

People all over the world have problems.
And as long as people have problems,
the blues can never die.

— B. B. King

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William (Willie) Greene at the Park Bait Shop.

Montrose Harbor Dr. to be named after Park Bait Shop owner

At 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, the 800 Block of Montrose Harbor Dr. will be named and dedicated after William (Willie) Greene.

Greene owned the Park Bait Shop at Montrose Harbor and supplied all his own live bait to thousand of fishermen over the years.

He took over the shop in 1958 after years of supplying bait to the previous owner.

Greene went to Montrose Harbor as a 10 year old boy in 1937 where fisherman fished from sunrise to sunset. Some of the

old timers took little Willie under their wing.

There was 2 Pole Johnny, Diversey Shorty, Uncle Henry, and Coffee George. Nicknames from the Depression Era, that was who you were or what you did. Uncle Henry taught Willie how to fish.

After World War II, Coffee George lent him the money to take over the Bait Shop and the rest is history.

Willie passed in 2012 but his daughter Stacey Greene oversees the shop now.

Selfhelp Home in Uptown announces 'Give Light' fundraising campaign, page 9

Weiss set for receiver after state yanks Provisional License

Judge's decision on selecting receiver a step toward turnaround

BY BOB ZULEY

A significant step toward potentially reopening two Chicago-area safety-net hospitals was decided by Chancery Division Judge Patrick T. Stanton on the 25th Floor of the Richard Daley Center on Sept. 11, after months of battles in court.

Stanton's decision to select a court-appointed receiver for Weiss Memorial Hospital and West Suburban Medical Center is a major turning point. but it does not mean Weiss Hospital may be reopening anytime soon.

Stanton concluded that control of Weiss should be taken away from the two parties currently fighting over them – Resilience Healthcare CEO Manoj Prasad and landlord Rathnakar Reddy Patlola – and placed under a receiver yet to be determined. “Someone needs to take control of this, and it should no longer be the current parties,” Stanton concluded.

The receivership decision may be the most consequential positive development for Weiss Hospital since it closed, but it does not by itself reopen the Uptown hospital. It changes who will be driving the rescue effort and gives the court a mechanism to preserve Weiss



The now-shuttered Weiss Memorial Hospital, 4646 N. Marine Dr., Chicago. Photo by Bob Zuley

while deciding whether it can be realistically restored as a community safety-net hospital.

Stanton's decision came one day after the Illinois Dept. of Public Health [IDPH] concluded that it will not extend a provisional license for Weiss.

“Despite having over a year to make improvements at Weiss Memorial, hospital leadership has not demonstrated the necessary improvements to safely reopen the hospital to care for the community's residents,” an IDPH spokesperson told Becker's Hospital Review. “Due to these shortcomings, [IDPH] will not be extending the hospital's provisional license.”

Weiss' provisional license had been active since Aug. 8, 2025. IDPH granted Weiss leadership a 30-day license extension Aug. 2, to provide then time to show improvements had been made to the facility; however, “no major

progress” had been made over the past 13 months, said the IDPH spokesperson.

The appointment of a receiver was expected to move forward on Sept. 15, as litigation involving the two hospitals continues.

The biggest immediate consequence of the Judge's decision is that Resilience Healthcare and CEO Manoj Prasad are effectively losing control of the process.

Judge Stanton specifically cited the loss of Weiss' Illinois hospital license, allegations that equipment was being removed from the properties, and the continuing lack of functioning electronic medical-record/billing system.

Stanton was unusually explicit about the immediate objective: “We're not talking about who can get these reopened right now. We're talking about getting things secured and getting con-

WEISS see p. 12

City prevails in Shiller's ZBA vote pot shop court case

But has City Hall tossed school under the bus?

BY RONALD ROENIGK

A ruling Sept. 9 by the Circuit Court of Cook County upholding a Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals [ZBA] decision may have created an unintended legal conflict between municipal land-use rules and state education law.

It has also shined a light on how the city can choose to follow their own written rules and regulations or not depending on who is seeking a favor.

The three counts presented in court included judgment over official actions that show ZBA commissioner Helen Shiller had a clear conflict of interest based on well-established ethics law, and was required to recuse herself from a vote. That vote was over a proposed marijuana dispensary located within a school exclusion zone, that Shiller's son had a financial interest in, and that the location of the pot shop would be a safety hazard in the community.

Last week, Judge Myron Mackoff of Chancery Division, found in favor of the city on all three counts, despite also noting that the city was misrepresenting

established city code, and arguing against the city's own Dept. of Law [DOL], and its stated evaluation of a matter before the ZBA.

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.

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 rules and regulations, and the DOL's opinion, in voting to approve the license.

Indeed in court, the city's lawyers argued that the city made an “educated guess.” The lawyers were then scolded by the judge who said the factual measurements were not a guess at all.

Putting aside whether the Montessori school was a school or not, Judge Mackoff noted that “but the fact that it was within 500 feet was not a guess at all. That was

something that everybody [saw, that] it was 480 feet away” from the school.

The city's lawyers then claimed that they were not bound by the 500-foot rule, nor did they fully believe that the Guidepost Montessori School at Magnificent Mile, 226 E. Illinois St., was really a school.

To approve a Special Use Permit [SUP] for an adult-use cannabis dispensary within 500 feet of a school, the ZBA determined—and the court has now affirmed—that the facility is legally a commercial daycare rather than a “school.”

As an unintended consequence, that ruling may have put the school and the parents of their students in legal limbo. Chicago Municipal Code § 17-17-0103-J explicitly defines a school as an institution providing “state-mandated basic education.”

Interpreting Municipal Code § 17-17-0103-J to strip an active primary classroom of “school” status creates an unworkable legal absurdity: it logically forces full-time students into non-compliance with Illinois Compulsory Attendance Law (105 ILCS 5/26-1).

By formally deciding the facility fails to meet this definition, the court established that, as a matter of municipal law, the location does not provide state-mandated basic education. Illinois Compulsory Attendance Law (105 ILCS 5/26-1) strictly requires parents

The city's lawyers then claimed that they were not bound by the 500-foot rule, nor did they fully believe that the Guidepost Montessori School at Magnificent Mile, 226 E. Illinois St., was really a school.

of children aged 6 to 17 to enroll them in a school that fulfills basic education requirements.

This ruling now creates a severe contradiction for neighborhood families whose primary-grade children attend the facility daily.

The administrative records from this case includes testimony from parents showing that elementary-age children attend full-time during normal school hours for core academic instruction.

By stripping the facility of “school” status under a municipal definition that mirrors state law, the ruling logically implies that parents sending primary students there are failing to comply with state compulsory education mandates. This was done purely to clear away the rule over a 500-foot commercial buffer for a dispensary, so that Helen's son Brendan Shiller and his partners can sell pot legally down the block.

From outward appearances, it seems ZBA commissioner Shiller used her City Hall clout to taint a ZBA vote that clearly benefitted her son, a part owner of the dope dispensary.

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.

Shiller cast the deciding 3-2 vote on the proposed SUP to open up the dispensary at a location too

POT see p. 12

Beer never broke my heart



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

Are you a regular beer drinker? What’s your preference, imported or domestic? Do you have a favorite beer? Are you a fan of foam, ever shake salt into you beer to add froth? Best way to drink it: Stein, mug, aluminum can, liter glass or just out of the bottle?

We know a gal who prefers to use a long-stemmed wine glass for her daily draught.

What about about price and value? Bargain hunters can head over to Dollar Beer nights in Wrigleyville and keep from breaking the bank. On Thursday nights, Kincade’s hosts \$1 beers and on Friday nights, Stolen Saddle sells \$1 beers.

Beer and mankind have historically enjoyed a robust relationship. Their unique ability to develop a nourishing character of mature refreshment was always complementary. The growth of each was always shaped by a pattern of intelligence and genuine inventiveness.

Old Style is the most historically iconic traditional beer deeply tied to Chicago culture, while Goose Island Beer Co.’s Honker’s Ale; Revolution Brewing’s Anti-Hero IPA, and Half Acre’s Daisy Cutter pale ale define the city’s modern craft identity.

In May, Pabst Brewing, who produced the Schlitz label, announced an indefinite production hiatus and, sadly, retirement for the historic brand.

A longtime Chicago favorite, the last keg of Schlitz Beer was tapped and drunk not too long ago at Glunz Tavern. It was the Schlitz finale at the very place that first bottled Schlitz in Chicago



Beer production in Chicago appears from its very start in 1833 to the present to endure a series of product inventions and reinventions from its first pioneers, like Michael Diversey and William Lill in the 1830s and 1840s.



go in 1896. It was fittingly opened at the oldest saloon/liquor store in the city, on Wells St. in Old Town, “The House of Glunz.”

There the history of beer is written on the city’s soul. The end of Schlitz is a frozen moment in beer time, a last memory made to fit the landscape of the lost urban era of beers of remembrance. Then it faded into an eternity of lost brews.

Chicagoans forget that after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, Schlitz Brewing shipped loads of beer from Milwaukee to assist the population as water was skyrocketing in price.

And Schlitz built 57 “Tied Houses,” well-crafted neighborhood saloons that exclusively served the beer from the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co.

That’s important historically and culturally in Chicago. Beer was a foundational component of regular life here. As the grandson of a successful South Side Irish bootlegger, I can say my family is still proud of our roots in the brewing industry that thrived here during the era of Prohibition 1920-1933.

The story of Chicago brewing is a collection of tales wrought with creativity and impact. With some room for Al Capone. Possessed, as it was, with ingredients of unrivaled quality, recipes of exotic flavor, and a human thirst for excellence that seemed un-

quenchable at times.

Beer production in Chicago appears from its very start in 1833 to the present to endure a series of product inventions and re-inventions from its first pioneers, like Michael Diversey and William Lill in the 1830s and 1840s, to the renaissance of craft beers, micro brews and others productions of modern brewing techniques.

The historic, partypooer federal involvement of our government banning the production of alcohol during the era of Prohibition, 1920 to 1933, opened a doorway to unfathomable crime and violence in America. They never seem to see the unintended consequences coming of such changes. The period accentuated the significance of alcohol’s place in the nation’s cultural and social life.

The evolution of Chicago to prosperity and commercial leadership traces its foundation to the success of its modern development, making it capital of the American heartland.

Success and leadership in the nation’s railroad industry, together with leadership in the livestock and stockyard industry, lent a ripeness for the brewing industry.

Chicago always welcomed large numbers of immigrants to employment and celebrated the expansive tastes immigrants had in beer production and consumption.

Chicago was a dynamic city for taverns and saloons, a craft that fit our broad shoulders. Taverns

were neighborhood-orientated. Serving local beers made to fit the tastebuds of our thirsty, hard-working people.

Taverns shaped the character of many Chicago neighborhoods. The Haas & Sulzer Brewery (1833) founded the year Chicago incorporated as a town. This was the city’s pioneer commercial brewery, which produced thousands of gallons of ale for the earliest residents. It later expanded and became known as the Lill and Diversey Brewery.

Chicago quickly became the center of German immigration back then, especially in the Old Town and Lincoln Park neighborhoods around Old St. Michael’s, then later St. Alphonsus churches.

The Conrad Seipp Brewing Co. (1854) became one of the largest and most influential pre-Prohibition mega-breweries in the U.S., famous for its German-style lagers.

German tastes were also favored by the city’s Meister Bräu Brewery (1891) that first began operating as the Peter Hand Brewing Co. Decades later this historic brand created “Meister Bräu Lite,” the recipe and asset that was eventually sold and rebranded to become the famous Miller Lite, now one of the top sellers in the nation.

The Berghoff Brewery (1887), still in operation today, first began as a German Beer Hall and grew famous thanks to the

World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893. Though its brewing operations took various paths over the decades, the historic brand is intrinsically tied to Chicago’s oldest surviving beer hall, holding the city’s Liquor License No. 1.

My dad, Mossey, always loved their beer and always ordered half light mixed with half dark.

Schoenhofen Brewing Co. (1861) was famous for its historic, surviving brewery powerhouse building in the Pilsen neighborhood. Their beers had Czech pedigrees, such as its flagship “Edelweiss” beer. Beer was brewed connecting it to some of Europe’s best pre-American Civil War Era beverages.

Beer production in Chicago today has had a rebirth, long after Eliott Ness measured Capone for a prison uniform. As tastes and textures of more modern “legit” beers have grown, Chicago has seen a popular resurgence of local brews. It remains an accurate calibration of urban life here.

Goose Island is a real place, sitting in the waters of the Chicago River’s north branch. Surrounded by industry. Many locals who cross its bridge never realize they’re on an island. Goose Island Beer Co., founded by John Hall - and his son Greg - in Lincoln Park, opened its original brewpub in 1988. It is now widely considered Chicago’s oldest continuously operating craft brewing company.

Goose Island was acquired by Anheuser-Busch in 2011 sending shockwaves across the beer belt. But it is still brewed at its historic Fulton St. facility.

The sale provided capital allowing Goose Island to expand from a beloved regional staple into a massive brand available coast to coast.

Chicago’s Revolution Brewing

BEER see p. 8

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Third-party notices tell a relative or friend when you miss a tax payment

BY THE COOK COUNTY
TREASURER

Each year, thousands of property owners in Cook County are late paying their taxes. That can put their homes in danger of being included in the annual state-mandated tax sale, a problem to avoid.

Since 2005, the Cook County Treasurers Office has allowed you to sign up a relative or anyone you choose to receive copies of certified delinquency notices a month before the Annual Tax Sale. That way, you're more likely to be aware of an impending tax sale so you can act and prevent your taxes from being sold.

If you register for the Third-Party Notification program, the person you designate

will receive a mailed copy of your delinquency notice from the Treasurers office.

The program is designed for all homeowners and may be particularly helpful for relatives, senior citizens, people with disabilities or special needs, those with long-term, serious health issues, and people who are away from their homes for extended periods of time.

You can enroll in the program by downloading a short form at cookcountytreasurer.com. Simply print the form, fill it out and mail it to my office at 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, Chicago, IL 60602.

The program is a safety net because it allows other family members and trusted individuals and institutions such as churches, temples, mosques or not-for-profit orga-

nizations to be designated as third parties. The program is not for mortgage companies or banks.

Enroll at any time. However, applications received less than two weeks prior to the mailing of certified notices of delinquent taxes may not be processed before delinquency notifications are mailed.

The Annual Tax Sale must occur about 13 months after your Second Installment tax due date. Once that date is set, the Treasurers office will send certified notices to property owners whose unpaid tax bills will be auctioned off unless paid in full before the sale.

The third party you designate to receive duplicate copies of delinquency notices assumes no liability for paying your taxes.

You, as a property owner, are still responsible. The hope is that the third-party designee will follow up with you to determine if you received your delinquency notice and are arranging to pay your taxes before they're offered at the tax sale.

The program renews automatically and is free to all residential property owners. Under state law, there's a \$5 registration fee for non-residential properties. You may designate only one person or entity to receive third-party notices, and you may cancel at any time.

Registering for the Third-Party Notification program is a simple measure that takes minutes but could prevent hours of aggravation if your taxes are sold.

Four Chicago police oversight commissioners tried to oust colleague from superintendent search — then fought to hide the paper trail

BY CWBCHICAGO

Members of Chicago's primary police oversight commission tried to push one of its own members off the workgroup searching for the city's next police superintendent, and then fought to keep the paper trail hidden from the public.

An 86-page email chain released last week shows four commissioners working to remove Sandra Wortham from the Superintendent Search Work Group, despite the commission president warning that the effort lacked a clear basis and could look like an attempt to settle an "interpersonal or philosophical disagreement" through a procedural maneuver. The emails also reveal that the majority was fragile from the start. It has since collapsed as one member abandoned the plan entirely.

The Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability [CCPSA] originally gave CWB Chicago an almost completely redacted version of the emails. Last week, though, the commission released the full chain less than 48 hours after the Illinois Attorney General's Office opened an inquiry into its handling of our FOIA request.

The email chain began July 10, less than a week before Larry Snelling left his post as CPD's top cop, when CCPSA Vice President Angel Rubi Navarajo sent a lengthy email to commissioners "to respectfully express my concerns regarding Cmsr. Sandra Wortham on the Superintendent Search Work Group," citing concerns about "whether she possesses the collaborative leadership style necessary for this specific responsibility."

Supporters of Wortham suspect her colleagues' real motives were political,

arguing that the effort would remove the commission's only member with direct law enforcement experience and the only perspective that differs from the majority's. Wortham, a former CPD civilian employee, is also the daughter of a retired CPD sergeant and the sister of a slain Chicago police officer.

Lending some credence to that belief, before CWB Chicago published its first story about the removal effort on July 29, one commissioner told us that they believed Wortham "is biased toward conservative" viewpoints and has a "biased lens."

The workgroup, consisting of Wortham and CCPSA President Remel Terry, supports the superintendent search process, according to CCPSA. Major decisions, including determining which candidates advance to interviews and selecting the three finalists who will be submitted to the mayor, will be made by the full commission.

Navarajo argued that the commission should take a formal vote to remove Wortham "if a majority of Commissioners share my concerns."

A few hours after Navarajo sent his email, and shortly after Cmsr. Anthony Driver and Gina Piemonte responded with support for his proposal, Terry, the president, wrote back to all commissioners and the executive director saying she would not support removing a commissioner from a workgroup without "a clear, substantiated, and procedurally sound basis."

CCPSA's President appoints commissioners to its various workgroups.

"I am particularly concerned that this request appears to have been circulated among commissioners before Cmsr. Wortham was directly engaged in a candid conversation about the concerns raised," Terry wrote.

"Circulating an email to build support for removing a colleague, without first attempting direct dialogue or identifying an objective standard that has been violated, does not reflect the transparent and collaborative process being requested of the work group itself," Terry continued. "I will not participate in an effort that could reasonably be perceived as using procedural action to resolve an interpersonal or philosophical disagreement."

Terry also challenged the procedural basis for Navarajo's proposal.

"The Commission did not vote to establish the current work groups or approve their membership. Therefore, calling for a majority vote to remove one member ... would be inconsistent with how these

groups were formed and could create a troubling precedent. A disagreement with a commissioner's leadership style, perspective, or approach does not, by itself, justify removal."

Terry's email also appeared to raise questions about Navarajo's own conduct and its effect on the commission's relationship with Snelling.

"There have been other instances of conduct that significantly affected the Commission's working relationships, including our relationship with the outgoing Superintendent, without similar calls for removal or accountability," Terry wrote to Navarajo, saying consistency is important. "I raised

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those concerns with you directly at the time. I did not seek to remove anyone from an assignment, even when I believed the conduct involved was serious and damaging.”

Terry said she “remain[ed] open to facilitating a direct and constructive conversation that focuses on expectations, working relationships, and the integrity of the Superintendent search process.”

Navarijo reiterated his position in response, writing, “my previous attempts to have meetings or build a rapport [with Wortham] have been unsuccessful.”

Wortham disputed that claim in a lengthy response two days after Navarijo’s initial email: “You did not attempt to have a conversation with me. You sent me a text message at 10:53 a.m. on Friday, July 10, advising that you would be sending an email opposing my remaining on the Superintendent Search Work Group. You did not suggest nor request a conversation.”

Navarijo’s email was transmitted 31 minutes after his text, Wortham said.

Wortham also argued that Navarijo’s effort was politically motivated and would put certain voices on the back burner.

“[W]e have a responsibility to ensure that this Commission considers the diverse perspectives of the public and that the public hears the diverse perspectives of this Commission,” Wortham argued. “I have never insisted that my perspective on any particular issue prevail, only that it, and the



Screenshots of some of the redacted emails provided by CCPSA.
Courtesy Community Commission For Public Safety and Accountability

perspectives of all Commissioners and all Chicagoans be heard and considered.”

She went on to identify concerns with other Commissioners “which could have caused me and/or colleagues to challenge their fitness to serve in a particular position and/or on this Commission in general.”

Regarding Navarijo, Wortham noted that he is employed as the Director of Neighborhood Services for Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th], a fact that delayed his City Council confirmation and led to him signing a two-page “Work Agreement” detailing the steps he must take to comply with the Chicago Governmental Ethics Ordinance and secondary employment rules.

Piemonte was appointed to the commission while employed as a supervisor in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender.

“That means she received income from an office of lawyers defending individuals charged with offenses on various matters, some of which undoubtedly involve Chicago Police Department members and Chicago Police Department policies over which this Commission has drafting and enacting authority,” Wortham explained. “It is very likely that such a conflict of interest could cause a crisis of confidence among select Commissioner(s), members of the public, and/or Chicago Police Department members.”

Piemonte countered that Wortham’s “unsubstantiated

claims that my role of representing indigent clients created a conflict of interest demonstrates the very traits that make you an unsuitable candidate to be one of the two commissioners leading our Superintendent Search.”

At the time Wortham wrote her response, she may not have known that Driver also supported her removal because he did not copy her on his response to Navarijo’s email.

The next day, three days after Terry refused to remove Wortham, Navarijo continued to press the matter. He needed one

ing this matter.”

That left Navarijo with one commissioner who had not expressed an opinion, and he needed her support to reach a majority: Guzman, another new commissioner who joined at the same time as Young.

“Please advise your position,” he wrote in his second email of the morning seeking Guzman’s opinion.

That night, Guzman emailed Terry, Navarijo, Driver and the executive director to express her support for removing Wortham.

All four of the commissioners

All four of the commissioners opposed to Sandra Wortham’s appointment failed to show up last month for a meeting where they were supposed to pick an executive search firm to help find the next police superintendent. As a result, the vote had to be postponed, delaying the search.

more commissioner to sign on to his proposal to reach a majority, so he sought responses from Commissioners Anjanette Young and Angelique Guzman. They did not respond, and he reached out again eight days later.

“A response would be appreciated,” he wrote. “I have major concerns of Commissioner Wortham being apart [sic] of the Superintendent Search workgroup. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to setup [sic] a call.”

Young, a new member of the commission, replied a couple of hours later, saying she was “getting to know my fellow Commissioners, and understanding the various perspectives that have been shared...I believe it is important that I develop my own informed understanding as I become more familiar with my colleagues and the Commission’s processes.”

“Additionally,” Young continued, “for matters related to this topic, I will defer to president Terry’s communications regard-

opposed to Wortham’s appointment failed to show up last month for a meeting where they were supposed to pick an executive search firm to help find the next police superintendent. As a result, the vote had to be postponed, delaying the search. Driver told this reporter that he was never planning to attend that meeting because city ethics rules require him to recuse himself from the search firm vote.

At last week’s public meeting, Driver said he had withdrawn his support for Navarijo’s movement: “I even walked up to Commissioner Wortham [after the July meeting] and said, ‘You know what? I did respond to that rather quickly. I can see how you feel attacked here. Like, I apologize. I’m not trying to do that to you. So, let’s not do it.’”

Freedom of Information

CWB Chicago first reported on Navarijo’s efforts to remove Wortham on July 29, six days after asking CCPSA to release the complete email chain in a

FOIA request. Commissioners discussed our story and Navarijo’s email for nearly 30 minutes at CCPSA’s regularly scheduled meeting the following night.

During the meeting, Driver initially made it sound as though he wanted to reshuffle the working groups because they are routinely reorganized when the commission gets new members.

“That’s how it works. We just got two new commissioners,” Driver said. “We should have had a right to reshuffle the working groups.”

But the newly released emails show Driver’s response to Navarijo, which he did not send to Wortham, said he agreed with the “sentiment” of Navarijo’s email and supported a vote to potentially oust her from the workgroup. He did not mention the routine reshuffling of workgroups as a further reason to consider changing the lineup.

Driver, however, made it clear at the public meeting that he did not believe Wortham was the right person for the workgroup and said he would stand down in his vote if Terry wanted Wortham to remain.

One week after the July meeting, CCPSA finally provided us with a copy of the emails, but nearly all of the content was blacked out. The commission cited a state law that allows, but does not require, public bodies to withhold emails deemed “deliberative.”

CCPSA noted that both Terry and Wortham specifically wanted their portions of the email chain released, but the agency redacted the content anyway.

The next day, we emailed all seven commissioners and CCPSA’s executive director asking them to reconsider the agency’s response based on the commission’s stated values of transparency and trust. None replied, and CWB Chicago took the matter to the Illinois Attorney General’s Office.

While the matter was under review, CCPSA held another monthly meeting on Aug. 27. This time, additional commissioners called for the emails to be released.

“I want to go on the record publicly and say as of today, this very moment, I support releasing every one of those, every email, all of them unredacted,” Driver said. “And I’m asking actually, I would like to publicly ask my fellow commissioners to withdraw that redaction and let the public see every single email.”

“I’m down,” Navarijo replied. “Yeah, that’s okay. I, I’m down. I’m, I’m good to go. I, I support that. I support releasing the emails.”

Piemonte then added her support. Guzman did not express an opinion.

Despite the commissioners’ newfound love of transparency, the unredacted emails were not immediately released.

On Aug. 31, a senior assistant attorney general sent a letter to Chicago Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel J. Allen Thomas notifying CCPSA that the Illinois Attorney General’s Office had decided to review the agency’s FOIA response. CCPSA released the unredacted email chain in its entirety about 45 hours later.

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Will home-loan rates ever fall?

Fed honeymoon is over



The Home Front by Don DeBat

Will Chicago home buyers and families seeking to refinance ever see mortgage rates in the 5%-range again? Only a gypsy fortune teller's crystal ball will tell.

However, the honeymoon apparently is over between new Federal Reserve Board [FED] chairman Kevin Warsh and President Donald Trump. On Sept. 4 President Trump urged the central bank and chairman Warsh, to "get smart" and cut rates.

So, with President Trump as the biggest critic, this is what Chicago prospective home buyers should be worrying about this autumn:

- President Trump demanded that the Fed slash interest rates or else he will cut off trade with countries with which the U.S. maintains trade deficits.

- Later, in the Oval Office, Trump doubled down saying: "We should be paying the lowest interest rate in the world."

Analysts note that the U.S. has large deficits with dozens of countries, including its top trading partners. Trump issued his sweeping ultimatum on interest rates after following a much-stronger-than-expected monthly jobs report. Employers nationwide added 162,000 jobs in August.

Trump reasoned that the strong job report means the economy is stronger than the Fed believes, and interest rates should be lower. On the other hand, the Congressional Budget Office projects that federal outlays for fiscal year 2026 will total approximately \$7.4 trillion, making drunken sailors across the globe blush. They are projected to earn roughly \$5 to \$5.6 trillion in total revenue for fiscal year 2026. Deficit spending is creating inflation, which is driving up interest rates.

The Fed declined to comment on Trump's post.

Canada in the crosshairs

The President named Canada—which is currently locked in a trade-and-tariff feud with the U.S.—as an example. "If we were playing hardball, all we'd do is say we're going to do no trading with Canada. If we did no trading with Canada, we'd save \$90 billion," Trump claimed. "Each percentage point in interest that we pay in this country costs us \$650 billion. We should be at 1% or a half of 1%. We shouldn't be at 4%."

Trump's comments were issued two months before the midterm elections, where Americans' unhappiness with persistent high inflation has been a dominant



On Aug. 28, Fed chair Kevin Warsh said interest-rate hikes could soon be on the table because of higher inflation. Ironically, some of the recent inflation growth was sparked by the Iran War, which has driven up the cost of gasoline by 44% since Feb. 28.

theme.

U.S. inflation rate for 2019 was a stellar 1.8% based on the Consumer Price Index. But by 2021 it had surged to 7% and it topped out at 9.1% in June 2022.

Milton Friedman famously argued that inflation is always a monetary problem caused by printing money faster than goods are made. That when the supply of money grows faster than real output, currency loses value.

On Aug. 28, Fed chair Warsh said interest-rate hikes could soon be on the table because of higher inflation. Ironically, some of the recent inflation growth was sparked by Trump's Iran War, which has driven up the cost of gasoline 44% since Feb. 28. Diesel fuel shot up 24% between July and August.

Sounding much like former Fed chair Jerome Powell, Warsh said he is committed to bringing the inflation rate back down to the central bank's 2% target. "Short-term interest rates are the predominant tool to achieve the dual mandate," he said. The inflation rate in August was 5.4% up from 4.8% in July.

Taken at face value, the threat to end trade with deficit-harboring countries is extreme: The U.S. has large deficits with dozens of countries, including its top trading partners.

Trump has long sought lower interest rates and frequently complains about U.S. deficits with other countries. But many economists say trade deficits themselves are not necessarily good or bad. In fact, deficits can occur when a country has more purchasing power to buy more goods.

Nations that have trade surpluses with the U.S. will often use the dollars they receive to buy U.S. Treasuries, putting that money back into domestic circulation, analysts said. The U.S. has reported trade deficits in the tens of billions of dollars each month for decades.

Home-loan rate creep continues

On Sept. 10, the Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed-rate home loans rose to an average of 6.76% from 6.71% a week earlier. A year ago, the key 30-year rate averaged 6.35%. The average rate on the popular 30-year mortgage now is the



highest it has been since July 31, 2025, when it hit 6.72%.

Fifteen-year fixed loans averaged 6.09% on Sept. 10, up from a week earlier when it averaged 6.04%. A year ago, the 15-year fixed mortgage averaged 5.50%.

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

Mortgage rates were much higher in 2023. Rates on 30-year fixed loans bounced in the mid-7% range between Aug. 17 and Oct. 19, 2023.

On Oct. 26, Freddie Mac reported that 30-year rates soared to 7.79%, while 15-year fixed mortgages rose to 7.03%. Some crystal-ball gazing analysts are predicting a return to 7%-plus mortgage rates before the holidays.

Mortgage-rate history

What a difference a few years make. Less than six years ago, 30-year fixed-mortgage interest rates ended 2020 at a rock-bottom 2.65%—the lowest level in the Freddie Mac survey history, which began in 1971. Home-loan rates set new record lows an amazing 16 times in 2020, and tens of thousands of

homeowners refinanced.

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

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

In the early 1980s, runaway inflation caused home-loan rates to skyrocket into the stratosphere. According to Freddie Mac, benchmark 30-year mortgage rates peaked at a jaw-dropping 18.45% in Oct. 1981 during that Great Recession.

Rates finally fell below 10% in April 1986, and then bounced in the 9%-to-10% range during the balance of the 1980s. Twenty-three years ago—in Aug. 2000—when some of today's Millennial borrowers were still in diapers, lenders were quoting 8.04%.

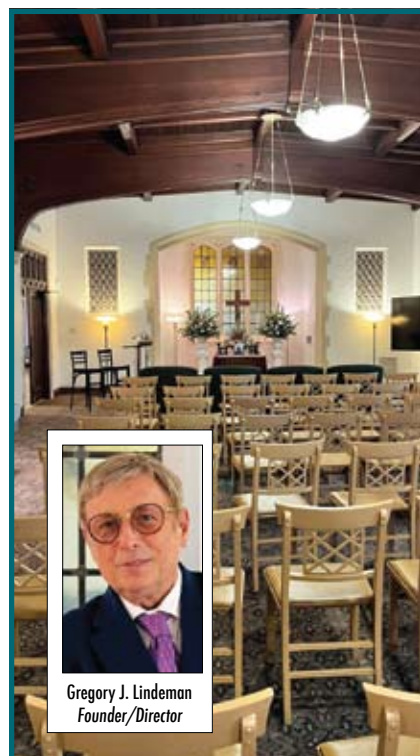
Between 2002 and 2011, rates bounced in the 4% to 6% range. They inched into the 3% to 4% range until 2020, when they fell into the rock-bottom 2% bracket.

Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist, gave the following sage advice: "Aspiring buyers should remember shopping around for the best mortgage rate and getting multiple quotes can potentially save them thousands."

North-Side home sales flop

In August, North Side home sales numbers dropped -14% and residential listings declined -18.4%, reported the September Baird & Warner North Side Chicago Market Analysis.

RATES see p. 10



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Police Beat...

Baby girl dies in West Ridge after being found with injuries

A one-year-old girl was found dead in West Ridge Sept. 12, and now a death investigation is underway pending a full autopsy, after she was found with injuries.

The little girl was found around 11:40 a.m. in the 2600 block of W. Rosemont Ave. Police said she had visible injuries to her lower body.

She was taken to a hospital in critical condition, where she was later pronounced dead.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office identified the victim as Maombi Joyeuse.

Offender charged with aggravated robbery, battery of 21-year old man

Lamarion Gilmore, 20, of the 14500 block of S. Troy, in Pos-en, IL, has been charged with armed robbery, aggravated batter and resisting arrest after he was arrested on September 10, at 1:34 a.m., in the 0-100 block of E. Lake St.

Gilmore was identified as one of the offenders who, minutes earlier, implied he had a weapon before battering a 21-year-old male and taking his personal property by force on E. Lake St. Gilmore was quickly placed into custody on scene and charged accordingly.



Lamarion Gilmore

Aggravated battery in Wrigleyville

Chicago police are seeking information on an aggravated battery in Wrigleyville at the Addison CTA Red Line Station. The incident occurred 4 p.m. Sept. 1 in the 900 block of W. Addison St., when the pictured offender approached a passenger exiting a train and struck him in the face with a closed fist before fleeing the station.

The man is described as an African American of unknown age, unknown height and weight.

Those who may have any information about this incident cab contact Public Transportation Detectives at (312)745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use reference # JK396249.



Trader gets 16+ years for unauthorized trading that caused \$30 M in losses

A Chicago trader has been sentenced to more than 16 years in federal prison for engaging in unauthorized speculative bond trading that cost his employer and others more than \$30 million in losses and also caused his employer to become insolvent, which in turn led to more than 200 people losing their jobs.

Keith Wakefield worked as the head of fixed income trading for IFS Securities, Inc., a broker-dealer in Chicago. In 2019, Wakefield knowingly and fraudulently engaged in unauthorized speculative trading in U.S. Treasury bonds using his employer's trading accounts, exposing his trading to approximately \$250 million in losses and

actually causing more than \$30 million in losses to the employer and its counterparties.

Wakefield attempted to conceal the unauthorized trades and losses by entering fake off-setting trades into a clearing broker's order system, creating the false impression that he had profitably traded through a different clearing broker.

In addition to the fraudulent trading scheme, Wakefield from 2017 to 2019 embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from IFS Securities by falsifying the company's books and records to create fake commissions that Wakefield knew were not actually owed to him.

A jury in U.S. District Court in Chicago in 2024 convicted Wakefield, 52, of securities fraud and wire fraud. On Sept. 9, U.S. District Judge Steven C. Seeger sentenced Wakefield to 16 years and eight months in federal prison.

'Security guard' maced, punched Red Line passenger while making antisemitic comments



CTA surveillance images of the suspect.

A man dressed in a security guard's uniform maced and punched a passenger on a Red Line train on the North Side while making antisemitic comments, according to a community alert issued by Chicago police. Now, CPD needs help identifying the assailant.

The attack happened around 6:55 p.m. Aug. 25 as the victim was riding a train near the Granville station, police said.

The man seen in surveillance images sprayed the victim with mace, punched them in the face and made antisemitic statements during the attack, according to CPD. Police did not disclose the victim's age or gender.

The suspect is described as Black, 40 to 55 years old, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-11 and 190 to 240 pounds. He was last seen wearing a security cap, a blue jacket over a yellow work vest and dark pants. CPD did not say whether the man actually worked as a security guard or was simply dressed like one.

Anyone with information about the man's identity is asked to contact Mass Transit Detectives at 312-745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com. The reference number is JK-387428.

Man gets 76 Years for violent banks robberies while on parole for prior bank robberies

A federal judge has sentenced a man to 76 years in prison for violently robbing or attempting to rob four banks in downtown Chicago while on supervised release for prior bank robbery convictions.

Joseph Donelson, Jr., 68, committed four robberies or attempted robberies in a two-month period in 2023. Donelson struck a bank teller in the face in one of the robberies and leapt onto the counter to take money in another one.

The robberies were Oct. 11, 2023: Attempted robbery of Citibank, 180 N. Michigan Ave. in the Loop; Nov. 7, 2023: Robbery of Citibank, 180 N. Michigan Ave. in the Loop; Dec. 8, 2023: Robbery of Citibank, 539 N. Michigan Ave. in Streeterville, and on Dec. 19, 2023: Attempted robbery of Citibank, 100 S. Michigan Ave. in the Loop.

Donelson committed the robberies and attempted robberies while he was on court-supervised release

following a period of imprisonment for robbing two other banks in Chicago's Loop neighborhood in 2007.

A jury in U.S. District Court in Chicago earlier this year convicted Donelson of the four robberies and attempted robberies from 2023. On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Steven C. Seeger sentenced Donelson to 76 years in federal prison.

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

Man shot after robbing Brink's guard in the Loop gets 18-month federal sentence

The man shot by a Brink's armored car guard after stealing a bag of money



Dajon Harris

outside a Loop department store last year has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison, court records show. Prosecutors say it was the second time in less than two months he robbed a Brink's driver downtown, although he was not shot the first time.

U.S. District Judge Andrea Wood sentenced Dajon Harris, 24, to 18 months after he pleaded guilty to interference with commerce by threat or violence. Prosecutors had asked for 32 months.

In a sentencing memorandum, prosecutors described four months of escalating criminal conduct in 2025 that included two Brink's robberies, a bank theft, and an arrest for allegedly possessing a stolen vehicle. They called the conduct "incredibly serious and dangerous."

It began on June 20, when Harris took about \$500 in cash from a bank teller's counter. Roughly 45 days later, in the middle of a summer day across from Millennium Park, he approached a Brink's driver from behind, grabbed the bag the courier was carrying, and ran away, according to the sentencing memorandum. Three days later, Chicago cops arrested him when he allegedly ran from a stolen car.

About a month after being placed on pretrial release for that case, he committed the second Brink's robbery in broad daylight in the heart of the Loop.

According to a federal complaint, the armored truck pulled up to Saks Off 5th at 6 S. State St. around 11:12 a.m. Sept. 10, 2025, and surveillance video captured Harris following the guard into the store. About five minutes later, as the guard walked out carrying the store's receipts, Harris tried to rip the cash bag from his hands just outside the entrance, the FBI said.

When the guard resisted, Harris punched him until the courier lost control of the black Brink's bag, which held more than \$7,000. The guard then drew his weapon and fired three shots, striking Harris as he ran off with the bag.

Surveillance cameras tracked Harris up Madison Street, where he dropped some of the stolen cash, and north on Dearborn toward the CTA. Inside the Washington Blue Line station, cameras captured him staggering and collapsing on the platform. Chicago police officers found him there, applied a tourniquet, and called paramedics, according to the complaint. Seven of the eight cash bags from the courier's satchel were recovered along Harris's path, and the eighth was found where he collapsed, the FBI said. Harris spent a week in the hospital.

"Thankfully, defendant survived, and miraculously, no innocent bystanders were harmed," prosecutors wrote. "In a split second, the outcome could have been devastatingly

different."

In support of their recommendation for a relatively lenient 32-month sentence, prosecutors pointed to Harris' difficult childhood, including being raised by a mother who struggled to make ends meet and moving frequently. They also cited his history of substance abuse and serious mental health conditions diagnosed since 2023.

When Harris is released from federal prison in December, a pending state case involving the stolen vehicle will await him.

Loop Post Office truck stolen

A U.S. Postal Service worker exited his mail truck to make a delivery around 7:50 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 1100 Block of S. State St. when the man got in the truck and drove away. Officers were later able to stop the truck and arrest the man.

The postal worker called police, and officers spotted the truck and tried to pull it over. But the truck didn't stop and sideswiped a car trying to flee, according to police.

Officers later spotted the truck again in traffic and stopped it. The man got out and was arrested. No one was reported injured.

16-year-old killed at Grant Park skate park as Loop shootings rise



Chicago police officers at the scene of a fatal shooting at the Grant Park skate park on September 9, 2026.

Courtesy Citizen App

A 16-year-old boy was shot and killed at the skate park inside Grant Park on Sept. 9, Chicago police said.

Just after 9 p.m., officers responding to calls of shots fired and a person shot in the 1100 block of S. Michigan Ave. saw young people running from the park. When they reached the skate park, they found the 16-year-old with a gunshot wound to the neck, police said. A surgeon who happened to be in the area tried to save the boy, but he succumbed to his injuries at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Police searched the area for a suspect who was seen running from the shooting, described as a Black male with dreadlocks, wearing a black hoodie with red writing, black skinny jeans, and a backpack. He was last seen running north near the Metra tracks.

Officers found a firearm on a nearby Metra platform and detained a 19-year-old man, but witnesses told police he was not the shooter. Nonetheless, CPD arrested him for trespassing on Metra property and for further investigation.

Sept. 9's victim is the seventh person shot in the Loop this year, up from five at this point last year. One of the 2025 shootings was ruled self-defense. At this point in 2024, eight people had been shot, including two shootings ruled self-defense.

Woman gets five years for Opioid prescriptions fraud

A woman has been sentenced to five years in federal prison for using information stolen from physicians to fraudulently write opioid prescriptions.

Amani Ibrahim fraudulently caused prescriptions for oxycodone, hydrocodone, and other controlled

substances to be issued under the names of real medical providers and often in the names of nominal patients, neither of whom knew the prescriptions were being written.

Ibrahim or others involved in the scheme would then pick up the prescriptions at Chicago-area pharmacies and work to distribute the drugs on the streets. Ibrahim was not a licensed physician and could not lawfully prescribe medications.

From 2022 to 2025, Ibrahim was responsible for the unlawful distribution of 149,152 dosage units of oxycodone, 41,853 dosage units of hydrocodone, 30,517 dosage units of alprazolam, 22,625 dosage units of promethazine-codeine syrup, and 6,990 dosage units of amphetamine. Ibrahim also financially benefited from the scheme, resulting in the forfeiture of \$200,800 in illicit proceeds that was seized from her residence.

Ibrahim, 48, pleaded guilty earlier this year to a federal drug conspiracy charge. On Sept. 4, U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly sentenced Ibrahim to five years in federal prison.

Another mass shooting, gunmen fires 70+ shots Sunday, killing 1, injuring 6

Chicago is leading the nation in mass shootings. On Sunday, one man was killed and 6 other people, including a 14-year-old boy, were wounded when multiple gunmen opened fire on a crowd in Humboldt Park, police said. More than 70 shots were fired and, according to a preliminary report, a vehicle found at the scene was involved in a separate drive-by shooting on the West Side earlier this week.

The shooting happened around 12:17 p.m. in the 700 block of N. Christiana Ave. Six people were standing outside when two vehicles pulled up, and multiple gunmen got out and began shooting, police said. A 30-year-old woman driving nearby was struck by gunfire and crashed into a CTA bus, according to CPD.

An officer who reviewed surveillance video reported that one of the gunmen, described as a Black male wearing a black hoodie over a white shirt and dark pants, appeared to suffer a leg fracture upon being struck by one of the getaway vehicles.

Police recovered dozens of shell casings at the scene, most from rifles, along with cellphones and other evidence. Police also determined that a vehicle found at the scene was involved in a shooting Thursday morning in the 400 block of N. Laverne Ave.

The man who was killed remained unidentified Sunday evening. CPD said the other victims were a 14-year-old boy who was shot in the thighs; An 18-year-old man who was shot in the shoulder; A 21-year-old man who was shot in the leg; A 24-year-old man who was shot in the leg and stomach; A 26-year-old man who was shot in the foot, and a 30-year-old woman who was shot in the hip.

The 24-year-old man was in critical condition. The others were reported to be in good condition, police said. The bus driver, while not shot, was taken to a hospital for observation.

In Thursday's shooting, a 25-year-old man was standing outside when a blue SUV pulled up and multiple gunmen opened fire from inside the vehicle, police said. The man was shot in his right leg.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Union says judge who released cop-killer locked up two courtroom deputies last week

BY CWBCHICAGO

The Cook County judge who released repeat violent felon Alphonso Talley on electronic monitoring before he was charged with killing a Chicago police officer is accused of holding two courtroom deputies in contempt last week for not immediately removing handcuffs from a different inmate charged with murder.

It's an upside-down world in Judge John Lyke's courtroom, where deputies are locked up and repeat violent offenders are sent home.

On Sept. 9, two deputies were escorting the inmate into Lyke's courtroom at the Leighton Criminal Court Building when he ordered them to remove the man's

handcuffs, according to Teamsters Local 700, which represents the deputies. The inmate, who was not identified by the union, was classified as "high risk movement." Sheriff's Office policy requires a supervisor's approval before restraints are removed from an inmate with that classification, according to the union.

When the deputies moved to call their supervisor, Lyke held Samuel Estrada Perez and Jarrett Kelley in contempt of court, the union said. Both deputies were taken into custody and stripped of their badges and protective equipment. Lyke then required them to apologize to the court under threat of up to 90 days in jail. They were released after apologizing.

The union is calling on Chief

Judge Charles Beach to reprimand Lyke and reaffirm that Sheriff's Office policy governs the movement of inmates into and out of courtrooms. The group said it is "weighing" a possible request for the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board to investigate Lyke.

"Court Service Deputies are responsible for the safety and security of everyone in a courtroom, and they answer to the policies the Sheriff's Office sets. Punishing two deputies for doing exactly what they are trained and required to do is an outrageous abuse of the court's authority. The Office of the Chief Judge needs to

reprimand Judge Lyke, and Lyke owes these deputies an apology," said union President Ramon Williams.



Judge John Lyke

Lyke drew public criticism in April after Talley, whom Lyke had released on electronic monitoring in December over prosecutors' objections, was charged in the shooting of two Chicago police officers. Officer John Bartholomew was killed, and his partner was critically wounded in the April 25 attack at Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital when the officers took him to the facility for a CT scan.

LAWSUIT: 'social media tax' unconstitutional, illegal

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

Illinois will need to defend in court a controversial and constitutionally questionable new law hurriedly rammed through Springfield by Democrats, imposing steep per user "fees" on internet site operators that the state deems "social media" and digital ads to create a new revenue source to fuel the state's ever growing budget.

On Sept. 11, NetChoice, a trade group representing social media companies and other big tech companies, followed through on a threat the group issued months ago, asking judges to block the new taxes in parallel lawsuits filed in Cook County Circuit Court.

"Illinois' new internet taxes firmly establish the state's opposition to online speech, innovation, and its own business community," said attorney Paul Taske, who serves as director of the NetChoice Litigation Center.

"The Supreme Court has made abundantly clear that legislators cannot target a subset of media for disfavored taxation, but that's precisely what these taxes do. Not only are they flatly unconstitutional under the First Amendment, but they blatantly disregard Congress's clear judgment under (federal law) that digital services cannot be subject to discriminatory taxation."

Specifically, the lawsuits assert the new Illinois taxes violate both the First Amendment and the federal Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act [PITFA] by singling out "digital services" for the disfavored tax treatment.

The lawsuits come about three

months since Illinois Democratic lawmakers, with the vocal support of Gov. JB Pritzker, chose to impose the new taxes and fees as part of Illinois' new \$56 billion budget.

Pritzker and other supporters say the measures will force "social media" operators to pay the state to make up for the alleged societal damage they say is caused by their platforms.

Styled as a "fee," the measure would impose what observers say is really a tax to extract potentially hundreds of millions of dollars, or more, every year from a host of companies engaged in the creation of platforms hosting interactive or user-generated content.

Specifically, the new tax will be charged against any online platform operator that the state believes has more than 100,000 users in Illinois. It would scale up progressively based on how many "Illinois users" a platform may have.

The fees would be charged at rates of: 100,000 to 499,999 users: 10¢ per user/month; 500,000 to 999,999 users: \$40,000 base fee per month, plus 25¢ per user, per month, for each user over 500,000; and, over 1 million users: \$165,000 base fee per month, plus 50¢ per user, per month, for each user over 1 million.

The fee would be collected by the Illinois Secretary of State's office, rather than the Illinois Dept. of Revenue.

The law specifically forbids companies hit by the fees from attempting to raise prices or implement charges to make "Illinois users" pay the new "fees."

Supporters assert the measure will generate at least \$200 mil-

lion annually for the Illinois state government. Supporters, including Pritzker, assert the money will be used to fund programs to deal with mental health issues, allegedly exacerbated by social media, as well as to fund schools and other state budget priorities.

Other critics have argued the taxes are unconstitutional levies targeted at publishers, with some likening the tax to a modern version of the British Stamp Tax Act that helped to trigger the American Revolution in 1775.

However, a variety of groups, including lobbyists and legal advocates for tech companies and internet freedom, as well free speech advocates, tax reform advocates, and others, have lined up to blast the measure, asserting it is deeply flawed and likely tramples constitutional protections.

Tax analysts, for instance, have noted the law doesn't actually define what a "user" is for the purpose of "fee" calculations.

TAX see p. 10



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NE Levy Center Village hosts paramedic Sept. 23

The NE Levy Center Village hosts paramedic Latina Hill as their guest speaker for the next meeting virtual meeting 9 a.m. Wednesday, September 23.a.m.

Hill is a Paramedic in Charge with the Chicago Fire Dept. and will be presenting on fire safety and prevention. Attendees will also learn more about the Chicago Senior At Risk Program (in which the Chicago Fire Dept. can install free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home).

The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom, the meeting ID is 886 8091 2480 and the passcode is 142325. those who prefer to call in to the meeting can dial 312-626-6799.

History of Chicagoland maps, mapmaking Sept. 19

The history of mapmaking in Chicago will be the topic of a presentation 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Edgewater Branch Library, 6000 N. Broadway.

Guests are invited to join Donald and Tanya Smith (whose family has been involved in land surveying and map making since 1854) for a presentation about the history of surveying in the U.S. and Illinois, especially greater Chicago.

Guests will hear stories about mapmaking, the Chicago Fire, Abe Lincoln, local interesting projects, and more. They will also be able to view antique and vintage maps, atlases and instruments from the family's unique historical collections, which will be on display during the presentation.

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BEER from p. 2

is the largest independently owned craft brewery in town. Headquartered now at 3340 N. Kenzie Ave. in Avondale, the brewery features a massive 90,000-square-foot space.

Old Style was the city's most historically iconic traditional beer deeply tied to Chicago culture. But it was never brewed here, rather it is shipped in from La Crosse, WI.

Even though it is embraced as a "Chicago's beer," that is due to marketing, its long-standing sponsorship with the Chicago Cubs, and ubiquitous neon tavern signs, its connection to the city has always been cultural rather than manufacturing-based.

The maps and cartography of Chicago breweries and saloons are as significant and revealing as the list of churches across the face of the city. They reveal the places real people lived and sacrificed for. They spotlight the footprint of American life and the bold courage of immigrants coming to a fresh homeland worthy of human investment.

You want to know what it was like back in the 1850s in Chicago? Read up on what people drank then. And where they drank it. Breweries, saloons and taverns carved out a spot in the lonely city that tasted like home and led them to friendships that helped them recover from the toil and pain of exile.

FARE THEE WELL, GIRLFRIEND: **Judy Markey**, 82, died September 11. Cohost of the much loved "Kathy and Judy Show" on WGN Radio with **Kathy O'Malley**, Markey was also an accomplished author and columnist. A private Celebration of Life will be held on September 17. She was inducted into Northwestern Medill's Hall of Achievement and also named one of Chicago's "One Hundred Most Influential Women," she was a credit to her gender, and this city. She will be missed.

GO FISH: Fortune Fish & Gourmet CEO **Sean O'Scannlain** is selling his family's 12,000-square-foot, 7 bedroom luxe home at 4401 N. Hermitage Ave., and the \$8.5 million asking price is a record for Ravenswood. Imag-



Judy Markey



The Shannon Rovers



Maria Pappas, Elaine Hyde (publisher), Amanda Puck, Chef Art Smith and Candace Jordan.



Daryl D. Brooks and Jackie Taylor.

ine all the vacuuming? So they're downsizing to a condo.

ORCHARD DAMAGE: Are you an autumnal apple picker? Sadly the word is some orchards around Chicago may not open this season because frost has killed the apple bloom that may take years to overcome. The 2026 apple harvest is showing the damage of cold springs.



Tommie Ryan

CENTENNIAL: It's been a wondrous summer for the kilted **Ryans**, the famed Chicago family of pipers who 100 years ago founded the Shannon Rovers. That's when grandpa **Tommie Ryan** founded the musical sensation in 1926. You've spotted them for certain in every parade worthwhile. Throughout that

century they have saluted popes and potentates, presidents, astronauts, brides and grooms, and famed Chicagoans at their funerals. They're in church as much as **Cardinal Blase Cupich**. Thanks for a century of heroic ancient tunes to remind us of our dreams and hopes.

HOLY BIRTHDAY: **Pope Leo XIV** turned 71 on Sept. 14. He visited the Vatican Apostolic Library that day and celebrated with the staff, noting that his mother had been a librarian.

SAMURAI: Samurai movie nights are back at the Japanese American Service Committee, 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, 5700 N. Lincoln Ave. Screening of *Seven Samurai* (1954), bring treats, popcorn will be provided.

BIG STARS: **Candace Jordan** celebrating Chicago Star Media with **Elaine Hyde** (publisher), **Amanda Puck**, Cook County Treasurer **Maria Pappas** and Chef **Art Smith** at Mariano's Lakeshore East.

PHOTOS: The Edgewater Historical Society invites you to submit photographs highlighting the unique architectural and historic details found throughout the Bryn Mawr Ave. Historic District. Deadline is Sept. 30, get your photos in. Winners announced Oct. 31.

STARK ART: A new installation is coming to Lincoln Park's Wrightwood 659 museum in Yuan Goang-Ming: *Everyday War*, a reinstallation of the Taiwanese artist's 2024 work. The exhibition opens Friday Sept. 25 and will remain on view through Dec. 19. At the opening remarks will be given, followed by self-guided tours. Speakers will include **Mariah Keller**, Executive Director of Wrightwood 659; **Yuan Goang-Ming**, artist, *Everyday War* (with curator **Abby Chen**), and **Betsy Johnson**, assistant curator at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

LAKEVIEW ART: Look for me at the 21st Annual Lakeview East Festival of the Arts this weekend. Sept. 19-20, Broadway is transforming into an art haven. More than 150 artists will set up their own unique booths, showcasing incredible work ranging from paintings, jewelry, and ceramics to clothing, photography, and so much more.

MORE ART: Painters **Adam Umbach** and this columnist will be exhibiting their latest works in Camden, Maine, Sept. 16 to Oct. 22, at the Carver Hill Gallery in Camden. Anyone who might be in Maine then is invited to view the exhibit for the opening or any available time.

BET: This year's Joseph Jefferson Awards for Equity Theater will recognize Black Ensemble Theater [BET] with a Special Equity Award to celebrate its legacy that was born from a powerful belief: that the arts can heal, unite, and transform. What began in 1976 as a place where Black voices could shine with truth, dignity, and joy, BET has grown into a nationally celebrated institution. **Jackie Taylor**, Founder and CEO, and **Daryl D. Brooks**, Artistic Director, will accept the award at the ceremony on behalf of BET on September 14 at the Harris Theater.

HARLEM DANCE: The Auditorium begins its 2026-27 Dance Season titled North American Dance with a highly anticipated performance by the acclaimed American ballet company Dance Theatre of Harlem, who will present a trio of works from the company's extensive repertoire, including the recently revived *Firebird* - a legendary reimagining of the traditional ballet based on a Russian folktale set in a lush Caribbean world. The one-night-only presentation takes place Saturday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Dr.

BIG BIRTHDAYS: Happy belated birthday salute to the fabulous music maker, the one and only "Maker of True Chicago Lyrical Life," **Stanley Paul**, of timeless Pump Room fame... Mayo's **Dr. Randy Roenigk** celebrating his 70th birthday this week by staying out of the hospital.

WHO'S WHERE: **Mark Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** at Green City Market in Lincoln Park... Former First Ward Ald. **Proco Joe Marino** dining with his nephew at Mart Anthony's on Hubbard and Racine, joined our table to chew the fat... Literary lady **Lucia Adams** says **AA Gill**, the late pressman, was the finest social critic ever... Ret. Judge **Rhoda Sweeney** at Ralph Lauren Restaurant celebrating her birthday... Painter **Lorraine Gless-**

ner turning out some stunning new work, don't miss it... **Megan Addington** was at the U.S. Open... **Miestro Joe Shanahan** pulling out the best records to spin... **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** and **Doc Brieva** in Palm City sipping wine and eating like its Paris... **Marcus Sberna** peddling across the railroad tracks of America even at night... **Colin Hughes** sunning on the sands of Michigan... **Julia Jacobs** borrowing her son's Camaro and listening to **Steve Miller**... **John Polich** hosting a Route 66-themed garden party for 200 people at Gabriel Environmental Services at his laboratory on Elston Ave. next to the Salt Shed... **Nikki Friar** says the best part of going camping is not going and waking up in Greece... **Daniel Rowan-Lyon** backpacking in London with his puppy... **Jolanta Ruege** having a fabulous summer feast at Gibson's Italia... **Todd S. Davis** says "The older I get, drama is embarrassing, lust is repulsive, instability is scary..." Christie's **Steven Zick** on Mt. Desert Island in the Northeast Harbor coastal area of Maine... belated birthday to the one and only **Myra Reilly** who had a great birthday feast with **John Reilly**, **Bobbi Panter**, **Matt Arnoux**, **Alexandra Simpson**, **Lyza** and **Mark Schlenker**, **Cheryl Coleman**.



Fred Drucker with Rhoda Sweeney.

LIONS, TIGERS AND GIRAFFES: **Tom Hackett** and **Tom McGuire** joined **Bill** and **Annette Horner LeCompte** for a fabulous African Safari in Kenya at Maasai Mara Na in Mau Narok. Safari fashion a must. By day 4 they have now seen the "Big 5" elephant, rhinoceros, lion, leopard and Cape buffalo.

PILL WAR: The quaalude comeback: a once 'extinct' drug from the 70s makes a resurgence. Quaaludes, a brand name for methaqualone abbreviated from "quiet interlude," began inching their way into the pharmacopeia for drug nerds in earnest around 2018 via the darkweb, sourced from producers in South Africa, where underground chemists have long produced methaqualone.

9/11: Last Friday marked the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. On that solemn anniversary, the Chicago Fire Dept. honored the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost and remember the first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving others at events held at Navy Pier. Never forget.

The attacks of Sept. 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified. We feel renewed devotion to the principles of political, economic and religious freedom, the rule of law and respect for human life. We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom.

— **Rudy Giuliani**

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Selfhelp Home in Uptown announces 'Give Light' fundraising campaign

*Jewish home for wartime refugees
opened in Chicago in 1938*

STORY AND PHOTO
BY BOB ZULEY

A longtime community anchor in Uptown has announced a new fundraising campaign that will be part of a new permanent historical installation at the organization's North Side home.

The Selfhelp Home last week launched "Give Light," a fundraising campaign inviting families, friends, and supporters to dedicate one of 540 Points of Light that will become part of a new installation that relays the history of the community.

Set to be unveiled in December, the installation will tell the story of Selfhelp Home through archival photographs, artifacts, and stories tracing the evolution from a grassroots effort created to help Jewish refugees arriving in Chicago to the senior living community it is today.

At the heart of Selfhelp Home's permanent installation, 540 Points of Light will glow in honor of the people who have helped shape the story of Selfhelp Home. The lights will celebrate families, volunteers, founders, and those who came before and those whose journey continues today.

With a gift of \$180, people may dedicate a Point of Light to someone they hold important and add their name to this meaningful display.

The campaign draws on the significance of the number 18 in Jewish tradition. The Hebrew word chai, meaning "life," has a numerical value of 18, making gifts in multiples of 18 is a longstanding Jewish tradition. The 540 Points of Light represent 30 times chai, while each \$180 donation represents 10 times chai.

Selfhelp Home is a senior living facility on Argyle St., and it has a history unlike



A portion of the Selfhelp Home, 908 W Argyle St., in Uptown.

any other senior living home in Chicago. It was founded in 1938 as Jewish families fled a Europe darkened by rising antisemitism, by German immigrants who organized a volunteer mutual aid network to help Holocaust refugees rebuild their lives. The institution reorganized into a senior living facility over the years and has continued its mission to serve people who need it.

The Selfhelp Home relocated to its current facility at 908 W. Argyle St. in the Uptown neighborhood in 1962 after outgrowing its original Hyde Park mansion at 4951 S. Drexel Ave. [which had opened in 1951].

The current home contains 72 independent residential apartment units along with a 72-bed skilled nursing facility and short-term rehabilitation unit.

Back when the home was founded in 1938, Jewish immigrants were allowed into the U.S. but entry was strictly limited by rigid immigration quotas. Under the Immigration Act of 1924, the U.S. set strict

annual numerical limits on immigrants from each country. The combined quota for German and Austrian immigrants was capped at roughly 27,000 per year.

Strict bureaucratic hurdles, financial solvency requirements, and reluctance from the State Department meant that thousands of available quotas went unused even as the crisis grew.

In those days, there were no major direct public or government-funded relief assistance programs specifically for arriving Jewish refugees in Chicago; instead, aid was driven entirely by private volunteer networks and Jewish communal philanthropy.

To dedicate a Point of Light or learn more about the Give Light campaign, visit selfhelphome.org/pointoflight

Sept. 30 service to mark International Day of Peace at Fourth Presbyterian

"Blessed Are the Peacemakers," an ecumenical prayer service, will draw people from different religious traditions for a prayer service starting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, for an International Day of Peace.

The service will be held in the Buchanan Chapel at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St., on the Mag Mile.

"September is often a time for reflection and renewal, making it a fitting month to pray for peace," said the Rev. Andreas Garabedian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Orthodox Church. "Our aim is to build bridges where there is division, bring hope where there is fear, and strengthen our commitment to love our neighbors."

The event will conclude with a peace walk on Michigan Ave. and a closing prayer in the church courtyard. The prayer service is open to the public.

Validated parking for \$11 is available at the 900 N. Michigan garage for entry after 5 p.m.

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Defining Courage shown Sept. 20 at Athenaeum Center

Defining Courage, an immersive live multimedia docu-theater production and performance documentary, which examines the journey into the legacy of the Nisei Soldier—Japanese Americans who served in the segregated units of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 522nd Field Artillery Battalion.

It will be shown live at the Athenaeum Center, 2936 N. Southport Ave., 6 p.m. Sept. 20. Tickets range from \$35 to \$100.

The production combines historic film footage and cinematography, eyewitness interviews, and live music with an orches-

tra and vocalists. The show now features original, live-performed music, featuring Grammy-winner Daniel Ho, acclaimed songwriter Harold Payne, and the RAISE Choir.

Produced and narrated by Los Angeles news anchor and filmmaker David Ono, Defining Courage honors one of the greatest fighting units in American military history.

Through storytelling, music, and archival history, the production explores the extraordinary experiences of these soldiers, who faced prejudice at home while fighting for their country abroad.

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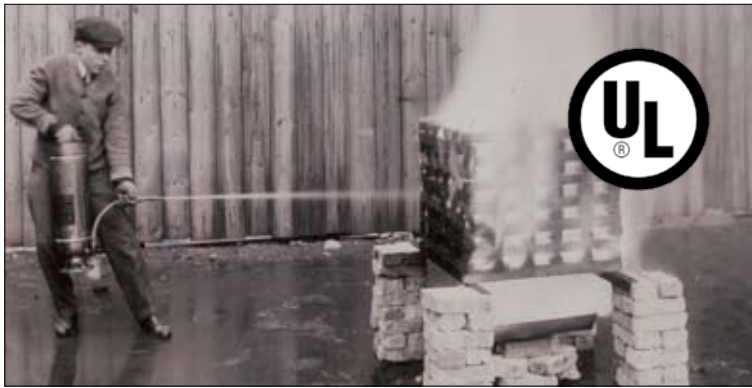
The story of Underwriters Laboratories on display at History Museum

"Look for UL"

The Symbol of Safety: The Story of Underwriters Laboratories and the Creation of Safety Science is a new installation in the "Second to None" gallery at the Chicago History Museum [CHM], 1601 N. Clark St. The installation explores how Chicago became the birthplace of safety science through the creation of Underwriters Laboratories in 1894 and the vision of founder William Henry Merrill Jr.

In 1893, Merrill Jr., an electrical engineer, arrived in Chicago to inspect installations at the World's Columbian Exposition, which then featured the largest display of electricity most people had ever seen.

Supported by local fire insurance underwriters, Merrill launched his tiny testing sta-



A soda acid fire extinguisher undergoing testing at Underwriters Laboratories, circa 1910s.

tion above a Chicago fire patrol station at the fairgrounds.

Since electricity poses many risks for fire and injury, Merrill's inspection work demonstrated the need for independent electrical safety testing.

Merrill gained backing from insurance underwriters, and in

1894 he opened his one-room testing laboratory. In 1901, that room became Underwriters Laboratories [UL]. Chicago thus became the birthplace of safety science as UL shaped safety practices worldwide.

Through artifacts, photographs, documents, and stories from

the company's archives, visitors to the CHM will discover how scientific testing and evaluation helped address emerging fire and electrical hazards, shaping modern approaches to risk reduction and consumer protection.

The installation also traces the evolution of the iconic UL Mark—one of the world's most well-recognized symbols of safety. The UL Mark—the initials UL in a circle—recognized Underwriters Laboratories' rigorous testing and approaches to risk reduction and consumer protection, a legacy that endures today.

Learn more in the UL installation in Chicago: Crossroads of America, at CHM, featuring artifacts, historical documents, and personal stories presented in collaboration with UL Research Institutes, UL Standards & Engagement, and UL Solutions.

Downtown

On Oct. 24, 2023, UL Solutions opened their newest location in downtown Chicago. The company's new approximately 40,000-square-foot space is at the 45-story 155 N. Wacker Dr. building.

The new UL Solutions facility in Chicago complements its existing 110-acre campus in Northbrook, located at 333 Pfingsten Rd. The Northbrook campus has served as the headquarters for the Underwriters Laboratories enterprise for 44 years, having relocated from its previous downtown Chicago location on E. Ohio St. in 1979, where it had been situated since 1905.

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LEGATEES OF IRMA CALVERT; CITY OF
HARVEY; FOUNDATION FINANCE COMPANY,
LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND
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Defendants.

CASE NO. 2026CH05604

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Overture expands AI education to North Side students



The paper-and-pencil approach to teaching elementary and middle school students to build with AI without sitting in front of a screen

Overture partners with schools, after-school programs and youth centers to deliver paper and pencil courses that teach kids to work with AI [artificial intelligence] as a tool.

A paper-and-pencil literacy program refers to an educational

approach that teaches reading and writing using traditional physical materials like printed books, notebooks, and writing by hand, rather than digital screens or computers.

Teaching AI in grade schools creates major concerns regarding cognitive development, emotional well-being, and data privacy. Younger students can struggle to evaluate AI responses critically because they have not yet developed basic reasoning skills,

nor attained a healthy skepticism over technology and what can be found online.

Plus, an over-reliance on digital tools reduces meaningful face-to-face interactions between students, teachers, and classmates. Overture hopes to deal with this metric by using the written word.

Founded by Northwestern Univ. graduates Aspen Buckingham and Steven Jiang in 2022, the company operates in Illinois and Massachusetts and is expanding nationally.

Overture is running its paper-and-pencil AI literacy program at several local North Side schools this fall through partnerships with Bernard Zell, the British International School of Chicago, and Catherine Cook.

They are three of 17 Chicago-area communities now offering the program. The after-school courses run from late August through December.

Overture built its model around helping students think critically about AI. Students learn to di-

rect AI as a tool, question it, and spot its mistakes, and they do it all without sitting in front of a screen.

Students brainstorm ideas, write prompts by hand, and work in small groups. Then, trained instructors enter those prompts into AI tools to bring their students' ideas to life as apps, videos, or interactive games.

"AI is here to stay, but [parents and teachers] don't want children navigating a chatbot alone," said Buckingham. "Our model gives kids a safe, paper and pencil introduction to how these tools work and where they fall short, while keeping the technology itself in the hands of an adult. That's what makes communities comfortable partnering with us."

The curriculum pairs creative projects such as composing an original song or designing a video game with lessons on AI's limitations, including a popular classroom activity called "Real or AI," in which students practice spotting the telltale signs of AI-

generated images.

Over a 10-week program, students work in teams and typically progress from simple prompts to building an entire imaginary world or publishing a video game.

They built the process because they kept hearing the same thing from schools: "they know AI matters, but they don't have a roadmap for teaching it to young kids responsibly," said Jiang. "Our goal isn't to make kids AI experts overnight. It's to give them the judgment to use these tools well, and the confidence to question what AI gets wrong."

Elementary and middle schools typically introduce AI far less often than high schools, leaving a gap in the years when kids' habits with new technology are forming. Overture runs its program across a wide range of educational settings, and is now expanding across the Chicago area through partnerships with park districts, independent schools, and public school districts.

WEISS from p. 1

trol, and we'll go from there. I do not do this lightly."

In June, Stanton had previously denied Patlola's request for appointment of a receiver, but now says he's lost confidence in past pledges from the hospital's current management, noted a Tribune report.

An important distinction between the two hospitals is that Weiss has a substantially harder regulatory problem to overcome than West Suburban.

As Weiss has lost its state license to operate, it now has to go through the regular hospital licensing process. Another major hurdle is Medicare – The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS] terminated the hospital's participation in Medicare in August 2025. Weiss appealed but its initial appeal was dismissed.

Another major obstacle is the sweeping Trump administration changes to Medicaid that will potentially make 700,000 residents at-risk of losing coverage, and



Cook County Judge Patrick T. Stanton. Courtesy The Beverly Review

will complicate and threaten efforts to reopen Weiss Memorial Hospital.

Simultaneously, federal rule changes are slashing \$4 billion from Illinois hospital systems by capping state-directed payments meant for facilities serving low-income populations – placing all safety net hospitals in extreme jeopardy.

Who Judge Stanton appoints as a receiver may be the single most important clue about the future of both hospitals. A receiver primarily experienced in liquidation and real estate produces a different trajectory than a receiver experienced in distressed hospitals and healthcare turnarounds.

POT from p. 1

close to Guidepost Montessori School.

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 making a decision where their relative or domestic partner is seeking that action or decision.

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.

Under Section 2-156-030, officials are prohibited from using their official position to influence a City decision in which

Helen Shiller cast the deciding 3-2 vote on the proposed SUP to open up the dispensary at a location too close to Guidepost Montessori School.

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.

In court, the city's lawyers argued that the regulations demand only that a ZBA commissioner be "impartial."

After the ruling, Jenna Milaeager, attorney for plaintiff Beth Ellen Padera, said this was the end of the legal battle, that her client chose not to pursue the case any further. After this ruling, it is doubtful that Shiller will face any internal investigation.

This weekend!

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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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