

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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Suspect in custody after man fatally shot near Howard CTA station

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are questioning a suspect after a man was shot and killed near the Howard CTA station on Nov. 16. The Cook County medical examiner's office identified the victim as Kenneth Sandy, 30, of the 3100 block of W. Devon.

At about 1:51 p.m., Sandy got

into an argument with another person in the 1600 block of W. Howard, and the confrontation turned physical, police said. The other individual pulled out a gun and fired at least four shots, striking Sandy in the chest.

The Chicago Fire Dept. transported him to St. Francis Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after 2 p.m.

Officers took a suspect into custody at the scene.

Sandy is the 31st person shot in Rogers Park this year, down slightly from 32 at this point last year but higher than 23 victims in 2021. Authorities categorized three of last year's shootings as self-defense.



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

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

Edgewater names their Living Treasures

Every year the Edgewater Historical Society [EHS] names a few of their neighbors that they consider 'Living Treasures.'

Well, every year that there isn't a pandemic lockdown at least.

On Nov. 4, the EHS did it again, this time adding in a group from 2020 that were named, but were left unrecognized in public as the COVID pandemic shut down all public events.

The event held at the Edgewater Library, 6000 N. Broadway, recognized 2020 recipients James Ginsburg, Reggie Griffin and Ronald Roenigk. They also introduced the 2023 recipients Blair De Haan, Wayne Mitchell and Tony Chung, and Sandra Pakin.

Edgewater Living Treasures are residents of Edgewater who have made a difference, some in

a profound, fundamental way, and others in a small but significant action that has affected the well being of the Edgewater community.

Their deeds were not driven by personal gain, but to help the people of the community - whether generating beauty, fostering harmony, helping the less fortunate or encouraging grass roots activity.

Honorees are selected from nominations from the community, 'treasurers' who have helped create public spaces and organizations, and who have imparted values which both celebrate diversity and build community.

During the 1950s Edgewater established a model which supported religious diversity as a community value, through the

Edgewater Community Religious Assoc. This association provided the model for the formation of other organizations that enabled various neighborhood groups to join together working toward common goals and forging an Edgewater identity.

• Sandra Pakin has lived in Edgewater since 1969 and has been involved in community service since retiring in 2004 - most notably with the Emanuel Congregational Stitching Ladies which she joined shortly after retiring. She has coordinated their crafting efforts for the past 12 years. The ladies have donated more than 1,000 items annually.

She is also a volunteer knitting instructor at the Edgewater

TREASURES see p. 12

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 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 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

BRIGADE see p. 12

Touhy/Western SBIF funding opens Dec. 1

The Touhy/Western Small Business Improvement Fund [SBIF] will soon accept applications to provide grants totaling \$400,000 for permanent building improvements and repairs.

The taxpayer money is offered to tenants and owners of industrial and commercial properties, funded by Tax Increment Financing revenues in Touhy/Western TIF districts.

Program participants can receive grants to cover between 30%

and 90% of the cost of remodeling work, with a maximum grant of \$150,000 for commercial properties and \$250,000 for industrial properties. The grant does not have to be repaid.

The city will be soliciting new applications starting on Friday, Dec. 1. All applications must be received by SomerCor by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024. For more information or application assistance, visit www.somercor.com/sbif.

They're pushing us to the edge, and it ain't pretty



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

There's always been something pushing Chicago to the edge.

Wilderness survival. Military defense. Domestic settlement. Urbanization. Modernity. The most essential components of evolving American life seemed to effectively churn to shape the full measure of Chicago's expansive life.

Since the very beginning of its prairie life, its vision has been aimed at what is remarkable in life. Briskly. Clear-eyed. And soul-filled.

Chicago's unfolding 19th century evolution did so with passion. Whether that was skins and pelts from the denizens of the wilderness, to livestock, rail lines or the World Series.

How else to explain connecting Lake Michigan with the Illinois River (90 miles away) or reversing the flow of the Chicago River, sending detritus downstream and not into the lake?

Don't forget our success constructing a wooden stockade fortress, Fort Dearborn, the farthest geographical outpost of the infant republic back in 1803.

Or our ability to shape buildings of stone and steel that seemed to scrape the sky before the 19th cen-

ture would end.

Who can forget Chicago's vast network of rail lines stretching in every direction through the city from the earliest days of railroading. Thanks to Illinois U.S. Sen. Stephan A. Douglas back in the 1850s. Those tracks were to become the muscle in Chicago's expansive fiscal achievements. And would help to bring 27 million people to Chicago, over six months, for the World's Columbian Exposition back in 1893.

Nothing grabbed the attention of the world more about Chicago than the Great Fire of 1871. That autumnal inferno was generated by long days of dry heat and no rain to create the perfect scenario for a tinderbox explosion of fire.

In fact the Great Fire, Oct. 8-10, 1871, was merely the last fire in a string of urban blazes that devastated Chicago that summer. Day after day through September into October, the fires slowly wore down the City's fire fighting equipment and personnel. It is said that when the fire of Oct. 8 was first observed from the watchtower on City Hall, the last of the city's broken down equipment could be seen struggling to return to their fire houses. So that when they had to turn around, being dispatched to the latest Great Fire, there was little they could accomplish in the terrible state they were in.

For two full days and nights, Chicagoans watched with tears in their smoke-filled eyes as the Great Fire that began near 12th St. (today's Roosevelt Rd.) crept its way northward.

A force of horrific winds pushed the flames with mythical strength. While it did not vector and turn very far west, flames did move speedily northward toward the river. Many believed that the waterway would stand as an unbreakable defensive wall. But it wasn't to be. Fireball and flames shot across the Chicago River heralding the unthinkable. Nothing could stop the spread of the fire. The city appeared to be vanquished.

Chicagoans would abandon their mansions and tenements alike. With many heading to the cool waters of Lake Michigan for relief. But on the second evening



According to the National Fire Protection Association, the quick spreading Great Chicago Fire is one of the largest fire losses in United States history, killing hundreds of people, destroying thousands of structures, and burning more than 2,000 acres.

of the Fire a miracle did occur. A rain began to fall which grew into a steady pouring, consistent power that began to extinguish the relentless flames. The fires stopped just north of Armitage Ave.

In the end, Chicago was not totally beaten. Plans for a recovery were soon finding their way to the lips of the city's most vibrant and reasoned leaders of commercial influence. Men like Marshall Field, Potter Palmer and commercial titans such as Chicago's meat packers, Phillip Danforth Armour, Gustavus Swift and Nelson Morris, along with those with household names of Chicago celebrity like the McCormicks and the Blairs seeking formulas for recovery in an earth-shaking strategy for recovery.

Once again Chicago is in need of an earth-shaking strategy for recovery. Instead of flames spreading across the streets and boulevards of Chicago, small-time socialist aldermen seek to vanquish what the flames of the Great Fire were never able to accomplish.

Embracing every conceivable socio-political reality of the intelligence bankrupt Chicago City Council, this governmental assembly is supposed to govern the city with stability and reasoned understanding.

Instead misdirected "grassroots" neophytes have been attempting to untie the knots of every conceivable sustaining urban reality from the Chicago Teachers Union to the Taste of Chicago. Lathering many freshly created urban conflicts as "business as usual," aldermen are way over their heads in attempting to "negotiate" away the real in-depth substance of the dead-ended foolishness.

Because we've endured a vacuum of corrective mayoral wisdom from elected officials with no clue how to resolve Chicago's biggest issues, the crisis becomes the true watering down of political leadership.

It's been generations since Chicago legislative representatives have been so diminished in their thinking.

Aldermen, and Mayor Johnson, our poor excuse for a chief ex-

ecutive, have been thumping their chests over the small stuff. They appear unable to rub two thoughts together about urban survival and the city's recovery from the loss of our commercial stability.

The loss of Water Tower Place as a viable commercial success is a real curse on the mindless careers of those elected to the Council. Read the financial pages, hard to fill commercial property is crashing all across our downtown area, and their answer is raising transfer taxes to feast on the corpses like carrion-eaters.

In reality they are in fact slow-thinking tapioca eaters. Who can be surprised at their empty-brained suggestions for recovery? Or filling the Tremont Hotel with the homeless? Or firing all those union hotel workers as needed members of any solution? How's all that bloated membership of Johnson's Teachers Union going to do making homeless immigrants a union priority? These folk couldn't make a ham sandwich to shut the mayor up.

So looking back on Chicago's majestic evolution into America's finest city, it's a stretch to imagine an earth-shaking strategy for recovery.

What's pushing Chicago now to the edge? Can we not get our elected officials to walk away from the wokist agenda so expansive at the Art Institute? What's next for the Cook County Board and President Preckwinkle, with it's strange new detente with the absurdist government of City Hall?

Something is really pushing all of us to the edge and it ain't pretty. I'm afraid it looks harder to survive than the Great Fire.

JFK 60 YEARS: For Americans of a certain generation Nov. 23 will always toll with the sad bell of mourning remembering the young president murdered on the streets of Dallas before the eyes of his young wife. Squeeze a prayer out for **JFK**, today, and the America he sought to transform.

FAREWELL FRIEND: Ralph Youngren was a prominent architect and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. After studying

with Walter Gropius at Harvard, he came to Chicago where he accepted a position with Skidmore Owings and Merrill. Among his more prominent projects are the Regenstein Library at the Univ. of Chicago, the Beckman Institute at the Univ. of Illinois, and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He served on the board of the Chicago Architecture Foundation from 1971 to 1985, when that organization owned and operated Glessner House. Youngren died on Oct. 17 after a life well-lived.

NOLLAIG SHONA DUIT: Irish Christmas in America, Sunday, Nov. 26, 3:00 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. Gary and Laura Maurer Concert Hall, 773-728-6000... \$32 general public, \$30 members.



John F. Kennedy

DUK'S: Almost 70 years in business, Duk's Red Hots in West Town is preparing for a name change and remodel — but a hot dog stand will live on at its Ashland Ave. location, a longtime manager said. Owner **Mervyn Dukatt** opened Duk's in the mid-1950s at 636 N. Ashland Ave. with partner **Donald Marsalle**, growing it into a local chain with more than a dozen locations. Dukatt and Marsalle called

PUSHING see p. 8




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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-wo3OjIH4dNUxh17s6bGQWnGY1DjL-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.

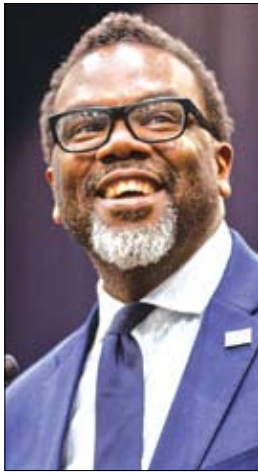
Experts suggest the immigrant issue may end up being a \$5 to \$10-billion local problem. In early November, Johnson visited with White House staffers in Washington, D.C. and asked for \$5 billion in additional migrant aid.

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.

Time for a referendum?

South Side Ald. Anthony Beale [9th] and Northwest Side Ald. Anthony Napolitano [41st] have proposed asking voters in March of 2024 to vote to ratify the Welcoming City ordinance.

Ald. Beale has repeatedly objected to efforts to spend taxpayer dollars on plans to care for migrants after decades of disinvestment on the South and West sides.

Regardless, Mayor Johnson has said he will not “flinch” in his support for the new immigrant arrivals. So while his predecessor was forced to take responsibility for (and lose her job over) the unintended consequence of growing crime in Chicago, Johnson may now own - and be judged - on his response to the current growing migrant refugee problem.

The 2024 Democratic Convention is in Chicago next year, and Johnson and Biden may make strange bedfellows over the current immigration crisis.

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



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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

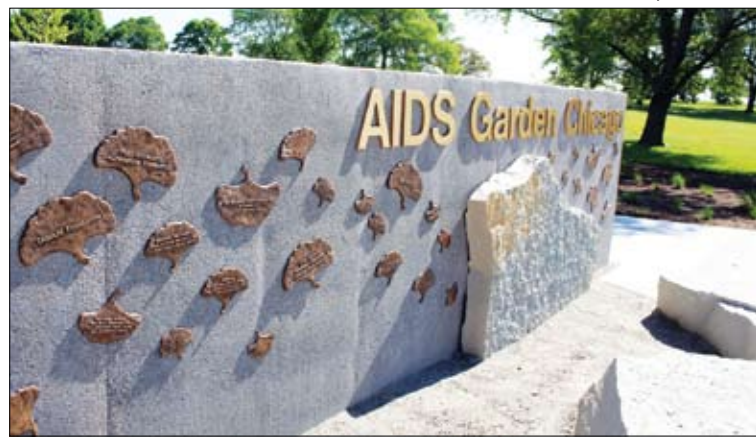
- **Gnaw marks:** Mice are known to bite through walls, wood and wires. The damage to wiring within walls can increase the risk for a house fire.

- **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.



Rich February

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

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

He pleaded guilty to one count of armed robbery and one count of aggravated battery of a Dept. of Corrections employee before Judge Ursula Waloski.

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

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.

House of 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

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 Schiff.

Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce [LPCC] President and CEO Kim Schiff 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. "Schiff 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



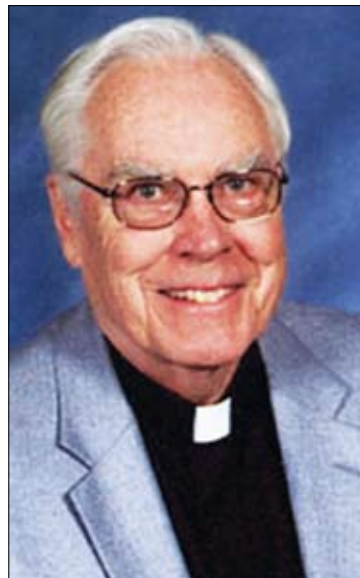
Bradley Parker Sparrow with Joannie Pallatto.



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 Leadership 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.

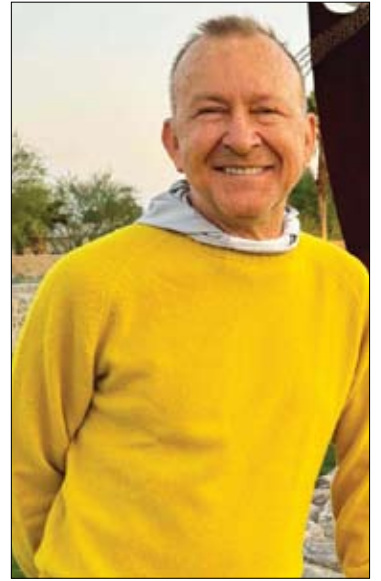
Diabetes costs at least \$966 billion dollars in health expenditures—a 316% increase over the last 15 years.

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 wisecracking 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

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

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

Exposing the Dangers Within the Pharmaceutical and Agriculture Industries

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Martha Rosenberg
Foreword by Dr. Michael Greger MD

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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

for the Chicago-Tribune, was determined by the toss of a coin. If the coin had landed the other way, the show would have been Ebert & Siskel At the Movies.

The next scheduled film to be shown is “About My Father” at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13. The film stars Robert DeNiro and Arlington 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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— Rosalynn Carter

Sarah's Circle seeks artists for new mural

Sarah's Circle in Uptown is soliciting proposals for a mural installed on Sarah's On Lakeside, their newest affordable housing development.

They are searching for artists who can translate a mission and message to end homelessness for women into a public art piece to represent the wider community.

Sarah's Circle is hosting two information sessions on Dec. 8, and Jan. 18, 2024, for artists interested in submitting designs. These sessions will be an opportunity to

speaking with Sarah's Circle staff and clients and learn about their mission and work. Both sessions will happen at 1005 W. Leeland Ave. from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Interested artists may email jgilly@sarahs-circle.org to RSVP. Mural submissions are due by March 6, 2024.

To submit a mural proposal, email muralsubmission@sarahs-circle.org with the respondent's first and last name in the subject line. For more information, call 773-728-1014.

For 44 years, Sarah's Circle has been serving unaccompanied homeless adult women. They provide extensive services to women through their four programs: the Daytime Support Center, Interim Housing Program, Permanent Supportive Housing Program, and Rapid Rehousing Program.

They broke ground on the new Sarah's on Lakeside in June. The new building will have 28 permanent and affordable studio apartment units, meaning they can house 101 women.

TREASURES from p. 1

library for people who want to learn this skill. Altogether she donates over 300 hours annually and still she continues to find new ways to help the community. During the COVID pandemic, she initiated zoom meetings to preserve the link among the group. The Stitching Ladies have found a way to maintain a sense of purpose and ability to contribute to society despite their advanced years.

Her sense of community motivates her to use her talent for the common good and to seek out others to support community needs. She feels that small but continuous actions affect the whole community. They not only enhance the quality of life of those receiving the help, but also helps the volunteers have an outlet for their talents.

This year's recipients include:

- Wayne Mitchell and Tony Chung came to Edgewater not only because it is close to the lake with easily accessible transportation, but also because Edgewater is a diverse and friendly community. It is also a place where over time, their coworkers and neighbors became friends.

For them, community is a connectedness to other individuals that becomes a shared experience. They both feel that volunteer work is an integral part of who they are.

Believing that a person's faith needs to be backed up with action, they have been involved in many projects in Edgewater, from tutoring and providing school supplies at Swift School to organizing activities for senior residents especially during the COVID epidemic.

Tony and Wayne try to encourage other people to get involved. What one individual does, can be multiplied through team efforts. Reaching out to others to volunteer helps people understand what a difference they can make.

- Blair De Haan came to Chicago in 2010 as an Americorps VISTA volunteer focusing on refugee settlement. Inspired by

her efforts which started with one teenage refugee girl, the idea for providing support for this specific population was born.

Blair was a young woman at the time and wanted to do whatever she could to ensure that other teenage girls had the support and resources that they needed to pursue their dreams.

She founded Girl Forward in 2011 and moved into a space in Edgewater in 2014. Girl Forward's mission is to provide a community of support dedicated to creating and enhancing opportunities for girls who have been displaced globally by conflict and persecution. Today there are several hundred girls in the program.

Blair thinks it's important to be involved with something you are passionate about. Sharing your skills and expertise without the expectation of anything in return can lead to a better understanding of both your neighborhood and your larger community. Inspiring and motivating others gives you a sense of purpose in this world.

The 2020 recipients include:

- Jim Ginsburg's mission is to bring Chicago's finest classical musicians to a worldwide audience by recording, distributing and promoting their work through high-quality recordings on the Cedille Records label. Cedille is the only independent classical label in Chicago, currently offering 160+ Chicago artists on world premiere recordings, of over 300 works with 18 Grammy nominations.

Cedille furthers the careers of outstanding local classical performers and composers featuring the music about which they are most passionate. Their mutually collaborative effort has resulted in a unique catalog of nationally recognized innovative recordings.

Jim started his not-for-profit business out of his home in Edgewater in 1994. His office remains Edgewater based, located only a few blocks from his home.

Jim has furthered public awareness of contemporary classical music groups

and promoted new initiatives, such as the Emerging Artist Competition for Chicago-based musicians.

Cedille is now famous beyond its Edgewater roots. While Jim continues to live and work in Edgewater, his message has gone out to the world, helping initiate younger audiences into new perspectives on classical music.

- Reggie Griffin has abiding love for and devotion to the people of Edgewater. Since moving here from Uptown in the 1970s, he's not skipped a beat nor taken a break volunteering for and running important Edgewater organizations.

He set the record as the only person to serve two maximum terms of 3 years as President of the Edgewater Community Council during important and difficult periods. Early on he gravitated to become steering committee Chair of Care-For-Real food pantry overseeing its earliest expansion period; later becoming chair of C.A.N.S., a city-wide coalition that prompted Chicago to implement community policing.

In the early 1980s he chaired the McHugh-Levin Community Oversight Task Force that oversaw community and tenant feedback for a major multi building housing redevelopment project. This project helped spur the revival of the Kenmore-Winthrop area.

He served many years as President of his block club, and today chairs the Jane Addams Seniors in Action, a city-wide advocacy coalition for seniors' rights. Formerly on the EHS board, he is still active on committees. Although retired, Reggie is not the retiring sort, and plans to continue his vast schedule of community service.

- Ronald Roenigk is the publisher of this newspaper. He started by running his own newspapers but in 2009 he purchased several of the former Lerner newspapers, including the News-Star, Skyline and Inside-Booster.

BRIGADE from p. 1

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 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.

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.

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 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.

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