

We live in a rainbow of chaos.
— Paul Cezanne

SKYLINE

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NEWS OF THE LOOP, STREETERVILLE, RIVER NORTH, NEAR NORTH, GOLD COAST & OLD TOWN

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Residents angry over deal that may take plaza away from Newberry Plaza

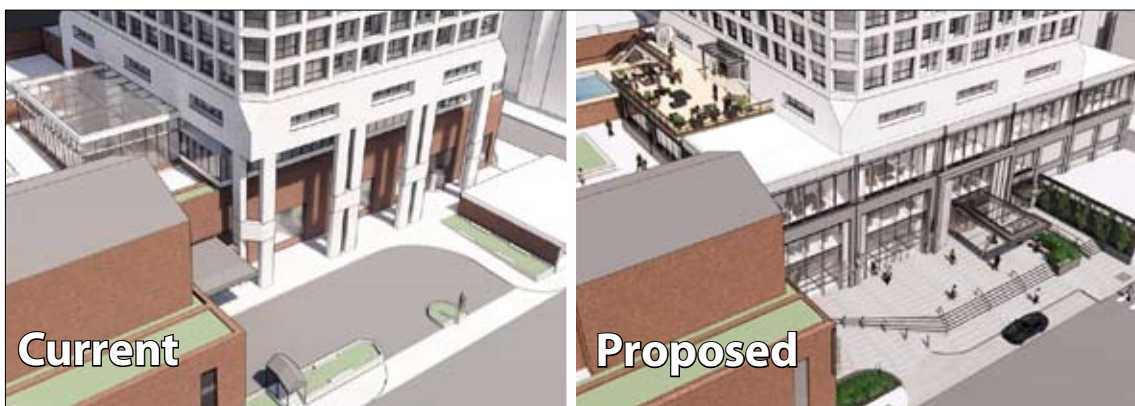
BY RONALD ROENIGK

A September vote was recently taken by the Newberry Plaza Condominium Assoc. over the future of their Plaza, located at the foot of the high-rise located at 1030 N. State St.

Several residents of the ubiquitous 52-story building contacted this newspaper as they felt the plaza their building has been named after is being taken right in front of their eyes, and transferred to developers 11 East Partners, LLC. They think that \$10 million in real estate value is being taken from them.

The proposal at the heart of the conflict would add three floors of commercial space to the east side totaling about 10,000 square feet. In exchange for that space, the developers appear to be 'giving' the Association an amenity room that will be connected to an outside amenity deck overlooking the pool.

A proxy ballot was sent to members of the Newberry Plaza Condominium Assoc. asking for



Plans appear to be afoot to add three floors of commercial space to the east side of Newberry Plaza, and some building residents feel that they're being left out of the conversation. They say the building's Condo Association Board has gone silent, refusing to answer member questions.

the right to appoint Christian Pezzuto as the proxy of the Association, "with full power of substitution, for and on behalf and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned, to attend any meeting of the unit owners, held on or before March 31, 2021, and [then to] vote all of the interest of the Association."

Pezzuto would in effect be authorized to take all needed actions to execute and implement a redevelopment plan. Pezzuto returned

a call from this reporter asking for comments, but declined to go on the record at this time, as the deal was still pending.

This newspaper left messages for the developers 11 East Partners, LLC, but did not hear back from them before deadline.

But the Association Board has now gone silent, refusing to answer member questions. They reportedly held a six-minute-long board meeting on Sept. 29, where they refused to answer any ques-

tions submitted by residents or members. "We are going to start pressing them for information (financial and otherwise) that we know they have to legally provide us through the Illinois Condo Act," said Michelle M. Meyer, a Association member.

"There is a group of us who would be fine with supporting the Board and 11 East to further develop commercial space in the

PLAZA see p. 12



Letters over a re-zoning for a new 35-story condominium tower at Oak and Dearborn streets are again arriving in the mail.

High-rise deal for 40 W. Oak is back on

Residents of the Near North Side, Gold Coast and River North are getting letters from legal firm DLA Piper, that show that a controversial deal to develop a high-rise at 40 W. Oak St. may be closer to becoming a reality.

The letters, signed by Paul Shadle, on firm stationery, were sent out Sept. 29 and are asking for an amendment to the Chicago Zoning Ordinance on behalf of the applicant, 40 W Oak Owners, LLC.

In 2019 developers and architect Lucien Lagrange first presented plans for a 35-story, 465-foot tall condominium tower for the northwest corner of Oak and Dearborn streets. Known by its address, the high-rise would replace a parking ramp attached to the Warren Barr rehabilitation center to its east.

The project was then to include 90 high-end condo units including 160 parking spaces with 50 spots reserved for the Warren Barr facility.

The applicant is asking to re-zone 46-74 W. Oak, 1000-1006 N. Dearborn, and 1001-1007 N. Clark St. "from the C2-5 Motor Vehicle-Related District to a DX-10 Downtown Mixed-Use District, then to a Resident-Business Planned Development to permit the construction of a 35-story, 465' 8" building with up to 75 residential dwellings."

September murder tally highest in a generation, city sends more cops to Mag Mile

BY CWBCHICAGO

The September murder tally is the highest in a generation — since the early 1990s, so City Hall is sending more cops to Mag Mile.

That sad fact follows closely behind July, one of the single worst months for homicides in the city since modern record-keeping began during the 1950s.

So, what are city leaders doing to reverse the trend?

They're taking even more cops out of every single neighborhood across the city to sit on street corners downtown, apparently to spook away looters.

Soaring homicides

The independent crime analysis site HeyJackass.com recorded 83 homicides in Chicago during September. That's a 54% increase from Sept. 2019.

The city saw the same number of homicides during the height of the early 1990's gang wars: 83

murders in Sept. 1990 and Sept. 1993; 85 slain in Sept. 1991; and 109 killed in Sep. 1992, according to CPD records secured by this reporter.

At the other extreme, Sept. 2010 had just 30 killings.

But, incredibly, police brass last week released two orders that limit how local districts' tactical teams operate and require a chunk of cops assigned to each neighborhood to sit on downtown street corners.

"Scarecrow policing"

Anyone who's been downtown recently has seen them: seemingly endless rows of CPD squad cars sitting with their blue lights flashing along Michigan Ave., Wacker D., and high-rent side streets. The tactic began after a second wave of looting ripped through the city's retail corridors in August.

Paul Vallas, whose mayoral campaign was outdone by Lori Lightfoot in 2019, called the strat-

egy "scarecrow policing." And police brass is doubling-down on the policy.

In a Sept. 28 memo titled "Downtown Daily Deployments Plan," CPD Chief of Operations Brian McDermott ordered the department's local districts to send groups of officers to sit on corners in the 1st Central and 18th Near North districts around the clock until further notice. The order is an expansion and continuation of a policy that first went into place after the Aug. 10 looting.

McDermott's order will draw cops off the streets of every neighborhood from Rogers Park to Mount Greenwood and from O'Hare to Hegewisch.

What will those officers be doing downtown? Sitting around with their blue lights flashing. Although McDermott said, "While on post, Department members will be highly visible. Vehicles will have their Mars lights activat-

TALLY see p. 12

Big plans for Moody property

The pull and appeal of the Near North Side remains strong for one local developer who is moving forward with plans to build out a large space adjacent to the Moody Bible Institute [MBI] site in River North.

JDL CEO Jim Letchinger is seeking approval on a project that could include as many as 3,950 residential units and 30,000 square feet of retail on the eight-acre site north of Moody Bible's main campus at 820 N. LaSalle Dr. The well-known Christian college put 10-acres of land up for sale in July 2019. JDL would only acquire eight of those acres.

If approved, it would be one of the largest residential development projects on the North Side after the Lincoln Yards project. That space could eventually house more than 5.3 million square feet of built space.

The area is roughly bounded by Wells St. on the east, the Brown Line tracks to the west, Oak St. on the north and Locust St. to the south. MBI has owned the prop-

MOODY see p. 12



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Yeh, but can she fix a parking ticket?

**Stink bombs
of the Circuit Court
more important
than SCOTUS**



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Sleep is a stranger, it's 4 a.m. and the laptop's open, so I spin the dial and discover a remastered edition of Al Stewart's "The Year of the Cat." I listen.

Sights and smells come back to me. People too. It's 1977, again. I've been time-machined for a bit. My mind is racing. It comes back.

*"On a morning
from a Bogart movie
In a country where they
turn back time
You go strolling through
the crowd like Peter Lorre
Contemplating a crime
She comes out of the sun
in a silk dress running
Like a watercolour in the rain
Don't bother asking
for explanations
She'll just tell you that she came
In the year of the cat."*

The nomination of Chicago Federal Judge Amy Coney Barrett to SCOTUS appears to be the perfect accident we knew was bound to happen. I searched everywhere for a photo of her with her horns and forked tail but Google and Facebook must have scrubbed them from social media. Closest I could get was her being a Notre Dame Law Alum. Next best thing.

Normally at a time like this the Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune would be declaring she was one of "Chicago's Very Own." (The 7th federal circuit is large).

They'd have Sneed on her tail.

They'd be trying to interview the first boy she ever kissed, or her best friend neighbor from down the block. Maybe they could find a nun who knew how smart she was, or a challenged classmate she tutored in seventh grade.

If only they could find some quote of hers about Roe V. Wade that she made in fifth grade, or her feelings about gun control and the Second Amendment made in an eighth grade barn-burner.

Gathering these statements made before her acceptance to law school are vital in neutralizing the Trump nomination. Maybe she talks her sleep. If only.

The president's hard line about the judicial vacancy comes just hours after the nation honored Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsberg. And the response, at least on social media, is just what you'd think. Panic has set in among e-mail-sending Democrats who are convinced Barrett has brimstone lining her judicial robe.

Of course there are many layers of political reality to any SCOTUS nomination. The political lessons to be learned are mighty and many. For instance, if you lack a majority in the U.S. Senate, such nominations are hard to stop. You need to elect a senate you can control.

Or how Republicans really are elephantine, they never forget. They stew about the stunts often pulled first by the Democrats and feel perfectly entitled to pull some of their own when it's their turn.

Nominating a woman is good.

Nominating a Catholic is bad.

Nominating an articulate, self-possessed, constitutional whiz kid is good.

Nominating a Republican female who knows her way around the Constitution and clerked for Antonin Scalia is bad.

I can only imagine the culture shock that Justice Holmes, Brandeis, Jay, Taney or Hughes might be experiencing right now through history's telescope. Bright men. Smarter than many of their con-

temporaries regarding the Constitution's intent. They might be scratching their heads trying to see some balance to bring needed logic and reason to the nomination.

I have no inside info on Judge Barrett. I don't know who she is related to or who her patron has been. I've heard she's a hard worker and fair. She has a reputation for being tough and demanding.

I doubt she'd know how to fix a traffic ticket in Chicago.

That's the federal bench for you. Not a place to send a former alderman to work, or an unemployed ward committeeman fallen on hard times.

The federal courts are a place where everything's a big deal. A most serious place from sea to shining sea.

The Supreme Court is even more intense. More like High Mass at St. Peter's, Rome, than morning worship in your home parish. So the battle to fill any vacancy comes with all the drama, skullduggery and showmanship you might expect.

Are they really that talented on either side of the aisle? I don't know. Maybe they are. But then maybe they aren't. It will all be very romantic and bombastic, now, until there is real motion and movement. Not a lot the general public can accommodate except vote. Not for SCOTUS, but POTUS, and all the little print names of local judges that are included on the ballot. This is critical. More impactful than SCOTUS.

We've been quietly observing the disaster that passes for politics here in Cook County. You know, the political machine with only room for one female African American powerhouse. President Preckwinkle in one corner. Mayor Lightfoot in the other. That's what the State's Attorney's race is really all about. Preckwinkle wrapping her protective shield around Kim Foxx and her go-easy on crime initiatives. That's why the Cook County Democrats wouldn't support Judge Michael P. Toomin in his bid for retention. He blew the whistle on Foxx and her soft-pedal of Jussie Smollett [and everything else] and his phony assault.

Toomin called in Dan Webb as a Special Prosecutor. Foxx was left with egg on her face. Webb's

name still terrifies Cook County Democrats. When Webb gets out his magnifying glass, next stop is a jail cell. This is the energy that is galvanizing the election campaign of another Notre Dame alum, Patrick W. O'Brien, a former judge, for State's Attorney. Challenging the dysfunction of Foxx.

If Cook County voters ever got serious and went after the stink bomb of the Circuit Court, they could strike a blow for freedom more significant than any SCOTUS nomination. Just follow the trail and the credentials.

Of course many judges are sincere, true legal benchers. But no one gets on the bench if they do not play the game. The courts are the perfect place to dump a stupid lawyer who is politically supportive and generous. If you keep your mouth shut and your pants on, and watch "Law and Order," you can make it in the courts till lunch time.

But the appointment process that often precedes any election too often comes in the true Cook County tradition: 'Quid Pro Quo.' Latin for "Where's mine." The voting public lost the control of the courts to the party bosses long ago. It's hard to get all that back in the jar if you don't have an organized plan. But it starts with voting.

After his election to the papacy in 1958, someone asked Pope John XXIII how many people actually worked in the Vatican. He stopped to quietly ponder the magnitude of the question. And then said, "Oh, about half of them." A truthful reply. Think of that when you are voting. Or deciding if you will vote. You might not have a say in the screaming match that will pass for the Senate Confirmation hearings for SCOTUS. But you can certainly vote with wisdom and intelligence here in Cook County and make a huge difference. Maybe even scaring the politicians that you might be on to them.

*"Well, morning comes
and you're still with her
And the bus and the tourists
are gone*

*And you've thrown away your
choice and lost your ticket
So you have to stay on
But the drum-beat strains
of the night remain
In the rhythm of
the new-born day
You know sometime you're
bound to leave her
But for now, you're going to stay
In the year of the cat."*

CHICAGO CRIME: Last week's total, through Oct. 3, are 17 homicides with 77 shot.



Martha Smith Simpson

A LIFE FOR OTHERS: She cradled the drama of much significance in her elegant life, before her death last week at 78. Great wealth and the famed royal horses. **Martha Smith Simpson**, of Lake Forest, presided over the Tempel Steel Co. in Ravenswood, Tempel Farms and Tempel

Lipizzans. Active all her life in great institutions, she was up to her elbows in Lake Forest Open Lands, Gorton Community Center, Ragdale Foundations, Chicago Botanical Gardens, Rush Presbyterian Hosp., the Art Institute of Chicago, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest Country Day School, Sterling College, Forest Bluff Montessori, College of The Holy Cross, Boys and Girls Club, Dream Assoc., Brieland Food Bank and many other organizations close to her heart. Martha made a lifetime contribution to preserving the history and

FIX see p. 8

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KIWANIS CLUB OF LAKE VIEW-CHICAGO

"Together we can and together we always will serve the children of the world."

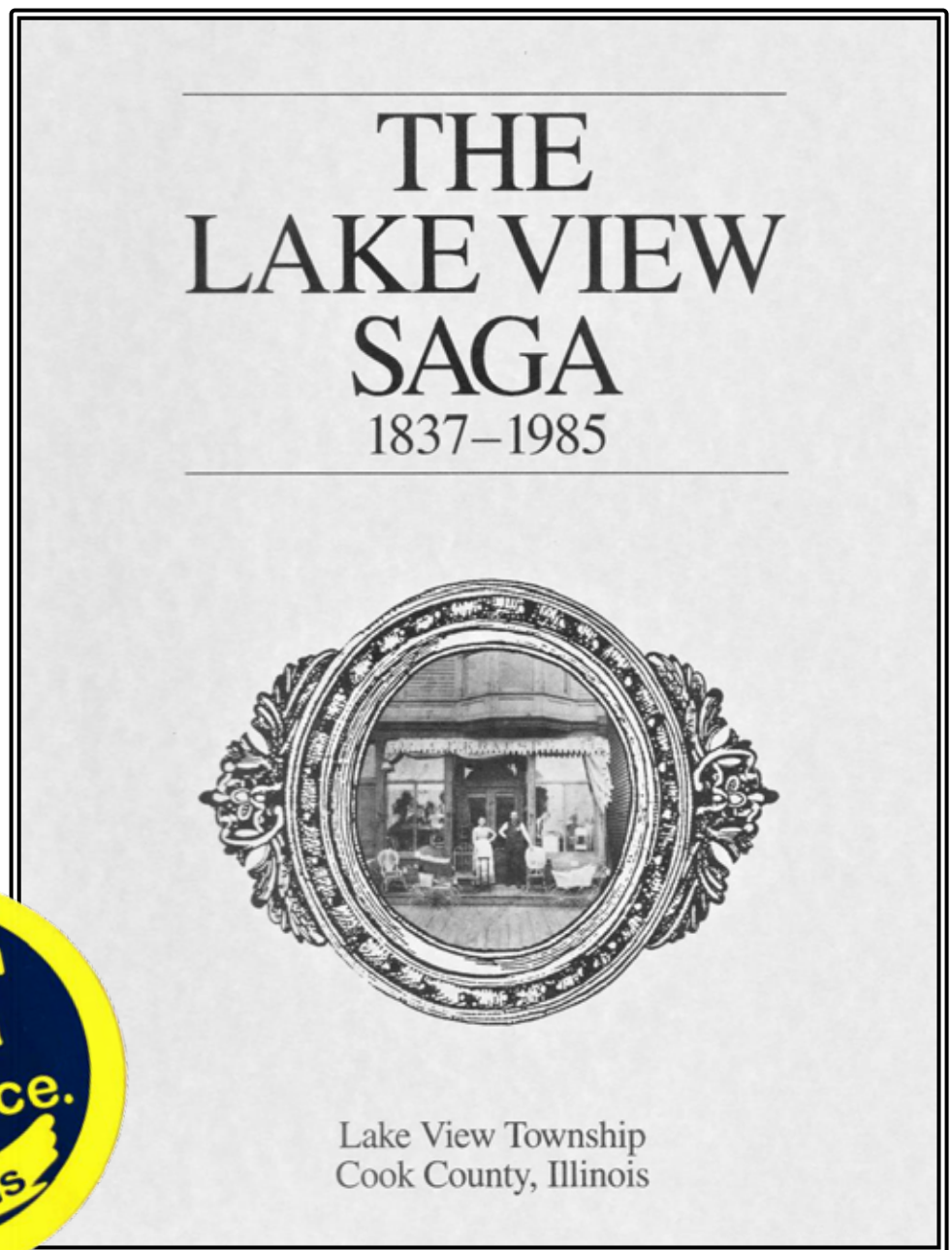
We are giving away free copies of *The Lake View Saga*, an assemblage of the neighborhood's history by Stephen Bedell Clark (updated by Patrick Butler). Pick up your copy at Armitage Hardware 1965 N. Bissell Street—donations to the Kiwanis Club of Lake View are appreciated! Contact Ron Roenigk (773) 465-9700

Since the spread of COVID-19 to the United States, the Kiwanis Club of Lake View has donated over \$20,000 to those in need of food, clothing, and emergency funds.

Your local Kiwanis Club has been serving our community since 1921. However, this is an unprecedented time, and the need is great to replenish funds and continue our support.

Please consider donating to the Kiwanis Club of Lake View. 100% of your contribution will be used directly for charitable works.

Donations can be made at Armitage Hardware, 1965 North Bissell Street.



Exclusive look inside Pat Butler's *The Lake View Saga* :



"The site of the original Lake View High School Building has known three construction periods. The original building was erected in 1874 by the Township of Lake View. A great tragedy struck Lake View on March 13, 1885, when the township high school was gutted by fire. However, classes were held as usual on the following Monday at the little Evanston Avenue Chapel."

Did you know?



"George Street was named after Samuel George, reputedly the man who killed the last bear on what is now the corner of LaSalle and Adams Streets."



The original occupants of Wrigley Field were not the Chicago Cubs but the Chicago Whales, a Federal League team disbanded with the rest of the league in 1915.

Landmark for Nordine Mansion moving through City Hall

At the Oct. 1 meeting of the Landmarks Commission in City Hall, the former home of noted voice actor and jazz poet Ken Nordine, 6106 N. Kenmore, received a recommendation for Historic Landmark status.

Ald. Harry Osterman [49th] now predicts that “this recommendation will move through City Council. I want to thank the Edgewater Historical Society for their advocacy in preserving one of the few remaining Cochran-era mansions east of Broadway in our

community.”

In July, Richard Logan and Angela Spinazze purchased the mansion for \$1.375 million, thereby saving the historic home from the wrecking ball.

Nordine’s former home on Kenmore was put up for sale by his family after his death in 2019. The mansion is the last single-family home on a block zoned for mid- and high-rise housing, sparking a preservation effort among Edgewater-area residents and preservation activists.

Seeking feedback for proposed N. LSD improvements

With plans to spend up to \$5 billion re-imagining N. Lake Shore Dr., the Illinois and Chicago departments of transportation are inviting the public to learn more and to comment about the proposed improvement coming to the portion between Grand Ave. north to Hollywood Ave.

Since the last public meeting, the project team has evaluated criteria and narrowed the range of alternatives to five finalists.

The next public meeting will be conducted online through an interactive website [https://www.nlsdinput.org/]. There are multiple opportunities to provide comments. The public

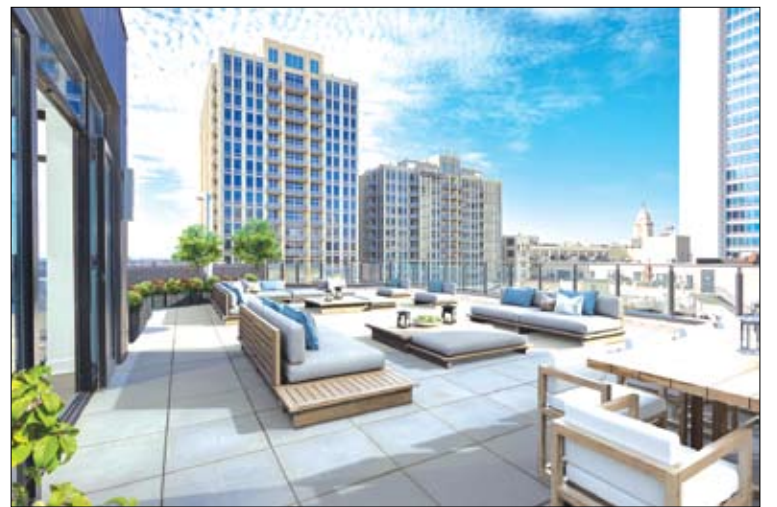
are encouraged to use the interactive map and ideas wall to comment and provide input on the proposed improvements.

They also want the public to complete the public survey on your priorities, and review and comment on the project exhibits.

Those inclined may sign up for a small group discussion with the project team. Registration is now underway.

Written comments received by Nov. 9 will become part of the official public meeting record. Anyone needing special assistance should contact info@northlakeshoredrive.org or call 312-561-3140.

Chicago leads nation in adaptive-reuse housing development



The Ronsley, a luxury loft development in River North, 668-676 N. Kingsbury St., formerly a century-old timber-framed warehouse.



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicago, the city of big shoulders, has done a remarkable job of preserving many of its vintage buildings and utilizing a concept called “adaptive reuse” to recycle the properties for residential use.

That is the finding of a new nationwide study by RENT Café, which reports that since the 1950s, more than 14,000 new rental and condominium units were created in the Windy City through the restoration of vintage buildings.

The survey noted that Chicago leads the nation with 91 buildings undergoing adaptive-reuse conversions creating 14,167 residential units. Philadelphia is second with 85 adaptive-reuse buildings totaling 11,266 housing units, followed by Los Angeles with 74 buildings and 10,569 units.

However, the city of New York with 18,488 housing units created in 73 adaptive-reuse projects leads the nation in total units created. Apparently, recycled units in the expensive Big Apple market feature less square footage of living area, so more units were created.

In the late 1960s and 1970s, thousands of apartment high-rises along the North Side, the Gold Coast, the Loop, the South Loop and the South Side were converted to condominium ownership. Since 1969, condo-conversion king Nicholas S. Gouletas

of American Invsco successfully converted thousands of rental apartments in dozens of buildings to condos.

Ironically, condo “deconversions” now are in vogue in Chicago. A 2019 survey by The Home Front column revealed that more than 2,500 condo units in more than 20 existing condo buildings have been “deconverted” and rehatted into rental apartments since 2016.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, vintage loft, warehouse and former hotel buildings were targeted for adaptive-reuse by developers

In the late 1970s and 1980s, vintage loft, warehouse and former hotel buildings were targeted for adaptive-reuse by developers originally as gritty, affordable rental living spaces for artists and young urban residents.

originally as gritty, affordable rental living spaces for artists and young urban residents.

Early loft buildings such as Cobblers Square in Old Town featured low rents, exposed brick walls, wood-beamed ceilings and posts, open floor plans, wood floors and industrial elevators. Later, in the 1990s and early 2000s, the luxury-loft trend became a boom.

Pioneering loft developers, such as Hal Lichterman, Michael Lerner, Keith Giles and Paul Dincin purchased vintage and often vacant former warehouses and manufacturing buildings near the city’s core and transformed them into thousands of affordable condo conversions.

Today, the pinnacle of the luxury loft movement can be found at The Ronsley, 668-676 N. Kings-

bury St., a 41-unit former 5-story florist’s brick and wood-beamed loft that is the Windy City’s first high-end, high-tech loft condominium. This spring, glassy contemporary-style penthouses on the 6th through 8th floors were priced at \$1.495 million to \$4.995 million. Units feature soaring 13’ to 15’ ceilings and up to 5,500 square feet of space of living area.

With few Chicago loft buildings left to convert and enhance, The Ronsley likely is one of the city’s last great ultra-luxury loft—truly an “endangered species,” according to LG Development Group, the developer.

Here are other highlights of the RENT Café survey which studied Yardi Matrix data to delve into the adaptive-reuse market in Chicago:

- Since 1950, 81% of Chicago’s adaptive-reuse apartment conversions were aimed towards lower and middle-income renters.

- Adaptive-reuse of hotels into rental apartments is big business in Chicago. Since 1950s, 46 hotels were converted to rental apartments.

Experts say this trend may continue because of the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the hospitality industry.

Buy more popcorn for home

You may want to buy more popcorn for in-home use now that Regal Cinemas has announced they are suspending all operations in the U.S. later this week, impacting two locations on the North Side.

Popcorn just got affordable again with Regal’s plan to close more than 500 locations Thursday, including Regal Webster Place, at Clybourn and Webster, and Regal City North 4DX and IMAX, 2600 N. Western Ave.

The local theater industry is one of the hardest hit segments of the economy as a result of the changes in entertainment consumption due to the pandemic.

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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Everything you always wanted to know about Edgewater for \$5



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

History. No matter how much you tear or take down statues, or try to erase history, it's our past and it's not going away. One great place to learn about local lore is the nonprofit Edgewater Historical Society, 5358 N. Ashland Ave.

Although the museum is closed due to COVID-19, in order to stay relevant and spread the word that its information is still available online, the historical society has been sending out blanket emails about some of its interesting exhibits.

When I received one about a virtual tour, fun facts, and online viewing of Senn High School's 100th Centennial celebration, I thought, wow, this is cool. I then realized the party for that was in 2013 and wondered why the museum would be sending that info out now.

"It's to keep our name out there," said founding board member LeRoy Blommaert. "The museum is closed because of the pandemic, so we're sending things out as a way people can become acquainted with Edgewater history without leaving their homes. We're doing a lot of different things."

The EHS was founded in 1988. Two years prior to that, a small group of the Image Building Committee of the Edgewater Community Council had gathered to discuss ways to celebrate the community's 100th anniversary. An oral history project funded by the Illinois Humanities Council was proposed and along with that a video project funded by the city's Dept. of Cultural Affairs and a culminating exhibit held at Berger Park in 1987.

The committee was able to get the project underway thanks to the efforts of community members, chiefly Blommaert (who didn't tell me this on the phone, I learned it on the EHS website.). Apparently, Blommaert had quietly worked on learning more on Edgewater history and published some of that knowledge. In 1980, he persuaded the city that Edgewater had a long neighborhood history and that it should be recognized.

In 1987, community member Kathy Gemperle insisted on beginning to form an organization to research, collect, preserve and share Edgewater history and promote the preservation of landmarks and historic structures. Many people participated in the forming and they were joined along the way by numerous others. On Jan. 23, 1988, 71 people met at the Edgewater Library to vote the organization into existence and many volunteered to be on the founding board, including Blommaert.



Senn High School

They held meetings at the library, instituted The Edgewater Scrapbook newsletter and planned walking tours. They purchased the empty fire station at Balmoral and Ashland (in 2002, they opened the site they're in now). Others stepped up to help. Since then, the task has been making Edgewater history known to its residents.

"Forming an association to collect, preserve, and share community history has a value for the entire community," Kathy Gemperle says on the EHS website. "For all of us it helps to give a sense of place and, with that, a sense of our time. Hundreds of thousands of people lived here before us and more will come after us. The preservation of our history and architecture is our gift to future generations."

Today, although the historical society does have financial reserves, it's looking to stay afloat. For an introductory offer of \$5, you can become a member through the end of 2021 -- yes, that's through the end of next year.

For your five bucks, you get the newsletter three to four times a year "with a lot of info in it," Blommaert said. "That alone is worth it, besides supporting a local institution."

In its annual operating budget, one-third of funding comes from membership, one-third from the spring benefit, and one-third from the fall home tour. The latter two have had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus, Blommaert said.

"We're operating on one-third

income but our operating basics have not changed," he said. "We can't sustain. We've built up cash reserves and we're still in a good position, but we don't want to lose money."

"We encourage people to join," Blommaert said. "It's not a big financial boost, but it gets people knowledgeable about the historical society."

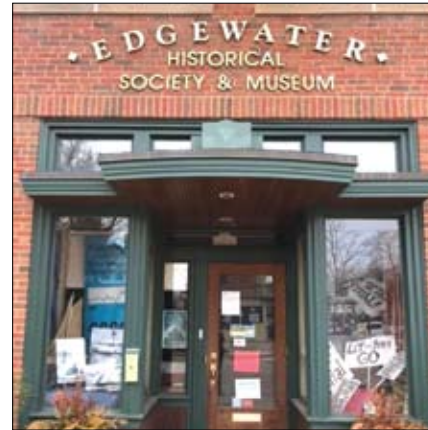
Besides the virtual Senn celebration, (by the way, did you know that writer/actor/director Harold Ramis; comedian Harvey Korman; Kukla, Fran & Ollie creator Burt Tillstrom; and, Clayton Moore, the Lone Ranger, are all Senn alum?) there are ongoing virtual museum exhibits. Those include Edgewater Beach Hotel: 100 years later; The Chicago Conspiracy Trial: One Juror's Ordeal; High Water and Hell: Rising Lake Puts Chicago on Edge.

There's also Kids Corner, Living Treasures, Oral Histories, collections archives, a wealth of information and history, and, you can even research your Edgewater home.

And check out these two, upcoming special exhibits: At 11 a.m., Oct. 10, via Zoom, will be, "The Ordinary Man Who Made Chicago Rational."

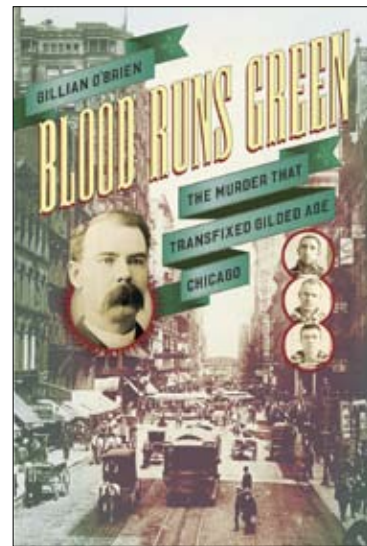
Learn about dedicated North Sider Edward Brennan, who convinced the city's business leaders and politicians to try to rationalize Chicago's street naming and numbering system, the Grid. While Daniel Burnham tried to make the "City Beautiful," Brennan strove to make the city logical.

Join noted Chicago writer/



The Edgewater Historical Society

Northwestern U. professor Bill Savage, who will draw on research for his next book (working title: "The City Logical," or



The book, "Blood Runs Green."

"Why Daniel Burnham is Way Over-Rated") for this story. The program is free to the public, but advance registration is required at bit.ly/ehszoom2.

And mark your calendars now

for 10 a.m. Oct. 31. via Zoom will be Chicago History Book Discussion Group -- "Blood Runs Green: The Murder That Transfixed Gilded Age Chicago," by Gillian O'Brien.

Read about how on May 26, 1889, 4,000 mourners proceeded down Michigan Ave., followed by a crowd 40,000 strong, in protest of what commentators called one of the ghastliest and most curious crimes in civilized history. The dead man, Dr. P. H. Cronin, was a respected Irish physician whose murder changed Chicago it is said.

Why? In the years before his death, Dr. Cronin had been a member of Clan na Gael, a secret Irish Republican organization intent on freeing Ireland from Britain's grasp. Cronin was concerned with the group's increasingly violent methods and suspected embezzlement, and he publicly accused the organization's leaders. He disappeared May 4, 1889, and was found 10 days later, naked and stuffed into a sewer at Broadway and Foster.

By the time of the October trial, Chicago was split over where Irish-Americans owed their loyalty. Stories of corruption, secret societies and gruesome details rocked the city and the story became an international scandal. This is all according to the EHS.

This program is a partnership with the EHS and Friends of the Edgewater Library. "Blood Runs Green," will be available at the circulation desk or can be sent to

EDGEWATER see p. 10

Andersonville garden swap Oct. 10

The West Andersonville Neighbors Together pop-up Autumn garden swap will be held noon to 3 p.m. Oct. 10, at the Community Gardens on Ravenswood and Summerdale on the east side of the Metra train tracks.

Those who wish to swap plants should label items, including whether the plants you are swapping like sun and shade.

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It's 2020, so of course we can expect an earthquake

Shake, register, drop, cover and hold on, Oct. 15

The world's largest earthquake drill will take place at 10:15 a.m. on Oct. 15, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging all families, schools, businesses and other organizations to register to participate in this quick and easy preparedness drill.

ShakeOut is an international event involving millions of participants from more than 40 states and territories and several countries. The goal of this "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill is to improve preparedness and draw attention to the earthquake hazards that exist in Illinois, across the country and around the world.

In Illinois, more than 50,000 Illinoisans have registered within the last two weeks. To date, more than 152,000 people have pledged to participate in this annual exercise.

"Fire drills and tornado drills are common practices in schools and at businesses, but not everyone knows what they should do in the event of an earthquake," said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "We cannot predict when or where the next devastating earthquake will occur, but we can help people learn how to protect themselves and reduce damage to their homes."

With people working from home and students learning remotely these days, the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) has developed toolkits for homeschools, individuals and families to utilize. As with any year, you can schedule

Shakeout participation

1. Register your home, school, business or organization on the website: www.ShakeOut.org/centralus. Once registered, your point of contact will receive important information about earthquakes and preparedness.
2. Build an emergency supply kit for your family. Talk to your family members about what you should do in the event of an earthquake. Secure heavy items in your home like bookcases, refrigerators, televisions and objects that hang on the wall. Evaluate your home for structural issues.
3. Practice "drop, cover and hold on," on Oct. 15. Drop to the ground onto your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck with one arm to protect yourself from falling objects. Hold on to a sturdy table or desk until the shaking is done.

your ShakeOut drill when and where you want it, whether that's at work, home, school, or through a video conference.

Why is this important?

Earthquakes can occur at any time, anywhere and without warning. While we often associate earthquakes with the West Coast, quakes can and do occur closer to home. Illinois is positioned between two active seismic zones, the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. Earthquakes were reported in Illinois in 2012 (McHenry County), 2010 (Kane County) and 2008 (Wabash County). In fact, an earthquake in any of our neighboring states could be felt by residents in Illinois.

An earthquake can strike when you are at work, at home, at school, or while on vacation. ShakeOut provides the opportunity to practice what you would do in the event of an earthquake.

Court shuts off case over 'increased danger' from lead water lines in Chicago

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

Even as City Hall has announced a new city initiative to help replace residential lead water lines, Illinois' highest state court has bottled up a class action that threatened to flood City Hall with legal claims over elevated lead contamination risk from the old lead water lines.

On Sept. 24, the Illinois Supreme Court overturned the ruling of a state appeals court, ruling a Cook County judge was correct in finding the Chicago homeowners needed to do more than simply claim the lead in their water was dangerous to hold up their claims that the city had harmed them and essentially illegally taken their properties.

The decision was authored by Chief Justice Anne Burke, whose husband, Ed Burke, serves as an alderman on the Chicago City Council, and had, for decades, served as chairman of the City Council's powerful Finance Committee, before he was indicted on charges of allegedly shaking down developers to steer business to his law firm.

Burke was joined in the decision by fellow justices Rita B. Garman, Lloyd A. Karmeier and Mary Jane Theis.

"In this case, plaintiffs have alleged only that the City's replacement of water mains and meters has made the proposed class members' property 'more dangerous,'" Burke wrote. "The concept of 'dangerousness' is not susceptible to objective measurement and, thus, cannot by itself be damage under the Illinois takings clause."

The decision ends the class action that has moved through Chicago courts since it was filed in Cook County Circuit Court in 2016. In that complaint, attorneys with the firms of Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP, of Chicago, and the Freydin Law Firm, of Skokie, accused the city of endangering the health of Chicago residents.

The case was filed on behalf of named plaintiffs Ilya Peysin and Gordon Berry.

The action centered on work the city has undertaken since 2008 to replace city water lines made

of lead, to gradually reduce the large number of Chicago properties that receive drinking water through lead pipes.

To reduce the risk of lead contamination, the city has long treated its drinking water with chemicals to react with lead and create a coating in the pipes to prevent lead from contaminating drinking water.

However, when coated pipes are disturbed by activity, such as city work to replace other water lines, lead can again enter the water. In their complaint, plaintiffs alleged the city's work led to elevated lead levels in their water long after the city completed its water line replacement work.

When coated pipes are disturbed by activity, such as city work to replace other water lines, lead can again enter the water. In their complaint, plaintiffs alleged the city's work led to elevated lead levels in their water long after the city completed its water line replacement work.

Particularly, they claimed the city heightened the risk of lead contamination by connecting pipes made of copper or galvanized steel to the lead service lines that enter homes, which causes more lead to leach into the drinking water used by those customers.

The plaintiffs asserted the heightened danger of lead contamination has amounted to a so-called inverse condemnation of their property. Essentially, they argue the city's actions made their properties worth substantially less, without compensating them for the harm.

The plaintiffs have asked the courts to order the city to replace residential lead service lines throughout the city, and pay for medical monitoring for city residents who may have been exposed to lead in their drinking water.

Cook County Judge Raymond Mitchell dismissed the lawsuit, saying the plaintiffs didn't suffer any "special" harm that also may not have been spread across the city.

However, on appeal, a split three-justice panel of the Illinois First District Appellate Court in Chicago sided with the plaintiffs. The majority said the plaintiffs "sufficiently alleged a present injury in consuming lead-contaminated water, even if they have yet to develop physical ailments linked to such consumption."

The city then took the case to the state Supreme Court, where justices said the appeals court got the case wrong.

The majority said the "increased risk of harm" was not sufficient to sustain the class action.

"Almost anything that a person does while living and working in the world can create a risk of harm to others," Chief Justice Burke wrote. "The long-standing and primary purpose of tort law is not to punish or deter the creation or this risk but rather to compensate victims when the creation of risk tortiously manifests into harm."

In the opinion, Burke said the request for medical monitoring was all but superfluous.

"Without an increased risk of future harm, plaintiffs would have no basis to seek medical monitoring," Burke wrote. "In other words, plaintiffs' allegation that they require 'diagnostic medical testing' is simply another way of saying they have been subjected to an increased risk of harm."

"And, in a negligence action, an increased risk of harm is not an injury."

The chief justice and the court's majority also rejected the claims related to inverse condemnation.

Burke noted the plaintiffs never presented any allegations that their properties — much less properties across the city — had lost value "because of any increased danger caused by the City's work."

And Burke and the majority said the plaintiffs all continue to use city water, through the "dangerous" lead service lines, while also presenting no evidence that the city violated any federal or state regulations in the way in which it has repaired the water lines.

In a footnote, the high court justices noted Chicago City Hall has recently announced new programs to help fund replacement of lead water service lines for qualifying residences throughout the city. They said they were unsure what impact those new programs may have on their decision in the class action.

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COVID-19 testing at The Clare

Living and working at a senior living community doesn't look at all like it did just over six months ago. In the age of COVID-19, residents and employees alike move throughout the building wearing masks, keeping their distance and limiting interactions as much as possible.

At The Clare, weekly COVID tests have also become part of the new routine. Whereas tests were hard to come by in the early days of the pandemic, testing is now much more commonplace, especially in settings with vulnerable populations.

Under the direction of the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) and the Chicago Dept. of Public Health (CDPH), The Clare initially completed a baseline test in May of all employees and health care residents in The Terraces. This guidance quickly evolved into completing tests on a weekly basis for both groups and making tests available to Independent Living residents upon request.

While weekly testing has certainly



been a tedious undertaking, it continues to serve its purpose in protecting the community.

"Regular testing allows us to detect the virus early," says Monica Rusboldt, Administrator of The Terraces at The Clare. "If an employee tests positive for COVID, we can instruct them to stay out of work and quarantine at home. If it's a resident, we can put them under quarantine and have nurses use the proper PPE so the virus doesn't spread throughout the community."

Since March, 18 employees and four residents in The Terraces have tested positive for the novel coronavirus. There have been no cases identified in Independent Living,

and the majority of cases have been asymptomatic. To date, The Clare has completed approximately 3,000 COVID tests in-house.

The Clare also has about 240 rapid tests available for use in instances where an employee or a resident demonstrates symptoms or has been immediately exposed to the virus, and quick results are necessary. These allow The Clare to implement the appropriate steps in a timely manner to prevent the spread of the virus.

"I think there is a sense of security that comes with knowing you are COVID negative," Monica says. "Residents feel safe at The Clare, because they see the efforts we're making to ensure their safety."

Testing employees, in particular, has been crucial to control the virus in the community. In a message about managing COVID, Executive Director Kyle Exline noted that employees presented the biggest risk of bringing the virus into The Clare, especially early on, simply because of their exposure coming to work and returning home.

And employees at The Clare have taken

the testing protocol in stride.

"I was surprised at how accepting employees were of the weekly testing," says Michael Plowman, Director of Human Resources. "They want to know whether or not they're ill so that they don't transfer it to their families or to the residents here at The Clare."

While weekly testing has certainly been a tedious undertaking, it continues to serve its purpose in protecting the community.

Of course, The Clare, like the rest of the country and the world, isn't in the clear quite yet. Weekly testing will continue until further notice, and IDPH and CDPH recommendations will remain the basis for all best practices moving forward.

"While our community doesn't have COVID cases today, that can change in an instant," Monica says. "It is still important to keep up our infection control, wear a masks, wash our hands and stay socially distant."

Stepping up to support a healthier workforce

The State of Illinois has undertaken a new virtual walk/run to help their employees continue their fitness goals while safely practicing social distancing. The Fall into Fitness Virtual Walk/Run will allow participants to choose their course to complete a 5K or 10K and receive helpful training tips like proper hydration, stretching and movement technique, all available 24/7.

Fall into Fitness is one of several on-demand resources developed by Health Alliance and CMS for State of Illinois employees and retirees to help them along their personal fitness journeys during the pandemic lockdown.

Fall into Fitness is free to all State of

Illinois employees, retirees or covered dependents. Between October 12-19, participants can walk/run on their own terms by choosing the time and place to complete the race.

"Staying healthy isn't easy, but we offer plenty of ways for employees and communities to succeed," Alison Jones, Registered Dietitian and Health Alliance Health and Wellness Coordinator, said. "It's even more important with a continued focus on keeping ourselves safe and healthy with COVID-19 and cold and flu season upon us. Making wellness simple and engaging is our priority. A virtual option helps unite our workforce across the State and makes it accessible to everyone."

Most unaware of potentially life-threatening skin cancer

Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma [CSCC] is the second most common cancer in the U.S., but three out of four Americans don't know what it is.

CSCC causes more deaths than melanoma, but only 28% of Americans know it can be life-threatening in its advanced stages.

CSCC is more common in people 65 years and older. Yet only 35% of people in this age group are familiar with CSCC, although they are more familiar than their younger peers.

A staggering 74% of Americans are not familiar with CSCC – a type of skin cancer that is also the second most common type of cancer in the U.S. – according to a new survey conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of The Skin Cancer Foundation. CSCC is more common than

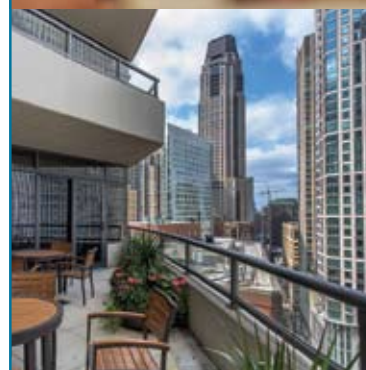
breast, lung and prostate cancer combined and is estimated to cause more deaths than melanoma. Yet despite these statistics, the survey found a surprising lack of awareness and understanding of CSCC among a majority of Americans.

The findings of the survey, which was fielded by The Harris Poll and surveyed more than 2,000 adults across the country, are striking:

- 42% of Americans have never heard of CSCC. In contrast, only 11% of Americans say they have never heard of melanoma. Only three-percent of people correctly identified CSCC as one of the three most common types of cancer in the U.S.

- More than half of Americans (54%) falsely believe melanoma is the most com-

SKIN see p. 10



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Volkswagen bus enthusiasts to meet virtually this month

A virtual event featuring information about the 1967 Volkswagen bus will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25.

“Saved From Rust” celebrates “The American Love Affair with the Volkswagen Bus,” according to promotional materials. During the virtual event, participants will see photos of a 1967 Volkswagen bug which was originally picked up by its American owner in West Germany. Attendees will look at old service records and discuss the unending, transatlantic love for these iconic German vehicles. An interactive question and answer period also will take place.

Event speakers include Andy Pierce, who will debut the resto-

ration of the 1967 camp-mobile; Oliver Earl, the owner of the auto shop where the bus was restored and photographed start-to-finish; Shelby Cole, a driver of vintage Volkswagens from the 1960s through the 1980s; and Josh Anderson, a mechanic and entrepreneur with 15 years of experience problem-solving in the world of Volkswagens.

There is a \$10 suggested donation for admission, but there also are options to register for free for anyone with limited funds. For more information call the DANK Haus German American Cultural Center, 4740 N. Western Ave., at (773) 561-9181.

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FIX from p. 2

continuing education of Dressage riding. Her spirit was large.

CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE: On Friday, Oct. 16, The Chicago Lighthouse will present the Flair Fashion Show co-chaired by **Sheree Schimmer Valukas** and **Sherrill Bodine**. The funds raised go for children’s programs for the blind, and for the visually impaired and disabled. A fun event for a wonderful cause.

PROUD PAPA: **Tim Ryan** and son, **Nate Ryan** (ABC News Sports anchor in El Paso, TX) headed home for a brief visit on National Son’s Day.



The Lodge’s Lynne McKeaney at daughter Lauren McKeaney’s Lincoln Park birthday picnic as Kim Gleason, joined cousins Becky and Alicia Zeman.

LA VILLE LUMIER: **Rick Barrett** returned to Paris that once was his home with babies and the thrill of discovering the City of Lights as a real hometown. Up to his old tricks on a typical Sunday morning in Paris, checking the weather from window, walking up to Marie Cantin Fromagerie at Rue Clèr marché to buy cheese, and then to the Champ de Mars with a picnic, watching the old Frenchmen play Petanque. Be still my heart.

TASTY NIGHT: Chicago journalist **Bill Zwecker**, who wrote this very column before **Ann Gerber**, recently dined in Highwood, at Longitude 315, nabbing the desert of the century. Love Bill.

GLOBAL SPINNING: **Stephanie Leese Emrich** tell us that tourism is a lifeline, as she observes World Tourism Day 2020, with the theme “Tourism and Rural Development recognizes youth and preserves cultural and natural heritage around the globe.” She is always expanding our world view.

CHICAGO DESIGN: **Sherill Bodine**, **Sherry Lea Fox**, and **Tracey Tarantino DiBuono** invite you to join AIBI and the Chicago design community on Oct. 29 for a Virtual Fashion Show supporting AIBI and the Chicago design community. All proceeds from the evening help support the work of the Apparel Industry Foundation honoring Bodine.

HIGH END GREEK: **Mark Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** say “Don’t overlook the desserts at Avil in River North. The Carmel Baklava Ice Cream is off the charts FAB.

BESTIES: **Julie Harran**, **Shelley McArthur Farley** and **Shauna Montgomery** dining outdoors and reminiscing of when their children were small.

BUBBLES: **Bobbi Panter** celebrates friends with style and bubbles on the ranch at a Clicquot evening.

CAKE AND CANDLES: The

usual suspects congregated in **Oprah’s** booth at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill for the Tribune’s former adman **Col. Paul Malarik, III’s** birthday where a sumptuous feast at which yours truly was a guest rubbing elbows with hostess **Lynn Graham** and real estate maven **Meg Nagle... Simona Garcia’s** birthday was quiet, but laugh-filled with pals **Pam Santoro**, **Alexandra Sino** and **Cristina Montgomery... Barb Bailey** with birthday girl **Lily Liu** celebrating the special day for the fabulous Talent Agency Owner to the Stars, at Maple and Ash, a perfect evening... **Julie Barrish** with her sister **Net Rom-**

inquit Guzman in Miami Beach at Faena not missing her birthday or their selfie... Bond girl **Diane O’Connell** was the hit of **Lynne McKeaney’s** (The Lodge, The Red Head, etc) Lincoln Park birthday picnic for her daughter, **Lauren McKeaney**. Diane, unable to be present, sent a luscious cake of butter cream flowers instead. **Kim Gleason** joined cousins **Becky** and **Alicia Zeman** to dig in... **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** put together a fabulous birthday bash at Marchesa’s upstairs for husband **Joaquin C. Brieva’s** 60th. The place was filled with dear friends at the table but also over 40 videos of family and friends from all over the world wishing “the doc” Happy Birthday...



Jennifer Sutton Brieva put together a fabulous birthday bash at Marchesa for husband Joaquin C. Brieva’s 60th.

NEVER FORGET: Remembering the great **Hazel Barr** and **Lynda Silverman** on their recent September birthdays. How we loved them. And miss them.

MYSTICAL PEAK: This week **Michael Dolan** with **Josh McIntosh** on top of Mount of the Holy Cross, high up in the Colorado Rockies, above the timberline of friendship.

HISTORIC SHRINE: Talented Chicago actor **Victor Salinas** with **Javier Andino** at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

HOMECOMING: **Deborah S. Ziskind** with dear friends **Ellen Silverman Garvin** and **Helen Stone Prince** at high school reunion.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM: **Candace Jordan** says a visit to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, should be on your to-do list. It’s truly life-changing.

DAUGHTERS’ DAY: **Sheila** and **Rose Lamb Gabler**, daugh-

ter and granddaughter of the painter **Matthew Lamb**, and wife and **Rose**, of the famed historic Chicago funeral family celebrate Daughter’s Day with a photo from their Irish home on the sea in County Cork.... Happy Daughter’s Day to **Joey DiBuono’s** twin daughters, **Disa** and **Darci**. He is so proud of both and loves having them help with the family business... Real estate man **Thad Wong** was transporting daughter **Hattie Rose Wong** when he remembered it was Daughter’s Day.

PUMPKIN EATERS: We have it on good authority from **Candace Jordan** that Jacks Pumpkin Pop-Up is returning to 1467 N. Elston in October. It’s so much fun.

FAIR WARNING: Christie’s **Steven Zick** at PingPong on Broadway. After a manic week, some mojitos and a ‘blanc de Chine.’ The motorized Buddha fountain instills a calming sense of relaxation and surrender.

FOODIES: **Tom** and **Jane Justic** having a wonderful evening with old friends, **Peggy** and **Dan Beyer**. Thanks for all the memories.

TOGETHER AGAIN: **Janet** and **Rodger Owens** had a great reunion at the Glen Club with treasured friends forever. Janet’s “little sis” **Cathy Tarant** and **Bill**.

THE TRIANGLE: **Barb Bailey** notes that fabulous friend, **Susan Wilhelm**, will be leaving next week for Clearwater, FL, so five friends got together at Carmine’s for a combination goodbye dinner and birthday celebration, followed by drinks at Gibson’s Bar and Steakhouse, a wonder-

ful time with **Judith Raye Van Horn**, **Holly Hedlund**, **Vivian Huskey**, **Jeanae Paul**.

MORE BAD NEWS: Finom Coffee, on Irving Park Rd., one of the city’s most unique coffee shops, where owners and chefs **Danny Speer** and **Rafa Esparza** served specialties spiked with Hungarian flavors (like hot chicken and goulash) has closed...also Fountainhead and Groundswell Coffee in Lincoln Square; goodbye to Cupid Candies on 95th St., a Chicago staple for 64 years, closed Sept. 27... Davanti Enoteca, La Fontanella and Francesca’s on Taylor are all closed in Little Italy... the Gold Coast’s Walton Street Kitchen & Bar is now shuttered... after 46 years Lawry’s The Prime Rib on Ontario St. is shutting its doors.

We have now sunk to a depth at which restatement of the obvious is the first duty of intelligent men. — George Orwell

tog515@gmail.com

Police Beat...

Three-time convicted gunman charged with pointing gun at police station

A repeatedly convicted gun offender and gang member is facing Class X felony charges for allegedly pointing a gun at the 17th District Albany Park police station Sept. 28. State records show the man is on parole for his third adult gun case.

Prosecutors said an on-duty cop was outside around 9:30 a.m. when they saw a man pointing a gun at the station from the driver's window of a vehicle moving down an alley behind the station at 4650 N. Pulaski. The officer broadcast a description of the car to other officers as it sped from the scene. A police surveillance camera recorded the incident and clearly shows a man pointing a gun at the station, prosecutors said.

Later on Monday, officers in the district pulled Cristian Puma, 27, over for driving without headlights, prosecutors said. The cops knew Puma was wanted in connection with the station incident and took him into custody, according to the state. But no gun was found in Puma's car or on his person at the time of his arrest.

Prosecutors charged Puma with Class X armed habitual criminal. He was paroled in March after serving most of a 6-1/2 year sentence that he received in 2014 for the same charge, according to state records. He previously received a three-year sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm in 2012 and another three-year sentence for being a gang member in possession of a firearm in 2011.

Judge John Lyke ordered Puma held without bail for violation of his parole. Lyke set bail in the new case at \$250,000.

The 17th District has been battling a sharp increase in shootings over recent weeks that is related to a cycle of gang retaliations.

Tobacco, booze targeted as convenience store robberies soar to record high

Convenience store robberies, which have traditionally netted only small amounts of money, are skyrocketing in Chicago as criminals turn their attention to something even more valuable than cash: the stores' high-priced tobacco and liquor inventory.

Robberies of convenience stores are up 100% in Chicago through September 1 this year, putting 2020 on-pace to be the worst year for such crimes in at least 20 years, according to CPD records.

The surge is particularly evident in some North Side police districts like the Lakeview-based 19th Town Hall District, where 22 convenience stores were robbed through Sept. 1. By comparison, the district saw just four such cases during the same period last year. Of all robberies in Town Hall this year, more than 1 in 10 has targeted a convenience store, records show.

Also seeing significant increases in convenience store hold-ups are the Central 1st District, which saw

16 cases through Sept. 1 this year compared to eight last year; the 17th Albany Park District, up from four cases to twelve this year, and the 12th and 14th Districts which saw a combined 20 convenience store hold-ups through September 1 compared to five in 2019.

Police reports indicate that, while the robbers do take the stores' unsecured cash, they are also taking large volumes of high-priced merchandise, particularly cigarettes and cigars. The tobacco products are easily resold on the black market, according to police sources.

Last week, prosecutors said a North Side man pulled off three convenience store robberies in Rogers Park in under two weeks this month.

Lamonte Suggs, 19, allegedly pushed store employees and swung at others as he went behind counters to steal cash and cigarettes from stores on the 1500 block of W. Devon and the 1200 block of W. Loyola.

Judge David Navarro ordered Suggs held in lieu of \$30,000 bail on three counts of robbery.

Police continue to issue business alerts to warn convenience stores when patterns emerge in specific areas. Most recently, warnings have been issued for the 24th (Rogers Park) and Albany Park police districts.

Photo of package thief car leads cops to suspect — two months later

Against all odds, a package theft victim's cellphone photo of the thieves' getaway car has allowed prosecutors bring charges in the case — more than two months after the crime was committed. Back on July 23, a Roscoe Village man saw two men walking out of his condo building on the 2000 block of W. Belmont. He thought the men were suspicious, so he confronted them. They sped away in a nearby vehicle with a stack of packages — but not before the resident took a picture of their license plate. He also filed a police report because a package he was expecting to be inside was missing.

The condo building's surveillance cameras recorded the thieves entering a mailroom to steal packages, prosecutors said.

Detectives ran the license plate number from the man's picture and spoke to the car's owner. That person reported they had just sold the car to a woman — and they gave the cops that woman's name.

So, detectives ran the woman's name and realized that she is a co-defendant in a pending criminal case with a man who looks a lot like one of the burglars who was seen on the condo building's footage. And the theft victim identified that man — Richard Castillo — in a photo line-up, prosecutors say.

Police arrested Castillo, 51, last week as he walked out of a liquor store on the 2800 block of N. Damen. Prosecutors charged him with burglary and Judge John Lyke released him on a recognizance bond.

According to state records, Castillo has previous felony convictions for theft, forgery, burglary, obstruction, and other crimes.

Rogers Park man shot while sitting in car

A 19-year-old man was shot while sitting in a car in the Rogers Park neighborhood Sept. 30. The victim was transported to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston in good condition, no arrests have been made.

Witnesses found the man with a gunshot wound to his right shoulder inside his car near Jewel-Osco, 1963 W. Howard around 4:15 p.m. Police determined the shooting actually took place a short distance away on the 2100 block of W. Birchwood.

Residents near the Birchwood address reported hearing three or four shots fired. A witness saw three men approach the man's car and two then tried to pull the victim out of the vehicle before the shooting, according to initial information from the scene. The group of men fled the scene on foot, police said.

At the scene on Howard St., seven bullet holes were visible in the victim's Dodge Charger.

Burglars busted while again breaking into Edgewater apartment building



Patrick Carter Douglas Stokes

Two men who burglarized an Edgewater apartment building in August were arrested Sept. 29 when they tried to break into the building again, prosecutors said. Patrick Carter, 43, and Douglas Stokes, 39, are charged with felony burglary and theft.

Surveillance video footage allegedly shows Carter, Stokes, and a third man entering the building on the 5400 block of N. Kenmore around 12:30 p.m. Aug. 5. Carter manipulated the inner door with a tool while Stokes blocked the view from potential witnesses, prosecutors said.

All three men then entered the building, went to the mailroom, collected boxes, and walked out the back door, according to the state's allegations. CPD distributed images of the suspects to local cops, and one officer recognized Carter and Stokes from previous contact with the men.

On Tuesday, police who responded to a burglary in progress call at the same apartment building arrested Carter and Stokes as the men tried to break into the complex, prosecutors said during a bond hearing. One of the officers recognized them as the August break-in suspects.

Stokes was ordered held in lieu of \$20,000 bail by Cook County Judge John Lyke. He has four previous felony convictions, most recently for aggravated battery of police in 2008, prosecutors said.

Lyke set bail for Carter at \$40,000. Carter's record includes felony convictions for armed robbery, aggravated discharge of a firearm, and other violations.

Felon turned Old Town street "into the OK Corral" during "straight-out gun battle"

A three-time felon is accused of turning an Old Town street "into the OK Corral" during "a straight-out gun battle" one evening this summer, said a Cook County Judge.

Brandon Brown, 36, was appearing in front of Judge John Lyke Oct. 1 after prosecutors charged Brown with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon in connection with a shoot-out in the 1300 block of N. Hudson that left one man hospitalized on July 18.

Police found the 35-year-old victim lying unconscious between two cars after multiple gunmen exchanged gunfire in the incident, which was captured on a nearby CPD surveillance camera.

Prosecutors said video footage showed two men — one of whom would become the shooting victim — emerge from a car that pulled onto



No biscuits for you at Tempo, 6 E. Chestnut. Inset: Patrick White.

Biscuits and gravy tirade ends with gun charge against man at River North diner

Tempo Cafe, the all-night diner in River North, serves just about anything a hungry man may desire. But they don't serve biscuits and gravy. And that, it seems, was a problem for Patrick White.

White, 34, is now facing a felony gun charge in connection with an incident that allegedly started when Tempo staffers told him they don't serve the rib-sticking Southern breakfast staple.

Police were called to the restaurant, 6 E. Chestnut, after a man became belligerent and started demanding biscuits and gravy from the waitstaff around 7 a.m. Oct. 2. When they informed him that they don't serve the dish, he walked across the street and started yelling at passersby, prosecutors said.

But the man returned to the restaurant and started demanding biscuits and gravy again. Hoping to win him over with an alternate meal, the staff provided the man with a copy of their expansive menu, which includes virtually every breakfast option under

the sun, including no fewer than 29 listed varieties of five-egg omelets. But not biscuits and gravy.

Unfortunately, as the man sat down to review the possibilities, a restaurant worker saw the butt of a handgun sticking out of his pocket, prosecutors said. The man was asked to leave the restaurant. He complied, and police arrived moments later.

Restaurant staffers explained what had happened and pointed cops toward White, who was about a block away. Officers found a loaded handgun in White's pocket during a pat-down search, according to a CPD report.

Prosecutors charged White with felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. They said he has a license to own a firearm in Indiana, but he's not licensed to own or carry a gun in Illinois.

Judge Arthur Willis on Saturday set bail at \$5,000. White went home by posting a \$500 deposit bond that evening.

Conversations with police

This month the Chicago Police Dept. Office of Community Policing [OCP] is hosting community conversations in each of the 22 police districts to get community input on developing their district-specific community engagement and crime reduction plans. In November, a second meeting will be held in the District to review the draft plan and gather additional input.

Those coming up on the North Side include:

- 24th District Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- 18th District Thursday, Oct. 8, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- 19th District Saturday, Oct. 24, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- 20th District, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

The Federal Consent Decree created a need for community in-

volvement in the development of district-level crime reduction and problem solving strategies as well as programming that is consistent with the principles of community policing. In response, OCP has supported Districts in the creation of Community Policing Strategic Plans which outline a District's core crime reduction priorities and community engagement goals over the course of a year. The plans were developed in close collaboration with community members, who shared their input and feedback during two different community conversations held in each District.

To participate visit <https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/district-strategic-plans/>.

the block around 7:30 p.m. as a crowd of about 20 people stood in the street and on a nearby sidewalk.

A gun battle broke out between the two men and bystanders. Video allegedly shows Brown duck down during the gunfire, grab a pistol from his pocket, and pop up twice to fire shots during the shoot-out. He then fled in a car, prosecutors said.

The chief of security at a nearby housing complex who viewed the

video allegedly recognized Brown because he is barred from the property.

Prosecutors said video evidence is not strong enough for them to charge Brown with actually shooting the victim. Nonetheless, Judge Lyke spared few words after hearing the state's allegations.

Brown "turned a street in the

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Man choked college student in Loop, robbed man on Brown Line

BY CWBCHICAGO

Prosecutors say a Park Forest man attacked a Columbia College student in the Loop and then beat and robbed a man aboard a Brown Line train in Lincoln Park before police caught up with him days later at a downtown CTA station.

The state charged Jamaal Dennard, 29, with robbery, two counts of aggravated battery in a public place, battery, and criminal damage to government property Oct. 2. Cook County Judge Arthur Willis ordered him held in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

An assistant state's attorney said the charges stem from three separate incidents that unfolded over the course of a week.

Just after midnight on Sept. 21, a 19-year-old female Columbia College student was walking with a friend when a man attacked and choked her near State and Harrison streets. The pair told police the man, who was leaning on a wall, mumbled something as they walked past and then grabbed the woman from behind.

He then put his hands around the student's neck and squeezed. The woman struggled to breathe and thought she was going to die, prosecutors said Friday. The man eventually released his grip and fled the scene. A Columbia College surveillance camera recorded images of the attacker.

Then, shortly after 10 p.m. on Sept. 23, a 27-year-old man was attacked and robbed as he rode a south-bound Brown Line train in Lincoln Park. That victim told police a man jumped him from behind as the train pulled into the Armitage station.

The offender shoved him to the floor, struck and kicked him repeatedly, grabbed his phone, and ran out of the station at 945 W. Armitage, he said. An ambulance transported the victim to an unidentified hospital for treatment.

CTA cameras captured the en-

tire incident, and footage showed the attacker's clothes matched the Columbia College suspect's, according to prosecutors. The CTA distributed a bulletin with images of the suspect to law enforcement.

Finally, last Monday evening, police responded to a call of a man breaking out the windows of a CTA Red Line train near 35th Street. Video from the train showed a man dressed in the same clothes as the Loop and Lincoln Park attacker causing \$1,500 worth of damage to the glass of a train door, prosecutors said. The offender was gone when police arrived.

On Wednesday evening, police arrested Dennard at the Jackson Red Line station after noticing he was wearing clothes that matched the suspect's, according to CPD records. During questioning, he admitted that he was involved in all three cases, prosecutors said.

Dennard's public defender told Judge Willis that he has a narcotics problem. Under Willis' bond order, Dennard must post a \$15,000 deposit bond to get out of jail before trial.



Jamaal Dennard

SKIN from p. 7

mon type of skin cancer in the US. CSCC is actually five times more prevalent than melanoma (and basal cell carcinoma is the most common type of skin cancer).

- 72% of Americans don't understand that non-melanoma skin cancers such as CSCC can spread and become life-threatening.

- A majority of Americans (58%) know advanced melanoma can be life-threatening, yet only 28% think the same about advanced CSCC.

Many people at higher risk for developing CSCC are not famil-

iar with it, some 40% of people living in the southern U.S. have never even heard of CSCC, but they are more likely to develop it than those living in northern states. and only 26% of men are familiar with CSCC, though they are three times as likely as women to develop it.

"Skin cancer conversations are largely focused on prevention. At the same time, 1 million cases of CSCC are expected to be diagnosed per year. So discussions on skin cancer identification and treatment are equally as important," said Skin Cancer Foundation President Deborah S. Sar-noff, MD. "Although CSCC is far

more common than melanoma, these survey findings reveal that it is virtually unknown to most Americans, and most have significant misconceptions of how dangerous it can be. This large gap in knowledge highlights the need to increase public awareness, including understanding of the seriousness of advanced cases."

"Advanced" is a broad term for CSCC that may have spread extensively or have resisted multiple treatments and recurred.

For more information on the survey and online resources on CSCC, visit SkinCancer.org/csc-survey.



Fifty percent of people won't vote, and fifty percent don't read newspapers. I hope it's the same fifty percent. — Gore Vidal

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EDGEWATER from p. 5

other branches for pick-up. Register at bit.ly/ehszoom1.

And one more thing. The deadline for the Edgewater Living Treasures Award is Oct. 15. The award honors people who have made significant contributions to the community and enhances the life of its citizens and recipients will be announced by the EHS at its Spring Benefit Dinner 2021. Check out the EHS website for more info.

As you can see, there's a lot happening at the EHS. Any support for this stellar organization would be greatly appreciated, to lend your support visit <http://www.edgewaterhistory.org/ehs/>.

Imagine... hearing 80 songs in celebration of John Lennon's 80th birthday. That's what's happening at 3 p.m. Friday at Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro, 3905 N. Lincoln Ave.

Catch Phil Angotti and band,



Phil Angotti

which will be 20' away from audience members. Bring a blankie in case it's held outdoors. Please don't forget to wear a mask and tip the musicians! And check out the Northcenter Chamber of Commerce's virtual RestaurantTour because through Oct. 11, restaurants in North Center are offering special deals and treats.

POLICE BEAT from p. 9

city of Chicago... into the OK Corral," Lyke said as he summarized the prosecution's complaint before ordering Brown held in lieu of \$350,000 bail.

Brown will be required to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a \$35,000 deposit bond to get out of jail.

Man charged with Lakeview carjacking attempt

A Near North Side man is charged with trying to carjack a driver in the Lakeview neighborhood this week.

The victim told police it happened after he pulled over on the 1500 block of W. Barry at 9:39 p.m. Sept. 29. That's when a man walked up, opened his driver's side door, and ordered him out. The victim closed the door, but the offender opened it two more times while ordering the driver to get out, prosecutors said Thursday.

After the third failed attempt, the offender ran away, and the victim called 911. Three surveillance cameras reportedly captured images of the suspect leaving the scene.

Police searched the area for a suspect wearing a bright white sweatshirt and found Kentrell Wyatt, 19, on the 3200 block of N. Lincoln a few minutes later. Prosecutors said the victim identified him as the would-be carjacker.

Wyatt is charged with attempted vehicular hijacking. Judge Charles Beach ordered him held in lieu of \$50,000 bail. Wyatt will need to post a \$5,000 deposit bond to get out of jail before trial.

Prosecutors said Wyatt had three juvenile adjudications during 2018: one for possessing a stolen motor vehicle, one for criminal trespass to a vehicle, and one for burglary.

His defense attorney said Wyatt "might be in the middle of some sort of [mental health] episode."



Kentrell Wyatt

Rogers Park robberies

Police are warning Rogers Park residents of recent robberies where the offenders approach the victim while the victim is sitting in the car or near the car.

In one of the robberies, one offender approaches the victim armed with a handgun. A second offender displays a handgun and removes

property from the victim's purse. In another incident, one offender approaches the victim with a baseball bat. A second offender displays a handgun and takes a purse from one of the victims.

As the offenders flee in a vehicle, the vehicle suddenly stops. One offender exits the vehicle and discharges a weapon in the direction of a victim's family member, injuring him. The offenders continue fleeing in an older tan/brown Chevrolet Trailblazer. Incidents include one 8:50 a.m. Oct. 2 on the 6900 block of N. Washtenaw Ave., and a second 8:55 a.m. Oct. 2 on the 7000 block of N. Rockwell Ave.

The offenders are described as one male, Hispanic, 20-25 years old, wearing a red hooded sweatshirt; a male, white, and a male, African American, 20-25 years old, wearing a mask, gray t-shirt.

Man robbed at gunpoint, woman's car stolen minutes apart

Police are investigating an armed robbery and an auto theft that unfolded minutes apart Oct. 5 in the Bucktown neighborhood.

Surveillance video was rolling as two men snuck into the woman's dark blue 2020 Lexus as she loaded boxes into her building's recycling bins on the 1600 block of N. Hermitage around 8:15 a.m.

The car was last seen heading east-bound on North Ave., CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. The 69-year-old victim was not injured.

A few minutes earlier, three men robbed a victim at gunpoint and tried to take his car on the 2200 block of W. Wabansia, according to preliminary information from CPD.

The official police report was not finalized at the time of this post, but the victim reportedly told cops that at least two offenders pulled out a gun and tried to take his car around 8 a.m. They didn't get the car, but they did get away with the man's phone, according to early information.

He told police the robbers were two black males dressed in all black clothing. One is about 5'-5" tall, and the other is about 5'-7" tall. The taller suspect reportedly had the gun.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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PLAZA from p. 1

building,” she said. “But, for the right deal and the right design. Right now, they are just taking advantage of the owners and the current deal is terrible, and the current design is clearly meant to enhance the commercial value of the building to the detriment of the residential value and living.”

According to real estate blog The Real Deal Chicago, real estate investor 11 East Partners bought the commercial space in 2018 for \$16.9 million from The Habitat Co. Wintrust Bank provided an \$8.85 million loan for the commercial space purchase. 11 East Partners LLC specializes in the development, acquisition and operation of retail and mixed-use properties nationally.

According to a statement released by several Association members, the Newberry Plaza Board of Directors “have been working for two years to put together a redevelopment project that would increase commercial space and especially State St. level exposure, by decreasing Newberry Plaza residential common element square footage.”

The statement claims that owners/residents were presented a webcast which “glossed over any details of the design, but it looked very slick.” Afterward, they were encouraged to vote yes with statements such as, “this is a deal of a lifetime,” and, “this is at no cost to Newberry owners,”

and “no assessment increases.”

The Association members say that their Board has taken the position they are not going to answer questions. “We can’t get info about whether this is approved from the city,” said Meyer. Some Association members and unit owners have shared their concerns to both the local alderman and City Hall.

“They are proposing the conveyance of the property – our estimate is 10,000 square feet of resident-owned common elements.” They believe it may be done through a 99-year lease.

The statement says that “many residents in the building are distraught over the financial benefit for the commercial developers and emphasis on the commercial aspect of the building, and the negative design impacts on the residents of the building.” They think the developers and the Newberry Plaza Board of Directors have put this project together to increase the commercial value of the building, to the detriment of the residents and residential value of Newberry Plaza.

“There is no money going to the Newberry Plaza Condominium Association. Our Declaration and Bylaws clearly state that the Board must get 75% approval for any real estate transaction they are conducting on behalf of all residents. That is why they are saying it is a “lease” – but Illinois statute clearly states anything over 30

years must be treated as the sale or transfer of land. We were asked to give up our mutually owned atrium and associated air space, which 11 East Partners and design company Gensler Design will develop into three floors of commercial space.”

Any future tenants for the site are unknown at this time.

The atrium at Newberry Plaza incorporates a nature element in the building and is renown in its design. It was designed to provide a respite from the city and brings a lot of light into the lobby.

In addition to the atrium, residents will lose most of the current lobby space, including much of their recently renovated lobby. The cost of that renovation was approximately \$400,000. While no real estate appraisal was given, the residents estimate the commercial value of this square footage is \$10 million.

Residents see they will lose what they know as a highly functional driveway that enables automobiles to drop people at the front door.

“This allows pick-up and drop-off for people with disabilities, the elderly, parents with strollers, travelers with luggage, etc. It also allows emergency vehicles to pull right up to the building. All of this will now happen in our already highly congested State Street/Bellevue intersection – delivery services, grocery, loading/unloading, car/taxi/Uber service, restaurant valets, etc.,

exposed to the weather on the street.”

The proposed design shows their driveway would be replaced with a long stretch of concrete ending in stairs down to the street -- the ‘new plaza.’

In addition to the atrium, residents will lose most of the current lobby space, including much of their recently renovated lobby. The cost of that renovation was approximately \$400,000. While no real estate appraisal was given, the residents estimate the commercial value of this square footage is \$10 million.

Residents also say that the proposed changes mean they will lose three functioning doors, and be left with only one set of double doors that will need to remain open for all access into the tower.

The residents are concerned that the mobility-challenged will have to navigate a long, narrow ramp with a significant incline and a 90 degree turn in it. “Imagine coming home in the snow and having to navigate this ramp up with your walker, wheelchair, stroller, luggage, etc. – or go up exposed stairs,” said Meyer. “One woman who uses a walker in our building was crying after seeing the presentation, and said, “I could never do that.””

MOODY from p. 1

erty for over a century. The space now contains a variety of buildings, sports and recreation fields and parking lots. One parcel, a nearly square-block soccer field, runs north of Oak St. and alongside Walter Payton College Prep. High School.

MBI reportedly wants to keep its main campus located between Chestnut St. and Chicago Ave., and may use proceeds from the sale to fund infrastructure and technology upgrades at the campus. No sales price has been announced.

Just east of this site is another JDL project, the two-tower One Chicago Square development across the street from Holy Name Cathedral. Letchinger told the Sun-Times that he’s several weeks from showing plans to community groups and, if all goes well, at least a year from starting any construction. Letchinger said he won’t seek any Tax Increment Financing, and he’ll include a plan for affordable housing in his proposal.

Questioned about his optimism after the riots and looting downtown, and fears over high density living in a pandemic era, Letchinger told Ryan Ori of the Chicago Tribune that the “responses have been more positive than I would have expected. I think everyone has a longer-term outlook than three months or six months from now.”

Moody Bible Institute was founded by Dwight Lyman Moody in 1886.

TALLY from p. 1

ed for the duration of their tour of duty.”

Meanwhile, the neighborhoods where generation-high murder tallies are being recorded will have fewer local beat cops available to connect with the community and handle surging violent crime.

Tactical team shuffle

Last week, McDermott sent another memo that restricts local police districts’ tactical team operations. That order, titled “District Mission and Tactical Team Scheduling,” requires those specialized local teams to start work no earlier than 4 p.m. daily.

Mission and tactical teams typically address local crime patterns such as burglary waves and robbery streaks. But, until further notice, they’ll no longer be able to address those problems unless they occur after 4 p.m.

The teams also respond to rapidly-developing situations like shootings and other violent crimes. But, again, they’ll only be

able to do that after 4 p.m. going forward, per McDermott’s order.

McDermott acknowledges in his memo that, since all of a district’s teams may be on the street simultaneously, there will likely not be enough cars for them to pair up in. So, McDermott ordered the units to roll with up to four officers per vehicle. Of course, having half as many cars on the street means half as much territory will be covered when teams are looking for suspects after shootings and other crimes break out.

Reverse seniority

CPD’s newly-formed community safety teams and Summer mobile unit, which form the backbone of the department’s anti-violence strategy, will continue operating. But veteran officers are concerned about those teams, too.

When the department disbanded its city-wide gang and saturation teams to form the new units in July, vacancies were filled by volunteers. And, when that didn’t produce nearly enough manpower, the slots were

filled by reverse seniority.

In other words, many of the cops assigned to the city’s potentially most dangerous anti-violence assignments have the least amount of experience on the job.

“It’s dangerous,” one veteran officer said. “It’s a big deal.”

The use of reverse seniority to fill specialized vacancies may have contributed to a high-profile police shooting on the Red Line earlier this year.

As the teams were being formed to address soaring CTA crime, two cops assigned to the department’s Transit Detail tried to stop Ariel Roman after he passed between Red Line cars at the Grand Station.

CTA passengers recorded the rest on their phones: Roman and the two officers struggled at the base of the platform escalator.

One officer is heard yelling, “shoot him!”

Roman and that cop stagger to their feet, both clearly winded from the struggle.

Then, for no apparent reason, the second cop shoots Roman from just a few feet away. Roman, injured, takes off running up the escalator. The cop shoots again, apparently striking him in his back.

The officers who were involved in that incident had less than three years on the job — combined.

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