seat, sipped the Pepsi, then went back and threw the rest of the soda on Woods. When Woods stood up, unarmed and with both hands visible, Anderson pulled a revolver from his jacket pocket and shot him five times, prosecutors said. Anderson then fled from the 87th Street station.

Chicago police officers, working from an initial description of the shooter, found Anderson a short time later as he rode a CTA bus. They interviewed him, collected his information and searched him for weapons, but he did not have a gun, and police let him go. Days later, after investigators determined he was responsible for the shooting.

Prosecutors said investigators found records showing Anderson bought three guns, including a revolver, in Nov. 2021. Police also found a Facebook photo of Anderson posing with a revolver, as well as messages in which he discussed shooting someone, according to court records.

Anderson had no criminal history before the shooting. His defense attorney said during Anderson's initial court appearance that he had been working as a security guard for almost a year, including at major events such as Lollapalooza.

Man attacked Red Line passenger while on pretrial release for two cases



Johnelle McDonald, left, and a frame from the video.

A Chicago man has been detained after a confrontation aboard a Red Line CTA train was caught on video, allegedly showing him attacking another passenger and kicking him off the train. Records show the man was already on pretrial release in two other cases at the time.

It happened around 3:52 p.m. Aug. 31, on a northbound train near the Chicago-State station, according to Chicago police. The 40-year-old victim told officers that Johnelle McDonald stood up while aboard the train and coughed in his face several times, according to a CPD media statement. The two began arguing, and McDonald started hitting the victim in the face and body and using his fingers to gouge the victim's eyes and mouth, police said.

A bystander recorded the confrontation and later shared the video online. The footage shows the victim lying on his back against a train door as the other man, allegedly McDonald, repeatedly punches him. The victim eventually gets back on his feet. When the train reaches the Chicago-State station and the doors open, the video shows the other man kicking the victim off the train. Police were called, and officers arrested McDonald at the Fullerton stop.

According to CPD records, the Sept. 1 arrest was the sixth time Chicago police arrested McDonald in the past year. He was on pretrial release in two theft cases when the Red Line incident occurred. One is a felony theft case from February, while the other is a misdemeanor retail theft case stemming from an arrest just nine days before the train incident. Both theft cases originated at the same store in the 3100 block of N. Clark St. in Lakeview.

Judge Antara Rivera detained McDonald on a new charge of aggravated battery of a transit passenger. She also detained him for violating his pretrial release conditions.

Armed men carjack couple, assault victim in River North

Armed men carjacked a couple in River North Sept. 7, taking their SUV and assaulting one of the victims, Chicago police said.

At about 2:40 a.m., a 48-year-old man and a 34-year-old woman were standing outside a black Audi Q7 in the first block of W. Grand Ave. when a dark-colored vehicle stopped nearby, according to a CPD spokesperson. Three masked men got out and approached the couple.

The victims told police the men were wearing ski masks and carrying Draco-style firearms as they demanded control of the Audi. Police said a physical altercation broke out between the assailants and the male victim as the offenders took property from him before getting into the SUV and driving away, police said.

The man was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition, according to the spokesperson, but the extent of his injuries was not immediately available. Police later found the Audi unoccupied in West Pullman.



A photo from a Facebook account that FBI agents linked to Jawad Hakeem (left) and a video grab of the bank robber picking up fallen cash.

19 years for Loop bank robber who fired shots at guard, dropped cash during getaway

A Waukegan man who robbed two downtown Chicago banks in the span of one week in March 2023, including a Loop holdup during which he fired nine shots at a security guard, has been sentenced to 19 years in federal prison.

The first robbery occurred on March 3 at a Chase Bank at 401 N. Clark St. in River North. Displaying a handgun he stole from a car in Naperville the night before, Jawad Hakeem ordered two customers to lie face down in the lobby and threatened to shoot them if a teller did not hand over money, prosecutors said in a court filing. He left with \$2,002.

Six days later, he entered the Fifth Third Bank at 1 S. Wacker Dr. shortly before 3 p.m. and pointed the same gun at two tellers, according to a government sentencing memorandum.

As the tellers filled bags with cash, a security guard standing outside the bank spotted Hakeem through the windows. Hakeem pointed the gun at the guard, who drew his service weapon and attempted to stop him from leaving. Hakeem then fired nine shots at the guard as he moved toward the bank's exit. The bullets shattered the bank's windows.

"These were not warning shots to scare away the guard," the sentencing memorandum said. "They were fired directly at the guard and intended to seriously injure or kill him so that defendant could get away with the robbery proceeds."

The guard returned fire and retreated. No one was struck, although the guard suffered a minor injury from broken glass, prosecutors said.

The shooting prompted lockdowns at nearby office buildings and the Ogilvie Transportation Center as police searched for the gunman.

During a later interview with a doctor, Hakeem, 51, minimized the physical impact of the robberies, saying there was "no harm" beyond the loss of bank money and noting that the security guard had not suffered a physical injury, according to the sentencing memorandum.

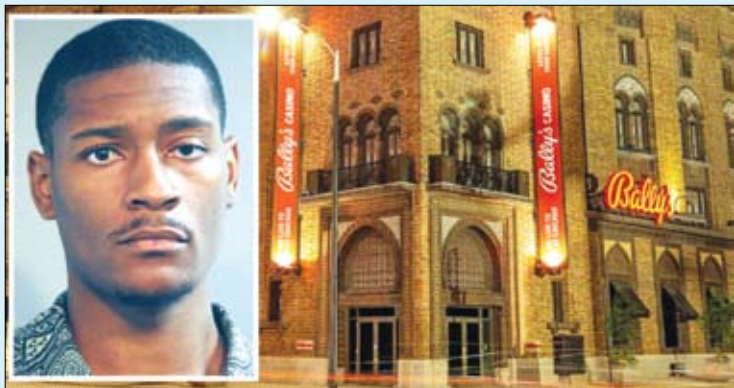
Hakeem left with approximately \$23,900 from the Fifth Third Bank, dropping \$10,450 outside as he fled, according to the sentencing memorandum. He stopped to pick up as much cash as he could, a sight caught on video by a witness in a nearby high-rise.

Hakeem was arrested on March 13, 2023, in Waukegan on unrelated charges. The handgun used in the robberies was recovered from a motel room where Hakeem had recently stayed, prosecutors said. He has remained in law enforcement custody since then.

Hakeem pleaded guilty earlier this year to federal bank robbery and firearm charges. On Aug. 26, U.S. District Judge John F. Kness sentenced Hakeem to 19 years in federal prison.

In addition to his 19-year prison sentence, Hakeem was ordered to pay restitution to the two banks totaling \$15,452.

The sentence was announced by Andrew S. Boutros, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Ryan Whalen, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Office of the FBI.



Mugshot of Willie Greenwood (inset) and Bally's Chicago, 600 N. Wabash Ave.

Man gets 6 years for robbing casino customers in River North

A 28-year-old man has been given a six-year sentence for robbing three casino customers in Chinatown and River North, but with the state's standard 50% sentence reduction and other credits, he'll be out late next year.

Willie Greenwood pleaded guilty in exchange for the sentence imposed by Judge Timothy Joyce. Joyce ordered the sentences to run concurrently, even though Greenwood committed one of the robberies while on pretrial release.

In March 2025, a Chicago police tactical unit was patrolling Chinatown in search of a vehicle that had been used in a string of robberies. All

of the victims told police they were targeted after getting off a casino shuttle. Around 11:30 p.m., officers spotted a black Hyundai Tucson in the 200 block of West 23rd St. that matched the suspect vehicle, and Greenwood was behind the wheel.

Police said Greenwood allowed officers to search the SUV, and they found a BB gun pistol in the glove compartment. Around the same time, a Chinatown security officer told police that a 65-year-old man had just been robbed at gunpoint nearby. The victim said he was walking home from the casino shuttle when a masked man pulled a gun and demanded money. The

NITA takes over public transit with \$1.5B annual taxpayer funding

BY SEAN REED AND
JIM TALAMONTI
The Center Square

Last week the Northern Illinois Transit Authority [NITA] officially took full control of Chicagoland public transit, including the Chicago Transit Authority [CTA], Metra and Pace, from the Regional Transit Authority.

NITA brings with it \$1.5 billion in annual public funding for the system.

The act creating NITA and associated funds was signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker last December, following months of back and forth on the legislation in Springfield, after Chicagoland public transportation systems lost large portions of their ridership due to the COVID pandemic and cor-

responding government-imposed economic lockdown, the dramatic uptick in crime and vagrancy on the CTA, and emergence of the work-from-home trend.

NITA is tasked with creating a single integrated fare system and fare capping, allowing riders to use one card seamlessly across the CTA, Metra, and Pace.

Pritzker said last month the annual funds for NITA would make significant improvements to up-state transit.

"The NITA Act provides \$1.5 billion annually to support transit operations across Illinois and it increases public safety. It improves our coordination so that our transit system works as one network. It expands affordable fair programs and strengthens our commitment to accessibil-

ity by creating a unified regional ADA advisory committee," Pritzker said.

Last week, a release from the Governor's office touted increased safety through the additional funding and coordination between state and local agencies like the CTA.

During the Chicago Transit Board's July 8 meeting, CTA Acting President Nora Leerhsen reported that crime in the Chicago train and bus system had fallen for six consecutive months, and in nine of the past 11-month period.

"Major crime on CTA, according to CPD's most recent statistics in June, was down 45% from last June. And that means that major crime across the entire system year to date is down 30%. Violent crime on CTA saw an even

steeper drop in June and marked a 58% drop from the same period in 2025," Leerhsen said.

The NITA Act included the funding "without creating new state taxes or increasing existing statewide taxes," according to the release.

NITA legislation brought a quarter-percent regional sales tax increase and redirected gas tax funds, injecting hundreds of millions of dollars to prevent severe budget shortfalls and service cuts. These funds include a diversion of roughly \$860 million annually from the state's Motor Fuel tax, the 0.25% sales tax increase, and \$200 million in its first year and adjusted annually after from the state's Road Fund.

A majority of the 20-member NITA board members also serve

on the operating agency boards (including the CTA), creating closer alignment and communication between regional policy and local execution.

The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved board president Toni Preckwinkle's eight NITA appointments July 16. Five of the eight will serve on other transit boards in addition to NITA.

The Chicago City Council approved Mayor Brandon Johnson's five NITA appointees July 15. Four of the five currently sit on the RTA or CTA boards.

Pritzker's eight appointees are subject to approval by the State Senate, which returns to Springfield for the fall veto session Nov. 17.

'Could have and should have been preventable': Family sues CTA after fatal Blue Line attack

BY CWBCHICAGO

The family of a man who was fatally stabbed after he fell asleep while riding a Blue Line train in the Loop has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the CTA.

"The death of Dominique Pollion while on board a Chicago Transit Authority Blue Line train could have and should have been preventable," attorneys for the family of Dominique Pollion said on Sept. 1. "The CTA was aware of a significant rise in passenger attacks, including the burning of a female passenger by a stranger just three months prior, and a 150% increase in rider attacks in the last five years."

At about 2:17 a.m. Jan. 10, Pollion, 37, was found unresponsive on a train car at the Clark-Lake station. Prosecutors say Pollion had been sleeping with his head resting against the window when a stranger, Demetrius Thurman, 21, approached him from behind while recording on his phone.

CTA surveillance footage and Thurman's phone video show Thurman stabbing Pollion once



A train arrives at the Clark-Lake Blue Line station below the James R. Thompson Center, now Google.

in the chest near his heart and a second time in his abdomen, according to prosecutors. After the attack, Thurman allegedly turned the phone camera toward himself, directly capturing his own face in the video.

Pollion woke up screaming and backed away down the aisle before collapsing, officials said.

Attorneys for Pollion's family blame "insufficient" security for his death, pointing to the federal government's rejection of a CTA security plan in December.

"The CTA was keenly aware of security concerns and failed to take action to protect patrons in January 2026," the family's law firm, Romanucci & Blandin, said. "Officials were aware that its passengers faced a foreseeable and escalating risk of violent criminal attack on their trains."

After the attack, Thurman walked to a different train car but returned to record the scene again after the train stopped at the Clark-Lake CTA station. Prosecutors say he filmed Pollion

lying in the aisle as security officers responded, then turned the camera back on himself and stated "somebody got his a**" before leaving the area.

Pollion was transported to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead from the two stab wounds.

Chicago police detectives fed CTA video images through a Secretary of State facial recognition database to identify Thurman, officials said. CPD arrested him within days. A search warrant executed on Thurman's cellphone allegedly revealed the recordings he made of himself stabbing Pollion and filming afterward, as well as photos of other passengers sleeping on the train.

The lawyers additionally claim that the CTA security personnel on duty at Clark-Lake the night of the attack "could not even immediately determine that Dominique had been stabbed. Meanwhile, Thurman calmly recorded the scene from outside the train, made a verbal statement, and walked out of the station without being stopped."

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Letter to the Editor

Corrections

A few clarifications on your Sept. 2 article on Chicago’s Black-crowned Night Herons.

The article’s reference to herons nesting at Lincoln Park Zoo is a bit misleading. They were first believed to nest on South Pond Island in 2006, before the Zoo took on management of South Pond, with chicks photographed there in 2007. They later nested at other sites in south Lincoln Park before starting to nest in the Children’s Zoo section in 2012. By 2021, they were nesting there exclusively. Additionally:

- The 1,600 herons cited for 1992 refers to a single nesting site, the Calumet wetlands, not the total Illinois population. Additional nesting sites existed elsewhere in the state.
- The person we spoke with at the Zoo was a volunteer, not a keeper.
- “Conservation” refers to the local birding and conservation community.
- The reference to buildings as “training grounds” isn’t quite

what I meant. Buildings are a known hazard to birds; my point was that young herons have to learn to navigate an urban environment, and we see them moving through the city, following the adults.

We’re grateful for the opportunity to bring more visibility to these remarkable birds. While the herons have had apparent success nesting in Lincoln Park, the overall breeding population is declining across the Great Lakes and Northeast, making continued research and coordinated conservation increasingly important.

The Chicago Black-crowned Night Heron Project builds awareness of the herons and the rookery in service of a bigger goal: a sustained, long-term conservation effort for this species. That would further build upon the research underway since 2023, led by the Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with Lincoln Park Zoo and the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources. This admittedly goes beyond the scope of the current article, but perhaps it’s worth a future piece; 2027 will mark the 20th anniversary of chicks photographed on South Pond Island, a milestone worth celebrating.

Amy Lardner
Chicago Black-crowned
Night Heron Project

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS
WHOLE FOODS from p. 5
ing to court records.

The former TI space is reported at 44,000 square feet, roughly 220 feet along Wells by 200 feet deep. But only about half was enclosed retail space. The balance accommodated 45 parking spaces, access drives, loading/receiving and mechanical space serving an adjoining condominium tower at 1660 N. LaSalle, including access to its parking garage above.

Whole Foods unknowns

Critics say there are several unknown facets about the Whole Foods cloaked back story. Questions in this evolving mystery include:

- How much commercial space has Whole Foods actually leased? Is Walgreens a co-tenant—temporarily during redevelopment of its current location or permanently? And what exactly has been signed by Whole Foods and Walgreens, and with what conditions?
- It is unusual that two community organizations and the alderman’s office appear to be driving the announcement. Fern Hill’s ownership entity is a 1660 condo-unit owner who is subject to the Condominium Declaration, as amended, and its bylaws and rules of governance.
- The former TI property was not part of the PD-89 rezoning application or studies. No executed leases were offered during that public process—only statements, commitments and assurances.



The former Xsport Fitness at Piper’s Alley 226 W. North Ave.



The former Treasure Island building, 1639 N. Wells, future home of Whole Foods.

Fern Hill’s Edgewater plan

Meanwhile, lakefront high-rise developer Nick Anderson, CEO of Fern Hill, also is targeting the Edgewater neighborhood with a three-tower proposal at 5959 N. Sheridan Rd. on the site of the Emanuel Congregation synagogue.

Fern Hill has met fierce opposition to the proposed project from residents and local businesses who are calling for stronger lake-

front protection, by enforcing the existing zoning and development policies. The site, viewed as the last developable lakefront property left in Edgewater, also is opposed by Friends of the Parks.

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.



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.

Visit: www.gofundme.com/manage/your-friendly-neighborhood-newspapers

Subscribing to this newspaper for online weekly issues for \$20 a year will also help. Visit www.insideonline.com

Prefer to stay offline? Mail a check to: 6221 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640

We are grateful for your support

SPACES from p. 6

zerland, Italy, England, Germany, Spain, Austria, Holland, Syria, and Canada.

In 1923, Chicago was identified as the next congressional location, making it the first host city in the US and “put[ting] Chicago on the map” for global Catholicism in a way never done before.

The Chicago congress formally opened with a Midnight mass on Sunday, June 20, at Holy Name Cathedral followed by with a solemn mass at every church in the Chicago Catholic Archdiocese. The next day, events began at Soldier Field with a day dedicated to children, including a choir of

62,000 children from Chicago’s parochial schools. Tuesday, June 22, was Women’s Day, followed by Higher Education Day on Wednesday, June 23, concluding the events at Soldier Field.

To celebrate communion en masse, a series of temporary altars were constructed, including an altar platform at Soldier Field with a golden baldacchino inspired by the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. More than 10,000 priests were recruited to help with serving, and Chicago-area nuns prepared more than 4.5 million communion wafers to be served.

The final day of the congress shifted to suburban Mundelein,

with events held at the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary (now University of Saint Mary of the Lake). The seminary chapel was too small to accommodate the massive crowds, so again a temporary altar space was built on the steps of the chapel with crowds gathering across the plaza and open spaces beyond. So many were in attendance that transportation logistics across railways became a major concern, and the highway from Lake Bluff to Mundelein was pedestrianized for nine miles to accommodate the swelling pilgrims.

The Chicago Daily News’s coverage of the Mundelein event included details such as the

pilgrims’ consumption of 10 tons of hot dogs, the crush of passengers on the trains, which began running at two-minute intervals from 4 a.m., and the Daily News’s own pride at getting photographs from Mundelein into papers on the street within two hours, thanks to swift delivery by airplane.

The success of the 1926 International Eucharistic Congress led to it becoming a model for future civic and religious gatherings in Chicago. It was also a time when the worldwide Catholic community experienced Chicago’s welcoming spirit.

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NEWSPAPERS CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Free show by Common to headline Navy Pier festival

Chicago icon Common is coming home to Navy Pier for a free show Saturday, Sept. 19.

The Grammy, Emmy and Academy Award-winning artist will headline Navy Pier's Chicago Live Festival, starting at 9 p.m., at the Lake Stage for a free performance overlooking Lake Michigan.

The evening will culminate with Navy Pier's award-winning fireworks lighting up the lake-

front following Common's performance.

Now in its sixth year, Chicago Live Festival is one of the city's largest free stage events, running Sept. 19 - 20, and bringing together more than 100 artists and performing arts organizations across five stages.

From music and dance to theater, spoken word, comedy, and more, the two-day festival provides audiences an opportunity to

experience the breadth, diversity and creativity of Chicago's performing arts community.

The Chicago Live Festival is part of Navy Pier's nonprofit mission to provide free, accessible arts and cultural experiences that celebrate Chicago's creative community.

Born and raised on the South Side, Common has carried the spirit of his hometown throughout his career. From his music

and work across film and television to his commitment to Chicago's youth and communities, his connection to the city extends far beyond the stage.

Through his philanthropic work, Common has helped local students through mentorship, education, and leadership development.

Chicago Live Festival lineup also includes returning favorites Anthony Rapp, Melody Angel,

Kokandy Productions, Liquid Soul, Dancing Queen and the Trinity Irish Dancers, alongside festival newcomers including RuPaul's Drag Race stars Utica and Denali, Q Brothers, Nico Segal and Fat Theatre Project. Nearly one-third of this year's lineup will make its Chicago Live Festival debut.



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INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Green City Market BBQ Sept. 10

Green City Market is hosting their 25th Annual Chef BBQ 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at 1817 N. Clark St. This event is their signature fundraiser and a celebration of the farmers, chefs, producers, and food community that make the Midwest one of the most vibrant food regions in the nation.

Chef BBQ brings together 100 of Chicago's top restaurants, brewers, distillers, winemakers, and mixologists to create tasting portions and craft beverages featuring ingredients sourced directly from Green City Market's farmers. Guests enjoy unlimited tastings, craft cocktails, wine, beer,

live-fire cooking, and the opportunity to connect with the chefs, farmers, and producers who help shape our regional food system. The event features vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and dairy-free options. For more information visit <https://www.greencitymarket.org/chef-bbq>.

MEASURE from p. 2

When he retired in 1986, and left the Chicago TV news biz he said, "I'm not trying to find work here, there or anywhere." He had decided instead to live full time on his boat and sail calmly into his final decades. He left deep deep imprints on Chicago.



Chilli Pepper

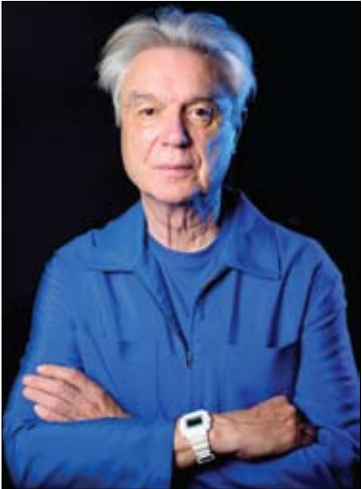
PEPPER REPORT: Good news! On Oct. 3, at 10:30 a.m., the legendary **Chilli Pepper**, who died in 2024, will have a street named in her honor. Everyone is invited to attend (corner of N. State St. and E. Cedar St.).

MOVIETHEATERS: Patrick Steffes is giving an exclusive presentation on Chicago movie theater history, 6:30 p.m. Sept. 16 at Sulzer Library in Lincoln Square. From grand downtown movie palaces to former neighborhood anchors, Chicago has long been a leader in the development and evolution of the American movie house. Featuring many rare images, many not seen in decades, go enjoy the lesser-known history of movie exhibitions in Chicago, the talk is free and open to the public.

TALKING HEAD: Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture in Lakeview is hosting **David Byrne** Oct. 15. The Talking Heads' frontman will appear to discuss his new book "Sleeping Beauties: Why Good Ideas Go Dormant and How They Wake Up," as part of the Chicago Humanities Fall Festival. Byrne is one of the most restlessly curious minds of our time. He is a prolific and award-winning musician, artist, and playwright. His only-in-Chicago immersive theatrical experience co-created with his wife, writer **Mala Gaonkar** is staged at the Reid Murdoch Building on the Chicago River. Go see them both.

SANTÉ!: Join the Little Sisters of the Poor for Chez Ste. Marie –A Taste of France. This popular wine tasting event will take place on Thursday, September 17, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in St. Mary's Garden, 2325 N Lake-wood Ave.

Sample select fine French wines, taste handcrafted hors d'oeuvres, and enjoy the dulcet sounds of the guest string quar-



David Byrne

tet. All proceeds go to support St. Mary's Home and Jugan Terrace.

Purchase tickets at <https://littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org/>

WHO'S WHERE: Mother McAuley grad **Dr. Rose Gomez**, pal **Lilli** and daughter **Michele**, at Beau Rivage restaurant in Thun, Switzerland... Producer **Joey Majumdar** spending a wonderful chill time with his reporter pal **Jason Knowles** at the Erie Cafe... **Victoria Dal Santo** and husband **John Dombrowski** laid out a rack of lamb feast for



Dan Balanoff with Tammy Decker, Diarmuid O'Brien and Lauren Levy.

friends **Mark** and **Marybeth Bowman**, and **Mark Steinke** with the choicest of Italian and French vintage wines... a belated Happy Birthday to the charming **Nina Wong** out golfing on her big day, and also to wonderful **Kathy Wolter Mondelli**... Judge **Jim Murphy** and Judge **Greg Arnold** of the Circuit Court dining on some good vittles at Piccolo Sogno... Happy to run into **Cesar** from LaScarola, at Piccolo Sogno, with his niece for early dinner... Best wishes to Myra and famed photographer **John Reilly** celebrating their anniversary, who carry love and peace wherever they go... Bravo and best of luck to **Ellie McGuire** after mom and dad, **Lindy** and **Chris McGuire**, dropped her off at the Univ. of Maryland as a college freshman... **Leah Steele** spending too much time hanging out with doctors, and not enough time twirling pasta in Italy... **Eamonn Cummins** never a chore to catch up with American Airlines legend **Scott "Whitey" White**, whose movie "Catch Me If You Can" with **Leonardo DiCaprio** is loosely based on his adventures... **Sheila Swann** and her extended clan meeting for golf in Aurora to raise funds for fighting cancer... **Christie's Steven Zick** in Lincoln Park for a marvelous night for a moon

dance, and a rooftop dinner party... **Tom Hackett** and **Tom McGuire** are at the Hotel Masart in Paris with **Leslie Hindman**, before they head out to a safari in Kenya... **Patricia Bidwill** is in Churchill, Canada surrounded by the sea, icebergs and Polar Bears, and then off to the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg... **Michele Fallon Sullivan** with **Jim Sharp**, **Mary Jo Evans**, **Michael Sullivan**, **Paul Gorney**, **Sheila Sullivan Gorney**, **Michael Moore** and **Tom Hackett** at Valley Lodge and Tavern in Wilmette, college friends for 38 years and counting.

MARIE: This newspapers' reporter **Peter von Buol** and his daughter rode out Hurricane Marie on The Big Island, Hawaii. Well-shaken but they're back home now and all is well.

OPERA, OPERA, OPERA: Retired Chicago Pastor, **Father William Corcoran** at Millennium Park for his third summer concert. The Lyric Opera of Chicago premiered their greatest hits for the upcoming 2026-2027 Season. Perfect weather. Terrific seats up front. He also made it to

Ravinia.

GO CUBS: **Dan Balanoff** was on hand at Wrigley to witness the 17 to 5 victory by the Cubs over the Reds. He welcomed his buddy **Diarmuid O'Brien** from Dublin with sidewalk dinner at Gibson's Steakhouse along with **Tammy Decker** and **Lauren Levy**.

MANNY'S: **Mark Olley** plotting and planning Chicago politics - always seems to end up with a tray full of food at Manny's delicatessen.



Charlee and Little B.

BOW-WOW: Happy National Dog Day to **Charlee** and **Little B!** And to those who care for you and teach us how to do what they do, **Bobbi Panter** and **Matthew Arnoux**.

The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made.

- Harpo Marx

tog515@gmail.com



Winners of the 2025 "Dancing With The Giordano Stars" benefit competition.
Photo by Beth Anne Anderson

Dancing with the Giordano Stars is back at Park West for 19th season

Ballroom dance competition Oct. 8

It will be difficult to dance like nobody is watching if every seat in the house is full Oct. 8 when Giordano Dance Chicago [GDC] hosts its 19th Anniversary "Dancing With The Giordano Stars" ballroom dance competition 7 p.m.-11 p.m. at Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave.

This popular annual event, patterned after the hit ABC series "Dancing With The Stars," benefits GDC's initiatives through the GDC Youth Arts Education Fund.

During the event, a group of Chicago A-listers and their professional dancer partner, will compete for a shot at winning the coveted Disco Ball and the title of Best Male Dancer or Best Female Dancer.

The stakes are high with each couple performing only one dance for one chance to impress the guest judges including director, choreographer and GDC Resident Choreographer Al Blackstone, Associate Publisher Chicago Star Media and author Candace Jordan and Anchor/Reporter and Host at Fox 32 Chicago, Tia Ewing.

Event Co-Chairs are Dina Gallay and Sandy Golub. Emcee for the evening is former FOX News and sports anchor Corey McPherrin.

The slate of male contestants and their dance partners includes Andy Anisfeld, Vice President Medical Affairs and Health Impact, Immunology, AbbVie dancing with Erina Ueda; Adam Cummis, Restaurateur, Blaze Pizza with Analyse Vance; Ted Grady, Partner, J&L Catering with



Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave.

Sasha Lazarus; Erik Kessler, Managing Director, Alvarez & Marsal with Amanda Hickey-Newcom, and Peter Q. Thompson, Managing Director, Blue Marlin Partners with Talia Luzzo.

The slate of female contestants includes Jordan C. Carqueville, MD, Founder of Derm Institute of Chicago dancing with Joshua Brumm; Allana Emery, Finance Director, Publicis Groupe with Eduardo Zambrana; Annie Laughton, Stay at Home Mom with Simon Schuh; Bonnie Micheli, CO-CEO, Shred415 with Aidan Aloma, and Elena Moore, Physician, Gynecologic Oncology, Endeavor Health with Adam Houston.

Tickets start at \$150 and include a 4-hour open bar and food. For more information, visit giordanodance.org/dwtgs or call 312-922-1332.

The Through the Youth Arts Education Fund provides the path for youth with programs such as the CPS Jazz Dance/Science & Health, GDC's Free Ticket Program, dance workshops, mentorship partnerships, school residencies and certification.

Lakeview Festival of the Arts Sept. 19-20

Includes 150 juried artists, family attractions, food and fun

Broadway in Lakeview East has become a dining and entertainment destination, and has made broad gains as an arts destination too.

The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce [LECC] will be hosting their 21st Annual Lakeview East Festival of the Arts, along Broadway, from Belmont Ave. to Hawthorne Place, in the heart of Lakeview, with 150 juried artists, family attractions, food, music and more. The official hours for the Lakeview East Festival of the Arts are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. both Saturday, Sept. 19 and on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Lakeview East has long been a dynamic and diversified neighborhood community rich in culture, history and the arts. The LECC collaborates closely with its local

residents and business owners to offer its neighbors and the Chicagoland area one of the premier fine art outdoor festivals.

LECC has presented one of the most unique and popular art festivals in Chicagoland in the Lakeview East Festival of the Arts. Every aspect, from artists to musicians to vendors and everything in between, is specifically selected by the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce to bring the best to the heart of Lakeview and to all who visit during the Festival.

Lakeview East Festival of the Arts asks for a \$5 donation upon entrance, this fee goes to supporting additional Lakeview East events and offerings. Visit www.LakeviewEastFestivalOfTheArts.com for more information.

Howard Beach bonfire Sept. 18

The Greater Eastlake Terrace Beaches Park Advisory Council will host its 11th annual Howard Beach Bonfire starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.

Just stop by to enjoy the evening.

Winnslie Parkway expansion opening Sept. 16

Winnslie Parkway, across from 4809 N. Ravenswood Ave. will be holding their re-opening at 10 a.m. Sept. 16.

In case of inclement weather, the back up ribbon cutting will take place at Auditorium at Andersonville Supportive Living, 4950 N. Ashland Ave.

The 1,000-foot southward expansion along Ravenswood Ave. from Ainslie St. to Lawrence Ave. removed 20 street parking spaces to add a continuous walking trail, raised crosswalks, more bike lanes, and new native plant gardens.

Chicago taxpayers funded the project with \$303,000 in Open Space Impact taxes.

Senior movie day Sept. 23 at 24th District

The 24th District police station will host its September Senior Movie Day 1 p.m. Sept. 23, at the 24th District station, 6464 N. Clark. The featured movie will be Spirit of the Marathon, which features marathon runners from the Rogers Park community.

To register, email Daniel Gajewski at Daniel.Gajewski@chicagopolice.org. Popcorn and water will be provided. Only 30 seats are available.

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GROCERY from p. 3

invest in the entrepreneur spirit,” Johnson said.

The grants will be provided to “small retail food businesses operating a physical storefront in priority geographies.” The deadline to apply for the grants is Sept. 25, 2027.

Falling enrollment, however, does not eliminate Illinois’ growing financial exposure under the federal SNAP changes.

Illinois’ payment error rate (the share of benefits overpaid or underpaid) reached 14.67% in fiscal 2025, up from 11.56% the year before and the fifth-highest in the nation, according to the U.S. Agriculture

Dept. Overpayments accounted for more than 90% of that rate. Those mistakes could soon carry a much larger price for state taxpayers.

Under the 2025 federal law, states with error rates above 10% generally must pay up to 15% of SNAP benefit costs, an estimated \$700 million a year for Illinois.

Beginning in the federal fiscal year that starts in October, states must cover 75% of SNAP administrative costs rather than 50%. Illinois lawmakers appropriated more than \$100 million for SNAP administration in the current budget, up from \$60 million previously.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

robber took \$105, including five \$20 bills, and rifled through the man’s pockets before fleeing.

Surveillance video reportedly showed Greenwood getting out of his car and running down the 200 block of West 24th St. around the time of the robbery before returning to the vehicle moments later. Greenwood initially told officers he was dropping off a friend and never left the car. When confronted with the surveillance footage, he acknowledged he was the person running down the street, allegedly telling officers he had been looking for his girlfriend’s car.

Officers found \$400 on Greenwood, including five \$20 bills, according to his arrest report. The victim later identified Greenwood as the robber.

Greenwood was also charged in connection with the robbery of a 48-year-old casino patron near 23rd St. and Wentworth Ave. Prosecutors said Greenwood approached the man from behind, tapped him on the shoulder and demanded money. When the victim tried to get away, Greenwood punched him in the face, knocking him to the ground. Greenwood then displayed the butt of a handgun tucked into his waistband, prosecutors claimed, prompting the victim to hand over about \$200.

A judge initially detained Greenwood on an armed robbery charge. But the following month, Joyce released him from custody to await trial.

Less than two months later, on June 6, 2025, Greenwood allegedly robbed another casino customer, this time near Bally’s temporary casino in River North. Prosecutors said Greenwood approached a 40-year-old man inside a parking garage at 50 E. Ohio St., next to the casino, and demanded money. When the man did not comply quickly enough, Greenwood allegedly punched and kicked him in the head and body before taking \$2,500 in cash and credit cards from his pockets.

With the 50% sentence reduction and credit for time already spent in custody, Greenwood is expected to be released in Dec. 2027.

this year, and U.S. District Judge Steven Seeger sentenced him Tuesday to two 20-year terms and two 18-year terms, all to be served consecutively.

Man randomly kidnapped, robbed Chicago Park District worker near Buckingham Fountain

A Washington state man is accused of kidnapping a Chicago Park District employee from a job site near Buckingham Fountain, then forcing him to withdraw cash from a bank and purchase Visa gift cards at stores in the Loop and South Loop. Prosecutors said the abduction and robbery appear to have been random.

A little after 4 p.m. on Aug. 22, the 31-year-old Park District employee was cleaning the median near Ida B. Wells and Columbus drives when Marian Asa pulled up in a white Kia Sportage, according to a detention filing.



Marian Asa

Asa warned that his accomplices would hurt him if he did not comply, according to the filing.

Asa then drove to a Fifth Third Bank at 601 S. Clark St. and ordered the victim to withdraw as much money as possible, prosecutors said. The man withdrew \$1,000 and handed the cash and receipt to Asa.

The Sportage then traveled to a Walgreens at 2 E. Roosevelt Rd. Surveillance video allegedly showed Asa walking the employee into the store at about 4:20 p.m. and asking a clerk whether the store sold Visa gift cards. When the clerk said the store only sold Mastercard gift cards, Asa escorted the employee back outside, prosecutors said.

Asa then drove to another Walgreens at 501 W. Roosevelt Rd., where he again took the employee inside, according to prosecutors. The employee purchased a \$500 Visa gift card, then went to a second register, where he purchased another \$500 Visa gift card. The transactions were captured on surveillance video, according to the detention filing.

Next, Asa allegedly drove the man to a CVS at 520 S. State St. and took him inside to purchase another Visa gift card. This time, the victim’s card was declined, and the two left the store.

Asa warned the victim not to tell anyone what had happened before leaving him on a corner and driving away, prosecutors said.

Meanwhile, the man’s coworkers realized he was missing from his work post. They found his tools and work bucket where he had been cleaning and tried repeatedly to reach him by phone. After Asa drove away, the employee was able to contact his coworkers, who picked him up and took him to file a police report.

Detectives reviewed CPD surveillance footage showing the Kia Sportage pulling up at the employee’s work site and appearing at other locations the employee described, according to the detention filing.

Investigators obtained the vehicle’s license plate number and determined that the Sportage was a Hertz rental car that Asa had rented two days before the alleged kidnapping, prosecutors said. Police entered the plate number into a law enforcement database and, one day after the incident, the Sportage generated a hit on a license plate reader. When CPD officers pulled it over in the 600 block of W. Division St., Asa was driving, according to prosecutors.

The Park District employee and one of the Walgreens workers identified Asa in separate photo lineups, according to the detention filing. He is charged with robbery, two counts of kidnapping, and unlawful restraint. Judge Luciano Panici, Jr. granted the state’s petition to detain Asa while the case proceeds.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

090909 -----
020202 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB,
NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY
AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR PRET 2024-RPL1
TRUST
Plaintiff,
-v-
MARIETTE K. LINDT, RAYMOND LINDT, COOK
COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, REAL TIME
RESOLUTIONS INC.
Defendants
2024CH09940
1934 WEST BARRY AVENUE
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 25, 2026, an agent
for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30
AM on September 29, 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 1934 WEST BARRY AV-
ENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60657
Property Index No. 14-30-205-030-0000
The real estate is improved with a residence.
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 pay-
able to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No
third party checks will be accepted.

Real Estate For Sale

The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer,
is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The sub-
ject 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 qual-
ity 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 (HOMEOWN-
ER), 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, pass-
port, etc.) in order to gain entry into our build-
ing and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County
and the same identification for sales held at other
county venues where The Judicial Sales Cor-
poration conducts

Real Estate For Sale

foreclosure sales.
For information, examine the court file, CODILIS
& ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030
NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR
RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
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 pend-
ing sales.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-24-06330
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2024CH09940
TJSC#: 46-1769
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Prac-
tices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney
is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to col-
lect a debt and any information obtained will be
used for that purpose.
Case # 2024CH09940
13292897
262626 -----
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North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
ASSOCIATED BANK, N.A.
Plaintiff,
-v-
JOHN A. FLORES, THE PIERRE CONDOMINIUM
ASSOCIATION, STATE OF ILLINOIS - DEPART-
MENT OF REVENUE
Defendants
2024CH09579
2100 N LINCOLN PARK W APT 4DN
CHICAGO, IL 60614
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant
to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered
in the above cause on July 6, 2026, an agent
for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30
AM on October 13, 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 2100 N LINCOLN PARK W
APT 4DN, CHICAGO, IL 60614
Property Index No. 14-33-206-047-1077
The real estate is improved with a residence.
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 pay-
able 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 re-
ceive 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 POS-
SESSION 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, pass-
port, etc.) in order to gain entry into our build-
ing and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County
and the same identification for sales held at other
county venues where The Judicial Sales Cor-
poration conducts

Real Estate For Sale

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 pend-
ing sales.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-24-04790
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2024CH09579
TJSC#: 46-1627
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Prac-
tices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney
is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to col-
lect a debt and any information obtained will be
used for that purpose.
Case # 2024CH09579
13293618
090909 -----
020202 -----
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION
Plaintiff,
-v-
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF NANCY M.
AMICANGELO, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIM-
ANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ES-
TATE OF NANCY M. AMICANGELO, DECEASED,
UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS
AGAINST THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES
OF NANCY M. AMICANGELO, DECEASED,
MARY AMICANGELO, JANET SHEERIN, DEBBY
WEIR AKA DEBORAH L. WEIR, STEVEN AMI-
CANGELO, PAUL AMICANGELO, JOHN AMICAN-
GELO, JOSEPH AMICANGELO, ROBIN KOSKI-
NEN, AS LEGATEE OF THE ESTATE OF NANCY
M. AMICANGELO, DECEASED, 50 EAST BEL-
LEVUE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, CARY
ROSENTHAL, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF NANCY M. AMICANGELO, DECEASED
Defendants
25 CH 03069
50 E BELLEVUE PL., APT. 1603
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 June 26, 2026, an agent
for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30
AM on September 28, 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 50 E BELLEVUE PL. APT.
1603, CHICAGO, IL 60611
Property Index No. 17-03-202-065-1078
The real estate is improved with a condominium.
The judgment amount was \$220,999.22.
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 pay-
able 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 prop-

Real Estate For Sale

erty 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 re-
ceive 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 required by The Condominium
Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWN-
ER), 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, pass-
port, etc.) in order to gain entry into our build-
ing and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County
and the same identification for sales held at other
county venues where The Judicial Sales Cor-
poration conducts
foreclosure sales.
For information, contact HEAVNER, BEYERS
& MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 601 E. William
St., DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please
refer to file number 2044298.
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 pend-
ing sales.
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
601 E. William St.
DECATUR IL, 62523
217-422-1719
Fax #: 217-422-1754
E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Attorney File No. 2044298
Attorney Code. 40387
Case Number: 25 CH 03069
TJSC#: 46-1544
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Prac-
tices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney
is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to col-
lect a debt and any information obtained will be
used for that purpose.
Case # 25 CH 03069
13292975
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Chicago Exhibition Week kicks off Sept. 14, expands to seven days

BY CHICAGO GALLERY NEWS

Chicago's contemporary art community will have more to explore this fall as Chicago Exhibition Week [CXW] expands from a long weekend into a seven-day, citywide program running Sept. 14–20.

Now in its fourth year, the annual initiative has steadily evolved into an important moment on the city's cultural calendar, bringing together commercial galleries, artist-run spaces, museums, and cultural organizations through a coordinated week of exhibition openings, public programs, performances, and special events.

This year's expanded format reflects the

event's growing role as both a destination for visitors and a rallying point for Chicago's arts community.

Presented by Gertie, CXW coordinates programming across Chicago's contemporary art community, bringing together commercial galleries, artist-run spaces, museums, and cultural organizations during a shared week in the fall. The expanded format reflects a broader schedule of exhibitions and partnerships for this year's edition.

This year's program will expand the event's network of institutional partnerships. Returning collaborations include EXPO CHICAGO, the Art Institute of Chi-



CXW Launch Party will take place at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago on Tuesday, September 15, 9 p.m.–11 p.m.

cago, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Independent Curators International, and the Renaissance Society. New partnerships include the Chicago Reader,

Contemporary Art Daily, the Driehaus Museum, and Harris Theater.

CXW will also introduce a new interdisciplinary partnership with Chicago artist, musician, filmmaker, and philanthropist Vic Mensa. Co-hosted with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the ticketed opening reception will bring together music and contemporary art and will conclude with a DJ set by Mensa in conjunction with the MCA's Dancing the Revolution exhibition.

Gertie has planned for CXW's 2026 edition to coincide with the opening of a permanent headquarters at 400 N. Peoria in the West Loop.

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Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312-644-2000), is opening lockers: 4530X (Cornett, Donald), 4528X (Thorndill, Heith), 4558X (Delhar, Natalia), 3523X and 6619X (Lahood, Edward), 2808F (Stephens, Anita V), 5556X (Poole, Lamonte), and 8313A (Levey, Josh), for public sale on September 29, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Cash only.

Notice of Public Sale

THE LOCK UP SELF STORAGE at 1930 N. Clybourn Ave., Chicago IL 60614 Will sell the contents of the following units to satisfy a lien to the highest bidder on 09-22-26 by 11:00 AM at WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM All goods must be removed from the unit within 48 hours. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account. Unit # 136 Barton Faist Unit # 4123 Tinika Epps Unit # 2575 Tammiko Ruffin

Notice of Public Sale

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 18th. of September 2026 at 12:00 p.m. at 2724 W. 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608 at www.storagetreasures.com with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m. 1055 Tanneh Parker 2011 Latauria Wardell 3027 Sherice Byrd 4022 Alhussein Saeed 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

East Bank Storage located at 730 West Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-876-2000, is opening lockers: 8190SM- Abreau, Jesenia 8194SM- Akinwumi, Akinseye 5230D- Akinwumi, Akinseye 5025D- Campos, Jocelyne 8212SM- Imogie, Akeshi 5410E- Johnson, Nicole 8195SM- Johnson, Nicole 8209SM- Medrano, Mathew 3500E- Mentor, Marvin 6700V-Ragusa, Simone for public sale. This sale is to be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 2:00PM. Cash payments only.

If you don't have wrinkles, you haven't laughed enough.
— Phyllis Diller

Services

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Cook County - Chicago

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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION	
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. JULIE FOX, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR IRMA CALVERT; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF IRMA CALVERT; CITY OF HARVEY; FOUNDATION FINANCE COMPANY, LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS. Defendants.	CASE NO. 2026CH05604 Subject Property: 14845 Main Street Harvey, IL 60426

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Irma Calvert; Unknown owners and non-record claimants
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
Legal description: LOT 18 IN RESUBDIVISION OF BLOCK 21, (EXCEPT THE EAST 87.06 FEET OF THE SOUTH 142 FEET THEREOF) OF YOUNG'S CENTRAL SUBDIVISION OF BLOCKS 46, LOTS 21 AND THE SOUTH 1/2 OF LOT 22 IN BLOCK 50, LOTS 1 TO 12 AND 14 TO 21, INCLUSIVE, OF BLOCK 51 AND OF LOTS 1 TO 6, INCLUSIVE, OF BLOCK 52 ALL IN SOUTH LAWN, A SUBDIVISION OF SECTION 17, AND THE SOUTH 1/2 OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Common address: 14845 Main Street, Harvey, IL 60426
Tax Parcel Number: 29-08-409-014-0000
And which said Mortgage was made by: Irma Calvert
The Mortgage(s), to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois, as Document No. 95199900; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.
NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
On or before October 2, 2026 (answer period expiration date); A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
By: /s/ Charlotte A. Haack
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiff
376 E 400 S, Ste 300
Salt Lake City, UT, 84111
801-355-2886
Email: liteam@hwmlawfirm.com

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Book drive at Bezazian Library

Now through Sept. 19 Friends of the Bezazian Library is collecting books, CDs, and DVDs for their book sale. Donors may drop off items at 1129 W. Bryn Mawr, or at the library’s front desk, 1226 W. Ainslie.

Vinyls, VHS tapes, cassettes, textbooks, and magazines will not be accepted. The book sale itself will be held Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 20, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Storytelling class at Willye B. White Park

Registration is now open for adults 55 and older to join GeNarrations, a free seven-week writing and performance class for adults 55 and older, held on Tuesdays starting on Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to noon. Writers of all experience levels are welcome.

Classes will be held at Willye B. White Park, 1610 W. Howard St.

Storytellers in GeNarrations meet once a week for two hours to write five- minute stories based on themes raised by Goodman productions. Each participant in the fall session will receive a free ticket to a coinciding Goodman Theatre production.

For more information, write to genarrations@goodmantheatre.org.

DEAL from p. 1

that Guidepost Montessori School at Magnificent Mile was not really a school, but a day care center, and therefore not protected by the rules prohibiting legal, licensed pot sales within 500-feet of a school.

While the applicant argued the facility was “primarily a daycare,” both the Chicago Dept. of Law [DOL] and a state regulatory agency formally concluded that Guidepost Montessori is, in fact, a school under applicable law.

Current City of Chicago regulations provide special limitations on school proximity, and there is no avenue for relief from the distance proximity requirements.

This newspaper obtained emails showing that Shiller’s vote in favor of the pot shop was cast against the recommendation of the DOL whose written opinion was that the school really was a school.

BARR from p. 1

business,” he added.

There are practical reasons behind the modern transformation of the death-care industry in the Chicago area. With average costs of a traditional funeral running in the \$7,000-to-\$12,000 range in the area, direct cremation typically costs significantly less – commonly \$1,500 -to- \$4,000 according to Memory Eternal Funeral Directors.

Traditional funeral homes require massive physical footprints to host multi-day wakes, formal visitations, and large chapel services. The U.S. cremation rate has surpassed 60% and continues to climb, drastically reducing the demand for expensive casket burials and traditional viewing rooms.

Families increasingly favor “life celebra-

tions” at restaurants, parks, or community centers rather than formal visitations inside a traditional funeral home. Maintaining a large, multi-storefront building with high property taxes – while consumers transition to direct cremations or burials – creates an unsustainable financial model for standalone neighborhood operators.

Even if an established business faces headwinds, the ground it sits on in Edgewater is increasingly valuable. Barr Funeral Home is a prime target for a Transit-Oriented Development [TOD] due to both the 2025 Broadway Upzoning by the City Council, in seeking taller, denser housing with minimal parking requirements along the Broadway corridor.

Being steps away from the CTA Red Line means a developer can maximize the value of the footprint by converting a low-

density commercial building into a lucrative mixed-use residential property. Just down the street at 6130 N. Broadway, the Broadway Antique Market recently hit the market for \$2.5 million due to skyrocketing six-figure property taxes and owner retirement.

Rather than a sudden collapse, properties like Barr Funeral Home hitting the market represent a logical exiting strategy by allowing legacy neighborhood operators to monetize highly valuable urban real estate precisely when a community’s demand for brick-and-mortar funeral spaces is naturally shrinking.

However Harrington plans on remaining in the community, continuing to serve Edgewater’s neighbors.

Despite this explicit written guidance from the DOL confirming the location was illegal—as uncovered through public records requests—the ZBA voted to approve the special use permit anyway. The ZBA appears to have simply ignored the City’s regulations, and the DOL’s opinion, in voting to approve the license.

That vote now means the City has to defend, at taxpayer expense, the decision in court, after Plaintiff Beth Ellen Padera challenged the ZBA’s decision.

The lawsuit raises serious ethics concerns that could implicate Helen Shiller in direct violations of the Chicago Governmental Ethics Ordinance, which strictly prohibits city officials from participating in decisions involving relatives or failing to disclose financial conflicts.

That lawsuit has also brought to light that Helen’s son Brendan Shiller was apparently not forthcoming with his mother about the level of his involvement in the dispensary. Documents presented in court show that Brendan Shiller was not just an attorney for G.P. Green House, but that he was a “principal officer” and “owner” with a 3% ownership stake in the dispensary.

Under the Chicago Governmental Ethics Ordinance (Chapter 2-156), members of the ZBA are classified as appointed City officials and are strictly bound by conflict of interest rules. Section 2-156-130 (Action on behalf of relatives or domestic partners) specifically handles nepotism and familial favoritism. It explicitly prohibits any City

official from participating in the making of a City administrative or legislative action or decision where their relative or domestic partner is seeking that action or decision.

According to court filings presented by the plaintiff, documents reveal that Brendan Shiller held an ownership stake as a “principal officer” at the time of his mother’s vote.

Because ZBA rulings are quasi-judicial/administrative decisions, a member of the Board cannot vote or act on a petition submitted by or directly affecting a relative.

Penalties for violating the Chicago Governmental Ethics Ordinance include fines of up to \$20,000 per violation, public censure, and job termination.

Whether or not the ‘independent’ Chicago Office of Inspector General will formally take this up remains to be seen—as does whether the City’s Corporation Counsel, currently forced to defend a ZBA decision it previously concluded was illegal, would come to Shiller’s defense in an ethics probe or if she will need to hire her own private attorney.

Under Section 2-156-030, officials are prohibited from using their official position to influence a City decision in which they or a relative have an economic interest. The conflict must be formally disclosed on

the record of proceedings. The mandated protocol for Helen Shiller demanded she refrain from voting.

According to court filings presented by the plaintiff, documents reveal that Brendan Shiller held an ownership stake as a “principal officer” at the time of his mother’s vote. The suit characterizes this as a material disclosure that Shiller omitted from the board while actively participating in the hearing and casting her decisive vote on Sept. 20, 2024.

Illinois law requires strict disclosure, reporting, and prior state approval for any changes in ownership of a cannabis dispensary. Evidence presented before the court claims that no such notice is shown, and plaintiff claims that no such written disclosure existed in the record before the ZBA vote.

The ZBA’s speculation that Brendan Shiller was allegedly no longer an owner [was] not only baseless but false and misleading, because if there was a change in ownership, by state law it would have to have been disclosed.

The plaintiff alleges that Helen Shiller had a significant conflict that she failed to disclose, and misled the ZBA. Today the two sides are arguing in court that the 3-2 decision of the ZBA, of which she was the decisive vote, must be reversed.

This newspaper plans to continue following this case, and Chicagoans will see how justice is administered.



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Saturday, Sept. 19th Sunday, Sept. 20th

Main Stage

Noon	Jose Valdez and The Mambo All Stars
1:30 pm	Hurricane Gumbo
3:00 pm	Stevie McVie
4:30 pm	Nelson Street Revival
6:00 pm	Steve Richards Neil Diamond Tribute
8:00 pm	Disco Dance Party

Roscoe Stage

12:30 pm	Steve Hashimoto/Pat Fleming Duo
2:00 pm	Amanda Coppetelli
3:30 pm	Nathan Graham
5:00 pm	Girl K
6:30 pm	Todd Allison and The Kind Force

Main Stage

Noon	Marirose Rueth Band
1:30 pm	Third City Brass Band
3:00 pm	Hurricane Reggae
4:30 pm	The Claudettes

Roscoe Stage

12:15 pm	Elaine Dame
1:30 pm	Minor Moon
3:00 pm	Spare Parts
4:30 pm	The Beaus



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