



Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, Chicago's oldest and largest not-for-profit theater, just turned 100 years old.

The Goodman at 100

In a culture that worships youth, turning 100 remains a significant event that requires one to stop and honor that milestone. The Goodman Theater is doing just that by hosting 100 free acts of theater.

The Goodman was founded by William O. Goodman and his family to honor the memory of Kenneth Sawyer Goodman—a visionary playwright whose ideas helped shape Chicago's early cultural renaissance.

That spirit of creativity and generosity endures today.

In 2000, through the commitment of Goodman's descendants—Albert Ivar Goodman and his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton—The Goodman opened the doors to its current home in the heart of the Loop at 170 N. Dearborn.

With distinctions including nearly 200 world or American premieres, two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and nearly 200 Joseph Jefferson Awards, The Goodman is the first theater to produce all 10 plays of August

Wilson's "American Century Cycle." In addition, the theater frequently serves as a production partner—with national and international companies to Chicago's Off-Loop theaters—to help share their experiences.

A lot can happen over a century, both expected and unexpected. Lasting that long is a real reason to celebrate. Goodman Theater opened to its first audience on Oct. 20, 1925, and last week the city honored their existence with "Goodman Theatre Centennial Day" in Chicago.

As part of its anniversary season celebration, The Goodman announces fall/winter offerings of its 100 Free Acts of Theater initiative, launched in July in collaboration with Chicago's Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Led by Jared Bellot, The Goodman's Clifford Director of Education and Engagement, together with Artistic Coordinator Emi

GOODMANsee p. 12

Migrant who mugged Streeterville woman gets 4-year prison sentence

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Venezuelan migrant was sentenced on Oct. 20 to four years in prison for mugging a woman in Streeterville just three days after being released from electronic monitoring in another case.

Edmonds Peraza Cortez, 25, pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery and possession of a controlled substance before Judge Aleksandra Gillespie, according to court records.

Around 6:30 a.m. April 11, a 41-year-old woman was outside her building in the 400 block of E. Illinois St. when Cortez pulled his Divvy bike in front of her and displayed a gun, prosecutors said.

The victim told police she heard the gun click as Cortez demanded, "Money! Money!"

Instead of taking cash, Cortez made off with the woman's iPhone, Lululemon bag, and electric scooter. Prosecutors said the



Edmonds Peraza Cortez

holdup was captured on video.

Shortly after the robbery, police pinged the woman's phone to the 600 block of W. Hubbard St. When officers arrived, Cortez saw them and ducked into a nearby tent, according to their report.

He was arrested after the victim identified him as the robber.

Just three days before the holdup, prosecutors had dropped a felony narcotics case against Cortez, and his ankle monitor was removed. After his arrest three days later, prosecutors refiled the narcotics charge in July.

On Oct. 20, Judge Gillespie sentenced him to four years for the robbery and a concurrent three-year term for the narcotics case.

Chicago Filmmaker welcomes new restaurant in his Wells St. building

BY JANE LAWICKI

Veteran filmmaker and long-term Old Town resident Don Klugman was pleased neighbors supported a request to serve alcohol at Caché, a restaurant and lounge opening soon in his building at 1446 N. Wells St. The Oct. 21 community meeting organized by Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] via Zoom to discuss the topic generally proved positive.

"I'm now renting the space to the Calaras family," Klugman said. "I picked kindly people to operate the place, not the folks that normally operate bars."

Klugman has lived 65 years in the Old Town neighborhood. "When I came to Wells St. the basement bar/restaurant was The Hideout. The food was New Orleans Cajun. The ambience was warm and home-like. The owners were the Baumann family," he recalled about the property he has owned for decades.

"Over the years the tenancies changed. Most notably there was



Don Klugman

U.S. Blues, the blues bar, whose part-owners were the Belushi family. And, recently, there was the Suite Lounge, owned by the O'Looney family.

But the man who owns the property has had an interest-

ing Midwestern-American life, a tale that captures an era many have come to forget. That of the post-WWII generation, and it's coming of age. And Klugman not only lived and witnessed that era, he captured some of it on film.

"In 1960 I lived at 172 W. Burton Place. In 1965 I moved to 1446 N. Wells St., and in 1985 I bought the building," he said. "I still own it. I live in it. I work in it. It is my home, my office, my studio, and my proudest antique possession."

A highly regarded film and video editor now in his 90's, Klugman graduated in the late 1950's with a Master's in Cinema from the Univ. of South California. He returned to Chicago and began working as a scriptwriter for WGN-TV and other advertising and production companies.

According to material we found on www.ChicagoFilmArchives.org, in 1960, Klugman joined Encyclopedia Britannica Films

RESTAURANTsee p. 12

The envy of the North Side, West Ridge gets 192-space parking lot

Concept needs to be emulated in other communities

BY BOB ZULEY

The West Ridge Chamber of Commerce [WRCC] recently announced the grand re-opening of new public parking spaces in their community area. And now the rest of Chicago's parking-starved North Side may be green with envy.

The 192-parking spaces are located at 6401 N. Rockwell St. and opened on Oct. 17.

WRCC executive director Larissa Tyler and WRCC president Irv Loundy were on hand during the ribbon cutting. Also on hand during the ribbon cutting were the John Drexel Properties team who managed the massive renovation project and the Metropolis team who will be managing the site. It does not appear that this parking structure offers electric vehicle charging stations. However, Metropolis does offer other garages in Chicago that offer EV charging.

The project was announced by the WRCC, the Jewish Neighborhood Development Council of Chicago, the "On Devon Ave" community page, and Ald. Debra Silverstein [50th].

The project aims to provide more convenient parking options for residents and shoppers while supporting the local businesses on Devon Ave. Providing easy and affordable parking within the

community is a concept that was once a given in most urban areas, until recently.

Such a forward thinking approach as demonstrated by this parking project has escaped the planning processes of much of the political leadership now running City Hall, and at the city's utopian Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] where they must think normal shoppers and area residents get around town flying on rainbow-colored Pegasus horses, and no longer need vehicle parking spots.

Most Chicagoans have now seen for themselves that the city is actively removing off-loading parking at a breakneck pace, in both commercial locations and in all the new high-density residential construction.

Most Chicagoans have now seen for themselves that the city is actively removing metered commercial street parking and off-loading city-owned parking lots at a breakneck pace, in both commercial locations and in all the new high-density residential construction.

One example is in the Edgewater community where the dearth of available parking is legendary, but apparently incomprehensible to the 'experts' at DPD.

Edgewater, particularly east of

Broadway, needs additional parking places which will assist local Edgewater businesses while building pedestrian traffic on the CTA.

However, just as city planners are trying to add 18,000 new residential units to East Edgewater, they have not incorporated any parking in the planned developments in the recently upzoned area. In fact the city is now encouraging developers to build new high density projects that offer zero off-street parking.

In September, Chicago eliminated minimum parking requirements for most new high-density developments located in "Transit-Served Locations," which are areas within a quarter-mile of a CTA bus corridor or a half-mile of a CTA rail station. That now applies to the entire North Lakefront leg of the Red Line, and on streets like Broadway, Clark, LaSalle and Halsted, and Michigan, Ashland, Clybourn, Elston, Milwaukee and Western avenues.

This lack of sensible planning includes creating no new Park & Ride parking near the newly constructed CTA Red Line stations.

Providing off-street parking lots would attract motorists and customers to drive to Edgewater and conveniently park before boarding the CTA trains to points north or south, whether for work, entertainment, or appointments.

According to CTA on-line data, the only Red Line Park & Ride

PARKINGsee p. 12



Argyle St. in Uptown. Photo by Adam Alexader. Nha Hang Vietnam soup and restaurant at 1032 W. Argyle.

Vietnam’s rich sophistication, exotic culture, Chicago-style saga in Uptown



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

Chicago is an eater’s paradise. Our urban terrain is a geography chock-full of fantastical cuisines. I don’t just mean pricey menus in fancy restaurants with hard to imagine descriptions. But establishments of glorious design that arrived with the layers of new residents who never forgot or mislaid the foods of their birthplace.

This city has grown with fresh, sturdy, creative kitchens that thrive by creating new tastes that

stretch from Evanston to the Indiana border. A landscape embellished with vittles that refine local tastes.

I’m quite sure that the gang of trappers and frontiersmen residing at Mark Beaubien’s Sauganash Inn along the Riverfront, back before Chicago was established, would be wide-eyed at the foods on platters in Chi-town today. Their home-cooked stews of squirrel, possum, roasted venison or water fowl kept them well-fed. The forests of the Prairie were well supplied with the “fixins” for creative cookery. The waterways brimmed with fish nearby, at the ready. But the wildlife cuisine could be monotonous.

But in every day of Chicago history, mealtime was always a display of culture, science, economic and geographical growth. Like a well-balanced story of a family. A saga charting the ongoing attachments of develop-

ment and evolution. As well as the influence of a catalogue of impact by progress in technology, agrarian expansion, political organization and medicine. A process that helped civilize the land, harness the power of waterways and advance medical safeguards and health.

Mealtime, Chicago-style, reached an unusual peak when the Union Stockyards opened in 1865, radically changing the way America ate. With the railroad and meat packing industries in the era after the Great Fire of 1871, Amour, Swift, Morris and a host of other meat packers began to ship meat, processed in Chicago, across America.

Fresh meats appeared nationwide and forever altered the American diet. Meats no longer needed to be locally produced. That was all taken care of back in Chicago. Adding protein to the nation’s food supply. Food was having a revolution at the nation’s center. Chicago was reinventing menus, adding what tasted splendid to the industry of food production on a grand scale.

Food became a Chicago passion. Countless opportunities for employment were a special part of the food explosion. A dynamic resource that saw newcomers from around the world resettle here. Leaving the old world of tyrants, warfare and poverty in their past. Chicago was the American destination for employment and a new life. That has never ceased.

All across the landscape new foods carried by new settlers cap-

ture the tastebuds and hearts of everyday Chicagoans to this very day.

That includes one of my very favorite cuisines, Vietnamese. North Siders are acquainted with the powerful, yet delicate foodstuffs of that creative, exotic culture.

Vietnam remains a powerful and impactful geography for a generation who knew it as a war-torn nation embattled and impassioned through the 1960s and 1970s. A hot zone in the Cold War.

A land that stymied conflict resolution from JFK through LBJ and ending with Nixon. The very name an assault upon American youthful soldiers whose assignment there brought too many home in bodybags.

But that was a half century ago. In the aftermath Vietnam now thrives. Peace-filled and modern in its restructured recovery. A golden travel destination.

Many Vietnamese people immigrated to Chicago, fleeing the post-war communist takeover, creating a culturally attractive and resourceful community in Uptown and Edgewater near Argyle and along Broadway. A neighborhood thriving with excellent restaurants and shops safeguarding the treasures they carried with them from the place of their birth.

I’ve come to love the creative menus of the authentic Vietnamese establishments, especially on Argyle St., between Broadway

and Sheridan Rd.

Menus boast a stunning variety of remarkably diverse foods compared to other Southeast Asian cuisines. Fabulous soups. A favorite is chicken egg drop soup with shrimp and crabmeat. Other soups are big and bold with a wide variety of meats and vegetables. Others are bountiful delicate noodle broths.

One favorite restaurant has become like home to me. Easygoing but super high quality. Nha Hang, 1032 W. Argyle, is my favorite and considered the best by some diners. The staff is authentic and charming, and most helpful to novice eaters of Vietnamese treats. Even though it’s BYOB, a nearby good liquor store carries all the beer and wine needed to enhance dinner. Just three doors west.

Nha Hang has dynamic seafood dishes, and every variety of meat dishes and stews. My favorite dish is called a pancake but it’s more like a large, super thin, crusty, folded crepe filled with lovely shrimps, chicken and pork, abundant with bean sprouts and added veg. Served with a large bouquet of fresh herbs, especially

VIETNAM’S see p. 8

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Rep. Schakowsky was clarion voice on traditional Medicare

Often referred to as a “scam,” Medicare Advantage plans benefit insurance companies

BY BOB ZULEY

As U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky [9th] wraps up her long career in Washington, Illinois senior citizens and others that rely on Medicare will share a sense of loss over one of the biggest critics of Medicare Advantage [MA], a Republican-designed program designed to limit consumer choices while benefitting medical insurance companies.

On May 5, Schakowsky announced her decision not to seek re-election at the end of her current term in 2026.

What will endure after she is gone is the annual season for MA advertisements on television, social media, in big box stores, and telephone marketing.

Underway right now, “Medicare Season” refers to different enrollment periods, with the main ones being the annual Open Enrollment Period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 for making a wide range of Medicare and Medicare Advantage plan changes, and the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period from Jan. 1 to March 31 for those in a MA plan to switch to another plan or back to Original Medicare.

While no single person can be credited with calling MA a scam,

critics and government reports have highlighted the deceptive marketing practices and fraud that are used to promote MA plans, leading some to view them negatively.

The US Senate Finance Committee, the Illinois Attorney General, and the Mississippi Insurance Dept. have all issued statements about MA, while the New York Times and other media have reported on lawsuits against insurers for alleged fraud.

As early as 2003, Jan Schakowsky was on the stump defending traditional Medicare against the Republican onslaught.

Schakowsky’s earlier statement pledging to protect and improve traditional Medicare will be missed after her departure. “I am strongly opposed to efforts to eliminate Medicare’s guarantees by privatizing it, leaving seniors and people with disabilities on their own to deal with private insurance companies...” she said.

As early as 2003, Schakowsky was on the stump defending traditional Medicare against the Republican onslaught. “We know

that the Republican Party has never liked Medicare. In 1995, Bob Dole even bragged about voting against Medicare. [We] had to fight them to get Medicare passed in 1965. And ever since, they have tried to destroy this precious program.”

In 2024, a report by Brandon Novick from the Center for Economic and Policy Research wrote that insurance companies spend significant sums of money to hoodwink seniors with marketing that highlights the supposed advantages of MA, like low upfront costs and gym memberships, while leaving seniors in the dark about the downsides, like heavily restricted networks and denials of necessary care.

Novick identified Myth #1 as including the term Medicare in “Medicare Advantage,” which he says is incredibly misleading as the MA program is de facto government-subsidized private insurance.

Traditional Medicare is public insurance, where tax dollars are directly used to cover healthcare costs for seniors and some disabled people.

In contrast, MA consists of thousands of different plans mostly provided by insurance giants like UnitedHealthcare and



U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, 9th Dist. of IL.

Humana. Seven large insurance companies accounted for 84% of MA plan enrollment in 2023.

MA plans make money by spending as little as possible on patient care in order to keep as much of the taxpayer money as possible.

Myth #2 reports that MA has never saved taxpayer money as a substitute for traditional Medicare. “In fact, according to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission [MedPAC], taxpayers have spent more money on financing MA than they would have if everyone was covered un-

der traditional Medicare.

A 2023 study by the Physicians for a National Health Program estimates that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] have overpaid MA plans between \$88-\$140 billion in 2022 alone through practices like pre-tending patients were sicker than they were along with targeting healthier, less costly seniors to enroll in their plans.

Myth #3 is one of the primary appeals of MA. That is the idea that it saves beneficiaries money. Patients in both traditional Medicare and MA have to pay a monthly premium for Medicare Part B that pays 80% for outpatient services unless the patient has Medigap coverage.

In MA plans, premiums, co-insurance rates, and deductibles vary across the thousands of different plans. For healthy individuals without need of expensive

SCHAKOWSKY see p. 7

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ERRD statement on Broadway Upzoning passage

Hints at possible legal action may hold City accountable

BY BOB ZULEY

In a recently released statement, the Edgewater Residents for Responsible Development [ERRD], a grassroots community organization comprised of Edgewater residents, Block Clubs, and small business owners expressed their heartfelt thanks to the 100-plus neighbors who travelled to City Hall on Oct. 14 to protect Edgewater’s businesses, heritage buildings and quality of life in

Edgewater and Uptown.

The outcome of the City-engineered, developer-driven Broadway Upzoning process was anticipated, the statement said, reflecting the traditional “deferring” to sponsoring Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] based on the project being a land-use matter in her ward. Aldermen don’t break ranks often lest they not be shown the same “prerogative” in their own wards.

The Chicago City Council’s Zoning Committee approved the proposal that Thursday, and the full City Council later approved the plan on Oct. 16. Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth’s unprecedented,

unstudied, and unplanned massive upzoning was swiftly enacted into law by the full City Council with no discussion.

The project was too massive to be considered in one ordinance. EERD thinks a more orderly, thoughtful process would have had Broadway from Devon Ave. to Winona in Edgewater considered in one ordinance. The remainder from Winona to Montrose Ave. could have been considered separately.

Still, ERRD’s primary objective was achieved: ensuring the resident’s objections and the concerns voiced by several skeptical aldermen are now part of the of-

ficial public record.

ERRD made a strong record over the City’s numerous procedural and legal violations – including failures in public notice, disregard of due process, and violations of the City’s Zoning Code requirements – as well as the lack of study and planning and harmful short, and long-term impacts of this zoning decision.

ERRD’s next steps include community action, advocacy, and legal steps to hold the City accountable, and demanding genuine community-led planning in the 48th Ward, the statement closed with.

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INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Dark clouds still hanging over North Side home market

The Home Front

by Don DeBat

The 2025 holidays may be only weeks away, but dark clouds still hang over the North Side resale-home market, leaving gold-seeking prospective buyers wondering if they will find a lump of coal in their Christmas stockings.

Through the third quarter the North Side residential market continued to struggle with the same year-long hangover headaches—limited listing inventory and strong buyer demand, which keeps pushing home prices higher—extending a cloud-filled trend that has been in place for the last several years.

That’s the assessment of veteran broker Mary Jo Nathan of Baird & Warner’s North Center office at 4037 N. Damen Ave. Nathan is author of the quarterly “North Side Market Report,” which tracks sales of single-family homes and attached properties in nine North-Side neighborhoods—Edgewater, Lake View, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, Near North Side/Gold Coast, North Center, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Ridge.

The North-Side market again set a quarterly record for the highest median home price, Nathan noted.

The third quarter median price of \$445,000—covering single-family homes, condominiums, townhomes and cooperative apartments—rose by 7.2% over the same quarter a year ago. Looking back 10 years, the third-quarter median price is up a lofty 31.6%.

“A continued contraction in the inventory of available homes remains a major factor in the current housing market,” noted Nathan. “The North Side inventory of attached and detached homes at the end of the third quarter was 1,418 units, a steep decline of -24.8% from the same point in 2024.”

Mortgage rates dip

The only good news for home buyers now is home-loan interest rates are continuing a downward slide. On Oct. 23, Freddie Mac’s Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that average benchmark 30-year fixed home loans slipped to 6.19% from 6.27% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed rate loan was 6.54%.

“Mortgage rates continued to trend down this week, hitting their lowest level in over a year,” said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s chief economist.

“At the start of 2025, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage surpassed 7%, while today it hovers nearly a full percentage point lower. This dynamic has kept refinancings high, accounting for more than half of all mortgage activity for the sixth consecutive week.”

Despite the dwindling supply,

third-quarter home-sales numbers stayed relatively stable, falling just -0.5% for the quarter to 2,335 properties, according to data from MRED, the regional multiple listing service. The average time on the market before going under contract for properties sold from July through September was 51 days, which compares to an average of 52 days a year earlier.

“The market remains challenging for buyers, and patience is required because they will often face competition for any home on which they make an offer,” said Nathan.

“Crafting an offer that is aggressive enough to compete successfully while at the same time not overpaying for a home is the balance buyers must pursue in the current environment,” Nathan advised. “It often takes several attempts before that goal is achieved.”

Condos and Townhomes

Even though the inventory of condominiums and townhouses was down -22.5% for the third quarter, sales in the attached homes category rose 1.1% to 2,105 units across the North Side market. That increase was almost entirely attributable to the Near-North/Gold Coast submarket, the largest city market for attached homes, where sales rose 16.6% to 785 units.

Elsewhere across the North Side, only Edgewater managed to eke out an increase, with sales up 1.8% to 168 units. The three other large attached-home submarkets—Lake View, Lincoln Park and Uptown—saw sales decline -1.5%, -12% and -1.1% respectively.

The median sales price of an attached home on the North Side rose 5.1% for the quarter to \$400,000, easily the highest third-quarter median price for attached homes ever recorded for the North Side.

The median sales price moved higher in five of the nine North Side communities, led by gains of 22.1% in Lake View, 15% in Lincoln Park and 14.5% in Rogers Park. Edgewater and Near North/Gold Coast also had increases in the median sales price. Average market time was 51 days, unchanged from a year earlier.

Single-Family Homes

Sales of single-family homes were significantly hampered during the third quarter by the lack of inventory, with active listings sinking an amazing

-43.5% to just 117 properties at the end of September. That contributed heavily to the -13.2% decline in third quarter sales, which totaled 230 North Side properties.

Conversely, the median sales price for those homes was \$1,572,500, a substantial 24.8% increase. That is by far the highest quarterly median price on record for this North Side market segment.

Much of the price increase is because two of the largest and most expensive North Side markets for detached home sales posted strong gains. In Lincoln Park

third-quarter sales rose 20.8%, while in North Center they were up 27.3%.

Elsewhere across the North Side, single-family home sales volume was up a solid 22.2% in Rogers Park and 25% in Near North/Gold Coast. However, sales fell in the five other community areas, topped by declines of -61.9% in Edgewater and -51.2% in Lincoln Square. Both those areas ended the quarter with single-family inventory in the single digits: three homes for sales in Edgewater and four in Lincoln Square.

North Side Median Prices— Third Quarter 2025		
Neighborhood	Median Price	% Change
Edgewater		
Detached	\$1,088,500	+1.8%
Attached	\$277,250	+6.6%
Lake View		
Detached	\$1,940,000	+17.6%
Attached	\$488,213	+22.1%
Lincoln Park		
Detached	\$2,462,500	+26.2%
Attached	\$650,000	+15.0%
Lincoln Square		
Detached	\$1,048,500	+10.3%
Attached	\$330,000	-12.4%
Near North/Gold Coast		
Detached	\$2,252,500	+28.4%
Attached	\$430,000	+4.9%
North Center		
Detached	\$1,665,000	-1.3%
Attached	\$545,000	-2.3%
Rogers Park		
Detached	\$850,000	+41.0%
Attached	\$252,000	+14.5%
Uptown		
Detached	\$1,572,500	+52.3%
Attached	\$327,500	-1.7%
West Ridge		
Detached	\$627,500	+12.7%
Attached	\$175,000	-5.4%
Total North Side		
Detached	\$1,527,500	+24.8%
Attached*	\$400,000	+5.1%

*Note: Detached homes include condos, townhomes and cooperative apartments.

Home prices on rise

The median sales price rose in eight of the nine North Side community areas. The sharpest increase was in Uptown, a gain of 52.3% to \$1,572,500. Other top gainers were Near North/Gold Coast, up 28.4% to \$2,252,500, and Lincoln Park, up 26.2% to \$2,462,500. Only North Center posted a decline, dropping -1.3% to \$1,665,000.

Among the nine community areas, only Rogers Park and West Ridge posted a single-family median sales price of less than \$1 million for the quarter.

During the quarter, the time it took for detached homes to go under contract was 50 days, 13 days less than one year earlier.

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

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State removes sunset provision for cocktails to-go

The State of Illinois wants to fight, for your right, to party.

The state has moved on a law permitting cocktail and mixed drink delivery and takeout to provide support to for craft distillers and small liquor license holders that suffered so badly during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Lead by Sen. Sara Feigenholtz [6th], state officials want to make cocktails to-go a permanent option for bars, restaurants and consumers.

Last week, Feigenholtz added this provision to Senate Bill 618, making permanent the safe pickup and delivery of mixed drinks in state law. Illinois now joins 20 other states that have made cocktails to-go permanent. SB 618 passed the Senate in the first week of veto session and now heads to the House where it is expected to pass.

“My district boasts some of the most [well] recognized restaurants and establishments in our state,” said Feigenholtz, chair of the Senate Special Committee on Tourism. “Cocktails to-go began as a lifeline, but the market is revealing good reason to make it permanent.”

Since the pandemic, trends show 28% of consumers are entertaining at home more often. Sadly Chicago’s bars and restaurants have still not recovered from the government-imposed pandemic economic lockdown, so having the choice to eat out or entertain at home with fancy high-end cocktails adds another revenue stream for liquor sellers.

Fairly or not, the government-imposed lockdown shook the restaurant industry to it’s core, forcing many small family-owned establishments to close for good.

State and city policies forced the closure of dining rooms throughout the Chicago

area for the better part of a year, suffocating restaurants’ main revenue stream. The government-forced closures were vast and sweeping, leaving vacant storefronts and economic wreckage in every neighborhood.

But wait, there’s more. The forced closures were quickly followed by dramatically higher prices due to inflation created by massive government spending. That was then exacerbated by supply chain issues causing shortages of products and supplies, and then that was followed by a sharp increase in quality of life crimes, the riots and looting of 2020 that made people afraid to go out at night, especially in Downtown Chicago and the Near North and North Sides, leaving the entertainment industry struggling. They’re also watching Loop office occupancies and return-to-office mandates, hoping for the return of their formerly steady lunch crowds.

Restaurant operators are also closely watching other proposed policies that could drive up prices, such as an Illinois Senate Bill that would phase out the distribution of polystyrene foam food containers.

For many survivors, the industry has continued to flounder, as various federal and local anti-business policies pile up, such as new ordinances requiring Chicago restaurants to give workers paid time off and higher hourly wages.

Add in dramatically higher Cook County property taxes driving up rents, and you end up with people who need a stiff drink. Chicago restaurants’ labor and product costs have increased more than 35% since 2020, according to the Illinois Restaurant

COCKTAILS see p. 10



(L) Verzenay Chicago’s award-winning Baguette earned runner-up honors at the 2025 Tiptree World Bread Awards USA. (R) Executive Chef Arshiya Farheen and Head Bread Maker Kathryn Buck at the Tiptree World Bread Awards.
Photos courtesy of Verzenay

Best bread

Verzenay earns multi-category honors at Tiptree World Bread Awards

Verzenay Chicago, 2507 N. Lincoln Ave., the French bakery and patisserie led by Executive Chef Arshiya Farheen, won First Place for their Challah bread at the Tiptree World Bread Awards USA 2025 during IBIE in Las Vegas, on Sept. 16.

Founded in 2014 and based in Lincoln Park, Verzenay Chicago is a French bakery and patisserie owned and led by Chef Farheen. The bakery is known for artisan breads, viennoiseries, and refined pastries rooted in seasonal Midwestern ingredients with subtle Indian influences expressed through classical French techniques.

Farheen and Verzenay was the only Chicago-based bread maker winner named for the 2025 competition.

Judged blind against entrants from across the U.S. and abroad, the bakery also earned distinctions across multiple categories. Head Bread Baker Kathryn Buck participated alongside Executive Chef Farheen in preparing and presenting the entries.

Guy Frenkel of Céor Bakery in Santa Fe Springs, CA, was named the Overall

Winner of the bread breaking awards.

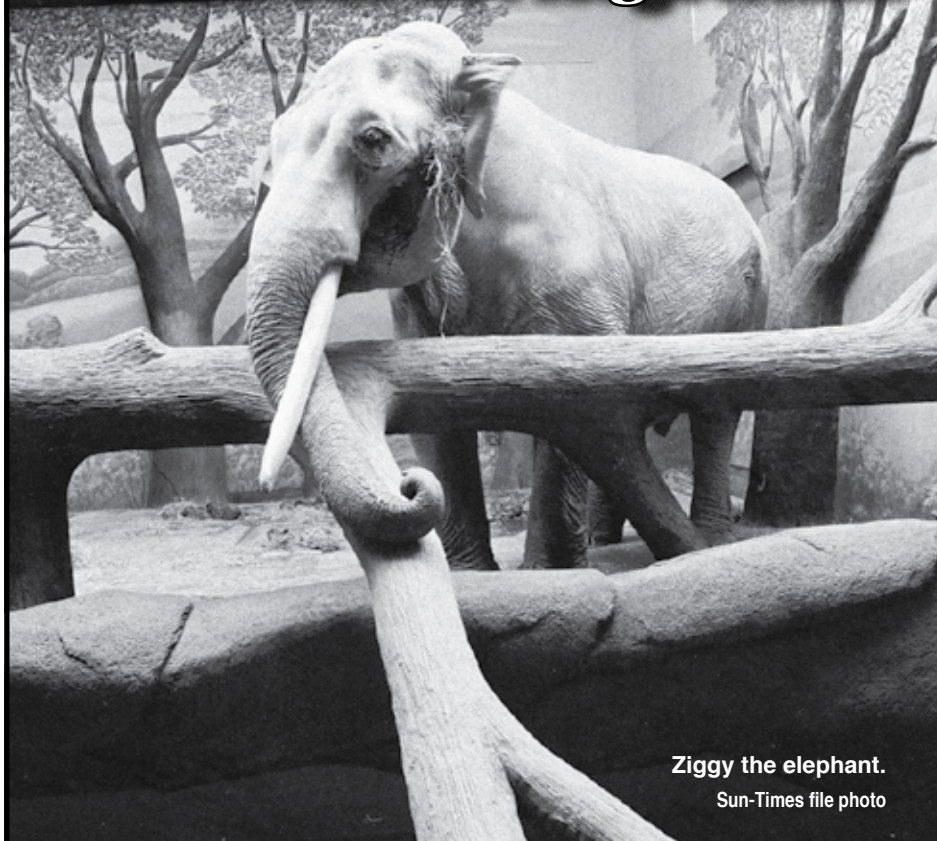
Awards and recognitions for Verzenay included: First Place: Challah, Runner-Up: Baguette, Runner-Up: Flatbread (Lachcha Paratha), Gold Certificate of Excellence — Specialty: Savory (Cheese Sourdough Bread), and Silver Certificate of Excellence — Sourdough Oat Porridge.

“This win is as much about the community of bakers and vendor collaborations as it is about bread,” said Farheen. “It’s also an honor to stand alongside talented professionals, including Ceor bread, Wynn hotel, Epicerie Boulud, and many more. I’m especially proud of Head Bread Baker Kathryn Buck, who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with me and adapted to every challenge.”

Verzenay is open everyday except Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit at <https://www.verzenay-chicago.com>, or call 773-799-8312.

The Tiptree World Bread Awards USA follows the UK-established World Bread Awards methodology, ensuring consistent, internationally recognized scoring.

Gone but not forgotten...



Ziggy the elephant.
Sun-Times file photo

Ziggy, Brookfield Zoo’s captive elephant, was chained to the wall for decades.

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Police Beat...

Man charged with murder

Evan Reich, 18, of the 3100 block of W. Granville Ave., was charged Oct. 19, with one felony count of murder – First Degree, and attempted murder - First Degree.

Reich was arrested Oct. 17, after he was identified as one of the offenders who, Sept. 13, shot and killed a 26-year-old female victim in the 3400 block of W Wabansia Ave.

Ravenswood man charged with murder

On Oct. 23, Carlos Marrero, 26, of the 5000 block of N. Winchester Ave., was charged with one felony count – Murder- First Degree, and one felony count of attempted murder - First Degree, after he was arrested on Oct. 21, in the 5000 block of N. Winchester Ave.

He was identified as one of the offenders who fatally shot a 26-year-old woman on Sept. 13, in the 3400 block of W. Wabansia Ave.

Another 36-year-old woman was also shot and seriously injured during the incident. Marrero was placed into custody.

Gunman fell off scooter, shot victim who recorded him on the ground

A man who fell off his scooter in a Near North Side parking lot shot another man who recorded him lying on the ground, prosecutors said.

Michael J. Jones, 40, has been ordered detained on charges of aggravated battery by discharging a firearm and being a felon in possession of a firearm for the July 11 shooting in the 500 block of W. Scott St.

Prosecutors said the 41-year-old victim had just returned home from a construction job around 9:20 p.m. and was sitting in his car texting a coworker about the next day's schedule when Jones rode a black scooter through the parking lot, crashed, and fell. The victim used his phone to record a short clip of Jones on the pavement.

Jones then got up, parked his scooter near the car, walked toward a grassy area, and returned holding a gun, according to prosecutors. Surveillance video allegedly showed Jones walking up to the driver's side, standing beside the door, and firing two shots downward toward the victim's lap. He then moved to the back of the car and fired several more rounds as he walked away, prosecutors said.

The victim, who was armed, returned fire from inside the vehicle and again after opening the door as Jones fled. He called 911 and was found on the pavement next to his car with gunshot wounds to his thigh, calf, and scrotum, according to court filings.

Police identified Jones through



Michael Jones

an informant who knew him by name and had learned of his involvement. Additional video footage showed Jones walking toward his nearby home shortly after the shooting, prosecutors claim.

When officers arrested Jones recently, they found a loaded handgun in his cargo pants pocket, prompting Jones to explain that he carried the weapon because he lived in a dangerous neighborhood, according to prosecutors.

Judge Luciano Panici Jr. ordered him detained. Jones has a prior felony gun conviction from 2016, according to court records.

Man shot in Rogers Park is no stranger to police

A 23-year-old man who was shot in Rogers Park on Oct. 20 is no stranger to Chicago police.

CPD said the man arrived at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston around 10 p.m. with a gunshot wound to his right leg. Investigators determined he had been shot minutes earlier in the 7300 block of N. Winchester Ave., where officers found about a dozen shell casings outside an apartment building.

Police did not provide further details about what led up to the shooting or who pulled the trigger. The man underwent surgery and was listed in fair condition.

We do not identify surviving crime victims by name, but court records show the injured man has a history of arrests in Rogers Park. Previous cases include allegations of possessing a firearm at the Howard CTA station while wearing an ankle monitor and driving a stolen vehicle that had just been taken in a carjacking.

A man who closely resembles the shooting victim also appeared recently in photos from a "seeking to identify" bulletin released by CPD as part of a robbery investigation on the Red Line in Lincoln Park. However, he has not been charged with any wrongdoing in connection with that case.

He is the 17th person shot in Rogers Park this year, compared to 22 people shot at this point in 2024. In recent years, the neighborhood recorded 29 shootings as of this date in 2023, 24 in 2022, and 19 in 2021.

Mugger slammed pregnant woman into wall at Loop CTA station



A CTA surveillance image of the robbery suspect.

A pregnant woman was violently attacked and robbed in the pedestrian tunnel connecting the CTA Red and Blue Line platforms at Jackson earlier this month, according to a community alert issued by Chicago police.

The robbery happened around 12:40 p.m. on Oct. 4 at the tunnel, which links the stations in the 200 block of S. State St., police said. According to CPD, the assailant approached the woman from behind, grabbed her purse, and threw her into a wall and to the ground before fleeing

ing on a bicycle with her belongings.

Police described the suspect as a Black man between 18 and 25 years old, with a thin build and dark twisted or dreadlocked hair.

The victim's condition was not immediately disclosed, but the robbery is being investigated by the department's Public Transportation Section detectives. The alert asked anyone with information to call 312-745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com using reference number JJ439359.

North Center man opened fire after mother's boyfriend attacked her at party

A 23-year-old North Side man has been detained on charges that he fatally shot his mother's boyfriend during a family gathering in North Center last week.

Gabriel Medina

Gabriel Medina is accused of killing his mother's boyfriend, 53-year-old Timothy Martin, around 10:36 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, inside an apartment in the 2800 block of N. Leavitt St.

Assistant State's Attorney Sheri Bennet said the shooting unfolded during a birthday party for Medina's mother, who had been dating Martin for about three months. Around 8 p.m., friends gathered outside the family's home to sing "Happy Birthday" before going inside, where Martin set up his DJ equipment and began playing music while others danced, Bennet said.

At some point during the evening, Medina's mother went to use the bathroom, and Martin followed her. Inside, he allegedly grabbed her by the hair, pushed her, and yelled. When the door opened, a witness saw Martin throw her to the floor, prosecutors said. As a witness helped her up, Martin walked away and resumed DJ duties.

Family members began ordering Martin to leave the apartment, but he refused, Bennet said. Medina's family members threw a cup and a mug toward Martin, and a physical struggle broke out. During the commotion, Gabriel Medina came out of his bedroom to ask what was happening. After hearing the details, he went back into his room and returned with a loaded handgun, which he was legally licensed to own, according to Bennet.

Prosecutors said Martin then charged at Medina's brother, prompting Medina to fire five shots, striking Martin in the chest, leg, hip, and groin. He died at the scene.

Bennet said Medina admitted to shooting Martin. Judge Antara Rivera detained him pending trial.

Migrant gets seven years for mugging Lollapalooza concertgoers, badly beating one with scooter

A Venezuelan migrant received a seven-year sentence on Oct. 23 after pleading guilty to robbing concertgoers in the Loop following last year's Lollapalooza, including one victim he seriously injured by beating him with a scooter.



Edinson Yanez

Edinson Yanez, 24, targeted the crowd in at least two robberies.

Around 11 p.m., Yanez allegedly plowed an electric scooter into a 26-year-old suburban man and stole the victim's gold chain in the 50 block of E. Jackson Blvd. Prosecutors said Yanez bit the man and beat him with the scooter, breaking two of the victim's ribs.

While police were speaking with



Robert Higgs, inset, and the Uptown post office.

Going Postal, man charged with stabbing victim during fight over who'd be next in Uptown post office line

A 63-year-old Uptown man is detained after prosecutors said he stabbed a 24-year-old man three times during a bizarre confrontation that started over who would be next in line at a post office.

Prosecutors say Robert Higgs, of the 5200 block of N. Sheridan Rd., stabbed a 24-year-old man three times during the Sept. 20 confrontation near the U.S. Post Office at 4850 N. Broadway. The attack "almost" collapsed the victim's lung, prosecutors said in a detention filing.

The alleged victim and his girlfriend went to the post office shortly after 9 a.m. to mail an item when Higgs entered and began arguing with him over who was next in line, prosecutors said. When the victim approached the service desk, Higgs allegedly told him to wait outside so they could fight.



Breon Edwards, center, and CTA surveillance images released by CPD.

Man gets four years for 'extremely dangerous' robberies aboard CTA trains

A man a judge said "preyed on random victims on CTA trains" in the Loop and committed "extremely dangerous robberies" has been handed a four-year prison sentence.

Breon Edwards, 21, pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and received concurrent four-year terms from Judge Shelly Sutker-Dermer. With credit for good behavior, he is expected to serve about two years in state custody, with an anticipated parole date of Feb. 26, 2027.

Prosecutors said Edwards and a group of accomplices carried out two robberies just hours apart on Sept. 16, 2024. Around 3:30 a.m., they allegedly targeted a 21-year-old man on the State-Lake CTA platform. Then, at about 6 a.m., they robbed a 22-year-old man aboard a train near the Jackson station. Police said one accomplice kicked and punched the first victim, while another strangled the second, who required hospitalization.

that victim, they learned other CPD officers had detained a suspect who allegedly robbed another man in the 300 block of S. Dearborn St., according to a police report.

In that case, two men from suburban Atlanta, ages 19 and 26, said Yanez grabbed one of them by the shirt and stole a phone and necklace. He tried, but failed, to take a chain from the second man, prosecutors said. Officers tracked the stolen phone's location to find Yanez nearby.

Yanez was already on pretrial release for a domestic violence case at the time of the robberies.

Judge Mary Brosnahan noted the "severely injured" victim who was beaten with a scooter and the ran-

The victim and his girlfriend left and started walking away, but Higgs followed and punched the victim, prosecutors said, and the victim punched him back. At that point, Higgs allegedly pulled a knife from his pocket and stabbed the man multiple times before fleeing with the weapon.

The victim was hospitalized for three days and required "numerous" stitches, prosecutors said.

Higgs allegedly had a folding knife in his pants pocket when police recently arrested him to face charges in the case.

Judge James Murphy III ordered Higgs detained after finding that he poses a danger to the community. He is charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

A 14-year-old boy was also charged in connection with those robberies, according to Chicago police.

Officers later spotted Edwards driving without signaling. When they tried to pull him over, he allegedly sped off, crashed into a parked car, and tore through a Gage Park soccer field before his Volkswagen Jetta broke down. Edwards then ran across six lanes of Western Ave. traffic before officers caught him, according to his arrest report.

A CPD supervisor said Edwards was suspected of involvement in another Red Line robbery near Argyle on Nov. 27, 2024, though he was never charged in that case.

At the time of the CTA robberies, Edwards was on probation for two previous burglary convictions. Judge Sutker-Dermer terminated that probation "unsatisfactorily" at sentencing.

domness of the attacks on concertgoers as reasons she decided to keep Yanez in jail.

On Oct. 23, Yanez pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery before Brosnahan, who sentenced him to a pair of concurrent seven-year prison terms. With good behavior, he will be released after serving half the time.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Second man charged with kidnapping DePaul student, holding him for ransom on the Red Line

BY CWBCHICAGO

A 20-year-old man is the latest to be charged in a harrowing Red Line kidnapping and robbery that prosecutors say turned an ordinary train ride for a DePaul Univ. student into a crosstown nightmare of death threats and extortion.

Keyonte Love was charged this week with aggravated kidnapping for ransom and aggravated robbery, accused of teaming up with 18-year-old Ricky Willis to abduct the 18-year-old DePaul freshman on a southbound Red Line CTA train last month.

Prosecutors said the attack began around 2 a.m. Sept. 6, when Love and Willis boarded the train at the Argyle stop. Minutes later, the DePaul student stepped aboard at Fullerton, adjacent to the school's Lincoln Park campus. Within moments, the men allegedly



Mugshot of Keyonte Love, left, and a surveillance image of a suspect released by Chicago police.

edly cornered him, threatened to kill him, and demanded cash.

Love and Willis seized the student's phone and tried to transfer money to themselves, but the transaction failed because they tried to transfer so much money, the bank suspected fraud, prosecutors said. Undeterred, they allegedly began contacting the victim's family and friends to demand ransom payments.

Using the victim's phone, Love and Willis first called the man's sister and warned her she would "never see him again" unless she sent money, prosecutors said. Terrified, she transferred \$700 through Zelle to Willis' phone number, according to the allegations. The pair then contacted the victim's roommate, who sent another \$100 via Cash App, allegedly to an account named "Ricky Willis."

When they called the victim's mother, prosecutors said, the plan faltered because she spoke little English and didn't know how to use electronic payment apps.

As the train neared 63rd Street, Love and Willis allegedly warned the victim he would "end up dead in a ditch" if he tried to run. They

forced him off the train, marched him into an alley, and took photos of his identification documents, prosecutors said. They allegedly gave him a phone number and ordered him to make weekly electronic payments or be killed.

"I will kill you," Willis allegedly told him. "This is life or death. I have a switch." The term "switch" refers to an illegal device that turns a handgun into an automatic machine gun.

The student never sent another payment, but he received calls from the kidnappers for several days. Chicago police released surveillance images of the assailants within days, prompting a housing worker to recognize both Willis and Love as residents of a property where the tipster worked.

When questioned by detectives, Willis admitted to being the person in the surveillance photo and told police he "messed up," prosecutors said. He was charged earlier this month and remains detained by order of Judge John Hock.

Love recently surrendered to police and appeared before Judge Luciano Panici, who ordered him detained pending trial.

SCHAKOWSKY from p. 3

healthcare services and products, MA saves money due to its low premiums.

However, traditional Medicare users may save thousands of dollars for expensive care that would reach their limit if they were enrolled in MA.

Through incentivizing the use of preventive care, MA's capitation payment model should supposedly increase the health of its beneficiaries. However, there is not sufficient evidence to prove this.

There are many reasons for poor health outcomes in the U.S., such as lack of healthcare access, high costs, low income, poor diet, and lack of exercise to name a few.

The strategy of giving lump sums of money – mostly to insurance company giants – and incentivizing them to spend as little as possible is not supported with evidence of improved health outcomes and does not directly tackle these greater issues.

"All in all, Medicare Advantage is a scam," writes Novick. Congress created MA in 2003. After signing the bill into law, President George W. Bush boasted how MA would lower costs, expand benefits, afford seniors more choices, and improve quality of care.

However, this supposed modernization of Medicare was really a scheme to privatize, gifting billions of dollars to insurance companies while seeking to end traditional Medicare.

In reality, MA has never saved taxpayer money. Through gaming the system of capitation payments, MA insurance companies have reaped billions of taxpayer dollars in overpayments – which have also increased the amount all Medicare beneficiaries pay in Part B premiums.



This newspaper vs Sudler Property Mngt.

Yes, we have a dog in this fight. Inside Publications has hired legal representation to defend us 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 only \$20 a year will also help. Visit www.insideonline.com

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6221 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640

We are grateful for your support.

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

Free soccer clinic Nov. 1

A free soccer clinic will be held at Senn High School, 5900 N. Glenwood, Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Boys in grades 6th through 8th can join the Truman College Falcons and the Chicago City Football Club at Senn with pre-registration.

The Senn High School soccer

program is considered one of the top programs in the city, and has produced six All-State players in the last six seasons.

Visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdAiyh7QV7Pa_gpz-B2zw_oyejN43r7DGzBpBm-KjMYtaaCrbMg/viewform

Letters to the Editor

Tough guys

Thomas O'Gorman in a recent column suggests that today's "gaggle of incompetent aldermen" with "socialist biases" could not even have "gotten close" to City Hall's engine room back in the days he worked there. Then he salutes several "tough" aldermen from his era starting with Ald. Burke!

Quite recently Burke indeed not only got close to, but managed to get inside the federal penitentiary

for a good eight months. If not for his age this "tough" felon would have been there even longer. I haven't read or heard of any of today's socialist oriented aldermen being "close" to being hauled to jail. But I wonder if Ald. Burke was allowed to pass by the engine room during his time in federal custody.

Fred Case
Lakeview

For my friends, anything

"Top mayoral aide refused to cooperate in services-for-vote probe: report [Oct. 22]."

I read this article (and) it reminded me of two things:

One, not to forget that the mayoral aide is a political insider and is the son of the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; a formidable (some say obnoxiously demanding) representative from Texas. And I think also of the un-

relenting political prosecution of Mike Lindell of My Pillow fame.

Two, in this age of two-tier justice and special treatment in public office, I suggest we apply the old and accurate political observation: "For my friends anything; for my enemies, the law."

Robert L. Johnson
Lincoln Park

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VIETNAM'S from p. 2

mint, that you pull off the stems and mix with the variety of accompanying sauces.

The flavors explode and enchant. A rich sophistication start to finish.

The gentle tastes, though, always haunt my memory for how the Vietnamese food challenges us, given the reality of the terrible warfare the nation endured. Their food speaks volumes of who they really are. Thoughts even more haunting now, seeing Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] agents with weapons on our Chicago streets, sent by our federal government to enforce federal law, and harassed by political clowns and radical activists like Illinois State Rep. Hoan Huynh, whose embarrassing, "Do you know who I am?" encounter with ICE agents went viral last week.

I will search for the truth where it may be found, in a pancake with fresh mint.

CARDINAL CUPICH: Pope Leo XIV, continuing to build his new administration, has appointed Chicago's **Cardinal Blase Cupich** as a new member of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State, the Vatican announced. The commission is the legislative body of the city state and was established in 1939.

RETHINK: Former Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** says **President Trump** sending the National Guard to Chicago is not bringing public safety to our streets. Neither is defunding the police. These are false choices. Both are wrong. Rahm was more lovable when he was 6,800 miles away in Japan.

BASTA: Trouble is apparently brewing big time in post-Columbus Day Parade Chicago. It seems the Italian community is enraged at **Ron Onesti**, the president of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans [JCCIA], because of his embrace of **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. The Italian Community sees the mayor as anti-Italian and no friend to them, often wreaking havoc on their culture, history and even refusing to recognize Columbus Day. They are

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

demanding Oresti resign his role with JC-CIA, as he's too cozy with the mayor.

LAWYERING: Winston & Strawn LLP, one of Chicago's oldest and largest law firms, founded in 1853, opens new global headquarters at 300 N. LaSalle St., a renovated riverfront building. The firm makes its first move in more than 35 years.

PAX TIBI: Shannon Rover's Pipe Major **Brian Costello** helped bid farewell to Chicago great **Sister Jean RSM**. He was lucky enough to play for her several times throughout the years but was honored to play bagpipes for her one last time... Illinois Secretary of State **Alexi Giannoulis** says, "Sister Jean and **Sister Rosemary**. We've never needed their love and kindness more than we do now. Rest in Peace."

MEET THE AUTHORS: Authors **Robert Loerzel** and **James A. Pierce** will join a Book Talk with **Chris Jones** to discuss *The Uptown: Chicago's Endangered Movie Palace*, at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan Ave., Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 6:15 p.m. RSVP to reservations@cliff-chicago.org or by phone 312-922-8080.

CLOSED: Big Star West Town has closed. A savvy upbeat one-off hospitality establishment serving fab Tex-Mex vittles and memorable margarites has closed on Ogden Ave. There's still the original on Damen and the Wrigleyville location. And breakfasty Yolk on W. Division is now shuttered. Sad all in my hood.

HOUSING: Earlier this month, a brand-new 37-unit building opened at 835 W. Addison St., providing rental assistance to mobility-impaired households. This important development is the result of a collaboration between the Over the Rainbow Association, Lakeview Lutheran Church, and the City of Chicago. The six-story, fully accessible building is designed to offer 37 affordable, independent housing units for residents with disabilities. The building is already fully occupied, having broken ground just over two years ago. Bravo Lake View!

MOVING ON: The Japanese American

Service Committee [JASC] announces that CEO **Courtney Sakai** has left the organization effective last week. Courtney served as CEO for a year and oversaw the move to their new home at 5700 N. Lincoln Ave. after vacating their former Uptown home. Longtime JASC Board Member **Jeff Uchida** will serve as Interim CEO.

WE ARE ALL FAMILY: Brother Rice High School students put faith into action by attending a burial service at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery for 80 indigent and unidentified individuals who had no family to claim their remains. Standing in solidarity alongside St. Laurence students, these Crusaders ensured these forgotten souls received a dignified and respectful sendoff.

CHICAGO THEATER: The Chopin Theater at Ashland and Milwaukee aves. will present a gothic revival of *Jekyll & Hyde*. So far previews have been selling out. The musical features full orchestration, 15-piece orchestra and 12 incredible singers performing up close.

MCA HOT: The Museum of Contemporary Art is currently presenting a retrospective exhibition by artist **Yoko Ono**. Yes, the widow of Beatle **John Lennon**. Chicago is the only stop in the U.S. for this stunning exhibit, that is very "hands on" and interactive. Check it out.

SERVICE CLUB: It was a very exciting 135th Gala on Oct. 25. Broadway performers, great silent and live auction items, including art and two seats at the March 2026 Paris Fashion Week Givenchy show. It doesn't get any more exciting than that.

OLE: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview is off on their annual trip to Spain led by their very popular pastor, **Fr. Jeremiah Boland**, recently making their way through Segovia and Salamanca.

CHICAGO EATS: Gene & Georgetti's and **Grant Achatz** will both be honored in 2026 at the Jean Banquet Awards for Culinary Excellence. The legendary Chicago steakhouse will be named the first-ever Iconic Restaurant of the Year. Achatz will receive a lifetime achievement honor. Winners of the annual award will be announced in January.

CHICAGO LABOR: While at a Rome Conference, Chicago Labor leaders laid a wreath at the tomb of **Prince Hugh O'Neill** at the Church of San Pietro in Janiculum, Rome. O'Neill was the Irish prince who led the Irish Earls out of Ireland in 1607 to save them from the wrath of **Queen Elizabeth I**.

PINK: Designer **Nate Berkus** reveals his "favorite new neutral" paint color is "Soft Pink." It shades with more warmth.

LIBRAS: Irene Mojica and **Barb Bailey** joined the popular **B.J. Murray** for the fifth annual "League of Libra Birthday Celebration" at which many distinguished Libras were honored. Notably **Sherrill Bodine**, **Eamonn Cummins**, **Elizabeth Bertucci**, **Dianne O'Connell**, **Laurie McEathron Marchese**, **Joyce Selander**, **Doc Brieva**, **Mona Purdy**,

Nicholas Psychogios and a host of others.

WHO'S WHERE: Piccolo Sogno's **Ciro Longobardo** is back from his Italian journey... and music man **Russ Goeltenbott** with niece **Mikaela Goeltenbott** and the family celebrated her Sweet 16th... **Laura Chaveriat** at the **Keats** and **Shelley** house in Rome near the Spanish Steps where Shelley died at 21... **Dr. Randy Roenigk** in town from Rochester, MN, for a meeting, his first stop was at Portillo's River North for a beef, dipped and sweet... Boston mayor **Michelle Wu**, an accomplished pianist, and the Boston Pops performed 'Rhapsody in Blue' at Symphony Hall... **Fr. Bill Corcoran** might have been in Rome but he had his sign ready on "No Kings Day"... A new **Jane Austen** statue has been unveiled at Winchester Cathedral during the author's 250th anniversary year... **Dan Balanoff** at Courthouse Square, Bloomington, IN, ready for football... **Al** and **Virginia Gratz Shorey** in Giverny, France along side **Claude Monet's** lily pad pond, at one with earth... Big cheers to **Cathy Bell Bartholomay's** mom, **Carol Bell**, on her 95th birthday, many more, dear... **Patti Bidwill** good as new after knee replacement out and about in Paris at the Christian Dior Museum at Rue Francois I... **Candace Jordan** proud to be an ambassador for this soon-to-be-iconic brand of eyewear, "Eye Wigs"... **Courtney Daley Thompson** and classmates took a walk down memory lane at St. Ignatius College Prep Reunion recently for their Class of 1985... Word is the grandchildren of the late **Mary Jo McGuire**, wife of famed saloonkeeper "Butch" McGuire, have just opened a saloon in Lincoln Park, 2251 N. Lincoln, named for their fabulous grandmother, called "Mary Jo McGuire's."

CHICAGO FASHION: **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh's** "Chicago Fashion Showcase" at Union Station was a hit with my colleague **Candace Jordan** front and center joined by **Sally Jo Morris Pfaff**, **Melinda Jakovich-Lagrange**, **Whitney Reynolds**, **Bethany Kitick** and **Tina Gravel** among the guests.

MANGIA MANGIA: Managed a dinner stop at Piccolo Sogno as Chef **Tony Pirola** arrived with his adorable family, hungry and wise ladies... The night before it was dinner at LaScarola where **Joey Mondelli**, founder and celebrated restaurateur, sat with us sharing fabulous stories about his great pal **Victor Skrebneski**, pointing out the rare photos by "Victorio" that fill the restaurant walls.

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Clark Devon Hardware creates unity from America's most diverse community

Beloved hardware store sought to serve and guide customers throughout their careers and lives

BY BEN LAUREN

At the Rogers Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library, a group of 40 handymen, DIY home fixers, loyal employees and longtime residents of Edgewater and Rogers Park crowded upstairs on Monday, Oct. 20 to celebrate a beloved store that has defined their neighborhood: Clark Devon Hardware.

"I call it the best independent hardware store in the Midwest," said Ken Keyser, 74, an independent handyman and customer of Clark Devon Hardware for 30 years.

At the event, hosted by the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical society, Ken Walchak, who is also president of the historical society, spoke at length about his experience running the store with his brother, Ed Walchak, and the three generations of his family that owned it for just about a century.

"(Clark Devon Hardware) helps keep the community working whether you're a homeowner, building owner, renter or a college student hanging a poster," said Jim Cusick, 57, a board member of the historical society.

Founded in 1924 by Ken and Ed's grandfather, Bill Walchak, an immigrant from Eastern Europe, Clark Devon Hardware has been an anchor for the ethnically diverse adjacent communities for over a century. As working-class people from Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Asia, and Latin America - well over 100 cultures have made homes for themselves in the neighborhood, the store has sought to serve and guide them through their careers and lives.

Indeed the stores primary customer base is one of the most diverse mixes of people of the nation, but in many ways has been unified - and made stronger - by touchstones like this hardware store.

"What makes Rogers Park Rogers Park is the diversity," Ken Walchak said. And that diversity was unified in his families store, men and women coming in seeking solutions and help, and finding it.

After it was owned by their family for three generations, the Walchak brothers sold the store to its employees two years ago. Current store President Xan Flink — pronounced like Sean Flink — 40, said the store can help any customer that comes in, whether they speak Spanish, Romanian, Polish or a number of other languages.

"Customers know they can come here and be helped in a way where they feel comfortable," Flink said. "They may not know the exact specific name for a certain part, but we're like, 'Okay, we'll figure this out together.'"

Bill Walchak founded Clark Devon Hardware in its original location in 1924 at 6339 N. Clark St. The space was cramped, there was already a rival Ace Hardware down the street, and despite its name, the building wasn't even on the Clark and Devon intersection.

Bill Walchak came to America with no real skills, according to Ken Walchak, but he had the work ethic needed to help the store survive.

When he first arrived in Chicago, Bill Walchak commuted out to Elgin every day for work. Eventually, his wife convinced him to stay in the city, and despite lacking any experience in the industry, he opened his first hardware store on the West Side.

"He had no more idea than the man in the moon what a sink trap or a fuse box was," Ken Walchak said.

Bill would run the store during the day and install toilets and shades at night. By the time he moved to Rogers Park and opened Clark Devon Hardware, he had become a seasoned professional.

"I'm sure everybody has a similar story," Ken Walchak said. "You've got family members who you can't believe worked this hard and [they] were willing to do whatever it took in order to make a living."

In 1952, Bill's son Bernie Walchak ditched his suit-and-tie sales



The Clark Devon Hardware clock is considered an "iconic" symbol of the neighborhood.

job and joined his father at the store. That year, they moved into a larger space at 6333 N. Clark St, the building now occupied by Cozy Corner Restaurant & Pancake House.

As teenagers, Ken and Ed Walchak worked in the store at this location part time, but they did not intend on becoming the next owners. However, after Ed Walchak graduated from college, he decided to return. Ken Walchak, who had been working as an architect for several years at that point, decided to come back too.

"We went to work in the store and we never left," Ken Walchak said.

Now with three Walchaks and a full staff of employees, it was time for the store to expand again. In 1985, they moved the store to its third and current location at 6401 N. Clark St.

At this location, which after 40 years, Ken Walchak still calls the "new store," the brothers established themselves as a home for the area's maintenance workers.

"I knew them like I knew my own family," Ken Walchak said.

Ken said that he had such strong relationships with the janitors, plumbers, and handymen who came into the store, he would even cover for them when their spouses called looking for them.

"I knew perfectly well where he was," Ken said. "He was in a tavern across the street."

Flink, who started as a cashier in 2005, said he enjoyed meeting

customers who had been coming to the store for 30 to 40 years and had worked closely with Ed, Ken and Bernie back in the day. He said many of these customers were recent immigrants whose first jobs were as janitors for residential and commercial buildings.

"They got a job just cleaning the hallways, and then somebody asked them to change a toilet or change a kitchen faucet," Flink said. "And if they didn't know how to do that, they would come here and Ken's dad or one of the old timers would say, 'let me show you how to do it.'"

For longtime customers, it's this friendliness from the employees that has them coming back for decades.

"I'd say to them, 'I'd never expect you to remember my name,'" Keyser said. "But it's a wonderful feeling to be known, to be recognized."

It was also at this location where they installed the enormous clock that hangs above their store. Several attendees at Ken Walchak's

HARDWARE see p. 10



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Ireicho in Chicago Nov. 6 - 9

**Book monument
with names of Japanese
unjustly incarcerated
in WWII**

The Japanese American Service Committee [JASC], the Japanese Historical Associations, and many other Chicago Nikkei organizations, churches, and temples are hosting special evening programs while the Ireicho book monument is in Chicago.

The Ireicho is a book monument containing the names of 125,284 individuals of Japanese ancestry unjustly incarcerated during World War II. (Learn more about the Ireicho project here: <https://ireizo.org/ireicho/>)

The events take place on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 6

and 7, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee St. The book of names is typically placed on a Buddhist temple altar and brought out for memorial services when the names of those to be remembered are chanted.

On Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 and 9, events move over to the JASC, 5700 N. Lincoln Ave.

Keynote remarks will be given by Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams on Nov. 6. Ryuken Williams, is a professor of religious studies and Director of the Univ. of Southern California Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, which founded the Ireicho Project. He will discuss the creation of the Ireicho and the extensive research process his team undertook to create a

memorial centered on making visible all who were incarcerated in the Japanese American WWII experience.

More than 20,000 Japanese Americans resettled to Chicago after their wartime incarceration. These events will close the Ireicho's travels in Chicago, allowing guests and organizations to reflect on the impact of the incarceration on the Chicago Japanese American community. The book will stop at over 80 locations across the nation before returning home.

This program will feature an interfaith ceremony led by Rev. Patti Nakai and commentary by the co-sponsoring organizations. For more information call 773-275-0097.

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East Bank Storage located at 730 West Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-876-2000, is opening lockers:
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3250G-Gino and Marty's
5105G- Watson, Francheska
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This sale is to be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 2:00PM.
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East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL, (312-644-2000), is opening lockers:
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3Arts commits over \$1M in unrestricted arts grants

Nov. 10 celebration

3Arts, the Chicago-based nonprofit grant-making organization, announces the 17 recipients of this year's 3Arts Awards.

The organization will honor the new recipients on 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St.

Across its various grant-making initiatives, 3Arts will grant over \$1 million to more than 100 artists this year, marking a \$400,000 increase from years past, to "support artists navigating the shifting funding landscape," they said in a released statement. "This increase reflects 3Arts' deep belief that investing in artists is investing in the health and vibrancy of Illinois communities."

"A thriving city depends on a thriving arts community. Right now, our arts community faces mounting challenges

with each new day, each news cycle, and each trip to the grocery store," said Cat Tager, Executive Director of 3Arts. "Recognizing this critical moment, so similar to the onset of the pandemic with its requirement for greater resources and greater resolve, 3Arts will dramatically increase our support for artists this year."

To that end, they added five new 3Arts Awards, 40 additional Make a Wave Awards, and over \$150,000 in emergency funding, all of which will go directly into the hands of artists. The group has distributed more than \$8.2 million in grants to over 2,500 Chicagoland artists since 2007.

Tickets to the 2025 celebration include a welcome reception, awards program, and a jubilant after-party, and cost \$150-\$300. They are available at www.3arts.org/tickets.

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North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 18, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 24, 2025, 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:
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Hot Chocolate Run closing down roadways this weekend

The 18th annual Hot Chocolate Run will return to Grant Park this Sunday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 a.m. The event raises money for Special Olympics programs.

Runners will choose the distances between 5K, 10K, or 15K courses. It is anticipated that over 38,000 runners will participate in this year’s run, with the final runners expected to cross the finish line by noon. The race steps off at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Bean, passes through the Loop and Downtown area, with the finish line at Buckingham Fountain.

Several downtown area roadways will be closed at various times for the run affecting traffic. Those closures will include Balbo Ave., Michigan Ave., Columbus Dr., Jackson Blvd. Lake Shore Dr., Jackson Blvd. Michigan Ave. Columbus Dr., Ida B. Wells Dr., Monroe St. and Randolph St.

For a full list of closures and timing, visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ojRWc3rWyUnMewcXPngUx1rfHf4f64cE/view>.

Yes, the race will be filled with lots of chocolate, including chocolate fondue,



Run for hot chocolate on Nov. 2.

dippables, and a cup of the race’s famous hot chocolate. For more information, visit <https://hotchocolate15k.com/city/chicago/>.

RESTAURANT from p. 1

to script their landmark biology and ecology series. Three years later he moved to New York City to write for McGraw-Hill and ACI Films. Unpleased with work in New York, Klugman returned to Chicago and freelanced. During this time, he made three short films widely distributed and critically acclaimed.

These include “Nightsong” which tells the struggles and romantic desires of the film’s protagonist, long-forgotten African American folk sensation Willie Wright. The film portrays the racial and sexual tensions of Chicago’s Near-North folk club and nightlife scene in the mid-1960’s.

“I’ve lived here so long and seen so much stuff,” Klugman notes. “When I moved in, it was just getting to be an entertainment area. It’s still pretty much the same area.

The film, “I’ve Got This Problem,” from 1966, traces a romantic relationship between a young man and woman who meet in a coffee shop. The non-stop dialogue between the couple fluctuates between playful psychobabble and sincere attempts to relay their innermost feelings. The film intersperses humor and criticism of psychoanalysis as the couple moves through scenes from 1960’s Chicago.

“You’re Putting Me On,” from 1969, follows the same young couple years later as they travel across Chicago and end up at a swinging 1960’s bohemian party – complete with a bearded, pipe-smoking bouncer, scientific-discourse espousing priest, and a meditating “enlightened soul” wearing only sunglasses, underwear, and knee socks.

According to the Chicago Film Archives, these classic shorts note Klugman’s unique position within the 1960’s community of Chicago-based industrial and commercial film producers. Like many young filmmakers in the Midwest, Klugman made a living working on industrial and educational film productions to supplement his personal film practice. Klugman’s films are recognized for their critical and politicized content, unusual co-mingling of commercialized “high production values” and the expressive use of color, sound, and editing more typically attributed to experimental film practice.

A former media professor at Columbia College, Klugman continues to work at age 90. “I have my studio here. It’s a nice place for my clients to visit, to make commercials and documentaries. I teach young

people – and it’s kind of a good life.”

“I’ve lived here so long and seen so much stuff,” Klugman notes. “When I moved in, it was just getting to be an entertainment area. It’s still pretty much the same area.

He added, “There is still a long residential feel to the neighborhood, too: Moody, St. Michael’s, both public and private schools – a nice mixed neighborhood. It’s a really great and spectacular community.”

For more information, and to watch Klugman’s films, visit 3 Films by Don B. Klugman - Chicago Film Archives

Reading to be given on a road most travelled

A staged reading of Lyra Nalan’s Road Less Traveled! will be given on one of Chicago’s streets that is most travelled - Michigan Ave. The free event will be presented 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at 150 N. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor Randolph Room.

This new work-in-progress parallels Robert Frost’s iconic poem, “The Road Not Taken” (1915), with the extraordinary life of Chinese American trailblazer Tye Leung Schulze (1887-1972). The poem provides a fascinating framework for mapping

Tye’s life choices and the legacy she left behind, as the two iconoclastic figures appear in distinct yet parallel worlds as they wrestle with their choices, consequences, and meanings.

The event is free with pre-reserved tickets via, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lyra-nalans-road-less-traveled-a-staged-reading-tickets-1727055773309?utm-campaign=social&utmcontent=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utmterm=listing&utmsource=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>.

PARKING from p. 1

accommodation is located at the Howard terminus located at 7474 N. Rogers Ave. where 592 parking spaces are available costing \$6 for 12 hours. The CTA Blue Line also has several Park & Ride locations, including Rosemont, Cumberland, Harlem/Higgins, and Forest Park. These lots allow you to park your car and take the train for your commute. The CTA in fact offers Monthly Reserved Parking Programs along six train lines but not along the Red Line, where parking is the hard-

GOODMAN from p. 1

Suarez and Coordinating Producer Ericka Ratcliff, 100 Free Acts of Theater connects the Goodman with creative partners and organizations throughout the city. Each Act, developed in collaboration with that partner organization’s mission and programmed to take place at destinations within the partner’s community, touches one or more of Chicago’s 50 wards.

A full list of programs, RSVP links, partner organizations and corresponding wards continues to be updated at www.GoodmanTheatre.org/FreeActs.

est to find. Only in government work can a community need be so glaring, and yet so easily ignored. While in West Ridge, the private sector saw a need in the marketplace and is now filling it.

Parking rates for the garage at 6401 N. Rockwell St. varies depending on the length of stay. While different prices may be found on third-party apps, the direct rates are as follows: 30 minutes: \$2; 1 hour: \$2.75; 1.5 hours: \$5; 2 hours: \$6; 3 hours: \$8; 4 hours: \$10; 5 hours: \$12; 12 hours: \$18 and 24 hours: \$25.

Upcoming free acts, that are open to the public and coming to the North Side include:

THE TREEHOUSE, a listening party for rest, healing and dreaming in partnership with Works by Willow at Urbane Blades, 948 N. Orleans, Oct. 30, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

TEEN STUDIO: BEHIND THE MIC, at The Goodman, 170 N. Dearborn, Nov. 15, noon to 1:30 p.m.

Part of the Goodman’s Teen Studio Series, Behind the Mic is a introductory workshop for Chicagoland teens curious about the world of voiceover. Discover healthy vocal techniques, explore recording equipment and get an inside look at opportunities in theater, narration, commercials, and more.

GENARRATIONS CITYWIDE STORYTELLING FESTIVAL, at The Goodman, Nov. 24-25, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit The Goodman for the two-day Genarrations Fall Citywide Storytelling Festival. This event brings over 20 storytellers, ages 55+, from across Chicago to share their personal narratives, connect with peers and celebrate their lived experience.

SCHOOL MATINEE SERIES: A CHRISTMAS CAROL, at The Goodman 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2 and 9.

Over 1,200 Chicago Public School students and teachers will receive free tickets to The Goodman’s annual production of A Christmas Carol as part of the School Matinee Series. Participating high schools will also receive standards-based teacher professional development, arts-integrated curriculum support across subject areas, production-specific study guides, and a bus stipend to help cover transportation costs.

LOOKINGGLASS PRESENTS, in partnership with Lookingglass Theatre, 163 E. Pearson, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8. Get to know Chicago in this evening of variety entertainment and conversation. With Lookingglass Theatre Company as host, the evening interviews three separate guests, features acts that run the gamut of performance styles and entices audience participation with simple game show challenges.

The Goodman counts as its greatest legacy the community it has built. Productions and programs offer theater for a lifetime; from Theater for the Very Young (plays designed for ages 0-5) to the long-running annual A Christmas Carol, which has introduced new generations to theater over five decades. Education and Engagement programs housed in the Alice Rapoport Center use the tools of theater to help spark imagination, reflection and belonging. Each year, these programs reach thousands of people as well as educators, artists and lifelong learners across the city.

City to the left.
Lake to the right.

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