

For this is all a dream we dreamed
one afternoon long ago.

— Robert Hunter/Phil Lesh

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Global call for safetyism hits home as aggravationism

BY RONALD ROENIGK

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] should perhaps be known as the Chicago Dept. of Aggravation, as wherever they undertake a road project, people seem to get aggravated.

That's certainly the case in Edgewater and West Ridge now where a CDOT plan to add bike lanes and traffic obstacles to Granville (6200 north) has neighbors fighting against neighbors.

The 100-plus neighbors who attended an Oct. 21 meeting of the ENN-NEON Block Club at St. Gertrude's Church Social Hall on Granville got a firsthand taste of that aggravation. The two main topics on the agenda were a Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] proposed mass up-zoning of Broadway real estate, and then the contentious proposed biking greenway CDOT wants to lay down on Granville.

Due in large part to city plans sprung on residents a mere two weeks ago, residents are now fighting with City Hall and their neighbors.

Those living on Granville are fighting with residents living on Rosemont, Hood, Norwood and Glenlake; commuter pass-through drivers are fighting with local residential drivers; bikers are fighting with car drivers, and both are fighting with e-bike and scooter riders; pedestrians are fighting with cars, bike and scooters; the Alderman is fighting with her constituent; firemen are fighting with other firemen, cats are fighting with dogs, and Chicago's #1 rated rats are fighting for their lives, hoping to avoid all the car traffic now heading into their alley homes. Alleys filled with cars trying to avoid the CDOT-created backups on Granville.

CDOT created the plans that have everyone aggravated, hoping to stop some of the 7,000 vehicles a day that now pass-through the area using Granville. Their goal is safetyism, and they're not stopping until everyone in Utopia,

er... we mean in Edgewater, is safe.

Nobody at CDOT has explained by what legal right City Hall bureaucrats now feel they have to favor one group of travelers over others. Why people from some other neighborhood or suburb can be banned from using Granville is never quite justified.

Equal access under the law would imply that city planners may be taking excess privileges in expanding their powers to decide who gets to use what roads, and pass through what neighborhoods, as everyone's tax dollars build all city streets and infrastructure.

Nobody at CDOT has explained by what legal right City Hall bureaucrats now feel they have to favor one group of travelers over others. Why people from some other neighborhood or suburb can be banned from using Granville is never quite justified.

Perhaps next CDOT should tell some people they can't camp out in Chicago's parks?

In many ways, the real issue in the current demand for safetyism is never spoken. To borrow a phrase from the 1960s, and the radical Students for a Democratic Society, the traffic issue is not the issue, the issue is always the revolution. And right now the leaders of the revolution say cars are the enemy.

Urban planners around the globe are now fighting a worldwide war against vehicles as a part of the World Economic Forum's [WEF] 15-Minute City concept. It's a concept that the City of Chicago has adopted.

The idea is to sequester residents in their own neighborhoods, where they're supposed to be able

to find all their needs and wants within a 15-minute walk or bike ride of their homes. It could be perceived as the WEF's new version of systemic segregation. A segregation that implies that all 15-minute neighborhoods can be separate but equal.

In June, 2022 the United Nations [UN] adopted a sweeping political declaration on global road safety. The General Assembly committed to a range of actions aimed at reducing road traffic deaths — 90% of which occur in the world's low- and middle-income countries — by at least 50% by the year 2030.

At the Oct. 21 meeting, Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] herself noted that safetyism is now a global trend. "They're doing this all over the world," she noted about the lowering of traffic speed.

And she's right.

Referring to their Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6, the UN's aim is clear: cut road traffic deaths and injuries, and promote sustainable mobility with safety at its core. The UN urged all Member States to accede to their road safety conventions and implement whole-of-society action plans with a strong prevention approach.

Also in 2022, Stewart Simonson, Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization [WHO], described the world's transport systems as critically useful but "far too dangerous, polluting and wasteful." He said the increasing motorization of transport systems also brings the risk of death and injury, rising greenhouse gas levels, air pollution and fossil fuel reliance.

WHO labelled pedestrians and cyclists as "the most disadvantaged members of society" — noting that they are on the roads alongside high-speed traffic, substantially increasing the risk of crashes. "This is too high a price to pay for mobility," said Simon-

SAFETYISM see p. 12



Upshore Chapter Apartments, 4555 N. Sheridan Rd.

Uptown high-rise headed into foreclosure

A Uptown apartment complex may be headed into foreclosure after the owners fell behind on loan payments. Upshore Chapter, 4555 N. Sheridan Rd., was put up for sale, and failed to sell, ahead of the maturity date on a \$39 million loan.

The property is no longer listed as for sale, and payments to the bank are now delinquent.

Chicago-based real estate developer CRG, Lamar Johnson

Collaborative and Clayco built the 149-unit high-rise for \$30.7 million and completed it in 2019. The owners refinanced the property with a new loan in 2021.

The building features a 2,000-square-foot rooftop deck, a gym, business center and dog salon. The 12-story property consists of mostly one-bedroom apartments and also has 5,300 square feet of commercial retail space.

Chicago Plan Commission approves plan for 7015 N. Sheridan

More density is being added to East Rogers Park after the Chicago Plan Commission approved a new five-story, 59-foot-tall development at 7015 N. Sheridan, an area along the shoreline that is within the jurisdiction of the Lakefront Protection Ordinance [LPO].

Now the planned \$7 million residential development can move forward at the site, located mid-block between W. Greenleaf Ave. and W. Lunt Ave.

Planned by the owners of the property, Adrian and Amy Marchis, the existing single-family home on the site would be demolished as part of the redevelop-

ment and replaced by 20 new apartments, four of them set aside as affordable units.

Located in one of the most difficult areas of Rogers Park to park, the project will provide only 10 off-street spots for those 20 units. Each parking spot will have an EV charging station, adding fire concerns for residents if Lithium batteries will be regularly charged on the ground floor below the units.

The developers received City Council up-zoning approval from RT-4 to B2-3 to allow the development. The plan can now move forward with permitting and construction.

Rogers Park welcomes three vibrant public art installations to uplift community spirit

More new art installations have come to Rogers Park with the Rogers Park Business Alliance [RPBA]-funded Community in Bloom: Rogers Park by Chicago artist Ryan Tova Katz. The message is in Spanish, "Gracias Por Ser Quien Eres" (Thank You for Being Who You Are) by Matthew Hoffman, Founder of the "You Are Beautiful" project, and Abundance designed by Peruvian-Canadian muralist Patrick Dyer, painted by Chicago artist Radah.

Katz's mural, which is now on display at 1141 W. Morse Ave., was inspired by Rogers Parks'

successful Glenwood Sunday Market, RPBA's farmers market dedicated to battling hunger and sustaining the local food system.

The mural depicts Rogers Park's diverse community shopping for vibrant and luscious produce. "The market showcases the heart of the neighborhood where vendors, artists, florists, and bakers come together to share their creations—whether woven, baked, or painted," said Katz.

The mural is a tribute to the warmth that rest beneath the cold, gray days of our winter; a nod to the "joy that is ready to bloom once again, much like the com-



Three new murals are coming to Rogers Park, one each created by artists Ryan Tova Katz, Patrick Dyer, and Radah.

munity it celebrates," he said.

Hoffman, of Chicago, also aimed to draw attention to the beauty and positivity of the community with his public art installation, Gracias Por Ser Quien Eres. The large-scale sculpture

written in Hoffman's cursive handwriting runs along the Touhy Park fence at 7345 N. Clark St. and was commissioned and paid for by local taxes as part of the Vision Clark Street Master Plan [VSCMP], a multi-year plan for

the developments of the Clark St. commercial corridor.

Abundance by Dyer, painted by Chicago artist Radah, is another VSCMP commission at 7015 N. Clark St.

Battle of wits, whether heading into winter or an election



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

The year is quickly grinding to its conclusion. There's a natural winding down as we head into November and anticipate Thanksgiving, a favorite feast. An ageless moment tied to our origins. Primitive America, land first encountered and glimpsed from the salt air of the cold ocean. Arranging before all eyes what survival in the new land would mean.

If I have found any wisdom in the pondering, painting, reading and writing that fills my life, it is this: "Life in any age is really a battle of wits."

That's the essential discovery humans are free to find from the movements and reflections of others. Speculations hinged on the virtues and values of others. Their intentions, their endeavors, their motives, their hard-wrought

failure and their brightest success.

It doesn't take long to analyze the behavior of others. Their truthfulness. Their duplicity. Whether they're givers or takers.

I am enchanted by the simplicity of the Puritans in their new habitat of Jamestown. Their Protestant purity was the hallmark of their uncomplicated embrace of creation. The rhythms of nature. The rhymes of healthy simple everyday life.

A shocking confrontation which the old world of shattered European moral values could not contain. The continent's most peaceable people confronting Europe's vilest religious intolerance. Until there was absolutely no space left for Puritans to occupy.

An ocean voyage and a sea change were all that was left for them. That and their broadbrimmed hats and homeloomed clothes of simple style and color. Their simplicity was a cosmic challenge to kings and potentates. An unrelenting attack on the inhospitable ethos of European values of fellow protestants not pure.

Their struggle was to live the logic that simple living suggested. Strengthening their wits for the battle ahead. Building homes in which they could survive and prosper, while cultivating the soil around them and the waterways abounding in large stocks of fish.

Their wits moved them to discover the earth in a fresh, new way. Far different from the landscape of England impossible to own.

The stretching of wits was an

everyday occurrence for those who left the customs of England behind them. Their only chance of survival hinged on the goodness and hospitality of native primitive peoples, especially the Wampanoag, who sensed a shared human obligation to help the strangers to learn and survive.

Learn to fashion shelters, harvest vegetation, find water, vittle and sustain their modest herd of livestock. Hearts searching for their ever deepening awareness of God's love and mercy.

On the fertile soil of the Plymouth Plantation, shipwrecked as it was in the new world. They worked and learned to be one with the earth. They prayed for it and sang hymns of it, proclaiming the presence of God, a landscape sandwiched between their virtues and their sins. Far from England, and further from Holland on their escape route to a new land and life.

William Bradford, a pilgrim leader, left a firsthand account, of the first 30 years of the first days of Massachusetts living. Framing the lives of the Mayflower folk, keen, eager and dauntless.

"They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, all being well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty."

"For some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing about cod, bass, and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was a great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc."

"Besides they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports."

Bradford was five times the governor of Massachusetts. He had the wits to write descriptively and well-composed. Gave visibility to the goings on in this first of American settlements. His words frame the living of these refugees whose journey from England and Holland reached new boldness boarding the Mayflower in Amsterdam in 1607.

And to be honest, the whole experience of Plymouth Plantation bears out my earlier absolutism that life is ultimately a battle of wits. Of course, I encourage readers to further discover more about the Pilgrims' wits by locating and reading Governor Bradford's original observations.

It's especially appropriate as we approach our American Thanksgiving feast.

And of course, this year just weeks after our presidential election.

Its good to look back on moments in which people really used their wits for survival. Without the awful strategically offensive vocabulary in use at the present moment. Fueled by rivalries and dishonor in our city's ineptitude to protect its citizens from mayhem and murder. And plundering on the streets of a once safe urban homeland treasured by its people.

Examine the wits of those who claim to lead us, whose reckless actions and scurrilous language seeks to dampen the achievements and reputations of America's finest metropolis. People whose only purpose is to wound and insult and run Chicago into debt. The certifiable proof they are witless. Unfit for high office. And worthy only of the judgment of a jury of their peers.

Remember, life in any age is really a battle of wits.

BOX OF ROCKS: Facile Chicago reporter **Mike Kelly** attempted to engage Mayor **Brandon Johnson's** beleaguered spokesperson **Kennedy Bartley** about her generous raise in salary to \$192,000 at a time the City is deep in unhealthy debt and the police academy is shortchanged on candidates over finances, and police ranks are at an all-time low. Bartley is the mayoral Managing Deputy for External Relations. Recently, I'm told, the mayor enlarged her role to extend to inter-governmental affairs. She calls herself an "abolitionist" in reference to Chicago Police whom she has publicly referred to as the "f-ing" police. She also refers to the police as "slave catchers." During the interview a mayoral press secretary had Bartley leave the room and would not answer any inquiries about the questionable ethics and irrational politics that the mayor is promoting with Bartley.



Ronnie Reese

Yes, that's the same Bartley who is accused of public anti-Semitism.

RAT TRAP: You'll be delighted to discover that Chicago has been once again named the "Rattiest City" in America for the 10th year in a row. We got the win again, in every alley.

ROCKS PART TWO: Last Wednesday, it was announced that **Ronnie Reese**, the Mayor's Director of Communications, a close political ally, was fired from his post by the mayor for alleged misconduct, without explanation, after a year and a half. This close confidant previously worked for the Chicago Teachers Union, where the mayor was also previously employed. I smell a rat. So far no one's talking.

BENJAMIN MARSHALL WAY: Oct. 23 saw the east portion of Lake Shore Dr. at Michigan Ave. next to the Drake Ho-

tel officially named Honorary **Benjamin Marshall Way**, by the City of Chicago, honoring the splendid architect and his creations along that Gold Coast thoroughfare. A fine honor, long past due. **Ald. Brian Hopkins** had the honor of unveiling the new sign.

CSO: The contemporary music series CSO MusicNOW continues

in their season with a Nov. 24 program hosted by Mead Composer-Curator **Daniel Bernard Roumain** titled "Voices of Migration & Innovation." The program features the world premiere of his *Uncertainty, Our Country*, as well as his *String Quartet No. 5 (Parks and Voodoo Violin Con-*

certo No. 1, in which he is the featured soloist. Also included are works by **Allison Loggins-Hull** and **Brittany J. Green**. The MusicNOW performance is followed by an opportunity to mingle with the artists and fellow concertgoers. Go buy a ticket.

IL GIRASOLE: **Christian Hernandez** has opened Il Girasole ("Sunflower" in Italian) at 2700 N. Western (at Schubert Ave.) in what is fast being reputed to be one of Chicago's finest Italian restaurants. A true treasure with serious menu. Stuffed zucchini blossoms are the prize. So is the lobster gnocchi, the bucatini carbonara and pork loin and pancetta. Wine list from heaven, especially the Super Tuscans. And the best blood orange margarita I've ever tasted. Among the nicest

WITS see p. 8

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Tax delinquencies put all neighborhoods at risk

BY JANE LAWICKI

“It’s pretty simple. If there were five properties on a block and two are removed, along with a business down the street, the three-remaining [homeowners] pick up the tab.”

That’s how Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas explained why taxes go up as property owners compensate for tax deficiencies. Without tax collections, it’s difficult to meet budget demands and provide vital services like police and fire protection, safe drinking water and government pensions.

Depending on property assessments and tax collection rates,

what happened this year in the South suburbs could or could not happen in Chicago’s downtown, North Side, or other parts of Cook County. Historical trends, however, help explain the situation.

“What we’re seeing is the assessed value in Englewood is 100%,” Pappas said. “We’re waiting for figures to come in – but it’s not a good sign. For those of us in the business for 40 years or so, it’s not good news.”

The Cook County Treasurer’s office does not set tax rates but rather focuses on billing and collecting taxes, researching historical trends, and analyzing current data. That data is quite revealing.

“People ask me all the time,

where does the money go?” Pappas said. “Look at your bill... Last year, the City didn’t go up, but there’s 14 [taxing] agencies on your bill.”

Following this year’s record increases in south suburban residential tax bills, nearly 13% more property owners failed to pay their property taxes on time according to a recent analysis by Pappas’ office. Delinquencies increased by 22,500 to 195,845 this year, compared to 173,345 for the same period in 2023.

“Many south suburban residents saw their tax bills jump thousands of dollars this year,” Pappas said. “A lot of homeowners had to choose between paying

their property taxes on time or buying medicine, food and gas. Now their homes may be at risk.”

As historical factors differ, the same situation may not happen to the City’s downtown, North Side or north suburbs. According to a 2022 study from the Cook County Treasurer’s Office, “Maps of Inequality: From Redlining to Urban Decay and the Black Exodus,” the effects of 1940’s government-sanctioned redlining — denying loans to homeowners in minority areas because they were deemed a financial risk — thwarted generations of Blacks from obtaining generational wealth through home ownership.

Combined with racist housing covenants in South Side neighborhoods and suburbs, Black people and other minorities were locked out of White neighborhoods. In addition, predatory contract sales that came with excessive interest rates, bigger down payments, and no equity until the entire loan was paid off negatively impacted progress toward home ownership.

Such practices brought around urban decay as homes and busi-

nesses became vacant or were abandoned. Those districts and suburbs now collect a fraction of the property taxes needed to provide basic government services. This, in turn, drives up tax rates on the remaining property owners and drives up the costs of owning a home or business.

Those tax dollars are fluid, like water. The money flows into taxing bodies, and when one source dries up, other areas must make up for that loss until the taxing bodies are fully funded.

The recent spike in south suburban tax delinquencies, combined with smaller collections drop off in other parts of the county, led to \$225 million in additional taxes going uncollected. That puts more residents at risk of losing their homes and squeezes finances for schools, municipalities, and other taxing districts.

Recognizing the challenge could be the same for any neighborhood, Pappas explained. “If there are unrented buildings, someone is going to have to pay for it.”

Scandal-struck prominent Cook County judges draw negative election recommendations from legal groups

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

Early voting is well underway in Cook County, and voters are being asked by prominent legal organizations to vote “No” on sending five judges back to the bench - including three judges now embroiled in public scandal - based on varying combinations of concerns over the judges’ honesty, their ability to effectively and fairly lead their courtrooms and their legal knowledge.

The Illinois State Bar Association [ISBA], which speaks for attorneys throughout the state, and other legal organizations evaluating candidates for Cook County judge released their recommendations on the qualifications of the county’s judicial candidates on the ballot this fall.

In all, voters are being asked whether to retain 78 judges on the Cook County Circuit Court. Voters are asked only to vote “Yes” or “No” for each judge.

For a judge to secure retention, at least 60% of voters must vote “Yes” for that judge. Judges retained would secure a new 6-year term on the bench.

The ISBA and other organizations generally recommended voting “Yes” on most judges seeking retention.

However, ISBA notably recommended voters vote “no” on retaining Cook County judges E. Kenneth Wright, Kathy Flanagan and Shannon O’Malley.

Those three judges have been the subject of controversy in recent months.

E. Kenneth Wright

Wright was a particularly noteworthy inclusion on the list.

Wright has practiced law in Illinois for 47 years and has served as a Cook County judge since 1994. The ISBA notes Wright has served as presiding judge over the county’s First Municipal District since 2003. The district includes the city of Chicago, and the First Municipal District court oversees small claims civil courts, evictions, housing matters, felony preliminary hearings and cases related to misdemeanors.

While generally regarded well by his colleagues, Wright was recently identified in reporting by the Injustice Watch news publication as one of two Cook County judges currently seeking retention who may live outside of Cook County. If true, such residency problems could violate the Illinois state constitution, which requires judges to live within the governmental “unit which selects him” - in this case, Cook County.

The Injustice Watch report indicated that Wright claims a senior homestead property tax exemption for a home in Joliet in Will County. Injustice Watch noted Wright also claims two other residences in Chicago.

To claim a homestead exemption, however, a taxpayer must assert that the property is their primary residence.

The Chicago Council of Lawyers [CCL], another legal organization which also rates candidate qualifications, said they raised those concerns with Judge Wright, and the judge proved to them he had “corrected his tax

exemption status” to reflect he maintains the required residency in Cook County. The CCL said they still believed Wright to be qualified.

The ISBA, however, said it

JUDGES see p. 4

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JUDGES from p. 3

could not similarly so quickly clear Wright of the cloud of controversy raised by Injustice Watch's reporting.

"The Committee has concerns regarding his (Wright's) level of candor concerning the recently identified residency and property tax homestead issues," the ISBA wrote in its evaluation. "The ISBA finds Judge E. Kenneth Wright Jr. not qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County..."

Shannon O'Malley, fka Philip Spiwak

The Injustice Watch report also claimed their reporters had found proof that Judge Shannon O'Malley also actually lived in suburban Aurora in Will County.

In that report, Injustice Watch said their reporters telephoned a number connected to the Aurora residence where O'Malley's wife answered the phone and told him, "It's the reporter."

O'Malley allegedly was then overheard telling his wife, "Don't tell her I live here" and reportedly refused to speak to Injustice Watch at that time.

Despite the possible constitutional concerns, and in contrast to its handling of Judge Wright, ISBA did not discuss O'Malley's

potential residency issues in its evaluation of O'Malley.

However, ISBA still recommended a "No" vote to retain O'Malley this fall.

ISBA pointed to other concerns surrounding O'Malley, including past controversies.

O'Malley gained notoriety when he was first elected to the bench in 2018, when new reports noted O'Malley had legally changed his name from Philip Spiwak to Shannon O'Malley in 2012 in an apparent nakedly transparent bid to win election by playing on Cook County Democratic voters' historic preference for judges with Irish-sounding names.

Injustice Watch noted in their report that O'Malley's wife called him "Phil" when she spoke to him at the time reporters called to discuss his alleged residency issues.

In its evaluation, ISBA said its evaluation committee and attorneys providing input gave O'Malley "mixed reports on his legal knowledge, with some stating it was adequate but not great, and others describing it as inadequate."

They "also raised concerns over his courtroom management skills, which, at times, causes cases to be delayed for long periods of time. The ISBA finds Judge Shannon O'Malley not qualified for retention..."

The CCL similarly found O'Malley "not qualified." That group also noted his name change and concerns over his courtroom management, which they noted has real-world consequences for people, including children, involved in cases he oversees.

"... There are many complaints about his courtroom management, which has not improved in his years on the bench. Delays in his courtroom can mean that a

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

child remains in a group home, psychiatric hospital, or other placement longer than necessary," the CCL wrote in its evaluation of O'Malley.

The Chicago Bar Assoc. [CBA], another legal organization rating judges in Cook County, also appeared ready to retract their earlier positive recommendations for both judges.

In the CBA's most recent evaluations, the group lists recommendations on Wright and O'Malley as "pending." It doesn't provide any further explanation. However, the abrupt change followed the Injustice Watch residency issues report.

Another prominent judge could also face a difficult road to retaining her seat on the Cook County bench this fall.

Kathy M. Flanagan

Along with Wright and O'Malley, ISBA also recommended voters vote "No" to retain Cook County Judge Kathy M. Flanagan.

Flanagan came under scrutiny earlier this year, when the Cook County Circuit Court's top judges asked a state judicial misconduct board to look into accusations against Flanagan stemming from an incident in her courtroom in which an attorney claimed a bailiff, reportedly at the judge's direction, had removed him from the courtroom and handcuffed him to a chair in a non-public hallway after the attorney questioned the judge's handling of a case.

Flanagan was the presiding judge over Cook County's Law Division, which handles personal injury lawsuits and certain other kinds of civil matters.

Flanagan has served as a judge in Cook County since 1988.

While the Cook County Circuit Court's Executive Committee did not discuss details concerning Flanagan's alleged misconduct, a transcript obtained by this reporter revealed that Flanagan ordered bailiffs to "take" the attorney, identified as Brad Schneiderman, following an exchange between Flanagan and Schneiderman in court.

After the bailiff took Schneiderman to a back hallway, he was reportedly handcuffed to a chair. The judge then came back and instructed the bailiff to release him.

Schneiderman filed a complaint with court administrators about his treatment by Flanagan that day.

Flanagan denied ordering deputies to take Schneiderman into custody or to handcuff him, saying she was "unaware that he was handcuffed" until she went into the back hallway to speak with Schneiderman and the bailiff.

She reportedly told the Executive Committee she has continuously battled "lies about this incident" as she attempts to mitigate the damage it has caused to her "35-plus year judicial career."

The ISBA evaluation does not specifically reference the complaint against her.

However, the evaluation says the committee recommended a "No" vote against Flanagan because committee members and attorneys "raised concerns about her temperament and demeanor, stating they had seen her act unprofessionally, impatiently and

temperamentally."

ISBA said it found Flanagan "not qualified for retention" to the Cook County Circuit Court.

The CCL similarly said it found Flanagan "not qualified" for retention.

"... A majority of those (attorneys) interviewed report that they have observed Judge Flanagan acting temperamentally, unprofessionally, and impatiently, with some noting that her behavior has become more erratic recently. She reportedly does not allow attorneys to argue their positions fully; refuses to accept case management orders that take into account unique circumstances of particular cases; schedules trials without regard to attorneys' existing trial conflicts; imposes unduly severe consequences for failure

Philip Spiwak legally changed his name to Shannon O'Malley in 2012 in an apparent nakedly transparent bid to win election by playing on Cook County Democratic voters' historic preference for judges with Irish-sounding names.

to comply with rules; and, in general, lacks flexibility for matters outside of attorneys' control.

"While Judge Flanagan may have a well-intentioned desire to move cases along and clear backlogs within the Law Division, its manifestation as impatience, unprofessionalism, and disrespect to attorneys is a serious concern to the Council. This is particularly so given that these concerns have been raised for years, but Judge Flanagan does not appear to have successfully addressed them," the CCL wrote.

The CBA, however, found Flanagan "qualified" for retention.

Other judges of concern

In addition to those three, ISBA and other legal organizations also recommended voters not support two other judges seeking retention this fall.

These included:

- Judge Ieshia E. Gray. The CCL said attorneys they interviewed raised concerns about Gray's "work ethic" and her reported mistreatment of lawyers "after they presented positions with which she disagreed."

And, about Gray, ISBA's evaluation said "a majority" of attorneys they interviewed "did have concerns over her temperament, diligence and work ethic."

Both organizations rated Gray "not qualified" for retention.

The CBA found her qualified.

- Judge Lisa Ann Marino. The CCL evaluation said: "Many respondents raised concerns about Judge Marino's legal ability, character, temperament, and diligence."

"...Complaints include repeated legal errors, anti-defendant bias, shouting from the bench, unpreparedness, and arriving late to the bench or taking excessive time to make decisions.

"Given the breadth and volume of these concerns, the Council finds her Not Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court."

The ISBA similarly rated her "not qualified." Its evaluation said: "A majority (of attorneys

surveyed) did raise concerns over her courtroom management skills and with the extent of her legal knowledge and ability."

And the CBA also recommended a "No" vote to retain Marino on the bench.

At least one other judge subject to controversy was recommended for retention by all of the various judicial ratings groups.

Cook County Circuit Judge Regina Scannicchio, who leads Cook County's family law division, received positive reviews from all of the various agencies.

However, in recent years, judges in the county's divorce courts under her supervision have come under public scrutiny for jailing men involved in divorce proceedings amid disputes over their ability to pay hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to their ex-wives and their ex-wives' lawyers.

One man, for instance, identified as Steve Fanady, has been left in Cook County Jail for two years, a decade after the divorce case was resolved, as Cook County Judge Michael Forti and state appellate judges have, to this point, refused his repeated entreaties to be released, and despite findings that his ex-wife had misled the court concerning the actual worth of stock Forti said he must pay to his ex-wife.

Similarly, Cook County Judge Abbey Fishman Romanek has ordered River Forest developer Frank "Marty" Paris to jail on several occasions, amid disputes over that man's ability to pay his ex-wife and her lawyers.

Both Scannicchio and Romanek have also been individually sued for their handling of divorce matters.

Judicial reform advocate Edward "Coach" Weinhaus sued Scannicchio and the Illinois Judges Association [IJA] in April, claiming Scannicchio had conspired with the IJA to prevail upon other judges to violate Weinhaus' rights to due process in court, shutting down Weinhaus' efforts to challenge sanctions entered by Scannicchio against him in his divorce case. According to that complaint, the appeals documented numerous "ethical lapses" by Scannicchio.

A federal judge twice tossed Weinhaus' lawsuit swiftly, saying it improperly seeks to use federal courts to undo a state court's decision.

Weinhaus has appealed, and the case remains pending.

A lawsuit has also been lodged against Romance in recent days through the judicial reform organization known as Children of the Court on behalf of Paris' adult son, Conor Paris, accusing Romanek of allegedly unconstitutionally refusing to allow Conor Paris to observe a recent court hearing via Zoom involving his parents' divorce case.

That lawsuit also accuses Scannicchio of allegedly ignoring communications from Children of the Court to work with them to facilitate courtroom observation and separate meetings with adult children of couples undergoing divorce proceedings in Cook County.

Weinhaus serves as executive director of Children of the Court, and is listed as an attorney representing the group and Conor Paris in the lawsuit against Romanek.

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Halloween's ghostly spirit chills Chicago housing market



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Imagine what is transpiring on this eerie, windy and dark Halloween eve, when Chicagoans are more aware of ghostly visions, goblins, and noises in the night.

This writer asks: Is there really a "Heaven" populated with long-gone spirits residing in some distant galaxy?

First, let's imagine where the spirits go when they depart from earth and move toward the light. Hopefully, the eternal travel directors will guide each of us to an individual haven in Heaven, where friends and family dwell on a fluffy white cloud.

Or, perhaps each spirit passing through the pearly gates would be sent to a different galaxy. Wall Street tycoons would ascend to a cloud equipped with a stock-market ticker and CNBC, while 16-inch softball devotees would play under starlight on their own "Field of Dreams."

Of course, the evil ones among us—you know who you are—would be given a pitch-fork send-off to a flaming, lava-filled "Hell" at the center of our galaxy's boiling hot sun.

In Chicago's crazy North-Side housing market, buying or selling a home in 2024 can be a pretty scary event, especially if the property seemingly has a haunted or paranormal past.

Real estate brokers generally refer to such parcels as "stigmatized properties." They include sites of murders, notorious representations, or environmental contamination. And—of course—homes that allegedly are inhabited by unsettled souls, spirits or ghosts.

However, not all properties classified as stigmatized are undesirable. Those inhabited by spirits or ghosts may actually attract some buyers rather than dissuade clients.

According to Dale Kaczmarek, president of the Ghost Research Society in Oak Lawn, there are thousands of haunted homes in the Chicago area.

Kaczmarek, who has been involved in researching supernatural phenomena since 1975, says most ghostly encounters are benign and most spirits are playful and mischievous—not evil.

One of Kaczmarek's best ghost stories is about Bachelor's Grove Cemetery in south suburban Midlothian. Visitors report seeing the apparition of a phantom Victorian farmhouse in the woods near the cemetery.

And, witnesses report as night falls, "orbs of blue lights" can be seen twinkling and floating near the house. However, if you walk to the lights, they vanish.

"Some people say an orb—or ball of light—is the spiritual energy ghosts gather before manifestation or poltergeist activity," noted ghost-hunter Celeste Busk, a retired Chicago Sun-Times reporter who has written many haunted-house stories. "To be a



(L) Spooky photo from the allegedly haunted Bachelor's Grove Cemetery in Midlothian, IL. (R) A mug shot of renowned ghost hunter Dale Kaczmarek.

true orb of light, it has to move with purpose."

"Orbs are thought to be a spirit and/or white balls of energy the spirit is using to manifest itself, or use for poltergeist mischief," Busk explained. In the 1980s, Busk witnessed the appearance of an orb of light in a garage being investigated by ghost hunters because the former homeowner hung himself there.

"It was dark and quiet at midnight when an orb of light appeared and zig-zagged with intelligence all the way to the garage floor where it disappeared," Busk recalled. "I was awestruck and couldn't move. The professional ghost hunter captured it on video."

"It was dark and quiet at midnight when an orb of light appeared and zig-zagged with intelligence all the way to the garage floor where it disappeared," Busk recalled. "I was awestruck and couldn't move. The professional ghost hunter captured it on video."

Did you know more than half of all Americans believe in ghosts and poltergeist activity? Just in time for Halloween, this writer

offers Home Front readers the following classic ghostly apparitions:

- **Baby-sitter ghost.** A young mother tells the tale of Tom, the friendly ghost, who enjoyed haunting her baby son's room in her two-flat on the North Side in the late 1980s. "Our vintage-oak rocking chair would mysteriously rock by itself. Sometimes, a hand-crank 'Swing-O-Matic' baby swing would start slowly moving by itself, and the non-motorized mobile over the crib would spin," she recalled. "And, lights would come on by themselves, and stereo music would play."

Once at 3 a.m., the baby was

found laughing while sitting on the floor near his crib. "I sat down on the bed and had a heart-to-ghost chat with Tom, explaining that he was a spirit and had to move on," she said. "After a long talk, the ghost finally ended his haunting."

- **Grandma's perfume.** Just before midnight on Christmas Eve in 2020, a senior citizen homeowner was relaxing by his fireplace reading a book.

Suddenly, he noticed the heavy aroma of perfume wafting from a nearby corner curio cabinet in the living room, where his wife displayed photos of her late grandmother and grandfather.

The aroma flowed into the library, and lingered. Then, the fragrance concentrated in the bedroom that once was occupied by Grandma Ruth, the builder who erected the home in 1965. Gradually, the aroma faded.

"We recently had completed renovation work on our 55-year-old house, which we purchased from the family estate," said the wife. "It seemed like grandma came back on a midnight-spirit's tour to review our upgrades. Her fragrance was Tabu. She loved to read. The new library seemed to be a magnet for her, and her 1950s 'Little Book Club,' leather book-mark was on the shelf."

On Christmas Day that year, the wife witnessed poltergeist activity. The terrace swing moved, but there was no wind. Later, the aroma of grandpa's cigar smoke

GHOSTLY see p. 9


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Police Beat...

Commercial hardware burglaries

Police are warning hardware businesses in the city of recent commercial burglaries. In these incidents, the unknown offenders break out a front glass door to gain access to the business. Once inside, the offenders target power tools. They then flee in the below described vehicles.

Incident include a break in at the Crafty Beaver, on the 1500 block of W. Lawrence Ave. 5:40 a.m. Oct. 14; another in the 3900 block of N. Lincoln Ave 3:51 a.m. Oct. 15, and on the 4300 block of N. Central Ave. 4:17 a.m. Oct. 15.

The crooks are two to four unknown males wearing dark clothing, face masks and gloves.

Those who may have any information on these crimes may contact the Bureau of Detectives Area Three at 312-744-8263, and Area Five 312-746-7394, and refer to JH467554, JH468706 & JH468708 and reference: 24-CWP-052.

Police seek vehicle tied to Hamlin Park shooting

The Area Three Detective Division is seeking to identify a vehicle and subjects in connection with an aggravated battery with a firearm.

This incident occurred at 3019 N. Hoyne Ave, inside Hamlin Park near the basketball courts, 2:18 p.m. Oct. 4. The subject is observed on video surveillance exiting a vehicle, possibly a 2020 Buick Envision SUV red in color with tinted windows.

Both driver and front seat passenger exit the vehicle, and one fires a gun toward the 15-year-old victim inside the park, striking him about the body. The shooter fled the area in the red vehicle traveling southbound on N. Seely Ave, then westbound down W. George St.

The vehicles front seat passenger, is a male Hispanic, approximately 20-35 Years of Age, Height: 5'-7" to 5'-9", last seen wearing olive colored sweater and a gray baseball hat. The driver is a male Black, approximately 20-35 Years of Age, wearing eyeglasses.

Man gets 55 years for murdering one, injuring two others at Uptown Starbucks

Nearly seven years after a gunman killed one victim and injured two others, including a 12-year-old boy at an Uptown Starbucks, a judge on Oct. 24 sentenced the alleged shooter to more than 50 years in prison.

A jury found Tikeo Sweeting, 26, guilty of murder and two counts of attempted murder in April, two years after an earlier jury trial ended in a mistrial. Yesterday, Judge Diana Kenworthy sentenced Sweeting to 55 years in prison and ordered him to serve 100% of the time, according to court records.



Tikeo Sweeting

Gunman shoots man, engages cops in 2½-minute shootout before being neutralized by Chicago police



CPD's Deputy Chief of Detectives Kevin Bruno addresses the media on Oct. 26.

Around 8 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2017, Sauvignon Watkins, 28, and another man stepped outside Starbucks, 4753 N. Broadway, to have a smoke. As they did, a gunman wearing a ski mask walked up and started shooting at them as they tried to escape into the coffeeshop, officials said.

The gunman followed them inside, shot Watkins repeatedly as he lay on the floor, and ran away.

In the seconds after the shooting, a woman ran into the coffee shop, snatched up the injured boy, and drove him to nearby Weiss Hospital. Prosecutors said he had been waiting for a ride when bullets ripped through his thigh, ankle, and back.

The 24-year-old man Watkins was with survived a gunshot wound to the torso.

Prosecutors said several people shown surveillance images of the shooter were able to identify Sweeting as the gunman because his ski mask left much of his face exposed to the cameras. A witness told police that Sweeting identified himself as the shooter, too, officials said.

Shortly after the shooting, police said they believed the shooting was linked to drug activity, adding that Watkins had narcotics in his possession when he died.

Starbucks reopened the store shortly after the shootings, but it subsequently closed the location permanently.

Smash-and-grab burglars try, but fail to break into boutiques near the Mag Mile

Smash-and-grab burglars tried, but failed to make their way into at least two luxury boutiques near the Magnificent Mile on Oct. 27. But initial reports say the stores' security glass and possibly an armed guard thwarted the efforts.

"Welp, here we go again," sighed a source who lives nearby. "Heard some banging and saw a group of people that had jumped out of a car trying to break the windows of Dior, I'm not sure with what."

"One of the security guys, who are armed, seemed to scare them off as they all took off into the car and floored it, empty-handed. They were gone by the time the cops came by."

Police received calls reporting that four men wearing ski masks jumped out of a black sedan and tried to break into Dior, 931 N. Rush. Responding officers said the would-be burglars successfully cracked the glass next door at Amiri, 46 W. Walton, and that the crew failed to breach the reinforced panes.

The witness noted that Dior had

just fixed its security doors about a week ago following a crash-and-grab attempt on March 16.

Man charged with armed robbery in Rogers Park

Martel Mason, 25, of the 2700 block of W. Roosevelt, has been charged with one felony count of Armed Robbery after being arrested on Oct. 23, in the 2600 block of S. California.

Mason was identified as one of the offenders who discharged a chemical irritant at a 22-year-old male and robbed the victim of his belongings on July 19, while on a CTA train in the 1300 block of W. Morse. The offender was placed into custody subsequently charged accordingly.

Gunman leaves one dead, another injured at Belmont Harbor

One man is dead and another is badly injured after someone opened fire on them along the lakefront at Belmont Harbor on Oct. 26.

The men, both 22 years old, were standing in a parking area on the harbor's north peninsula when at least one person fired shots them at from a dark-colored SUV around 12:39 a.m., police said. One of the victims was pronounced dead at the scene, while the other was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center with gunshot wounds to his chest and arm.

Police found four shell casings from at least one rifle at the scene.

Including the latest victims, city records list 12 shooting victims in Lakeview so far this year. However, four of those victims are people who were shot elsewhere and refused to tell police where the shooting occurred after showing up at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment. As a result, the city lists the hospital as the "location" of the shooting.

Lakeview had six shooting victims at this point last year and 14 as of this date in 2022.

Man gets 20 years for shooting five-month-old and two adults in Old Town, while on probation for a gun case

A Chicago man has been given a 20-year sentence for shooting three people, including a five-month-old boy, in Old Town while on probation for a gun case.

Teantun Davis, 25, pleaded guilty to aggravated battery by firearm in exchange for the sentence from Judge Aleksandra Gillespie. He must serve 85% of the time, making him eligible for release in July 2037.

The baby was sitting in a stroller when Davis jumped out of an SUV and sprayed more than a dozen shots down the 1400 block of N. Hudson

A gunman who shot a man in West Rogers Park on Oct. 26 returned to the scene and engaged Chicago police officers in a two-and-a-half-minute shootout that morning, officials said. The gunman was hospitalized with gunshot wounds and the initial victim was treated and released, but no other injuries were reported, according to CPD.

Police initially responded to a call of a person shot in the 2700 block of W. Farwell around 9:35 a.m. Witnesses reported that a 39-year-old man was walking on the sidewalk when a gunman wearing a bright safety vest opened fire on him from behind.

The gunman fled the scene after

the shooting, but police located a safety vest discarded in the area a short time later.

As police and fire personnel were handling the situation, the gunman returned to the area and began shooting. One round struck a Chicago Fire Dept. ambulance. Cops returned fired.

For more than two minutes, the man popped up at different locations to squeeze off rounds toward first responders, CPD Chief of Detectives Kevin Bruno said during an evening press conference. At one point during the shootout, gunfire

SHOOTOUT see p. 10



Teantun Davis

around 7 p.m. on July 16, 2020. A bullet grazed the boy's eye and the two men Davis allegedly intended to shoot, ages 19 and 25, survived gunshot wounds to their limbs.

Officials said the shooting was caught on video, but a tightly cinched hoodie concealed Davis' face. However, police were able to quickly determine the getaway car's description and license plate.

Chicago police officers soon spotted the vehicle as it entered Lake Shore Dr. at North Ave. They began to follow the vehicle, which collided with a police squad car near Roosevelt and Lake Shore Dr. and later crashed in the 3900 block of S. Princeton. After the crash, CPD officers caught Davis, but the getaway driver escaped. A second person police said was arrested at the scene was never charged with wrongdoing.

Davis allegedly ditched a stolen gun as he tried to run from the officers. Forensic testing linked it to shell casings recovered at the crime scene, prosecutors claimed.

Prosecutors dropped 20 additional felonies in their plea deal with Davis, including 15 counts of attempted murder.

Forty-seven years for killing 'Walking Man' by fire

A judge on Oct. 24 sentenced a man to 47 years in prison for setting a well-known homeless man on fire in River North, leading to the victim's death weeks later.

Joseph Guardia, 30, pleaded guilty to one count of murder in exchange for the sentence from Judge Timothy Joyce.



Joseph Guardia

Guardia was AWOL from two pending burglary cases when he came upon 75-year-old Joseph "Walking Man" Kromelis, who was sleeping near a loading dock on lower Wabash Ave. near the Trump Tower around 3 a.m. May 25, 2022.

Prosecutors said Trump Tower surveillance video showed Kromelis sleeping with his head and other extremities sticking out of blankets when Guardia walked up and stood over him for about 16 seconds as the 75-year-old slept. There was no apparent interaction between the men before Guardia poured liquid, believed to be gasoline, from the McDonald's cup onto Kromelis' head and lit it on fire, officials said.

During an initial bail hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Danny Hanichak, a prosecutor for 16 years, told Judge Charles Beach he had never seen video footage as horrific as the attack on Kromelis. He said Kromelis was on fire for about three minutes before security guards from a nearby building extinguished the flames. Doctors believed Kromelis' injuries were not survivable, but he clung to life for nearly

seven months before succumbing to his injuries.

Police pieced together footage from a string of surveillance cameras stretching from Trump Tower to O'Hare to Melrose Park as they tracked Guardia's movements before and after the attack, Hanichak said. Throughout the footage, Guardia wore the same distinctive black and white Hoodrich-brand outfit the attacker wore. A dollar-sign tattoo on Guardia's face was also visible in some of the footage, Hanichak said.

Guardia allegedly ran away as Kromelis, with his head and upper body engulfed in flames, thrashed around. The fire spread to engulf his entire upper body. He eventually collapsed against a wall while still on fire "moving less and less," Hanichak said.

Nearly three minutes after the fire started, Trump Tower security guards saw the flames and extinguished the fire. They tried to comfort Kromelis while waiting for first responders.

Investigators recovered a McDonald's cup at the scene. It is being tested at the state crime lab.

After running from the scene, Guardia took a Blue Line train to O'Hare, then rode an inbound train to Forest Park before continuing to Melrose Park on a Pace bus.

Detectives shared CTA surveillance images with the public on Oct. 23, and a Melrose Park police officer who had known Guardia since childhood immediately identified him, Hanichak said. In fact, the suburban cop also works security at a plasma center and he remembered seeing Guardia at the clinic wearing the same Hoodrich outfit that day and three days earlier. Surveillance footage from the plasma center allegedly confirms the cops' recollections.

Police arrested Guardia in Melrose Park after someone familiar with CPD's "wanted" bulletin called 911 upon seeing him in public.

During an interview with police, Guardia said he found the McDonald's cup filled with gasoline and decided to set something on fire because he's "an angry person," according to Hanichak. Guardia claimed he set blankets on fire and didn't know a person was under them.

Hanichak called that claim a lie.

"It takes a special kind of evil to do what this defendant did," Hanichak said. "Leaving him to burn alive for three minutes."

At the time of the murder, two arrest warrants were out for Guardia, who stopped showing up for two suburban burglary cases over a year earlier. Those cases are still pending, as is an aggravated battery case he picked up while in the county jail awaiting trial on the murder charge.

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CTA unaware of Red Line robber memorialized at Morse L station

Alderman complacent with memorial celebrating violence

BY BOB ZULEY

Chicago has long been used to gangland slayings. It has always been a gangland city.

Nearly a century ago, in Nov. 1924, North Side Gang boss Dean O'Banion was fatally shot in his North Side flower shop across the street from Holy Name Cathedral as yet another victim of the Beer Wars of Chicago's legendary crime history.

The mayor at the time, William E. Dever said, "The situation is becoming intolerable. It is time to decide which element in Chicago is going to control. There can be no question as to the outcome in favor of law and its strict enforcement."

The mayor put the question to the community, saying, "The question is: Are we still abiding by the code of the dark ages, or is Chicago a unit of an American commonwealth?"

Today, we face increased urban firearm gang violence yet our mayor, Brandon Johnson, takes a decidedly different approach than Mayor Dever on the proper response to crime. Concluding that the problem stems from lack of equity and the deep roots of historic disinvestment, Johnson now promotes an inequitable response to urban firearm violence.

At 8:30 p.m. Sept. 20, North Side criminal Derrick Robie, 27, was outside of the CTA's Morse Street L station when assail-

ants in a black SUV fired multiple shots at him, striking him once in the lower back. Robie was armed with a replica firearm at the time he was gunned down.

He was transported to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston where he was later pronounced deceased.

At the time of his slaying, Robie was on pretrial release ordered by Cook County Judge Carol Howard following his arrest for an armed robbery on the CTA's Granville L platform in March. He was also on probation for an earlier robbery at the Morse L station. He had previously attempted to rob an off-duty police sergeant outside the Addison District station.



Chicago Mayor William Dever, 1923.

Readers of this newspaper and of CWBChicago may recognize Robie's name, detailing his earlier criminal exploits including 13 arrests since age 18, including for robberies and thefts.

Chicago's low arrest rates for most crimes continue to give lawbreakers a green light to carry on, concluded a 2023 report from Wirepoints. Chicago suffered a shockingly low average arrest rate of seven percent for robberies and six percent for thefts.

One particular heinous crime of Robie's stands out to locals among his nefarious acts.

In 2018, Robie and another man stole the valuables from a local dying man, Julian Hall, who had fallen down the stairs of the Loyola L stop.

(His widow refused to cooperate with this newspaper in providing a statement.)

Now, a commemorative memorial honoring the death of Robie stands at the Morse L station, complete with a static display on the public way and apparent gang graffiti on the station house wall and boarded up windows.

Aside from the visible gang references on Robie's memorial, unknown are his gang affiliations as Chicago Police ceased using their gang database in Sept. 2023.

Manny Gonzales, a spokesperson for the CTA's media office, was apparently caught off guard and unaware of the memorial. "We are looking into this," he said. The station is staffed on a 24/7 basis.

Asked about the propriety of such a display of a criminal's memorial on a public way and on public CTA property, Leslie Perkins, chief of staff for Ald. Maria Hadden, responded, "[Ald. Hadden] was made aware of the memorial following the tragic homicide that occurred at the Morse station on Sunday evening. Every loss of life is a tragedy, and we mourn the loss of a community member. Our condolences go out to the family."

She added, "Regarding the graffiti, as soon as we got reports of it, [we] contacted the CTA, the 24th District, and Streets and Sanitation to document it and remove it. Streets and Sanitation removed the graffiti from the windows and board. The CTA will follow up to remove any remaining graffiti that Streets and Sanitation couldn't remove and replace the

broken window."

Chicago Police 24th District Commander Alison Christian declined to respond to inquiries from this newspaper.

It wasn't that long ago that Rogers Park witnessed another type of response to gang memorials. In Aug. 2021, Alex Vernon, 19, was fatally shot at the corner of Paulina and Jonquil Terrace. Shortly thereafter, Vernon's friends erected a memorial of teddy bears and balloons to mourn his demise.

The local 24th police district commander saw a gang member and his violent end being glorified and ordered his officers to dismantle the memorial. Then-Commander Bruce Rottner told the Chicago Tribune at the time that he agrees people have a right to grieve. "But Vernon's supporters have no right to honor him on a public street corner," Rottner

said, "if he was a gang member who died in violence."

"Maybe the politically correct thing would be to leave it there, but I have to do what I feel is right for our community," Rottner said. "The memorial sends the wrong message. It glorifies violence."

Irving Spergel, a Univ. of Chicago emeritus professor in the School of Social Service Administration who has studied gangs for 55 years, told the Tribune that he supports tearing down memorials if police are certain the victims are gang members



Former 024th District Commander Bruce Rottner.

ROBBER see p. 10

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Neighbor Nights at DePaul Theatre School Nov. 7

The Neighborhood Night-Play at the DePaul Theater School will be held on Nov. 7.

The night will provide an evening of free entertainment and fun.

A wine and cheese reception will run from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., then DePaul's students will perform Shakespeare's All's Well that Ends Well for free.

Harry Potter at Symphony Hall

The Harry Potter Film Concert Series returns to Symphony Center for two performances on Friday, May 16, 2025, and Saturday, May 17, 2025, both at 7 p.m., at 220 S. Michigan Ave., with Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets in Concert, the second film in the Harry Potter series.

The program features John Williams' score from Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets performed live by the CineConcerts Symphony Orchestra while the entire film plays in high-definition on a 40-foot screen. Tickets for these performances are on sale now.

Godzilla Gala monster mash-up Nov. 1

The Japanese Arts Foundation is hosting a new Godzilla Gala special event Friday, Nov. 1 at Artifact, 4325 N. Ravenswood.

The gala will celebrate all things Godzilla on the 70th year of its historic legacy. Costumes and cosplay will be encouraged, and the event includes a costume contest. Guests will enjoy fine Japanese cuisine, spirits, and artistic performances and activities

while connecting with artists, thinkers, and makers.

Tickets run from \$100 to \$175. For more information visit <https://www.japaneseartsfoundation.org/>.

The contest will be a monster mash-up featuring Kaiju Cosplay for participants who create elaborate costumes inspired by Godzilla, other kaiju, or related characters from the franchise; and also award monster chic for participants who design and wear formal or avant-garde attire inspired by Godzilla, other kaiju, or related characters from the franchise, blending high fashion with monstrous elements.

The gala directly supports the efforts of the Japanese Arts Foundation and the vast work they do. The Foundation is at the forefront of promoting Japanese arts and culture.

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WITS from p. 2

staff anywhere.

DOWN TO THE WIRE: Roosevelt University's **Stephanie Leese Emrich** meeting up with vice presidential candidate Tim Walz at the Park Hyatt, saying, "After meeting Gov. **Tim Walz**, there is zero doubt about who I think should be our next Vice President."

BOOKS: Former Ravenswood and Andersonville notable, and Lake Claremont Press owner/publisher **Sharon Woodhouse** has returned to Chicago. She helped publish many famous local books about Chicago. Now she's a publishing consultant, coach, project manager, enterprise launcher, author, mediator, and small business consultant.

ECUMENICAL LUNCH: **Maria Pappas** sharing lunch with **His Holiness Aram I** and **Oscar Tatosian** at the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Armenia in Chicago. Aram I, the Head of the Catholics of the Armenian Church, Holy See of Cilicia, has made remarkable strides in promoting common values, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence among religions.

3ARTS: Edgewater artist **Riva Lehrer** was selected to receive one of the \$50,000 3Arts Next Level Awards, announced Oct. 21 at the awards ceremony. While Andersonville's Emily Beisel received a \$30,000 award for music. Lehrer was a longtime faculty member at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is currently an instructor in Medical Humanities at Northwestern Univ. In its 17-year history, 3Arts has distributed more than \$8.1 million to more than 2,300 Chicagoland artists.

SERVICE CLUB GALA: The Service Club of Chicago's 134th annual gala, "Timeless Elegance," will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Ritz-Carlton. Co-chaired by **Alex Meneses** and **Kelly Uihlein**, the event is the nonprofit's largest fundraiser to support its Philanthropic Grant program.

CHOO-CHOO FASHION: People are still talking about the fabulous collection of fashions created by designer **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh** for the extravagant show of Chicago designs at Union Station on Oct. 17. Her celebrity models stole the show. My colleague, **Candace Jordan**, in an animal print coat, was runway tops.

COSTUME COUNCIL: Lovely **Peggy Snorf** reported a grand evening at the Golden Jubilee of the Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum. Superb fashion show, fabulous exhibit, great friends, wonderful dinner. **Karen Zupko** was grand in her hosting. **Bill and Cathy Bell Bartholomay** at **Karen Peters'** fun table. Cathy reports: "Cheers to The Costume Council for an awesome celebration of your 50-year anniversary and the opening of the "Dressed in History" exhibit, and to **Tracey Tarantino DiBuono/Zazz** productions for the stellar fashion show."

WHO'S WHERE: **Janet and Rodger Owen** celebrating 45 years of marriage, all Chicago wishes them many more years... **Vickie Doyle Hofstetter** and **Carole Wootton** in London, circling Kensington Palace viewing the sculpture of **Diana, Princess**



Patricia Treacy with former Mayor Richard M. Daley.



Maria Pappas with His Holiness Aram I and Oscar Tatosian.



Stephanie Leese Emrich and Vice presidential candidate Tim Walz.



Riva Lehrer



Maestro Stanley Paul and friends.

of Wales and her boys, **Prince William** and **Prince Harry...** **Eamonn Cummins** and **Penelope Taylor** at The Chicago Halloween Arts In The Dark Parade with **Triona** and **Denis...** **Dr. Rose Gomez** in Bern, Switzerland traveling with the ladies in a fabulous Autumn... **Leah Chavie** with **Kathy O'Malley Piconne** on a very busy Gibson's night... talented **Cynthia Olson** producing a wonderful canvas called "Vincent" inspired by all that Venetian culture no doubt... **Helma Wardenaar** in Apenaca, El Salvador... Violinist **Patricia Treacy** delighted to run into former Mayor **Richard M. Daley** lookin' good at a reception, we miss him... **Dr. Sandy Goldberg** sharing the mission of A Silver Lining Foundation with the amazing reporter **Suzanne LeMignot** on CBS... **Melinda** and **Lucien Lagrange** at Trevor and **Suzanne's** wedding in NYC, friendships that last decades... Pictures surfacing from Maestro **Stanley Paul's** birthday last month with his posse... **Todd S. Davis** and friends enjoying early Autumn roofing in Old Town... **Barb Bailey** and **Paul Hansen** at Lake Geneva on the Gage Lake Cruise tour of lake homes amidst the beautiful autumn colors... **Todd Hatoff** and **Frank N. Jeffrey** in Savannah for a wedding and friends reunion... **Brian White** was with **Anne Carol Hamm**, **Jennifer McAdams**, and **Julie Harron** in New York's Bemelman's Bar when **Brook Shields** dropped in... **Myra Reilly** and sister, **Pam Lombardi Wenzel**, whispering prayers to the Madonna at Trinita dei Monti, Piazza di Spagna, Rome, for Oct. 20 Feast Day of Mater Admirabilis... **Jim Kinney** must be among Chicago's best read literary citizens, he's voracious and has exciting taste from **Elizabeth Bowen** to **Graham Greene...** **Joey Marjumdar** lunching with renowned art historian and

award-winning filmmaker **Sundaram Tagore...** Remembering the late **Oscar d'Angelo**, a grand Chicago gent who kept things ordered... **Karen Zupko** dining in Palm Beach with **Charlie Poekel** and **James M. Kinney** at Cafe Boulud... **Toni Di Meola** in New York with a stop at Monkey Bar... **Piccolo Sogno's** dining room was filled with many notable Chicagoans last week including **Sheila O'Grady**, publisher **Ron Roenigk**, Mayo Clinic's **Dr. Randy Roenigk M.D.**, Justice (ret.) **Anne M. Burke**, art director **Sheila Swann**, **Monsignor Ken Velo**, **Father Jack Wall**, **Margaret Houlihan**, **Peter Daley Thompson**, even **Danilo Lenzi**, the building's owner was there, creating a cozy warm comfort.

B'WAY CABARET: **Barb Bailey** was in New York as **Carol Sue Gershman** debuted her show at 54 Below. Totally sold out. The Who's Who of Cabaret came out. Carol is 89 years old - a true legend among legends.

SHERRY LEA'S BIRTHDAY: Neiman Marcus' Mariposa was the site for **Sherry Lea Fox's** birthday garden party. Beautiful, and the flower theme was carried throughout the luncheon as birthday joy filled the room. It was a great success.

SOCCER NEWS: **Liz Teasley** has helped coach the St. Luke, River Forest 8th grade soccer team since they were 5th graders. Recently they faced neighboring St. Vincent Ferrer for the annual Lathrop Legacy Cup and Won. This was their last season this year before going off to St. Ignatius College Prep and Fenwick High School, they won 14 games, lost 3 and tied 1. It's been a great year.

Just as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many. -- William Bradford

tog515@gmail.com

Time to renew your permit parking pass

Starting on Monday, the 2025 Residential Daily Parking Permits became available for purchase and become valid. At last count, there are over 10,000 individual parking zones in Chicago, an insurmountable number of zones for residents to comprehend and manage.

Residents must purchase a

Chicago Vehicle and Permit Parking stickers within 30 days of residing in the City of Chicago or acquiring a new vehicle to avoid late fees and fines.

Submitting a request within the 30-day grace period will not result in waiving of potential late fees and/or back charges.



That's one giant genus Cucurbita [pumpkin].

Guess the pumpkin weight at Morse Fresh Market

Morse Fresh Market, 1430 W. Morse Ave., is hosting a contest Oct. 31 to guess the weight of a giant pumpkin.

Guests can enter to win a \$50 Morse Fresh Market gift card and tote bag to fill up with goodies by guessing how much their huge pumpkin outside their store weighs.

That's one giant genus Cucurbita [pumpkin]. Just visit and submit your guess.

A pumpkin is considered giant if it weighs over 150 lbs. Giant pumpkins can grow over 2,000 lbs. Some giant pumpkins can grow up to 50 lbs per day if the conditions are favorable. Once these pumpkins are cut from their vines they can lose 6 to 8 lbs a day.



Day of the Dead

Day the Dead, which is celebrated on November 1-2, is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration.

In the storefront window of Bebe Elegante at 3338 N. Ashland Ave. there is "a special display called an Ofrenda, carefully decorated and covered with gifts to remember loved ones. Items representing their favorite foods and hobbies, as well as flowers and their pictures are added," said store owner Ivette.

At the top of the display is Ivettes' mother who, fifty years ago, started the popular Mexican restaurant, El Tapatio, 3400 N. Ashland Ave.

Photo by Jim Matusik

America's Got Talent star will perform at Teatro ZinZanni

Teatro ZinZanni, one of Chicago's most entertaining cabaret and cirque show, will open up their vintage circus tent, the Spiegeltent, to present The LiV Warfield Experience on Monday, Nov. 18.

For one night only, LiV Warfield, who stars in the current ZinZanni production, will give a live performance. This is LiV's first public show with her band after her performances on this summer's America's Got Talent series where Simon Cowell gave LiV the coveted Golden Buzzer.

LiV has delivered performances on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel Live!, and The Late Show with David Letterman. Before her performances on America's Got

Talent, her previous television performance was on GMA where she performed the title track to her latest album.

The Nov. 18 show will also feature LiV's ZinZanni castmate contortionist Elayne Kramer.

Doors to ZinZanni's high-end lounge will open at 7 p.m., and LiV will take the stage at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and start at \$60.

Teatro ZinZanni also recently announced their current production has been extended through December 31 due to overwhelming demand.

LiV is an American R&B singer-songwriter from Peoria, IL. She was part of Prince's New Power Generation.

GHOSTLY from p. 5

wafted across the deck. Four of their grandchildren simultaneously experienced the visitation.

• Flickering lamp. On an autumn evening, a couple started happily chatting over a glass of wine about all the hard work that they had completed on the home over the past decade. "If my father were alive, he wouldn't believe how much we improved the house," said the wife.

Simultaneously, the bulb in a vintage table lamp that once belonged to her father, began flickering on and off in a sign of approval. No electrical problems were found, but the owners decided to replace the lamp's electrical outlet to make sure there wasn't a short.

On April 17, 2024, the same lamp started flickering brightly again. The date was the 10th anniversary of her father's passing. "Dad was sending us an electrical spiritual reminder through his lamp," concluded the wife.

• Haunted "blue room." In late October, 1985, a young couple purchased a vintage English Tudor home in the Sauganash neighborhood. They were only the second owners of the house, which dated to the 1920s.

After doing a total renovation of the house, the new owners decided to leave one of the bedrooms intact because they liked its deep blue color. So, the walls were freshly painted the same color of blue. A matching blue bed spread and curtains were added.

Soon afterward, however, thumping began inside the blue walls of the second-floor bedroom. Just noisy heat ducts or plumbing, the owners rationalized. But the noise continued even when the furnace wasn't on.

A year later, a female house guest stayed in the blue room. Within minutes of retiring for the evening, the house guest raced down the stairs in hysterics.

"There's something in that room," she said. "I heard heavy breathing and groaning, and it's freezing cold in there."

After researching the house's past, the new owners found that the only prior resident had built the home in the early 1920s and lived there happily for more than 60 years. His family said their father had passed away of lung and heart difficulties in the blue bedroom only months before the

couple had purchased the house. Because of the credibility questions supernatural phenomena raise, the National Assoc. of

"There's something in that room," she said. "I heard heavy breathing and groaning, and it's freezing cold in there."

Realtors encourages states to adopt legislation based on model language provided to each state Realtor association.

The model language asks Real-

tors to declare that "all psychological impacts or stigmas associated with real property are not material facts and need not be disclosed to a potential purchaser or lessee."

Although it may take supernaturally creative marketing campaigns to sell an allegedly haunted house, buyers are out there.

Do you have goose bumps after reading this column? Is your hair standing on end? Boo!

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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Exploring Native history Nov. 9

The Edgewater Historical Society, 5358 N. Ashland Ave., will honor Native Heritage Month with an event 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 when Les Begay, co-founder of the Indigenous Peoples Day Coalition of Illinois, will discuss current native affairs. Dave Spencer, Mississippi Choctaw and Dine' Drummer will speak about the importance of drums in Native culture. Prof. Ann Lousin will speak about Kithawa, a Native woman who married DuSable and was greatly responsible for his success. For more information call 773-506-4849.

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NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 13, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 22, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
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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 MARTIN J. CROWLEY, CHUHAK & TECSON, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 120 SOUTH RIVERSIDE PLACE, SUITE 1700, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 855-4604. Please refer to file number 29187-79001 MJC.
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E-Mail: mcrowley@chuhak.com
Attorney File No. 29187-79001 MJC
Attorney Code: 70693
Case Number: 2023 CH 09703
TJSC#: 44-2746
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 # 2023 CH 09703
13254251

232323

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the LB-Igloo Series IV Trust Plaintiff
vs.
Romarez D. Moody NKA Romarez Moody; Kathleen Momo Moody; Illinois Department of Revenue; The United States of America for the Benefit of the Internal Revenue Service; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; Darius Hennington; Yomaira Verdin; Plaza 440 Private Residences Condominium Association; First American Title Insurance Company; Triad Consulting Group, LLC; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants Defendant
21 CH 2809

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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry Judicial Sales Corporation will on November 18, 2024, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercountry's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N: 17-10-127-019-1030 and 17-10-127-019-1752.
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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 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sotille & Barile, LLC, 7530 Lucerne Drive, Suite 210, Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130. (440) 572-1511. ILF2111013
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SAFETYISM from p. 1

son. He called for a worldwide effort to put safety at the core of transport systems as an urgent moral imperative.

Now, urban planners are pushing big cities to create more space for pedestrians, and lower CO2 emissions by making cities car-free.

Here now on a local scale, Chicago's urban planners and policy makers have started to enforce those UN, WEF, and WHO policies. The concept has arrived on American shores from Europe, where over 15 large cities are now using legislation to create car-free pedestrian-only zones.

But this won't be an easy sale in America. European culture has always been less car-focused than American culture. The majority of Americans love their cars and prefer to travel by car. So another fight is on: consumer demand vs global planners.

The plans are not secret. Where the rubber literally meets the road right now in Chicago is on Granville. And things are moving fast, under the flag of "safetyism." And indeed, insurance industry statistics show that slowing vehicle speeds will reduce deadly accidents.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety [IIHS] has plenty of data to show that when speed limits are raised, injuries and fatalities increase.

Jon Ward, a IIHS spokesman, says that one recent study shows reducing speed limits reduces fatalities and crashes in Seattle, where something similar was implemented to what Chicago is now considering.

"The effect of speed limits on crashes and injuries isn't limited to freeways," he said. "An IIHS study found that the risk of crashes with fatal, serious or evident injuries in Seattle dropped between 11% and 20% on arterial roads when the city lowered its default speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on arterial roads. There is also an IIHS study showing that lowering speed

limits on city streets reduces high speed travel and can help reduce pedestrian and bicyclist injuries."

Still many North Side residents are troubled by the speed that city bureaucrats are now traveling at to enforce the new WEF protocols. That speed may be due in part as an effort to stop local residents from organizing against the WEF's green revolution as it now arrives at their own front doors.

What's arriving in Edgewater - and many other neighborhoods - is an effort to reduce non-local vehicle trips; encourage slower speeds; better organize streets to accommodate all uses, and enhance accessibility to support all the ways people travel.

The city plans to add two dedicated bike lanes to the 3-mile stretch of Granville from Sheridan Rd. to Kenzie Ave. They also plan to add numerous speed humps, expand concrete vehicle-lane blockers, add traffic circles and curb extensions at intersections, and create one-way sections of roadway along Granville to force drivers onto other nearby residential streets. Those new one-way sections would bracket Broadway, Clark St., Ridge and Western avenues.

And with these changes, CDOT perhaps thinks many of those 7,000 daily pass-through car trips won't just be pushed onto adjacent streets, but magically vanish into thin air. Whereas Edgewater residents all know that the real problem is that N. Lake Shore Dr. ends at Edgewater's front door, pouring tens of thousands of commuters daily into their neighborhood.

Additionally, city planners a century ago should have added another arterial street between Peterson and Devon avenues. Those two roads are a mile apart, while proper urban planning calls for arterial streets to be located every half mile. Granville has become a de facto arterial street, leading CDOT to believe that they must hurry up and fix the street ASAP.

One attendee at the Oct. 21 meeting

Broadway up-zoning

The second important topic of the night was over the city's plans to up zone a 2.6 mile stretch of Broadway to allow for much greater density.

The city's goal is to add more housing on the street above the first floor commercial spaces.

Let this be a warning, that those who own one and two-story buildings along Broadway should know that the city wants more density. Developers may soon be circling to buy up under-utilized properties.

Part of the discussion revolved around near term excess land that will soon become available once the Red Purple Line

construction is done, and what could become of those big new spaces.

The DPD also wants to reduce vehicle traffic and increase pedestrian traffic.

But by the time the meeting turned their attention to Broadway, much of the block clubs allotted time was up, and many in the room were worn out from fighting.

They did announce there would be a second community meeting coming up in early December, and that those who were interested in the issue not miss the meeting. You guessed it: it's because the audience was warned that DPD was planning to move very fast on their proposal.

pleaded with Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth, asking the city to slow their roll over the cacophony of proposed zoning, development and transportation changes being foisted all-at-once on the community. "We've had too much thrown at us too fast. This is all going too fast. We're being over-whelmed. Can we just slow down?"

CDOT says they want their Granville plans finalized by early 2025, and the street redesign finished by the end of Summer 2025. That kind of speed implies their response to slowing down their roll is "no."

So the fighting between friends and neighbors will continue, and aggravation will grow, leaving residents wondering just who to believe.

An interesting exchange at the Oct. 21 meeting put a spotlight on just who to believe, in the opposing 'facts' presented in this fight.

It came when two self-identified Chicago firemen gave opposing testimony over the very same issue: the city's traffic calming efforts.

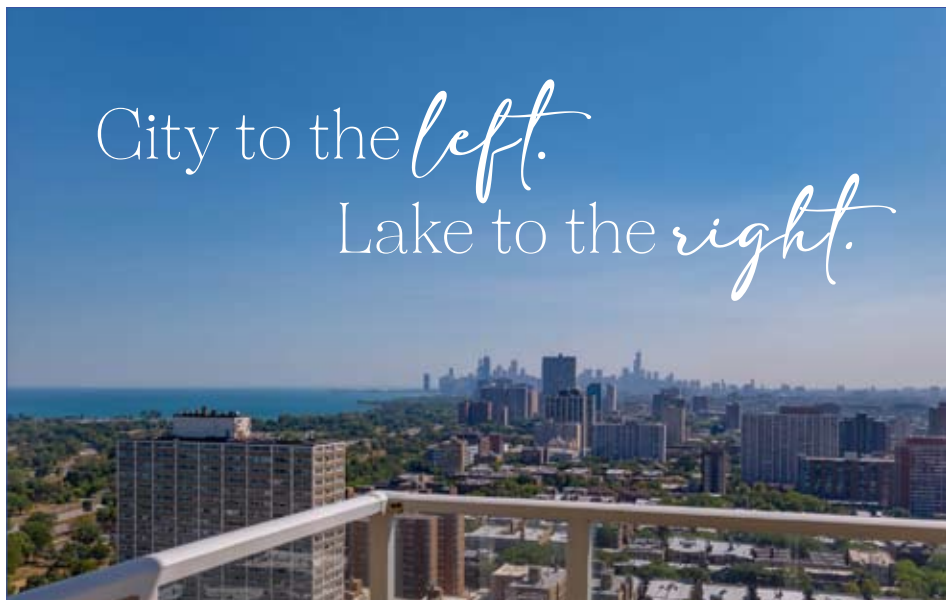
The first fireman who spoke up from the audience did not give his name, and he was dressed in civilian clothing. He said he had worked for the Chicago Fire Dept. [CFD] for 31 years. He stated that CFD firetruck

drivers had no trouble navigating through the many traffic circles, curb bumps outs and traffic humps CDOT has installed in Edgewater.

Moments later, Fire Dept. Officer Lynn, from Engine Co. 70, at 6014 N. Clark St., stood before the room in his work uniform and said "traffic circles suck."

"We use Granville quite a bit, and this is about your safety," said Lynn. "For us [Granville] is a major street." He went into detail about how emergency vehicles get stuck in the traffic circles when other vehicles are also in the circle, and how all the traffic calming concrete reduced emergency response times. "There is nowhere for [the cars] to go, no place to pull to the right. If you're going to slow down Granville then you'll need to speed up the other streets. We tell people 'in an emergency we'll get to you, we just don't know when.'"

At the end of Lynn's comments, this reporter looked back to where the other fireman was standing, hoping to ask him about those two contradictory statements... but he was gone. He had left the room and meeting before we could ask for his name, rank or query him over the conflicting statements made between the two firemen... yes, aggravating this reporter.



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