

When someone does a small task beautifully, their whole environment is affected by it.

— Jerry Seinfeld

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Demolition reprieve for Cortland Street Bridge

STORY AND PHOTO
BY PETER VON BUOL

During a meeting last week with the commissioner of Chicago's Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] and city engineers, Aldermen Scott Waguespack [32nd], Timmy Knudsen [43rd] and Brian Hopkins [2nd] were told the 124-year-old Cortland St. drawbridge is repairable and repairs can be done within less time than the process to have its landmark status removed and for work to begin on a possible replacement.

The spokesperson for CDOT has confirmed that meeting and said the bridge will be restored in a manner which respects its landmark status and more quickly than if a replacement bridge had been built, instead.

"CDOT has developed an alternative rehabilitation approach that can be completed under the existing construction contract



The designer of the Cortland Bridge, city engineer John Ericson, had used London's landmark Tower Bridge as his inspiration.

while maintaining the bridge's historic character and addressing structural conditions identified during bridge assessments," said Erica Schroeder, spokesperson for CDOT. "We expect construction activity to begin by the end

of this year and the work to take about two years, which is significantly shorter than other alternatives that would have required restarting design and environ-

REPRIEVE see p. 12

Swedish Hospital part of health care merger

**Plan includes
12 local hospitals**

Swedish Hospital in Lincoln Square is part of a major merger announced Oct. 14 between Rush University System for Health and Endeavor Health.

With 12 hospitals, 46,000 employees and more than 400 care sites in the balance, the system will force broad changes to a network of care centers across Chicagoland.

Endeavor Health claims that a significant portion of their \$1 billion investment will reportedly be used to address "social determinants" of health and creating a

sustainable infrastructure to support the "underserved," while not defining who they think is underserved or what social cause they have in mind.

"Together, [we hope] to create a stronger, more connected health system that sets a new standard for how care is delivered and experienced across our communities," said Gerald "J.P." Gallagher, President and CEO of Endeavor Health.

Rush is a nonprofit health system that includes Rush University Medical Center, Rush University, Rush Copley Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital, as well as an extensive provider network

and numerous outpatient care facilities.

Rush University Medical Center is consistently named among the top academic medical centers for patient care by Vizient Inc., and a top teaching hospital. Rush University comprises three colleges: Rush Medical College, the College of Nursing and the College of Health Sciences.

"The system will embody and expand the foundational values for excellence, access and health equity, backed by a leading university that drives research and trains our future healthcare lead-

MERGER see p. 12



St. Laurence's senior kicker Evan Panther hits 43-yard field goal to defeat DePaul Prep 10-7 on Friday.

DePaul Prep falls to St. Laurence 10-7

STORY AND PHOTO
BY JACK LYDON

The DePaul Prep Rams (3-5, 0-3) had a chance to make a statement Friday night against St. Laurence (3-6, 1-2). But the Vikings just wanted it more and defeated the Rams 10-7 in the regular season finale.

Coming into the Oct. 16 game, St. Laurence had two wins and was on the playoff bubble. They wanted it more. More than DePaul Prep did. That's not the

whole story, but in that field, in those conditions, that may well have been the difference.

"It's been a rough year for us. We have had a lot of injuries. Lot of close losses. To get to this point and to close it out the way we did, it means a lot to us," said St. Laurence second year head coach Pat Swanson.

Even with the playoff backdrop, the story was the weather. Right at game time, weather rolled in.

FALLS see p. 12

Extended Outdoor Dining closing up Oct. 31

Drivers will get their parking back on Oct. 31 when the Extended Outdoor Dining program concludes for the season.

Since May, participating restaurants along several North Side dining corridors have been permitted to take over the roadway to operate outdoor dining patios in the curb lanes while keeping traffic lanes open.

The modified program, first introduced in 2024, supports local

restaurants while removing parking and maintaining traffic flow through the corridor.

Those areas are on Wells St., and Clark St. in River North, between Grand Ave. and Kinzie St.; in the Gold Coast on Rush St.; in Lakeview East on Broadway; and on Broadway in Uptown; Lincoln Ave. in Lincoln Park; W. Roscoe St. in Roscoe Village, and on Bal-moral St. in Andersonville.

Three months after prison release, man charged in armed carjacking near Lincoln Park Zoo

BY CWBCHICAGO

Just three months after getting out of prison for armed robbery, Benjamin Villanueva is facing new charges after Chicago police say he carjacked a couple at gunpoint near the Lincoln Park Zoo and crashed the stolen vehicle moments later, injuring four people as officers closed in.

Villanueva, 32, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for a 2020 armed robbery, but his time was reduced to six years under state law. He was released on July 2.

According to a preliminary Chicago Police Department report, the carjacking occurred around 12:46 a.m. Oct. 11, when a couple was sitting in their red 2020 Dodge Charger in the 2500



Benjamin Villanueva, inset, and the crash scene, including the hijacked red Dodge Charger.

block of N. Cannon Dr. A Jeep SUV pulled in front of them, and a passenger jumped out with a gun, police said. The gunman ordered the victims, a 47-year-old man and a 45-year-old woman,

out of the Charger. Both complied, and the carjacker drove away in their vehicle, according to a police spokesperson.

Moments later, officers on patrol spotted the stolen Charger near

Halsted St. and Belmont Ave. in Boystown. They began following it as the driver turned west onto Aldine Ave. and drove the wrong way down the one-way street, police said. At the end of the block, the driver ran a red light at Clark St. and struck a Toyota sedan carrying two 38-year-old men, according to police. The collision sent vehicles into three parked cars. A 28-year-old man and his 27-year-old girlfriend were also in a vehicle involved in the crash, police said. All four people injured in the collision were taken to hospitals in fair condition.

Officers arrested Villanueva in an alley behind the 3200 block of North Wilton Avenue. Police recovered a hoodie and ski mask that he apparently discarded while

fleeing, along with a firearm inside the wrecked Charger, according to the preliminary report.

Villanueva is charged with aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm, aggravated battery of a peace officer, and unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon. He is scheduled for a detention hearing on Monday afternoon.

Police records show Villanueva was also arrested for carjacking in 2015. He pleaded guilty to armed robbery in that case and received a 10-year prison sentence, which was also reduced by half under state law. His other felony convictions include aggravated battery in 2020 and aggravated DUI in 2014, according to Illinois Dept. of Corrections records.

Chicago's rap sheet, and we're not talking music



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

In some U.S. police jurisdictions autumn is the time to examine local "rap sheets," the accumulated collection of personal offenses that offenders have made by their breaking of the law.

National law enforcement data shows that low-level and non-violent offenses make up the vast majority of all arrests. The leading categories include simple assaults that rank highest with 1,018,220 arrests across the nation.

In Chicago, however, theft and larceny rank higher. Followed by battery and narcotics.

What I really find disturbing is that statistics say crime is more prevalent in Chicago than New York City, with shootings and homicides tipping the scales.

Chicago has a much higher rate of gun violence and murder. Rap sheets reveal Chicago recording 982 shootings compared to New York's 442 shootings. What is staggering about these facts is New York's population of some 8 million people versus Chicago's 2.8 million. And there are far less rapers in New York, more Broadway stars. Chicago needs some new showtimes.

We raise this issue realizing that currently we have no Superintendent of Police after the recent resignation / retirement of Larry Snelling. His career as a Chicago Police professional was filled with honor, effort, loyalty and hard work. The formula for irritating the 5th floor of City Hall.

It was a tragic misfortune that Snelling exercised the duties of his office under the low-level leadership of Mayor Brandon Johnson. Who can be surprised at the dangerous quality of "survival and discarded safety" in Chicago.

The Lori Lightfoot Legacy is in safe hands with Johnson running the circus.

In this writer's neighborhood, people ask each other whether anyone has seen a CPD squad car on any of our streets of late. The dismal record of public safety appears inconsequential to our lack luster, low-T Aldermanic leadership in the 1st Ward, as it is to our ridiculous incompetent mayor.

Of course no community is to be pitied more than the Gold Coast where you literally take your life in your hands to shop, dine out, saunter along the lakefront, Oak St., Bellevue or Cedar St.

Not everyone has a personal security force of 150 officers like our mayor does. Reports estimate the detail comprises between 100 and 150 officers, which includes personnel assigned to protect the mayor, his home, City Hall, and a dedicated personal bodyguard detail of about 20 officers, costing taxpayers roughly \$30 million to \$33.7 million per year.

In reports covering his administration, Rahm Emanuel noted that he traveled with a three-officer detail, which was scaled down compared to his predecessor, Richard M. Daley's setup.

How has the city's most exclusive residential neighborhood become a center for urban violence? How has life been redecorated now by hold-ups, muggings, commercial robberies, carjackings and thefts of such enormous magnitude?

How has Rush St. plummeted into the depths of thievery, mayhem, assault, purse-snatching and homicides?

Where is the protection for law-abiding citizens? Where are the visible ranks who saved us from the violence of Al Capone, Frank Nitti, Jeff Fort, Augustin Zambano and Larry Hoover? Where did the cops of our era disappear to? Why is our political leadership defending criminals over their victims?

Has anyone catalogued the repeated damage to private property in the neighborhood? Like the destruction to large plate glass windows destroyed by psycho stalkers hunting along the corri-

dors of Lake Shore Dr. Busting a display window to swipe \$50. Despite what our unserious mayor claims, these smash and grabs just keep spreading out to more areas across Chicagoland.

Who covers the cost of replacing all that broken glass? Have you noticed your rising insurance premiums of late? We pay.

Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass) was a violent state-sponsored riot carried out by Nazi paramilitary forces and civilians across Nazi Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland on Nov. 9-10, 1938. Is that where we're at with all our smash and grabs?



The 860-880 LSD Board of Trustees: Lauren Bakos, Thomas Leslie, Mark Boxerman, Denise Allen Dirk Lohan, Steve Lauberth, Gary Mitchiner and Noel Abat.

Then there are the assaults on rideshare drivers, taxi drivers and residents. And I get repeated eyewitness accounts concerning patrons of fine restaurants and bars who dine and dash, fleeing before the bill arrives.

More and more the avenues of the fashionable elite have been transformed into danger-packed zones thanks to the incompetence of local political staffers and the disintegrating abilities and lost opportunities of City Hall's leadership to alter the chaos and misguided management of the mayor.

Johnson's expensive "team" of incompetent sidekicks with the large paychecks are far from reasoned actors. That's their rap sheet. Now and forever.

Many of the best 5th floor staff members have now jumped ship and abandoned Chicago's most inept mayor.

There is one thing that might be able to save the city and even the keel from all the failure. It's called a primary election. And it will be here before we know it, Tuesday, Nov. 3. It's a chance to get to the roots of our 5th floor collapse. Before the February 23, 2027 mayoral election when we get to look for someone with a brain and a heart capable of lifting Chicago back to its place of American honor.

Could our Founding Fathers have predicted the low level of politics that would rear its head in Chicago political leadership two and a half centuries in the city's future?

While Chicago did not exist in their times, they absolutely predicted, anticipated, and deeply feared the low level of factional,

corrupt, and self-serving politics that can emerge in American municipal and national leadership.

In fact, preventing the rise of unprincipled political machines and demagogues was one of the Founding Fathers' primary motivations when designing the American republic.

And let's face it, Chicago has one of the biggest political machines on earth, that has lasted now over a century. Even the former Soviet Bloc finally died after 72 years.

But the Founding Fathers had an answer if something so ridiculous should happen. The very

election that we will share and celebrate on Nov. 3.

We can erase the incompetence. We can eradicate the blunders in the judgement of those who have little skill and even smaller abilities to sustain a great American City.

MALLEDUP: Edwards Realty Co. last week announced that it paid \$30 million for Block 37, located on State St. in the Loop. That's a fraction of the \$84 million CIM Group spent in 2012 to buy the five-story mall out of foreclosure.



Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

MODERNITY: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's two glass towers at 860-880 N. Lake Shore Dr. celebrated their past, present and future this fall. 2026/2027 marks the 75th Diamond Anniversary for this architectural masterpiece, which generations of residents and some of Chicago's most notable architects have called home. Mies' architectural designs were a space ship on Chicago's lawn. Continuing the Chicago tradition of creating architectural works of magnitude in the fresh design of the age.

The Board of Trustees for the buildings, currently utilized as a co-op apartment complex, hosted a celebration the evening of Sept. 19 by private invitation only, to honor the remarkable legacy of van der Rohe. Ald. **Brian Hopkins** opened the festivities, which included live entertainment, remarks by **Dirk Lohan**, the grandson of van der Rohe and a building resident remarked, "For 75 years, these buildings have inspired architects, residents and visitors from around the world, while remaining a vibrant place where people live their everyday lives."

MOCK: Jerry Seinfeld continues to show pro-Palestinian agitators how tough New Yorkers can be. During his Oct. 9 performance at the Chicago Theater, a screeching radical activist attempted to hijack the show, by trying to shout him down: "22,000 Palestinians who are children now are killed with our taxpayer money and you're making jokes?" As security hauled the heckler out, Seinfeld deadpanned: "I'm racist. It's a genocide; I'm into it." The audience went bonkers with applause. The king of comedy then delivered another left jab. "But I'm gonna find out how much your ticket was – and I'm sending it to Israel."

Showing stunning cluelessness, the footage was later posted online by the United States Palestine Coalition-Chicago and Anti-

RAP SHEET see p. 8

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City Council battles Mayor over control of CHA

Power struggle, mayor wants power over nation's second-largest public housing authority

Mayor Brandon Johnson has perhaps the least amount of clout of any mayor in modern history. He continues to struggle politically to even name candidates for jobs. Last week the City Council rejected a pair of CHA [Chicago Housing Authority] nominees Johnson put forward, dealing a major blow to the Mayor's efforts to regain control of the agency.

This is just one battle of many that seem to have gone on since Johnson was elected with the broad backing, and funding, of the Chicago Teacher's Union [CTU].

The CHA operates on an annual budget of \$1.4 billion for fiscal year 2026. Roughly 98% of the agency's funding comes from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], including Moving to Work funds, operating subsidies, and Section 8 housing vouchers. The fight over who gets to run the agency, and tap into those federal funds, has lasted for over a year.

The battle escalated after the CHA board voted 7-2 in March to appoint Keith Pettigrew as the agency's CEO, bypassing Mayor Johnson's preferred choice in for-

mer Ald. Walter Burnett.

Current mayoral candidate and former interim head of the CHA Matthew Brewer appointed Pettigrew to lead the agency in March, after Johnson had previously appointed Ald. Walter "Red" Burnett to take his father's seat on city council, while telling the former Alderman to take over CHA leadership.

Only the CHA delayed a vote to confirm the senior Burnett in order to wait on a response from HUD on whether the elder Burnett needed a waiver from conflict of interest rules. HUD later denied that waiver. Next up for the front lines of the fight was the appointment of Pettigrew, which happened just as Brewer declared his candidacy for mayor.

Aldermen have now invested months in denying Johnson's nominees to the CHA board almost unilaterally under the impression that Johnson wants to plant a board willing to can Pettigrew, according to reporting in Crain's Chicago. Johnson claims that all he wants to do is build more housing, but many believe he's just seeking power, money and control should he lose his next election.

Control of the CHA was typically a task mayors had before the inept Johnson and CTU took over.

It's the second-largest public housing authority in the United States, and the largest owner of rental housing in Chicago, with over 63,000 low-income families under their thumb. It is surely a political plum the CTU would like to control. But they can only do that by controlling the Mayor's Office as they do now. Johnson is now running for re-election with some of the lowest approval ratings of any mayor in history.

It is surely a political plum the CTU would like to control.

With rents in Chicago skyrocketing due to higher taxes and expenses, a stunted construction pipeline bound up in City Hall red tape and a proposed new renter's ordinance with totalitarian overtones, that leaves Johnson with few options to show any improvement in housing under his and the CTU's watch. Taking over the CHA may allow him and the union to attach their name to efforts undertaken by the Federal Government.

Combined, this matrix of imaginary power, trivial successes, missed deadlines, inaction, and general 5th floor mopery has created broad opposition to the Mayor within City Council.

Chicago still 2nd Rattiest City in the US

Orkin says local rats still not trying hard enough to be #1

STORY AND PHOTO BY PETER VON BUOL

For the second year in a row, Chicago has been listed as the second rattiest city in the United States, according to a spokesperson for Orkin Pest Control.

Last year, Los Angeles had stopped Chicago's decade-long reign atop the company's annual ranking. This year, Los Angeles once again tops the company's list.

Chicago's rats are just going to have to try harder.

According to Orkin's pest control scientists, persistent residential rodent activity has kept Los Angeles ahead of Chicago and New York City.

"There's no single type of city or climate that's immune to rodent pressure," said Dr. Shannon Sked, National Technical Director at Orkin.

"Rats and mice are highly adaptable and can thrive in communities across the country wherever they can find food, water and shelter. That's why prevention and early detection are important for homeowners, regardless of where they live. This is especially important with some of the changes in how we manage rats, today. Prevention, including robust mon-



Hidden alleys and subterranean networks that provide ideal nesting conditions for rats.

itoring, sound facilities exclusion [of rats] and sanitation, is relied on as the key element in sound rodent management programs," said Sked.

In 2024, a spokesperson for Orkin had told this newspaper that Chicago's consistently high ranking has been driven by its unique urban infrastructure, including an abundance of hidden alleys and subterranean networks that provide ideal nesting conditions. She added its rankings reflect the volume of new pest control treatments performed by Orkin rather

RATTIEST see p. 9

ARIS F. YANIBAS RUNS FOR ILLINOIS SENATE TO STOP THE PLUNDER

For 250 years Americans live with the illusion that we live in a democracy with equality for all American citizens. Unfortunately, the perfidious and avaricious Founding Fathers did not intend to create a democracy with equality for all Americans.

They deliberately and with malice aforethought invented a democracy for the American plutocrats of the top economic ruling class to eternally plunder the working class.

They created the USA for the sole benefit of themselves and for their descendants. The harsh reality was exposed in 2022 by California professor Robert Ovetz in his iconoclastic book, "We the Elites, Why the U.S. Constitution Serves the Few."

After reading this illuminating book, I was inspired to analyze how the American ruling class privatizes the national wealth and plunders the working class. I sought to explore why the rich prosper and the workers struggle to survive.

I discovered that the workers have no protection because the top 10% own both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The working class does not own the Democratic Party. If we are to own the Democratic Party, we must expel from the Democratic Party the DINO (Democrats In Name Only) who pollute the purity of the working-class movement and sabotage the progress of the workers.

We do not need the anti-democracy DINO to create a powerful working-class Democratic Party. We have millions of educated workers with the capabilities to dismantle peacefully the corrupt system that governs the USA for 250 years.

After exposing the culprits as the top economic 10% who plunder the wealth produced by the workers, I have devised

two viable solutions to curtail the growing income and wealth inequality between the exploiters and the exploited. I hope to institutionalize economic justice for the 90%.

First, I recommend a reduction of the plunder by creating competing government institutions without depriving the plutocrats of their existing wealth which is protected by the slaveowner U.S.A. Constitution 5th Amendment and also by the capitalist Illinois Constitution.

As a free people we can create an Illinois state bank with all the interest payments and the profits going to the Illinois state treasury for the benefit of all Illinois citizens.

Second, we can create an Illinois state insurance agency that collects all insurance premiums for cars, homes, etc. exclusively for the benefit of all Illinois citizens and not for the idle rich.

Third, I propose the creation of an Illinois Dept. of Public Works without private contractors, private advisors, lawyers, engineers and consultants. The Illinois state agency will be managed and operated by qualified Illinois civil servants who will enjoy lifetime job security, good salaries, six weeks paid vacations and generous pensions for the elderly and disabled.

Exclusion of private contractors from government projects will save Illinois taxpayers vast sums of money that now enrich the greedy contractors and their silent partners in crime, the corrupt politicians who earn sub rosa tax-free wealth.

The second economic weapon in my arsenal of class warfare for the benefit

of the Illinois working class citizens pertains to taxation. Although we cannot legally tax the plutocrats and the leisure class parasites on their existing plundered wealth and their accumulated financial assets, we can legally tax them on their future incomes and inheritance.

I propose a 100% income tax on every individual, corporation, LLC, trust, partnership, NGO and private educational secular or religious institution that earns more than one million dollars net in any one year.

As for death taxes, I propose a one-time 100% inheritance tax on every individual, institution, trust, estate and family that inherits more than \$5 million.

For Illinois homeowners and real estate owners, the most desirable proposal I recommend is to abolish all real estate taxes. This most unfair Illinois tax forces the poor to lose their homes and is the most cruel of all regressive taxes.

The other regressive taxes are the gasoline taxes, the sales taxes, etc. All these must be abolished and must be replaced by one fair progressive income tax that taxes billionaires like our DINO governor, J.B. Pritzker far more than it taxes the low-income wage earners.

Finally, we must fight fire with fire against the greedy real estate tycoons, the rich apartment owners and the wealthy merchants. They enjoy unchallenged arbitrary power to decide rents and to decide the price of the food we eat and the clothing we wear, etc. The same unrestrained power is enjoyed by colleges and universities.

To fight fire with fire we must have an Illinois legislature that will abolish



real estate taxes, and will strictly control rents, gasoline prices, food prices, college tuitions, credit card interest and utilities.

I am not launching a temporary political campaign. I am embarking on a long-term political movement to make America the working-class democracy that the elitist and unscrupulous Founding Fathers intended USA never to become. Because, after enduring 250 years of exploitation, the working class deserves to liberate itself from the top 10% plunderers who feast on the fruits of their labor.

I am a proud third generation Chicagoan running as a write-in independent Democratic candidate for the office of Illinois State Senator for the 8th Senatorial District in the November 2026 general election. The 8th District runs across the North Side and the Northwest Side of Chicago.

Whether you vote in the 8th District or not, my campaign is for your benefit. I need your financial support to publish and distribute my political message throughout the 8th District of Illinois for the November 2026 general election.

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Lawmakers weigh voter-guided Chicago charter

BY SEAN READ
The Center Square

A proposal being weighed in the Illinois House would allow Chicago to create its own city charter, which the lawmaker behind it said could simplify many of the complexities that have led to fiscal and other governmental issues in the city.

North Side State Rep. Kam Buckner [26th], described his legislation, the Municipal Home Rule Charter Act, as a bill that allows the city to create a constitution-style document for the city – which is one of the only major U.S. cities to not have one.

He said it provides a structure that would streamline the city’s government and give voters a say in its creation.

“It does not decide how power should be divided between the mayor and the city council. It does not decide what our budget process should look like. It does not dictate ethics rules, public safety policy, labor policy, education policy, or tax policy,” Buckner said. “The people of Chicago can have a serious conversation about

how their city government should be organized and ultimately [the bill] allows them to decide for themselves.”

The city’s governmental structure is currently guided primarily by state laws passed in Springfield and ordinances passed by aldermen in the city, along with unwritten tradition.

Buckner’s bill was brought back up for the first time publicly since April during an out-of-session hearing by the House Executive Committee on Oct. 13.

Joe Ferguson, president of the non-partisan Civic Federation, said that the retrospectively unpopular fiscal decisions could have been avoided by the govern-

ment, and the charter could create more responsibility among the government.

“What does it mean for Chicago to have no charter? It means that there is no coherent, enforceable structure to the way government works here. Inadequate transparency, fractionalist politics and almost constant fiscal crises are just some of the issues that haunt Chicago,” Ferguson said.

He noted the city’s sale of its parking meters for \$1.15 billion in 2008 could’ve been more thoroughly scrutinized or rejected if the city had a charter creating a stronger system of independent fiscal analysis for the council.

State Rep. Theresa Mah [24th],

asked what the point of the process is when there are already guiding laws and ordinances in the books.

Ferguson explained a charter would be easier to enforce.

“State law, municipal ordinance, customary practice absolutely is the case. But there is one broad distinction, and then I’ll go into the particulars, they’re unenforceable,” Ferguson said. “The mayor is the equivalent of the president and the speaker of the house. But customary practice and actual rules and the law have the mayor presiding over the council.”

He explained that many of the roles providing oversight to committees of the council are selected

directly by the mayor.

A charter, under the proposal, would be written by 10 charter commissioners who would be chosen by Chicago voters in a nonpartisan election. The 10 members would select another member to come in and serve as the chair – a total of 11 members.

Buckner said the group wouldn’t have final say over the charter, as it would again be left up to voters.

“Any proposed charter would go before Chicago voters at the Nov. 2030 general election and would take effect only if a majority of voters approve it,” Buckner said.

Businesses use RICO against alleged litigation abuses

BY JIM TALAMONTI AND CHRIS WADE
The Center Square

Companies are turning to the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act [RICO] to fight alleged litigation fraud.

The federal RICO law was aimed at organized crime and subsequently used in political corruption cases in Chicago and Illinois. RICO became U.S. federal law on Oct. 15, 1970, reshaping how authorities prosecuted the vast and systemic organized crime in Chicago, the local mob and criminal networks.

Before 1970, prosecuting top-tier local crime was difficult because bosses rarely committed crimes directly, often forcing the government to rely on tax evasion charges like the historical case against Al Capone. Before RICO, prosecutors could only charge individual mobsters or foot soldiers for specific, isolated crimes.

RICO allowed the government to prosecute high-ranking bosses in Chicago who ordered or benefited from crimes without directly committing them.

A report by The American Tort Reform Assoc. [ATRA] said businesses and insurers have filed nearly 300 RICO lawsuits since 2024, claiming that organized fraud rings allegedly involve law firms, litigation funders, medical providers and others.

Phil Melin, executive director of Illinois Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, said different entities allegedly worked together to fraudulently extract litigation settlements.

“It’s kind of a counterattack, but these businesses have filed lawsuits against some of these abusive law firms and have said, ‘Listen, these guys are kind of like organized crime,’” said Melin.

ATRA Vice President and Counsel Lauren Sheets Jarrell said the report flagged asbestos

cases in Illinois.

“These patients were unable to recall where they were exposed to asbestos or how they may have come in contact with it. They were coached on what to say and to perjure themselves,” Sheets Jarrell said.

Courts dismissed about 96% out of more than 400 cases against one manufacturer.

“When you have courts filled up with 430 frivolous lawsuits on bogus claims, that puts everybody else, like legitimately harmed people or people who need contract disputes solved or whatever the legitimate things are, they have to wait longer,” Melin said.

Melin said Illinoisans pay an estimated annual tort tax of \$2,000.

“That’s why your insurance keeps going up every year, your car insurance, your property insurance, everything goes up. That’s the tort tax that you’re paying because we have a state that tolerates and encourages lawsuit

abuse,” Melin said.

Melin said property and casualty insurance rates decreased in Florida after the state implemented tort reform.

Sheets Jarrell said the RICO cases remain in process, but she hopes Illinois courts will take a serious look.

Madison, St. Clair and Cook counties together hold the #7 spot on American Tort Reform Foundation’s 2025-2026 Judicial Hellholes list. Madison and St. Clair ranked first and second for the most asbestos filings in 2025. Cook County was #5.

Sheets Jarrell said the report did not flag Illinois for alleged cases involving law firms, medical providers and immigrants.

“We’ve certainly seen that as the case in New York, where some of these immigrants have been targeted to do staged trip-and-fall accidents or construction accidents, but we have not seen that in Illinois,” Sheets Jarrell said.

Byline Bank named ‘Best Banks to Work For’

Byline Bank, formerly North Community Bank, has been named one of the 2026 Best Banks to Work For by American Banker. The award recognizes Byline’s commitment to workplace practices that prioritize employee engagement, career development, and the overall well-being of its more than 1,000 employees.

North Community Bank, and later Byline Bank, was – and continues to be – integral to this newspaper’s founding and success.

The annual program is conducted by American Banker in partnership with Best Companies Group. Participating banks are evaluated through a review of

workplace policies, practices and benefits, as well as a confidential employee survey covering areas such as leadership and planning, work environment, pay and benefits, and training and development.

“This recognition is especially meaningful because employee feedback is a central part of the evaluation,” said Dana Rose, Chief Human Resources Officer at the bank. “We are focused on creating a workplace where employees feel supported, connected and able to build meaningful careers. This honor reflects the contributions of our employees and the culture they help shape every day.”

Byline Bank is a Chicago-based commercial and community bank that traces its roots to 1914. The first main office of North Community Bank (Byline Bank) was located at 2335 N. Clark St. The institution was established on March 1, 1972, under the name North Community State Bank.

In 1978 the North Community Bank was purchased by Peter and Paula Fasseas, who resided in Lincoln Park and the Gold Coast. The Fasseas family expanded the business over the next three decades, turning it into the largest privately held bank group in Illinois, which eventually encompassed more than 90 neighborhood branches operating under

six distinct community names.

It was through this bank, and the Fasseas family that Pets Are Worth Saving [PAWS Chicago] was created. Paula Fasseas remains with PAWS to this day.

In 2009 the bank accepted Troubled Asset Relief Program due to the mortgage default crisis during the 2008-11 federal banking crisis. Then in 2013 the bank was recapitalized by BXM Holdings. By 2015 it was renamed Byline Bank.

Today its leadership includes Roberto R. Herencia, Executive Chairman and CEO, and Alberto Paracchini, President/CEO of Byline Bank.

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This newspaper needs your help

This newspaper vs Sudler Property Mngt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Protecting Renter Ordinance flaws hurt affordability



The Home Front
by Don DeBat

Mayor Brandon Johnson's "Protecting Renters Ordinance" [PRO] aims to rewrite landlord-tenant rules in Chicago in an effort to supposedly strengthen tenant protections and housing stability.



Mayor Brandon Johnson

However, the proposed PRO ordinance is "flawed and actually hurts affordability" by adding costs and restrictions for landlords, according to an expert analysis by Illinois Policy Institute [IPI], a non-profit taxpayer-research organization.

An earlier version of PRO would have required landlords to pay tenants thousands of dollars for declining to renew a lease. However, the apartment industry has lobbied hard to have that broad mandate removed from the proposed ordinance.

A competing ordinance, the "Fair and Accountable Illinois Rental Ordinance" [FAIR], backed by Ald. Gilbert Villegas [36th], and a group of other Aldermen, also is before the City Council. Votes on both proposals have been delayed to give the two sides more time to find common ground.

Apartment industry critics say there is a sweeping regulatory movement underway by Mayor Johnson and other Democratic Socialists to take away private property rights from landlords, and give excessive protection to renters.

Mayor Johnson's PRO scheme seeks to update the city's 40-year-old "Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance" [RLTO], which oversees the legal rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords.

The truth is, the Chicago Assn. of Realtors' standard apartment lease already is so loaded with renter protections it weighs in at a hefty 37 pages with the 2026 addition of four pages to protect tenants from domestic violence and abuse. Currently, Chicago has one of the most anti-landlord ordinances in the nation.

Three flaws in PRO Ordinance

According to the IPI, the revised PRO plan still raises the following three major concerns for Chicagoans who want more

rental housing and fewer barriers to providing it:

- Restrictions on how owners charge costs. The PRO proposal's fee rules permit only limited and specified charges beyond rent.

PRO caps an application fee at the lesser of processing costs, or \$20, and prohibits a move-in fee. The ordinance also would limit security deposits to one month's rent. Lower upfront charges sound appealing to renters. Yet credit reporting and background checks, along with prior occupancy screening, preparing a unit for a new tenant and covering potential damage still costs.

- **Landlord horror stories abound.** This writer believes landlords and major apartment management groups need to clearly explain the real costs of renting. For example, a \$500 non-refundable move-in fee barely covers half of the cost of a professional cleaning and repainting after a former tenant moves out.

A \$50-a-month "pet rent" fee may not cover the damage caused by pets. One landlord recently paid \$520 to repair window screens destroyed by cats. Another noted that unclean cat boxes left for months on hardwood floors left odor and stains, requiring floor refinishing at \$800 per room.

Plumbing issues abound, especially in older walk-up buildings. The most common problem is human hair plugging up shower drains.

Animal hair from washing pets in the bathtub also plugs drains. Plumbers typically charge \$150 to \$250 per trip to rod a drain.

One renter pushed whole, rotten celery stalks down a kitchen sink disposal, jamming it and sending chopped celery through the pipes into the adjoining bathroom sink. A veteran plumber's advice: Remove all garbage disposals. Use removable drain screens instead.

Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies reports that capping upfront costs can lead to higher monthly rent, according to the IPI.

The Federal Trade Commission also describes larger security deposits as one response landlords use to deal with an applicant's weak credit score. Restricting the ways an owner can recover those costs could make renting to an applicant with a limited credit history less attractive.

- **Rental registries an annual obligation?** Under one provision, owners would have to register each rental unit every year and report information including its occupancy status, monthly rent and ownership details.

The registry would identify owners and combine rental information with inspection and violation records on a searchable website to support oversight and enforcement. Landlords would be charged an an-

nual fee of \$20, \$40 or \$60 for most units, depending on the building size.

Owner-occupied buildings of six or fewer units would be exempt from the fee but not from registration. Violations could bring fines per unit and per day.

A registry might seem to simply help the city identify owners and inspect problem properties. However, tenants already can report building violations by calling 311 or using CHI311, which offers online



Ald. Gilbert Villegas

and app-based reporting, and seek help through the Renter's Rights Hotline. Inspection and violation records are searchable, while Census estimates provide market-level rent and vacancy information.

PRO goes further by collecting extensive information and charging recurring fees - i.e., taxes - across the rental market. For a small "Ma and Pa" owner, that adds an annual tax and another opportunity for a costly error.

The IPI says the City Council should show why the information already available to city departments is insufficient before imposing a new reporting system on every rental unit and landlord.

- **Owner's duties after major repairs.** Landlords already must honor the agreed rent during a fixed-term lease. PRO's "right to return" provision would also give eligible tenants displaced by certain code-compliance activities—including substantial repairs that cannot be done while a unit is occupied—the option to return when the

unit is ready.

A returning tenant's rent would have to be the same as when they left, under a lease containing materially the same terms and conditions. PRO does not specifically mandate a duration for a new lease or say the original term restarts on the return date.

The truth is, the Chicago Assn. of Realtors' standard apartment lease already is so loaded with renter protections it weighs in at a hefty 37 pages with the 2026 addition of four pages to protect tenants from domestic violence and abuse.

What happens if the original lease expires during repairs? This needs clarification. Tenants should not lose their homes because an owner makes necessary repairs. However, landlords must continue to meet their legal-repair obligations. And, they also must meet financial obligations to their lender.

However, the IPI says preventing an owner from adjusting rent after the original lease expires to help cover substantial repair costs could weaken incentives to invest in improvements or cause postponement of work.

Aldermen should clarify whether that rule could discourage investment in older buildings that most need improvements.

Don DeBat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the definitive guide to condominium living. A veteran real estate voice, he provides essential insights for navigating communal ownership at escapingcondojail.com. Stay updated on housing news at dondobat.biz. Don is currently writing "Chicago's Game," a look at the history and lifestyle of 16-inch softball.

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Police Beat...

Teen charged after group robs three men at gunpoint in Loop

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with robbing three men at gunpoint in the Loop on Oct. 10 as part of a group of seven, Chicago police said. No charges have been announced against the other six alleged members of the crew.

The victims, a 19-year-old man and two 18-year-old men, were in the 600 block of S. State St. around 10:30 p.m. when the group confronted them and displayed at least one firearm, according to CPD. After taking property from the victims, the group fled into the Jackson Red Line CTA station.

The victims quickly found help from police officers downtown securing the route for Oct. 11's Chicago Marathon. They approached an officer, who radioed details of the robbery to other officers.

Meanwhile, a CPD surveillance team was already tracking the suspects on camera as they circled back and returned to the downtown streets. Officers apprehended at least three suspects, but charges have been announced against only one: a 15-year-old boy arrested in the 300 block of S. State St. He is charged with armed robbery with a firearm, police said.

No other details are available about the boy because he is charged in juvenile court, where proceedings are shielded from public review.

Woman gets 4 years for Lake Shore Drive crash that killed Uber passenger in Uptown



Jalisa Woolfolk (left) and Stephan Piven.

A 27-year-old Chicago woman was given a four-year sentence for causing a high-speed crash on Lake Shore Dr. that killed a rideshare passenger and then fleeing the scene. Jalisa Woolfolk later Googled information about the crash, and prosecutors used those searches as evidence when they charged her more than two and a half years after the March 25, 2023, collision in Uptown.

Prosecutors said an Uber driver was traveling south on Lake Shore Dr. near Montrose Ave. with Stephan Piven, 34, riding in the back seat of the Nissan Rogue. Woolfolk was speeding behind them in a white 2023 Kia Forte bearing a Zipcar logo.

Data recovered from the Kia allegedly showed Woolfolk was traveling 81 mph — twice the posted limit — moments before she struck the Uber with such force that the rideshare vehicle spun, flipped, became airborne, and landed on its roof. The Uber driver managed to escape the wreckage, but Piven was trapped inside. Firefighters extricated him from the overturned vehicle, but he succumbed to his injuries at a nearby hospital.

Prosecutors said Woolfolk's Kia sustained heavy front-end damage, but she did not stop. Instead, she drove along the shoulder of Lake Shore Dr., exited at Irving Park Rd., and parked near an apartment

complex on Marine Dr.

Witnesses saw Woolfolk get out of the heavily damaged Kia and leave in a rideshare. Prosecutors said surveillance footage and other video evidence corroborated their accounts. Lyft records showed a driver picked Woolfolk up from the apartment complex and took her to Evanston, prosecutors said. Zipcar records also showed Woolfolk had used her credit card to rent the Kia on the night of the crash.

Court records show Woolfolk pleaded guilty to reckless homicide by motor vehicle and failure to report a fatal accident. Judge Diana Kenworthy sentenced her to two years for reckless homicide and four years for failing to report the fatal crash, with the terms to run concurrently. With the state's standard 50% sentence reduction for good behavior and credit for time already served, Woolfolk is expected to be paroled in August 2027.

Anti-violence worker tried to carjack Lyft driver after pickup at Chicago CRED location

A man accused of attacking a Lyft driver and trying to carjack her was captured on surveillance video flashing gang signs before entering a Chicago CRED anti-violence center on the morning of the alleged crime, prosecutors said. Hours later, he allegedly attacked the driver after she picked him up outside the center in a ride booked under an account bearing the violence-prevention organization's name.

Angalwon Gilmore, 28, is now detained by order of Judge John Hock on charges of attempted vehicular hijacking, robbery, and aggravated battery after surrendering to detectives as their investigation zeroed in on him.

According to a prosecution detention petition, the chain of events began around 10 a.m. on July 20, when a Lyft account registered as "Angawon CRED" requested a ride to the 400 block of N. Oakley Blvd. A Chicago police detective knew the address to be a Chicago CRED location, prosecutors said.

Within minutes of arriving, Gilmore was captured on surveillance video flashing gang signs toward security cameras before entering the CRED center, prosecutors said.

That afternoon, the same Lyft account requested another ride for pickup at the Oakley location. This time, a 33-year-old woman arrived in her 2013 Acura, and Gilmore allegedly entered the vehicle wearing a surgical mask. She began taking him toward the requested destination in the 6600 block of S. Rhodes Ave. But as they approached the end of the ride, Gilmore began yelling at her and ordering her to change direction, prosecutors said. The driver agreed to take him wherever he wanted to go because she wanted to avoid trouble, and Gilmore continued shouting directions from the back seat.

As they arrived in the 6400 block of S. Rhodes Ave., Gilmore allegedly attacked from behind, wrapping his arm around her neck and trying to pull her into the back seat and out of the driver's seat. The woman wedged her leg beneath the dashboard and steering wheel, bracing herself to keep from being dragged out. The choking and struggle lasted several minutes before Gilmore fled with her keys, which he had grabbed from the center console, prosecutors said.

The driver immediately called 911. She suffered bruising to her legs from bracing herself and received medical attention days later.



Angalwon Gilmore

Investigators later obtained a search warrant for Lyft records associated with the "Angawon CRED" account. The records identified the account holder as "Anjawon Gilmore," an alternate spelling of Gilmore's first name, according to court documents.

The account records, CRED surveillance footage, and cellphone location data helped investigators piece together Gilmore's movements that day, prosecutors said. Location data associated with the Lyft account tracked the phone from Gilmore's home to CRED in the morning and then from CRED to the location of the alleged carjacking. The driver later identified him in a photo lineup.

One more link emerged in CPD paperwork: a Chicago police arrest report listed Chicago CRED as Gilmore's employer. Prosecutors did not say what role he held at the organization, which works with people at elevated risk of involvement in gun violence.

Chicago burglary suspect arrested twice, released twice, now has four outstanding warrants

A Chicago man accused of a string of North Side burglaries just months after going to prison for similar crimes is missing after being released from custody twice within weeks.

Timothy McClellan's latest troubles trace back to March 31, when someone stole mail from a building



Timothy McClellan

in the 4500 block of N. Ashland. Days later, on April 5, a thief stole a tabernacle from a Lincoln Park Catholic organization in the 400 block of W. Deming. On April 19, a burglar hit a building in the 3000 block of N. Southport, making off with a bicycle, mail, and residents' packages.

A CPD report says cops reviewed surveillance footage of those incidents and recognized the thief as McClellan. A patrol unit caught up with the 35-year-old on August 14 in the 1200 block of W. Wilson and took him into custody. Inside his backpack, police said, were a replica Colt firearm, three screwdrivers, bolt cutters, pliers, a wood chisel, and eight sets of keys. In his front pants pocket, officers allegedly found a wallet containing seven credit cards belonging to seven different people.

Prosecutors initially filed a petition to keep McClellan in custody, but court records show they withdrew the paperwork, and he was released during his first court appearance on Aug. 16. He didn't show up for his second court date five days later.

But he wasn't in the wind for long. Within a week, officers spotted him riding a bicycle in the 4500 block of N. Lake Shore Drive and took him into custody. This time, his backpack contained bolt cutters, two wrenches, wire cutters, and a screwdriver, police said. Officers also allegedly found identification documents and credit cards belonging to several other men in his pockets. Prosecutors also charged McClellan with a July 31 burglary at a residential building in the 4600 block of N. Magnolia, where a bicycle was stolen.

Hauled back into court, Judge Deidre Dyer detained McClellan on the outstanding warrant and for violating his pretrial release conditions. But he was subsequently released again, and he has not returned since. Court records show there are four outstanding warrants for his arrest.

McClellan's latest arrests come less than a year after he went to prison for burglarizing a Lincoln Park business and possessing a firearm at the Lake Red Line CTA station. Both sentences were satisfied by time served and the



CTA surveillance images of the suspects being sought for allegedly attacking a 65-year-old man who confronted them about spray-painting graffiti on the Red Line.

Three attacked, spray-painted man who confronted them about tagging Red Line train downtown

Three people dragged a 65-year-old man off a Red Line train and sprayed paint into his face and mouth after he confronted them about tagging the train downtown, Chicago police said.

At about 2:36 p.m. Oct. 9, the victim saw a group of people tagging a train car while riding near the Clark/Division station, according to a preliminary CPD report.

When he approached one of them, the group battered him, dragged him off the train car, and sprayed paint into his face and mouth, according to a Chicago police community alert issued Oct. 15. The alert included surveillance images of three people

state's automatic 50% good-conduct credit, court records show. During the same proceeding in which McClellan pleaded guilty, prosecutors dropped multiple other burglary cases dating back to 2022, including another Lincoln Park business burglary and the break-in of a Boystown apartment building's mailroom, according to court records.

Man gets eight-years for burglarizing five homes, robbing woman who confronted him

A 33-year-old man with a lengthy criminal history has been given an eight-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to burglarizing five North Side homes and robbing one of his victims.

Malcolm Junious pleaded guilty Oct. 16 to five counts of residential burglary and one count of aggravated robbery in connection with crimes committed between June 15 and Oct. 21, 2025.

The first reported burglary occurred in the 800 block of W. Cuyler Ave., where residents discovered that a handgun, a Nintendo Switch, \$10,000 in cash, and \$75,000 worth of jewelry were missing. Surveillance footage showed the burglar carrying a white clipboard, and a CPD officer who reviewed the video recognized Junious from a previous arrest. Investigators later linked Junious to the burglary through pawnshop records and GPS data from his phone, prosecutors said.

Detectives came to suspect Junious was behind a string of burglaries, and a court authorized a "pen register" for his phone. The surveillance tool records numbers dialed or received by a phone and can help investigators monitor its activity in real time. Using the data, detectives tracked Junious's phone traveling toward Chicago on Oct. 21, 2025, the same day several burglaries were reported across the North Side.

In one of those incidents, in the 1600 block of W. Rascher Ave., a 32-year-old woman reported that a masked man confronted her inside her home, claimed to have a gun, and

sought in the investigation.

Police described the suspects as two Hispanic men and a Hispanic woman, all between 18 and 25 years old.

One of the men has a shag hairstyle and a "5718" tattoo across the knuckles of his left hand. The other wore a dark sweater, tan pants, and earrings. The woman wore a brown coat, black pants, and brown boots.

Anyone with information that could help investigators is asked to contact Mass Transit Detectives at 312-745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com. Refer to case #JK446326.

warned her not to "make" him hurt her. Another woman heard the victim screaming and began calling 911, but the intruder knocked the phone from her hand, stomped on it, and fled with a jewelry box, prosecutors said.

Police tracking Junious through his phone and license plate readers located his Kia near the 1400 block of W. Ardmore Ave., but lost sight of the vehicle for about 30 minutes.

During that time, a woman returned to her home in the 1500 block of W. Ardmore Ave. and discovered that someone had climbed exterior scaffolding to enter her apartment. The intruder stole a backpack, jewelry, watches, and a keepsake of her deceased cat.

Within two hours, another resident in the 5300 block of N. Paulina St. reported that someone had entered through an unlocked rear window and stolen a MacBook, a Bluetooth speaker, and a Nintendo Switch.

Officers eventually spotted the Kia again as it traveled south on Lake Shore Dr. in Streeterville. Using a helicopter and ground units, police followed the vehicle until Junious got out in the 7100 block of S. Coles Ave. They found Junious hiding beneath a barbecue grill cover on a back stairwell. He had burglary proceeds in his possession, police said.

Judge Mariano Reyna accepted Junious's guilty pleas Friday and sentenced him to eight years on each count, with the sentences to run concurrently. He must serve 50% of the sentence. With 432 days of credit for time spent in the Cook County Jail, Junious has a little more than three years left to serve in prison.

Junious's criminal history includes a burglary in Wrigleyville during the height of the pandemic in September 2020 when an alert neighbor saw him crawl into a home in the 3700 block of N. Wilton Ave. on a Friday afternoon. The witness called 911, and CPD officers arrived quickly enough to see Junious still inside the apartment. When officers ordered him to exit through the back door, he ran out the front door instead. Police ar-

Monitor: CPD reaches preliminary compliance with 99% of federal consent decree requirements

STORY AND PHOTO
BY CWBCHICAGO

After seven years of effort, the Chicago Police Dept. has made progress on nearly every requirement of a federal consent decree, reaching at least preliminary compliance with 99% of its original requirements, independent monitors said on Oct. 13. But with Supt. Larry Snelling recently retired and staffing shortages still a concern, the CPD faces a test of whether those reforms will stick.

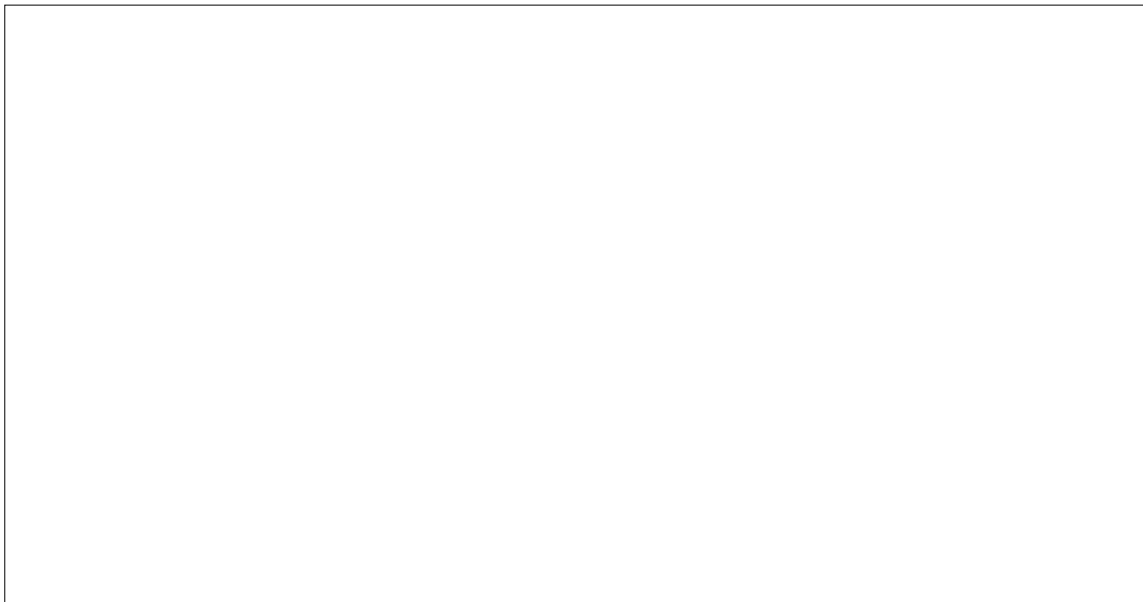
The consent decree, which is overseen by a federal judge and monitored independently, requires Chicago to make sweeping changes to police policies, training, supervision and accountability. Reaching preliminary compliance means the city has begun meeting a requirement, but it does not mean the requirement has been fully satisfied.

The latest findings mark continued progress in the department's yearslong effort to overhaul its policies and practices. But monitor Maggie Hickey warned that Snelling's retirement will test whether the reforms can withstand a leadership change, while staffing shortages remain a significant obstacle to fully implementing the changes.

"The CPD's compliance progress for this report occurred under Supt. Larry Snelling's leadership," Hickey said in a statement. "His recent retirement will be a test for the CPD to show that its reforms are now built into how it operates."

Hickey urged Acting Supt. Fred Waller and the department's leadership to maintain the progress and continue advancing the consent decree.

The monitoring team reported that the city has achieved at least preliminary compliance with 546 of the original requirements, known as monitorable paragraphs. That represents about 99% of the total. The city has reached at least secondary compliance with 428 paragraphs, or about 78%, and full compliance with 188 paragraphs, or about 34%, according to the report.



Chicago police officers line up near a protest at Michigan Ave. and Wacker Dr. ahead of the Democratic National Convention in Aug. 2024.

During the latest reporting period, the city advanced its compliance status on 83 paragraphs, including 10 that moved into

Maggie Hickey urged Acting Supt. Fred Waller and the department's leadership to maintain the progress and continue advancing the consent decree.

preliminary compliance, 31 that reached secondary compliance and 42 that achieved full compliance.

The report credited years of

work, operational changes, internal evaluations and efforts to incorporate community feedback for the gains. Among the most significant developments was the implementation of revised policies governing officer-involved shootings and deaths on June 30. The new policies establish procedures for how CPD personnel and the department's Investigative Response Team handle such incidents.

The monitors praised CPD for achieving full compliance in three paragraphs related to community policing, three linked to impartial policing, nine related to crisis intervention, nine related to use of force, four related to train-

ing, one related to officer wellness and support, and 13 related to accountability and transparency.

Despite the progress, Hickey said the city must address staffing challenges to make the changes sustainable. The monitoring team said it looks forward to seeing how the city and CPD respond to the findings of a major workforce allocation study and make staffing changes needed to achieve full and effective compliance.

"Having the right personnel and resources is essential to ensuring sustainable improvements in daily policing practices," she said.

Destigmatizing Dementia revisited Oct. 28

Skyline Village Chicago and the Center for Life and Learning have undertaken an effort to promote a supportive, and engaging dementia friendly neighborhood on the Near North Side.

They will be hosting a public event intended to destigmatize dementia 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Fourth Presbyterian Church Gratz Center, 126 E. Chestnut St.

Guests can learn about available resources to support people

with dementia, care partners, friends and families. To register, visit <https://4thchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3934714>.

The program will include a review of the newly-published Streeterville/Gold Coast Dementia Resource Guide (visit website: www.skylinevillagechicago.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=347185&module_id=802608).

Attendees can learn how to support people with dementia

by Dementia Friends coach Susan Frick, social worker at Rush Hospital. Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. Frick has coordinated dementia specific training programs at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center for health care professionals and helps coordinate the Dementia Friendly and Dementia Friends initiatives in Illinois.

Domestic violence seminar Oct. 24

Mary, Mother of God Parish's St. Rita DVA Ministry invites neighbors to attend the free, all ages 20th District Domestic Violence Seminar from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 in Saint Ita's Jubilee Hall, 5500 N. Broadway.

Offered will be food, support, and information on what domestic violence is and how it affects our community and how to get help for yourself or others who may be in need.

FBI studies show that women make up roughly 74.5% of all domestic violence victims. Men are statistically less likely to report domestic abuse or seek police assistance due to social stigma, fear of not being believed, or male arrest bias, meaning official police records skew higher toward male-perpetrated incidents. Research also shows that intimate partner violence occurs in gay or same-sex couples at rates comparable to or higher than in heterosexual relationships.

Advance registration is requested, for immediate help call 877-863-6338.

Letter to the Editor

We need livers and kidneys

I was opposed to the introduction of rental electric scooters and bicycles from the start. However, I have seen the light and have changed my mind. With so many reckless and impaired riders getting into accidents, we stand to reap a bumper harvest of Future Organ Donors.

Old geezers like myself depend on these young, healthy donors for our life-saving transplants. As a bonus, we may get a quick drug high to ease the assimilation process. So I say to these young road warriors: Slap on the earbuds, throw over that hoodie, jump on those wheels, and go, go, go.

John Martinez
River North

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Legally Drugged screening Oct. 23 at Firehouse

Director Vagabond Beaumont and Co-Executive Producer Floyd Webb will be visiting in person 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, at Chicago Filmmakers, 1326 W. Hollywood Ave. for a screening of "Legally Drugged."

The movie is the story of a Brooklyn man who becomes a successful real estate investor but not without some major obstacles along the way due to the use of antidepressants.

Richard Schneeberg tells his own harrowing true story of when he was hospitalized for depression/insomnia and malaise, he is given antidepressants, which cause him to hallucinate, become manic, and even become suicidal when he loses his marriage and custody of his child.

His hospitalizations also left him jobless and homeless. But through shrewd business investments he becomes a multimillionaire, owning some very desirable real estate.

An outspoken advocate of non-drug therapies for the mentally ill, Schneeberg makes a case that antidepressant medications are over-used and points out that they can sometimes cause more problems than they solve.

Tickets are \$10, visit <https://chicagofilmmakers.org/>.

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Jim Kinney and Rodger Owen



Service Club gathering

RAP SHEET from p. 2

War-Chicago groups themselves. The evening of laughs with Seinfeld at the iconic Chicago Theatre was, of course, worth price of the ticket to the sold out show.

WRITER: Nico Sansegraw, Edgewater writer and barber in Old Town, has spent the past several years pursuing different creative projects. He recently co-wrote his first original song, "Play Pretend," with Nashville-based recording artist **Justin Green**, who also performs on the track. The song officially releases Nov. 9 to all streaming platforms. He is also producing a music video for the song, and is filming in and around Edgewater. Keep an eye and ear out for him.

UNIONIZE: Months after former President **Barack Obama's** museum's opening this summer, disgruntled employees at the museum announced they are unionizing. Workers cite reductions in benefits, health insurance cuts, reduced paid time off, and no expected winter pay raises. Frequent departures of colleagues have drained institutional knowledge and left remaining employees overwhelmed.

NEWS: Congrats to **Lynn Sweet** celebrating 50 years at the Sun-Times, a fine observer and writer. What would we do without her? And a happy 96th birthday to the Tribune's former golden business writer **Carol Kleinman**.

SMASH: Pencil in the Pumpkin Smash 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at Lakeview High School. This is a fun way to compost your pumpkins and keep them from being smashed in your front yard by pranksters. All you need to do is bring your pumpkin. There is also a smash Nov. 7 at LaSalle II Magnet School, 1148



Stephanie Leese Emrich, Geof Emrich and Georgia Leese.



Sarah Q. CRane with Peter Mark and Dragon.

N. Honore St.

BOOZE: SINTAX is a new vodka distilled in Chicago, started by a banker, two doctors and a lawyer. None of them came from the liquor business, but all of them did graduate with student debt. So 15% of their profits goes into a pot, and whenever the pot can cover a payment, they draw a name on Instagram and pay one month of that person's student loans, up to \$1,000. The drawing is open to Illinois residents 21 and older. You don't have to buy a bottle to enter.

BEAR DOWN: Coach **Mike Ditka** was full of life for 86 years. I don't know how many football quarters that adds up to, but it's a measured attempt to understand the unmeasurable humanity of a man so bold and in sync with the City of Chicago itself. A flesh and blood man of strategies, surprising opportunities and faith. No not perfect, but as with all of us, in God's image. He deserves now his victory in heaven.

WHO'S WHERE: Ann and **Kevin Garvey** celebrated 60 years of marriage with their children, **Tim, Julie** and husband **Marc** and **Jim** and wife **Kim** at the Hotel Californian in Santa Barbara... **Kean** and **Meaghan Addington** have announced that "Pheasant Pie" is back on the menu for October at Tortoise Supper Club at Marina City... **Lisa Manning-Shure** hangs up her apron after cooking her last seniors luncheon Oct. 21 at the Niedersachsen Club in Lincoln Square... **Sherrill Bodine** finally made it to NAIA, the new Mediterranean restaurant on the Riverwalk everyone's talking about... **Irene Michaels** very proud of **Bunny Frum** at the street dedication of her husband, **Howard Frum**, not one street but



Mike Ditka

three... **Geof Emrich, Stephanie Leese Emrich** and **Georgia Leese** were at the Chicago Symphony to engage with Maestro **Klaus Makela**... **Sean Eshaghy** dining with parents **Dr. and Mrs. Carol Eshaghy** at Soho House... A special birthday lunch with friends and wife **Melinda** for the famed **Lucien Lagrange** at Gibson's Steakhouse with some luscious champagne... **Jim Kinney** on Lake Michigan with "skipper" **Rodger Owen**... **Fred Winston** is being inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame... **Sarah Q. Crane** enjoying an Indian Summer lake-front holiday lunch with **Dragon** and **Peter Mark**... **Bobbi Panter** visiting the Fendi Apartment in Paris... At the finale of the beloved White Sox season was **Drew** and **Kelly Barton Coxhead**, **Casey Hopkins** and **Ryan Rosenberg** faithful to the end... **Brit Scott** and **Brenda Jacobson** at LaColonial for pizza... **Brian Roddy** with **Tedd Greenwood-White**, **Honey Garcia**, **Brendan Balof**, **Ritch Fisher**, **Nick Bebee**, **Ronald Sand Joop Inde**, **JB Smith**, **Bradley Thomas**, **Norbert Greenwood-White**, **Calvin Drent** and **Dave Rasmussen** rolling with Lake Michigan's waves at the Sidetrack Staff out-

ing... **Cynthia Espy** celebrating the 50th anniversary of Kappa Alpha Theta at UVA abounding in memories... **Dr. Julia Gold** celebrating two years in family medicine physician as the founder of Encore Concierge Medicine... **Nanthanat Lertsirisuphakron** in Thailand... **Mark Olley** attended **Adam Umbach's** current exhibition at the Carousel Gallery on Superior St.... restaurateur **Ciro Longobardo** of Piccolo Sogno is in Rome and Vatican City on business... **Sherry Lea Fox** was at Sanctuary Camelback Mountain in Arizona.

THE LIGHTHOUSE: Chicago Lighthouse event was a huge success. Such a great cause. Congratulations to cochairs **Candace Jordan**, and **Kathy Piccone** and **Tracey Tarantino Dibuono**, the event producer.

GELATO: He's done it again. **Michael Compo** of Mart Anthony's Italian eatery has fashioned a new gelato, banana and chocolate, an exquisite surprise. People are crazy for his homemade gelato. By trade he is a fine wine expert, that's the reason the vino is so wondrous there. And now this young foodie is branching out. How proud Grandpapa, **Mart Anthony Compo** would be.

DUCK INN: Have you ever eaten at **Kevin Hickey's** Duck Inn in Bridgeport at 2701 S. Eleanor St.? We had one of the most superb dinners there. His sensibility and knowledge of what food can do is breathtaking. Chef/owner Hickey is a remarkable kitchen master.

OUT: All illegal migrants in Spanish territory must return to their country of origin "as soon as possible," said **King Felipe VI** of Spain on Oct. 13 during his official visit to Ceuta. The Spanish King and his wife, **Queen Letizia**, were in Ceuta for the first time in 19 years since former **King Juan Carlos I** visited the city in 2007.

Here at the fulcrum of us all, the feather of truth against the soul is weighed, and had better be found to balance, lest our enterprise collapse in silence.

- Howard Nemerov

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Chicago International Film Festival now underway

North America's longest-running competitive film festival, the Chicago International Film Festival continues its 62-year-long tradition of bringing together filmmakers, scholars, artists, and industry professionals with this year's competition.

The juries will award Gold and Silver Hugos in International, New Directors, Documentary, OutLook, Chicago Award, and Short Film competitions during this year's Festival, which is running now through Oct. 25.

Filmmaker and graphic artist Michael Kutza founded Cinema/Chicago in 1964 to provide an alternative to the commer-

cial Hollywood movies that dominated the city's theaters.

The Festival opened in 1965 at the Carnegie Theater, where King Vidor, Bette Davis, and Stanley Kramer were honored for their contributions to American cinema.

Since then, the Festival has grown to become a world-renowned annual event. The Festival's popular City and State program, highlighting films with deep ties to Illinois and Chicago, will present the world premiere of director Frankie Nasso's *Ever After*.

Michelin-starred Chef Curtis Duffy

in the 1700s. Considered to be the most successful urban wildlife species in the world, brown rats are now found on every continent, except Antarctica. They thrive in cities, especially inside buildings and sewer networks. Brown rats are responsible for untold damage to residential and commercial properties, often chewing through metal pipes and electrical wires.

According to researchers at the Univ. of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, brown rats carry many pathogens, including hantavirus, Hepatitis E and bacteria such as *Leptospira*, *Bartonella* and *Rickettsia*. In addition, they carry endo- and ectoparasites such as fleas, lice, protozoans and trematode worms.

"People are more likely to complain when they have faith the city is going to do something about it," Maureen Murray said.

In the 1300s, black rats (a different but related species) helped spread the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. This bacterium lives inside Oriental rat fleas, which are often found living on black rats; *Y. pestis* caused the bubonic plague, the most deadly pandemic in history.

Between 1346-1353, it is believed an estimated 25 to 50 million people died in Europe, which was about 30-60% of the population.

Throughout the state, the brown rat is the largest rodent encountered on land. Brown rats have grayish fur on the belly and yellow-brown fur on the back, grizzled with black. The larger (and endemic) muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) is associated with marshes and other bodies of water and are easy to distinguish from brown rats as they are dark brown in color, according to University of Illinois scientists.

Each year, in the United States, billions of dollars are spent to manage rats, according to the zoo's UWI biologists.

Founded in 1901, Atlanta-based Orkin has locations throughout the country, including the Chicago area.



launches a new world-class restaurant during a pandemic in the relentless pursuit of culinary perfection amid a personal reckoning.

For the full slate of films and programs presented at the Festival, visit: www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

The Festival's in-person tributes have

honored such international luminaries as François Truffaut, Orson Welles, Sophia Loren, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Satyajit Ray, Howard Hawks, George Cukor, Spike Lee, Lucino Visconti, Faye Dunaway, Clint Eastwood, Steven Spielberg, Quentin Tarantino, Sidney Poitier, Patrice Chéreau, Ron Howard, J.A. Bayona, Viola Davis, Bruce Dern, and Kevin Kline.

Over the years, the Festival has introduced creative new directors like Martin Scorsese, Wim Wenders, Bertrand Tavernier, Margarethe von Trotta, and Krzysztof Kieslowski, among many others, to Chicago. The Festival is also dedicated to showcasing films made by filmmakers from across the state of Illinois.

Traveling exhibit examines U.S. concentration camp in Texas

The Japanese American Service Committee is hosting a special exhibit called "Crystal City: America's Last WWII Concentration Camp" - a traveling exhibit that tells the story of wartime incarceration in South Texas. The exhibit at 5700 N. Lincoln Ave., and runs through Nov. 20.

The Crystal City Family Internment Camp in Texas was the location at which immigrants and their children in Latin American countries were incarcerated during World War II, the period in which the U.S. government also imprisoned American immigrants from Japan, Germany, and Italy, as well as American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Operating from 1942-1948, this prison was created to reunite families separated across multiple detention sites. By the time they arrived in Crystal City, most were bound for repatriation to Japan, Germany,

or Italy. Many would be traded in Prisoner-of-War exchanges to retrieve U.S. civilians trapped behind enemy lines when the war began.

The site was also used to imprison Latin Americans of Japanese, German, and Italian heritage, who were kidnapped from Central and South America. Some were forcibly deported to Axis countries, while others navigated the immigration courts and won their right to remain in the U.S.

This exhibit covers topics related to daily life within the Crystal City prison camp. Through individual family narratives, it explores the journeys of Japanese American, German American, and Latin American internees before and after the war. At its core, the exhibit raises important questions about citizenship, ethnicity, and belonging during a time of conflict.

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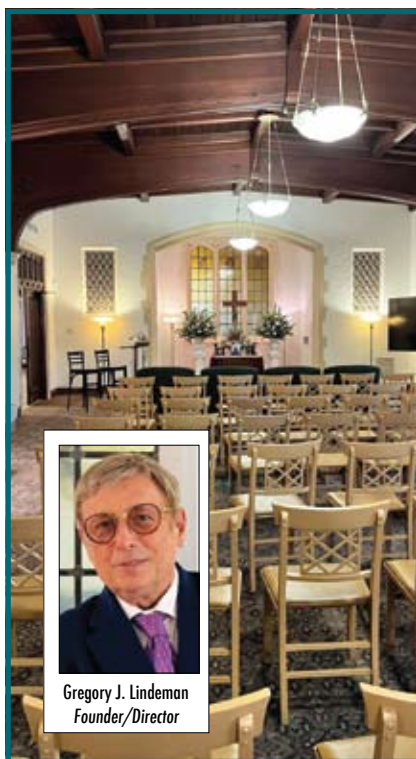


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Gregory J. Lindeman
Founder/Director

Arts in the Dark Halloween Parade to return to original location along Columbus Dr.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, LUMA8 will be hosting the 12th Annual Arts in the Dark Halloween Parade, a Halloween event featuring unique floats, spectacle puppets, and all forms of creative performance.

Due to the growth of the parade, Arts in the Dark triumphantly returns to its original larger location along Columbus Dr., with the parade stepping off at Balbo

Dr. and marching north through Jackson Blvd. from 6-8 p.m.

This evening procession celebrates Halloween as the “artist’s holiday” and draws together participants from cultural organizations, youth programs, and other artists in every field.

This year, the parade hopes to entertain an audience of over 100,000 attendees. Food trucks will be parked along the east side

of the parade route, and vendors will be open along the west side before the parade begins.

Attendees are encouraged to come in costume and join the spirit of the parade – whether channeling a favorite classic Halloween look or debuting an original, one-of-a-kind creation.

“I am proud that our parade has grown over the past years, so much so that we need more space

to accommodate the dozens of new and returning arts organizations that participate,” said Mark Kelly, Arts in the Dark Parade Co-Founder. “The creativity brought with such verve year after year is always a tribute to our city, and this year’s event will be no exception.”

While it is a ‘Halloween’ parade, the participants are not bound by a ‘Halloween’ theme;

each group is invited to showcase who they are with music, dance, costumes, and other dramatic visual elements.

These groups capture Chicago’s cultural landscape including film, photography, museums, visual arts, theatre, architecture and many others.

For more information, visit www.luma8.org.

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POLICE BEAT *from p. 6*

rested him nearby.

Prosecutors said Junious’s criminal record also includes felony convictions for theft in 2014, residential burglary in 2012, robbery in 2010, and possession of a stolen motor vehicle in 2010.

Eight years after Pride Parade video went viral, court rejects woman’s bid for damages from city, cop who shoved her to ground

Eight years after a viral video showed a woman shaking on the ground after being shoved by a Chicago cop during a post-Pride Parade confrontation in Lakeview, a federal appeals court has rejected the woman’s efforts to win damages from the officer and the city.

Breah Bedford argued that mistakes made during her civil trial unfairly influenced the jury, including testimony suggesting she might have faked her seizure-like episodes after the fall. But a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled that the trial judge’s decisions did not justify ordering a new trial. COPA, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, cleared the cop in 2020.

When the incident unfolded around 9:30 p.m. June 24, 2018, Of-

ficer Brandon Dewitt and other officers were in their fifth hour of trying to maintain order along Belmont Ave. where large, lingering crowds sparked a series of fights following the parade.

The confrontation happened shortly after 9 p.m. June 24, 2018, outside Big City Tap, a bar on Belmont Ave. just west of Sheffield Ave., owned by Joseph Plewa. Bedford, who was 18 at the time, and Simone Jones, her then-20-year-old friend, were among a group gathered on the sidewalk when, they alleged, Plewa used racial slurs and told them to “go back to the South Side” after demanding that they move away from his business. Plewa denied using racial slurs but acknowledged that he and his security staff told the group to move.

The situation escalated when Plewa dragged Jones into an outside vestibule and held her down, officials said. Bedford began hitting Plewa and his bouncers with a bra and plastic necklace, trying to get them off Jones, according to the court’s account of trial testimony.

When Chicago police officers arrived, cellphone videos captured DeWitt approaching Bedford from behind and shoving her to the ground. Bedford hit the pavement and began violently spasming. Bystanders reacted angrily, with one asking, “Why

North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Plaintiff, -v- Michelle J. Ricci; Michelle J. Ricci as Trustee of the Michelle J. Ricci Living Trust dated November 9, 2011; James R. Follett as Trustee of the Michelle J. Ricci Living Trust dated November 9, 2011; 900-910 Lake Shore Drive Condominium Association; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants Defendants. 2025CH11303 900 N LAKESHORE DR UNIT 2303, 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 7/24/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the On-line Only auction at www.auction.com , with the bidding window opening on 11/30/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on December 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 900 N LAKESHORE DR UNIT 2303, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-03-215-013-1391 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$248,551.27 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 900 N LAKESHORE DR UNIT 2303 into the search bar.	If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. 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) (l) 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 AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.	OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC 6307945300 please refer to file number 14-25-07032. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com . Attorney File No. 14-25-07032 Case Number: 2025CH11303 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. 13295488 212121 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION HINSDALE BANK & TRUST COMPANY N.A. Plaintiff, -v- DENISE R. DYER, AS TRUSTEE AND/OR HER SUCCESSORS OF THE DRD6 TRUST, U/T/A DATED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 A/K/A TRUST NUMBER 2024DK8437, DENISE R DYER, ROBERT G DYER, THE 401 EAST ONTARIO CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants. 2025CH05940 401 E ONTARIO STREET UNIT 2309	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 August 10, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 17, 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 401 E ONTARIO STREET UNIT 2309, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-208-017-1188 The real estate is improved with a condominium. 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 (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, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit www.tjsc.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. 14-25-03576 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2025CH05940 TJSJ#: 46-1885 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 # 2025CH05940 13295632 141414 ----- 070707 -----

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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST 2017-3, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE Plaintiff, -v- JOSE R. GONZALEZ, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, 6528 N. FRANCISCO CONDO ASSOCIATION Defendants 2024 CH 07717 6528 N FRANCISCO AVE, UNIT 1E CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 5, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 1, 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 6528 N FRANCISCO AVE, UNIT 1E, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-36-317-019-0000 &10-36-317-041-1002 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$217,090.19. 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 (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 CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, 6400 SHAFER CT, STE 325, ROSEMONT, IL, 60018 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 24-216799. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CHAD LEWIS ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 6400 SHAFER CT, STE 325 ROSEMONT IL, 60018 561-241-6901 E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM Attorney File No. 24-216799 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439 Attorney Code. 65582 Case Number: 2024 CH 07717 TJSJ#: 46-71 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 # 2024 CH 07717 13295381 212121 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MSR Asset Vehicle LLC Plaintiff, -v- Charles Wade; 1529-37 W. Farwell Condominium Association; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of James Wade; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; NaaLomoley A. Sahin as Independent Administrator of the Estate of James Abbam Wade, Deceased; Jennifer Gonsalves; Helen Gyamfi; Florence Agyeman; Kodjo Wade; Elizabeth Kuntuah; Josephine Wade; Alison Wade Defendants. 2024CH05935 1531 W Farwell Ave Unit 1N, Chicago, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 7/13/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the On-line Only auction at www.auction.com , with the bidding window opening on 11/23/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on November 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 1531 W Farwell Ave Unit 1N, Chicago, IL 60626	Property Index No. 11-32-120-038-1007 The real estate is improved with a Residential Property. The judgment amount was \$181,620.51 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 1531 W Farwell Ave Unit 1N into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. 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)(l) 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 Condo-	minium 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 AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC 6307945300 please refer to file number 14-24-03724. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com . Attorney File No. 14-24-03724 Case Number: 2024CH05935 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. 13295337 141414 ----- 070707 -----

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3500E- Mentor, Marvin
4120G-Tajak, Ali
3415G-Trujillo, Henry
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This sale is to be held on Tuesday, October 29, 2026, at 2:00PM.
Cash payments only.

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
The Huntington National Bank
Plaintiff
vs.
The Huntington National Bank f/k/a TCF National Bank, a National Banking Association; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants; 3600 Condominium Association; Andrew Mirecki; The Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Leszek Mirecki, deceased; Andrew Mirecki, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of Leszek Mirecki, deceased
Defendant
25 CH 12297
CALENDAR 59
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on November 30, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 14-21-110-020-1441.
Commonly known as 3600 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 2019, CHICAGO, IL 60613.
The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Suite 1250, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611, 25-026168
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13296211

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BEAR STEARNS ALT-A TRUST, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-4
Plaintiff,
-v-
BRANDI HENSLEY, THE BERWYN CONDOMINIUMS, NFP C/O BOARD OF MANAGERS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
2023CH07059
5224 N WINTHROP AVENUE, UNIT 1B
CHICAGO, IL 60640
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 21, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 23, 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:
PIN: 14-08-210-025-1002
CKA: 5224-28 NORTH WINTHROP AVENUE UNIT 1B, CHICAGO IL, 60640
Commonly known as 5224 N WINTHROP AVENUE, UNIT 1B, CHICAGO, IL 60640
Property Index No. 14-08-210-025-1002
The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$294,064.94.
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 admon-

Real Estate For Sale

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-1). 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 CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 6400 SHAFER CT, STE 325, ROSEMONT, IL, 60018 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 23-134479.
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.
CHAD LEWIS
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ROSEMONT IL, 60018
561-241-6901
E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM
Attorney File No. 23-134479
Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
Attorney Code. 65582
Case Number: 2023CH07059
TJSC#: 46-1952
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 # 2023CH07059
13296030

212121 -----

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
EVERBANK, N.A.,
Plaintiff
vs.
DAMON RITENHOUSE, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF DONALD SLACK, DECEASED; SHORELINE TOWERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; LINDA CHAPMAN; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF DONALD SLACK; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ELIZABETH MADDEN,
Defendant
24 CH 491
CALENDAR 56
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on November 23, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 14-05-203-011-1242.
Commonly known as 6301 North Sheridan Road, #18A, Chicago, IL 60660.
The real estate is: condominium residence. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, 333 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, Illinois 60606. 312-346-9088, 23-172191L
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
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13295880

141414 -----

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
SELENE FINANCE, LP
Plaintiff,
-v-
GAVIN C. MEINSCHN, 3711 N. PINE GROVE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Defendants
2026 CH 02823
3711 N Pine Grove Ave 1G SE
CHICAGO, IL 60613
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 14, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 9, 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 3711 N Pine Grove Ave 1G SE, CHICAGO, IL 60613
Property Index No. 14-21-106-029-1004
The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$405,517.22.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale 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

Real Estate For Sale

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 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 CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 6400 SHAFER CT, STE 325, ROSEMONT, IL, 60018 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 26-400518.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
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You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
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E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM
Attorney File No. 26-400518
Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
Attorney Code. 65582
Case Number: 2026 CH 02823
TJSC#: 46-1677
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 # 2026 CH 02823
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REPRIEVE from p. 1

mental and historic-preservation review. We will have more details to share soon on the specific work sequence, timing, and traffic impacts.”

Earlier, Ald. Waguespack had expressed concern CDOT engineers and CDOT Cmsr. William Cheaks, Jr. had not yet supplied a full copy of the engineering assessment.

“They were supposed to get together an engineering report to advance the Cortland status. CDOT has now asked Ald. Hopkins to withdraw the landmark status ordinance,” said Waguespack. “CDOT engineers added that they will have the bridge repaired within 2 years, which is less time than it would take to go through the landmark removal Section 106 process at the national level. We asked for an engineering report to be made public immediately so that constituents can see the status as engineers at CDOT see it.”

Waguespack is referring to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which has long applied to the Cortland Bridge. This act requires governmental units to consider the effects of projects on historical structure before making final decisions.

Spanning the north branch of the Chicago River, the bridge connects the Buck town and Lincoln Park neighborhoods.

In 1902, when the bridge first opened to vehicle traffic, there had been a little more than 400 automobiles registered in the entire city of Chicago. As the first Chicago-type bascule bridge, her-

alded a revolution in bridge building. Bascule bridges are movable drawbridges that use a counterweight system to allow the two spans of a bridge to pivot upward like a seesaw, letting boats pass underneath. The Cortland bridge was the prototype for dozens of bascule bridges that were built throughout the city, afterwards.

“We have heard Ald. Hopkins and Ald. Waguespack are potentially backing off their previous stance asking for removal of the Chicago Landmark protections at this time. We have shared with both of them over the past few months that removing the Landmark status of the Cortland Bridge would be both troubling, lengthy and unnecessary,” said Ward Miller, the Executive Director of Preservation Chicago, a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving Chicago’s architectural heritage. “This is not a Landmark issue, it’s really a CDOT maintenance issue.”

According to CDOT officials, it had been difficult to fully assess damage to the bridge while it had been open to vehicles. After it was closed to vehicle traffic in Sept. 2025, it became easier to fully assess what was needed to repair the bridge.

According to Miller, with the bridge now scheduled to be closed for two more years, CDOT should ensure the bridge is stabilized and properly repaired so it will be able to retain its landmark status.

“We need CDOT to correct and address the long-needed repairs and to also do this in an efficient, and timely manner,” said Miller.

In recent years, broad segments

of the general public has grown skeptical of the skills and judgment of CDOT staff, who far from improving transportation and maintaining infrastructure, have seemingly made transportation in Chicago much more difficult by deferring maintenance on area bridges and constructing concrete road barriers and obstacles, and barricading off parking on public commercial streets in favor of privileged bike paths.

“We need CDOT to correct and address the long-needed repairs and to also do this in an efficient, and timely manner,” said Ward Miller.

“We understand the public’s skepticism, as so many of these bridges and infrastructure have not been receiving the repairs as necessary, causing much angst among residents and elected officials,” said Miller. “That same scenario resulted in Preservation Chicago listing the entire Chicago River Bridges and Tender Houses as one of our “2026 Chicago 7 Most Endangered” structures. So, here’s to hoping CDOT can really properly address these concerns and repairs and as soon as possible,” said Miller.

When the bridge closed in 2025, the bridge had been scheduled to have its bridge deck, steel floor system, and counterweights, and installing new concrete-filled grating, timber sidewalks, railings, and lighting replaced. Its bridge tender houses were also

MERGER from p. 1

ers,” said Dr. Omar Lateef, President and CEO of Rush University system.

The deal is expected to close sometime in early 2027. Gallagher will be named President and CEO of the unified system. Lateef will continue in his role through the close of the transaction. He will then serve as CEO Emeritus and as an advisor.

The combined system will operate under the Rush name and

will be governed by a 20-person board made up of equal representation from Rush and Endeavor.

It was not immediately clear what impact, if any, the merger would have on patients, but a spokesperson for the hospitals said the move will not mean closures.

The effort appears to be a play to just get big and be bigger and dominate the local healthcare market over the local healthcare competition, as the nation’s healthcare industrial complex

continues to merge and consolidate to fewer, but larger, institutions.

Healthcare consolidation and hospital mergers are fundamentally reshaping the medical landscape, primarily driving up costs while many times providing mixed or negligible improvements to patient care.

While health systems frequently defend these multi-billion dollar combinations as necessary strategies to improve operational efficiencies, achieve economies

of scale, and coordinate care, economic research indicates that the underlying mechanism is often an exercise in building localized market power and regional monopolies to operate in an industry now almost totally dependent on government and health insurance sources for funding.

The Illinois Dept. of Public Health has reportedly yet to receive an application for a certificate of exemption for a change of ownership.

intended to be restored.

In 2013, historian Patrick T. McBriarty wrote the book Chicago River Bridges, considered by many to be the definitive history of the more than 175 bridges spanning 55 locations along the Chicago River’s main channel, South Branch and North Branch. McBriarty is not surprised additional damage had been found after the initial assessment and adds Chicago no longer has the manufacturing capacity it had when the bridge was first built.

“I don’t know what [the Cortland Bridge] may have been hiding, but there’s always something unexpected. This would be best explained by CDOT engineers. Preserving industrial heritage is expensive and hard to justify in our disposable and consumer culture. Additionally, globalism pulled away manufacturing capabilities so [even] a small broken or worn gear or component would cause a serious problem,” said McBriarty.

The designer of the Cortland Bridge, city engineer John Ericson, had used London’s landmark Tower Bridge as his inspiration. By copying a famous London landmark, Ericson was able to save taxpayers’ money.

“This 260-foot bridge over the River Thames, still the most famous bascule bridge in the world, was well suited to the requirements of the Chicago River. It had few moving parts, was free of patents or royalties, and maintained a fixed load point. That means that the point of support did not change with the operation of the bridge,” wrote McBriarty in his book.

FALLS from p. 1

The temperature dropped into the low 50s. A strong southerly wind profoundly aided passes and kicks to the south. Driving the ball toward Lane Tech north of DePaul Prep’s stadium was going to be a challenge.

The Rams won the coin toss and chose the wind and not the ball. It looked like a good choice.

On their second possession, DePaul moved the ball to the St. Laurence one-yard line on the strength of the running of senior running back Tyson Hooks. They had two tries from the one to get an early lead on a day when there would not be a lot of scoring.

“Just get it in. Figure out a way to get it in. We felt good about the call at the one,” said Rams first year coach Nick Bizzieri about the fourth down run call.

Hooks took the handoff and was hit and stopped right at the line of scrimmage. Turnover on downs. Still 0-0.

“We had a mental error that cost us. We had a leak through on the back side and it cost us. That is kind of what the story of our season has been,” Bizzieri added. Not a good omen about the day.

Things just continued to get weirder from there.

A windy rain persisted. Just after the halftime buzzer, with the score tied 0-0, the lightning warning alarm went off despite no lighting visible in the area.

DePaul Prep officials cleared the stadium telling fans they had to go wait in their cars. Thankfully, the halftime and lighting delay only lasted about 30 minutes.

Things looked good for the Rams when, with 3:55 on the clock in the third quarter, on fourth and 17 on their own 36-yard line, Rams sophomore quarterback Andrew Campbell pumped a perfect pass to the goal line where junior wide receiver William Pfeffer split double coverage between the corner and the safety and came down into the end zone with great touchdown catch. 7-0 Rams.

In the fourth quarter, St. Laurence got the wind back and tied the game. Vikings’ junior running back Keynan Morgan bounced off tackles, reversed course, went around end and turned a seven-yard loss into a 13-yard touchdown.

“We didn’t wrap our arms and tackle. We kind of went up, we call it hockey checking, like you go in and you try to do the big shot. The kid bounced it and that was that,” Bizzieri said.

Tied at seven each with eight minutes left in the fourth quarter and the wind at its back, St. Laurence faced a fourth and 14 from DePaul Prep’s 26-yard line, Swanson did not hesitate.

“I didn’t even know it was 43 yards. I wasn’t thinking too much about it. Don’t try to kick it too hard because the wind was going to take it. I just kicked it like an extra point and let the wind do the rest,” said Vikings’ senior kicker and Oak Lawn resident, Evan Panther.

It was good. Right down the middle but just over the crossbar. 10-7 St. Laurence.

The Rams were able to put together a couple drives as the time wound down but couldn’t score.

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