

Everywhere I go,
children teach me new songs.
Every concert is new and different.
— Ella Jenkins

Red-light cameras leading to more overall crashes

South Side gets 2.5 times as many tickets per camera as North Side, but North Side tops in fines, monitored intersections

BY PATRICK ANDRIESEN
Illinois Policy

Red-light cameras on the city's South Side issued the most tickets per intersection between Oct. 2023 and Sept. 2024, more than 2.5 times as many as cameras on the North Side. Citywide, fines are up to \$61.4 million for past 12 months.

Red-light cameras on Chicago's South Side issued the most tickets per intersection during the 12 months through September, more than 2.5 times as many as red-light monitored intersections on the North Side.

Drivers citywide were fined

\$61.4 million, without accounting for late fees, through 614,498 tickets from October through September. That's 131,556 fewer tickets than during the previous 12 months and a nearly \$13.2 million drop in revenue.

Red-light cameras on the South Side issued an average 9,132 tickets between Oct. 2023 and Sept. 2024, or 5,521 more tickets than each camera on the North Side.

Despite the high volume of tickets per intersection on the South Side, drivers on the North Side were issued nearly 100,000 more tickets worth nearly \$10 million more than the South Side fines.

North Side drivers were issued more than \$16.2 million in red-light tickets. The North Side has 45 of the city's 150 red-light monitored intersections, while the South Side has only seven.

West Side drivers incurred the next most tickets, with red-light

cameras at 33 monitored intersections issuing nearly \$14.2 million in fines.

A minority of the cameras produced a majority of the tickets. More than half of all the red-light tickets were issued by cameras at 33 of Chicago's 150 monitored intersections.

Red-light cameras at 10 of these monitored intersections across Chicago averaged about \$1.5 million worth of fines to drivers between Oct. 2023 and Sept. 2024.

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The most lucrative red-light camera monitored intersection was at Lake Shore Dr. and Belmont in the Lake View neighborhood. Cameras at the intersection on the North Side issued \$2.5 million worth of tickets to drivers.

These revenue estimates as-

RED-LIGHT see p. 10

CTA announces plans for major changes at Clark/Lake 'L' station

Relocation of the station entrance among changes

Last week the Chicago Transit Board approved major changes for the Clark/Lake Loop Elevated station.

As part of the agreement, CTA and JRTC have agreed to a change of easement for the property that will relocate the main station entrance from Lake St., under the elevated tracks, to the northeast corner on Clark St.

JRTC Holdings is the firm tasked with redeveloping the former James R. Thompson Center for Google.

Included in the project plan will be changes to the station's mezzanine finishes to align with the design plans JRTC is spearheading for the overall facility.

All work and costs associated with the relocation of the station entrance and upgrading the mezzanine finishes are part of JRTC's overall facility renovation. Additionally, CTA will be planning \$10 million in improvements for the elevated platform. The overall project will be executed in three phases between late 2025 and late 2026:

- Phase 1 (Station Entrance) - Nov. 2025
- Phase 2 (Remaining Scope) - June 2026
- Phase 3 (CTA Platform Work) - Late 2026

"This is a renovation project that will not only restore the luster to one of Chicago's most iconic downtown buildings, but also to the station that is the heart of the city's public transit system,"



Proposed Conceptual Renderings of Future Clark/Lake Station.

said CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr. "This project reflects a shared commitment to the future of Chicago transit, and we look forward to continuing our work with JRTC in creating a modern station."

Like the Thompson Center itself, opened in 1985, the Clark/Lake station is a vital transpor-

tation site. It not only connects six rail lines but also links to six major CTA bus lines—making it 'ground zero' for Loop access and a reminder of the significance of this entire project.

"As partners in this project with the CTA, we're putting effective

CTA see p. 12



Sculpture Exhibit seeks sculptors
see page 9



Japan's Shinkansen Bullet Train.

Focus of Rail Alliance public meeting: Japan's high speed railway

The High Speed Rail Alliance is hosting a public meeting on lessons learned from Japan's Shinkansen Bullet Trains.

The talk will be held noon Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, at Maggiano's Little Italy, 516 N. Clark St.

The speaker is Naohisa Kitada, the General Manager of the Central Japan Railway Company's office in Washington, DC.

Japan led the world in 1964 by introducing a new technology: its Shinkansen bullet trains. In the past 10 years, the Shinkansen has transported more than 10 billion commuters, averaging about 150 million passengers per year. In Tokyo and Osaka alone, as many as 26 16-car trains, with a capacity of 1,300 seats each, operate in both directions every hour, with an unparalleled record for safety and efficiency. Their high-speed intercity train network currently consists of more than 2,600 kilometers of rail lines.

The fastest bullet train currently operating in Japan is the Nozo-

mi, which covers the Shin-Osaka to Hakata route and runs on the Tokaido/Sanyo Shinkansen lines at speeds of up to 300 kilometers per hour [186.411 miles per hour].

With technology like the Shinkansen, some people believe a high-speed rail hub in Chicago could connect more than 40 million people throughout the Midwest, within hours.

Supporters think Chicago Union Station could serve as the center of a nationwide network of high-speed trains.

As the Illinois High-Speed Railway Commission studies options for fast new service between Chicago and St. Louis, and as Illinois and Chicago prepares to address funding challenges and dropping ridership for the CTA and Metra, this meeting will review what the Japanese experience has shown.

For more information or to make a reservation, visit <https://www.hsrail.org/>.

Navy Pier Marina construction kicks off for summer 2025 opening, see page 12

Grand Ave. Bridge repairs should be done by Dec. 6

City work crews are in the middle of repairs to the Grand Ave. Bridge, but expect to finish up by Friday, Dec. 6. The repairs include gusset plate and sidewalk bracket repairs on the bridge over the N. Branch of the Chicago River.

Daily closures are now in effect 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

One sidewalk will remain open for pedestrians traffic during construction.

Timeless Thanksgiving gathering from our ancient American past



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

Every November the O’Gormans have always been thankful.

To this day the aroma of fresh sage and rosemary sautéing in unsalted Irish butter always catapults me into that stratosphere like a Pilgrim on the shores of Jamestown.

The herbal fragrance is a jolt, reminding us of the embrace of our living on this western side of the Atlantic. It conjures up the warmth and consuming fresh identity of what it means to be American.

In Eisenhower’s 1950s nothing expanded our wits and imagination more than feasting together at Thanksgiving. Still my favorite.

Unlike the array of other holidays of festive familial assemblage, the historic re-creation of Thanksgiving’s timeless gather-

ing from our ancient American past rejuvenates the imagination. The careful concoction of this remarkable meal has been both wisely learned and dutifully celebrated from our study of the earliest details of America’s historic episodic shaping of our self-understanding.

The drama of Pilgrim life still returns to me in the savory recipes of Grandma O’Gorman’s kitchen. We all knew that this was not just another South Side Irish Chicago dinner. Because her pots and pans, and vittles sliced and diced connected us to millions of other fellow American immigrants - Poles, Dutch, Italians, Germans, Chinese and Mexicans all hungry for a fabulous meal of plentitude. Just like the primitive colonial settlement of those pious folk in the big black round hats and buckled shoes.

The wafting aroma of a roasting turkey, basted, seasoned and sizzling, filled the house, well-beyond the proportions of the kitchen.

Our army of O’Gorman grandchildren were the first ranks of kitchen volunteers. Well-skilled students of Visitation Grammar School who learned at a young age how to toast sliced bread in the oven. And then grind it by hand in an old-fashioned mill. And how to slice and chop onions

without tears or finger wounds.

We were an adolescent band of chefs slicing the celery and sautéing the aromatics combining them in a huge clay bowl to mix the dressing for our bird. And we followed Grandma’s skilled unmeasured addition of the poultry seasoning, eyeballing ingredients with a careful ongoing sampling of the butter-rich savory stuffing. All of us wondering if this wasn’t better than anything they had on hand at the early Plymouth, Massachusetts feast.

While my fellow choirboy cousins peeled potatoes in the kitchen, some of my female cousins were out on the enclosed back porch peeling apples from a bushel of fruit. And Grandma succinctly instructed the details of making the buttery, flaky pastry crusts. Perfectly slicing the apples and mixing the cinnamon and sugar with bakery-like perfection.

The long dining table was stretched to the full and adorned with an elegant Irish linen table cloth and creatively folded napkins dotted with shamrocks bought by Grandma on her visits to Ireland each Summer.

The boxes of polished silver were brought out and the brigade of teenage cousins carefully laid out the shiny knives, forks and spoons alongside the Wedgewood china dinner plates aplenty, carefully arranged by two older female supervising cousins.

Twenty-five place settings could be accommodated round the table. In this house young cousins sat amid the adults, never banished to a children’s table by order of Grandma, who wanted her helpers gathered near her for the feast.

Meanwhile sweet potatoes with grated orange peel and crusts of buttery brown sugar were assembled. Fresh cranberries with rosemary and port wine had been assembled the previous day. Turnips had been peeled and chopped by our young Aunt Anna Marie the night before.

She was also in charge of insuring there was plenty of Pepsi, guaranteed to give us all a sugar high.

All that was left for Thursday

were loaves of Irish soda bread which Grandma made every two days. We loved to watch her at work mixing everything on butcher paper with no need for a bowl. She added two kinds of sweet raisins and carved a cross on each loaf before baking. A tradition she always said went back to the Crusades.

My father was always designated the Thanksgiving Day bartender, ensuring that there would be plenty of quality Brandy Alexanders, high balls and choice beers for the adults.

His brother was in charge of collecting the Irish Christian Brothers from Leo High School, who were cousins of my grandparents. There could be a gaggle of them for the feast. We loved them. They were bright and humorous. With powerful thirsts. Great storytellers and good eaters. And often led grace in the traditional Irish language.

I remember thinking, while my Aunt Betty prepared the giblet gravy and my mother, Eileen, helped mash the spuds, and Arthur Godfrey and Carmel Quinn sang Irish tunes on the hi-fi, that our little get-together must have been as cozy and tasty as that first Thanksgiving feast. Plymouth was a long way from Chicago, but what an amazing spirit was at work among the generations there on Peoria St. as Grandma taught us all to perfect our taste in holiday foods as we helped volunteer creating an America meal where the fragrances of the vittles never left us and we always made sure there was room for all.

It was all very red, white and blue.

What a glorious experience of hospitality and careful fragrant cooking bound we Harry Truman supporters to the savory patriotism of our shared American hopes. Beyond politics. Beyond candidates. Beyond the passage of our loved ones to grander tables in heaven. As sweet as Grandma’s apple pies.

BILLY LAWLESS RIP: Billy Lawless was no stranger to enabling the living of others. It made the Irish Senator such a noble man, his willingness to help

connect others to fuller and more meaningful lives. Back in Ireland or on the streets of the U.S.A.

His life never left the needs of his children and the children of others who learned the power he placed in the decent act, the soft, sustaining word, the timeless potency of friendship and the heavy lifting that such leadership begets.

For Billy that was true whether pulling pints for neighbors in one of his respite pubs in Ireland or for Chicagoans on the Wrigley Field footpath, or in the hallowed chambers of the Irish Seanad (Senate) attempting to add timeless wisdom and common sense to the political endeavors affecting immigrants and workers just struggling to survive.

It was also true on the tables he set with a delicious hospitality in his Chicago restaurants that displayed his unique and sophisticated etiquette and cuisine. Hospitality that never waned. With ever-expanding space for all who needed to be nourished. A welcome on both sides of heaven, now, that will never end.

PEACE: Remembering Ella Jenkins. A pioneer in children’s music and education who died at 100. A dear soul and treasured Chicagoan. The soul of Old Town.

PURPLE HEART: Illinois State Treasurer **Michael Frerichs** recently returned Private First-Class **Delbert Tuttle’s** Purple Heart medal to his daughter. He was a Marine who fought in World War II.

Frerichs launched Operation Purple Heart to encourage the public’s help in identifying the rightful owners of difficult-to-return Purple Heart medals that were left in abandoned and forgotten safe-deposit boxes. Since becoming Treasurer, he has returned 12 medals, including Pfc.

GATHERING see p. 8

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Lincoln Park remembers Ella Jenkins, the ‘First Lady of Children’s Music’

BY AVERY HEERINGA

Ella Jenkins, a world renowned children’s singer and longtime Lincoln Park resident — often hailed as the “First Lady of Children’s Music,” — died on Saturday, Nov. 9. In her 100 years of life, the singer was a prolific recording artist, releasing a total of 39 albums and having her work immortalized by accolades such as a 2004 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and by the lasting impact of her signature call-and-response musicality.

Born in St. Louis, she moved to Chicago at age 4, she went on to performed on “Sesame Street,” “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” and “Barney & Friends,” and was awarded a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement in 2004.

Rick Rausch, who has lived in Lincoln Park since 1976 and lived on the same block as Jenkins for about 25 years, remembers the singer as a key part of his neighborhood’s community.

“When we moved into our first house, we found out Ella Jenkins was across the street,” he said. “At the time, our kids were pretty little, so we really hadn’t appreciated what that meant. But it didn’t take long to figure out that we had a pretty special neighbor there.”

When Rausch’s youngest son Alex was born, he would often sit on his family’s front steps, where Jenkins would often stroll by, calling out distinct bird whistles and captivating the young child. “She’d be across the street, then



Ella Jenkins

all the sudden there’d be this very strong bird whistle that she would do. This two-year-old would be lookin’ all over the place [thinking], ‘Where’s that bird?’ then she’d walk across the street and say hi,” said Rausch.

During performances at Ravinia, Jenkins’ would sometimes call out into the audience for Alex by name, and bring him onstage along with several other children to perform alongside her. Alex said that sharing the stage with her was a testament to her “kind soul” and love of children. “She was like a ball of light,” Alex said. “I can’t ever remember a moment seeing her [when] she wasn’t in a

smiling, happy mood.”

Jenkins never really retired from performing. Upon her 99th birthday last year, Jenkins appeared at a celebration for her at the Old Town park that bears her name at 333 W. Wisconsin St. The party was organized by the Church of the Three Crosses, and Old Town Triangle and Lincoln Central associations.

Alex, who still lives in Lincoln Park, said that Jenkins’ presence in the community and neighborhood is lasting. “The area makes me think of her and all the good memories,” he said.

Sherry Williams, one of the founding members of the

Bronzeville Historical Society [BHS] and the organization’s current president and CEO, first crossed paths with Jenkins as a child. Williams remembers the singer visiting the South Side Masonic Temple, formerly located at 64th and Green St., in the late 1960’s and early ‘70s and performing for children there.

Williams describes Jenkins’ impact as “resounding,” after seeing her perform at a young age. She seldom saw women playing instruments.

“That struck me as like, ‘Wow that’s something else that I can maybe do when I grow up, is play an instrument.’ That’s what was so resounding for me, was remembering that here was a woman playing [an] instrument,” said Williams. “[I found] that fascinating and also encouraged me to look beyond what I thought was my role growing up as a young lady.”

When Williams was growing up, the kind of careers that young women were encouraged to pursue could often feel limiting and

be confined to what “women’s work” might be. “Thinking outside of those limitations had never really been presented to me. [It made me think] I could do something beyond what might be considered the ‘norm,’ so it was very inspiring for me to see her.”

Years later, shortly after the BHS’s establishment in 1999, Williams experienced a surprising reconnection to Jenkins when the singer visited a fundraising event for the organization.

Williams said that Jenkins’ ability to reach children from all backgrounds is one of the aspects most important to her legacy. Jenkins’

ELLA see p. 11



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Snowbirds, others can prepay taxes due next year and just relax for the winter

BY MARIA PAPPAS

If you're a Cook County homeowner who spends winters in Florida, Arizona or other climate warmer than Chicago you don't have to worry about rushing back to town to pay your taxes by the traditional early March due date.

My office lets "snowbirds" and anyone else prepay taxes due the following year before the end of the current calendar year. Taxpayers can register and receive a tax bill in the mail in early December. The deadline to prepay taxes every year is Dec. 31.

To obtain a printed copy of a prepayment bill, send a written request by early

December that includes your mailing address and 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN). Requests by mail should be sent to: Cook County Treasurer, Attention: Prepayments, 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, Chicago, IL 60602.

There are four ways to pay early:

- Online at cookcountytreasurer.com from your bank account or a credit card



Maria Pappas

- By mail using an original early payment tax bill or a pdf of a tax bill downloaded from cookcountytreasurer.com and mailed to Cook County Treasurer, P.O. Box 805436, Chicago IL 60680-4155

- At any Chase Bank location in Illinois
- In person at the Treasurer's Office in Room 112 of the County Building, 118 N. Clark St.

If you prepay your taxes by check, you must write your PIN near the amount due. You can find your PIN at the top of your most recent tax bill or look it up using your address at cookcountytreasurer.com.

The First Installment is an estimated bill equal to 55% of the prior year's total tax. The due date is usually the first business

day in March.

Second Installment tax bills vary. It's impossible to estimate what the Second Installment bill will be, which is why you can only prepay First Installment bills. My office can accept prepayments for First Installment taxes only if the prior year's taxes have been paid in full.

If you have a mortgage and your property taxes are paid from an escrow account, contact your lender prior to attempting to pay early to avoid making a double payment. If your early payment is received by Dec. 31, the First Installment tax bill that will be mailed in late January will reflect that payment.

Zoning approved for new BET center on Clark St.

Ald. Angela Clay [46th] has approved the request for a zoning change from C1-2 to a Planned Development designation with a base zoning of B3-3 at 4427 N. Clark. The project, led by the Black Ensemble Theater, will bring a five-story mixed-use building - called the "Free to BE

Village" - with affordable housing, retail, and cultural-educational components in place of an existing vacant single-story commercial building, empty parking lot, and vacant lot that once housed the Japanese American Service Committee.

Dog Coalition needs your old leash

The Street Dog Coalition is undertaking a donation campaign to collect unused pet supplies.

They are seeking pet carriers, leashes, dog bowls, and small bags and cans of dog and cat food.

Donations can be made at Warren Park fieldhouse, 6601 N. Western Ave.

The Coalition provides free veterinary care and related services to pets of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. They conduct street medicine and host pop-up street clinics, to care for lives on both ends of the leash. For more information call 970-829-8789.

The grades are in on area hospitals

Nurses say excellence tied to patient outcomes

BY BOB ZULEY

The Magnet Recognition Program is a recognition program operated by the American Nurses Credentialing Center [ANCC], a subsidiary of the American Nurses Assoc., that allows nurses to recognize nursing excellence in other nurses.

Of the 613 hospitals with a Magnet designation, 14.5% have achieved the Magnet status at least five times.

The Magnet recognition program designates hospitals worldwide where nursing excellence is strategically tied to patient outcomes, says the ANCC.

Only five hospitals in the great-

er Chicago area have achieved a Magnet level 5 or higher. They are: Advocate Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn; Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge; Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago; Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital in Geneva; and Rush Univ. Medical Center in Chicago.

Only 17 hospitals in the entire nation earned Magnet's top honor. To earn this designation, hospitals must undergo a comprehensive application and review process. Hospitals with this award typically have high nurse job satisfaction, low level of RN turnover and lower 30-day mortality rates.

"It raises the bar to recognize top-tier organizations that have achieved the highest level of nursing excellence while addressing emerging challenges and changes in healthcare moving forward," according to the ANCC.

Of those 17 hospitals, only two are in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. They are Loyola Medicine MacNeil Hospital in Berwyn, and Rush Copley Medical Center in Aurora.

The ultimate judge of how well a hospital performs is how safe its patients are. Hospital Safety Grade released their Fall 2024 update on Nov. 16 for patient safety and it's not good news for more than a dozen Illinois hospitals.

They factored in MRSA infec-

tions, C. Diff infections, blood infections, surgical site infection after surgery, and sepsis infection after surgery.

The five hospitals in the greater Chicago metropolitan area receiving a "D" grade are: Community First Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison St.; Roseland Community Hospital, 45 W. 111th St.; South Shore Hospital, 8012 S. Crandon Ave.; Weiss Memorial Hospital, 4646 N. Marine Dr., and; West Suburban Medical Center, in Oak Park.

The only Illinois hospital to receive an "F" grade in patient safety is in Decatur, IL.

Hospitals pay out about \$2 million for initial Magnet certification, and pay out nearly the same amount for recertification every two years - an obvious money-maker for the ANCC and the ANA, observed a 2017 report in MedPage Today.

"Magnet status is also a good return-on-investment for hospitals. A study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that achieving Magnet status not only pays for itself, but actually increases hospital revenue down the line," noted Alexandria Bachert, MPH, staff writer for MedPage Today.

Several nurses told MedPage that the Magnet program has strayed from its original mission. "I think that the original intent of Magnet was good, but that intention is completely lost," said Sara Koeller, a California-based nurse who has worked in Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals. "The overall thing is to get a banner in front of a hospital which says we are Magnet status and no one really knows what it means - even the nurses in the hospital."

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Wrightwood Neighbors expanding

The Wrightwood Neighbors Assoc. hosted a community meeting Tuesday night at New Life church to consider expanding its boundaries westward to Ashland Ave. This proposed expansion would grow the community group by expanding its western boundary to Ashland Ave. from the present western boundary of Racine Ave.

Mayor's big property tax hike rejected, but more headaches ahead



The Home Front
by Don DeBat

Tens of thousands of Chicago's home and small apartment owners likely breathed a sigh of relief last week when Mayor Brandon Johnson dropped his proposal for a \$300 million property tax increase.

Mayor Johnson scuttled the massive tax hike proposal on Nov. 14 after the Chicago City Council voted 50-0 against it. The tax increase was just one part of the mayor's plan to cover the nearly \$1 billion deficit in the 2025 city budget.

The hike would have boosted property taxes by 4.8%, raising them by an estimated \$318 on a typical \$350,000 Chicago bungalow.

However, dropping the plan for a giant property tax increase doesn't mean that our Democratic Socialist mayor won't be cooking up a litany of revenue boosting ideas to put the bite on taxpayer's wallets.

Another cloud hanging over the North Side is the hefty property tax reassessments handed out this year by Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, especially in North Township, where total assessed value skyrocketed a whopping 30%.

The proposed real estate tax hike proved wildly unpopular with property owners, aldermen said. They argue that the council and mayor find new revenue to avoid layoffs of city employees, and cutting services major budget cuts may be necessary.

The wild and crazy proposed revenue-

cutting options include the following:

- Diverting COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] funds to shore up the budget. (More than \$200 million of ARPA funds remains unspent.)
 - Diverting Tax Increment Financing dollars earmarked for special projects.
 - Dropping the city's planned advance pension payments. However, bond-rating agencies have warned against that idea because it could lead to lowering the city's credit rating.
 - Cutting dozens of vacant Chicago Police Dept. jobs tied to implementing a federal consent decree. However, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul warned that if Mayor Johnson drastically cuts back the Police Department's Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform, the mayor will be in defiance of a court order and will be held in contempt.
- The Mayor could boost an array of fees and taxes, including raising taxes on wholesale alcohol, and adding more ticket-writing spy cameras to Chicago roadways.
- He could also create a new tax on products derived from hemp and related legal CBD and THC-alternative products, some of which mirror the effects of marijuana. (Budget officials estimate this proposal would raise \$19.3 million next year, and bring in \$175.1 million by 2029.)

Assessment hikes skyrocket

Regardless of the city's budget issues, the real elephant in the room for North Side property owners is the tax-increase hit inevitably coming in 2025.

On Oct. 15, Assessor Kaegi released the initial assessments of residential and commercial properties in North Chicago Township, which includes the upscale



(L-R) Mayor Brandon Johnson, Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, and Michael Griffin, expert tax-assessment lawyer.

neighborhoods of Old Town and Lincoln Park. The Assessor reassesses one-third of Cook County every year. Chicago was last reassessed in 2021.

Residential assessments are based on recent sale prices of similar properties in the area. In North Chicago Township in 2023, the median sale price for single-family homes was \$1,355,000. In 2024, the median market value estimate for the same property class rose to \$1,483,000. That's a 16% increase from the 2021 single-family home median of \$1,372,000.

In 2023, the median sale price for condominiums in North Chicago Township was \$330,000. In 2024, the median market value estimate for the same property class rose to \$378,000. That's a 10% increase from the 2021 condo median of \$339,000.

Median market values of two-to-six-unit multi-family apartment buildings in North Chicago Township are on the rise. In 2023, the median sale price for a multi-family property was \$1,450,000. In 2024, the median market value estimate for the same property class rose to \$1,492,000. That's a

15% increase from the 2021 multi-family median of \$1,200,000.

The Assessor said the total assessed value of residential and commercial property in North Chicago Township grew 30%, which reflects three years of real estate market changes. Here are two reassessment examples that far exceed the 30% median increase:

• **Lincoln Park:** The 2024 estimated fair market value on a vintage red brick 4-flat rose an incredible 47.4% to \$1,930,000 from \$1,309,450 in 2023. The assessed value jumped to \$193,001 from \$130,949. After an appeal, the owner paid a 2023 tax bill of \$24,379.

• **Old Town:** The 2024 estimated fair market value on a historic brownstone 6-flat rose 39% to \$1,700,000 from \$1,223,270 in 2023, according to the assessor. The assessed value jumped to \$170,000 from \$122,327. After an appeal, the owner paid a 2023 tax bill of \$25,110.

"Every homeowner should review their

TAX HIKE see p. 10

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Police Beat...

‘Very distinct looking individual’ gets 12 years for carjacking driver in Lincoln Park

“A very distinct looking individual” has been handed a 12-year sentence for carjacking a man in Lincoln Park last year.

Nicholas Kaehler pleaded guilty to one count of vehicular hijacking before Judge Peggy Chiampas on Nov. 13, the day after his 23rd birthday.

On the evening of March 29, 2023, a 23-year-old man was stopped in traffic in the 2300 block of N. Lincoln when a white Jeep pulled up behind him.

Kaehler and two accomplices exited the Jeep, and Kaehler knocked on the victim’s window while pointing a revolver at him, prosecutors alleged. The victim surrendered his car to Kaehler, who allegedly drove away with it as one of the other hijackers sat in the passenger seat.

Prosecutors said the victim told police that one of the hijackers wore a balaclava-style ski mask, but they failed to cover distinctive tattoos on their face.

Officers in a Chicago Police Dept. surveillance room used license plate readers to find the stolen car as it went south on Lake Shore Dr. and told patrol officers where to find it.

Kaehler initially pulled over for officers on the drive but sped away as they exited their squad cars. Moments later, Kaehler stopped the vehicle in the 5400 block of S. Lake Shore Dr., and he bolted into Hyde Park along with the passenger, officials said. He was still wearing the balaclava with his face tattoos exposed when police arrested him nearby.

During his first court appearance on the charges, Judge Barbara Dawkins noted that, even though Kaehler was wearing a COVID mask as he stood before her, he was “just a very distinct looking individual.”

Barring any misconduct while in prison, Kaehler will be released in the spring of 2029, after serving half his sentence.

Six years for woman who beat, robbed man after luring him into car outside downtown nightclub

A Milwaukee woman, part of a group that officials said drugged, robbed, and sometimes beat men they met at downtown Chicago nightclubs, has been sentenced to six years in prison for her crimes.

Jasmine Ross, 35, pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery plus identity theft and aggravated battery in exchange for the sentence from Judge Anjana Hansen.

Two women accused of being accomplices, also from Milwaukee, skipped bail in April 2023 and haven’t been seen since. Arrest warrants remain active for Anesha Robinson, 35, and Felicia Anderson, 36.

In the more violent allegation, prosecutors said the women lured a 24-year-old man into a car that he thought was his Uber outside a club early one Saturday in Feb. 2020.

The women drove the man around, attacking and robbing him, until a Chicago police unit pulled up

behind the vehicle and saw what was happening, according to prosecutors.

Two police officers reported pulling up behind a rental car that Anderson was driving on the 2000 block of N. Sedgwick around 3:30 a.m. The cops said they saw Robinson beating a man in the vehicle’s back seat while Ross knelt on the front passenger seat and threw punches, too.

Officers who pulled alongside the rental car said they saw Ross and Robinson going through the man’s pockets. Anderson allegedly sped away from the police, and the victim was dumped from her moving vehicle. But Anderson later pulled over for other officers on the 1000 block of W. North Ave., according to police records.

Cops said Robinson tried to throw the man’s phone down a sewer when they ordered her out of the vehicle. Two of the man’s credit cards were also allegedly taken.

The victim, who lived in Lincoln Park, was admitted for treatment at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center with a fractured nose, fractured cheekbone, and cuts and bruises to his face, arms, and head, police said.

Another man reported being similarly lured and robbed in the downtown area about two weeks before the women were arrested, accounting for the second robbery charge.

While the robbery cases were pending, Ross was arrested again for allegedly stealing a man’s identity after offering him a ride outside the Hangge Uppe, 14 W. Elm, in Sept. 2022.

Prosecutors said he told investigators he had no memory of what happened after Ross offered him a drink.

While the man was unconscious, someone took his phone and credit cards, which were then used to conduct transactions worth more than \$10,000.

Chicago police detectives pulled video of two transactions allegedly showing Ross using the man’s card at Walmart stores in Hammond and Kenosha. Prosecutors claimed she also sent herself \$3,500 from the man’s bank via Zelle.

Ross is expected to be paroled in June 2025.

Andersonville flasher

On Nov. 12 an indecent exposure took place at the intersection of Foster and Paulina at approximately 4:30 p.m. A young girl was waiting for the bus when she was approached by a man who exposed himself to her as the bus was approaching.

The police have increased presence in the area and is currently seeking video footage that may assist with the investigation.

Those who may have video footage of this incident, can contact Area 3 Detectives at 312-744-8266.

Robber poses as security guard, repair tech to mug people at ATMs

A man is posing as a security guard or service technician to rob people at ATMs on the North and Northwest Sides, according to Chicago police. He has struck at least six times since Oct. 1, including three times last week.

Police said the man approaches a victim at an ATM and indicates that he is there to repair the cash machine or is working as a security guard. He then orders the victims to go away or forces them away from the ATM so he can withdraw money from their accounts.

Detectives have linked six robberies to the crime pattern including one in the 3200 block of W. Addison at 12:55 p.m. on Oct. 1; the 4800 block of N. Pulaski at 11 a.m. on Oct. 13; the 6300 block of N. McCormick at 3 p.m. on Nov. 7; the 3200 block of W. Irving Park at 5:15 p.m. and again at 6:21 p.m. on Nov. 11, and in the 6100 block of N. Western at 12:55 p.m. on Nov. 12.

The robber has been described as Black, 20 to 40 years old, 5’-8” to 5’-10” tall, and 200 to 220 lbs. Some of the victims believed he was armed.

CPD’s Financial Crimes Unit is involved in the investigation. They can be reached at 312-746-9661.

Northwestern shuttle bus struck by bullet in Rogers Park

A Northwestern Univ. intercampus shuttle bus was apparently struck by a bullet, leaving its driver injured Nov. 8, according to new information from the school’s police department.

The shuttle bus was traveling near Loyola University’s lakeshore campus when a projectile struck its driver-side windshield around 7 p.m., NUPD said. Shattered glass injured the shuttle driver, but none of the approximately 15 passengers aboard were injured.

According to the school, the driver was taken to the hospital for treatment.

“Based on the information available, we do not believe that the incident was targeted,” said Chief of Police and Senior Associate Vice President Bruce A. Lewis.

The Chicago Police Department is handling the investigation, the school said. CPD, the school’s police department, and the shuttle provider were working to gather video from the shuttle’s exterior cameras.

Anonymous tipster identifies Red Line robber for police



Mugshot of Dashion Jones, left, and a CTA surveillance image of the robbery suspect.

An anonymous tipster who saw a Chicago police bulletin about a recent robbery at the Addison Red Line CTA station helped cops identify the assailant, officials say.

Around 9 p.m. Oct. 22, a 21-year-old woman was riding a northbound train when a masked man grabbed her wrist and pulled her onto the platform at Addison, 940 W. Addison, according to a police report. The man took the woman’s phone and ran from the station.

Detectives decided to release a surveillance image of the robber on Nov. 2, hoping the public would identify him. The move paid off.

An anonymous caller identified the robber as Dashion Jones, 37, prosecutors said. Cops went looking for Jones and recently found him in the 200 block of South Sacramento.

According to his arrest report, Jones was carrying the same backpack as the robber, and the bag contained the same Los Angeles Dodgers jersey the robber wore.

Judge Ankur Srivastava detained Jones, saying he was convicted of robbery last year and was on pretrial release for a battery case at the time of the Wrigleyville mugging.

Man shot near Phillip Rogers Park

A man was shot Nov. 13 near Phillip Rogers Park on the Far North Side.

Police said the victim was seated in a vehicle in the 2500 block of W. Touhy when the gunman pulled up in another car. The gunman got out, pulled a gun, and shot at the 46-year-old, leaving him with gunshot wounds to his leg and arm. After the shooting, the victim ran to a nearby AutoZone for help.

Investigators have strong leads regarding the shooter’s identity. Witnesses said he left the area in an older, blue Acura.

Police found six shell casings at the scene. A couple of cars were struck by gunfire, but no other injuries were reported. CPD said the victim was in fair condition.



Mugshot of Demond Watson, inset, and as seen with three CTA surveillance images released by CPD.

Man charged with one of several robberies that swept the Red Line in September

Prosecutors have charged a man with participating in one of several robberies that were reported along the CTA Red Line from Bryn Mawr to the Loop on one night in September.

Police said the robbers mugged their first victim near Bryn Mawr around 10:50 p.m. Sept. 17 and forced him off a train at a station north of Uptown. He told police that five or six males wearing hoodies punched him repeatedly in the face and took his phone, glasses, and AirPods case.

Another robbery occurred near the Sheridan station shortly after that. A man reported he boarded at Howard and was mugged by five to seven people somewhere between Wilson and Sheridan. The group punched him, took his phone, opened his backpack, and stole his bank cards. He declined medical attention.

Yet another robbery was soon reported at the Clark-Division stop.

Police said the victims were attacked without provocation, and the crew forced each victim to exit the

train after being robbed.

While most of the victims reported being attacked by five or six people, CPD released surveillance images of just three suspects within days of the robbery spree.

On Sunday morning, Chicago cops arrested a man at the Jackson Red Line station to face charges in the Clark-Division mugging.

In a detention petition, prosecutors said Demond Watson, 26, was one of “several” people who struck the 30-year-old victim in the face and body, taking his phone and wallet.

Officers wrote in Watson’s arrest report that he had been identified as one of the assailants through CTA surveillance video. He is charged with robbery and aggravated battery of a transit passenger.

Judge Ankur Srivastava declined the state’s detention request, opting to allow Watson to go home on electronic monitoring pending trial.

Gunmen fire shots while robbing victims near Sheridan Red Line CTA station

Gunmen fired shots while robbing a group of men near the Sheridan Red Line CTA station on Nov. 16. Fortunately, no gunshot injuries were reported.

The men were standing outside at the corner of Sheridan and Irving Park when a white SUV pulled up around 3:45 a.m. A Chicago police spokesperson said approximately four men exited the SUV, displayed guns, and physically attacked the men, hitting them in the face and body.

One of the offenders fired toward the victims as they tried to escape. Officers found a single shell casing lying in a traffic lane on Irving Park.

The police spokesperson did not release descriptions of the suspects.

Coincidentally, the incident occurred at almost the same time that armed robbers exchanged gunfire with an off-duty Chicago police officer in the first block of West Polk the Loop. Those robbers were traveling in a maroon sedan, not a white SUV. Police suspect the crew in the sedan also robbed at least one victim in River North and then followed them into the Loop, where they fired shots near State and Randolph.

No injuries were reported in either of the Loop incidents

Eighteen years for robbing seven businesses while on parole for robbing six businesses

A man has been given an 18-year sentence for robbing seven North Side businesses last year while he was on parole for an 18-year sentence he received for six robberies in 2014.

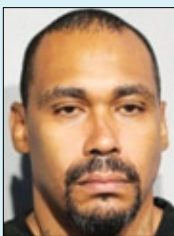
Williamomo Peray, 45, will be eligible for parole again in June 2032, after serving half of his new sentence. Two different judges were involved in his sentencing.

Peray pleaded guilty to four robberies before Judge Anjana Hansen, who gave him concurrent 18-year terms for each count.

Those robberies, committed in September 2023, were at a Dunkin’ in the 5700 block of N. California; Kimberli

Sushi & Thai, 2547 W. Lawrence; The Green Post, 4749 N. Rockwell; and a store in the 6200 block of N. Western.

Prosecutors said a woman was closing the sushi restaurant when a robber walked in and demanded money from the register. The offender, who did not display a weapon, fled on foot.



Williamomo Peray

Within minutes of that holdup, a man entered The Green Post as a 33-year-old male employee was shutting down the bar. The robber walked up to the counter and demanded money from the register. He did not display a weapon and fled on foot, according to CPD.

Peray pleaded guilty to four robberies before Judge Peggy Chiampas, who handed him concurrent eight-year sentences.

Those robberies, occurring between Aug. 27 and Sept. 8 last year, were in the 4700 block of N. Lincoln, the 3600 block of N. Western, and the 3800 block of N. Kedzie.

Chicago police determined that the person who robbed the Dunkin’ walked toward a strip of Lincoln Ave. motels frequented by transients, according to a CPD report. They showed surveillance images of the robber to motel employees, and one of them identified Peray, the report said.

Video from the Summit Motel allegedly showed Peray leaving the property before the robbery and returning after the holdup while wearing the same clothes as the robber.

Peray was on parole at the time of the robberies. Records show he was given six concurrent 18-year sentences in 2014 for robbing convenience stores, a restaurant, and other businesses between Nov. 2013 and Jan. 2014.

\$103,000-a-year mayoral advisor's plates expired in 2022 because her car won't pass an emissions test

BY CWBCHICAGO

Mayor Brandon Johnson's \$103,488-a-year public safety advisor has been driving on expired plates for two years because her "check engine" light keeps coming on and she can't pass an emissions test.

That's what Alyxandra Goodwin told the Chicago police sergeant who pulled her over for the outdated tags last month. The traffic stop ended with Goodwin being arrested for an outstanding traffic warrant from DuPage County. Goodwin pulled her over around 4:45 p.m. Oct. 8.

Footage from officers present at the stop and arrest reveals an overall pleasant encounter, with Goodwin at one point telling officers she appreciated the "nice-



Mayoral advisor Alyxandra Goodwin reacts upon hearing that a warrant was out for her arrest.

ties" they extended to her.

The sergeant began the stop by telling Goodwin that her car's license plates had expired in 2022.

"Yeah, I know," replied Johnson's senior policy advisor for

public safety.

Asked if there was a reason her plates had been expired since 2022, Goodwin replied, "Yeah, my check engine is on, and I can't get my tags until I figure out...

but I still can't pass the thing."

"The thing" is a vehicle emissions test, the sergeant confirmed, advising that drivers can get extensions if they have trouble with the test, but she wasn't sure if Goodwin qualified since the plates are two years out of date.

After running Goodwin's ID on a squad car computer, the sergeant returned to Goodwin's car with some bad news: She had a warrant.

"Are you arresting me?" Goodwin asked.

"Yes," replied the sergeant.

That's when the first mention of Goodwin's employer came up during the stop.

"My kids are home by themselves," Goodwin explained, "and

I'm on my way to a mayor's office event."

The officers allowed her to make phone calls to arrange for someone to take care of her children while Goodwin got everything straightened out.

During one phone call, apparently to her boss, Deputy Mayor of Community Safety Garien Gatewood, Goodwin is heard saying, "They're not bothering me. They're going to arrest me."

Goodwin handed her phone to the sergeant, saying her boss wanted to have a word.

Unmoved by Goodwin's City Hall connections, the sergeant explained that Goodwin was being taken to a police station.

Man charged with threatening to kill judge

BY CWBCHICAGO

A suburban man faces a host of felony charges for allegedly threatening a Cook County judge electronically and during open court in the Loop.

The alleged threats began nearly a year ago, on Dec. 20, 2023, when Daniel Land allegedly threatened to murder Judge Lori Rosen and warned she would be going to jail during a Zoom court hearing, according to a criminal complaint.

Rosen handles domestic matters from a courtroom at the Daley Center.

Complaints filed by prosecutors say Land sent "numerous" emails to Rosen's courtroom on Jan. 16, accusing her of conspiracy in criminal offenses. During another Zoom hearing that month,



Mugshot of Daniel Land.

August at the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Among "numerous" threats was one in which he had "jurisdiction [sic] to blow your motherf*****g brains out," according to the filing.

Land is charged with four counts of threatening a public official, four counts of intimidation by threat of physical harm, two counts of harassment threatening to kill, and one count of cyberstalking by electronic threat.

He is currently being held at the Cook County jail with a detention hearing.

he allegedly threatened to murder the judge again and accused her of "aiding and abetting" a child abduction and conspiracy to commit murder, per the complaints.

More recently, a complaint said, Land left two voicemails in

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GATHERING from p. 2

Tuttle's.
His office has more medals to return to veterans and their families, and they continue to seek the public's help in getting them back to the rightful families.

PROST: The celebration of life for **Horst Siegel** and **Tony Winkhardt** was held last weekend at DANK Haus in Lincoln Square, and the event drew over 400 people requiring two ballrooms to fit the crowd. The two friends both passed in early September and the families decided to host the event together for the pair, as they shared many of the same friends and acquaintances. Horst was known as the "Mayor of Lincoln Square."

LIGHTHOUSE: **Dan Balanoff** at Nubble Lighthouse in York, ME. Always liked the symbolism of lighthouses, they don't go out looking for ships to rescue, they just stand firm providing a bright light to help guide people home. Live your life like a lighthouse and try to be a beacon of hope and comfort to others, lord knows we need it.

PARIS MIRACLE: For the first time since the great Fire in Notre Dame de Paris in 2019, the bells of the 800 year old cathedral rang out on Nov. 8. The people of Paris wept.

UNSECURED: Nothing to worry about here... DNA researcher 23andMe is laying off 200 employees, as the struggling genetic testing company attempts to slash costs. The restructuring arrives during a period of turmoil as 23andMe deals with a high-profile data breach - your data - several rounds of earlier layoffs and financial losses. CEO **Anne Wojcicki** said the company was "taking difficult but necessary actions" as it focuses on its core consumer business and research partnerships.

We're in the best of hands, I'm sure insurance companies would never try to buy our DNA data from those hackers.

WHO'S WHERE: **Bunny Frum,**



Horst Siegel



Tony Winkhardt



Chris and Lindy Fleming McGuire with daughters Brooke and Eleanor, and pal Gail Payne.



Stevie Wonder and Arny Garant.



Archbp. James P. Keleher



Billy Lawless

Jeanae Paul and **Darla Kehn** at a fabulous birthday celebration for Darla at Lux-Bar, the royal treatment from a surprise cocktail drink from **Kathy O'Malley**... **Diva Montell** wowing the crowds and celebrating the birthday of a dear friend and great singer **Richard Colucci** who's 97 years old but still looks forward to coming out and grabbing the mic again to sing a song or two at Cooper's Corner in Winfield... **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** out for a great night with their mothers and mothers in law, thanks **Oscar Totasian**... **TSH Prince Gustav, 7th Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg** and **Princess**

Carina of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg are expecting their first child. The baby is a boy and will be born in May... **Barb Bailey** and **Paul Hansen** had a fabulous lunch at RL with this columnist where the brilliant bartenders were able to create a "Red Snapper," just like the St. Regis' King Cole Bar in New York where the original Bloody Mary was invented long ago... **Liz Teasley's** son, **Caleb**, has decided to take a big step in his journey of faith and education by registering for the St. Ignatius entrance exam... **Russ Goeltenbodd** in New York and saw his high school friend, actor **Gregg Edelman**, in "Water for Elephants," years ago they were in the Niles North production of Camelot. Gregg was Sir Lancelot, Russ was in the chorus... **Carol Blaney Eshaghy** and husband, **Dr. Eshaghy** and daughter **Sarah Eshaghy Bruno** and husband, **Paul Bruno** and the Bruno children and their nanny dining well at Il Gerasole on Western for spectacular Italian... **Chris and Lindy Fleming McGuire** with daughters **Brooke** and **Eleanor**, and pal **Gail Payne** at Music Box Theater in NYC for "Suff" The Musical... An awesome evening for **Eamonn Cummins** and **Pennie Taylor** celebrating their friend, **Piers Mummery** in from London for the night... **Todd S. Davis** making a quick visit to the Art Institute, regaled... It's a tradition for **Sherry Lea Fox**, **Sherrill Bodine**, **Sheree Schimmer**, **Whynnis Mackie** and **Myra Reilly**, each year for the opening of the WAC's holiday boutique. Starting the holiday season with friendship and love, shopping and dinner, camaraderie and champagne... Happy

Birthday **Joni Mitchell**... **Army Garant** with **Stevie Wonder** at his Chicago wrap party... **Jack** and **Sandy Goggin** in the Andes in Peru at Macchu Pichu... **Sherrill Bodine** and **Debi Catanacci** elegantly entertained this columnist at a savory lunch at RL filled with wisdom, humor, warmth and the delightful service of **Jack Sorin**, our fine waiter.

REQUIEM AETERNAM: **James P. Keleher**, Archbishop Emeritus of Kansas City in Kansas has died at 93. The son of proud Irish immigrants, he was a Chicago priest bred and reared filled with faith, humor, intelligence and a natural sense of diplomacy. He held great responsibility in the Archdiocese of Chicago administering great authority in its seminary system.

But he was first a humble and generously kind parish priest since 1958.

He went on to be the Bishop of Belleville Illinois and then the Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas. But he remained always a generous supporter of the people of God whose lives he enriched by generous listening and sustaining ministry. He was Irish through and through. At home in the villages and towns from which his Kelliher and other family members emerged.

He was as revived by Irish faith and spirituality as he was with the goings-on at Wrigley Field and Comiskey Park. A proud Chicagoan wherever he dwelt, his openness of heart was freeing and brought many folk to deeper understandings of God's mercy. He is survived by his cherished nephew who was the apple of his eye, **Steven Zick**, of Christie's Auction House. He leaves behind generations of friends and colleagues proud of his charity and thankful for his vision of faith.

ELECTION LUNCH: During the election day downpour lunch at Erie Cafe was a well-earned necessity. My election day priority. Even though Erie's menu does not mention Chicago's best fried chicken, they are always willing to fry up a batch of it along with cottage fries and a salad for favorite customers. The chocolate fudge cake took me over the election edge.

What if, today, we were grateful for everything? – **Charlie Brown**

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The Chicago Sculpture Exhibit, founded by former 43rd Ward Ald. Vi Daley, showcases the art of sculptors in more than 15 Chicago neighborhoods. Applications are now open for the next sculpture showcase.

Sculpture Exhibit seeks sculptors



Former Aldermen Vi Daley (L) and Tom Tunney (R).

Every year, Chicago Sculpture Exhibit [CSE] showcases the art of sculptors in more than 15 Chicago neighborhoods. Professional sculptors are invited to submit proposals for consideration. Recent CSE initiatives average up to 50 artists and their pieces.

The application process, and official 2025-26 call for artists, recently opened for the next showcase. The deadline for submission is Dec. 13.

Artists must be experienced with the design, construction and installation of outdoor sculpture and must have a documented track-record of this experience. All works are sited in public view and viewers are encouraged to walk right up to the sculptures

and become familiar with them.

CSE, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, was founded in 2001 by then-43rd Ward Ald. Vi Daley. The Lincoln Park Community Art Initiative was created to beautify the Lincoln Park neighborhood in a new way. The first show was mounted in 2002 with eight sculptures that were on display from May through October.

The show continued to grow every year and has earned many accolades. In 2008, the show nearly doubled when Ald. Tom Tunney [44th] brought the Lakeview neighborhoods into the show.

Following the efforts 10th anniversary, additional neighborhoods joined and the name was changed to reflect a growing interest in sculpture throughout the city.

CSE seeks artists each year and a jury selects new artwork for placement in the spring. Selected artists are awarded a stipend in return for a one-year display of their artwork. A kickoff party is held after the installations are complete with additional events taking place periodically throughout the year.

CSE is funded by charitable contributions from the private sector to bring art to the neighborhoods. The hope is that people will encounter art while going about their daily life. All of the works are available for purchase at the conclusion of the exhibit.

For more information, contact chicagoartsculptureexhibit@gmail.com.

Merry Measures fundraiser shows return in December

Chicago Cabaret Professionals have announce the return of their favorite holiday event, Merry Measures, to be held at Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave., 7 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3. This annual fundraiser will benefit Gilda's Club Chicago, 537 N. Wells St., and includes two nights of holiday music with two wonderful casts.

This year, the event will also feature special guest and Gilda's Club Chicago Chief Development Officer, Bradford Newquist. Newquist, an accomplished vocalist, will perform on state and says he loves his work with Gilda's Club. He says music is an impactful part of Gilda's Club and in helping people on their cancer journey.

Their collaborations with Lyric Opera Stage Artists and other arts agencies helps the organization reach out into the Chicago community. Cast members for the two performances will include: Ken Baker, Aurora Boe, Andy Bossov, Emily Buckner, Carl Chadek, Patrick Davis, David Edelfelt, Cindy Firing, Ken Fobs, Ruth Fuerst, Caitlyn Glennon, Cathy Glickman, Carla Gordon, Sophie Grimm, Brianna Johnson, Lynne Jordan, Gaye Klopach, Yuka Layme, Amy Lechelt, Jonathan Lewis, Alex Magno, Michael Joseph Mitchell, Carol Moss, Bradford Newquist, Wendy Parman, Ren Perez, Pam Peterson, Patricia Salinski, Jan Slavin,

Julie Soroko, Zoe Soteres Gary Thomas, Catherine Thomson, Siobhan Townsend and Carolyn Wehner.

The production staff includes Amy Lechelt and Pam Peterson, David Edelfelt & Michael Joseph Mitchell – Assistant Directors and Andrew Blendermann; Howard Pfeifer – Music Directors. Martin Balogh is Producer.

Gilda's Club namesake, Gilda Radner, was one of the original cast members of "Saturday Night Live." Throughout her time on the show, she created a number of enduring characters, including Roseanne Roseannadanna, Emily Litella and Lisa Loopner. Laughter and love were central themes of Radner's career and life, including in her marriage to actor and comedian Gene Wilder, the original Willy Wonka.

Radner was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1985. She said that having cancer gave her membership in an elite club she'd rather not belong to. She passed away in 1989, but her legacy lived on when her husband and friends established Gilda's Club.

Chicago Cabaret Professionals is an alliance of advocates for the art of cabaret who have come together to promote public appreciation of Cabaret. CCP members include seasoned and aspiring performers, composers, lyricists, producers, directors, writers, presenters, venues and friends.

Glogg master competition at Swedish American Museum

Celebrate the Swedish Christmas spirit at the Swedish American Museum Glogg contest 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 and sample Chicago's best glögg (mulled wine) and help decide who earns the title of top glögg master.

Admission is \$25 and includes tastings

from all competitors, making it a festive way to experience this cherished Swedish holiday tradition.

Competitors can register online at <https://swedishamericanmuseum.org/>, and tickets for tasters are available online or at the museum, 5211 N. Clark St.





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POLICE BEAT *from p. 6*

During those robberies, he was on parole from a seven-year sentence he received for robbing a Logan Square dry cleaner in 2010. At the time of the Logan Square robbery, he was on parole for an eight-year sentence he received for aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in 2005. And at the time of the aggravated unlawful use of a weapon case, he was on parole for a 2004 burglary.

He received probation for two other burglaries in 2000.

Window smashing spree

Police are warning residents about a spree of car window smashing that occurred on Nov. 14.

Numerous cars were damaged with busted back windshields in the 1600 block of N. Winchester Ave. around 8:45 a.m., according to a report from CPD.

The crimes appear to be the work of a single male with a brick in hand, who didn't attempt to steal anything from the vehicles he damaged.

— *Compiled by CWBChicago.com*

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

RED-LIGHT *from p. 1*

sume all red-light camera fines are paid on time. Incurring a late fee on a red-light ticket in Illinois doubles the cost from \$100 to \$200.

Chicago is home to more red-light cameras than any other large city in the nation. In total, these cameras generated \$915 million in revenue from issuing red-light tickets from Jan. 2008 through Sept. 2023.

A study from Case Western Reserve Univ. in 2018 suggested while the number of T-bone collisions decreased with the use of red-light cameras, the number of non-angle collisions, such as rear-enders, increased by 18% — leading to more crashes overall.

The Chicago Tribune study also found the Illinois Dept. of Transportation determined over half of the intersections at which red-light cameras were placed were among the safest in the state prior to installation.

These red-light cameras impact Chicago minority and low-income communities most. A ProPublica study determined Chicago households in Black and Latino ZIP codes received camera tickets at about twice the rate of those in white ZIP codes.

Without any clear safety benefit, it appears red-light cameras are reduced to cash grabs by city governments. Chicago residents may want to ask its leadership to look at what the cameras do to low-income residents and to the city's reputation, then defend if their decision to use them is worth the cost.

TAX HIKE *from p. 5*

exemptions outlined on the second installment of their real estate tax bill because they can reduce their bill by hundreds of dollars if they have the proper exemptions applied," advised Michael Griffin, a Chicago real estate tax appeal attorney.

"Homeowners are encouraged to review the bottom left corner of the tax bill to confirm their exemption deductions," said Assessor Kaegi.

Most homeowners who occupy their residences are eligible for the "Homeowner Exemption," which saves an average of about \$700. Senior homeowners over the age of 65 are likely eligible for additional property tax savings with the "Senior Exemption."

South Side red-light cameras most productive in Chicago

Chicago red-light camera tickets, monitored intersections, tickets per monitored intersection, revenue region, October 2023 to September 2024

Region	Tickets	Monitored intersections	Tickets per intersection	Ticket revenue
South Side	63,923	7	9,132	\$6,392,300
Southeast Side	40,867	5	8,173	\$4,086,700
Central	37,472	7	5,353	\$3,747,200
West Side	141,860	33	4,299	\$14,186,000
Southwest Side	106,013	27	3,926	\$10,601,300
North Side	162,476	45	3,611	\$16,247,600
Northwest Side	61,887	26	2,380	\$6,188,700

Revenue amounts are estimates assuming all fines are paid on time without incurring a late penalty.

Table: @illinoispolicy • Source: Chicago Data Portal - Red light camera violations • Created with Datawrapper

Ten red-light cameras issued over \$1 million in tickets

Top 10 revenue generating red-light camera monitored intersections, estimated revenue



Revenue estimates assume no red-light camera tickets incurred a late penalty and are paid.

Map: @illinoispolicy • Source: Chicago Data Portal - Red light camera locations • Created with Datawrapper

Seniors and Veterans may also be eligible for further exemptions such as the Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze, or "Senior Freeze" and "Veterans with Disabilities Exemptions," Kaegi said.

Property owners who think they are over-assessed should appeal now, Griffin advises. The Assessor's deadline for submitting appeals for North Chicago Township is Nov. 27.

Visit the assessor's website: www.cookcountypassessor.com, or call 312-443-7550 to find comparable properties or start the appeal process. The Assessor now is completing the 2024 appeal process, following the reassessment of the entire city of Chicago.

A taxpayer can file with the

Cook County Board of Review (312-603-5542) or www.cook-countyboardofreview.com and later with the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board (217-785-6076), or www.ptab.illinois.gov. Or, call Michael Griffin, an expert tax-assessment lawyer, at 312-943-1789.

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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North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
202020 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff, -v- SANDRA B. TOBACK A/K/A SANDRA TOBACK, ROBERT H. ROSENFELD & ASSOCIATES, LLC, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, 1242 W. DICKENS, LLC, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Defendants 2023 CH 08730 1242 WEST DICKENS AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60614 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, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 16, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1242 WEST DICKENS AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60614 Property Index No. 14-32-126-051-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$2,180,296.65. 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. Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. 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 Alexander Potestivo, POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 263-0003. Please refer to file number 315085. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610 Chicago IL, 60606 312-263-0003 E-Mail: lplleadings@potestivolaw.com Attorney File No. 315085 Attorney Code. 43932 Case Number: 2023 CH 08730 TJSC#: 44-2681 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2023 CH 08730	13255265 131313 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BMO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, -v- BRETT M. SINGER, NORMAN J. SINGER, BETTY R. SINGER, THE BUDMAN BUILDING, LLC, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, EUGENIE TERRACE TOWNHOUSES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2022 CH 11684 1715 NORTH WELLS STREET CHICAGO, IL 60614 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 20, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 18, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1715 NORTH WELLS STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60614 Property Index No. 14-33-414-062-1051 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$881,156.89. 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 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 MANLEY DEAS	KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 22-034401. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 Chicago IL, 60601 312-651-6700 E-Mail: AMPs@manleydeas.com Attorney File No. 22-034401 Attorney Code. 48928 Case Number: 2022 CH 11684 TJSC#: 44-2644 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 # 2022 CH 11684 060606 -----

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ELLA from p. 3

kins' career, which began professionally with the release of her 1957 debut album, endured a time in American culture filled with change — the biggest being the civil rights movement. In a time when tensions were high and division persisted, Williams said Jenkins' possessed an ability to bring people together.

"Her theme for me was always so universal," she said. "Ella was engaging and entertaining and educating children of all ethnic backgrounds. That is part of her uniqueness. She resonated with all communities regardless of ethnicity or backgrounds."

This innate ability to unite is exemplified in the artwork of Jenkins' many albums, which often

featured images of diverse groups of children playing and singing together. "She was doing this way ahead of it being a popular thing," she said.

In all of the interactions Williams had with Jenkins, the singer's kind nature is what Williams says stuck out most. "She was always so cordial and gracious. Always smiling and giving you her utmost attention when you had a conversation with her," she said. "That, to me, made her the star she was."

The Old Town School of Folk Music, which was founded in 1957, continues to have a special connection to Jenkins. The singer took classes at the school early in its establishment and performed alongside some of the school's founding members.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Lisa DeRosia, the school's children's music programmer, met her a handful of times over the

important," she said. "That's why that call-and-response pedagogy is so important. It gets people in-

Former 43rd Ward Ald. Vi Daley fondly remembers one dinner she shared with Jenkins and some others. When a lull came in the conversation, Jenkins, true to her musically-inclined spirit, pulled out a harmonica and began playing right there at the table.

years. DeRosia said that Jenkins embraced the school as a "social music making place," which was such a core aspect to Jenkins' own work.

Jenkins' signature call-and-response within her music is something that DeRosia said distinguished her artistry. "In teaching children, her songs are so important, but also her approach is so

involved. We're not spectators, we are the musicians."

Former 43rd Ward Ald. Vi Daley fondly remembers one dinner she shared with Jenkins and some others. When a lull came in the conversation, Jenkins, true to her musically-inclined spirit, pulled out a harmonica and began playing right there at the table. "She [was] a colorful person, and

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just fun to be around," she said. "That's who she was, I think she must have carried that [harmonica] everywhere she went."

"One of the things that this neighborhood did really well was acknowledge Ella, as a neighbor and a special neighbor, multiple times before she left us," Rausch said. Whether that meant honoring Jenkins by naming the park at the corner of Sedgwick St. and Wisconsin St. after her, or celebrating her milestone birthdays with the community, the Lincoln Park neighborhood continues to recognize Jenkins for all she was and honor her legacy.

A private funeral service is scheduled. In August, a public memorial will take place at Ella Jenkins Park.

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Navy Pier Marina construction kicks off for summer 2025 opening

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN

Construction has officially begun and will continue through winter on the highly anticipated Navy Pier Marina, with plans for its grand opening in the 2025 boating season.

“The years of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to this project have come to fruition with this major milestone,” said marina developer Randy Podolsky at a formal “water breaking ceremony” on Nov. 12. “Believing in a dream and making it a reality makes it all worthwhile to be able to bring recreational boater access to Navy Pier.”

Podolsky has been an active

member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary since 1991.

The privately-funded marina will offer transient docking for recreational and commercial boats, both local and visiting, accommodating vessels up to 183 feet in length. Concierge services, power and water hookups, Wi-Fi, and a pump-out station will be provided.

A two-story boater amenity building, comprised of repurposed shipping containers built by Chicago-based S.I. Container Build, will house the marina office, store, restrooms, showers, bicycle repair station, and a pet-friendly boater’s lounge. NPM Venture LLC first gained

approval from the Chicago City Council in 2016, along with all of the city, state, and federal permits it needed, and was planning to have the marina ready for the 2021 boating season. However, a “harbor permit,” needed to construct any structure within 40 feet of a Chicago harbor, was denied by the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT]. At the time, CDOT Commissioner Gia Biagi said she denied the permit because the marina posed “unacceptable security risks” due to its proximity to the Jardine Water Treatment Plant

Now after eight years of delays, the project is getting underway.



Rendering of the planned boater amenity building which will include concierge services, power and water hookups, Wi-Fi, and a pump-out station. The marina will provide transient docking for recreational and commercial boats.

Former employee alleges Pippin’s Tavern violated overtime pay laws

BY COOK COUNTY RECORD

Heron Rivera has filed a lawsuit against his former employer, a Chicago-based bar and restaurant, alleging failure to pay overtime wages. The complaint was lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on Nov. 6, targeting Mory’s Ltd., doing business as Pippin’s Tavern, 39 E. Chicago Ave.

Rivera accuses the establishment of violating multiple labor laws by not compensating him for hours worked beyond the standard 40-hour workweek.

Rivera began his tenure at Pippin’s Tavern as a General Manager on Jan. 1, with an annual salary of \$80,000. Despite his managerial title, Rivera claims he lacked real supervisory power and was restricted from making key decisions such as hiring or firing

staff. His responsibilities were limited to minor tasks like directing employees to clean or offering customer discounts. Rivera alleges that due to understaffing issues at the tavern, he often had to perform duties outside his job description, including serving tables and bartending.

Throughout his employment, Rivera frequently worked over 40 hours per week without receiving appropriate overtime compensa-

tion. He reports working shifts of up to 12 hours five days a week and sometimes clocking between 60 to 70 hours weekly. Specific instances cited include working over 70 hours during the week of March 13-19. Rivera resigned from his position on June 4.

The lawsuit claims that Rivera’s job duties made him eligible for overtime pay under federal and state laws. The complaint highlights violations of the Fair Labor

Standards Act, Illinois Minimum Wage Law, and Chicago Minimum Wage Ordinance. These laws mandate that non-exempt employees receive one-and-a-half times their regular hourly rate for any hours worked beyond a standard workweek.

Rivera seeks various forms of relief from the court: unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages, statutory interest and penalties, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and any other relief deemed appropriate by the court. The case underscores ongoing issues related to wage theft in industries reliant on salaried positions where actual job duties do not align with exempt status criteria.

CTA from p. 1

and consequential infrastructure in place that will help revitalize the Loop and make it a better place to live, work and play,” said Capri Investment Group Executive Chairman Quintin E. Primo III.

With more than 9,100 average weekday entries, the Clark/Lake station is one of the busiest stations across the CTA, with the elevated platform serving five of the agency’s eight rail lines -- the Brown, Green, Orange, Pink and Purple lines, while the subway platform serves the Blue Line.

The partners say that an effort will be made to minimize impacts to CTA riders and services. Additional details regarding timing and service changes, including accessing the facility, will be announced at a future date.



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