

As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget
that the highest form of
appreciation is not to utter
words, but to live by them.
— John F. Kennedy

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Are Chicagoans growing weary of sanctuary city crisis?

BY DON DEBAT
The Home Front

Are even the most liberal Chicagoans beginning to grow weary of the Windy City becoming the nation's leading Sanctuary City?

While Mayor Brandon Johnson is trying to bail 3,300 immigrants out of police stations and O'Hara Airport, there are hundreds of tents perched on sidewalks and parkways in dozens of Chicago neighborhoods. Johnson's Democratic Socialist political boat is rapidly sinking, along with all the sanctimonious virtue signaling that dried up once our bluff was called.

According to the Illinois Policy Institute's Lincoln Poll, Chicago voters were 2 to 1 in opposition to Mayor Johnson's plan to house migrants in heated tents. Winter is coming and the thought of frozen migrant families suffering in tents is not something this town should take lightly. We all know how brutal our winters can be.

Several police district stations are filled with migrants, and tents are lining Pulaski Ave. Recently, Northwest Side residents were vocally opposed when tents start-



With winter coming, more than 20,000 immigrants are currently living inside city limits, some in tents along residential streets.

ed popping up on the parkway at Leland and Harding avenues near the 17th District police station.

"It's incredible to think that if you live in Chicago, the city would allow people to camp on your parkway," exclaimed one Albany Park resident. "This is abusive government. Every alderman who supports this should be put in prison."

With winter coming on, more than 20,000 immigrants currently are planted inside city limits, thanks in part to the more than 500 busloads of immigrants shipped to the Windy City by Greg Abbott, the Republican governor and bluff-caller of Texas.

City officials said about 10,000 migrants have either been resettled or united with family or sponsors.

While struggling to house, feed and care for thousands of immigrants, Johnson faces a tsunami of problems that likely will drive up real estate taxes for every Chicagoan, and make him - like his predecessor - a one-term mayor.

Johnson's new \$16.77 billion budget earmarks \$150 million for Chicago's migrants, but the city currently is spending \$40 million per month on the problem. Migrant cost in 2023 is projected at

WEARY see p. 4

Under new policy and 'trash brigade,' city removing unused tents from Marine Dr.

Planned new development stalled due to shelter interruption

After homeless tents began popping up in the parkway west of Lake Shore Dr. by Marine Dr. and Bittersweet, the city has acted to try and stem the growth of a new outdoor tent community. As a result of cooperation between city officials and the migrant shelter at the American Islamic College [AIC], 640 W. Irving Park Rd., they are now clearing unused tents and debris from the Marine and Irving Park area.

As of Nov. 6, a new policy has been established for the removal of large items, and other debris and detritus, that has accumulated outside of shelters and along nearby streets. The 46th Ward office has helped to create an AIC Trash Brigade which does bi-weekly trash pick ups around the shelter involving shelter residents, shelter staff and area residents.

AIC shelter staff plans to continue doing weekly maintenance to this area to prevent more tents from popping up.

According to the 46th Ward office, most of the tents now pitched across from Disney Magnet School, 4140 N. Marine Dr., are being used as storage from people living in the AIC shelter. Reportedly, most of the tents are not being used to sleep in.

The remaining tents seen in this



Marine Dr. in Uptown has been cleared of vacant tents and garbage created by homeless campers.

area are still occupied, and being used to house homeless people. With winter about to arrive, city officials hope to find permanent housing options for those still camping on the parkways and sidewalks.

The city is aware that there are crowds of people gathering in this area at night and the public has requested that police have a stronger presence in the area. A camera has been installed to spy on the tent area as there are some new arrivals who have opted out of the shelter system.

While a large portion of homeless are from Venezuela, individuals and families are also from all over the world, including countries from Africa, Europe, China, Afghanistan, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. For most, their journey starts in South America and passes through Latin America, Mexico and across the USA's

wide open southern border.

The new migrant shelter at AIC means that construction of a proposed new development at the site will not break ground in the coming months, and no future

The city is aware that there are crowds of people gathering in this area at night and the public has requested that police have a stronger presence in the area. A camera has been installed to spy on the tent area as there are some new arrivals who have opted out of the shelter system.

date has been announced when construction may commence. The developer is still in full legal standing and has city approval to build on that site.

The developer has said that they hope to begin construction on the planned development following the properties use of the site as a homeless shelter.

A new Resource Room has also opened in the AIC shelter. As the weather gets colder, the AIC and city plan to open two more rooms for all the children living at the

BRIGADE see p. 12



This man robbed a woman in the 4500 block of N. Leavitt on Nov. 18.

Woman mugged in Lincoln Square, second robbery near resident's home since October

'Telling someone to be aware of their surroundings is not the answer'

BY CWBCHICAGO

There's a video of it. A neighbor called 911 for the victim. And cops were dispatched to handle it. Yet, the Chicago Police Dept. says it has no record of a woman being robbed in Lincoln Square on Nov. 18.

"This is the second robbery right next to my house in two months," a homeowner in the 4500 block of N. Leavitt told

us over the weekend. He sent an email to Ald. Matt Martin [47th] to express his concerns about changes in the neighborhood he has called home for 25 years.

He sent over footage from Saturday. A woman had been walking along Leavitt just before noon with a bag on her shoulder. Still images from another camera show a man walking beside her,

MUGGED see p. 12



The developers want to construct this new eight-story high density apartment building at 3950 N. Damen Ave.

Community meeting Nov. 28 on two high density projects for Irving, Damen, Lincoln

A community meeting is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 28, regarding the high density development proposal for the intersection of Lincoln, Damen, and Irving Park. Interested parties will be able to review changes by Ravine Park Partners and Brinshore Development based on feedback from previous meetings.

The developers want to renovate the existing bank building at 3959 N. Lincoln Ave. and also construct a new eight-story high density building at 3950 N. Damen Ave.

The developers are seeking a zoning change to redevelop the two Fifth Third Bank properties at the intersection. They hope to rehab the existing bank building on Lincoln to contain 100% affordable housing, and constructing a new mixed-use building on the current bank parking lot.

The building at 3959 N. Lincoln Ave. would include 5,000 square feet of retail on the first floor and 92 one- and two-bedroom apartments, but only provide 25 off-street parking spaces for the

residents, commercial tenants and their customers.

The developer would replace the parking lot at 3950 N. Damen Ave. with a new eight-story high density building along Irving Park Rd. It would feature 5,200 square feet of commercial space, and 166 new apartments, but only provide 73 parking spaces accessible from Damen Ave. and the alley.

Opportunities for feedback include an open house from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at O'Donovan's Bar, 2100 W. Irving Park Rd. Renderings of the proposal will be available and guests may ask the developers questions.

There will be an online virtual meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. Those who wish to attend may register at aldermanmartin.com/3950damen. The developers will make a public presentation outlining their proposal, and attendees may be able to ask questions, and offer comments. For more information call 773-868-4747.

CTA partners with City to provide outreach, assistance to homeless riders



Homeless people sleep on a Blue Line train. *Image courtesy Raphael Hipos, Medill*

Hope to provide additional shelter services, substance abuse, mental health

With the arrival of cold winter weather and shelter capacity limited due to high demand, Chicago's homeless population has traditionally turned to the CTA trains for shelter.

While the CTA recognizes that their customers may experience homeless people sleeping on their trains and buses, it remains committed to confronting the issue in a compassionate way.

On Nov. 15 the Chicago Transit Board approved the extension of an intergovernmental agreement between the Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] and the Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services [DFSS] to provide outreach and support services for homeless riders who use the trains as shelter.

The partnership will enable social service agencies, working under DFSS, to

ride trains and visit rail stations to engage with homeless individuals, and to offer connections to housing, support services and harm-reduction.

Last year the CTA entered its first contract with DFSS for added support services, as part of their plan to improve service and the customer experience. The CTA will provide up to \$2 million to DFSS for added outreach efforts in 2024, including referrals for temporary and permanent housing, mental-health services, and substance-abuse treatment.

The CTA claims it has seen a drop in complaints regarding homelessness on CTA property. Specifically, over the winter months, there were almost half as many complaints as there were in 2022, prior to the agreement.

"The first year showed tangible results, connecting [the homeless riders] to housing and other social services," said CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr. "This led to over 5,000 interactions with unhoused

riders, providing 80 placements for shelter in addition to permanent housing for 30 people. The CTA is committed to approaching homelessness with compassion, and this has provided valuable help to people who need it."

Metra reduces zones

The new zone system for train fares being introduced by Metra will feature Chicago as its own zone, with Union Station, the Ogilvie Transportation Center and Millennium Station serving as Zone 1 on the various lines.

Currently, Metra has 10 different zones, based on distance traveled from a rider's entry point. The new program will shrink that number to just four zones. Downtown stations will be assigned to Zone 1 and outlying stations will be assigned to Zones 2 through 4 based on a combination of distance from downtown, service patterns and ridership characteristics on each line, which vary.

If you board downtown, the city's core central business district remains in one zone. North of downtown, starting with the Clybourn Station is in Zone 2. If you board in the city and head to the suburbs, it will add in costs for Zones 3 and 4 based on a rider's destination.

Outside of the city, Zones 2-through-4 will cover the city's suburbs, with Zone 4 the furthest from downtown.

One-way tickets will cost \$3.75 from Zone 2 into the city, \$5.50 from Zone 3 into downtown, and \$6.75 from Zone 4, under the simplified formula. The new fare system will take effect on Feb. 1, 2024.

Winter parking restrictions start Dec. 1

Be aware of parking areas that become restricted in snowy weather, enforcement starts on Dec. 1.

Most often, this means that they are not available for parking between Dec. 1 and April 1 when snow is over 2 inches deep. Look out for signs in your parking areas that show the specific guidance in each area or neighborhood.

CTA hosting Western Brown Line meeting Nov. 29

The CTA is hosting an online-only virtual meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 29 to talk about the proposed scope of CTA's planned rebuilding of the Western Ave. Brown Line station. This will be the first of several planned meetings. To register for the meeting visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevkw_Z5Yy7-wo3OjIH74dNUxh17s6bGQWnGY1DjL-RtLEX41zg/viewform.

St. Teresa Turkey Trot

St. Teresa Parish is hosting their 8th Annual Trot Turkey Thanksgiving morning, 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23. Runners, joggers and walkers of all levels are welcome. The race steps off at 1950 N. Kenmore. To RSVP to Coach Mark at theroadtoboston@rcn.com. A light pre-race breakfast will be served.

All one-way trips that do not end in the downtown corridor will cost \$3.75, no matter the distance, according to the agency.

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WEARY from p. 1

\$300 million.

Last week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker offered an infusion of \$160 million in state taxpayer cash to help asylum-seekers this winter. The assistance money is earmarked for establishing a centralized intake center, creating a state-funded tent encampment, and providing legal and employment assistance.

Also, Cook County approved a \$100-million fund for “disaster response and recovery.” Some \$70 million is set aside for migrant medical care.

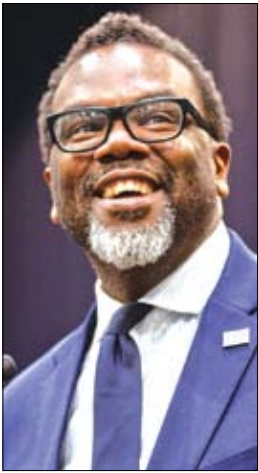
Experts suggest the immigrant issue may end up being a \$5 to \$10-billion local problem. In early November, Johnson visited with White House staffers in Washington, D.C. and asked for \$5 billion in additional migrant aid.

Meanwhile, the Biden Administration and the federal government - who are charged by the U.S. Constitution with managing our borders and immigration - is currently pushing a \$1.4 billion drop-in-the bucket supplemental package for immigrant shelters and services through Congress.

Uncle Sam is a deer frozen in headlights, with the presidential election less than a year away. Chicago is just one of several Sanctuary Cities—along with Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, D.C. itself. The nationwide virtue signaling was very popular; until it wasn’t.

With our southern border still leaking like a sieve, the Biden Administration has requested Congress appropriate \$14 billion in emergency funding to hire additional border agents, immigration judges, attorneys and other personnel to secure the border. The request also provides funding for migrant services and housing.

This request should have come two years ago.



(L-R) Mayor Brandon Johnson, Gov. JB Pritzker, former Mayor Lori Lightfoot, former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden.

Although this writer is not a fan of former President Donald Trump’s plan to build a giant border wall, President Biden is beginning to read Trump’s lips, and plans to finish the U.S-Mexico wall.

We all well-remember the bitter opposition Democrats offered when Trump asked for a few billion bucks for border walls.

The virtue signaling was in full bloom back then, with cries of ‘racism’ and claims that walls don’t work.

If Trump wins the 2024 presidential election, analysts say he may be planning an extreme expansion of his first-term crack-down on immigration. A position more and more of the nation is backing.

Trump dreams of scouring the country for millions of immigrants living in the U.S. without legal permission. He would detain them in sprawling camps while they wait to be deported.

A century ago, immigration to the U.S. from Europe was much more controlled and organized by a more accountable federal government, for those who wanted to work hard and assimilate in becoming Americans. When my Bohemian grandparents immigrated here in 1900, they were admitted through Ellis Island, worked as farmers and mined coal. Joe Mehok and his wife Anna eventually purchased a 40-acre farm in Southern Indiana through a government program. They became naturalized U.S. citizens and reared 11 children, including my mother.

That’s the right way you do it! Today, immigration is a different story. Homeland Security’s

2024 “Homeland Threat Assessment” report notes that “record encounters of migrants arriving from a growing number of countries have complicated border and immigration security.” In fiscal year 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have arrested 35,433 migrants with criminal convictions, or outstand-

• Chicago has been a self-proclaimed Sanctuary City for more than 38 years. On March 7, 1985, former Mayor Harold Washington issued an executive order that prohibited any city employee from asking about or assisting an investigation of the “citizenship or residence status of any person” unless ordered to by a court or

Council ratified executive orders issued by Mayor Washington and Mayor Daley into law via a proposal that came to be known as the “Welcoming City” ordinance.

• In 2012, Mayor Rahm Emanuel asked the City Council to revise the law. The City Council agreed to change the ordinance to allow Chicago Police officers to turn over some undocumented immigrants to federal law enforcement officials.

If police brass believed the undocumented immigrant posed a threat to public safety, or had been identified as a gang member, he or she could be turned over to federal officials.

• Ironically, in 2021, Mayor Lori Lightfoot changed the law to ban Chicago Police officers from cooperating with federal immigration agents in all cases.

Today, Chicago’s status as a Sanctuary City does not require the city to encourage immigrants to move to Chicago, nor does the Welcoming City ordinance obligate officials to use taxpayer funds to care for immigrants in Chicago.

In addition, since 2022, the more than 20,000 migrants sent to Chicago so far are in the country legally following their request for asylum after fleeing persecution and economic collapse. The current ordinance focuses on protections for undocumented immigrants, and does not apply to any of the migrants.



Chicago’s status as a Sanctuary City does not require the city to encourage immigrants to move to Chicago, nor does the Welcoming City ordinance obligate officials to use taxpayer funds to care for immigrants in Chicago.

ing warrants nationwide, including 598 known gang members.

Not all migrants are from Mexico and other South American countries. Chinese migrants also are crossing our southern border in record numbers. According to the Associated Press, the Border Patrol made 22,187 arrests of Chinese people between January and September of 2023 for crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

They’re also coming in from the Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean and Afghanistan.

Sanctuary City history

How did Chicago become a Sanctuary City? Most cell-phone clutching, Facebook flipping young people under the age of 40 years probably don’t have the slightest idea. A fact-filled history lesson researched by Heather Cherone for www.WTTW.com follows:

federal law. In addition, the order prevented city benefits from being denied to anyone because of their citizenship status.

Five Chicago mayors followed Washington’s lead, vowing to shield all immigrants in Chicago from federal agents, regardless if they are citizens, permanent residents or asylum seekers.

• In 1992, Mayor Richard M. Daley reissued Mayor Washington’s executive order, but said his order did not prohibit city employees from providing immigration information to federal officials if the immigrants were involved in serious crimes.

That opened what many immigration advocates believed was a major loophole in protecting undocumented immigrants in Chicago from deportation that would remain wide open for more than 30 years.

• In 2006, the Chicago City

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Tired of winning

Chicago we're #1 again. No, the Bears look a bit below average, the Cubs missed the playoffs with a late fade, the White Sox, who knows, and the Bulls and Hawks are middle of the pack.

But when it comes to rats, Chicago is the reigning champ. That's right, Chicago topped Orkin's rattiest cities list for the ninth year in a row. That's quite a winning streak.

In the race for Rat King, there is Chicago and then there is everybody else. In the rat race Chicago beat Los Angeles, Baltimore, New York and even the city that would seem on its face to have the most rats, Washington D.C.

Pest control company Orkin looked at the number of rodent treatments performed on both residential and commercial buildings in the past 12 months and declared Chicago as the most rodent-infested city for 2023. LA took second with New York City trailing closely in third place. Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, remained in their same positions as last year to round out the top five.

Chicago has been the rattiest city in the country for eight years, despite the city's efforts to tame the rat population for nearly a decade.

Residents in Chicago get some of the credit, of course, in that we made more than 50,000 rat complaints in 2022. The number is a slight decline from the prior year when more than 65,000 complaints were made, according to our 311 caller data.

According to 311, West Town has the highest number of complaints in the city with more than 1,200, followed closely by the community areas of Portage Park, Logan Square, and Lakeview.

But the number is significantly higher than the rat complaints made before the pandemic. Chicago Dept. of Rodent Control investigates every reported rat sighting. They really do. This newspaper office has made such calls and had serious rat discussion in the alley behind our office.

Alley conditions are investigated and damaged garbage cans are replaced. Rodenticide is placed in rat burrows to eradicate the nest.

So it's not due to lack of effort by Chicago's baiting crews that the rats seem to be winning.

The city actually has a very serious and aggressive rodent control program.

Or at least is used to... post pandemic, things have changed for the rat and bait crews.



Image by Serhii Shalamov

With fewer people dining out, the city found fewer rats along commercial corridors and their alleys, and more near your backyard grill.

But like many government offices, staffing is currently a problem. Chicago now finds it difficult to handle all the complaints, with the city bureau being short-staffed and often responding late, according to an investigation by Illinois Answers.

The investigation found that the bureau failed to meet its goals to handle each rat complaint within five days for the last two years.

As for the rats, post-pandemic shutdown, they had to adjust to more meals consumed in homes and backyards over traditional entertainment and restaurant districts.

With fewer people dining out, the city found fewer rats along commercial corridors and their alleys, and more near your backyard grill.

In Mayor Brandon Johnson's new budget, he plans to allocate nearly \$15 million to the Bureau of Rodent Control budget in 2024, a boost of \$1.5million from 2023. The funding will bring three new vehicles and six additional staff members to our streets.

What to look for

Because of the threats that rodents pose, it's important for homeowners to know how to spot an issue in order to take a proactive approach in eliminating them from their homes. A few common signs of a rodent infestation include:

- **Droppings:** Rodent droppings are often left behind in places where food is stored, such as kitchen cabinets or pantries, under sinks, inside chewed cardboard boxes, along baseboards and on top of wall beams

- **Gnaw marks:** Mice are known to bite through walls, wood and wires. The damage to wiring within walls can increase the risk for a house fire.

- **Nests:** Rodents prefer to nest in dark, secluded areas where there is little chance of disturbance. Be on the lookout for shredded paper products, cotton, packing materials and other fabrics, as house mice like to build nests out of these materials.

- **Rub marks:** Rats tend to leave dark grease or dirt marks along walls and floorboards as they follow a trail throughout the home between their nest and food.

- **Strange noises:** Scurrying in the walls or in the attic could mean a rodent family is present. Rodents are especially fond of attics as it's an insulated area for nest building.

Each fall, mice and other rodents invade an estimated 21 million homes in the U.S. They typically enter homes between October and February looking for food, water and shelter from the cold. And unique to previous years, with the influx of outdoor dining structures brought on by the pandemic, rodents have found the perfect place to dine, live and multiply, so consumers should pay extra attention to the attractants that entice rats and mice.



The gate at the AIDS Park Chicago is adorned with memorial plaques forged in the shape of leaves, some inscribed with the names of Chicagoans lost to the epidemic. Just beyond the gate the park opens up to a winding path where people can reflect amidst a landscaped garden.

A show of strength, solidarity for those lost and living with HIV/AIDS

Dec. 1 event at Belmont Harbor

The Chicago Parks Foundation and the AIDS Garden Chicago Board of Directors is inviting North Side residents to take part in a World AIDS Day commemoration at AIDS Garden Chicago, on the Lakefront just south of Belmont Harbor, 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1. The effort is intended to remember lives lost and stand in solidarity with those living with the HIV/AIDS virus.

The free public gathering will take place outdoors, rain, snow or shine, featuring live music and reflections by various community members and leaders, all while being immersed in the garden space dedicated to education, contemplation, and honor.

The AIDS Garden Chicago was unveiled in June 2022, and is the city's first public monument to memorialize Chicago's history during the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The 2.5 acre park was built along Lake Michigan just south of Belmont Harbor at the historic Belmont Rocks location, a gathering spot for the LGBTQ+ com-

munity between the 1960s and the 1990s. It is intended to be a communal place of celebration, remembrance, and pride.

The AIDS Garden Chicago also houses a digital collection of personal community memories in its online archives.

"I can think of no better place in Chicago to gather as a community to mark World AIDS Day than in AIDS Garden Chicago," says Yoni Pizer, AIDS Garden Chicago Board President. "The park's purpose is to honor, remember and celebrate those we have lost to and those still affected by HIV/AIDS." The park also "serves as a symbol of the hope, resilience, power, and perseverance of any community under siege, even in the face of incredible challenges."

Since 1988, World AIDS Day encourages global communities to stand together and commemorate the more than 40 million people who have died worldwide since the start of the epidemic. HIV/AIDS continues to be a major public health challenge as people today are still diagnosed and living with the virus.

St. Lucia Festival of Lights is Dec. 13

Celebrate St. Lucia Day in Andersonville starting at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13.

The St. Lucia celebrations include a procession starting from the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St., north down the sidewalks of Clark St., highlighted by children singing "The Lucia Song," and donning long white robes.

The choir will perform again at 5 p.m. under the Andersonville holiday tree at Clark St. & Catalpa Ave.



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Police Beat...

Three former execs at HIV charity allegedly took \$300K+ for personal expenses

An insurance company has filed suit against three former executives at the Chicago House, a social service agency that assists people with HIV, saying the executives should be made to repay more than \$300,000 allegedly pilfered from the non-profit organization.

Andrea Peoples, Chicago House CFO, allegedly used agency funds for “personal expenses, purchases, withdrawal and general use, not related to [agency] business in any way,” claims a lawsuit by West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, filed in Cook County Circuit Court.

“Defendant had no right to the property, and this was done without authorization,” the suit says.

Tijana Timatyos, Chief Property Officer, and Judith Classen Smith, also allegedly used agency funds for personal expenses, purchases, and general use, said the lawsuit, which accuses all three women of conversion of funds.

Their alleged actions allegedly cost the agency more than \$300,000, according to the suit.

“West Bend was obligated and did make said payments to their insureds in the amount of \$105,000 as determined by the insurance policy,” the suit states.

The lawsuit, which names the three women as defendants, seeks a judgment of at least \$105,000, plus legal expenses.

Thieves smash windows, burglarize four Edgewater businesses

Chicago police issued an alert after four Edgewater businesses were burglarized Nov. 18.

The burglaries happened within 20 mins between 3:40 a.m. and 4 a.m. in the 6000 block of N. Broadway.

In each incident, the front glass windows were shattered, and the unknown offender or offenders made entrance into the business. They broke open the cash registers before fleeing the scene.

Anyone with information on these crimes may contact the Area 3 Bureau of Detectives at 312-744-8263.

Students file sexual abuse suit against CPS

A group of Chicago Public Schools students have filed suit against the school district, saying the district should pay for allegedly allowing a PE teacher to sexually abuse them and other students for years.

Chicago Board of Education, Federico Garcia Lorca Elementary School, Chicago Public School District 299 and Andrew Castro were all named as defendants in the suit.

Jane Doe and Jack Doe filed the lawsuit on behalf of three minors, John Doe and James Doe, and Jill Roe, on behalf of minor Joe Roe, all alleged they were sexually abused by Castro for years, according to a complain filed Oct. 23 in Chicago federal court.

The case involves minor plaintiffs Does and Roe. The plaintiffs allege Castro, a PE teacher employed by the Board of Education, allegedly targeted these vulnerable children for sexual abuse.

Castro has been criminally charged in connection with the sex abuse allegations. Castro allegedly groomed the minor plaintiffs by engaging in conversations about their family lives during PE classes. He invited them to soccer matches,

outings and his home, according to the suit.

The plaintiffs claim Castro provided gifts, took them out and communicated with them electronically. He allegedly coerced the boys into explicit games and sexual acts, taking advantage of their embarrassment and financial dependence on him.

Despite faculty and student awareness, school officials failed to intervene or report the situation, according to the suit.

Migrant shoplifted from three Mag Mile stores in one day

A Venezuelan migrant has been charged with shoplifting from three different stores on the Magnificent Mile in a single day. He has been arrested in Chicago two other times since August under different names.



Gregorio Yorman Adrianza-Romero

Police arrested Gregorio Yorman Adrianza-Romero, 25, on Nov. 10 after employees accused him of shoplifting from Ralph Lauren, 750 N. Michigan, Victoria's Secret, 734 N. Michigan, and Saks

Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan, according to complaints filed with the court.

Judge Charles Beach released him on Nov. 11.

Adrianza-Romero was previously charged with shoplifting at Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand, on Aug. 13. Prosecutors dropped the case on Sept. 5.

He was arrested again on Oct. 25 under the name Jose Hernandez Mende Romero, according to Chicago police arrest records. In that case, he was accused of domestic battery at the Near West 12th District police station, where he had been living.

During his most recent arrest, he listed the 25th District police station in Austin as his residence.

Good luck, bad luck

We have an update about a Venezuelan migrant we've reported on previously, 24-year-old Jose Aponte-Garcia.

He was arrested on Sept. 27 after Chicago police accused him of having a stolen firearm in a vehicle during a traffic stop downtown. Then he failed to show up for his court date and got arrested on a warrant when Chicago cops recognized him in the Near North 18th District station lobby.

Aponte-Garcia caught a break on Oct. 23 when Judge Robert Kuzas threw out the gun case after finding no probable cause, according to court records.

Exactly one week later, Aponte-Garcia got arrested again. Security officers at a Walmart on the West Side accused him of shoplifting four mini LED headlamps, six pairs of gloves, four winter hats, seven packs of underwear, a baseball hat, and a backpack, police said. He's due in court again on Nov. 27.

No smoking

Ronny Javier Rodriguez Tovar, also identified as Jorge Alvarez in one of his recent CPD arrest reports, has two cases pending in court.

In one case, he's accused of stuffing \$773 worth of merchandise into a suitcase and walking out the door at Target, 1200 N. Larrabee. He lived a half-block away at the time, at the Near North 18th District station.

He now lists the Central 1st District station in the South Loop as his home. Chicago police arrested him there last weekend.

According to his latest arrest report, a Haitian asylum seeker who also lives in the lobby asked him to stop smoking in the building. Tovar grabbed the man's leg with both hands and refused to let go, the police said. He also refused "several" police orders to leave the building, according to the arrest report.

Two police officers eventually ar-

rested him after he became "dead weight" and stiffened his body. Cops said they found a "glass cylinder containing a white powder substance" that they believed to be crack cocaine in his pocket.

He's charged with misdemeanor counts of battery, resisting police, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was also cited for smoking in a public place.

Joint operation

Luis Acosta, a 23-year-old migrant who now lives on the South Side, was arrested on Nov. 1 across the street from his former home at the Standard Club shelter, 320 S. Plymouth, in the Loop.

Chicago police officers said they watched him conduct hand-to-hand transactions for "loose items" he grabbed from a baggie inside Pritzker Park, 20 W. Van Buren.

When they confronted Acosta, they allegedly found 47 joints in a plastic bag and a baggie containing suspected cannabis, his CPD arrest report said.

Officers said he was carrying \$810 in cash and had \$268 worth of cannabis when they arrested him.

Acosta was arrested once before in Chicago. On August 15, cops said they saw him riding his bike around the 47th Street Red Line station lobby before he passed through the turnstile without paying. Prosecutors dropped the case on Sept. 28.

Three arrests

Eduardo Alvarez, a 20-year-old listing the Young Women's Leadership Academy shelter, 2641 S. Calumet, as his home, has been arrested three times since August, according to CPD records.

On Aug. 22, Nordstrom security accused him of walking out with a belt and boxer shorts worth \$595. Prosecutors refused to file felony charges, and they dropped the misdemeanor case on Sept. 27, CPD and court records show.

Two days later, he was arrested for allegedly jumping the turnstile at the Jackson Red Line CTA station.

He was arrested again on Oct. 13, this time at Nordstrom Rack, 101 E. Chicago. Security officers accused him of walking out with two pairs of sunglasses in his sweater, a CPD arrest report said.

Carjacker strikes woman with her own car at Lakeview gas station

A woman was struck by her own car when a carjacker jumped behind the wheel as she filled it with gas in Lakeview on Nov. 15, Chicago police say. The incident, which followed a wave of violent hijackings in the area the night of Nov. 14, comes as the city is beginning to see year-over-year increases in carjacking reports.

The 48-year-old woman was fueling her 2019 Mercedes at BP, 4070 N. Clark, when a man exited a nearby SUV and climbed into her vehicle around 1:43 p.m. He drove away with her car, striking her as he headed off the lot. EMS took the 48-year-old woman to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in good condition, according to CPD.

Police said the hijacker arrived in a white SUV, possibly a BMW, that was driven by an accomplice. CPD did not release a description of the offender.

Chicago has been experiencing a modest but consistent decline in monthly carjacking reports since setting a record high in 2021. Still, the 1,115 cases seen this year as of Nov. 7 remain 126% higher than in 2019.

Hijacking reports began to subside as the "Kia Boy" phenomenon, in which auto thieves use USB plugs to steal some Kia and Hyundai models, took root in the summer of 2022.

However, the city's crime data shows carjacking reports increased in October compared to Oct. 2022, the first month-to-month hijacking increase this year. The first week of this

Chicago man battered comedian, staff at Laugh Factory

Things got serious at the Laugh Factory when, according to a Chicago police report, an Uptown man battered the comedian and staff members who tried to eject him from the club.

Rich February, 44, "got into a verbal altercation with the acting comedian" at the club, 3175 N. Broadway, during a Nov. 6 performance, the report said. The situation escalated when February "shoved the unknown comedian," prompting one of the club's security guards to intervene, according to the report.

Police said the 43-year-old guard told February he was no longer welcome in the club, but February responded by striking the guard in the face "multiple times," police said. Two



Rich February

month also outpaced the first week of last November.

It's too soon to say if the city has merely hit a bump in the road or if hijackings are making a comeback.

Former Art Institute payroll manager gets three years for \$2.3 million fraud scheme

The Art Institute of Chicago's former payroll manager has been sentenced to three years in prison for running a long-term scheme that diverted \$2,308,772 of the museum's money to his personal bank accounts.

U.S. District Judge Manish Shah handed down the sentence Nov. 16,



Michael Maurello

bringing a relatively quick end to the case, which federal prosecutors first announced in January. Michael Maurello, 57, must also pay restitution, a feat his attorney claimed was "impossible" in light of the significant loss the museum sustained and the fact that Maurello is essentially unemployable. He faced a maximum sentence of 20 years on the fraud charge.

Between 2007 and 2020, Maurello directed Art Institute money to his own bank account but made entries in the museum's payroll system that said the payments were being made to other employees or former employees, prosecutors said.

Federal prosecutors argued in a sentencing memorandum that Maurello "did not need any of that money. Indeed, he used much of it for extravagances, such as trips to Hawaii and Las Vegas and the purchase of jewelry."

When Maurello was charged, his Instagram account included many photographs of him posing in exotic, tropical locations with a traveling partner. The account is now private.

Maurello "has lost everything he cherished in his life," attorney Frank Cece, Jr. wrote in defense sentencing memorandum. "His husband of 20 years divorced him. Most of his family has alienated him. He is no longer employed or employable due to the [criminal charges] and his medical condition..."

Those medical conditions include the loss of his right leg below the knee due to gangrene, Cece explained.

He "has been involved with his brother, William's children all their lives; however since this incident, he is no longer welcome into the home or allowed to reside with his brother," Cece continued. "He has become a recluse by circumstances and not by choice."

Cece said Maurello has "substantial funds" in a retirement account that could be used toward repaying the Art Institute, but it still will not be enough to make the museum whole.

additional Laugh Factory workers were also battered, according to the allegations.

Once they reached the exit, February slammed the door, breaking the inner glass, and fled, the police report said. He allegedly returned to the club in his Hummer around 10 p.m. and spray-painted the front door.

February was still at the scene when Chicago police arrived. The report said they arrested him after the security guard pointed him out, and all of the victims identified him. He was released from the Town Hall District station about five hours later.

He's charged with three counts of battery, criminal damage to property, criminal defacement, and criminal trespassing, all of which are misdemeanors.

Among the false reasons Maurello entered into the museum's payroll system for fraudulent payments he received were "negative withholding of taxes," "negative payroll deduction for life insurance premiums," and false payouts for unused paid time off. After receiving the money, Maurello reversed transactions in the museum's payroll system so employees would not see the payments he received on their year-end tax forms.

The museum's assistant controller confronted Maurello about a \$53,000 payment in Jan. 2020. He brushed it off as a "test" of the payroll system.

Man gets six years for robbing DePaul student at knifepoint inside school library

A Chicago man has been sentenced to six years for robbing a DePaul Univ. student at knifepoint inside the school's downtown library earlier this year. Kainti Foster-Smith received an additional four years for battering a Cook County jail employee while he was in custody for the robbery, according to court records.



Kainti Foster-Smith

She ordered the sentences to be served consecutively. With good behavior and other credits, he will be paroled in May 2028.

Prosecutors said the DePaul student saw Foster-Smith, 23, watching her as she went to the library restroom around noon on Jan. 27. Her wallet was missing from her workstation when she returned.

The woman confronted Foster-Smith about the theft and called for security. Foster-Smith allegedly told the school's officers that the woman was a "crazy ex-girlfriend" and walked away.

But the woman followed him and asked for her wallet back. That's when Foster-Smith pulled out a knife, according to prosecutors.

"I'm going to murder you if you keep on following me," he allegedly said.

Chicago police arrived a few minutes later and arrested him. They allegedly found a knife and the woman's wallet, ID, and credit cards in his possession.

Details about the jail attack were not immediately available.

A few weeks before robbing the DePaul student, Foster-Smith was

Man dies after ‘flier boy’ punched him in the head outside House of Blues

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man has died after being punched in the face by a man who asked him for money outside the House of Blues on Nov. 15, according to Chicago police and witnesses. No one is in custody, but the attacker is believed to be a “flier boy” who works River North nightlife districts.

Police said the victim was walking in the 300 block of N. Dearborn when two men asked him for money around 11:27 p.m. One of the men then punched the victim in the head, causing him to fall and strike his head on the ground.

Witnesses tried to save the man by administering CPR, but he was pronounced dead at Northwestern Memorial Hospital within an hour.

People who work in the Marina City complex said the offender regularly works people for money outside the House of Blues and along nearby bar strips. So-called “flier boys” often lure in

prospects by distributing handbills that purport to show they are raising money for a sports team or charity. They typically work in tourist areas, nightlife districts, and the CTA. Some work in conjunction with “bucket boys” who pound plastic buckets like drums.

One worker told us the suspect is Black, about 6 feet tall. He has a beard and appears to be in his late 20s or early 30s. An officer who reviewed surveillance video of the attack said he was wearing a black puffy coat and headed north on State St. after punching the man.

The victim is the second person murdered in River North this year and the fifth murder victim in the Near North Side community area.

One of this year’s other murder victims was also killed after being punched in the head and falling to the ground. Russ Long, 53, died about two weeks after being attacked outside the Cartier Store, 630 N. Michigan, on the afternoon of June 29.

GoFundMe established for funeral, burial of man killed outside House of Blues

A GoFundMe has been established to support the mother of Drew Hulburt, the man who died after being punched outside the House of Blues Chicago on Nov. 15.

“Drew was the kindest person I’d ever met,” wrote Kris Decklever, a friend of Hulburt who launched the campaign on Nov. 19. “Growing up, he was a friend to everyone, and one of my best friends. I was always welcomed at his house by his mother Anita and his father Phil.”

“You’d have been hard-pressed to find a better human being.”

Hulburt was leaving the Skinny Puppy concert at House of Blues just before 11:30 p.m. when two



Drew Hulburt

Blues staffers tried to revive him by administering CPR, but he didn’t make it.

“We drifted apart as adults do, but we picked up as if we had never been apart,” Decklever remembered. “He will be greatly missed.” Decklever said he established

men solicited money from him, Chicago police said. One of those men punched Hulburt in the head. He fell and struck his head on the pavement.

the fundraiser to help Hulburt’s mother with funeral, burial, and transportation expenses.

“If it is possible, anything remaining will go to a potential scholarship in his name at Osage Community High School,” Decklever continued.

People who work in the Marina City complex told this reporter that the men who approached Hulburt outside the House of Blues regularly work people for money in the area and along nearby bar strips.

As of Sunday evening, Chicago police have not announced any arrests in connection with Hulburt’s death. The Cook County medical examiner’s office findings were still pending.

A man is awaiting trial on murder charges in that case.

On Nov. 13, a 23-year-old woman was critically injured when a man struck her in the head with a log directly across the street from where Long was attacked. She remained unre-

sponsive with head and brain injuries as prosecutors filed charges in the case.

Another man was killed after being attacked and striking his head on the pavement in Wrigleyville in Jan. 2022. Sergio Ontiveros, 51, of Beverly Hills,

CA, died eight days after the Jan. 17 attack. He was the father of a child with Tamla Robinson, the daughter of Motown singing legend Smokey Robinson. No one has been charged with Ontiveros’ death.

North Side robbery, carjacking crew also burglarized two Ulta Beauty stores, taking \$10K+ in merch

BY CWBCHICAGO

The armed robbery crew that committed a string of armed robberies and carjackings on the North Side Nov. 14 went on to burglarize two Ulta Beauty stores a few hours later, Chicago police say.

In a community alert, CPD now says a group of up to six men committed six robberies and carjackings: in the 1800 block of W. Belle Plaine around 7 p.m.; the 5300 block of N. Damen at 10:28 p.m.; the 4400 block of N. Lincoln at 10:50 p.m.; the 2200 block of W. Irving Park at 11:17 p.m.; the 900 block of W. Grace at 11:30 p.m.; and the 3500 block of N. Clark at 11:38 p.m.

Each time, they displayed guns and took property from the victims, including an 84-year-old man that they battered at the Damen Ave. robbery, police said. In three cases, the crew carjacked drivers after boxing the victims in with two previously hijacked vehicles, according to CPD. The hijackings occurred on Grace, Clark, and Lincoln.

They switched gears and went into burglary mode on Nov. 15. Police say they first broke into a store in the 2700 block of N. Clybourn around 2:30 a.m. The group moved on to the first block of S. Halsted, where they broke into another store at 3:05 a.m.

CPD didn’t identify the stores, but a source said they were both Ulta Beauty locations. Burglars forced their way through windows and stole large amounts of perfume from both locations. The Halsted store alone lost \$10,000 worth of merchandise, according to CPD.

The department described the suspects as Black males between 16 and 20 years old. They wore dark hoodies and black ski masks.

Anyone with information about them can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263. Refer to crime pattern P23-3-091.

Previous coverage

The group of armed carjackers who caravanned across the North Side are suspected of hijacking two drivers in Wrigleyville and another in North Center after robbing two men in Lincoln Square on Nov. 14. Chicago police say no arrests have been made in the hour-long crime spree.

An 84-year-old man and a 28-year-old man were targeted in the first robbery, reported at 10:28 p.m. in the 5300 block of N. Damen, a CPD spokesperson said. The men were outside when five or six robbers robbed them at gunpoint and then battered both men. EMS treated the older man at the scene, but neither man was seriously injured, police said.

After the holdup, the robbers fled south in two cars, one white and one orange.

About 30 minutes later, a group of four to six armed men used two cars to block in a driver in the 4400 block of N. Lincoln.

Chicago police said the offenders forced the man from his car, and two of them drove away with the Toyota Camry.

The crew left a stolen Hyundai at the scene, according to a witness. Its steering column was stripped, and its side window was broken out.

Moments later, a witness called 911 to report three carloads of masked men speeding down Western Ave. near Waveland while waving guns out of the vehicles: a Toyota Camry, an orange SUV, and a third vehicle.

Two carjackings were reported in Wrigleyville around 11:30 p.m.

In the 900 block of W. Grace, two vehicles filled with armed men boxed in a 29-year-old Uber driver’s car around 11:30 p.m. He ran away and hid after seeing the men get out of the cars with guns.

A few minutes later, a 25-year-

old woman was carjacked while parking her car in the 3500 block of N. Clark, according to a CPD media statement.

The woman said two vehicles boxed her in, and “multiple” carjackers exited the cars with guns to force her from her vehicle, the statement said.

According to police, the offenders beat and robbed another woman who was in the victim’s car.

Chicago police officers reported that they saw the carjacking caravan, which included the orange SUV and three other vehicles, speeding away from the area around 11:35 p.m. A few minutes later, a CPD surveillance officer said the crew drove onto southbound Lake Shore Dr. at Belmont.

With the exception of the first robbery, all of the crimes occurred in the Town Hall 19th District. Robberies there are up two-percent compared to last year and

50% compared to 2019.

The Lincoln Square robbery was in the Lincoln 20th District, where robbery reports are down 19% from last year. They are up 36% compared to 2019, though.

Both districts are faring much better than the city at large. Overall, robbery reports are up 25% this year and up 38% versus 2019.

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Lincoln Park Chamber CEO named tops in state



Mike Paone and Kim Schilf.

Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce [LPCC] President and CEO Kim Schilf was recently named Distinguished Illinois Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year.

The award was presented at the Illinois Assoc. of Chamber of Commerce Executives [IACCE] annual celebration and awards dinner. The award recognizes the long-term professional career achievements of the candidate, their exemplary performance and leadership.

Schiff joined the LPCC in 1993 as the vice president of member services, and has served as president and CEO since 1998. "Schilf served as IACCE Board Chair in 2004 and continues to mentor numerous chamber of commerce executives throughout Chicago and Illinois," said Mike Paone, IACCE Board Chair and Vice President, Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce. "Through (her) steadfast dedication, strategic planning, and community-focused initiatives, the LPCC has made a lasting and transformative impact on the local community, serving as a beacon of economic stability, innovation, and progress."

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Heather Jane Johnson



Art Smith



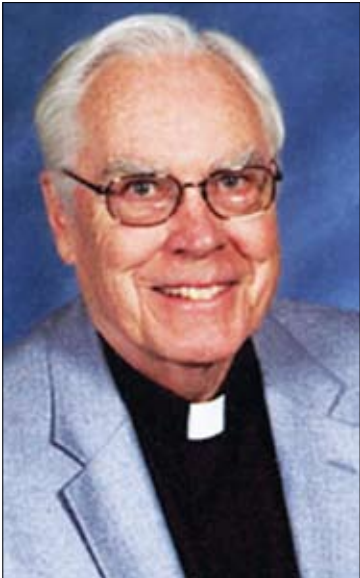
Bradley Parker Sparrow with Joannie Pallatto.



Bobbi Panter and Patty Marx.



Jason Knowles



Father George Lane



Joey Majumdar

PUSHING from p. 2

their hot dog stand Donald Duk's Red Hots, which landed the business in hot water with Disney, according to a brief history published by Vienna Beef. They removed "Donald" from the name and went on to sell Chicago street food for decades, including not just Polishes and Italian beefs but deeper cuts like tamales, gravy bread and pizza puffs.

CHICAGO EMMYS: Joey Majumdar celebrating with his pal, ABC reporter Jason Knowles, for receiving three awards including a major Emmy Award for broadcasting excellence, for reporting the tracking of plastic bags and the failures of plastic bag recycling.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Save the Date. From composer George Flynn: 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, Chicago Soundings Concert at Queen of Angels Church, 2330 W. Sunnyside Ave. Joanie Pallatto and Bradley Parker Sparrow will

perform, along with many other artists.

SERVICE CLUB: The Service Club announced the transition of new leadership with the very popular and accomplished Bobbi Panter as the organization's president and longtime member and club champion Patty Marx as vice president. Both women have demonstrated a gifted ability for engaging Chicago organizations in need and providing well-earned support. We congratulate both Bobbi and Patty for the huge vote of confidence that members displayed on their behalf. It's going to be an exciting year.

PIER: On Sunday Harry Caray's Tavern at Navy Pier opened Lakefront Lodge, a festive winter lodge overlooking the city and Lake Michigan. Complete with a fireplace and cozy rustic touches throughout, guests can stay warm inside sipping a beverage and enjoying tasty bites, or grab a blanket to bundle up and have some fun on the patio, featuring a private curling rink, heated igloo, and fire pits. Lakefront Lodge will be open all winter long through Feb. 2024. Nearby on the Pier, Chef Art Smith's Reunion will launch 'Santa's Southern Workshop' pop-up. Open every weekend starting Nov. 24 through Dec. 23. Try the Mac & Cheese, it's Oprah's favorite.

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM: Father George Lane, SJ was a follower of St. Ignatius of Loyola and a genuine Chicagoan. He cradled those deep loves in life and now, last week, in death. His life was really the story of that blending of faith and learning. No wonder Loyola University Press was such an easy perfect fit for him over his life. Lane has left his fingerprints deep on the Chicago landscape. His Jesuit life nourished his devotion to Chicago. Nothing demonstrated that more dynamically than his saving the grandeur of Holy Family Church on Roosevelt Rd., next to St. Ignatius Prep. The size of a European Cathedral, when urban population change altered the neighborhood, he never allowed the Church Father Arnold Damen built to be boarded up, shuttered

or torn down. Lane rolled up his sleeves and worked for decades to keep Holy Family alive. Much like his whole life, his actions were pure Ignation. That value so central to Ignatian spirituality and encompassed in the Latin phrase "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam," meaning "For the Greater Glory of God." (Motto of the Society of Jesus).

BREWERY CLOSING: Avondale's Metropolitan Brewing will close permanently Dec. 17. Founded in 2009, Metropolitan Brewing, 3057 N. Rockwell St., is one of Chicago's oldest craft breweries, known for its seasonal German-style beers. The taproom along the Chicago River will be open for its normal hours every day until then except for Thanksgiving, said owners Doug and Tracy Hurst.

ROCKSTAR: It's Dolly Parton night at R Public House in Rogers Park. Celebrate Parton's latest album "Rockstar." They will be playing her latest album all night long. Dress up as your favorite Dolly persona and immerse yourself in an evening of country glam and good vibes.

THE BOOK CELLAR: The Gold Coast's Danny Kravitz, who co-wrote the screenplay to Liam Neeson's blockbuster The Marksman, is celebrating the release of two new books he co-authored. The novelization of The Marksman and Con Crazy with Eliza Marsh and Addison Chapple. Danny and Eliza celebrated at their book signing at Lincoln Square's The Book Cellar.

WHO'S WHERE: Marc Olley, with Abby McCormick O' Neil, Franco, Carrie, Rian and Jonathan, at the Harris Dance Theater's production of "Jungle Book Reimagined," a magical performance of dance, story and groundbreaking set technology... Sherry Lea Fox with Sherrill Bodine, Paula Borg, Bethany Kitrick, Joanna Slusky, Julia Jacobs, Anna Saavedra, Anne Schwarz Sherrill, Whitney Reynolds, and Leah Chavie, all cheering for birthday girl Kate Krause Prange at successful Boozy Brunch at favorite Andersonville

haunt Bar Roma... Prange's birthday brunch #2 at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill... Jane Justic and daughter, Jill Cress, getting in some surf and sand in Naples, FL... Hector Gustavo Cardenas and Marius Morkvenus traveling to Bangkok, Thailand... Christie's Steven Zick had a night in Old Spain with a wonderful tour of the collections by Valeria Piccoli, Curator of Arts of the Americas with a special treat, dinner in the gallery... Tanner Chap Branson at the Colony Palm Beach... Stephanie Leese Emrich with Nina Owen, Allison Youngblood, Ruth Gallagher Nelson, Sara Feingenholtz and Kristin Bernhard at the Junior League of Chicago's inaugural Women's LeadHERship Luncheon at the University Club.

PEACE AND MERCY: Heather Jane Johnson was beloved by many in Chicago, especially all those to whom she dispensed so many acts of kindness and among whom she carried love and laughter, including her children Ryan McCann and Haley Weil. All sympathy and prayer to them. And to her dear mother, Jane Johnson, and brothers Duke and John. She was always young at heart. Chicago sits its own personalized shiva to her dear passing. Her memory, now, in Orense's Haiku "a pink stretch feathering the wind, purple heather."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING: Do something good and find some warm clothes to donate. Coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats are all needed. Up north State Rep. Kelly Cassidy and her office are holding their annual winter coat drive at 1507 W. Morse Ave. So too are Tapestry 360 Health, 1300 W. Devon Ave., Charmers Cafe, 1500 W. Jarvis Ave., and the Rogers Park Business Alliance, 1448 W. Morse Ave. Look around, there is plenty of need out there.

Nothing says holidays, like a cheese log. — Ellen DeGeneres

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Overcoming complications of Diabetes

According to the International Diabetes Federation 537 million adults (20-79 years) are living with diabetes. That is one out of every 10 people.

Experts predict this 2022 number will rise to 643 million by 2030 and 783 million by 2045.

These numbers are sobering and not to be taken lightly. Diabetes was responsible for 6.7 million deaths in 2021— one every five seconds. More people die from diabetes than from cancer although, according to the National Institute of Health, large studies have found that diabetes increases cancer mortality.

Diabetes is the leading cause of vision loss in adults. About 30% of patients with type 1 diabetes and 10% to 40% of those with

type 2 diabetes eventually will suffer kidney failure.

Every year in the United States about 73,000 amputations of the lower limb (not related to trauma), are performed on people with diabetes.

Diabetes costs at least \$966 billion dollars in health expenditures—a 316% increase over the last 15 years.

Acknowledging National Diabetes Awareness Month, Chicago author John Robert Wiltgen, said, “much of the general public believes that insulin and eating sensibly makes diabetes easy to manage, but that’s not necessarily true.”

Wiltgen’s book, entitled *The Candy in My Pocket*, is about his life with type 1 diabetes.

“Imagine becoming legally blind in your early 20s while working as an architectural designer,” said Wiltgen. “There’s the mortgage on a building you’re renovating, rent is due for your office, and employees must be paid. What would you do? Or picture yourself with kidney disease requiring a transplant. Then at the age of 30 you are diagnosed with heart disease, have had three silent heart attacks and require two stents. How would you cope?

Additionally, what if you fought skin and bone infections for 20 years and finally had to have your leg amputated? Could you go on?” he asks.

These are a few of the questions resolved in John Robert Wiltgen’s memoir *The Candy in My Pocket*.

He battled countless debilitating complications of type 1 diabetes while creating a prestigious design firm with projects across America, Canada, Mexico—even Africa.

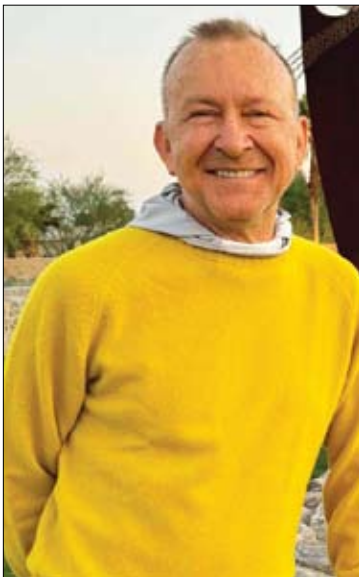
Diabetes costs at least \$966 billion dollars in health expenditures—a 316% increase over the last 15 years.

According to Navid Ziran, an Orthopedic Trauma Surgery Specialist, “I perform many amputations (toe, trans metatarsal, below the knee and above the knee) due to diabetic foot infections. I am very familiar with the effects of diabetes on mental and physical quality of life and overall longevity,” he said.

“The overall five-year mortality rate after an amputation is 62%,” said Ziran. “Wiltgen, who has suffered from insulin-dependent diabetes since the age of eight, has defied the odds for survival.”

“Other individuals would have died a long time ago, Wiltgen not only survived but developed into a world-renown interior designer and he sought joy and established solid friendships along the way,” he said.

“He is an example of how human spirit can not only adapt and overcome, but also flourish and succeed despite overwhelming odds. His life story embraces “ad astra per aspera”—a crooked path leads to the stars,” said Ziran.



John Robert Wiltgen

“Regarding survivability and inner strength, Wiltgen represents the end of the bell curve for not only diabetic patients but for all humans,” he concluded.

Though Wiltgen’s life involves countless tragedies, it also includes exciting personal and professional adventures as well as celebrity cameos including Jane Seymour, Timothy Hutton, Angelina Jolie, Sean and Robyn Wright Penn, Steve Harvey, John Cusack, and Jesus.

Dr. James Paperello, Professor of Medicine Nephrology and hypertension at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, said of Wiltgen’s book, “I found *The Candy in My Pocket* particularly inspiring as it shows that people with kidney disease

DIABETES see p. 10

Letters to the Editor

Yes to Mother Jones at Water Tower

In his Nov. 8 article Thomas J. O’Gorman writes that a proposal to honor Mother Jones with a statue at the Water Tower should be scrapped. For a persuasive argument he cites that there is a garden park at the Water Tower honoring the former one term mayor Jane Byrne and that memorializing Mother Jones at that site is not appropriate.

He lists a few details about Byrne including who, in her younger years, her first husband was. Yet amazingly he totally omits mentioning who her second husband was during her political years as mayor. Jay McMullen, a controversial and wise-cracking newspaper person, was significantly her close advisor.

Byrne was elected mayor as a reformer who gave speeches critical of the establishment, specifically aldermen Ed Burke and Eddie Vrdolyak (although she nearly always mispronounced his last name). Soon after assuming office however she changed. She followed her husband’s advice and totally gave in to Burke and Vrdolyak (while still mispro-

nouncing his last name).

She pulled several stunts at the suggestion of her husband, like spending a few days at the Cabrini Green housing project to demonstrate that the poorer residents there can manage quite comfortably. That infamous stunt and others came to define her and she was not surprisingly defeated in her re-election bid.

By contrast Mother Jones in her life never wavered in her progressive politics, she was ahead of her time being a militantly vocal opponent of child labor and numerous other issues.

Mother Jones magazine for the last 47 years continues to be a leading source of well written progressive articles on a host of issues. It has won 31 prestigious national magazine awards. The editors chose wisely in naming the magazine after her. Likewise it is a wise move to erect a statue of Mother Jones at our sacred Water Tower.

Fred Case
Lake View

Why use “privileged?”

In response to your story on Chicago’s bike lanes [Nov. 15], why do you infer that those of us who are poor and need to bike to local businesses are the “privileged” ones in the city? Since when are protected bike lanes called “privileged” bike lanes?

It seems to me that the car lanes are privileged, and I respectfully stay out of them. That you chose to twist the language here is unfortunate, in a sense dishonest, and clearly reveals your prejudice in this matter.

Why you are choosing to inflict your personal prejudice on your readers, especially those who are without means and in need of protected bike lanes, is far beyond me. If there is an issue here, your vitriol is only making it worse. Please take a class in basic human kindness before writing your next laughable editorial.

By Ronald Otto
Uptown

Note from the editor:
This is a good and honest question. We chose the word “privileged” intentionally, and we understand that it’s provocative, as ones choice of words mean something.

When a public accommodation, that is paid for with tax dollars, is set aside behind concrete barriers for the exclusive use of one class of citizen, then we see that as the very definition of privilege. Bikers, emergency vehicles, public transportation and shared car services, the disabled and pedestrians can also use the streets that private vehicles travel on; but only bikers are privileged to use the bike paths, which is why we chose that word.

is about the buyers and sellers of expensive properties rather than those who are the vast majority of property owners and the intended beneficiaries of the tax.

I suspect that the strongest opposition to this tax comes from commercial property owners. Misleading commentaries like this article further their strategy to distract homeowners (the voters) from the real pressing issues.

Robert Alter
Near North Side

Transfer tax story is preposterous

The article “City Council vote delayed on ballot measure for hike in transfer tax” (Nov. 8) is a disservice to the readers.

The author makes utterly preposterous statements: “At some point in the future, all properties in Chicago will be worth than \$1 million or more, and as of yet, there is no sign the city plans to index the new tax for inflation.” For a reality check, according to Zillow, the current average real estate price is \$287,000.

By the way, what taxes are indexed for inflation?

Later, the author misleadingly states that “transfer taxes tend to be regressive, meaning they disproportionately impact lower income households in the market for property.” Then the writer goes on to say “seemingly small increases in transfer taxes can result in substantial decreases in housing affordability. This has an outsized impact on first-time home buyers.” This is utter nonsense.

In the proposal, the tax rate for the first \$1 million sale actually goes down. Any fixed rate tax is

regressive, but the proposal lowers the actual tax for the vast majority of property sales. The transfer tax would actually be less than it is now for a purchase up to \$1,120,000.

When concern about “housing affordability” is raised, does the author think “lower income households” and “first-time home buyers” will be purchasing properties of more than \$1,120,000? Once again, total nonsense.

To put matters in perspective, the transfer tax for a \$2 million property would go from the current \$15,000 to \$31,000. Would a motivated seller reject \$1,984,000 instead of \$2 million? For the buyer, a tiny increase in mortgage rate would have much greater cost implication than the one-time tax.

The article goes on to make a sudden pivot. “This new structure offers a tax break for the majority of homeowners, potentially pitting them against those who will immediately be penalized by the proposal’s appeal to referendum voters.”

Needless to say, the concern

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DIABETES from p. 9

can still live a full life.”

Wiltgen “shares how he dealt with his diagnosis, the transplant, and life afterwards—a life more interesting and authentic than reality TV shows. He also exemplifies the health benefits of a good sense of humor.”

The Candy in My Pocket is timely, not only for National Diabetes Awareness Month but also with the current explosion of diabetes in America and around the world.

“I laughed out loud at every story. John’s triumph over medical adversity is enormously up-

lifting,” said Cynthia Rowley, a global fashion designer. ‘He chooses joy, happiness, and unwavering positivity in his quest to live life on his own terms. I have never met a person with more energy and pathological optimism.’”

The memoir can be purchased online through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Barbara’s Book Store, Etsy - even Walmart. For more information visit www.thecandy-inmypocket.com.

A portion of the profits realized from the sale of this book will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

arrested at the Harold Washington Library.

In that incident, Foster-Smith punched a library patron in the face. Chicago cops said Foster-Smith had two 10½-inch Bowie knives when they arrested him, including one tucked into his waistband.

He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon in exchange for a sentence of 46 days, time he had already served, on Jan. 19, eight days before the DePaul robbery.

Man gets seven years for stealing identities by posing as a ride-share driver outside nightclubs

A man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for stealing people’s credit cards and identities while posing as a ride-hail service driver. It’s the

second time Gabriel Jackson has gone to the big house for the same scam.

He pleaded guilty to operating a continuing financial crime enterprise in exchange for the sentence from Judge Lauren Edidin, according to court records. Prosecutors dropped 25 other felonies in their plea deal, including multiple counts of wire fraud and identity theft.

Jackson had been off parole for about a week when Chicago police arrested him for resurrecting the scam in November 2021. Cops said he had 32 credit cards belonging to 32 different people in his car when they took him into custody.

Prosecutors said Jackson typically preyed on people who were waiting for rides outside nightclubs, mostly downtown and in Wrigleyville.

The case that ended his latest round of criminal activity began when a couple from out of town got

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Man shot near Wrigley Field with cops just steps away

Chicago police officers were just a few steps away when at least one gunman fired shots near Wrigley Field on Nov. 19. One man was injured.

“Shots fired! Shots fired!” an officer yelled into his radio at 3:05 a.m. Cops quickly located the injured man in the 1100 block of W. Eddy, just behind the Clark St. nightlife strip. They said he had gunshot wounds to his foot and ankle.

About a block away, an Earthcam posted across from Wrigley Field recorded the gunshots. About nine are heard, one right after the other. Moments later, on the left side of the webcam feed, people are seen running north on Clark St., away from the shooting.

“Are you f***ing serious?” someone says near the camera’s microphone.

“That’s crazy,” another replies as the sirens of approaching police units. Officially, the Chicago Police Dept. released a brief, generic statement about the incident: “A 34-year-old male victim was outside walking when he heard multiple shots fired and felt pain. The victim sustained one [gunshot wound] to the foot and ankle and was transported to IL Masonic where he is listed in good condition. There is no one in custody and Area Three Detectives are investigating.”

Witnesses provided conflicting information about what happened.

On Clark St., police found a couple who thought they were the intended

targets of the shooting. Their vehicle had a bullet hole near the rear wheel, and its front right tire was shot out.

Several shell casings were found near the intersection of Eddy and Seminary. The police were looking for video cameras in the area, hoping to learn more about what happened.

The victim is the seventh person shot in Lakeview this year. That’s down from 15 victims at this point last year. The neighborhood also had seven shooting victims in 2021. Other recent shooting totals for the neighborhood include eight in 2020, five in 2019, one in 2018, three in 2017, and five in 2016.

into his car outside Spy Bar, 226 W. Ontario, around closing time on Nov. 13, 2021.



Gabriel Jackson

Jackson scanned a credit card from each victim on his phone and had them enter their PINs, prosecutors said.

He told them their banks declined the transactions, and the victims then paid Jackson \$15 cash for the ride. They later realized that someone was conducting transactions on the cards they gave to Jackson.

The couple notified police, and CPD’s financial crimes investigators quickly identified Jackson as a suspect based on their knowledge of his rideshare scam history. Cops arrested Jackson during a traffic stop less than

six hours later.

Police found a bag containing 32 credit cards inside Jackson’s Chevy Impala, a CPD report said. A card belonging to the man he picked up at Spy Bar was in his pants pocket, the report said.

On the front seat of Jackson’s car, police found a credit card swiper attached to a cellphone that was opened to an app that records PINs, according to the report.

Among the 32 cards police found in the bag was one that belonged to a man who identified Jackson as the person who posed as a rideshare driver as the victim left a Wrigleyville bar on Sept. 16, 2021, police reported.

That victim said a phony Uber driver swiped his card on a phone and told him to enter the PIN. The driver returned a similar-looking credit card and then used the victim’s card and PIN to withdraw \$1,000 from his account at an ATM near Wrigley Field.

Jackson’s seven-year sentence will be reduced by 50% for good behavior.

After receiving credits earned while in custody, he is expected to be paroled on March 30, 2026.

Jackson’s first incarnation of the ride-share scam ended in Aug. 2017 when prosecutors charged him with 23 counts of operating a continuing financial crime enterprise and identity theft.

The mechanics of the ruse were the same: he asked bar-hoppers who got into his car to provide a debit or credit card, which he swiped on a phone before asking the victims to enter their PIN.

Then, Jackson would return a similar-looking debit card that did not belong to the passenger. After the victim got out of his car, Jackson drove to an ATM and withdrew cash using the victim’s actual card and the PIN data that they entered, police said.

Jackson picked up passengers around nightlife districts in the 1st, 18th, 14th, and 19th police districts, which stretch from Uptown to the Near South Side and include the Bucktown and Wicker Park areas. He listed a home address in Lakeview East at the time.

Months later, he was arrested again to face additional charges for allegedly operating the same scam while he was supposed to be on home electronic monitoring.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CITIBANK, N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2020-RPL1 Plaintiff, -v- BOGDAN RAKIE, DIANA RAKIE, THE NEW YORK PRIVATE RESIDENCE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 2022 CH 09030 3660 NORTH LAKESHORE DRIVE, UNIT 914 CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 28, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 29, 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 3660 NORTH LAKESHORE DRIVE, UNIT 914, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-21-110-048-1501 The real estate is improved with a residential condominium. The judgment amount was \$163,150.11. 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 Plaintiff's Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 22-011400. 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.tjsc.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. 22-011400 Attorney Code. 48928 Case Number: 2022 CH 09030 TJSC#: 43-3777 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 09030 I3232565 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MF1 2020-FL4 LTD., AN EXEMPTED COMPANY INCORPORATED WITH LIMITED LIABILITY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, AND MF1 CAPITAL SELLER IV LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, BY AND THROUGH CBRE LOAN SERVICES, INC. AS SPECIAL SERVICER Plaintiff, -v- NORTH SHERIDAN PROPERTY INVESTOR, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, CITY OF CHICAGO, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2022 CH 09442	5200 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD CHICAGO, IL 60640 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 25, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 13, 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 5200 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, CHICAGO, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-08-212-018-0000 The real estate is improved with a structure that is comprised of approximately 200 residential apartment units with first floor retail units. The judgment amount was \$44,863,401.27. 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 DAVID J. FISCHER, HOLLAND & KNIGHT Plaintiffs' Attorney, 150 NORTH RIVERSIDE PLAZA, SUITE 2700, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 263-3600. 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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. DAVID J. FISCHER HOLLAND & KNIGHT 150 NORTH RIVERSIDE PLAZA, SUITE 2700 CHICAGO IL, 60606 312-263-3600 E-Mail: david.fischer@hklaw.com Attorney Code. 37472 Case Number: 2022 CH 09442 TJSC#: 43-4085 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. I3232902 222222 ----- 151515 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, -v- 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 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 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 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 I3232070 080808 ----- Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700

Thumb's up for Chicago in Film series held in police station

BY BOB KITSOS

"Life Itself," a documentary about Chicago Sun-Times Film Critic Roger Ebert, was the latest film shown at the 24th Police District's "Chicago in Film" program last week. The film is based on Ebert's 2011 memoir of the same name; it premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival and received acclaim by critics.

The film includes Ebert's childhood background and early interest in writing. It also uses footage and interviews with his friends, colleagues, film directors such as Martin Scorsese and others whom he influenced. The film also is a

tribute, providing a glimpse into his personal life, 21-year marriage to Chaz and his final months after being diagnosed with cancer in 2002. Ebert died in April 2013 at age 70.

Chaz Ebert, guest speaker

Following the film showing, Chaz Ebert, CEO and publisher of Ebert Digital, which publishes RogerEbert.com, was interviewed.

She also is chairman of the board of The Roger and Chaz Ebert Foundation and co-founder and host of Ebertfest, an annual film festival.

Ebert answered questions and

provided some insight about the iconic movie critic, the first film critic to win a Pulitzer Prize. For example, his favorite movie was the 1941 Orson Wells' classic "Citizen Kane," and he was influenced by Pauline Kael, film critic for The New Yorker magazine.

She also shared that the order of the names for the popular film-review television show with Gene Siskel, film critic



Chaz Ebert
Photo by Joanne Kitsos

Heights native Sebastian Maniscalco who co-wrote the screen-

play. It's a 2023 comedy loosely based on his life and his relationship with his father, played by DeNiro.

Louis Rago, founder and president of the Italian-American Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, is the post-film speaker. Admission is free, but due to limited seating, registration is required to attend. Films are shown in the community room of the 24th Police District, 6464 N. Clark St. Contact Officer Caroline DeWinter at caroline.dewinter@chicagopolice.org to reserve a seat.

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3E3408 (Robinson, Kimberly)
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**A leader takes people where they want to go.
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— Rosalynn Carter

Site of former Boomers Restaurant may become new high density project

BY MATT MEDINA

Ald. Andre Vasquez’s [40th Ward] office held a virtual community zoning meeting with roughly 50 residents in order to gauge their feedback on a potential five-story mixed use high density Transit Oriented Development at 5035 N. Lincoln Ave., in Lincoln Square.

The proposed development would take over an incomplete construction project at the corners of Lincoln Ave. and Winnemac Ave.

The 14,793-square-foot lot was approved for construction under former 40th Ward Ald. Pat O’Connor, ultimately being unfilled due to developer bankruptcy.

Formerly the site of Boomers Restaurant, for five years the two-part lot sat as a growing eyesore for neighbors, showing incomplete concrete walls and foundation that was covered in graffiti.

The project is now being proposed by 5019 Lincoln LLC.

The meeting was held in hopes of attaining residents’ concerns and comments before giving the official approval to send the proposal before Zoning and Development committee. Half of the development space would seek a zoning change, in hopes of

creating room for parking and commercial space.

The brick complex would include 47 total apartment units, nine of which would be designated affordable units, but only 15 parking spaces, a ratio of only about .32 parking spots per unit. Under the city’s former zoning, the developers would have had to provide at least one new off street parking spot for each new unit.

Some residents expressed concern over the high density project being brought to the area, especially in close proximity to the two major streets of Lincoln and Western avenues. But Vasquez refuted this, pointing to the “Transit Oriented Development” designation. Residents would be in close proximity to the Western Ave. bus stop and CTA’s Brown Line, plus having access to bike parking, ultimately limiting car traffic in the area. But that thinking also ignores the reality that residents with no cars many time demand that vehicles must then come to them.

Those living without a car are frequent users of shared car services and delivery vehicles. No North Side neighbor-



Development proposed for 5035 N. Lincoln Ave.

hood today is free from the menace of the double-parked Amazon, FedEx, UPS and U.S. Postal Service delivery truck, or the UberEats and Lyft drivers with their sudden stops mid-block, to deliver groceries or dinner, or when waiting for passengers to show up for a ride downtown.

Many of these developers do not even create rear loading zones, driveways, porte cochere or porticos where vehicles servicing their building can get off the street and not block traffic. Chicago’s city planners seem oblivious to the congestion they’re helping to create by allowing this policy

hood today is free from the menace of the double-parked Amazon, FedEx, UPS and U.S. Postal Service delivery truck, or the UberEats and Lyft drivers with their sudden stops mid-block, to deliver groceries or dinner, or when waiting for passengers to show up for a ride downtown.

Residents are encouraged to submit feedback and concerns on the development within the next week, before a decision is made, by calling 773-654-1867 or email info@40thward.org.

BRIGADE from p. 1

shelter.

Shelters are open 24/7, with a curfew of 11 p.m. After curfew, residents of the shelter may not leave the facility unless the departure is approved by staff, or in case of emergency. No visitors are allowed within the facility.

The AIC homeless shelter opened July 28, and 560 people arrived at the site at the beginning of August. Another 200 or more arrived in mid-August and early September. The shelter is set up now to hold some 1,300 people.

Partially as a result of the new use on site, street parking has gotten much more difficult for area residents. There is a severe shortage of parking on Bittersweet, and the city is working with shelter staff, police and city officials trying to maintain access to street and the parking lot off Bittersweet.

Due to the large number of new residents, the city’s Dept. of Streets and Sanitation has had to increase trash pick ups at the shelter. City officials have also warned shelter staff about using neighborhood trash cans for personal trash.

The city’s departments of Finance and

Uptown Library now doing vending

The Uptown Library, 929 W. Buena Ave., now has a Chicago Dept. of Public Health vending machine, one of the first five vending machines in Chicago, and the only one located on the North Side. There are two people at the library who are now helping people sign up and receive a PIN to gain access to the new vending machine.

All supplies in the vending machine are free, and include fentanyl-testing strips, overdose inhalers, menstrual hygiene kits, general hygiene kits, underwear, and socks.

Transportation have been visiting the shelter to share information about ticketing and fines for cars. Most recently, the city has been enforcing parking regulations on Bittersweet, and writing parking tickets.

The City anticipates using the former AIC building through the end of 2023, but considering that the problem continues to grow, that timeline will be extended.

MUGGED from p. 1

apparently trying to get her attention as she continues walking.

Then the man backs the woman onto a front lawn. He takes her bag, then extends his hand in front of him as she backs further away. He slides the woman’s bag on his shoulder and walks away.

She quickly bolted next door to the home that had the camera rolling. The bag she had on her shoulder in the still images is gone.

Police were dispatched to the scene at 11:58 a.m., and officers said they gave the woman a ride home. They told their dispatcher that they gave her a ride home to wait for a unit to take her report while they searched the area for the suspect.

As of Nov. 20, CPD’s Office of News Affairs said they have no record of a robbery occurring in the 4500 block of N. Leavitt on Nov. 18.

“Telling someone to ‘be aware of their surroundings’ is not the answer,” the homeowner wrote in his email to the alderman. “This is not a ‘dynamic,’ these are ARMED ROBBERIES in BROAD DAYLIGHT!”

“Criminals know there are no repercussions. They pretty much know they can do

what they want. We should not have to live in fear,” he continued.

If you’re wondering about the other robbery that occurred near his home recently, it was caught on camera, too.

At about 10 p.m. Oct. 6, a 36-year-old man was walking in an alley at Leavitt and Lincoln Ave. when two men ran up behind him. Hearing someone run up behind him, the victim turned around and saw the two robbers closing in just a few feet away.

They pinned him against a wall and CPD said they displayed a firearm. The robbers got away with the victim’s keys, wallet, and phone. They ran to his nearby Honda and drove it away, according to a police report.

Lincoln Square is typically one of Chicago’s least-violent community areas. But robberies are definitely on the upswing.

The city’s violence reduction dashboard says 60 people have been robbed in Lincoln Square as of Nov. 18. That’s up 100% from the number seen at this point last year, and it apparently doesn’t include the woman seen in the video above.

Over the past 10 years, Lincoln Square has averaged 40 robbery victims as of Nov. 18, with only 2017 exceeding this year’s tally.

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