

Let's be reasonable and add an eighth day to the week that is devoted exclusively to reading.

—Lena Dunham

NEWS-STAR

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On Nov. 2 there was another fire at a homeless camp in the viaducts under N. Lake Shore Dr.

Images courtesy Uptown Update

Another propane fire in LSD viaduct

Fires and explosions have become a troubling consequence of the city's lack of will in dealing with homeless camps in the viaducts under N. Lake Shore Dr. On Nov. 2, another fire swept through the homeless encampment under N. Lake Shore Dr. in the Lawrence viaduct.

The first reports came not from the local alderman or city officials, but from citizen watchdogs who reported it to the Uptown Update [UU] community blog.

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation will once again need to assess the damage to the structural integrity of the Lawrence Ave. bridge, while other city crews will

be required to do the clean up and physical repairs.

It is the sixth fire and/or explosion reported in the viaducts and nearby camp sites adjacent to Uptown and Lincoln Park in the last two years.

The primary trigger for the fires are a toxic mix of propane tanks, open drug use, smoking, drinking and fights between homeless campers on public sidewalks. But no one in authority is doing anything about it, despite warnings from engineers that the bridges are being undermined by the fires and explosions.

Propane is used most commonly in gas grills, heaters and

camping lights. It is one of the most useful portable fuels, but it is classified as very volatile, meaning it's easy for large concentrations to accumulate as it is heavier than air. That is, it does not disperse, but will accumulate in low spots - such as the dips in viaducts, where a lit match or tossed cigarette can ignite it.

Propane will self-ignite at air temperatures of 878° F to 1020° F. Meaning, it does not need a spark or ignition source at these temperatures to ignite. Propane's combustion fuel-to-air ratio is between 2.15% to 9.6%.

FIRE see p. 12

Survey says community is against church plan to raze home for parking

Ald. Hadden to make decision in 'coming weeks'

After a late September community meeting hosted by Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] and representatives from St. George's Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church to discuss a proposed zoning change for the property located at 1530 W. Touhy Ave., a survey was posted online to solicit community feedback.

The church was seeking a zoning change (from RS-2 to RT-4) and a special use permit to expand the church's parking lot to allow 22 additional parking spots. The church said the plan would cut down on congestion and parking issues when they hold services.

Since that meeting the 49th Ward office has collected 190 survey responses that show a supermajority of respondents do not support this zoning change request, and felt the proposal would not ease congestion concerns and could exacerbate environmental concerns.

Additionally, a supermajority of respondents would not support this zoning change request even if modifications were made to the proposal.



The St. George's Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church, 1530 W. Touhy Ave.

In addition to their own survey, the 49th Ward office also received petitions both in favor and against the proposal. The pro-parking lot petition had 892 signatures, to which 12 of the respondents indicated they lived within the 49th Ward. The anti-parking lot petition garnered 505 signatures, of which 135 were from respondents within a one-block radius of the proposed zoning change.

With the feedback in hand, Ald. Hadden is still undecided, and says she will make a decision

in the coming weeks.

But even an aldermanic denial of the zoning change will not prevent the church from demolishing the home at 1530 W. Touhy by right, which it has owned since 2011.

Furthermore, despite its age (it was built in 1905) the house reportedly does not have any historic preservation protections, nor does it meet the city's criteria for landmarking.

Bridge added to dog park to remember past pets



A rainbow bridge was installed at the dog park on Nov. 11. Neighbors may place dog collars or leashes on the bridge in remembrance of their pets.

STORY AND PHOTO BY BOB KITSOS

"Having a dog will bless you with the happiest days of your life, and one of the worst days." The author of that quote is unknown, but the Bark Bark Club, 5943 N. Broadway, is doing its part in remembering past pets that have left a mark on owners' hearts.

Bark Bark Club owner Patti Colandrea donated a small rainbow bridge at the Edgewater Dog Park; the park is located on Bryn Mawr, just east of the Lake Shore Dr. underpass. Colandrea said neighbors are welcome to place a collar or leash for remembrance of their pets on the bridge as it

will be a permanent installation at the park.

The Edgewater Dog Park is a community dog park that is maintained, organized and funded by the dog-owner community. The Edgewater Dog Park Advisory Committee (EDPAC) is responsible for the expansion and park maintenance.

The EDPAC is comprised of a group of volunteers who work to ensure that the park is well maintained and safe for dogs and their owners.

The park, which features real grass and is open from sunrise to sunset, is not funded by any government entity and is fully funded by members only.

Rogers Park Library temporarily closed

Charles Dickens might say it was the best of times, it was the worst of times, with the closing of the Rogers Park Branch Library. The library at 6907 N. Clark St. closed on Sunday, and will remain closed for a few weeks.

Dickens and other Far North Side bibliophile will have to find a new spot to feed their read for a while as the building receives various upgrades, officials say. The target date to reopen is the first

week of December.

When the library reopens, there will be new carpeting, and other touchups. Library officials say that all holds scheduled to be picked up in Rogers Park will now be available at the Northtown branch, 6800 N. Western Ave.

The Rogers Park Women's Club established Rogers Park Branch in 1894 on Clark St. The club's members donated books and served as volunteer librarians.



The Japanese American Service Committee are leaving Uptown and moving into this new 34,000 square foot, three-story building in West Ridge.

JASC shows off plans for new home

Soon to open in the West Ridge neighborhood at 5700 N. Lincoln Ave. will be the new forever home of the Japanese American Service Committee [JASC].

The cultural and service organization is leaving their long-time Uptown home and moving west. Their former home on 4427 N. Clark St., was sold to Jackie Taylor and the Black Ensemble Theater and Cultural Center.

Formerly a US Bank building,

JASC purchased 5700 N. Lincoln Ave. in Dec. 2022. Since then, JASC has been working to design a space that will be a destination community center that showcases Japanese culture, history, and tradition.

The JASC was organized in 1946 as the Chicago Resettlers Committee and was formed to help re-settle those Japanese

JASC see p. 12

Other people have a nationality, the Irish have a psychosis



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Do you remember the Jack Parr Tonight Show, the precursor to Johnny Carson, David Letterman and the rest?

Jack Parr was background noise to my childhood. My Irish grandmother was devoted to the soft-spoken New Yorker who seemed so 5th Avenue-sophisticated and erudite. To me he always seemed more like a prep school literature professor than a showbiz mid-town Manhattan habitué.

It was the late 1950s so TV wasn't very sophisticated or high brow.

But every once in a while, between appearances by comedienne Phyllis Diller and stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, a Parr guest would come out and simply take over the show.

No one did that better than Irish writer Brendan Francis Behan. Somewhat an unknown among the showbiz fans, Behan was a Dublin man of words, x-ray memory and beverage. It permitted him the long look. The chance to look back on his life and create stories that would peel the shells off eggs.

Behan was a writer of breakthrough brilliance as only the self-destructive Irish can produce.

He was a large man. A big rough, bouncy boy who let his lower class Dublin persona shine through his television antics and tough poetic prose.

He had all the gifts, save common sense, I reckon.

His literature appeared to have no bottom. He brought to life the broken wanderers of Dublin streets. Its penal system, especially for the young. The victims of broken families. The living corpses of modern 20th century poverty as only the Irish could fashion.

He portrayed a people of unflinching religious self-conscious-

ness. A haunted adult population of unfulfilled adolescent sexual understanding. Emotionally malnourished and seeming incapacity for adult fulfillment. All against a background of centuries old persecution and woundedness by a neighbor nation. Further firmly placing a layer of broken expectations after being granted political independence.

This was Behan's real world, hardly the landscape of happy leprechauns, green beer and pious clergy. Greasy. Bleeding. The streets of Dublin filled with broken dreams, drunkards and the wickedly sinful just trying to cope.

This is hardly the Irish world, all physically torn and emotionally threadbare, that Irish immigrants in the U.S. wished to be reminded of, or even introduced to. It made my grandmother insane.

Behan's remarks about Ireland, cynical political crime, sexual naughtiness and rough Irish living, made in such television interviews, were a horrific nightmare for my grandmother and most pious folk we knew.

His literary works might be one thing on the Tonight Show, but among the hard-working Irish he was often portrayed as the "devil himself."

Armed by a reputation for hard dangerous drinking and skirmishes with the New York Police, Behan often became the star of his own melodramas. His membership in the Irish Republican Army, the banned military and political rebels of Irish history, added a criminal layer of patriotic shame to his rebellious behavior, often more embarrassing than dangerous. But it spiced up his writing and gave his poetry an edge.

It is said that Behan was up by 7 a.m. each day and worked till noon. When the pubs would open.

He carried off well his hard-earned reputation as "the carouser-in-chief."

His career soared in the early 1960s, thanks to the power of American publicity creating a fan base. He mingled easily with American illuminati such as Arthur Miller, Jackie Gleason and Bob Dylan.



Brendan Francis Aidan Behan was an Irish poet, short story writer, novelist, playwright, and Irish Republican, an activist who wrote in both English and Irish.

In Dublin his unusual fame was reinforced by his closeness to famed contemporary Irish writers like Flann O'Brien, Patrick Kavanagh, Patrick Swift, Anthony Cronin, John Jordan, J.P. Donleavy, and artist Desmond McNamara. All were captivated by his self-destructive joviality, self-revealing literary drama and outrageous use of language.

Behan's literary world exploded in 1954 with the production of his play, "The Quare Fellow." The work was heavily influenced by Behan's own personal experience of the penal system. A play filled with satire, it catalogues the true human experience wrought by capitol punishment. It ran for six months. And later opened at the Theatre Royal Stratford East.

His autobiographical work, "The Borstal Boy," became an international best seller.

Behan would enjoy 10 years of literary celebrity before his death on March 20, 1964. His addiction to alcohol and physical deterioration due to diabetes brought him quick death at the age of 41.

Thus passed Ireland's heroic playwright, poet and begrudged literary giant whose eyes and ears were the product of another age of Irish renaissance. A mystical moment of literary genius when the heart outruns the details of the drama of life and reshapes it with the cold hard facts of reality on plateau of human life.

The centennial of his birth was earlier this year on Feb. 9, 2023.

In the thick literary soup of Ireland's ferocious passion and dutiful commitment to the literary traditions of its people, Behan's accomplishment as a writer once more

works before the world.

The texture and climate of Irish writers to record the deepest depths of being human remains mysterious.

Out of the most provocative carnage of human passage Irish literary achievement spills over the cauldron of everyday living.

The gnawing persecution of poverty, hunger, life-time exile, warfare, my grandmother's criticisms and centuries of religious antagonism are unable to damage the imaginative literary soul of its people. Behan is the proof.

Behan surrenders the secret of his success and lays out the clues to his brilliant career when he says - "I have total irreverence for anything connected to society except that which makes the roads safer, the beer stronger, the food cheaper and the old men and the old women warmer in the winter and happier in the summer."



Tom Demetrio with Justice Joy Cunningham.

LEGAL EAGLE: Chicago mega-attorney **Tom Demetrio** was honored with the 2023 Jury Verdict Reporter Award for Trial Lawyer Excellence at their annual event at RPM Events hosted by the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. This year holds the record for highest attendance in the history of the event as per **Peter Mierzwa**, president and publisher.

MORE IRISH: The gala awards dinner for iBAM is 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18. It's the 15th annual iBAM, featuring past media and journalism awardee, NBC Channel 5's **Mary Ann Ahern** as Master of Ceremonies; **Colm Toibín**, Visual Arts; **Róisín O'Farrell**, Music; **Jimmy Keane**, Media and Journalism; **Eileen Dunne**, and Person of the Year; **Dr. Mary Pat Kelly**. Their mission is to honor the best in Irish culture while supporting the efforts of the Irish American Heritage Center.

TIME OFF: **Tom Tresser** is retiring from the CivicLab. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of the CivicLab, opened in the West Loop on Aberdeen St. in July of 2013. He's worked tirelessly fighting the good fight over the mystery around your tax dollars

going into TIF districts. They're everywhere. Just last week he did his 225th public meeting on civic finances and TIF for a group of organizers seeking to stop the \$58 million TIF subsidy for the re-location of the Hollywood Aurora Casino. He plans to release a new book by Routledge Press in mid-2024 with the working title of No Games Chicago: How a Small Group of Citizens Derailed the City's 2016 Olympic Bid.

TREMONT HOTEL: Once known as a swank Chestnut St. hangout for Gold Coasters, **Mayor Johnson** is said to be planning on reusing the Tremont, now known as the Selina Hotel, as a hotel for more homeless in the city. He was kind enough to blind side **Ald. Brendan Reilly** [42nd], who had no warning of the change of purpose for the hotel. The mayor is showing his skill at vanquishing his City Council allies and the people of Chicago. He's had hard days between eating ham sandwiches and finding cold beers.

HE GONE: The bad news about **Jason Benetti** leaving the White Sox, and heading to the Detroit Tigers, is so hard to take. A gut punch. Benetti's announcing alongside **Steve Stone** was the best we'll ever get. Undoubtedly the best announcing team in the nation. Benetti's deep, soothing voice and inquisitive mind, asking Stoney questions about his experiences during his baseball career, gave all us listeners the inside scoop on the game.

To make matters worse, rumor has it that it was **Jerry Reinsdorf's** decision to oust Benetti. Some people can do no wrong, but in the case of Reinsdorf, he can do no right. What a fool.

Benetti and Stoney were the only reason to tune into the game. And now that's over.

Hopefully one day, we will get rid of Reinsdorf and bring back the best voice in sports, Benetti.

IRISH see p. 8

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Unintended consequences are the feature of Chicago's privileged bike lanes

The obstacles the city and its Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] are creating now on Chicago's surface streets are creating the broadly-expected unintended consequences that tend to follow poorly thought-out bureaucratic good intentions.

The vast expansion of privileged bike paths, pedestrian islands, curb bump outs and their ubiquitous concrete barriers on commercial streets have sent motorists scrambling for alternative routes to avoid the new government-created traffic jams that now plague the North Side, and in general the whole of Chicago.

Toss in a dozen double parked Amazon, UPS, FedEx, DoorDash and 18-wheel semi delivery trucks, an articulated CTA bus or three stopping for passenger pick ups, plus the Uber and Lyft drivers stopping mid-block, and shoppers and commercial customers desperately seeking parking, and it seems the only people in Chicago who now have freedom of movement are the bikers secured behind their privileged concrete barriers.

Like many technocratic schemes, it's no surprise that these privileged bike lanes and their concrete transportation obstacles and barriers come with unintended consequences. As the city continues to constrict these commercial thoroughfares, motorists are heading into alleys and side streets to pass through communities. The new biking plans have added dangerous barriers and constricted transportation corridors throughout Chicago, backing up traffic in all directions.

But the blocking and slowing of traffic may not be an 'unintended' consequence, as city officials are pushing a new 15-Minute City scheme dreamed up by the World Economic Forum. The idea be-

hind the concept is to build cities in such a way that most daily necessities and services are located within a 15-minute walk or bike ride. In Chicago that means city officials want to harass and irritate vehicle drivers so much that they'll stay in their own communities and off the streets.

As the city continues to constrict these commercial thoroughfares, motorists are heading into alleys and side streets to pass through communities. The new biking plans have added dangerous barriers and constricted transportation corridors throughout Chicago, backing up traffic in all directions.

But the plan and its privileged bike paths mean when it snows, city streets will be narrowed as plows throw snow off the middle of the streets, as they will be inhibited by the cement barriers. Of course, the bike lanes themselves will not be able to be plowed. That's unintended.

Then there is the man-made problem for motorists created by the city's micro-managerial bubble, using the portion of the bike lanes near intersections as turn lanes for cars, forcing drivers to make blind turns through gaps in the privileged concrete bike paths where street parking has been pushed further out into streets. Also unintended.

Another perhaps 'intended' consequence of the plan is that some congested streets lose an entire lane of traffic. In Edgewater and Rogers Park it can take 30

minutes to travel one mile down Clark St. when parents arrive to pick up or drop off students in nearby schools. Clark St. is now down to one lane in some areas, effectively meaning many parents just double park in that one lane of traffic to pick up children.

Sadly, that stretch of Clark St. has a Chicago Fire Dept. station house on one end of the constricted zone, and a police station at the other end, both that are now trapped by traffic during long periods of the day ... so it's best you don't have a medical emergency, fire, or get shot when the local schools open or let out.

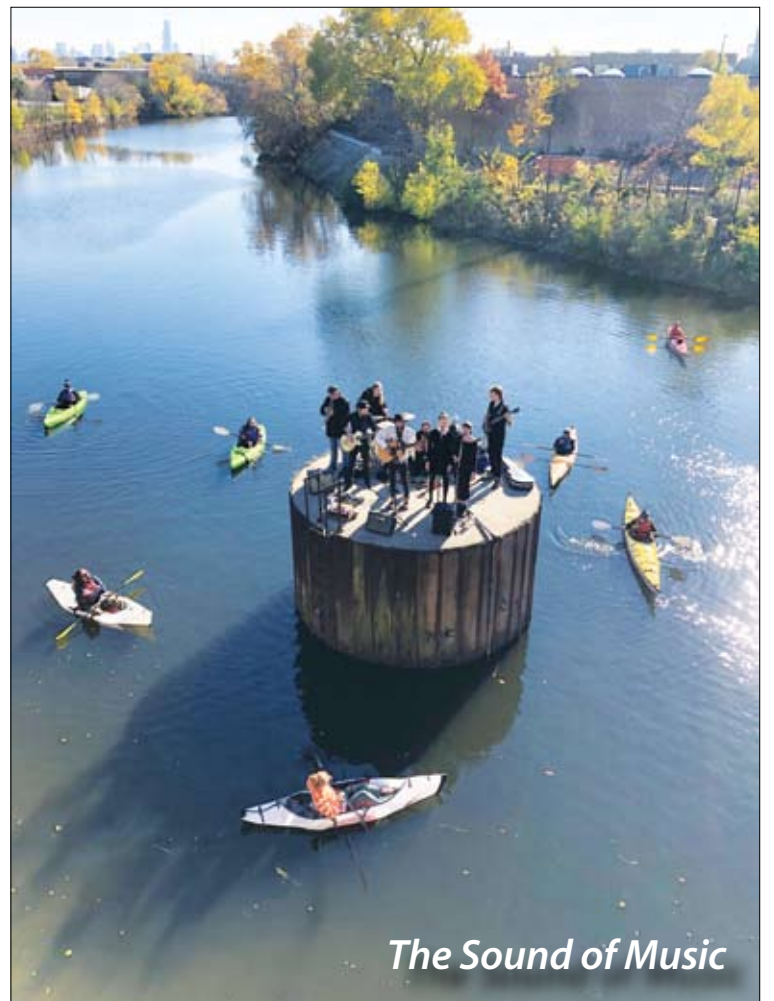
As many of the new bike lanes are on commercial streets, delivery trucks can't fit in the bike lanes. So they load and unload not at the curb, but in the street. That's unintended, and has no clear fix as consumers in the 15-Minute City still need products and materials brought to them.

And the destruction of commercial corridors is expected to continue unabated in 2024. Next up are plans to narrow Dearborn with protected bike lanes that will create traffic obstacles from Chicago Ave. north to Walton in the 2nd Ward.

Indeed, CDOT is designing and implementing 150 miles of new privileged bikeways city-wide in the next year under a program titled The Chicago Cycling Strategy.

Since 2020, that plan has grown the bike network by an average of 30 miles per year - double the annual rate at which the bike network had been expanding from 2011-2019. Chicago's network of bicycle infrastructure currently includes more than 420 miles of privileged bike lanes, neighborhood greenways, off-street trails

CONSEQUENCES see p. 4



The Sound of Music

The Sound of Music floated along the Chicago River on Saturday captivating scores of kayakers and a multitude of fans who populated the Belmont bridge and the concert cavern underneath.

This was the last concert of this season of The Secret River Sessions, a music venue created by Ben Kissinger, the leader of the band, and Lawrence Tome, who was playing that afternoon.

The stage was a giant circular piece of steel clad cement in the middle of the Chicago River whose original purpose is to protect the bridge from being crashed into by ships and barges.

Something new and exciting has been added to The Chicago Music Scene with this aquatic venue.. "Creating the opportunity for other people to discover something magical is what I strive to do," said Kissinger.

Mission Accomplished. See you next season. *Photo by Jim Matusik*

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Black Friday Night Market Nov. 25

The Black Friday Night Market will be held 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday Nov. 24, at Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro, 3905 N. Lincoln Ave. The Market will feature fine handmade goods by local Chicago-area artists.

The event will showcase a wide variety of offerings from fine and funky jewelry, dreamy watercolors, cozy knitwear, unusual textiles, natural soy candles, heavenly scented soap, childrens goods and more.

In addition, there will be live

music, great food and great drinks.

This is the Market's 11th year pop-hosting a night-time market at Mrs. Murphy's. This year they are adding something special and supporting young artists. In addition to their adult artisans, they will have three young artists – a brother/sister duo who make three dimensional drawings and wire sculptures, three sisters who make indoor and outdoor sculptures out of concrete, and a teenager who makes exquisite wooden pens.

Conference to examine turmoil in banking markets

Events are open
to the general public

The George G. Kaufman Center for Financial Policy Studies [The Center] at the Quinlan School of Business of Loyola Univ. Chicago's 2023 Policy Conference will examine "Recent Turmoil in Banking Markets: Evidence, Causes, Regulatory Response, Lessons, and Future Needs" 9:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Loyola's Schreiber Center, 16 E. Pearson St. 9th Floor, Wintrust Hall.

The public is invited to join in, and topics will be presented for a broad audience. Attendance is

free but registration is required at: https://loyolafamilybusiness-center.formstack.com/forms/policy_conference_2023.

The keynote speakers will be Sheila Bair, former chair, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and Loreta Mester, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Research and policy presentations will examine recent turmoil in banking markets, issues associated with accessing credit, and topics related to the research efforts of the late Loyola Professor Dr. George G. Kaufman in bank regulatory reform, monetary policy, and financial services regulations imposed to achieve social goals.

The Center is named for the late George G. Kaufman, PhD, who was one of the world's leading experts on banking, a prolific researcher in economics and finance.

For more information visit <https://bit.ly/45HUEhU>.

Luxury home prices rise; listings fall

Dramatic 13% price rise
in October



by Don DeBat

The Home Front

Chicago's North Side home market this autumn continues to slide sideways as home buyers and sellers roll their eyes and hang on for dear life.

"While Oct. 2023 was the 20th consecutive month of year-over-year home sales declines in Lincoln Park, the Near North Side, Lakeview and North Center, we are beginning to see some positive signs in the market, but no definitive trends have emerged," observed Realtor John Irwin, co-author of the Baird & Warner November Market Analysis with broker Jackie Lafferty.

According to Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, benchmark home-loan interest rates nationwide declined to 7.5% last week from 7.76% a week earlier. The November Baird & Warner market analysis also noted the following positive trends:

• **Homes under contract:** "While the number of homes that went under contract in Oct. 2023 dropped 1.6%, compared with the same month in 2022, this is a vast improvement over recent months where we were seeing double-digit decreases," Irwin noted.

The Near North Side and Lakeview neighborhoods experienced increases of 9.7% and 4% respectively, for homes under contract over October of last year. However, contracts in Lincoln Park and North Center declined.

"When you look at residences under contract by price point,

much of the increased activity came from luxury homes priced at more than \$1-million," Irwin noted.

• **Home-price increases:** Median home prices on the North Side rose a dramatic 13% in October. However, most of that increase was fueled by a whopping 39.9% price increase in Lincoln Park. Lakeview and North Center home prices also rose, as did North Side homes priced from \$500,000 to \$2 million.

"There is a healthy pool of buyers, however many are sitting on the sidelines until inventory levels rise and interest rates stabilize," said John Irwin.

• **Homes for sale:** Inventory levels continue to drop. "In October of 2023 the market experienced a 16.2% decline in listings compared with the same month in 2022," Irwin said. "Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center all experienced double-digit decreases in listings ranging from 20% to 31.9%."

Lack of inventory continues to be the main obstacle to a North Side real-estate rebound, Irwin said.

"There is a healthy pool of buyers, however many are sitting on the sidelines until inventory levels rise and interest rates stabilize," he said.

"Many sellers have built equity in their existing homes, but inventory levels and interest rates will have to be more favorable for them to sell and become buyers."

• **Interest-rate shock:** After the shock of interest rates doubling to 6% from 3% in a relatively short period of time, many buyers were beginning to settle into the reality of higher rates, Irwin said. "We now have moved past the 7% range and could be headed to

8% on benchmark 30-year fixed mortgages."

Irwin noted that sharply higher home-loan rates have had a profound affect on the market. "The multiple-offer frenzy brought on by historically low inventory levels has noticeably slowed. Property showings and open-house attendance appear to be down," Irwin said.

Are mortgage rates stabilizing?

On Nov. 9, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported some good news. Charges on benchmark 30-year fixed-rate home loans fell a quarter of a point to an average of 7.5% nationwide from 7.76% a week earlier. A year ago, 30-year fixed loans averaged 7.08%.

Fifteen-year fixed mortgages also declined on Nov. 9 to an average of 6.81% from 7.03% a week earlier. A year ago, 15-year fixed loans averaged 6.38%.

The survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully amortizing home-purchase loans for borrowers who place 20% down and have excellent credit.

"As Treasury yields declined last week, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage dropped a quarter of one percentage point—the largest one-week decrease since last November," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

However, Freddie Mac data shows that household debt continues to rise, primarily due to mortgage, credit-card and student loan balances. "Many consumers are feeling strained by the high cost of living, so unless mortgage rates decrease significantly, the housing market will remain stagnant," Khater predicted.

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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CONSEQUENCES from p. 3

and other on-street bikeways.

Of the identified projects, 85% are protected bike lanes or neighborhood greenways currently serve about 50% of Chicagoans who live within half a mile of a concrete bike lane, greenway, or off-street trail. The city's goal now is to grow that to 70%.

It's human nature to seek relief from traffic jams, and in Lincoln Square that means driving the wrong way on Francisco Ave.

As a part of the Lincoln Ave. Streetscape scheme, the direction of Francisco Ave. was reversed from southbound to northbound to allow for the construction of a concrete vehicle obstacle island on Lawrence Ave. Now there are reports from neighbors that drivers are ignoring signs and concrete barriers to drive southbound on Ainslie to reach Lawrence.

CDOT is surveying the area to make more changes, hoping to stop locals from violating the new one-way road directions.

In Rogers Park, Edgewater, and Andersonville, alleys and side streets adjacent to Clark St. are being filled with speeding cars where the city has installed their concrete barriers and vehicle obstacles, creating vast traffic bot-

tlenecks that extend from Bryn Mawr north to Pratt.

And the pinch is on in Andersonville now, too, where CDOT has attacked Clark St. north of Wrigleyville under the Clark St. Crossroad scheme, that is removing a traffic lane and parking spaces on an already narrow Clark St. in favor of the privileged bike lanes and the concrete barriers. That plan will call for constricting traffic and removing half of the commercial street parking all the way north to Foster Ave.

This newspaper is hearing from residents of Lakeview now, who are also getting frustrated by the new traffic jams created by the concrete bike barriers and traffic obstacles added to Belmont. The Belmont, Ashland and Lincoln Ave. intersection has always been a congested commercial district, and the city constricting the roads have only added to the traffic jams.

Further south, many residents of West Town are furious over what has become of the formerly wide open Milwaukee, Elston and Augusta avenues intersection.

The community lost their beloved Gillman Ace Hardware, 2118-20 N. Milwaukee Ave., which closed after 75 years in Logan Square because it lost its

commercial street parking to a privileged bike path. That effort alone eliminated some 100 commercial street parking spots, infrastructure that is a critical need for small business survival. Home Depots, Menards and Walmarts can afford to buy and build their own off-street parking lots for giant warehouse stores; small mom-and-pop commercial businesses cannot. They have always depended on street parking to serve their customers.

The scheme exposes the fake sincerity over the "Shop Small, Shop Local" marketing narrative offered each holiday season. Small retailers cannot survive solely on passerby, walk-in customers. They need street parking, particularly those stores selling 50-lbs bags of dog food, sidewalk salt, big bags of ice for parties, and other heavy consumer good best moved in a car trunk.

It should be noted that a ticket for double parking/standing in a non-central business district is \$100, with a late fee of an additional \$100. And a parking ticket for double parking/standing in a central business district will cost you \$250.

Cook County Sheriff says human trafficking is 'going on all around us'

BY DONNA ROLANDO

The Cook County Sheriff's Office hopes to crack down on human trafficking, child porn and prostitution after a wave of recent arrests over a two-week period highlighting the enormity of the problem.

Sheriff Tom Dart said it's essential that not only the federal government, but internet sites and parents take action to fight this growing trend.

Dart recently held a news conference after six separate arrests,

which included child pornography, prostitution and trafficking. One trafficking case involved a child. The Sheriff's Office also acted relating to the operation of a bordello. Additionally, numerous women, who were being trafficked or could have been, responded to sheriff's office ads, Dart said.

These cases are just a microcosm, he said, of all the activity nationwide, especially now that so many immigrants have illegally crossed America's southern border with the help of organized

crime coyotes. The Inn of Chicago, 162 E. Ohio St., has recently become a hotspot for human trafficking and prostitution. Housing about 1,600 migrants, the hotel is the single largest migrant shelter in the city. Nearby neighbors and local alderman have complained about the quality of life crimes going on there now.

The neighbors have witnessed issues including narcotics sales, prostitution, drug and alcohol use on the public way, theft from local businesses, unlicensed street vendors, aggressive panhandling,

and loitering on the public way.

Sadly, some of the migrants have turned to illegal activities to pay off the fees the smugglers charged to get them across the border and into America.

These crack down cases were accomplished by the Sheriff's office without a special effort, which he said points to the "pervasiveness" of the problem.

Although Cook County claims to be a leader in fighting such crimes, he said, it's more than law enforcement can tackle alone. Instead, it must be a three-pronged

attack, involving the federal government, internet sites used to perpetuate these crimes, and parents as watchdogs of their children.

Dart stressed the need for internet companies to adopt protocols to prevent these crimes.

"They need to work on their sites whether it be filters or whatever ... and they need to work with us in law enforcement when things aren't right. They need to be doing this with passion because they're interested in stop-

TRAFFICKING see p. 10

Seniors earning less than \$65,000 per year may be missing a big property tax break

A lower assessment equals lower tax bill

BY MARIA PAPPAS

A Maywood senior received more than \$13,000 to spend on home improvements after my office helped him secure a property tax refund.

Michael Warner was a guest on my weekly radio show, "Black Houses Matter," on WVON-AM 1690. Like many Cook County residents, Warner had no idea he was eligible for two types of tax relief, the senior citizen and the senior freeze exemptions.

"I never knew about it," Warner told me.

The senior citizen exemption is a credit for homeowners who are 65 years or older. The less common senior freeze exemption is for homeowners who are over 65 and whose household income is less than \$65,000 per year.

"This exemption 'freezes' the senior citizen's property's equalized assessed value the year that the senior citizen qualifies for the exemption," according to the Illinois Dept. of Revenue. A lower assessment results in a lower tax bill.



Maria Pappas

Tax bills may still increase if tax rates go up or if improvements are made that increase the value of the property. But for many, the senior freeze exemption prevents tax increases due to inflation. Senior citizens seeking the freeze benefit must apply for it every

year.

Illinois law allows us to refund money for four years' worth of missed exemptions, which Warner learned when he called into a televised ABC7 phone bank hosted by my office and reporter

Samantha Chatman.

You can conduct your own search at cookcountytreasurer.com. Click on a purple box that says, "Your Property Tax Overview," type in your address and a picture of your home should appear.

Scroll down to learn if there are any overpayments on your property or whether you have received exemptions for recent tax years. If you are missing an exemption or eligible for a refund, you can apply online.

Property owners may be entitled to a share of \$84 million in overpayments going back 20 years and up to \$34 million for missed exemptions for the past

four tax years. In Warner's case, about half his \$13,474 refund was for missed senior citizen exemptions and half was for missed senior freeze exemptions for tax years 2018 through 2021.

Warner told me he was going to use his refund to replace a fence that secures his home's corner lot. Part of the fence was replaced after it was damaged during a storm and he wants to finish the rest with treated wood that will be more resistant to insects.

"They're going to come back and estimate another part of the fence so it will match all the way around," he told me. "So that's what I'm doing with it."

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Police Beat...

CTA staffer get jail time for \$356K fraud

A former clerk for the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority employees has been sentenced to a year in federal prison for fraudulently obtaining more than \$356,000 in Plan funds.

Ayanna Nesbitt created and obtained approval for approximately 43 fraudulent requests for the Plan to issue various benefits to CTA employees or their beneficiaries, including pension and death benefit payments, and refunds of pension contributions. The fraudulent requests contained false representations about the purported recipients' identities and entitlement to the payments.

Nesbitt had the payments sent to financial accounts she controlled or else had the money paid to others and then transferred to Nesbitt. From 2019 to 2021, Nesbitt defrauded the Plan of approximately \$356,934.

Nesbitt, 51, of Chicago, pleaded guilty earlier this year to a wire fraud charge. U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly imposed the year-and-a-day sentence Tuesday after a hearing in federal court in Chicago.

CPD bulletin offers details of North Side burglary spree at bars, restaurants

New information has come our way about a string of burglaries targeting businesses, mostly bars and restaurants, on the North Side on Nov. 7.

An internal bulletin delivered to Chicago cops links 12 break-ins in the Town Hall 19th District to a four- or five-man crew that wore masks with different colored hoodies and used a dark-colored Kia Optima as a getaway car. The crew may be responsible for more burglaries at businesses located in other police districts.

CPD's bulletin also confirms a detail we first reported earlier: The burglars displayed a handgun after they encountered an employee at a bar they targeted in Roscoe Village.

CPD's bulletin also confirms a detail that the burglars displayed a handgun after they encountered an employee during one of the break-ins. That happened at Roscoe Village Bar, 2159 W. Addison, the bulletin said.

While the group wasn't able to enter all of the businesses, the bulletin says they broke windows or glass storefronts at Starbucks, 4557 N. Lincoln; Wild Goose Bar, 4265 N. Lincoln; Country Financial, 4306 N. Lincoln; Pastores Brunch, 4661 N. Lincoln; Market Square, 4701 N. Lincoln; Rocks North Center, 4138 N. Lincoln; Bad Apple Bar & Grill, 4300 N. Lincoln; Gannon's Pub, 4264 N. Lincoln; Breakfast House, 3001 N. Ashland; Dreamtown Real Estate, 4553 N. Lincoln, and Mangis Restaurant, 3801 N. Lincoln.

Most of the incidents occurred between 1 a.m. and 1:40 a.m., according to information police released to the media.

Tuesday's spree is reminiscent of a similar, albeit smaller, string of burglaries that occurred along Lincoln Ave. on Sept. 25.

Four men who zipped around in a Kia sedan threw bricks or rocks through the glass at three bars or restaurants in the early morning hours. Left Coast Cafe, 2878 N. Lincoln; Cilantro's, 2258 N. Orchard; and Daily Bar, 4560 N. Lincoln, all were targeted.

Sixteen years for robber who got into a shootout with River North smoke shop employee

A Chicago man who exchanged gunfire with a River North smoke shop employee during a robbery attempt last year has been handed a 16-year sentence. He received a concurrent 16-year sentence for robbing a North Side cellular store, too.

Lamont Boyd, 20, pleaded guilty to two counts of armed robbery without a firearm in exchange for the sentences from Judge Ursula Waloski, according to court records. Prosecutors dropped more serious charges, including discharging a firearm during a robbery, which could have resulted in a 20-year sentencing enhancement.



Lamont Boyd

Boyd pulled out a handgun as he entered Mythical Smokes, 21 W. Ontario, around 1:45 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2022, and took an employee's phone, prosecutors said. He allegedly ordered one employee to fetch cash from the store's safe and forced another man to empty the register.

But the employee who went into the back room to get money from the safe returned with a gun and started shooting at Boyd, who returned fire as he backed away and ran out the door.

Police tracked the employee's stolen phone to the 2100 block of E. 70th St., the same block where Boyd lived.

Investigators distributed images of the robber to Chicago cops citywide, and a sergeant in the Near North 18th District identified Boyd by name within a week, officials said.

Before police caught up with Boyd, he committed a second robbery at Sunshine Phone Accessories, 2304 W. Devon.

Prosecutors said Boyd went around the counter with a gun and demanded money, taking cash from the register. Working with an accomplice, Boyd led the clerks to the back of the store and took 16 iPhones from the safe, an iPad, and one of the employees' phones.

Chicago police tracked down the robber's getaway car and found Boyd and his alleged accomplice, Toyoun Hampton, sitting inside it with the backpack used in the robbery, prosecutors said.

Boyd's 16-year sentence will be cut in half for good behavior, and he received more than 600 days of credit for time spent in jail and taking classes while in custody. His parole date is set for June 14, 2030.

Hampton, his accomplice in the phone store heist, received a nine-year sentence from Judge Waloski. With in-custody credits and good behavior, he'll be paroled on Oct. 17, 2025.

Shootout erupts during North Side liquor store robbery

A liquor store employee exchanged gunfire with two men who tried to rob him Nov. 6 in West Rogers Park, Chicago police said. No one was injured in the shootout, but the victim was seriously injured when one of the robbers hit him in the head with a bottle.

The robbery began around 10:31 p.m. at California Liquors, 6343 N. California Ave.

Police said two offenders demand-

ed money from the register while pointing guns at the 44-year-old cashier. During a struggle with the employee, one of the robbers hit the victim in the head with a glass bottle he grabbed from the store.

At that point, the cashier pulled out a gun and exchanged shots with the robbers, who fled.

CPD said the victim is in serious condition at St. Francis Hospital.

Officers at the scene described the suspects as two males wearing black clothing, each armed with a handgun.

Nov. 6's incident is the second time in two weeks that shots have been fired during a liquor store robbery in West Rogers Park.

On Oct. 24, two armed men tried to rob Issha Liquors, 2901 W. Devon, around 10:28 p.m., but the store's two employees refused to cooperate, according to CPD.

Police said the robbers pistol-whipped the workers, ages 65 and 49, and one offender fired a shot toward a beverage cooler. No one was struck by the bullet, but both victims were taken to Swedish Hospital for cuts on the head.

An officer who reviewed surveillance video at Issha Liquors said the robbers were Black males between 14 and 19 years old wearing black clothing.

Seven liquor stores were robbed on Oct. 14, from Logan Square to Jefferson Park to North Center. Some victims reported that the men were wearing yellow gloves.

Man found with rifle, machine gun, and 22 bags of crack didn't like the way Chicago cops "jacked my s**t"

A man allegedly found carrying an AR-15 rifle, an automatic-fire handgun, and 22 bags of crack in Bucktown told Chicago cops he didn't like the way they "jacked my s**t," according to his arrest report.

Riley Rice, 25, of the 1100 block of N. Wolcott, was ordered into custody to await trial by Judge David Kelly during a detention hearing.



Riley Rice

Police initially responded to calls of shots fired in the 2200 block of N. Leavitt around 2:15 a.m. Nov. 4. They found 17 shell casings at the scene and met with witnesses who saw a man grab a black bookbag from under an SUV and walk away with a woman after the gunfire, officials said.

Cops stopped Rice in the 2200 block of W. Dickens because he was carrying a black bookbag while walking with a woman, according to the report. When he set the bag down, the cops heard the sound of a "large object" hitting the ground. One cop peered into the partially open bag and saw the barrel of a loaded AR-15 rifle, the report said.

"I got another one on me," Rice allegedly told the cops while peering down at his waistband.

Officers recovered a 9-mm handgun with a high-capacity magazine and an auto-sear switch attached, police said. Those after-market switches are illegal because they can make some handguns generate automatic fire like a machine gun.

Police said they found 22 bags of suspected crack cocaine worth \$2,214 inside a Hermès bag in Rice's pants pocket and a chocolate bar suspected of containing psilocybin in his jacket.

He refused to answer any questions after police read him his rights, police said, but the officers recalled him saying something to the effect of "I don't like how [an arresting officer] jacked my s**t." The cops took that to mean Rice was claiming possession of the confiscated materials.

Prosecutors charged him with unlawful use of a rifle with a barrel less than 16" long, unlawful possession

Car thief gets broken nose, head injury after owner tracks him down

A Skokie man driving a stolen car suffered a broken nose and a closed head injury after "multiple people" tracked him down and "detained" him for Chicago police at a North Side gas station, according to a CPD arrest report.

Cops responded to calls of a battery in progress at the Shell service station, 4346 N. Western, on Nov. 3. When they arrived, they found those "multiple people" on top of 29-year-old Mergim Mehmeti, the report said.



Mergim Mehmeti

A Palatine man at the scene told officers that his son borrowed his Kia Stinger to go to sports practice on the North Side, but the son either dropped the car keys or someone stole the keys from his bag. Either way, the Kia was gone after practice.

The man began tracking the Kia using Lojack and his son's "find my

of a machine gun, two counts of possessing controlled substances, and a handful of misdemeanors.

Judge Kelly supported the decision to detain Rice by noting he is accused of being "in possession with [sic] two banned weapons."

Shooting leaves man injured near Clinton 'L' station

Chicago police are investigating another shooting in the West Loop on Nov. 8. It's the area's second shooting in three weeks, part of a crime problem the local alderman has linked to viaduct campsites and tent cities.

The shooting occurred under the Clinton L station in the 500 block of W. Lake around 2 a.m., leaving a 39-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his thigh. At least ten evidence markers were placed next to shell casings at the scene.

Police said the victim was outside when the gunman walked up, began yelling, opened fire, and then left the area on foot.

CPD surveillance camera operator told cops in the area that they found video showing a man shooting down Lake St. They described him as a White or Hispanic man wearing a blue jacket with gray sleeves. His hair appeared to be in a bun, the officer radioed.

Back on Oct. 22, another shooting unfolded just a couple blocks away, at the corner of Desplaines and Fulton.

A 23-year-old man told police he was walking down the street when the gunman pulled up on a Divvy bike. The offender stopped, pulled out a gun, and fired a shot, hitting the victim in the head. The victim, who remained conscious and alert, survived. Police initially suspected the shooting may have been a robbery attempt.

Local Ald. Bill Conway (34th) emailed his constituents about the October shooting.

"Since I took office, my team and I have been in close communication with police leadership about safety around the nearby viaducts," Ald. Bill Conway wrote. "The increase in crime is unacceptable, and I'll keep pushing for more resources from CPD and the Mayor's office. Significantly more to come on this."

While most Chicago aldermen are quick to say they'll take action after a shooting, Conway is apparently following through.

Five days after the shooting, Conway had an update.

"This week, my team was able to remove several tents from under the Fulton viaduct that were abandoned and a locus of significant criminal activity," he said. "In total, we have removed 11 tents and 20 propane tanks. These presented a danger to the community and the rail line that runs above."

phone" app. Before long, they were at the Shell station, watching Mehmeti as he used the key to get into the Kia, the arrest report continued.

Police said the victim and witnesses "confronted" Mehmeti and detained him until police arrived. The owner claimed he did not know Mehmeti, who was treated at Swedish Hospital for injuries he received during the "detention."

Charged with felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle, he was subsequently released from custody by Judge David Kelly to await trial.

Court records show Mehmeti completed two years of probation in July for another stolen motor vehicle case. In that incident, prosecutors accused him of breaking into a Skokie auto shop, plowing a Toyota Camry through the garage door, and crashing into another car on the lot. He then returned to the garage and drove away with a Mercedes, officials said.

Conway said he would "continue to accelerate our efforts" with city agencies, "including finding shelter for those living under the viaducts who will accept this support."

Later Conway had another update: He said five more propane tanks had been recovered, and he thanked city employees for "helping us remove tanks, drugs, and abandoned tents safely."

Divvy has also been brought in to recover abandoned bikes in the area, which Conway said may have been used to distribute narcotics in the area.

Man carjacked an Uber driver at gunpoint while on bail for 2 stolen car cases

A Chicago man carjacked an Uber driver at gunpoint last week while on bail for two separate stolen motor vehicle cases, according to prosecutors.

We last reported on Vincent Griffin, 19, after he was arrested for the second stolen vehicle case in April.

Griffin, who officials said is also on juvenile parole for carjacking, was arrested at his high school on Feb. 6. The dean at West Town Academy, 534 N. Sacramento, called police after spotting a Kia Sportage with a broken rear side window and a stripped steering column in the school's parking lot, a CPD arrest report said.

The dean told police that surveillance video showed Griffin exiting the car upon arriving on campus, the report continued.

Peeled steering columns and broken side windows are telltale signs that a Kia or Hyundai vehicle has been stolen by "Kia boys," car thieves who exploit a design flaw that allows them to start the ignition by using a USB plug as an ignition key.

Judge William Fahy released Griffin on his own recognizance the next day.

Chicago police arrested him again during a "large group" incident in the Loop on April 15. An officer working on foot patrol saw Griffin riding a stolen motor scooter down the sidewalk near "The Bean" sculpture, CPD's arrest report said.

The next day, prosecutors told Judge Barbara Dawkins the scooter's steering column had been stripped, and Griffin operated it without a key. He posted a \$500 bail deposit to go home four days later.

Now, prosecutors are accusing Griffin of kicking things up a notch by carjacking a 47-year-old Uber driver in the 400 block of S. Pulaski

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Man and teen charged for North Side burglary spree

BY CWBCHICAGO

An 18-year-old man and a 15-year-old boy are charged with a host of felonies in connection with a wave of nighttime business burglaries last week.

More than a dozen locations, mostly bars and restaurants, were burglarized by a five-person crew. Stores along Lincoln Ave. in North Center and Lincoln Square were especially hard hit. Rather than quit while they were ahead, the crew pressed their luck by continuing to strike businesses as they headed back south.

Chicago cops who responded quickly to a burglary call at New Archview restaurant, 3480 S. Archer, saw the burglars driving away from the scene, according to CPD records. Officers pursued the Kia Optima until its five occupants bailed out around 2 a.m.

A canine unit found Vernon Edwards, 18, hiding in a yard in the 4400 block of S. Troy, a CPD report said. Cops arrested the 15-year-old nearby, but the other three burglars got away.



Vernon Edwards

Edwards is charged with one count of burglary for allegedly breaking into each of these businesses: Market Square, 4701 N. Lincoln; #1 Chop Suey, 2550 W. Addison; AT&T, 1724 W. Lawrence; Franco's Ristorante, 300 W. 31st Street, and the New Archview Restaurant, 3480 S. Archer

He is also charged with one count of attempted armed robbery. Officials said the burglars encountered an employee after breaking into Roscoe Village Pub, 2159 W. Addison., and Edwards tried to rob the

worker at gunpoint.

A CPD spokesperson said the juvenile is charged with four counts of burglary. He also had an outstanding warrant.

Charges have not been filed in connection with at least 10 more burglaries that occurred that night, including: Starbucks, 4557 N. Lincoln, Wild Goose Bar, 4265 N. Lincoln, Country Financial, 4306 N. Lincoln, Pastores Brunch, 4661 N. Lincoln, Rocks N. Center, 4138 N. Lincoln, Bad Apple Bar & Grill, 4300 N. Lincoln, Gannon's Pub, 4264 N. Lincoln, Breakfast House, 3001 N. Ashland, Dreamtown Real Estate, 4553 N. Lincoln, and Mangis Restaurant, 3801 N. Lincoln.

Judge David Kelly ordered Edwards jailed to await trial during a detention hearing Nov. 9.

Getaway driver gets five years in Dakotah Earley shooting, robbery

BY CWBCHICAGO

Five years. That's the sentence for the driver of the getaway car Chicago police linked to the heinous shooting and robbery of Dakotah Earley in Lincoln Park.

Joy Dobbs, Dakotah's mom, shared the news with us on Nov. 5.

"He was tried as a juvenile, got five years, and then goes back to court when he turns 21," Dobbs said.

Any so-called "closure" the sentence may have provided was offset by the behavior displayed in court by one of the driver's relatives.

"The thing that bugged me most was the grandmother crying about how good her grandson was and how he wished that night never happened," Dobbs recalled. "At some point, she knew and was harboring him. He has been in the juvenile system for eight years."

The woman even had the nerve to ask the judge to return the phone police seized when they arrested her grandson.

Since turning 18, her grandson was arrested as an adult in January. Cops said he was driving a stolen car with three passengers, including two juveniles, and two guns.

Chicagoans have been cheering for Earley, who nearly died and lost part of his leg in the wake of that awful morning on May 6, 2022.

As a homeowner's surveillance camera rolled, a gunman confronted Earley and announced a robbery in the 1300 block of W. Webster. There was a brief struggle before the gunman shot Earley repeatedly and demanded his phone PIN as he lay on the pavement.

Prosecutors say the gunman was Tyshon Brownlee, 19. They've linked him to a string of violent holdups on the North Side, including one on the DePaul Univ. campus moments before robbing and shooting Earley. Brownlee's cases are still pending.

Prosecutors charged the driver as a juvenile in May, one year after the shooting, with attempted murder, armed robbery with a firearm, possessing a stolen motor vehicle, and misdemeanor criminal trespass to a vehicle. While he was 18 when they charged him, he was only 17 when Dakotah was targeted, so his case went to juvenile court. Officials did not identify the driver publicly, and we are withholding his name.

The robbery crew was very well organized. It quickly transferred money electronically from victims' phones to other accounts. A lawyer for one of the victims who conducted his own investigation said he found open-source information linking transfers from her accounts to Brownlee.

Making the whole situation even worse for many people: Chicago police officers spotted the stolen BMW that was used in Earley's robbery about an hour before he was shot. They knew the car had been used in other violent holdups, but they chose not to pursue it.

Their decision was certainly made easier by the Chicago Police Dept.'s automobile chase policy, which essentially holds cops responsible for anything that goes wrong during a pursuit and also stipulates that no officer will ever be penalized for not chasing violent offenders.

That policy is now at the center of a lawsuit Earley filed against the city in February.

Dobbs reflected on last week's juvenile court hearing, where the driver received his sentence. Much of her thoughts were reserved for the man's grandmother, who insisted he was a "good boy."

"Questions for me were, 'Did you know [he was involved in the robbery] the day you saw your grandson on the video?' Or, 'Did you know before the detectives came to get him a year later?'"

"Then she had the nerve to ask about her phone that police took the day he was arrested," Dobbs continued. "Was she one of the people who they were transferring money to? All the cars and phones and cash [taken in robberies] and what happened to my son. She is worried about her phone."

"Her tears come from the violence of my son. But if the shoe was on the other foot, she would say that the person was evil and should be behind bars."

Shortly after the first of the year, and before prosecutors charged him in Earley's case, the getaway driver was arrested as an adult.

Chicago police said he was driving a car stolen from the South Loop. He sped away and ran a stop sign when the cops turned on their blue lights. The officers terminated their efforts to pull the car over.

A few minutes later, they saw the car run another stop sign and turn down a dead-end road. They flipped on their blue lights and followed the car. Prosecutors said the driver plowed into the squad car and reversed into three more parked cars as he

FIVE YEARS see p. 10

Commentary

Local community, aldermen not consulted over new migrant hotel

BY ALD. BRENDAN REILLY [42ND]

Mayor Johnson is now considering converting the Selina Hotel, 100 E. Chestnut, in the Gold Coast neighborhood to operate as a seasonal homeless shelter.

Much like the Inn of Chicago migrant hotel, this location is just steps from the Magnificent Mile, proximate to popular tourism destinations, hotels as well as densely populated residential buildings.

Again, much like the Inn of Chicago site selection, the Mayor has decided to make this decision unilaterally, rather than confer with the local aldermen who represent residents in the area (Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] and myself).

The Johnson Administration's continued lack of transparency and communication regarding the opening of potential migrant and homeless shelter locations in wards throughout the city is neither acceptable nor good government. Simply put: it is wrong.

My office was not consulted by the Mayor or the Dept. of Family and Support Services [DFSS] before they secured this location. We have requested more information about the implementation, impact, timeline, and operational details of this facility.

We will share details with the community as we receive them. In the meantime, we recommend you contact the Commissioner of DFSS and the Mayor directly to communicate your concerns: Mayor Johnson: bjmoc@cityofchicago.org, 312-744-3300; Commissioner, DFSS: Brandie Knazze: Brandie.Knazze@cityofchicago.org, and First Deputy Chief of Staff, Cristina Pacione-Zayas: cristina.pacione-zayas@cityofchicago.org, 312-744-6280.

Art Institute free weekdays entrance Nov. 27 to Dec. 22

The return of Free Winter Weekdays at the Art Institute of Chicago are approaching, from Nov. 27 through Dec. 22.

Illinois residents can gain free admission on Mondays (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.), Thursdays (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.), and Fridays (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

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Janet Owen and Peggy Snorf.



Jason Benetti

IRISH from p. 2

SPACCA NAPOLI: This extraordinary pizza has been ranked in the top 50 in the world. Yes. Right here in Ravenswood at 1769 W. Sunnyside. Some of the best I've ever eaten in Chicago.

SWAG RESALE: Menswear chain Paul Stuart is leaving Oak St. for the Mag Mile. The move runs counter to the recent trend of luxury retailers decamping from N. Michigan Ave. for the famed high-end shopping corridor. But the move appears to respond to the long lines of folk returning merchandise stolen from high end shops off Michigan Ave. in the Gold Coast. Retail workers are anxious to leave the dangers of Oak St.

SHOPPING GHOST TOWN: After Macy's closing their store at Water Tower Place and a host of other building vacancies, and amid overall struggles over in-person shopping dropping off in the Gold Coast, especially on the mile-long retail avenue, longtime Water Tower Place owner Brookfield Property Partners in April said it was handing the mall back to its lender, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. The owner of Water Tower Place has authorized brokers to lease or sell five of its eight floors for uses other than stores.

STAGE: Performer **Gregory Stewart**, 2023 Jeff Award nominee (Reasons: A Tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire) is in a limited run of his tribute Just One of Those Things (And More): The Nat King Cole Story, Dec. 8, through Jan. 7, 2024, at Venus Cabaret Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave. Music heals the

soul, and **Nat King Cole** bridged the racial line by leading with love.

SWEETGREEN: The popular fast-casual salad and bowl restaurant is set to open at 3601 N. Southport Ave., the former location of Julius Meinl. With its commitment to healthy and delicious food, Sweetgreen is sure to become a great addition to the dining scene.



Merle Reskin and Myra Reilly.

HOLLYWOOD STAR: **Barb Bailey** definitely made another deep show biz impression on fans in L.A. where she had them holding hands and humming with some old friends in the seats. Her show at **Herb Alpert's** Vibrato Grill Jazz garnered **Valerie Gobos, Jerry Berliant, Rebecca Holden, Angelika Epperlein, Annie Will**



Bill Murray

Buik family. Having an extensively rich history that spans over three generations of leadership and service to the Chicago Scots, the evening will celebrate the accomplishments of **George C. Buik Sr., Donald W. Buik** and **James W. Buik.**

It all started in 1845, when Chicago's population was just 12,000,



Andre Dawson and Karen Conti.

for fragrant winter with her wood-burning stove... Fun evening in Printers Row for **Susie Forstmann Kealy** at Thai restaurant and the **Jeffrey Pelt** Quintet at the Jazz Showcase... **Peggy Snorf** celebrating designer **Lily Pulitzer** with friend **Janet Owen**, both looking great Palm Beach smart.

NINTH INNING: Comedian



Gregory Stewart

WISHBONE: Chef **Joel Nickson** founded Wishbone Restaurant at 1800 W. Grand Ave. in July 1990 with 23 seats, nine stools, and a half dozen paintings by his mother, **Lia Nickson.** Dishes and breakfast with a Cajun spin. It's been five years since Wishbone moved to 161 N. Jefferson St. and will soon they celebrate 34 years since it all began in March.

CABARET STAR: **Lucy Ranger Salinski** looked cool and pitch perfect for her cabaret show last week wrapping her listeners in a soothing nostalgia of graceful romance, especially her proud family, and especially her sweet daughter, **Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill's Molly Ranger Castellanos.**

and **Lorenzo A. Beard** in the audience.

CHICAGO MOURNS: **Myra Reilly** mourning the loss of her longtime friend **Merle Reskin**, a remarkable Chicago philanthropist, and a glittering Broadway star. With the love of her life, **Harold Reskin**, they were patrons of the arts, establishing the Merle Reskin Theatre at DePaul Univ. and The Merle Reskin Garage Theatre at Steppenwolf Theatre Co., in addition to years of the generous support of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Ravinia Festival, and Writers' Theatre – among countless others. Merle was a card-carrying member of Actors Equity Assoc. She made Chicago glisten.

HAGGIS: The 178th Annual Saint Andrew's Day Gala, "Feast of the Haggis" will be 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 at Wintrust's Grand Banking Hall, located downtown. All proceeds will benefit the organization's principal charity, Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care. At the Feast, the Chicago Scots will present their highest honor, the Distinguished Citizen Award, to the

a group of immigrant Scots gathered at the city's finest hotel, the Lake House, to celebrate Saint Andrew's Day. There, they established Illinois' first and still oldest charity, the Illinois Saint Andrew Society.

WHO'S WHERE: Illinois Supreme Court Justice **Joy Cunningham** front and center for Daily Law Bulletin Award dinner... Cook County Treasurer **Maria Pappas** attending the 80th anniversary celebration of All Saints Armenian Apostolic Church... **Sheila Lamb-Gabler** attended the Gateway Foundation gala with son, **Matt... Shaun Rajah** twirling at a Monday night shindig in black penny loafers and a polka dot tux, cuz it's the style not the brand... **Rose Marie O'Neill** lunching with Irish Consul General **Kevin Byrne** and Irish Georgian Society's **Michael Kerrigan** at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill... **Janet Owen** and the staff expecting a few friends over for cocktails, dinner and dancing at "my home away from home" the Fall Ball... **Catherine Johns** had a lovely evening celebrating birthdays with Scorpio sisters **Marilyn** and **Lindsay**, plus her sweet husband **Frank Tertinsky**... A terrific evening at the Swedish American Museum Gala in Andersonville with **Helen Melchior** and **Jose Conforme**... Congrats to new Grandpa **Dennis Donn** on the birth of **Louis Patrick Donn**... Chicago's own **Linda Matlow** was one of the **Jerry Springer** Show photographers during the decades when they filmed in Chicago... **Jane Canepa** off to Hawaii for her brother's funeral... **Carolyn** and **Dave Richter** in Cincinnati at the Bengals game... birthday joy to **Bethany Kitrik** and **Sheila Swann**... **Dr. Rose Gomez** staying cozy in her Swiss home preparing

and actor, **Bill Murray**, is now co-owner of the Joliet Slammers Illinois minor league baseball team, with **Mike Veeck.**

RESTFUL PEACE: For 33 years **Chris McCaffrey** was a wonderful brother-in-law. For 49 years he was a dear friend, first meeting in freshman year high school at Brother Rice. Best pal Maestro **Rich Daniels'** and family's loss is deep and we send prayers and sympathy to all.

FOR THE CURE: WGN Radio lawyer, **Karen Conti**, at Fans For the Cure, a prostate cancer awareness group at Smith and Wollensky. Honoring Cubs Hall of Famer **Andre Dawson**, one of the nicest guys around. Did you know he runs funeral homes in Florida?

SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP: The Warriors of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Glenview rock, says **Father Jeremiah Boland.** Yes they were victorious in the league championship. A great victory but much more important a great group of coaches, athletes and parents. **Coach O'Gara** is the best. Kudos to Queen of All Saints for a great experience of sportsmanship. The Catholic League has a great legacy.

BEST BISTRO: Au Moulin à Vent in Paris won Bistro of the Year. Food critic **Gilles Pudlowski** credits **Théophile Moles** for the success.

JFK AIRPORT: The Port Authority has broken ground on a \$19 billion dollar public/private redevelopment program to build a new JFK International Airport. Travelers should plan for the inconvenience. Best to visit the Port Authority's alerts page for updates and tips for navigating the airport.

I'm a drinker with writing problems. — **Brendan Behan**

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Memorial for Rogers Park softball star Ron Kelly

BY DON DEBAT

A memorial is planned this weekend for Ron Kelly, a West Rogers Park native and 16-inch softball icon who starred for the championship Chicago Sun-Times Old Style Chicago Classic team in the 1994 major tournament in Grant Park.

The memorial will be held 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at Tripoli Tap, 1147 W. Armitage Ave. in the DePaul neighborhood.

“Ron Kelly passed away suddenly at age 53 on Labor Day weekend. He was a gregarious, popular man who left us too early. He will be missed,” said Bob Egan, his teammate and long-time friend.

“Ron was single guy with no wife or children,” Egan said. “Professionally, he was a very successful salesman who had a reservation a Table No. 1 at Gibson’s on Rush St. any time he wanted it.”

Kelly grew up in West Rogers Park. He played baseball and



Ron Kelly

softball teams, including Free Agents, Iron, Misfits, Trips, Red Dog, Still Cruising, and the “AA” Raiders team at Mount Prospect.

“Ron was inspired by the career of his uncle, Hall of Fame player Duke Gregerson, who passed away in 2017 and is honored on the Wall of Fame at the HOF in Forest Park,” Egan said.

Assisted by Egan, Kelly launched the 100 Proof team in 2017. That year, the team won the Ald. O’Connor Tournament at Mather Park. In 2018 and 2019, the 100 Proof team went to the semi-final round of the tournament. And, in 2021, 2022 and 2023, the fine 100 Proof team won the tournament three more times.

In 2003, Kelly started refereeing basketball games at Bridgeport Catholic Academy on the South Side. Later he started coaching there with his friend Pat Check from the Get ‘Em softball team, and the duo had much success.

basketball at Mather High School and Augustana College. “Ron was a very good long-ball hitter and had a great arm in the infield,” Egan said.

In addition to the historic Chicago Daily News / Sun-Times team (HOF 2008), Kelly played for many “A” and “B” saloon

Letters to the Editor

Washington Square location for Mother Jones connects both topics

Thanks very much for the piece [by Thomas O’Gorman] about honoring Mother Jones. I hadn’t known about the proposal to put a memorial to her by the Water Tower. I’d long thought that the Haymarket monument in Forest Home Cemetery was enough.

But your suggestion of Washington Square is excellent and deserving of consideration. As a participant in the Chicago History Book Discussion Group of Edgewater Historical Society / Chicago Public Library at the Edgewater Branch Library, I’ve read multiple books on both the Great Chicago Fire and the Haymarket event in the context of the

labor movement back then in Chicago. Mahlon Ogden’s mansion, which stood where the Newberry Library now stands, was one of the few buildings which survived the Fire.

Some people thought it should have been opened to shelter many “common folks” during and after the Fire. It wasn’t. Washington Square connects both topics, to those who have been educated well about them.

Apparently the Irish government is not in the latter group.

Jean SmilingCoyote
West Ridge

Driving is a privilege

I’m curious who submitted the “More density...parking?” article, but could find no byline.

There was no mention, in the midst of the alleged “war on cars and parking,” of the guy who got us into so much of a mess: Richie Daley, who made a sweetheart deal with LAZ Parking, signing away all on-street and much off-street potential/likely parking revenues for decades into the future, nor who the shadowy Abu Dhabi owners of LAZ are — forget reaching any of them to complain, so do it in the paper, while they’re laughing all the way to the (offshore?) banks!

This writer must be young and healthy, to kvetch about “the menace of the double-parked... FedEx, UPS and U.S. Postal Service delivery truck, or the ... Lyft drivers...when waiting for the non-car-owning passengers to show up for a ride.” Elderly and disabled folks trying to get to their doctors and parents with kids in tow should just take a hike, I guess, even though they’ve all been doing this since forever! And poor “business owners, their employees and customers...[where] they will park is a mystery.” God forbid they would actually choose to take the CTA.

Of course developers should create “rear loading zones, drive-

ways, porticos” and such, if only to keep traffic moving smoothly. But this vitriol is what seeks to enshrine driving and is what serves to “[pit] Chicago resident against Chicago resident in a mad search for legal parking spots.”

Perhaps the writer can tell us where is it decreed that any non-handicapped citizen has an absolute right to a parking space. Oh, that’s right: Nowhere!

Driving is a privilege, its attendant parking challenges go hand-in-glove, and the more cars on the roads, the worse it will be.

Maja Ramirez
Avondale

Note from the editor:
Our readers can safely assume that any article that does not have a byline was written, or edited, by our editor.

Rolling Red Library hopes to change futures of children of the incarcerated

Funded by
Kiwanis Club of LakeView

The founders of the Rolling Red Library recently celebrated the culmination of a series of contributions that now fill their large red “Library on Wheels” with specially selected literacy materials for “John Stephan’s Escape from the Jeopardy Zone” program for Logan Square at Funston Boys & Girls Club.

The Rolling Red Library was created by Jennifer Barrera and Maria Hayley, Founder and President of the Freedom Road Foundation.

Hayley is also a member of the Kiwanis Club of LakeView which completely funds this program. Many Kiwanis Club members also personally selected and purchased numerous additional materials. The Rolling Red Library is designed to help break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration.

The two hope to change the futures of children of the incarcerated, save lives and make a difference in young people’s lives.

Contents of the Rolling Red Library include hundreds of reading, writing and drawing materials including books, bilingual materials, art, crayons, coloring pencils, sketchbooks, and other known literacy enhancers.

These items are used by Barrera and her staff to coordinate with their program activities including their recently established initiative of training older students enrolled in the Club’s After School program to read to the younger ones on a regular basis.

The program serves approximately 60 students grades K – 5. Most are bilingual or new immigrants. These materials help them to learn English. Language mastery is a key to success in school and staying out – or getting out – of the “Jeopardy Zone.”



Standing in front of their Rolling Red Library are (L-R) Club Director Jennifer Barrera and Maria Hayley, Founder and President of the Freedom Road Foundation.

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Mag Mile Holiday Festivities, Christkindlmarket begin Nov. 17

The Holiday season kicks-off next weekend with the annual Chicago Christmas Tree Lighting, Christkindlmarket opening, and Magnificent Mile Lights Festival.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held in Millennium Park, Nov. 17.

The 110th Annual City of Chicago Christmas Tree, a 45-foot Colorado Blue Spruce was donated by the De La Cruz family of Darien.

The Colorado Blue Spruce will be illuminated during the ceremony 6 p.m. Nov. 17, which will be emceed by Irika Sargent and Joe Donlon of CBS 2 Chicago.

The Christkindlmarket celebrates its 27th season at Daley Plaza, beginning Nov. 17, at 50 W. Washington. The Christkindlmarket Chicago is an authentic traditional holiday market similar to those hosted in Europe.

Magnificent Mile Lights Festival The Magnificent Mile Lights Festival will occur on Saturday, Nov. 20. The parade will step-off this year at 5:30 p.m. from Oak and Michigan and proceed south to Wacker Dr. The parade concludes with a fireworks show

over the Chicago River at Michigan Ave. Unfortunately, this year spectators are not allowed to view fireworks on any of the Chicago bridges.

As usual also, traffic in the area will be horrible. The dire traffic impacts starts on Saturday, Nov. 18, when the following streets will be closed from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.: Clark St. (Oak St. to Delaware St., east curb lane only); Delaware St. (Dearborn St. to Clark St., north curb lane only); Oak St. (Clark St. to State St.), Dearborn St. (Delaware St. to Maple St.), and on Walton St. (State St. to Clark St.).

Those closed 3 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. are Oak St. (State St. to Michigan Ave.); N. Michigan Ave. (Oak St. to Wacker Dr.), and Upper Wacker Dr. (Michigan Ave. to east turnaround).

This year's Tree Lighting Ceremony will include multiple viewing locations with screens and concessions in the Park.

Nov. 17, Tree Lighting Ceremony generally runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit Chicago.gov/Holiday.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Thanksgiving Day Parade returns Nov. 23

The iconic Chicago Thanksgiving Parade returns, and steps off at 8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, traveling up Chicago's legendary State St. from Ida B. Wells Dr. [Congress] to Randolph St. featuring the return of the beloved giant balloons.

This free family tradition, now in its 89th year, showcases the best talent from across the nation. This year it will feature some of the nation's top marching bands, including Tennessee State Univ., Minnesota State Univ., Horace Mann Academy, Riverside Brookfield High School, Marist High School and many others.

There will also be festive floats, staged performances, equestrian units, cultural performance troupes, inflatables, celebrity hosts and a visit by Santa Claus.

This year's Parade will be co-hosted by actors Jen Lilley (Days of Our Lives, B&B Merry, Paris Christmas Waltz) and Jesse Hutch (Batwoman, B&B Merry, Blessings of Christmas). There will also be special appearances by HGTV's Lauren Makk and Chicago's Poet Laureate Avery R. Young. A high-



There will also be a visit by Santa Claus at this year's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

light of the parade will be performances by country music's Reyna Roberts and Tayler Holder.

Attracting hundreds of thousands of spectators each year, this year's Parade features an eclectic roster of festive participants, including staged live performances from American Blues Theater, Ballet Folklórico Sones Mexicanos, Black Ensemble Theater, and SOUL Harbour Ranch Animal Therapy Program.

TRAFFICKING from p. 5

ping this and not profiting out of it," he said.

It's not the dark web that is harboring these practices, he said, but sites that can be visited without a password. That's why parents need to get more involved. He empowered parents to monitor their kids' internet activity

because these crimes can happen anywhere.

"Being a parent means you need to snoop around," he said.

He noted an astronomical increase in child pornography, which law enforcement is also battling. In 1998, there were approximately 3,000 such images on the internet. This past year, the number has spiraled to 33 million,

he said.

"It just shows you how exponentially all this stuff has grown," Dart said. It's also a myth that such crimes don't happen close to home. "The vast majority, (90-95%) of the people that are involved in trafficking, are local people, trafficking local people, and it's going on all around us," Dart said.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

on Oct. 25.

Judge Susana Ortiz granted the state's petition to detain Griffin as a public safety request, saying he ordered an Uber and threatened to shoot the driver if he didn't surrender the vehicle.

Prosecutors said surveillance video showed Griffin climb behind the wheel and drive away.

Chicago cops followed the car's GPS signal to the 500 block of N. Central Park, where it sat unoccupied, Griffin's latest arrest report said. Investigators put the car under surveillance and allegedly watched Griffin drive it to a new location about a half-mile away.

When they arrested him, he had the car's key fob and the Uber driver's phone, according to the arrest report.

He is now charged with aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm, unlawful vehicular invasion, and pos-

sessing a stolen motor vehicle.

Man shot outside downtown strip club

Chicago police say a man was shot after escorting a customer out of a downtown business Nov. 9. The shooting occurred just two blocks from where two men were shot during a botched robbery Nov. 8.

In a media statement, CPD said trouble began after a 30-year-old man escorted another man out of an unnamed business in the 700 block of S. Clinton around 4:12 a.m.

Moments later, a black Tesla pulled up, and a gunman fired shots from the vehicle, striking the 30-year-old in the right knee, according to the police statement. EMS took the victim to Stroger Hospital in good condition.

Investigators at the scene were concentrating their efforts outside Deja Vu Showgirls, a strip club at 750 S. Clinton. At least six shell casings

were seen on the sidewalk and pavement.

Officers were told that the Tesla, which had no front plate, fled south on Clinton with three Hispanic male occupants.

On Nov. 8, a concealed carry license holder got into a shootout with robbery suspects in the 700 block of S. Desplaines, two blocks over from Clinton St.

CPD said a robbery crew traveling in a Dodge Charger rolled up on a 29-year-old man who had crashed his car shortly after 9 p.m.

Three gunmen stepped out of the Charger and were quickly engaged in a firefight with the man, police said. The shootout ended with the victim and one robber suffering gunshot wounds. Both are expected to recover.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

FIVE YEARS from p. 7

tried to get away.

Meanwhile, an 18-year-old in the front seat tossed a gun into the back seat, where two juveniles were seated, officials said.

The cops arrested them all.

Prosecutors charged the driver, the guy involved in Earley's murder, with possessing a stolen motor

vehicle and aggravated fleeing. He is preliminary scheduled to enter a plea deal later this month, according to court records.

Cops found a loaded 40-caliber handgun with a laser sight and an extended magazine attached in the back seat. They charged the front-seat passenger who allegedly tossed it there with unlawful use of a weapon.

Also in the back seat, propped against the driver's side door, was a loaded AR-15 rifle and a second 40-caliber handgun, also with an extended magazine.

As it turns out, the front-seat passenger had another pending gun case. Sources said he has links to the robbery crews that stalked the North Side in the spring of 2022.

LIBRARY from p. 9

The "Jeopardy Zone" refers to the high risk of future incarceration of children reading below grade level by the end of third grade. The program was co-cre-

ated by, and named after, longtime Kiwanian and former Logan Square Club Director John Stephan. Who was also the former officer of the Kiwanis Club of Lakeview, and legendary former Club Director of the Chicago Boys and

Girls Club of Logan Square.

This legacy program aims to reverse the dire prediction of future incarceration for third graders falling below proficient in national reading test scores through partnered reading promotion activities, incentives, whole family engagement, custom home libraries and strategic community connections, especially libraries.

They also provide reading resource support for recently released prison detainees who are on probation or parole.

The goal of the three-way partnership among Logan Square at Funston Boys & Girls Club, The Freedom Road Foundation, and Kiwanis of LakeView is to provide children with "a way out" of the "Jeopardy Zone" – all the while having fun.

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale
151515
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
DAVID A. SCHEELE, 710-14 WEST CORNELIA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, BMO HARRIS BANK N.A., UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
23 CH 3545
712 W. CORNELIA AVE., UNIT 3
CHICAGO, IL 60657
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 13, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 14, 2023, 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:
Commonly known as 712 W. CORNELIA AVE., UNIT 3, CHICAGO, IL 60657
Property Index No. 14-21-302-029-1006
The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$174,262.08.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to

Real Estate For Sale
confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 357-1125 Please refer calls to the sales department. Please refer to file number 23-00955.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation

Real Estate For Sale
at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC
175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201
CHICAGO IL, 60606
312-357-1125
E-Mail: pleadings@nevellaw.com
Attorney File No. 23-00955
Attorney Code. 18837
Case Number: 23 CH 3545
TJSC#: 43-3680
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 # 23 CH 3545
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
LOAN FUNDER LLC, SERIES 18513;
Plaintiff,
vs.
DISTINCTIVE DWELLINGS, LLC, ROBERT STEVEN BAYLESS, MARY ANN SKWERES;
Defendants,
23 CH 1750
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 14-06-408-012-0000.
Commonly known as 1676 WEST EDGEWATER AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60660.
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single

Real Estate For Sale
family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. 23-00401
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13232070
080808
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.
Plaintiff,
vs.
SKANDER DJERAI, ABBOTT COURT CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION III, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
2023 CH 03365
2828 N ORCHARD ST #2
CHICAGO, IL 60657
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 9, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 6, 2023, 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 For Sale
real estate:
Commonly known as 2828 N ORCHARD ST #2, CHICAGO, IL 60657
Property Index No. 14-28-115-090-1003
The real estate is improved with a residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a

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government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
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630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-23-02496
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2023 CH 03365
TJSC#: 43-3301
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New Edgewater park finally getting underway

On Friday, Nov. 17 at 3:30 p.m., the city will break ground on the new Park 599, at 1627 W. Edgewater. The park will be located between Edgewater and Hollywood avenues.

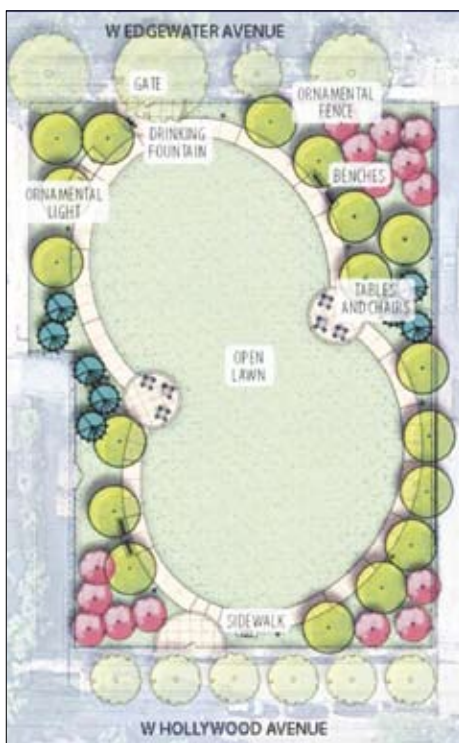
The vacant lot and future park sits alongside a residential development at the former Edgewater Hospital site in Edgewater. This space was donated to the City and in 2023, the City transferred the real estate over to the Park District.

The park will rise on space that has been vacant since the hospital campus at 5700 N. Ashland Ave. was demolished in 2017. The developers agreed to turn some of the hospital space into a public park.

Those plans were frequently delayed, but a general contractor is now in place, and work on the new park will finally get started. The plan is to have it up and open by Spring 2024.

The peanut-shaped park lawn will be encircled by a walking path. According to the released plan, there may be two areas with tables and chairs along with benches on the walking path.

Originally a highly respected medical institution, the former Edgewater Hospital complex was exposed for vast medical



corruption by its former owners, and fell into frightening disrepair for nearly two decades.

FIRE from p. 1

Propane is an asphyxiant, meaning very high concentrations of the gas can cause suffocation. Exposure to high concentrations can also cause cardiac arrest, unconsciousness, or seizures. Sustained contact with the skin can cause frostbite.

In Sept. 2022, former 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman released a report from Luis D. Benitez, the city's Chief Bridge Engineer, who warned that "[The Wilson Ave. Viaduct] structure was found to be safe for pedestrian and overhead traffic on Lake Shore Dr. But please note that the life of this bridge has dramatically been reduce [sic] because of these fires... If these fires continue the structure will be compromised and we may need to close it."

At the time, Cappleman said that the fires were "tragic and life-threatening, leading to the risk of closing" Lake Shore Dr. He said it is urgent that the community work to house the homeless living under the viaducts and "discourage encampments from returning."

Anyone who has travelled up or down Lake Shore Dr. recently can see that there

is a clear lack of any urgency to move the tents campers out.

In their reporting, UU summarizes the current situation by saying that "So far, it has been 'lather, rinse, repeat' with the city and current Ald. Clay very quiet. We fear that the only thing that will cause action is a lawsuit or an unfortunate loss of life."

In their reporting, Uptown Update summarizes the current situation by saying that "So far, it has been 'lather, rinse, repeat' with the city and current Ald. Clay very quiet. We fear that the only thing that will cause action is a lawsuit or an unfortunate loss of life."

Not only do the campers represent a fire and explosion hazard, but their campsites on park-front sidewalks constitute a continuous ADA violation as those with disabilities or in wheelchairs must move into the street to avoid the encampments. The city and police have done little to ease this clear

Man killed by drive-by shooter in Rogers Park

BY CWBCHICAGO

A 36-year-old man was shot and killed by a drive-by gunman in Rogers Park on Nov. 10, Chicago police said.

The victim was sitting in an SUV in the 7600 block of N. Greenview when another vehicle pulled up around 8:39 p.m. Police said the driver of the other vehicle fired into the victim's vehicle, striking him in the face and body.

The Cook County medical examiner's office identified him as Steven B. Brown of Blue Island.

Brown is the 29th person shot in Rogers Park this year, down slightly from 30 at this point last year but higher than 21 victims in 2021.

A rekindled gang war drove shooting numbers higher this year, but Brown was the first person shot in the neighborhood since Sept. 10.

JASC from p. 1

Americans coming to Chicago from the WWII Japanese American concentration camps.

Today, its mission is to engage people of all ages to experience Japanese American history and culture and to improve their well-being through programs and services tailored to their community. JASC provides service programs to support the elderly in the community, kids' educational programs to promote Japanese language and culture, and a range of additional cultural and language classes.

In addition, through the Legacy Center, the JASC is involved in projecting the story of Japanese American WWII incarceration to the larger community through exhibits, programs, archival collections, and a library.

The new 34,000 square foot, three-story building will feature state of the art facilities to safely store the largest concentration of Japanese American archives in Chicago, run high quality day care programs for ag-

ing adults, and provide enriching cultural programs for all ages. In a released statement they said their building "will be one we will flourish and grow in, as we look to expand our clientele, community, and staff in our new space."

Building features will include an open floor Adult Day Service areas with the ability to serve 65 clients; increased square footage for Legacy Center Library, Archive Storage, and Processing Workroom, and collaborative second floor workspace for current and additional staff.

There will also be a new demo kitchen, multipurpose space and conference rooms to host cooking classes, cultural programs, and meetings, two large activity rooms to host simultaneous children's programs and special events, and a private off-street parking lot.

The JASC are inviting the general public to attend a construction kickoff ceremony on Dec. 1st, and are requesting RSVPs to confirm a spot. Contact Tricia Soo at the JASC office (773-275-0097, ext. 225) or by email to operations@jasc-chicago.org.

violation of the rights of the disabled.

And this is not just a problem for the North Lakefront homeless camps. In 2019 between 150 and 200 propane cylinders were found after an explosion forced the shutdown of a South Loop homeless encampment under the Roosevelt Rd. ramp and bridge over the Dan Ryan Expy. And Ald. William Conway [34th] just last week notified his own ward that, "my team was able to remove several tents from under the Fulton viaduct that were abandoned and a locus of significant criminal activity. In total, we have removed 11 tents and 20 propane tanks. These presented a danger to the community and the rail line that runs above." Then on Nov. 7 he said five more propane tanks had been recovered, and he thanked city employees for "helping us re-

move tanks, drugs, and abandoned tents safely."

The citizen watchdog and blog reader sent UU our page 1 photos, saying, "Again, I walk under Lake Shore Dr. every day to get to the park, and once again there was a fire. I sent you photos two months ago, and this morning another fire!!"

Chicago Fire Dept. officials have for years been asking the public to refrain from bringing propane tanks to homeless encampments.

The City promised it was acting to remove propane tanks from under the viaducts, but in July 2023 several readers sent UU word of three additional significant fires after that.

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