

Golden Gloves on the Gold Coast, battle over fate of high-rise Fight pits residents against their own board



Newberry Plaza, 1030 N. State St.

BY RONALD ROENIGK

A Gold Coast battle of residents and unit owners versus the Newberry Plaza Board of Directors broke out into the public in October and now may have spiraled deeper into acrimony and distrust, just in time for the holidays.

The residents - who call themselves the Newberry Plaza Community Coalition [NPCC] - oppose a pending deal to transfer part of the building to an outside interest, and now are asking if this action is not part of a bigger plan.

In a Nov. 23 memo being circulated by residents, they ask if this project is “the beginning of a longer term plan by developers and investors, and this deal

is potentially the beginning of a deconversion of this building, to change it to a completely commercial/rental building.”

Condo deconversions, where residents vote to sell their units in bulk to an investor, have become a trend with condo buildings, particularly those considered ‘distressed’ and in need of extensive and expensive upgrades or repairs.

Once a set threshold in support of the deconversion sale is met, that deal would force all owners to sell their units, even those forced out against their will.

But is the 52-story Newberry Plaza, 1030 N. State St., considered a “distressed” building?

BATTLE see p. 8

Assessor offers hope for some local property owners



The COVID-19 assessment-value reductions average nearly 8% in the Loop, River North, Old Town, South Loop and Bronzeville.

BY DON DEBAT
The Home Front

There's a glimmer of hope on the gloomy real estate tax horizon for property owners in Chicago's wealthy neighborhoods—from River North and Old Town to Lincoln Park and Lakeview.

Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi currently is publishing and sending “COVID-19 assessment-adjustment letters” to thousands of Chicago property owners, noting that the pandemic has caused a “significant economic downturn, and lower property values” depending on the property's type and location.

This newspaper has already published the Rogers Park and Lakeview Township assessment-

adjustments and will soon publish the North Township as well.

In Chicago, the COVID-19 assessment-value reductions average 10%. They range from about 7.5% in Lincoln Park, Lakeview and Uptown, and nearly 8% in the Loop, River North, Old Town, South Loop and Bronzeville. The reductions are about 9.5% in Rogers Park and West Ridge, and range as high as of 12% on Chicago's South Side.

The assessor also reduced the assessments on two-flat to four-flat apartment buildings in Cook County ranging from 9.3% to 15.4%.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot's 2021 pandemic budget will include a \$93.9 million property tax hike as part of a \$1.6 billion real estate

tax levy. About \$34 million of the real estate tax hike is linked to a future rise in the consumer-price index.

The new budget ordinance requires property owners in the future to pay either an annual property-tax increase of 5%—or an increase based on the consumer price index, whichever is lesser. The Lightfoot administration says the increases will be approved annually by the City Council.

Lightfoot has argued the “modest” 1.3% real estate tax increase to homeowners is necessary. A bungalow owner with a property valued at \$250,000 will see a tax-bill increase of \$56. But more expensive homes like those on the North Side could see increases of hundreds of dollars.

Kaegi's sweeping COVID-19 assessment-reduction move may create the illusion of tax relief, but it may not automatically provide lower taxes next year. “If everyone in your taxing district goes down at the same rate, you'll be paying the same taxes,” explained Laurence Msall, president of the Civic Federation.

However, crystal-ball gazing into the outlook for the expected 2020 property-tax hike, payable in 2021 is cloudy, experts say.

HOPE see p. 5



Giant two-tower complex proposed for Wabash Ave. in Loop

A giant new mixed-use two-tower development that is part hotel, part retail and part grocery has been proposed for 525 S. Wabash Ave. in the Loop. The development would replace an existing parking structure and transient parking lot with two contemporary buildings.

Plans for three new high-rise towers in the Loop were announced Dec. 4 by Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd].

The north building would be 23-stories tall with 314 hotel rooms, and 261 residential units, while the south building is a 36-story residential tower with 516 units. Both buildings would be connected by a retail, residential and parking podium with 151 parking spots, and a large open-area amen-

nity space on the rooftop.

The towers and podium would focus on active uses along all frontages, with frontages on Wabash Ave., Ida B. Wells Dr. and Harrison St.

The developers, Northfield-based Eterra Plus, LLC, and Miami-based Crescent Heights, hope to attract a grocery-anchored tenant, as well as a hotel in a market today flooded with empty hotels teetering on bankruptcy. A restaurant is currently planned on the second floor with an outdoor terrace facing Ida B. Wells.

The site is currently zoned DX-12. The applicant is not seeking a zoning change, and is seeking a planned development with a

COMPLEX see p. 8

Raucous youth flood Millennium Park, Loop Saturday

BY CWBCHICAGO

Nearly four months after Chicago Police Dept. leaders pulled hundreds of police from neighborhood patrol to form a rapid response unit to handle large crowds and protests, the special team faced its first test Dec. 5 in the Loop.

Several hundred young adults and teens Saturday flooded the area near Millennium Park, running in the streets and sometimes breaking out in fights for about three hours.

The department's initial strategy seemed rudimentary at best: Turn off the Christmas tree and tell the stores to close early.

At one point, a police supervisor radioed that units should advise any open businesses to close for the night and let any current customers out one-at-a-time to keep the crowd from flooding in. Police brass tried to get the Chicago Park District to turn off the city's Christmas tree in Millennium Park. But that turned out to be more of a bureaucratic challenge than the city was prepared to handle.

A CPD statement said, “groups of sometimes raucous young people congregating in and around the Loop Saturday night were peacefully dispersed by CPD and left the area by 10:30 p.m.” No arrests were made.

Contrary to reports on some social media, there were no reports of stores being burglarized by the crowd. Some retailers did report being hit by groups of shoplifters — the Walgreens at 30 N. Michigan Ave. reported that problem — and the crowd did overwhelm a few other stores and fast food restaurants early on.

Cops began to notice groups of young people gathering near the Christmas tree around 7:15 p.m., and early-arriving celebrants reportedly told police they expected hundreds of people to show up. That turned out to be a good estimate.

Yet, the CPD apparently received no early warning from its social media intelligence unit that is supposed to provide a “heads up” about such events. Nor did cops receive any warnings about

NO ARRESTS see p. 8



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Have you found a new spice of life during lockdown?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

I love cinnamon and nutmeg. If I had cats that's what I'd call them.

Spices, like cinnamon and nutmeg, are a grace from God in human life.

The fragrance of cinnamon instantly catapults me to that moment in early childhood when I first caught whiff of its complex beauty. It has never left me.

Grating nutmeg is one of life's great pleasures. A transformative power, sliding the nut across the teeth of a grater and allowing the nutmeg to release its unequaled, stupefying power.

Throughout the history of the world it has been sufficiently significant enough to bring armies from the East, from like, Constantinople, to engage against the forces of multiple European kings from the West, like England, France and the Germanys. Great battles and upheavals. Spice initiated. Spice led. Their start was that little, pungent nut that changes everything it touches. Literally worth its weight in gold.

Control the nut, control all economic power in the spice trade.

Cinnamon and nutmeg fill the house in which I live. I would have it no other way. It's a winter aroma, always signaling that Christmas is not far off. Like pine resin does. Or cognac in your tea with a coconut butter cookie.

Keeping such fragrances alive, and in the domestic atmosphere, is quite healthy. It means the kitchen is busy. Seasonal vittles are being prepared. Life, like the menu, is more spiced and impactful, to fit the contours of winter.

The iced conditions and snowy

forecasts are simply work for the busy hearths, fireplaces and hard-working ovens and Agas of good cooks.

Moving with the motion and movement of the season is important, especially in the urban grid of Chicago. We can reshape the city's terrain as we prepare for upcoming feasts by the cuisine we fashion for family and friends. But also in the manner in which we prepare for religious celebrations of profound importance.

Despite the lockdown, the bounty and familial spirit of Hanukkah should transform tired pandemic souls. Or at least put a fresh spin on their dreidel. The joy and hope of Christmas should reshape our kindness and generosity across the streets and lanes of Chi-town. It should at least put fresh brightness in our halos. Our traditions wrap us in thoughtful prayer, at this time of year, as tender and complex as cinnamon.

Our human condition pushes us to reach for more healing life, more restoring engagement with other humans. Especially the needy. Pungent as nutmeg. Do you know people and places that need the sustaining engagement of such spice? They're as real as a hot toddy.

Was there ever a time when the confinement of everyday life weighed on our comings and goings as the pandemic does? Of course while we await the miracle of a vaccine we have little choice but to watch and wait. Two very common aspects of the journey of Advent.

But if COVID teaches us anything, it's that we don't just stare at the sky or lose ourself in a study of the horizon while we hope the correct cure is concocted. We move outside of our comfort zone and reach out for the needs of others. While we wait, we attempt to disperse the needs that others have. It prepares us for the better times to come.

What will that day be like when we are jabbed with serum that lifts the curtain of fear and

separation? It's nutmeg grating all over again.

Voices restricted to iPhones and text messages will be released from electronic confinement. No longer will we be seen as possible carriers of the pandemic by our closest family and friends. No longer will they remain a possible spreader to us. When the virus is contained, and consigned back to a test tube in a laboratory from whence they came, for good. (Until the next virus.)

There will be no need for royal bubbles of family to guard the Queen. No necessity of temps taken in restaurants before drinks are ordered. Cover-ups shall disappear, masks a thing of the past, PPE body-armor gone to the dustbin.

And how shall we be?

Have we grown in the long night of pandemic? Have we developed the taste for romantic poetry or 20th century free verse? Did we return to any favorite authors like John Updike, Gail Sheehy, Barbara Pym or Dr. Seuss?

Did anyone learn a language? Or renew the ability to knit? Or draw? Or paint? Or cook? Or pray? Has the pandemic opened the door to God any wider?

Has anyone lost weight?

I've done a lot of online shopping, which I never did before. Flannel sheets and pillow cases. A big flowing Mexican serape. A down vest. Baseball hat and hooded sweatshirt. Picasso needlepoint pillows. A sweater. Chocolates from Cape Cod. And a revolutionary new knee brace called the "Sleeve."

I have acquired the taste for simple pastas. Spaghetti with tomato and basil sauce. And the best Parmesan you can buy. Learned to dislike Brussel sprouts after a childhood of massive consumption. I perfected my potato salad and cole slaw. Started saying the rosary more frequently. Butter my bread before I toast it. Hardly ever drink coffee, rather slugging mugs of strong tea.

I survive on blueberries. Eat them everyday.

Never use salt. Use French whenever I can. Use more Dijon mustard, personally. Eating less chocolate than I used to. Love cannabis gummy bears. Renewed respect for zucchini, which I now call "Courgettes." Made Irish soda bread three times. Hardly

ever eat pizza, but made it from scratch at home four times. Delight in baked apples. And love cranberry juice and sunnyside up eggs.

I haven't had a bagel since March, but now believe the secret of life is gelato.

I'm fascinated at all these quirky little items that are the product of the pandemic, without which I would not have changes to catalogue at all. What do they say about me? In some ways it reveals a return to earlier, more simple delights.

These changes are important for all of us to know. It gives us a fuller self-portrait, and that's always a good reflection in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Next I want to increase my fiction reading in what is left of the pandemic. English writers are best for me. I also want to host a studio art sale and move some of the paintings I've created in lockdown.

Somewhere, all the ingredients are here with us for a splendid start to Advent 2020. Somewhere in the crowd we're bound to catch sight of God. When we least expect him. He's probably reading a Graham Greene novel. Attracted by the strong scent of cinnamon and the pungent wafting aroma of freshly grated nutmeg.

MANGE MANGE: Tufano's Trattoria in Little Italy recently accepted carry out and delivery service to Beverly and Evergreen Park on the South Side. The response was overwhelming, almost impossible to keep up with the volume. So after filling the orders the highly valued Italian staple had to refocus and discontinue the service, for now. They couldn't keep up. Their focus was delivering the freshest meals, at full capacity. But they are so popular they no longer can accept any more orders at this time. However, they will do this again soon. And they are grateful for all of the continued support in keeping their small family business going. **Joe DiBuono** and his family have a unique Chicago restaurant that goes back generations.

IRISH FELLOWSHIP: Congratulations to **John Wrenn** of the Theater on the Lake, the new President of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, and now for a new two-year term. John's work ethic and his imaginative creati-

ity promises to bring dynamic leadership to the more than 100-year-old organization. John is also president of Lake Shore Hospitality Group, in addition to being the proprietor of Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub, and the reviver of the Theater on the Lake and Restaurant.

CLOSE UP: Word is that **Irene Michaels** is set to do a guest spot, cameo appearance, on a popular soap opera soon. She of course had a role some years ago on the very popular General Hospital. Her fans are thrilled she will be back on TV.

SHE'S A STAR: Congratulations to our colleague and friend, columnist **Candace Jordan**, now featured in Chicago Star Media. You will enjoy her elegant prose and nose for the news. She's out now. See "A Candid Candace Christmas" in Chicago Star Media. Papers out now. Remember, "If it has a jingle bell, Candid Candace is all over it."

ST. NICHOLAS COOKIES: Vesecky's Bakery, 6634 W. Cermak Rd. Berwyn, curbside pickup. Right From Heaven.

CHRISTMAS POP-UP: Everyone's favorite society girl, **Ann McAveny**, has joined forces with Santa's Elves in Lake Forest. Her workshop is fully stocked with children's holiday wish list items, food, necessities, hats, gloves and treats. Please shop by the store. Care packages start at \$5. With your help they can fill Santa's sleigh and bring the magic of Christmas to children in great need. In a beautiful space at 270 Market Square, Lake Forest Santa's hours Mon. - Sat. 10-5:30 p.m.

SPICE see p. 6

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CCP's 2019 Gold Coast Award winner Carla Gordon.



Anne Burnell, CCP president, and Mark Burnell belt out tunes at last year's gala at the Park West.



Baker Elf kit by Sweet Beets Bakery.



Pizza Elf kit.

Come hear the music play

Plus, a treat by Sweet



Heart
of the
'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

What are you doing 7 p.m. Sunday? How would you like to see some of the city's most spectacular cabaret singers perform, for free?

You're not going to want to miss this incredible musical extravaganza, the Chicago Cabaret Professionals' [CCP] annual gala, which for the last 20 years has been a festive, live, event held at the Park West. Yet this year, the association of more than 200 singers refuses to be deterred by the pandemic and instead is giving a gift of complimentary attendance to its virtual gala, "It's a Cabaret Life – A Gift of Music."

The title pays homage to the iconic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," in which hero George Bailey learns how his life has touched so many others. The show will premiere on YouTube Sunday evening at www.youtube.com/ChicagoCabaret.

"You know the song that starts, 'Fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly...' well, singers gotta sing," explained Carla Gordon, a Marine Dr. resident and CCP's 2019 Gold Coast Award winner. "When it isn't possible to entertain in-person we will joyfully sing virtually. This year's show has more singers than ever and it will have jazz, comedy, Broadway, pop and a whole lot more."

Gordon said the decision was unanimous that CCP make a gift of their gala concert, (although contributions are always welcomed). What's really go-

ing to impress Santa though (and Hanukkah Harry) is that additionally, recorded versions of the show will be offered to Chicagoland nursing homes, extended care facilities, and senior residences and communities to be played on closed circuit TV or YouTube throughout the holiday season. This is CCP's holiday gift to residents and a special thank you to the caregivers in those facilities who also have touched so many lives, said Gordon.

"When we presented our Gala at the Park West Theater as we had for the past 20 years, ticket prices could run up to \$60," said Gordon. "This year we recognize that our fans and friends may be watching their pennies so we don't want cost to keep our on-line audience away. That said, the CCP is a not-for-profit organization, so if some donations come in, we certainly won't squawk."

"We also wanted to do something for Chicago's senior communities because isolating during the pandemic is especially tough on seniors," added Gordon. "So many of our members have entertained in those facilities over the years."

Besides Gordon, look for performances by amazing entertainers such as Anne Burnell, Mark Burnell, Ester Hana, Sophie Grimm, Gaye Klopach, Beckie Menzie, Tom Michaels, Daryl

Nitz, Suzanne Petri, Jan Slavin, and so many more incredibly-talented folks. There will also be special appearances by, among others, Joan Curto, Dan Michel, Spider Saloff, David Stephens, Charles Troy, and Karen Willough. And this year's Gold Coast Award will be presented to honor the memory of the late Tecora Rogers, an international jazz and gospel singer, Gordon said.

In certain respects, putting a virtual concert together is as challenging, maybe more challenging, than presenting a live show, said Gordon. Members were invited to submit musical numbers via YouTube and other means. CCP's production committee, led by president Anne Burnell, selected the cream of the crop. The tricky part is finding the best show order and putting it all together seamlessly, said Gordon, attributing the success of that task to videographer Steve Wright.

While the pandemic has limited in-person performances, CCP remains dedicated to sharing stories in song with our community and beyond, said Gordon.

"Since the essence of cabaret is intimacy, we hope to reach across the virtual space this season and touch the hearts of our listeners," she said.

How sweet it is ... do your elves get hungry? I know our little Elf on the Shelf named Sneaky does.

That's why I ordered two of the cutest little elf cookie kits from West Ridge resident Melinda Bradley.

Bradley, owner of the online Sweet Beets Bakery, is feeding Santa's helpers with cookies and pizza by making the sweetest kits for the holidays -- Baker Elf and Pizza Elf (elves not included). I ordered two Baker Elf kits, one for each of my kid's with children in their houses. Baker comes with a "cookie tray," and 18 mini sugar cookies, six decorated for staging and a dozen undecorated for kids or adults who want to have a little fun. It also includes a mini bag of red icing and sprinkles.

Pizza Elf includes two decorated pizzas and two mini pizza boxes. Both are adorable and they sell for \$12 each or two for \$20. Bradley also offers gingerbread houses and regular size cookie decorating kits.

When Bradley first started baking for her first child, her son, she didn't like using artificial ingredients (food coloring) so she started experimenting with naturally-dying icings.

"After a while, people started requesting my baked goods and I started taking orders as Sweet Beets Bakery," said Bradley. "All of my ideas come from my own kids and things I think they would enjoy."

She decided to make the Bak-

er and Pizza kits after another "cookier" sent her some photos of similar items.

"We were debating which people would enjoy most, and this is what we came up with," said Bradley. "There's a whole world of cookie people out there coming up with this stuff!"

Shoppers needed! ... at the Holiday Sale being held by the Rogers Park Presbyterian Church, 7059 N. Greenview Ave. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., every Saturday until Christmas, the church will sell Christmas decorations, trees, clothing, boots, toys and more to raise funds to help keep its doors open.

What do you think? ... in the coming months, the Chicago Board of Education will vote to select the new name for Agassiz Elementary School, 2851 N. Seminary Ave. Students had been asked to pitch names they felt identified with the school's core values of community, learning, diversity and equity.

Agassiz's LSC analyzed the votes from the students, as well as parents and community members and the choice has been narrowed down to three options: Harriet Tubman World School of Excellence; Katherine Johnson World School of Excellence; and Rosa Parks World School of

MUSIC see p. 6

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Police Beat...

Man gets 4 years for “criminal enterprise” built on gym locker room burglaries

A Chicago man has pleaded guilty to nine felonies after prosecutors said he built a criminal financial enterprise by burglarizing locker rooms at North Side gyms. But all nine sentences will be served concurrently, so Hector Roman will be out of prison in time to celebrate Christmas at home next year.

Prosecutors say Roman, 20, took wallets and car keys when he broke into lockers at XSport, LA Fitness, Planet Fitness and other facilities



Hector Roman

between May and Oct. 2019. He also stole property from vehicles on the gym’s parking lot after he used stolen keys to open the cars, according to allegations in court records. Then, Roman used the credit cards to make purchases worth hundreds of dollars at stores.

Gym patrons were targeted as they worked out in facilities stretching from Boystown to Lincoln Square to Edgewater to the north suburbs, prosecutors alleged. A grand jury eventually charged Roman with dozens of felonies in connection with the scheme.

His master plan came to an abrupt end after police pulled him over in the 500 block of W. Belmont because the car he was driving had been reported stolen, according to a CPD report. Not coincidentally, the stolen car’s keys were taken from a gym locker while its owner worked out, according to court records.

Many of the burglaries took place after Roman went missing while on bail for burglarizing another gym locker earlier in 2019, records show.

Roman pleaded guilty to six counts of burglary and nine counts of identity theft in a deal with prosecutors, who dropped all other charges. Judge Aleksandra Gillespie sentenced him to four years on one burglary charge and three years on each of the other counts.

He will serve the sentences concurrently. According to Illinois Det. of Corrections records, with 166 days credit for time spent in jail after his arrest and a 50% credit for good behavior, Roman will be paroled on Dec. 2, 2021.

Four in custody, guns seized after Lincoln Park hold-up

Prosecutors have charged a 17-year-old boy with two counts of armed robbery in connection with a Dec. 1 hold-up, police said. Charges are still pending against three adults.

Now we’re talking.

Charges are pending after police followed the “pings” from a stolen phone to locate four suspects following an armed robbery in Lincoln Park Dec. 1. The hold-up bears similarities to other recent robberies, and police believe they found property from other hold-up victims in the suspects’ vehicle.

Around 8:54 p.m., two 18-year-old men told police they were grabbed and robbed by two offenders who both displayed handguns in the 2600 block of N. Greenview, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. The robbers got away with the victims’

The robbers got away with the victims’ wallets and phones.

One of the victims was able to track his phone to near 2600 N. Western, Bartoli said. Cops went there and pulled over a vehicle that was moving in concert with the phone’s movements.

Inside the vehicle, cops found a handgun, a replica firearm, the two victims’ property, and various cards and gift cards under different names, Bartoli said.

In recent weeks, several robbery victims have reported being held up or carjacked by two men who each brandished a firearm — a fairly unusual technique.

Saturday, a nurse told police that two men brandished guns in an apparent carjacking attempt near the intersection of Clark and Fullerton in Lincoln Park. The men got out of a silver vehicle, pointed guns at her as she sat in traffic, and pulled on her door handles around 6:30 a.m., she said. The carjacking failed, and the woman called police after she arrived for work at an area hospital.

Another driver was not so lucky about 90 minutes later in Wicker Park. The 38-year-old told police he was waiting for the light to change at the intersection of North, Damen, and Milwaukee when two men got out of a silver Jeep in front of him and pointed two guns at him.

The offenders ordered the man out of his Audi A5 and then drove away with it, followed by the silver Jeep.

Reports of hold-ups involving two gunmen go back to at least Oct. 22 when a pair of 17-year-old boys were robbed in an alley near their home in the 1500 block of W. Wellington. The teens told police that two men pointed guns to their faces and told them to turn around before taking their wallets, phones, and backpacks, according to CPD spokesperson Sally Bown.

Police have not specifically linked the robberies, but detectives did impound the suspects’ vehicle Tuesday night. All of the contents, including the various credit and gift cards, will be reviewed for connections to other cases.

Yogurt store robbery

A man went behind the counter and robbed Yogurt Square, 4701 N. Lincoln, on Dec. 3, according to police. The offender remains at large.

Police said the robber walked behind the store’s counter around 6:30 p.m., implied he had a weapon, and told an 18-year-old cashier that he didn’t want to shoot her. He then demanded money and took cash from the store register, a police spokesperson said.

Cops searched the area for the robber, but they came up empty-handed. He is described as a Black male between 25- and 30-years-old who wore jeans and a green jacket, the police spokesperson said.

Area Three detectives are also investigating this incident.

Three more charged in Lincoln Park armed robberies

Prosecutors have charged three adults with robbing two college students at gunpoint Dec. 1 in Lincoln Park. A juvenile was charged last week.

This reporter has learned police arrested one of the adults in connection with a similar armed robbery on the West Side in October, but he was released after prosecutors only charged him with a misdemeanor.

Around 8:54 p.m. Tuesday, two 18-year-old men told police they were grabbed and robbed by two offenders who both displayed handguns in the 2600 block of N. Greenview, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. The robbers got away with the victims’

wallets and phones.

Cops tracked one of the stolen phones to a gas station in Logan Square and officers pulled over a vehicle that was traveling in sync with the device’s pings, according to police.



Daijah Brown

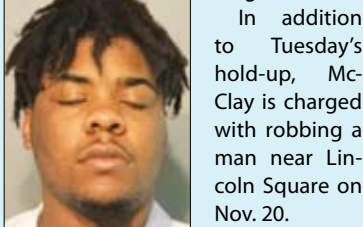
Brittany Polk

The victims’ phones and other property were found in the car along with a handgun, a look-alike firearm, and charge cards bearing different names, Bartoli said. An individual familiar with the robbery said someone used one of the stolen phones to steal money from its owner’s account via Venmo.

Prosecutors charged a 17-year-old boy with two counts of armed robbery and possession of the replica handgun Wednesday.

Now, three adults who were in the car with him are also charged. Brittany Polk, 22, and Daijah Brown, 19, are both charged with two felony counts of armed robbery with a firearm.

Darvea McClay, 18, is charged with three counts of armed robbery with a firearm, unlawful use of a weapon, and possession of a high capacity magazine.



Darvea McClay

In addition to Tuesday’s hold-up, McClay is charged with robbing a man near Lincoln Square on Nov. 20. Around 7:04 p.m. that night, two offenders robbed a 26-year-old man at gunpoint on the sidewalk in the 5000 block of N. Rockwell. They demanded the victim’s property and got away with a backpack that contained a Nintendo Switch and other valuables, according to a CPD report.

On Oct. 29, McClay was arrested after an armed robbery on the West Side. In that case, two offenders both displayed handguns and robbed victims of three phones in the 3000 block of W. Diversey.

Minutes after the hold-up, police tracked one of the stolen phones to a nearby service station. Officers found McClay and another man in possession of the three phones nearby, according to police records.

Prosecutors only approved misdemeanor charges of theft of lost or mislaid property against McClay. He was released on his own recognizance less than six hours after being taken into custody, CPD records show. The other man was also charged with misdemeanor theft and released.

Police have been handling a wave of robberies and carjackings across the North Side in recent weeks. Hold-ups in the Town Hall 19th Police District were up more than 100% in November compared to the same period last year. Cops assigned to Town Hall patrol the area between Fullerton, Lawrence, the Chicago River, and Lake Michigan.

Dual gunmen strike again, carjacking woman in Loop

Police are investigating yet another armed carjacking in which two gunmen emerged from a silver SUV Dec. 3 to hijack a vehicle in traffic. The incident in the Loop follows two similar cases Nov. 28 in Bucktown and Lincoln Park.

Around 2:45 a.m., two gunmen got out of a silver SUV and approached a vehicle that was waiting for the red light on Ida B. Wells at State St., ac-

cording to Chicago police.

The offenders both displayed handguns and ordered the 28-year-old female driver and her male passenger out of the victims’ black 2019 Mercedes, a police spokesperson said.

Both occupants of the Mercedes complied, and the carjackers sped away westbound with the car, followed by the SUV. Just ten minutes after the hijacking, CPD license plate readers detected the stolen car nearly five miles away in the Garfield Park neighborhood.

The carjacking closely resembles an attempted carjacking over the weekend in Lincoln Park and a successful hijacking about 90 minutes later in Bucktown.

Around 6:30 a.m. Nov. 28, a woman told police that two men got out of a silver vehicle while brandishing guns in an apparent carjacking attempt near the intersection of Clark and Fullerton in Lincoln Park. They pointed guns at her as she sat in traffic, and pulled on her door handles, but the woman managed to drive away.

Then, just after 8 a.m., a driver was carjacked by two offenders who got out of a silver Jeep that was stopped in front of him at a red light on North Ave. at the intersection of Milwaukee and Damen. Both gunmen got out of a silver Jeep that was stopped in front of the 38-year-old victim’s car.

The hijackers ordered the man out of his vehicle and drove off with the victim’s black 2019 Audi A5 followed by the silver Jeep.

Investigators believe the Jeep was also hijacked Saturday morning on the West Side, according to a source.

The victims have consistently described the carjackers as two young Black males who stand 5’-8” to 5’-10” tall and wear masks. In each case, they worked with a third person who stayed in the silver SUV.

Late Saturday night, two men approached a driver while he sat in his car near Monroe and Wabash in the Loop and pointed a handgun at him. The driver stayed in his car, and the men ran into a nearby alley empty-handed. No vehicle was seen in that incident, however.

Man attacked 70-year-old woman at Rogers Park bus stop

A Rogers Park man who was found not guilty of beating his mother with a bottle by reason of insanity in 2006 is charged with attacking a 70-year-old woman at a bus stop Nov. 28.

The victim was waiting for a bus in the 6900 block of N. Ashland around 10 a.m. when Michael Colander, 54, walked up and told her to stop throwing rocks at his house, prosecutors said. The woman, who does not know Colander, had no idea what he was talking about.



Michael Colander

Suddenly, Colander struck the woman in the head and began kicking her until she fell to the ground, an assistant state’s attorney said during his bond court hearing Monday. Once the woman was down, Colander continued to kick her and spilled coffee on her before he walked away, the prosecutors continued.

A witness who heard the victim screaming for help allegedly saw the woman fall to the ground and saw Colander punching and kicking her while she was down. That witness and another man called 911.

The woman was treated for a cut to her nose, swelling and bruising to her face, and injuries to both knees.

Investigators reviewed CPD surveillance camera footage and discovered

the entire attack was captured on video, prosecutors said. Detectives distributed images of the attacker to local cops, and officers spotted Colander while patrolling the area Sunday.

The victim and one of the witnesses allegedly identified Colander in photo line-ups.

Prosecutors charged him with felony aggravated battery to a victim over the age of 60. He also has a pending misdemeanor battery case. In 2006, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity after being charged with striking his mother, a senior citizen, in the head with a bottle. He also received 30 months of “mental care” for beating a senior citizen in Stephenson County in 1997, prosecutors said.

After hearing from prosecutors and Colander’s public defender, Judge Charles Beach ordered him held in lieu of \$150,000 bail. Colander is required to go onto electronic monitoring if he posts a 10% deposit bond, Beach said.

Man beaten and robbed after asking group to stop littering

A man who asked a group of strangers to kindly stop littering outside a Lakeview grocery store wound up being beaten and robbed by the crew instead on Dec. 3 evening, police said. No one is in custody.

The victim, age 21, told police he saw four people littering near the Jewel-Osco store, 3630 N. Southport, around 6 p.m. He asked them to stop. The group — three men and a woman — began arguing with the community-conscious fellow, said CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli.

That’s when a man in the group punched the victim in the face, causing him to fall to the ground. Bartoli said the other three litterbugs joined in, punching and kicking the victim as he lay on the ground. One of them took the guy’s phone, and they all ran away southbound on Southport.

An ambulance responded to the scene, but the victim declined medical attention.

Double-shooting left man dead in robbery

Homicide detectives are working to untangle a shooting that left one person dead and another injured near Goose Island Dec. 6. The Cook County medical examiner’s office identified the deceased victim as Adan Delgado, 27, of West Town.

A 28-year-old man told police that a gunman shot him in the leg during a robbery attempt on the 1200 block of W. Fry around 4:30 a.m., according to CPD. The victim said he ran from the scene and then heard several gunshots behind him, according to the statement.

Police found Delgado lying dead with multiple gunshot wounds on the 1200 block of W. Fry.

When the victim called for an ambulance from his nearby apartment, he reportedly told the operator that his friend shot him in the leg during a robbery attempt.

And, a source said, investigators found a handgun near the dead man’s body.

An ambulance transported the surviving man to Stroger Hospital in good condition.

This is the second shooting incident to be reported in the area since Dec. 3.

In the earlier case, a 32-year-old man told police he was driving

Offender charged with burglary

BY CWBCHICAGO

Keith Hampton, 30, has been charged with one felony count of Burglary and one felony count of Criminal Damage to Property Dec. 5, after he was placed into custody on Dec. 4.

At approximately 6:41 p.m. in the 100 block of S. State St., police officers observed Hampton enter a jewelry store through a broken window and damage display cases within.

He smashed display cases, and

collected more than \$38,000 worth of merchandise Friday evening. The store was open for business at the time.

Hampton hurled a metal City of Chicago trash can through the window of Kay Jewelers, 101 S. State, and climbed into the store around 6:45 p.m., prosecutors said.

Patrol officers saw him standing near the broken window and



Keith Hampton

approached the scene. But Hampton took off running, then went back into the jewelry store, and used a chair to smash display cases, according to prosecutors.

After smashing the displays, he allegedly collected \$38,602.64 worth of merchandise. That's when the store's armed security guard and Chicago cops took him into custody.

HOPE from p. 1

"The property-tax bill is determined by four factors: the assessment, the equalization factor, or 'multiplier,' the tax rate and the exemptions," said Michael Griffin, a Chicago real estate tax appeal attorney.

Homeowners should review their exemptions because they can reduce their tax bill if they have the proper exemptions applied to the bill, Griffin noted. The three primary exemptions are the Homeowner's, Senior Citizen, and Senior Freeze.

The Homeowner's exemption recently was increased to \$10,000 from \$7,000, and the Senior Exemption was hiked to \$8,000 from \$5,000. Those amounts are deducted from the equalized assessed value of a home to which tax rates are applied in order to determine the individual tax bill.

Also, more seniors can qualify for the Senior Freeze because the Illinois Legislature increased the maximum annual income to receive the freeze to less than \$65,000 from less than \$55,000.

"Every homeowner should review their last tax bill to see if they received the proper exemptions and contact the assessor if the exemptions are incorrect," Griffin advised.

Real estate taxes for 2020 are expected to rise when the second installment of the bill comes due in Aug. 2021. However, predicting a hefty property tax increase this year really centers on two wild cards—the tax rate and the state equalization factor, which can't be challenged by taxpayers.

The equalization factor, or "multiplier," is established each year for Cook County to bring property tax assessments in line with other parts of Illinois. The factor is determined by the Illi-



Visit www.cookcountyassessor.com, or call 312-443-7550 to find comparable properties or start the appeal process.

nois Dept. of Revenue.

The main engine that drives up property-tax bills is the amount of money spent by local government. For example, homeowners who read their 2020 tax bills will see the continued increased spending for schools and police, firefighter and teacher pensions.

Property owners who think they are over assessed should appeal now, Griffin advises.

Visit the assessor's website: www.cookcountyassessor.com, or call 312-443-7550 to find comparable properties or start the appeal process.

The Assessor is now concluding appeals process for 2020. A taxpayer can file with the Cook County Board of Review (312-603-5542) or www.cookcounty-boardofreview.com and later with the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board (217-785-6076), or www.ptab.illinois.gov. Or, call Michael Griffin, an expert tax-assessment lawyer, at 312-943-1789. For a copy of each North Side township adjustment, call this newspaper at 773-465-9700.

For more housing news, visit www.dondebat.biz. Don DeBat

POLICE BEAT from p. 4

when a silver SUV pulled up alongside him as he waited for the light to change on Division St. at the Kennedy Expy. around 11:35 p.m. Some-

one fired shots from inside the SUV, striking the victim's minivan twice. One round entered the victim's leg, police said.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Get an early look at next year's property taxes

Next year's First Installment Cook County property tax bills are available at cookcountytreasurer.com so that property owners can make payments before the end of this year or plan their finances for 2021, Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

The First Installment Tax Year 2020, which is 55% of the previous year's total tax, is due March 2, 2021. However, the Cook County Board last week waived late charges through May 3, 2021.

"People need more time to pay. That's the bottom line," Pappas said. "By posting the bills to my website now, property owners can start thinking about how to pay their bills for 2021, which is going to be a hard year for many, many people."

You can download your tax bill or make a payment by visiting cookcountytreasurer.com and select the blue box labeled "Pay Online for Free," and enter your address or 14-digit Property Index Number. There is no fee if you pay from your bank account, and the Treasurer's Office accepts partial payments. However, all First Installment Tax Year 2020 taxes must be paid by May 3, 2021, to avoid a late charge of 1.5% per month mandated by Illinois law.

You can also use cookcountytreasurer.com to search \$76 million in available refunds, check if you are missing out on \$46 million in property tax exemptions, which lower your tax bill or read the Pappas Study, a 20-year history of Cook County property taxes.

is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

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Letter to the Editor

You got the wrong Zip Code!

In regards to "Does 60660 have the worst mail service in the city?" [Dec. 2] story, you obviously have not seen the five-minute video on 60 Minutes about 10 years ago that showed U.S. postal workers from Chicago Zip Code 60657 putting armfuls of mail from the trunk of their cars into barrels to burn the mail. 60 Minutes stated that this was the worst Zip Code in the US.

Why? Multi-unit buildings had been constructed where single

family homes or empty lots once stood, which caused more people to require mail service and the post office did not add additional workers to deliver all the mail. People did not get checks, invitations (weddings, parties, etc.).

I live here.

Today? We are lucky to get mail delivered at least THREE days a week!

JoAnn Becker, Lakeview

Felony charges filed in Loop mail theft that may be part of much bigger operation

"Basically, the entire U.S. Postal Service is riddled with fraud."

That's the sobering opinion of a law enforcement source after yet another person is allegedly caught clearing out mailboxes at a Loop residential building — with the help of real and counterfeit Postal Service master keys.

Candice Shandor, 32, was arrested Nov. 27 after a witness allegedly saw her removing envelopes and parcels from mailboxes at a condo building in the 800 block of S. Wells around 10:30 a.m. The witness followed Shandor, took note of her license plate number, and called police.

Officers found the car parked nearby. Prosecutors said Shandor had mail shipments from the condo building in the vehicle along with a U.S. Postal Service master key. She allegedly admitted to taking the mail.

But she's charged with much more than package theft. Prosecutors hit her with charges of identity theft, forgery, burglary, possession of burglary tools, and possession of methamphetamine. She also had outstanding warrants for criminal trespass to vehicles and obstruction of identification, according to prosecutors.

Among the things found in Shandor's possession were checks, credit cards, and "entire personal

profiles" of other individuals, according to the source.

Mail thieves are "part of a larger operation that uses stolen mail to open checking accounts and launder stolen checks," among other crimes, the source said.

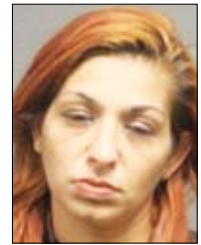
Cops detained other people with Shandor who are likely involved in a bigger operation, but they were all released at the scene.

The officers "didn't know what they had," the source continued.

The keys that Shandor allegedly possessed allowed her to enter the front doors of buildings and mailbox systems.

Judge Charles Beach set bail for Shandor at \$5,000 in the Loop incident and \$5,000 on each of the warrants. She is required to go onto electronic monitoring if she posts bond.

Chicago police have issued a series of warnings about mail-room thefts across the city this year. Many of the bulletins have mentioned that thieves use Postal Service keys to access buildings and mail storage areas.



Candice Shandor



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3550 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 2211

This condo features beautiful gray wood floors throughout, a cook's kitchen with white shaker soft-close cabinets, white & gray tile tops with glass tile backsplash, LED under-cabinet lighting, undermount sink & a full range of stainless steel appliances, along with a breakfast bar. Gorgeous bathroom with new floor & wall tile & vanity.



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Beatles history with Edgewater Hotel, Saddle and Cycle Club



The Beatles stayed at the Edgewater Hotel during their 1965 tour stop in Chicago to perform at Comiskey Park.

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Did you know the Beatles made part of their American debut in Edgewater at the Saddle and Cycle Club? They also stayed at the Edgewater Hotel, 5555 N. Sheridan Rd., back in 1964 just when the Liverpool sensation was introducing itself to the music world.

The Beatles came through Chicago in 1964, playing at the International Amphitheater. Then again in 1965, playing at Comiskey Park, and finally in 1966 again at the International Amphitheater. So they played Chicago on all three of their U.S. tours.

The trouble with being rock stars was that the Fab Four were never able to out on the town in

Chicago. They made one promotional stop at Margies Candies, 1960 N. Western Ave., and had lunch at The Saddle and Cycle Club, 900 W. Foster Ave., both put on by Capitol Records, but other than that they never went anywhere, other than the show venues and their hotel.

That the Beatles visited Edgewater's Saddle and Cycle Club before their 1965 concerts is just one tidbit in the book *Joy and Fear: The Beatles, Chicago and the 1960s* by local historian and Rogers Park resident John Lyons. Lyons just hosted a virtual Zoom lecture Saturday, organized by the Edgewater Historical Society, to revisit the Fab Four's visits to Chicago in the 1960's.

MUSIC from p. 3

Excellence.

Although all of these women are good choices, I would think that Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks probably have many namesakes. I vote for Katherine Johnson.

Happy Hanukkah! ... here's wishing a Happy Hanukkah, which starts at sundown Thursday, to those who celebrate. May the holiday and all its blessings be plentiful for you and your loved ones.

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Rose Marie O'Neill with Russell Kook.



Kathy O'Malley Piccone with Sherry Lea Fox.



Ferdia Doherty and Nora Gainer Doherty.



Carrie Lannon

SPICE from p. 2

So grateful to the landlord for donating the lovely space. Thank you looloooons for your spectacular balloon donation.

CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC: Chicago Philharmonic and the Chicago Park District's Night Out In The Parks will host an invitation-only Zoom performance Saturday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Contact **Ms. Rhapsody Snyder** at rsnyder@chicagophilharmonic.org for a ticket.

AVE ET VALDE: **John Walker Barriger IV**, age 93, Kenilworth. A 36-year career with the Santa Fe Railway. A 20-year Trustee of Landmarks Illinois, chairing its committee to save the Reliance Building in the Loop. The family requests donations to the J. W. Barriger III National Railroad Library at the Univ. of Missouri, St. Louis. Railroads and architecture were his passions, two resources that Chicago gave to the world.

RIP: Jeffrey Hill Cullerton was Chicago and Evanston-raised but spent his working life in Atlanta. He is a direct descendent of "Foxy" **Eddie Cullerton**, the enterprising Irishman who joined the Chicago City Council in 1868 and set in motion the long century plus life of political service and Chicago enterprise. With rare breaks in history, a Cullerton has usually sat in the Council since then, before the Great Fire. Their names are synonymous with Chicago's grit and urban success. In addition to Edward, generation after generation stepped up to serve. Men like **Park Cullerton**, **William "the Whisp" Cullerton**, **Tom Cullerton** and former **Sen. John Cullerton**. And women like **P. J. Cullerton**. They have added to the discourse and pragmatic civility of Chicago. They also endured the long prejudice and anti-Catholic violence against the Irish. It toughened them and ironically helped them endure. Jeffrey was the son of **Jack Cullerton** and

Ann Crofford. A lifelong Bears and Cubs fan, two of his happiest moments were the 1985 Super Bowl and the 2016 World Series. And he was deeply proud of the day that his son Tom was elected to the Illinois State Senate. The Cullertons' for many are like the stars, too numerous to keep track of. But here in Chicago they have always enjoyed a celebrity in keeping with their political contribution to Chicago's well-being. Rest in Peace, friend.

AND I QUOTE: Regarding dining in a pandemic, **Bruce Trivett** says: "I do not eat in tents or outside with the rats."



Barb Bailey

CINECITTA: **Candace Jordan** with **Michael Kutza** and **Charles Jordan** celebrating birthdays at La Scarola Italian Restaurant. Michael will be honored with Italy's highest award, the "Onorificenza di Cavaliere," on June 1 at the Cultural Center for his 50 years of supporting/creating Italy's many film festivals and for bringing Italian films, directors and celebrities to Chicago. Love and congrats, Michael, for all you do for film in Chicago and beyond.

WHO'S WHERE: A ROSE: **Rose Marie O'Neill** enjoys a great lunch at Gibson's Steakhouse and a visit from executive chef **Russell Kook** ... **Kathy O'Malley Piconne** and **Sherry**

Lea Fox sip their naughty holiday toddies at Santa Bar... **Ken Noragan** dined an exquisite Thanksgiving dinner in Galesburg with **Matt, Pepe, Adam, and Andrea**... French director **Julien Landais** is in Spain for the opening of his latest film, *The Aspern Papers*... **Shelley Howard** out on the Avenue with son **Shawn Howard** and **Amela Galijasevic** at Tavern on Saturday... **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** and **Marius Morkvenus** doing Rose Friday on the ocean side in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico... Attorney **Brendan O'Connor** returned from Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica and an intense 3-week yoga course... Farmhouse's **Ferdia Doherty** and wife **Nora Gainer Doherty** quietly celebrate another birthday year ... **Karin Carlson** in balmy Charleston, SC, walking amid great history and quaintness and having special time with son, **Grant** and girlfriend **Caroline**... Artsy **Carrie Lannon** full of gratitude ... auction maven **Leslie Hindman** commandeered Marchesa Chicago, every room, for her huge 65th birthday celebration loaded with the creme de la creme... Chicago South Side's **Cardinal Wilton Gregory**, first African American named as a Cardinal enjoyed Thanksgiving lunch with **Pope Francis** at the Vatican, honored by the pontiff's salute to the American holiday.

CHANGE OF DATE: The annual **Barb Bailey Birthday Show**, "What the World Needs Now is Love," is set for 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec 19 (old date: 12/6). The show will be pre-recorded at Le Piano and will air on YouTube. Email Barb and she will send you an invitation: barb.bailey1@gmail.com.

Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even.

-- Muhammad Ali

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for public sale of miscellaneous items.
This sale is to be held on Tuesday,
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THE LOCK UP SELF STORAGE at 1930 N Clybourn Ave, Chicago, IL 60614 will sell the contents of the following units to satisfy a lien to the highest bidder on December 18th, 2020 by 11:00 AM at WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM. All goods must be removed from the unit within 48 hours. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account.

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BATTLE from p. 1

The NPCC says “yes” it is.

They point to low association cash reserves, and warn of a future loan to do “cosmetic projects that make the building look more commercial.”

The NPCC also points to “massive repairs coming,” according to a study done three years ago, estimated to include \$14 million of infrastructure work over the following 10 years.

Any property transfer would also create large transfer taxes, and the memo states that the association has not “raised assessments in 10 years, as our Board so proudly proclaims – this is simply bad business if you want to continue owning a property.”

Board president Christian Pezzuto has been working for two years with 11 East Partners and Gensler Design to put together a redevelopment project that would increase commercial space mostly along the State St. side of the building, by decreasing Newberry Plaza residential common element space, and diminishing the very plaza the building was named after.

A proxy ballot was sent to members of the Newberry Plaza Condominium Assoc. earlier this year asking for the right to appoint Pezzuto as the association proxy, “with full power of substitution, for and on behalf and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned, to attend any meeting of the unit owners, held on or before March 31, 2021, and [then to] vote all of the inter-



Board president
Christian Pezzuto

est of the association.”

Pezzuto would in effect be authorized to take all needed actions to execute and implement any redevelopment plans if the Board wins the vote. But NPCC says the Board has now “refused to answer questions related to the vote, and refuse to allow review of the proxy votes.”

The NPCC memo references a Nov. 11 virtual board meeting where Pezzuto allegedly said that the opposition’s claims about the “Board’s unwillingness to verify” (an Oct. 11 vote), or “provide a vote verification, is not true.” That “the proxy vote can be verified after the vote is completed.”

That is, the residents won’t know the status of the proxy vote count until the vote is declared over.

NPCC claims that the Board did not address any of the other items they presented at the Nov. 11 meeting, and did not allow any comments or questions. “Everyone attending was put on mute. The notification for the meeting was sent out the same day and did not allow for submitting questions to be addressed by the Board.”

NPCC says that “based on original working drawings of the building, that resident owners are losing 10,145 square feet of real estate,” and that their condo association will receive no cash payment for that property transfer.

They believe that at \$1,000 per square foot, over \$10 million in real estate value is being taken from them in plain sight.

A document attached to the memo shows parts of the building lobby and an “eastward expansion,” with square footage they believe is being given to 11 East Partners.

The document shows three affected areas: 1,701 square feet in the building’s atrium, which could be converted to three stories equaling 5,132 square feet; their

south lobby with 1,196 square feet, and the eastward expansion with 1,272 square feet, multiplied by three stories equaling 3,817 square feet.

The residents who are part of NPCC have been demanding answers about the deal for most of 2020. They want to know why this plan is being advanced and who benefits from the deal? The short answer, they say, is 11 East Partners, who will control the space if the deal closes.

NPCC members say they’re getting stonewalled over this deal. If “the board, Sudler, and 11 East Partners wanted to work collaboratively with owners on a deal and design that helps both the commercial and resident owners of the building, that would be wonderful. Until they do, we will be working to stop this deal and project.” NPCC is demanding the board provide information “they are required to provide us by law,” including the lease document, the proposed layouts and square footage exchanges, and an independent verification of the proxy vote.

The Board’s opacity has now created deep distrust and a campaign to get residents to reverse their proxy votes. The memo asks residents to “submit a new vote to the office and keep a copy of your vote and your communications. If you already voted “Yes,” submit another proxy vote changing it to “No.””

They are also seeking opinions from the building management if they think this proposed project would increase or decrease the value of the building. NPCC thinks the “actions will diminish the residential value of this building. This [plan] is designed to do this specifically.” They think that the design reduces value “from a residential perspective, the fact we are losing our driveway, making accessibility

more difficult, and losing direct access to the garage without going outside, – those actions will diminish the residential value of this building.”

COMPLEX from p. 1

Neighborhood Opportunity Fund tax that if approved, would generate \$3,649,641 in new taxes.

Crescent Heights is also seeking city approval for a zoning variance to construct a 47-story residential tower with as many as 413 apartments on a surface parking lot at 640 W. Washington Blvd. Crescent Heights bought the site in May for \$20.1 million in May. The seller was Matthew Pritzker Co., an investment firm owned by the cousin of Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

NO ARRESTS from p. 1

large groups heading into the downtown area via CTA trains, according to a source. That’s supposed to be another part of CPD’s early warning system.

Fights broke out sporadically, cops reported. Millennium Park security “closed” the park at 8 p.m. — right around the time police closed a stretch of nearby Michigan Ave. after the crowd overtook traffic lanes.

There were occasional pepper-sprays. A few officers reported having objects thrown in their direction.

More than an hour later, police began ordering the group to disperse.

“Ladies and gentlemen, it’s time to go home. You can’t stay here,” an officer announced on his car’s loudspeaker around 9:15 p.m. “You got here somehow...Have a good night, everybody!”

By 10 p.m., police had successfully corralled and cajoled most of the group onto CTA trains that left the area.

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