

Fight is on over two rental ordinances

Mayor hopes to pass his ordinance in a City Council that may ignore him

A fight is brewing in City Council over which rental ordinance will move forward: Mayor Brandon Johnson's Protecting Renters Ordinance [PRO], or the Fair & Accountable Illinois Rental Ordinance [FAIR].

Both sides claim their goal is to protect renters.

On Sept. 16, the City Council voted to advance Johnson's PRO plan to protect renters' rights.

The PRO narrowly passed out of a city council committee after one provision was dropped. PRO supporters are vowing to continue their fight while opponents say the Mayor's proposal would only force more rent hikes.

Meanwhile nextdoor, the Chicago Zoning Committee advanced FAIR, which was introduced in July in explicit opposition to

Johnson's PRO.

Johnson's PRO plan has driven the real estate industry to undertake a fight.

Johnson recently removed some controversial "just cause" eviction rules from his plan and mandatory relocation payments, elements that the real estate industry say will stunt the profitability of smaller mom-and-pop landlords.

Johnson retained other lesser-controversial elements, like the creation of a new rental registry with registration fees and the Bureau of Rental Housing Services.

The registry is intended to centralize records of landlord ownership and compliance history, so punishments and fines can become meted out more swiftly.

Johnson said enforcement of his

ordinance would be rolled out in a three-year implementation plan, bringing on over two dozen city employees across multiple city departments. He claims it would be fully funded by the proposed rental registry tax, which Johnson estimated will bring in \$22 million a year, taken from landlords.

When first unveiled, Johnson's ordinance met swift backlash. Almost immediately, several City Council members created the FAIR plan, which is similar but supporters believe is less punitive to small owners.

FAIR would prohibit pet fees and align caps on fees with state and county legislation. It would also have a rental registry, but has axed the registration fees portion,

FIGHT see p. 4

Study shows Chicago TIF plan helps wealthy areas most; leaves poor behind

Univ. of Illinois study shows TIFs are really just property tax increases

Tax Increment Financing [TIF] programs started in Chicago in 1984 with the establishment of the North Loop TIF district. It was intended to help build back depressed, poverty-stricken areas. And Chicago's TIF program certainly helped revitalize the city's downtown area over the past 42 years.

According to the City of Chicago, our TIF program is utilized as an economic development tool to catalyze growth in neighborhoods that are underutilized, deteriorating, or "blighted." The ultimate goal is to stimulate development that would not otherwise happen without public funding.

Only a new Univ. of Illinois

Chicago study from the Great Cities Institute [GCI] shows that the program has had a markedly smaller effect on the city's poorest neighborhoods. Chicago now has 108 active TIF districts. Currently, about 25% of all properties in Chicago now sit within a designated TIF district.

The city re-invests TIF taxes back into the designated district over a 23-year lifespan to achieve three core physical goals including:

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Building and repairing local roads, utility lines, streetscapes, and transit assets.
- **Environmental Remediation:** Cleaning up polluted land and brownfields to make them safe for reuse.
- **Property Revitalization:** Bringing vacant properties and dilapidated buildings back into productive commercial, industrial, or residential use.

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According to the City of Chicago, our TIF program is utilized as an economic development tool to catalyze growth in neighborhoods that are underutilized, deteriorating, or "blighted."

Under a TIF, the city freezes what it collects from assessed property values for 23 years in a designated district, and future property tax growth is captured to be reinvested to support new

TIF see p. 12

Three men shot during fight near Chinese Consulate in River North

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are looking for the gunman after three men were shot during a fight outside the Chinese Consulate in River North early Saturday morning.

A 911 caller reported a fight involving about eight people at Clark and Erie streets when the shooting occurred during the call around 3:42 a.m. Sept. 19, according to CPD radio transmissions. Officers arrived quickly, but the gunman was already gone.

CPD said three men involved in the altercation were shot. A 25-year-old was struck in both legs and the left hand and was listed in good condition. A 24-year-old was struck in the left leg and

cheek and was in critical condition. A 22-year-old was struck in both legs and was in good condition.

An officer said police found about 13 shell casings at the scene. Surveillance video showed the gunman running west on Erie St. from Clark, according to an officer who reviewed the footage. The officer described the gunman as Hispanic and said he was wearing black clothing with white-and-gray shorts.

There have now been 13 people shot on the Near North Side this year, well below 2025's year-to-date total of 39. Last year's total included 18 people shot in Chicago's worst-known mass shooting.

Man killed Saturday crossing Lake Shore Dr.

A man was killed last Sunday after he was struck by a car while attempting to run across the N. Lake Shore Dr. 1:10 a.m. on Sept. 19.

The man, 23, was walking on the sidewalk adjacent to the Drive when Police said he then ran across the southbound lane and climbed over the median and into the northbound lanes, where a northbound blue sedan struck him in the 1500 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. in the Gold Coast neighborhood, Chicago police said.

CROSSING see p. 12



Thieves steal big-screen TVs from a train in Chicago in October 2024.

Photo courtesy TMZ

Chicago freight train thefts fuel \$200 million national problem

Apple Watches, TVs and laundry detergent

BY CWBCHICAGO

Freight trains passing through Chicago have increasingly become moving targets for thieves who board railcars, sometimes while they are moving, force open shipping containers and haul away cargo ranging from large-screen televisions and laptops to air conditioners and laundry detergent.

Railroad investigators say organized groups target rail freight, while drones have become an increasingly important tool for law enforcement trying to catch suspects in the act.

Over the past two years, the thefts have led to a steady stream of arrests on Chicago's South and West sides, where some of the city's major rail yards are located. A recent national analysis found that freight train theft has grown into a multimillion-dollar problem.

Citing industry figures, Fortune reported that thieves stole more than \$200 million worth of goods from freight trains nationwide in 2025, with approximately 75,000 thefts reported. The outlet identified Chicago as one of the country's major cargo-theft hubs, along with Los Angeles, Dallas and Memphis.

Stolen goods can ultimately end up being sold through storefronts, social media and other informal channels.

Chicago's struggle with freight train theft has been growing for years.

In Aug. 2024, Chicago police arrested four men accused of stealing 39 big-screen Roku TVs worth \$12,441 from a Norfolk Southern railcar near 63rd St. and S. Wentworth Ave. According to a police report, a CPD camera operator saw the men loading the televisions into a pickup truck at a gas station next to the tracks.

CWBChicago's examination of court records in that case turned up another detail: one of the men had a history of allegedly bur-

glarizing railcars dating back to 2015. Authorities accused him of breaking into another train car in Aug. 2024, then allegedly caught him doing it again less than three weeks later.

Also in Aug. 2024, four other men were accused in a separate South Side freight train burglary involving stolen televisions.

In Oct. 2024, a railroad burglary crew nearly got away with 200 boxes of Apple Watches from an Amazon train car, but most of them wound up in police custody after cops tracked them down along the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in Archer Heights.

That same month, a daytime train burglary brought Chicago's freight train theft problem into the national spotlight when dozens of people converged on a halted Union Pacific freight train near Lake St. and Lockwood Ave. News cameras recorded people hauling boxes and electronics out of the railcars and loading them into waiting vehicles. At least six people were arrested.

While that case grabbed headlines, lower-profile thefts continued. Thieves struck another train in Jan. 2025 near Austin Blvd. and Lake St., not far from where the October theft occurred, forcing open containers and causing rolls of carpet to spill onto the tracks. By June 2025, a freight train had been burglarized in the west suburb of Bellwood, leaving boxes of merchandise scattered across the tracks and briefly disrupting Metra's Union Pacific-West service.

Cook County sheriff's investigators have made cargo theft enforcement an ongoing effort conducted jointly with railroad police.

In Nov. 2025, Cook County sheriff's police joined Norfolk Southern railroad police in 12 joint operations that year, resulting in 39 arrests. Investigators

FREIGHT TRAIN see p. 12

The frontier landscape of our nation



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

*"Born on a mountain top
in Tennessee
Greenest state in the land
of the free
Raised in the woods
so he knew ev'ry tree
Kilt him a b'ar
when he was only three
Davy, Davy Crockett,
king of the wild frontier!"*

Have you ever built a frontier fort in your bedroom? Did you have a "coonskin" hat when growing up? You know, the one with the raccoon tail at the back. Did you get the Davy Crockett Walt Disney Alamo playset for Christmas?

Did you ever play "frontiersman" and have a toy musket, Bowie knife or tomahawk? Did you ever have a Davy Crockett costume? The Kadette Kentucky Rifle cap gun was very popular in 1955.

You don't have to be Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett to experience the American frontier. Boone and Crockett foresaw America's best chance for survival as a new nation was born. That landscape is what they fought for. Culturally, politically and ecologically.

Now we only get a small glimpse of the America Crockett and Boone survived and so cherished. They saw a nation gripped in the wild bounty of nature. Soft, wet and wild.

Both men were heroic individuals with a strong capacity for challenging nature in the early era of American "nation building." Crockett was "King of the Wild Frontier," or so his ballad tells us.

But, of course, the Tennessee

pioneer was also a member of Congress, and certainly no friend of President Andrew Jackson. Especially his treatment of Native Americans. That's where Crockett's real battles took place.

Boone, though born a Quaker, was a fierce hunter and fighter. He even saw battle against the French during the French and Indian War when a member of the Carolina Militia.

The Baby Boomer generation grew up on these folk heroes thanks to Walt Disney. But they were famous long before that. Both were great storytellers and lived their lives in the nation's borderlands, the geography just outside the original 13 States.

Both men had an obsession with America's frontier, the land still requiring settlement and a residential population of settlers and farmers. In reality they were helping to expand the geographic boundaries of the new nation.

The historical productions by Disney introduced Eisenhower Era young Americans in the 1950s to these robust residents of the wilderness abounding in natural wonders and the drama of American life. The production of these historic television tales were most likely sanitized in the realities they presented. But they solidified the character and fresh patriotism of these larger than life Americans. Wanting their fellow Americans to follow them.

Crockett's political career wasn't enhanced by his antagonism of Jackson's presidency. His service in the U.S. Congress ended when he was not re-elected in 1835.

Angered in defeat, at age 49 he set out for Texas, still Mexico back then. Crockett was inside the Alamo on March 6, 1836, and became a further "eternal" hero in Texas giving his life for its freedom. Boone was 85 years old when he died in Missouri in 1820. Each was a symbol of what Americans could become.

Though it is unlikely they ever met, the sagas and tales of Crockett and Boone's living and dying plotted a new course of patriotism in the decades after American independence. Their



Davy Crockett (left) and Daniel Boone were turned into Disney-style frontier icons.



footsteps through the American wilderness charted a new era of freedom and movement of independence. It's a patriotism we still all display daily. It is the type of freedom and independence all Americas can produce.

Chicago is a great expression, then, in the settling of our "wilderness" after our establishment as a city in 1837. The rolling flatland capitol of the Prairie. Just one year following Crockett's Alamo death in San Antonio.

Our wilderness was settled and a thriving metropolis established because all rail lines led here, and ships could dock here. And all livestock was gathered, butchered and sold here. Their commercial marriage put Chicago on the map. Together with the growth of Chicago financial markets and the commerce of the Great Lakes.

America was enhanced with the dynamic vitality of markets in the nation's heartland. The commercial linking of the nation by rail and sea was the doorway to commercial success and independence on a grand level.

The fast-paced establishment of a fresh homeland for immigrants also stands as a modern America success beyond the dreams of new arrivals. That's important to understand within the context of Chicago's growth and modern development in everything from architecture, industry to medicine. And it will be the course of our future. It's just what we do.

HEROIC CPD/RIP: The Chicago Police Department's 3rd (Grand Crossing) District hosted a dedication in honor of fallen Officer **Dorelle C. Brandon** (End Of Watch, Jan. 25, 1984), the first female Chicago Police officer killed in the line of duty. Farewell good lady.

SCAMS: The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, **Mariyana T. Spyropoulos**, is warning residents about a fraudulent notice falsely presented as an official court communication involving unpaid traffic fines. The scam document is designed to look like a court notice and

directs recipients to pay through a fraudulent website within 12 hours and threatens to issue an arrest warrant and immediately revoke a recipient's driver's license. It is not a legitimate notice from the Circuit Court of Cook County or the Clerk's Office. Anyone who receives one of these should report it to local law enforcement and the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline: 1-800-386-5438.

GOODMAN: The Goodman wraps its Centennial Season, marking the 100th anniversary of Chicago's flagship not-for-profit theater, as the most successful in its history.

The theater released its "A Century of Impact" report, detailing milestone programming and attendance figures. Led by Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth** and Executive Director **John Collins**, the season drew more audiences than ever, topping 300,000—with 57% attending The Goodman for the first time—to 4,000 performances and events. The works in the 15-production season earned widespread acclaim: 11 extended productions, 290 sold-out performances, while the world-premiere musical *Iceboy! Or, The Completely Untrue Story of How Eugene O'Neill Came to Write The Iceman Cometh* became the theater's all-time best-attended, best-selling production. Bravo!

ROGER SIMON: Words catch hold of you. That's how it starts. Everything is words. Creating anything else is pure frosting. Once you devour the words, everything else is a decoration. It's the ability to shape things and hear the music in your words. Breathing lyricism into what you write.

That's how I always found **Roger Simon**, who died last week in Washington. That's how I found his column. That's how

I saw his writing. He never told me the words caught him, but it wasn't hard to figure out. He showed us.

Back in the 1980s I was involved with many public political issues. Roger was very curious and understanding about what I was doing. I even think he wrote about it. We had lunch once or



Roger Simon

twice. His interest and understanding really made me feel I was on the right track. Back when the Sun-Times was worth buying and reading. His writing really made a difference to me and those I worked with. He brought that sense of the word everywhere with him. It was

an important influence for me. I respected it and trusted it. His love of writing and his sensitive use of words always helped minds allow themselves to open. From Homer's time to now. That's a good way to think of Roger. And realize what words did to him and what his word did for us.

FILM CRITIC: The Old

FRONTIER see p. 8

Ronald Roenigk *Publisher & Editor*
Sheila Swann *Art Director & Production Mgr*
Jeff Zimmerman *Account Executive*

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6221 N. Clark St.
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E: insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com



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Chicago appeals court to weigh in on fate of IL license plate reader cameras

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

As debate intensifies across the U.S. over the ability of police and other government agencies to use license plate-reading cameras, a federal appeals court in Chicago later this month will serve as one of the latest flashpoints in the fight over whether the camera systems amount to unconstitutional and overreaching government surveillance.

On Sept. 29, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments over the hot legal questions, as civil liberties advocates ask the Seventh Circuit to become the first federal appeals court in the country to declare the growing use of so-called automated license plate reader [ALPR] camera systems amount to violations of Fourth Amendment protections against warrantless searches.

And at the center of the debate stand questions over whether one particular recent U.S. Supreme Court decision limiting police use of cell phone location data should also be read to flip the script on federal courts' longstanding permissive take on license plate reading cameras, too.

The arguments will determine the fate of a lawsuit lodged in mid-2024 by the formerly Chicago-based constitutional advocacy group, the Liberty Justice Center. The LJC has since relocated its headquarters to Austin, TX.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of named

plaintiffs, Cook County residents Frank Bednarz and Stephanie Scholl. Defendants named in the action include the Illinois State Police, as well as Gov. JB Pritzker and Attorney General Kwame Raoul.

The lawsuit took aim at the networks of automated license plate readers installed first in Chicago and Cook County, and now cropping up in other communities throughout Illinois.

In the years since, the number of ALPRs in Illinois have multiplied, by the hundreds and thousands. According to the Illinois State Police, more than 800 ALPR cameras are operated on behalf of the state.

The ALPRs work through a network of cameras installed along roads and at intersections, where they record the license plates of vehicles passing by. That data is then uploaded into searchable databases available to law enforcement.

The license plate readers were first authorized in Illinois in 2019 under the state law known as the Tamera Clayton Expressway Camera Act. That law was enacted in response to a 2019 shooting of postal worker Tamera Clayton on Interstate 57.

In the years since, the number of ALPRs in Illinois have multiplied, by the hundreds

and thousands. According to the Illinois State Police, more than 800 ALPR cameras are operated on behalf of the state.

Published reports indicated thousands more, however, are operated by local community police agencies and private organizations, such as homeowner associations, parking garage operators and others.

Millions more cameras have been installed in communities and along highways, at parking lot entrances, and elsewhere throughout the U.S.

The widespread use of the cameras have led privacy advocates and others to warn the ALPR network amounts to a surveillance blanket that police, big corporations and others can exploit or abuse to track, reconstruct and predict people's movements without a warrant.

In their lawsuit, for instance, the Liberty Justice Center and plaintiffs argue the ALPR systems amount to an unconstitutional "dragnet ... recording the whereabouts of (everyone) who drives a car or truck," whether or not they are accused or suspected of any criminal or suspicious activity.

Police and other advocates for the cameras have argued the cameras have rapidly become essential law enforcement tools, helping police better track the movements and whereabouts of criminal suspects and reduce crime.

For instance, in a brief filed with the Seventh Circuit in July, the U.S. Justice Dept. [DOJ] described ALPRs as "one of the most crucial investigative tools at the United States' disposal." The DOJ noted ALPRs have been used in Illinois and elsewhere to locate and arrest bank robbers

FLOCK see p. 4

Aldermen announce new deal, negotiations over revised parking meter deal

Deal includes profit sharing, money-making roadway EV stations

By any measure, the Dec. 2008 deal former-Mayor Richard M. Daley negotiated to lease Chicago's 36,000 parking meters in a controversial 75-year deal for \$1.15 billion to plug short-term budget holes was perhaps the worst deal ever foisted on Chicago citizens.

Daley famously rushed the 500-page parking meter lease contract through the City Council in just 72 hours. It effectively gave away control of Chicago streets for three generations for money that was quickly spent.

Daley immediately allocated roughly \$800 million of that money to plug a deficit in day-to-day corporate spending. Almost all that money was gone within two years, with the Mayor's office failing to create any lasting endowment or meaningful long-term investment vehicle that

would boost city finances.

The terms of the contract also allowed for annual "true up" payments to the parking meter owners when streets were blocked off or under construction, meaning since 2008 the City of Chicago has paid back Chicago Parking Meters, LLC [CPM] a total of \$246 million in fees through 2025. That is fully one-fifth of the sales price. Many citizens and public officials now call it the worst deal in the history of all municipal deals in the U.S.

Last week Chicago Aldermen renegotiated the deal as the owners were in the process of selling the business. Finance Committee Chair Pat Dowell [3rd], Ald. Nicole Lee [11th] and Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd] last week announced that they com-

METER see p. 9

Property tax appeals seminar Sept. 24

Chicago and Cook County have foisted some of the highest property taxes in the nation on its suffering citizens, so the Cook County Board of Review will host a property tax appeals seminar 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 at the Lincoln Park Library, 1150 W. Fullerton Ave.

The Board will provide a short presentation on the role of the Board of Review, how to file a property tax appeal, and will host a Q&A session. They will also be on-site to register attendees, assist with creating online accounts, and help residents file their property tax appeals.

North Side networking extravaganza Oct. 7

Business professionals can connect with professionals from across the North Side at the North Side Networking Extravaganza 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, for a lively multi-chamber of commerce networking event featuring WhirlyBall, laser tag, and bowling.

It will take place at 1825 W. Webster and will include the following chambers of commerce: Andersonville, Edgebrook Sauganash, Edgewater, Uptown, Norwood Park, Wicker Park Bucktown, Greater Ravenswood, Lakeview East, Lakeview Roscoe Village, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square Ravenswood, the North River Commission/Albany Park Chamber of Commerce, the Old Town Merchants and Residents Assoc., Pulaski Elston Business Assoc., Rogers Park Business Alliance, and Six Corners Assoc.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$35, for reservations call 8773-880-5200.



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Self-funded nonprofit marks 25-year milestone

The Chicago Help Initiative [CHI] will celebrate a quarter-century of serving homeless Chicagoans experiencing poverty at its 2026 Helping Hands Fundraiser on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 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 appointments—accomplishing this with a lean staff of volunteers.

This approach has taken on urgency in 2026, as federal budget cuts leave local neighborhoods more vulnerable.

As federal cuts to food as-

sistance take hold this year, the consequences are playing out in ordinary, everyday ways across Chicago. 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] benefits in July, down more than 23% from July 2023, and the lowest monthly total in state data going back to 2013.

Enrollment has declined in each of the past nine months, but the steepest drops came after benefits ended for residents who did not take steps to meet the new federal eligibility requirements, which apply generally to able-bodied

adults without dependents.

In Chicago, hunger is also driven by fewer neighborhood options for basic groceries. Small, family-run markets—the anchors that communities have relied on for generations—are struggling to stay open, leaving entire areas with even fewer places nearby to find fresh, affordable food.

CHI says that it is a quiet kind of crisis that rarely makes headlines, but it is precisely the void they hope to fill: providing meals, and a path toward stability.

The local hardship is tied to significant shifts in federal support, including the 13.7% drop in Food Assistance for those who were receiving SNAP benefits following new federal eligibility restric-

tions, according to the Illinois Dept. of Human Services. 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.

Illinois is using state tax dollars to temporarily offset some of the benefit losses. The new Families Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger program provides a one-time \$400 payment to eligible Illinoisans whose SNAP benefits were terminated or reduced. Lawmakers set aside \$70 million for the program, but it does not restore recipients to SNAP.

The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] has also placed a new 30% cap on permanent housing investment

which may put people at risk of losing supportive housing.

“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.

The 2026 Helping Hands Fundraiser will feature a cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, and the presentation of the Helping Hands Awards. Former information, visit www.chicago-helpinitiative.org.

Tickets are \$250 per person, available at secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=GNWLEF.

FIGHT from p. 1

according to the outlet. FAIR hopes to temper rising rents by streamlining residential conversions and speeding up permitting for owner-occupied smaller buildings.

The FAIR plan would create a citywide registry connecting renters and the city without charging landlords registration fees. It also hopes to protect small property owners and avoid heavy relocation fee burdens.

It would also allow certain move-in charges and fees that the PRO proposal seek to ban.

PRO would required landlords to provide just cause for evictions and pay thousands of dollars in relocation assistance to tenants whose leases weren’t renewed for any reason other than failure to pay rent, a serious breach of their lease, or a tenant’s refusal to renew their lease.

The FAIR plan hopes to slow down rent increases by creating new housing inventory, and

encourages streamlined approvals and expedited permitting for larger developments and conversion projects.

Landlords note that the primary driver of rising rents are increased property taxes, insurance and maintenance costs, which generally cannot be avoided.

FAIR hopes to offer dwelling, commercial, and homeowners coverage to responsible property owners who cannot purchase standard insurance for reasons beyond their control, such as en-

Landlords note that the primary driver of rising rents are increased property taxes, insurance and maintenance costs, which generally cannot be avoided.

vironmental hazards or claims history.

The similar, but clashing pro-

posals are making their way through the political process now. For Johnson, PRO is very important as he is planning to run for mayor with very few accomplishments on his record, short of finding new ways to feed Chicago Public Schools more taxpayer money.

The Mayor’s low approval ratings and his anti-business rhetoric could weigh heavy on his reelection chances.

FLOCK from p. 3

and gun traffickers, and to locate missing and abducted children, among other uses they say enhance public safety.

“... ALPR data plays a critically important role in keeping Americans safe, catching criminals, and honoring victims,” the DOJ wrote.

To this point, judges have primarily sided with the government and supporters of the use of ALPR cameras.

In the Chicago lawsuit, for instance, U.S. District Judge

Martha Pacold ruled in 2025 that ALPRs don’t violate the Fourth Amendment or other constitutional provisions. Like other judges, Pacold said the Fourth Amendment can’t be read to prohibit ALPRs from capturing images of license plates on vehicles traveling along public roads.

Citing prior decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Pacold said: “... As a general matter, ‘a person travelling in an automobile on public thoroughfares has no reasonable expectation of privacy in his movements from one place to another.’

“To be sure, ‘individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the whole of their physical movements,’” Pacold continued. “But ... Illinois’s use of ALPRs, as alleged in the complaint, is

not so intrusive as to invade that expectation. It is not a search under the Fourth Amendment.”

Judges have primarily sided with the government and supporters of the use of ALPR cameras.

Pacold was appointed to the Chicago federal district court by President Donald Trump during his first term in office.

The Liberty Justice Center appealed Pacold’s ruling to the Seventh Circuit.

It is not yet known which judges on the Seventh Circuit will serve on the panel hearing the appeal. Oral arguments have been set for Sept. 29.

However, pre-hearing brief-

ings indicate the case could turn on the question of how to apply a Supreme Court ruling issued more than a year after Pacold’s decision.

In that decision, known as *Chatrie v United States*, the Supreme Court ruled police can’t use so-called “geofencing warrants” to use cell phone location data to track down and prosecute suspects in criminal investigations.

In that particular case, police leaned on Google to provide them with cell phone location data related to 19 people whose phones showed them in the vicinity of a credit union robbery in Virginia in 2019. They then used that data to locate and arrest the man eventually charged with the crime.

The man charged with robbery moved to suppress the phone location data evidence, asserting it amounted to an illegal search under the Fourth Amendment. While lower courts disagreed, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that such geofence warrants can violate the Fourth Amendment.

Since that ruling, privacy advocates and government agencies have squared off in court over how that ruling should now apply to ALPRs.

On the pro-camera side, governments have argued the answer to the questions remains unchanged, arguing that the cell phone location data at the heart of the *Chatrie* case is far more “detailed” than ALPR snapshots.

Further, unlike people’s cell phone data, the government argued the Fourth Amendment doesn’t give people driving vehicles on public roads an absolute right to move about without being observed.

In the words of the DOJ in its July brief to the Seventh Circuit in support of the Illinois State Police: “No one can drive on public roads and reasonably expect their license plate—the

entire purpose of which is to identify vehicles to law enforcement officers and other government entities—to remain private.”

The DOJ has received permission from the Seventh Circuit to take part in the Sept. 29 arguments, in support of the state of Illinois.

Civil liberties advocates, however, have argued the same reasoning that the Supreme Court applied in *Chatrie* to cell phone location data should also apply to ALPR surveillance. Just as geofencing, they argue, the ALPR networks violate people’s rights by allowing police to collect, track and reconstruct their movements.

In a brief filed at the Seventh Circuit in August, the Liberty Justice Center wrote: “The ALPR program at issue is a search. Its collection is indiscriminate, sweeping in every vehicle that passes rather than only those as to which police have any suspicion. Its record is retrospective, giving police the power to travel back in time and reconstruct where a driver has been, which was previously unknowable.

“The Government’s answer is that ALPR data points are less granular than cell-site location information.”

But, they said, the *Chatrie* decision, in conjunction with other Supreme Court holdings, have “confirmed that a search does not cease to be one because the government gathers less than it might have.”

The Liberty Justice Center urged the Seventh Circuit to overturn Pacold’s dismissal to allow courts to grapple with the questions at the heart of the case.

“Let the court determine just how invasive ALPR technology is to our freedom,” the Liberty Justice Center wrote in its brief.

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Assessor: Time to make the Senior Freeze permanent



The Home Front by Don DeBat

How many senior citizens in Chicago are seeing a hefty growth in their net income and wealth after age 65? With most elderly people living on Social Security and a fixed income, the number of seniors pocketing rising income probably is not in the tens of thousands.

So, now is the time for the Illinois Legislature and Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi to change the law and automatically give all senior homeowners in Chicago and Cook County three key exemptions that will lead to a permanent substantial property-tax break without making them jump through hoops.

"Every homeowner should review their exemptions outlined on the second installment of their real estate tax bill because they can reduce their bill by hundreds of dollars if they have the proper exemptions applied to it," advised Michael Griffin, a Chicago real estate tax appeal attorney.

Great advice, but many hard-working homeowners apparently are too busy. They don't look at their tax bill or go online to check their exemptions and often miss the potential financial rewards.

Now that the second installment of the 2025 tax bill has arrived in their mailbox, every homeowner can check the exemptions printed on the bill.

Property owners also can check online by visiting the Cook County Assessor's website: www.cookcountyassessor.com. Then, they are asked to type in their PIN (property identification number), and acknowledge that they are not a robot. When the property data pops up, just click on exemptions to learn the history of the property.

How exemptions work

All property owners qualify for the Homeowner's exemption, which recently was increased to \$10,000 from \$7,000. Seniors can benefit from two additional exemptions. First, the Senior Exemption, which recently was hiked to \$8,000 from \$5,000. Those exemption amounts are deducted from assessed value of your property on the tax bill.

Second, many seniors can qualify for the coveted Senior Tax Freeze. In 2024, the Illinois Legislature increased the maximum annual income to receive the "Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program," (simply known as the senior freeze), to less than \$65,000 from less than \$55,000.



Gov. JB Pritzker (left) Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi and an Eas Lakeview apartment building.

For the 2026 tax year, the maximum annual household income to qualify for the senior freeze will be increased to \$75,000. For the 2027 tax year, the maximum income rises to \$77,000, and elevates to \$79,000 beginning in 2028 and thereafter, according to the Illinois Dept. of Revenue.

"Our seniors have spent their lives building our communities and strengthening our state, and they deserve stability and peace of mind," Gov. JB Pritzker said. "This senior-freeze legislation helps ensure that more older Illinoisans can remain in their homes without the fear of losing them to rising property costs."

Other available tax exemptions are designated for: Persons with Disabilities, Veterans with Disabilities, Returning Veterans, Long-time Homeowners, Home Improvement, and Religious Institutions.

Red tape abounds

Unfortunately, under current practices qualified seniors who earn Senior Freeze Exemption typically have to pay their full property tax then wait for a tax refund from the Cook County Treasurer via a "Certificate of Error."

In subsequent years, seniors seeking the freeze are required to file an annual application to prove that their net income currently is less than \$65,000 for 2025 taxes, and below \$75,000 for 2026, less than \$77,000 in 2027 and \$79,000 in 2028. Nothing about the freeze is automatic.

Earlier this year, the Home Front column traced the timeline on one senior-citizen property owner's delayed tax refund following a whopping 21.5% 2024 tax increase on a North Side 3-flat.

In 2023, the senior property owner, living on a fixed income, applied for a long-awaited Senior Tax Freeze Exemption with the Cook County Assessor. But the exemption was not finally approved with the issuance of a Certificate of Error until January of 2026. Here are the facts:

- Income documents and required forms

filed with the Assessor in 2023 showing the senior's net income was well under \$65,000—the qualifying limit for the freeze.

Unfortunately, for unexplained reasons, no action was taken by the Assessor in 2024. Total 2023 tax bill—after the owner's Homeowner Exemption (\$662) and Senior Exemption (\$529) were subtracted—was \$27,628.

- The required documents and forms were filed again in 2024 showing the property owner's net income was well under the \$65,000, qualifying limit for the freeze. Unfortunately, again no immediate action was taken by the Assessor, likely because of computer errors and bureaucratic red tape.

After Homeowner and Senior Exemptions were subtracted, the property owner paid a whopping total 2024 tax bill of \$33,565.94. The 1st Installment was \$13,409. The 2nd Installment rose to \$20,157.

The total 2024 tax increase was 21.5%. To cover the tax increase, the property owner's lender increased his mortgage payment to \$7,883 a month from \$5,826 to cover tax-escrow shortage.

- The Senior Tax Freeze finally was granted in Jan. 2026 based on documents originally submitted in 2023, and resubmitted in 2024.

As a result of the Senior Freeze, the property's assessed value was lowered from \$173,001 to \$130,945. The assessment reduction created by the Senior Tax-Freeze approval resulted in a reduced 2024 total property tax bill on the 3-flat of \$23,068—a savings of \$10,498.

- A Certificate of Error was issued by the Cook County Assessor in Jan. 2026. In February, the property owner's lender issued an escrow refund of about \$1,605, and lowered the borrower's monthly loan payment to \$5,446.

- After about 60 days, the senior citizen property owner finally received a 2024 tax

refund of \$10,498 from the Cook County Treasurer.

Exemption boondoggle continues

However, when the second installment of the 2025 tax bill was posted online in late Aug. 2026, despite the freeze, the tax bill on the North Side 3-flat jumped back up to \$19,286 from the first installment bill of \$12,687.

The shocked senior citizen checked the Cook County Assessor's website and found that his hard-fought and won Senior Freeze Exemption for 2025 had not been recorded in Assessor Fritz Kaegi's computer.

Now, the homeowner is racing to appeal again, seeking a corrected second-installment tax bill before the Oct. 1 due date to prevent a huge increase in his mortgage escrow payment.

Tax-refund bottleneck

In early 2026, an estimated 20,000 approved Certificate-of-Error refunds worth more than \$46 million were bottlenecked at the Cook County Treasurer's office, according to reporting by the Chicago Tribune.

It is easy to imagine that hundreds, maybe thousands of these refunds are owed to senior citizens living on fixed incomes. This reporter asks: Is it possible for the Treasurer to expedite refunds to property owners who recently earned the Senior Tax Freeze Exemption?

Also, is it possible for the Illinois Legislature and the Cook County Assessor to grant a permanent Senior Tax Freeze to low-income seniors who earned it, and likely will not see a substantial increase in their net income for the rest of their lifetimes?

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

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After vicious attack, Facebook suggested adding her assailant as a ‘friend.’ She used ChatGPT to track him down instead

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Rogers Park woman who was beaten with a cooking pot and robbed inside her own apartment tracked down her alleged attacker after Facebook suggested she add him as a “friend.” The shrewd North Sider ran his social media photos through ChatGPT, figured out where he lived, and ultimately found him at a bus stop.

Prosecutors said the 23-year-old woman first met the man and exchanged phone numbers outside Rino bar in River North at closing time on June 13. She later invited him to her apartment. They hung out for a while, but the woman

became uncomfortable and asked the man to leave. He kept refusing, so she gave up and went to the kitchen to make some eggs, prosecutors said.

The man followed her, grabbed a cooking pot, and struck her repeatedly in the head, arms and legs, then fled with her phone and purse. Stunned, the woman grabbed a knife and chased after him, but he got away. She encountered police near the Morse Red Line station, and EMS took her to St. Francis Hospital, where she received 14 staples



Isaiah Del Torro

for a head wound, according to a CPD report.

The next day, the woman’s building manager gave her surveillance images of the man who had attacked her. Some of the images showed him carrying her blue purse.

After the woman returned from an extended, previously planned vacation, Facebook had a friend suggestion: Isaiah Del Torro. Oddly, prosecutors say, the profile photo looked like the man who had attacked her, and she wondered if the name he had given her, “Zee,” might be short

for Isaiah.

After clicking on the profile, the woman recognized that it was full of older photos of the assailant, prosecutors said, adding that she subsequently found a more recent account belonging to him. The woman put photos of Del Torro into Google and ChatGPT and learned that he lived on the West Side near Madison St. She went to the area, showed people photos of Del Torro, and started asking questions. Prosecutors said she learned that he used to buy marijuana in the area and that people thought he might live nearby.

She provided all of that information, along with the phone

number “Zee” had given her, to Chicago police detectives.

On Sept. 7, the woman spotted Del Torro, 24, standing at a bus stop in the 2400 block of W. Madison St. and called 911. Patrol officers took him into custody. Judge Shauna Boliker ordered Del Torro detained on charges of robbery, aggravated battery causing great bodily harm and theft. The judge described his alleged behavior as “violent and erratic ... aggressive and impulsive.”

Prosecutors said Del Torro had juvenile adjudications for robbery and identity theft in 2017.

Police Beat...

Criminal sexual abuse on CTA



CTA surveillance photo.

Chicago police are warning residents about a recent sex offense in the Loop.

In this incident, the offender approached a 25-year-old woman on a train platform and grabbed the her buttocks without consent. The offender then fled.

The assault occurred on the 100 block of N. State St. at 9:04 p.m. Sept. 3. The offender is described as a Black male wearing dark clothing and a dark colored backpack with the “Champion” logo.

Police are asking anyone who has information on this crime to contact Public Transportation Detectives at 312-745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use reference RD # JK412912.

Man gets 60 years for killing Maryland doctoral student during downtown attack spree



Anat Kimchi and Tony Robinson.

A homeless man who officials said spent nine days attacking women in downtown Chicago, culminating in the killing of a doctoral student from Maryland, was sentenced to 60 years in prison on Sept. 15.

Anat Kimchi, a 31-year-old criminal justice researcher, was visiting a friend when she was attacked in the Loop on a Saturday afternoon in June 2021. As Kimchi walked in the 400 block of S. Wacker Dr., Tony L. Robinson, now 46, grabbed her from behind and stabbed her in the neck and upper back with a knife, prosecutors said.

A witness who saw the attack from a nearby park initially thought Robinson was trying to rob Kimchi. But Robinson fled with

only her sweater. The witness briefly confronted Robinson but backed off when Robinson threatened him and went to Kimchi’s side and held her until paramedics arrived.

DNA recovered from a shirt discarded near the murder scene matched Robinson. Surveillance video showed him approaching Kimchi from behind before the attack, then running with a knife in his hand and throwing the weapon into the Chicago River.

Robinson was also accused of beating a 50-year-old tourist near her Loop hotel about a week before Kimchi’s killing. The woman, who was visiting from St. Louis for a baseball game, told police she was walking to get coffee when a man confronted her in the first block of E. Ida B. Wells Dr. around 7:14 a.m. June 13, 2021. The man asked whether she was following him.

The woman said no and tried to keep walking, but the man struck her in the head with a hard object. She told police it felt like she had been hit with a concrete block, officials said. Robinson took the woman’s phone and money after she dropped them, then struck her twice more with the object, prosecutors said. The attack broke her nose and left her with injuries requiring nine stitches in her forehead and three staples in the back of her head.

At an initial court hearing, prosecutors also suggested Robinson was responsible for beating a 25-year-old woman with an object in the 500 block of S. Franklin St. around 9:30 p.m. June 10, 2021. CWBChicago reported that the woman’s injuries were so severe that fire department personnel initially thought she had been shot in the head. Surveillance video showed the attacker following the “exact route” Robinson allegedly took after killing Kimchi, prosecutors said.

After Kimchi’s murder, police found a sock filled with rocks inside a tent where Robinson lived. Officials believe it was the weapon he used to beat the two women in the days before Kimchi was killed.

Robinson took the murder case to trial in May, and a jury quickly returned guilty verdicts on two counts of murder. On Sept. 15, Judge John Lyke handed down the 60-year sentence. Robinson must serve 100% of the sentence under state law.

CTA robberies downtown

Police are warning users of the CTA of recent robbery incidents in the Chicago Loop. In these incidents, two to three offenders approach the victims, who are CTA Brown Line riders, and take property through physical force.

The offenders then flee on foot or by train. In one incident (JK412014), the offenders were armed with a

black handgun.

Incidents include one on the 0-100 block of N. Wabash Ave. 9:19 p.m. Sept. 4, and a second one on the 200-300 block of S. Wells St. 9:26 p.m. Sept. 13.

The crooks are described as one Black male wearing a black facemask, black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans, black shoes and a black backpack; and one Black male wearing a black facemask, gray hooded sweatshirt, black pants, white shoes with large yellow chain and medallion on neck, and one white female wearing a gray t-shirt and a black backpack.

Those who may have any information on these crimes can contact Area Three Detectives at 312-744-8263, or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use reference # P26-3-029CA.



David Rideout

out of compliance with registration requirements has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after he was caught viewing child sexual abuse material on a tablet at a Chicago Public Library branch in Bucktown last year, according to court records.

David Rideout, 51, was taken into custody around 6 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2025, after a woman called 911 to report that a man was viewing child pornography inside the Bucktown-Wicker Park Branch, 1701 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Responding officers found Rideout seated with a black tablet displaying an image of a naked underage girl in a graphic sexual position, according to a CPD police report. A library employee told investigators that surveillance footage showed Rideout holding the tablet and viewing images of naked underage girls, the report said.

During their investigation, officers learned that Rideout was not compliant with sex offender registration requirements and that he was wanted on an extraditable warrant issued in Kane County. The tablet was turned over to CPD’s Special Investigations Unit. A search warrant executed on the device revealed hundreds of images and videos involving children under the age of 13, according to prosecutors.

Rideout’s profile on the Illinois State Police sex offender registry indicated that he was required to register as a sex offender for life. He had previously been convicted in Sangamon County of sexually abusing a 6-year-old when he was 36.

Court records show that Rideout pleaded guilty to two counts of pos-



Zaden Miller, inset left, Denzel Williams, inset right, and surveillance images of the robbery suspects.

Man who robbed teen of shoes on “L” was wearing ankle monitor for CTA stabbing

A man accused of robbing a 17-year-old of his shoes on a Blue Line train was wearing an ankle monitor while on juvenile parole for a previous stabbing on the CTA, officials said.

Zaden Miller, 18, and Denzel Williams, 20, were identified as the alleged robbers after Chicago police released surveillance images and members of the public recognized them and called CPD.

The teen was sitting in the back of a train car at the UIC-Halsted station around 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 30 when Miller and Williams approached him, according to a detention filing. Miller allegedly told the teen he wanted to fight him, demanded his shoes, and threatened to shoot and beat him if he refused, claiming he had a gun. For his part, Williams prevented the victim from getting up and leaving until he handed over the shoes, the filing said.

The boy went to a police station about an hour later to report the robbery and gave officers descriptions of the men. Surveillance footage showed Miller, who was wearing an ankle monitor, and Williams on the Blue Line platform around 5:30 p.m. and again around 5:50 p.m., according to the filing.

Police released three of those images to the media, showing one of the robbers changed clothes between photos.

In one, he is wearing a ski mask, long-sleeve black shirt, long black pants, and brown work boots. In the other, he’s wearing a short-sleeved shirt, shorts, and white gym shoes while he carries a ski mask and his accomplice carries his boots and other

clothes.

After CPD released the images, two employees at a shelter called police and identified Williams as a current resident, prosecutors said. Cops arrested Williams on an unrelated burglary warrant, and the victim subsequently identified Williams in a photo lineup, according to the detention filing.

During an interview with police, Williams identified Miller as his alleged accomplice and gave CPD Miller’s birthday and address, the filing said. Williams told cops he warned Miller against committing the robbery because Williams wasn’t wearing a mask and expected to be recognized. He denied robbing or hurting anyone and said Miller pressured him into participating, according to the filing.

Meanwhile, a security guard at a North Side service agency and school also saw the CPD images and contacted police to identify Miller as the second robber. After his arrest, Miller told police he had sent the teen \$150 for the shoes but never received them. Miller said he took the shoes because the teen, whom he claimed to know as “Jonathan” from school, had not handed them over.

Records show the teen’s name isn’t Jonathan or anything close to it. However, the boy did identify the shoes Miller was wearing in the second surveillance photo CPD released as the shoes taken during the robbery.

Miller and Williams are now detained while awaiting trial on robbery charges following separate detention hearings.

session of child pornography involving victims younger than 13. Judge Domenica Stephenson sentenced him to 10 years on each count, to be served consecutively. Under Illinois law, people convicted of those offenses can receive an automatic 50% reduction in their prison sentences

for good behavior. As a result, Rideout is scheduled for release in Sept. 2035, according to the Illinois Dept. of Corrections.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Cook County launches witness relocation program for victims, witnesses facing retaliation



Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke took office on December 1, 2024.

BY CWBCHICAGO

Cook County prosecutors are launching a witness relocation program that will help victims and witnesses who fear retaliation pay for temporary housing, moving expenses, and other costs to get out of harm's way.

The Victim Witness Relocation Program, funded in part by a \$243,000 grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, will cover short-term and permanent relocation, safety planning and connections to other services for eligible victims and witnesses in cases prosecuted by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

The office said the program is available in all pending violent misdemeanor and felony cases when a victim or witness reports a credible threat against themselves or a family member to law enforcement. It estimates that more than 200 victims could have benefited from relocation assistance last year if a fully funded program had been available.

That marks a significant expansion of previous relocation assistance from Cook County prosecutors, which was limited to emergencies and pending homicide cases. Eligible participants can receive help paying for hotel stays, food, moving expenses and rent, officials said.

Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke said threats and retaliation can make it difficult for victims and witnesses to participate in criminal cases.

"One of the biggest threats victims and witnesses face when seeking justice is intimidation and fear of retaliation," Burke said in a statement. "Participating in a criminal case requires tremendous courage, and no one should have to choose between their personal safety and helping hold a violent offender accountable."

The office plans to hire a Victim Witness Relocation Specialist

"One of the biggest threats victims and witnesses face when seeking justice is intimidation and fear of retaliation," Eileen O'Neill Burke said in a statement.

to oversee the program, determine eligibility and connect participants with community organizations and other resources. The specialist will also assess whether victims or witnesses need additional assistance.

Despite published reports, State Rep. Huynh still at work, says staffer

BY PETER VON BUOL

Despite no longer having a full time constituent office, North Side State Rep. Hoan Huynh [13th] continues to serve his constituents, according to a staffer who on Sept. 18 spoke with this newspaper.

Huynh, who is now in his second two-year term, serves constituents in portions of Uptown, Andersonville, Edgewater, Lincoln Square, North Center and Lake View. Huynh had hoped to move on to the US Congress, in a bid to succeed longtime US Rep. Jan Schakowsky [D].

However, in the very crowded March Democratic Primary, Huynh finished in seventh place, with less than two percent of the vote. After his defeat, Huynh closed his constituent-services office and missed numerous votes in Springfield.

During his conversation with this newspaper, Huynh's staffer said that while the representative has missed some votes, he voted at the end of May in Springfield to pass Gov. J.B. Pritzker's \$55.2 billion budget, the largest in the state's history, and despite some published reports, Huynh continues to work on legislation and will be in Springfield during the Fall veto session, he added.

According to the records of the

Illinois State Board of Election, Huynh's campaign war chest has only 77¢ remaining. The political action committee of public-utility Peoples Energy made a \$250 con-



State Rep. Hoan Huynh

tribution to his state campaign on Dec. 31, 2025. It would be the last his campaign would receive.

To serve as treasurer for his congressional campaign, Huynh had picked a powerful Chicago insider, Alvin Boutte, Jr. In 2007, former Mayor Richard M. Daley had appointed Boutte to the board of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority. Later, in 2010, Daley appointed Boutte to head Chicago's efforts during the 2010 U.S. Census. Boutte's father had served in the mayoral administration of Daley's father. Outside of city government, the elder Boutte had built a successful career as the head of Independence Bank. By the late 1980s, his bank was being described as the largest black-owned banking company in the country and among its operations were the currency exchanges at O'Hare Airport.

Lakefront Trail is getting a fix up

Repairs begin soon, featuring new trail graphics, roadway patching

Maintenance work on the Chicago Park District's 18-mile lakefront trail network is scheduled to commence this fall. The work will entail refreshing trail graphics and lines as well as asphalt repairs, as needed, along the 18-mile stretch of the pedestrian and bike lakefront trails.

The public is being advised to heed the signage along the trails and be aware of the active construction work zones.

The repairs will consist of asphalt patching and seal-coating as necessary. This work will begin on the South Side and move north one section at a time until it

reaches Foster Ave. Beach east of Lake Shore Dr.

The CPD has performed a full inspection of the Lakefront Trail and hardscape along the edge of the network. After the assessment, the CPD identified a variety of repairs that need to be completed to restore the trails to their peak conditions. The work will begin in the next few weeks and continue for several months, as weather permits.

Additionally, trail graphics will be applied throughout the entire trail. Edge repairs will consist of removal and replacement of deteriorated concrete as needed. Construction signage will be placed ahead of the construction site for awareness.

As always, motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trail, in-

cluding, motorcycles, Vespa's, e-scooters and e-bikes. The masked dirt bike rider who struck and catastrophically injured a 45-year-old female cyclist on Chicago's Lakefront Trail July 20 has not yet been caught. The hit-and-run happened around 3:47 p.m., near 1400 N. Lake Shore Dr. in the Gold Coast neighborhood. The suspect was riding a yellow dirt bike and wearing a black ski mask.

The case remains active with the Major Accident Investigation Unit (reference number JK346606). Authorities ask anyone with information to call them at 312-745-4521.

Loyola basketball bash Oct. 10

The Loyola Univ. men's and women's basketball teams are hosting the inaugural 'Blers Bash Fan Fest on Saturday, Oct. 10, inside Gentile Arena, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd.

Admission is free, and the event features youth basketball skills stations, autograph sessions,

photos with the players, music from a local DJ, and other interactive kids' activities.

The event is open-house style with doors opening at 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Visit www.loyola.razmblers.com/blersbash for more information and to RSVP.

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This newspaper vs Sudler Property Mngt.

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

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

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

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

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Manhattan Vintage launches Chicago show Oct. 24-25

New York City's iconic vintage show, is expanding with new twice-annual events in Chicago, bringing its mix of style, discovery and one-of-a-kind finds to town. Manhattan Vintage Chicago [MVC] will debut October 24 and 25 at Morgan Manufacturing in Fulton Market, 401 N. Morgan St.

Building on its New York shows, which draw thousands of vintage fans, collectors and industry insiders, the event hopes to reflect the character of its

host city. Longtime Manhattan Vintage dealers will join new local vintage sellers for a fashion shopping event.

MVC will pair dealers from the New York show with sellers from Chicago's vintage scene for two days of shopping. From rare designer and archival fashion to worn-in denim, accessories, jewelry and other finds, shoppers can explore pieces spanning decades, aesthetics and prices.

"Chicago [has an] incredible creative identity and deep rela-

tionships with fashion, design and vintage, which makes putting down roots exciting," said Amy Abrams, a Chicago native with a personal connection to MVC. "As a Chicago native, I've dreamed of bringing Manhattan Vintage home. We want to celebrate what makes each city distinct, bring together those shaping their vintage scenes and build something lasting alongside them."

Tickets for MVC are now available, range from \$25 to \$40. Manhattan Vintage is New

York City's largest vintage show, bringing together fashion, style and discovery under one roof. Its flagship shows feature more than 100 curated dealers and attracts a community of collectors, creatives and vintage lovers in search of one-of-a-kind pieces.

Following its October debut, Manhattan Vintage will return to Chicago in spring 2027 and continue with editions each spring and fall. For more information, visit www.manhattanvintage.com.



Kathy O'Malley Piccone and Joey Majumdar.



Petros and Contessa Bottega.



Cynthia Olson

FRONTIER from p. 2

Town Triangle Center is hosting an evening with prominent Chicago film critic, journalist, and educator **Zbigniew Banaś** for an open public discussion on "Movie Adaptations - What Works and What Doesn't," 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, admission is free and open to the public, at the Old Town Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Ave.

From bestselling novels to stage plays and graphic novels, transforming a text into a motion picture presents immense creative challenges. Banaś will guide the audience through an insightful exploration of the artistry, triumphs, and pitfalls of adapting stories for the screen, drawing from his professional experience in film criticism and academia. Banaś is a respected film critic, teacher, and broadcast journalist. Over the years, his reviews have been featured in the Chicago Reader, Boston Phoenix, and Newcity. He teaches International Film at Loyola University Chicago and has lectured at Columbia College.

BEST GELATO: Wine expert, **Michael Campos**, young member of the family dishing superb Italian at Mart Anthony's at Racine and Hubbard has invented a new homemade gelato. The best I've ever eaten - Earl Grey Tea and lemon. The bergamot flavor is quite a refined taste. Grandpa

Mart Anthony would be proud.

GET WELL: Special prayers for the lovely **Dede Fosco**, a big fan of this column, for a speedy recovery.

WORLD LABOR: Father Cletus Kiley in Rome with American union leaders, for important Conference at the Vatican, "Fratelli Tutti Dialogia." World Labor leaders assembled to discuss **Pope Francis'** encyclical on work and employment. Kiley especially enjoyed his Chicago introduction "privato" with the Pontiff.

ARTS IN THE DARK: LUMA8 and the City of Chicago return with the 12th Annual Arts in the Dark Halloween Parade, a family-friendly celebration of Chicago's cultural landscape and creative spirit, featuring unique floats, spectacle puppets, and all forms of artistic performance on Saturday, October 24, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. along Columbus Dr., with the parade stepping off at Balbo Dr. and marching north to Monroe Dr. Four thousand performers from over 100 cultural organizations will take to the street with music, dance, theater, spectacle, and merriment.

The parade will continue its tradition of honoring Creative Spirits who will be introduced and honored at the parade. This year's Creative Spirits include:

Marty Lennartz: Esteemed and prolific 93XRT radio host for 45 years. **Mayda de Valle:** Poet Laureate of Chicago and re-

nowned educator and artist. **Barbara Gaines:** Beloved Founder and Artistic Director of Chicago Shakespeare Theater and **Peter CottonTale:** Multi-platinum, GRAMMY Award-winning musician, producer, and composer.

WHO'S WHERE: Brian Kelly at Piccolo Sogno with charming wife, **Anne** for her delightful birthday lunch... **Irene Michaels** with **Jimmy Star**, **Tinamarie Passantino**, **Josie Passantino-Boone**, **Eileen Shapiro** and **Suzanne Tripoli** at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville... **Christine Clark**, a longtime "hostess with the mostest" at P.J. Clark's in its heyday, dined at Il Gerasole on Western Ave. with her pal, **Jack...** **Dave Franzone**, formerly of Holy Name Cathedral and Secretary to **Cardinal John Cody**, has died at 92... **Sister Mary Jo** from the Holy Name Cathedral High School

threw out the first pitch at a recent White Sox game and her fastball set tongues a-waggin... Yes, that was **Jane Justic** at Portofino Pizzeria on Wabash dining riverside with **Christian Hernandez** boss-man at his Il Gerasole Restaurant... The **Contessa Bottega** and **Petros** in New York having a grand dinner at Avra... **Myra Reilly** getting in a journey to California wine country and a great visit with her fabulous niece, **Maria...** architect **Lucien Lagrange** and wife, **Melinda Jakovich Lagrange** joined **Heather Niehoff** for a feast... Barrister **Bernard Dunleavy** at Plage Du Noreesco in Nice, in France's Cote d'Azur, going right from the plane into the sea... **Dan Balanoff** at Wrigley Field having the time of his life thanks to **Pete Crow Armstrong...** Happiest of birthdays to the divine **Cynthia Olson**.

ASTOR BLOCK PARTY: Rhoda Sweeney, Sherrill

Bodine, and **Julia Jacobs** made their appearance, as did **Eamonn Cummins** and **Dan Balanoff**. "Evening on Astor" is always a glorious success and we wish we could have been there to cavort with all our former Astor St. neighbors.

ARCADA CENTENNIAL: Only **Ron Onesti** could set in motion the thunderous celebration of his prized monument to nostalgia, the Arcada Theater in St. Charles, bringing together **Chubby Checker** and **Priscilla Presley** and shaking the earth with a "Twist" dance breaking all records with thousands of fans.

REHAB: In Uptown, **Kerstin Schaars** and **Alistair Mackworth Gee** filed self-certified plans for a \$3.2 million interior alteration of a three-story single-family home at 805 W. Junior Terrace.

The project includes new non-load bearing partitions, interior finishes, fixtures and upgraded electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems. It's going to be worth the effort.

BEATIFICATION: **Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen** will be beatified 2 p.m. Sept. 24, in the Dome at America's Center, at the Cathedral of St. Louis. All his Chicago family say they will be in attendance.

GIBSON'S: **Kathy O'Malley Piccone** giving producer/director **Joey Majumdar** the scoop on Gibson's Steakhouse's soon to open at 925 W. Fulton Market restaurant that Chicago can't stop talking about at 15,000 sq. ft. I believe they are still looking for a General Manager and an Executive Chef.

I have never been lost, but I will admit to being confused for several weeks. - **Daniel Boone**

tog515@gmail.com



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Letters to the Editor

Micromobility is waiting to be tamed

Traffic involving micromobility devices have made headlines, imagine the growth within the next decade.

It is easy to create new laws. Enforcing them is the challenge.

Ben Szalinski's insightful [Sept. 9] article is eye-opening. It outlines the gravity of the problem.

Ever-escalating humongous medical costs of accidents and injuries cost the U.S. over a billion dollars annually. We're all in this together, including the ever-growing number of micromobility devices and their fearless, intrepid operators.

This new mode of transportation is waiting to be tamed. It will encourage many new laws. History has taught us that bureaucracy has a way of taking over and swallowing us up. It is imperative that we

simplify this new challenge right at the root.

One possible solution: a mandatory insurance purchase price attached to the price of all of those devices... a flat fee (as we do with license plates) that move on our roadways.

Under the guidance of the Secretary of State, one agency could handle insurance / claims to be paid out of these funds amongst those involved in micromobility device related accidents.

The above solution sounds more attainable than the idea of new laws and "new enforcement armies" on the borderline of impossibility.

Ava Barcelona
Andersonville

METER from p. 3

pleted negotiations for a revised parking meter deal with Stonepeak Partners that includes numerous changes that may benefit city residents.

Reportedly, Ald. Walter "Red" Burnett [27th] and Ald. Gilbert Villegas [36th] also played a role in negotiations, along with representatives from the City and special counsel for the City Council.

Notably missing from the negotiations was the Mayor's office.

Stonepeak attempted to buy the City's parking meters earlier this year, but the proposed deal fell apart amid City Council objections when the Mayor attempted to buy the meter system back without public notice by bidding \$850 million over the next lowest bidder. It would have made the worst municipal deal in America even worse. Mayor Brandon Johnson has still never explained why he felt he had to overpay on his deal.

That attempt was followed by months of a non-disclosure agreement that kept all details out of the public record and away from any oversight by the City Council, while running out the clock on the sale deadline.

Since then, a rescue group convened by Ald. Dowell met with the parties to the deal to seek a more amenable agreement.

If the sale is not made by Sept. 30, then CPM could immediately force arbitration, and seek other legal measures that would likely end up with the the City being forced to approve the deal as it presently exists, and pay legal fees. It's anyone's guess whether or not Mayor Johnson will join with the City Council in the process now, or go AWOL with no deal, as he did with the last City budget in Dec. 2025.

The Deal

One new part of the new deal is pay-to-charge street side electric vehicle [EV] fueling stations, and profit sharing.

CPM and the City will examine establishing certain non-metered blocks as potential EV charging stations. Once such blocks are designated by the City, CPM will operate these blocks, and the revenue generated will be shared between the City and CPM.

Additionally, the current negotiated agreement includes a transfer fee of \$75 million to the City at the closing of the sale. Any future transfer will require that the City receive an additional transfer fee of two percent of the sale price. Any revenue from the current - or any future - transfer fee will allegedly be directed to the City's vast pension liability.

Additional points include:

- Profit sharing for the City equal to five percent of CPM's net operating income annually. This is expected to yield \$376.2 million for the City of Chicago over the course of the remainder of the agreement.

- A future transfer procedure will be established requiring that in any future transfer of the asset, the Chief Financial

Officer will have 30 days to review the approval request from CPM and submit a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council will then have up to 90 days to consider the approval request and approve or disapprove the proposed transfer.

- A temporary event closure plan allowing that for seven annual events, the usual hourly threshold for closure payments from the City will be increased from six hours to 10 hours. If closure payments are due for any of these events, the payments will be made by the City from available settlement credits or, if credits are unavailable, from convenience fee or reserve meter revenue.

- A commitment from buyer Stonepeak to sell Omni Air international, following federal approvals. Stonepeaks' ownership of Omni has angered some Aldermen over its role serving federal police officers in legally mandated Homeland Security and immigrations operations.

- The agreement will include a section prescribing appropriate standards for treatment of the enforcement staff, both internally and in interactions with motorists.

- CPM will be required to ensure that at least 50% of its employees and the employees of LAZ working on the metered parking system are Chicago residents. CPM also will be required to specify in its annual report the percentage of such City residents who are residing in disadvantaged areas of the City (as defined by the City's Dept. of Planning and Development pursuant to Section 2-92-390 of the Municipal Code).

- CPM will be prohibited from sharing its information about users of the system with immigration enforcement authorities.

- CPM will be prohibited from collecting fees from motorists parking at metered spaces while such spaces are temporarily closed, or during time periods outside the hours of operation for such spaces.

"In 2008, I was one of five who voted against the original deal, citing the infrastructure and management issues as well as providing the only alternative financial estimates that proved the deal was worth at least the \$5 Billion we estimated in 2008," said Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd] in his weekly newsletter. "While I have been one of the loudest critics of the deal ever since it was passed, I have worked to find ways to lessen the financial burden the deal put on taxpayers of Chicago."

"This always seemed to be an ironclad deal based on years of lawsuits, arbitration and settlements, but through our negotiations with the sellers and buyers, we were able to break it open and make significant changes," said Waguespack. "There is more work to be done on the deal once the first part passes Council but I am certain that is absolutely the best pathway we could get, and I look forward to our hearings in the Finance Committee and the full City Council."

Quiroga Car Wash vs bike lanes, bikes should pass on the left

I've read the article about the problem of Quiroga Car Wash vs bike lanes [Sept. 16]. I signed the petition, even though I don't live in that ward.

We've seen a similar kind of battle in front of Abrams Auto Service at 6150 N. Clark. The bike lane isn't compatible with cars lining up on the street before turning inside the business. The situation was tolerable before the bike lane invasion. Off-hand, I can't remember what might have been done to ameliorate the problem.

My understanding is that the bike-lane advocates really don't want any auto-related businesses in "good" neighborhoods. They don't want the AutoZone store at Clark and Granville with its own parking lot, because they made no provision for its big delivery truck to hug the curb when parked outside. We already see that they don't want anyone moving in to a new residential building to even own a car. They don't even want people shopping in these bike-privileged neighborhoods to go there with their own private cars.

I looked at the aerial view of Quiroga's. I also looked at the Cook County Map Viewer map to see the parcel lines. As is clear from the alley photo, the property line of Quiroga's abuts the alley. Here's what I say should be in the Municipal Code: Every owner whose parcel boundary abuts a city-owned alley shall have access to that alley by right.

And the bike lanes interfering with vehicles lined up to enter this car wash should be removed where that line of car-wash customers needs to be. The bike lanes never should have been put there in the first place. One of the Rules of the Road is "slower traffic keep right." Cars lined up to enter a car wash are slower than moving bicycles. Therefore, the bicycles riding by should pass on the left of the car-wash customers, just like they did before the bike lanes were imposed. It worked before and can work again.

Jean SmilingCoyote
West Ridge

Chicago Artists Coalition annual fundraiser goes all 1990s

For more than 50 years, Chicago Artists Coalition [CAC] has supported Chicago's artists and curators through exhibitions, residencies, professional development, and other vital resources. This year's annual CAC fundraiser will be held starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at Ignite Glass Studio, 401 N. Armour St.

CAC annually has provided resources that help artists live, work and thrive in Chicago for 52 years.

This year's theme is '90s & Neon Fund-

raiser. Guests will get a chance to engage with artists, and gather in the name of art and creativity. This year, CAC will also honor Ginny Van Alyea.

Tickets include bites and beverages, plus a performance and music by Jacquelyn Guerrero (AKA Disc Jacqui). Early bird tickets are \$50 for artists, arts workers and students and \$100 for individuals. Visit <https://chicagoartistscoalition.betterworld.org/events/neon-90s-night>.

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East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St.,
773-247-3000, is opening lockers:
1C2093 (Gina Sandoval), 3F3538 (Dayo Laoye),
4C4183 (Lilla Kristeva), 4C4197 (James Sochacki),
3E3471 (Hevin Regnier) 3D3346 (Jesse Reed),
3C3237 (Shannon Bonner),
3D3381 (Shannon Bonner), and
4C4204 (Shannon Bonner) for public sale of
miscellaneous items. This sale is to be held on
Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Cash only.

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North Township Real Estate For Sale

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
THE MANHATTAN BUILDING CONDOMINIUM
ASSOCIATION, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT
CORPORATION
Plaintiff,
-v-
BARBARA SUSMAN A/K/A BARBARA A. SUSMAN
A/K/A BARBARA ANN SUSMAN, ILLINOIS DE-
PARTMENT OF LABOR, 161 CHICAGO AVENUE
EAST CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Defendants
2025 CH 12678
161 EAST CHICAGO AVENUE, UNIT 25E
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 April 23, 2026, an agent for The
Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on Oc-
tober 27, 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 161 EAST CHICAGO AV-
ENUE, UNIT 25E, CHICAGO, IL 60611
Property Index No. 17-10-200-068-1007
The real estate is improved with a condominium.
The judgment amount was \$84,042.13.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff,
25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at
the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales
Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted.
The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is
due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject prop-
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 rep-
resentation 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 pur-
chaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will en-
title 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 admon-
ished 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)-(h). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFFRIN NESBITT Plaintiffs Attorneys, 640 N. LASALLE DR., SUITE 495, CHICAGO, IL, 60654 (312) 880-1224.

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.jsqc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

Thomas M. Olson
KOVITZ SHIFFRIN NESBITT
640 N. LASALLE DR., SUITE 495
CHICAGO IL, 60654
312-880-1224
E-Mail: tolson@ksnlaw.com
Attorney Code, 38862
Case Number: 2025 CH 12678
TJSC#: 46-1155

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiffs' attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2025 CH 12678
13294412

232323 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
CS 1528 WELLS, LLC, AS ASSIGNEE OF CIBC
BANK USA
Plaintiff,
-v-
WELLSTEL, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY, MCNP, LLC, PAPPAGEORGE
HAYMES, LTD. (D/B/A PAPPAGEORGE HAYMES
PARTNERS), AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION, SOL-
OMON BARKET, AN INDIVIDUAL, EZ PARKING
LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

NATIONAL WRECKING COMPANY, AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants.
PAPAGEORGE HAYMES, LTD. (D/B/A PAPAGEORGE HAYMES PARTNERS)
Counter-Plaintiff,
v.
CS 1528 WELLS, LLC; MCNP, LLC; WELLSTEL, LLC; SOLOMON BARKET; EZ PARKING LLC; N; NATIONAL WRECKING COMPANY; AND UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Counter-Defendants.
CHICAGO TITLE AND LAND TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 11, 1977 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 5577;
Third Party Defendant.
2025 CH 04335
1520-1532 N. WELLS ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60610
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 23, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on October 19, 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:
17-04-203-016-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects Tract 1, Parcel 1)
17-04-203-013-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects Lot 7 of Tract 1, Parcel 2) Affects Land and other property.
17-04-203-086-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects Lot 8 & W 1/2 of Lot 9 of Tract 1, Parcel 2) Affects Land and other property.
17-04-203-032-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects N 1/2 of Lot 10 of Tract 2)
17-04-203-033-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects S 1/2 of Lot 10 of Tract 2)
17-04-203-015-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects Lot 11 of Tract 2) Affects Land and other property.
17-04-203-030-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects Tract 3)
17-04-203-034-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects Tract 4)
17-04-203-087-0000 Vol. 498 (Affects Tract 5)
Commonly known as 1520-1532 N. WELLS ST., CHICAGO, IL 60610
The real estate is improved with a commercial building.
The judgment amount was \$10,869,508.36.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The

subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact NOONAN & LIEBERMAN Plaintiffs Attorneys, 33 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 431-1455. Please refer to file number 2700-1.

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.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

NOONAN & LIEBERMAN
33 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1150
Chicago, IL, 60602
312-431-1455
E-Mail: intake@noonanandlieberman.com
Attorney File No. 2700-1
Attorney Code, 38245

Case Number: 2025 CH 04335
TJSC# 46-2008

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 82322-969279
 -----161616-----
 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 Octo-
 ber 13, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation,
 One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35F, Chicago,
 IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest
 bidder, as set forth below, the following described
 real estate:
 Commonly known as 2100 N LINCOLN PARK W
 APT 4DN, CHICAGO, IL 60614
 Property Index No. 14-33-206-047-1072
 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 payable to The Judicial Sales
 Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted.
 The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is
 due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject prop-
 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 repre-
 sentation 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 pur-
 chaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will en-
 title 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 admon-
 ished 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 605/8(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
 IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
 You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
 For information, 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) 236-5454
 You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending 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
 TJSJC#: 46-1627
 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
 Case # 2024CH09579
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Park District, Lollapalooza will double Luxembourg chairs, celebrates Buckingham Fountain’s 100th Anniversary

Chairs will become a permanent, seasonal amenity

The Chicago Park District [CD] and Lollapalooza, have announced that following the successful pilot at the Buckingham Fountain, the Luxembourg movable chair program will return as a permanent seasonal amenity in 2027. The expanded program will feature an additional 100 seats on the fountain table.

The expansion will debut next May as part of the Buckingham Fountain’s 100th anniversary celebration. The CPD is encouraging residents and tourists to seek out the video they’ve posted online to see how the Luxembourg chairs made a splash in Grant Park this summer.

“We are thrilled to announce the expansion of the movable chair program at Buck-



ingham Fountain in 2027,” said Chicago Park District CEO Carlos Ramirez-Rosa. “One of the most beloved and recognizable destinations in our city, the fountain has delighted visitors for generations. What better way to celebrate its rich history and inaugurate its centennial year than to build on the momentum of the successful program and allow even more guests to enjoy

the unique experience.”

The 100 commercial grade, metal chairs, similar to those featured at the Luxembourg Garden, Tuileries Garden, Palais-Royal Garden in Paris and Bryant Park in New York generated significant enthusiasm among fountain visitors. Based on a CPD survey, the chairs received an overall 95% satisfaction rate, including respon-

dents representing neighborhoods across the city. Among the feedback shared in the survey, the most common requests were to add more chairs and make the program permanent.

The program was made possible through a \$70,000 contribution from Lollapalooza producer C3 Presents to cover the additional 100 chairs. It will double the number of chairs on the fountain table from 100 to 200, allowing even more visitors to take a seat. This is in addition to Lollapalooza’s initial \$30,000 investment toward the cost of the 100 chairs that debuted this year.

“It’s been great to see how these chairs have given people another way to spend time together and enjoy the park. Expanding the program builds on that success and reflects our continued commitment to investing in Grant Park and being a strong partner to the residents of Chicago,” said Tim “Tuba” Smith, Executive Producer for Lollapalooza.

The Buckingham Fountain Movable Chair Program represents one of the first recommendations implemented from the Grant Park Framework Plan: Chicago’s Front Yard Reimagined.

TIF from p. 1

development within those boundaries. The tax redistribution theoretically boosts property values, creating more TIF funds, building a steady stream of money for future projects. Only the GCI study argues that property value hikes would’ve occurred anyway, and the funding is being dumped into development with little public accountability.

The study shows that Downtown developments are eating up the lion’s share of TIF dollars. The research found that five specific communities in the South and West sides of the city — its poorer areas — received about \$55 million in TIF funds for private projects. That \$55 million figure is around half of what one single richer community, the Near North Side, got over the same time frame.

Of nearly \$2.6 billion in TIF funds used for private projects citywide, 64% (about \$1.6 billion) went to just five neighborhoods in and around downtown and the North Side. And about half of all tracked

TIF spending since 1986 for public goods (for parks, roads, and affordable housing) was concentrated in and around downtown.

“Instead of reducing the city’s historic economic inequities, it has exacerbated them,” Juan González, a GCI senior research fellow, told the New York Times.

Chicago’s central business district didn’t just grab a majority of TIF money for private development, they also made up a majority of affordable housing, roads, and other infrastructure projects.

The researchers at GCI did not call for eliminating the program, however, they did suggest independent oversight for the program, as well as limits on the amount of property tax revenue that can be diverted from city services. The various taxing bodies budgets don’t shrink just because City Hall siphons off this cash, their spending and budgets still rise. So taxpayers would

be correct to assume that each TIF dollar collected is an additional property tax increase, since the lost funds needed by taxing bodies will be foisted on non-TIF areas to make up for the difference in the loss of those tax funds.

According to the study, TIF districts increased citywide property tax rates by an average of 13.7% between 2014 and 2023, costing a homeowner with a \$300,000 house an estimated \$878 in 2023 just to cover diverted tax revenues.

The study notes that only 1.8% of property value growth inside TIF districts actually resulted from TIF-supported development, meaning most of the value hikes would have happened anyway.

The researchers also concluded that the city could phase out downtown TIF districts that have mostly accomplished their goals.

FREIGHT TRAIN from p. 1

said thieves were jumping onto moving trains, opening cargo containers and fleeing to vehicles positioned nearby. Lately, drones have been playing a bigger role in those investigations.

On March 29, a railroad drone captured two men allegedly removing packages from a shipping container near 61st St. and Stewart Ave. Deputies recovered opened boxes, mesh bags, and bolt cutters and arrested the two men, who were charged with burglary and trespassing on railroad property.

The following month, a drone operator spotted a man climbing onto a freight train near 47th St. and Shields Ave. and throwing boxes of Purex laundry detergent from a container. Deputies recovered about 20 boxes and arrested 53-year-old Jauton Brown on burglary and trespassing charges.

Then, on May 28, sheriff’s police and Norfolk Southern officers conducting another cargo-theft operation near 7500 S. Ashland Ave. spotted three people breaking into a freight train. Two men, 32-year-old Emmanuel Warner and 31-year-old Jonathan Conway, were arrested, and deputies recovered 12 portable air-conditioning units valued at about \$2,400. Both men were charged with felony burglary and misdemeanor trespassing.

But Chicago is one piece of a much larger problem.

According to Fortune, freight train thefts have risen sharply since the pre-pandemic era as criminals target merchandise that can be resold quickly. The report cited electronics, clothing, tires and other consumer products among the frequently stolen items. Railroads have responded by investing in additional fencing, cameras, drones and other surveillance technology.

A congressional inquiry last year cited more than 65,000 cargo-theft incidents nationwide in 2024, with losses totaling at least \$100 million. A July 2025 letter from members of Congress to federal transportation officials specifically pointed to a June 2025 Union Pacific train theft in Chicago and the Oct. 2024 West Side raid as examples of the broader problem.

CROSSING from p. 1

The identity of the dead man has not yet been released, he was taken to Northwest Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police said the driver of the car stayed at the scene of the crash. No citations were issued.

Letter to the Editor

Jump aside

Your recent article on the River North construction site at 205 W. Superior is a timely reminder that construction zones can quickly put pedestrians, bikes and vehicles into the same narrow space. It described people having to jump aside and the lack of a protected sidewalk. That is not just an inconvenience. It is a safety hazard.

This same issue is on the doorstep in Old Town. Every school day, children and parents walk to and from Latin School, Catherine Cook School and LaSalle Language Academy. We also have free-form scooter and bike riding on North Ave. and dedicated bike lanes traversing Wells St. It is quite a mix and an obstacle course when combined with construction vehicles rounding the corners.

Fern Hill’s approved Old Town Canvas project and the broader PD 89 buildout would bring years of construction activity, staging and truck traffic in an area already constrained by tight streets and busy intersections. The City should not wait for close calls or injuries. Protected sidewalks, clear sight lines, traffic control during school arrival and dismissal times, and adequate barriers and signage should be required and enforced.

The River North example should be a warning for Old Town before construction begins. With major construction proposed amid school traffic, pedestrian safety cannot be an afterthought. It must be planned from the beginning and enforced every day. Children should be able to get to and from school without having to jump out of the way.

Tim Carew
Old Town

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