

Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone.

—Charles M. Schulz

NEWS-STAR

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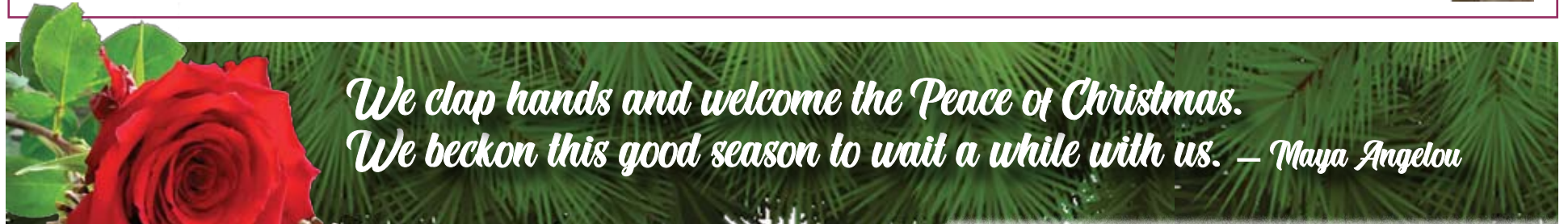


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FREE

NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

insideonline.com



Turf wars create fear on Far North Side

BY CAROLINA RODRIGUEZ, CATE SCULLY, COLE WILSON
Rogers Edge Reporter

“Don’t cross the grid, don’t cross the line.”

Just before 8 p.m. Oct. 26, 2022, a Loc City gang member and drill rapper King Ty was killed near the intersection of Greenleaf and Greenview while riding in a car when someone drove up and opened fire.

Numerous shell casings were found at the scene.

Loc City is a Gangster Disciple set, which has been feuding with the PBG Gangster Disciple set for over a decade. King Ty was in PBG territory, a few blocks south of Loc City territory.

Before his death, King Ty was in numerous drill rap videos posted online calling out his gang’s rivals. This is just one of the many tragedies of the turf wars that exist in Rogers Park.

In the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s Rogers Park was dominated by Black Gangster Disciples, Black P Stones, Latin Kings, Simon City Royals and Spanish Gangster Disciples

Later in the 2010s and 20s Rogers Park is now dominated by Gangster Disciples, Black P Stones, Loc City, Latin Kings and Spanish Gangster Disciples.

Urban areas are a magnet for organized crime and gang activity, especially here in Chicago.

Drill rap among other things is helping fuel these violent turf wars not only in Rogers Park, but throughout the Chicagoland area.

Historically Rogers Park has been home to offshoots of the Black P. Stones, Gangster Disciples, 4 Corners, and Latin Kings gangs. While far from Chicago’s

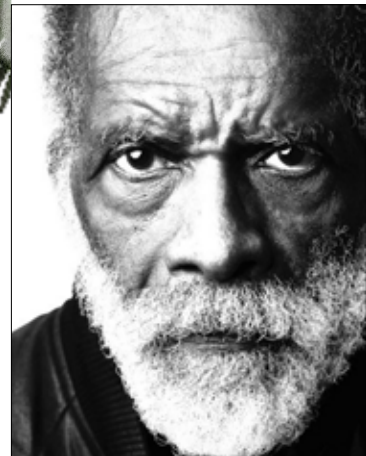
most dangerous neighborhoods, these ripple effects can be seen in the Far North Side and even adjacent to the Loyola Univ. Lake Shore campus.

This past August, a local grassroots neighborhood organization, Native Sons, called for gangs to pledge to a 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. “ceasefire,” Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] was an endorser of this. How deeply has gang violence rocked Rogers Park, and how much is gang culture normalized across Chicago’s communities?

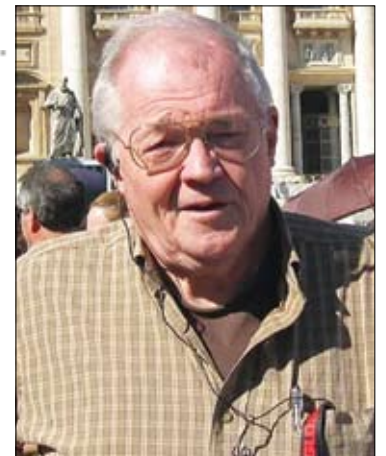
Urban areas are a magnet for organized crime and gang activity, especially here in Chicago. Like many other dense cities across the world, gangs and gang violence are fueled primarily by demand for illicit drugs and a lack of opportunity for advancement for young people.

Many small robberies and property crimes around Loyola’s cam-

TURF WARS see p. 12



Richard Howard Hunt



Patrick Butler

Two local legends now RIP

Richard Howard Hunt, Dean of African American sculptors; Pat Butler, lifelong community journalist

Richard Howard Hunt (1935-2023) died at his home Dec. 16 at 88. Hunt was one of the most important sculptors this nation has produced. His prolific art career spanned nearly seven decades. Hunt’s metal sculpture is notable for its widespread presence in museum collections and many public monuments installed across the U.S.

For years he worked out of his studio on Lill St. in Lincoln Park. And one of his sculptures - Eagle Columns - stands today in Jon-

quil Park, mere steps from that studio.

Despite challenges for African-American artists during his lifetime, Hunt held over 150 solo exhibitions and is represented in more than 100 public museums across the globe. Hunt made the largest contribution to public art in the United States, with more than 160 public sculpture commissions gracing prominent locations in 24 states and Washington

LEGENDS see p. 4

Why doesn’t Chicago have a city charter?

BY BOB KITSOS

Chicago, the third largest city in the U.S., doesn’t have a city charter, a basic working document that outlines the powers and duties of the city government as well as the rights and responsibilities of its citizens.

With no charter, this means that the city government operates without external accountability when it violates its own code. Furthermore, the city retains the same hyperlocal, ward service-driven City Council that it has had since the 19th century.

This justifiably concerns people inside and outside of city government, according to Joe Ferguson, a former Inspector General for the City of Chicago. He led the independent municipal oversight agency for 12 years, beginning in 2009. The agency earned national prominence and recognition for its government performance audits and audit-based evaluations of city agencies, programs and investigations.

Ferguson, 63, was just appointed president of the Civic Federa-

tion replacing Laurence Msall, who passed away in February of this year.

Founded in 1894, the Civic Federation is an independent, non-partisan government

With no charter, this means that the city government operates without external accountability when it violates its own code.

research organization that provides analysis and recommendations on government finance issues for the Chicago region and state of Illinois.

The Federation’s membership includes business and professional leaders from a wide range of Chicago-area corporations, professional service firms and institutions. Ferguson’s first official day as the Civic Federation’s new president will be Jan. 16. The Federation’s office is located at 10 N. Dearborn.

At a Dec. 5 public forum

Ferguson shared his perspective regarding the benefits of a charter and implications for the city’s lack of one.

The program at the Northtown Library was sponsored by the West Ridge Community Organization.

Charter benefits

“A charter could have many positive impacts for City Hall and Chicago’s residents,” Ferguson said. “Depending on the priorities of the charter commission work and the approved referendum, impacts might include a recalibration of powers and processes resulting in better researched and more deliberative and transparent policy development and legislative actions,” he said. “There also could be more rigorous oversight for accountability of those policies in city programs and operations.”

Another benefit, Ferguson said, might be a “standards-based, transparent annual budget process utilizing best accounting

CHARTER see p. 7

Redevelopment plan announced for Uptown’s Preston Bradley Hall

Seems Uptown may have capacity for even more entertainment venues. Details were revealed about the redevelopment of Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Ave., at a preview of the building’s future during a Nov. 15 community meeting. Those plans will add another large event space to the Uptown community.

The center is located just east of the Aragon Ballroom near the heart of the Uptown entertainment district. The project is being led by its new owners Daniel and Karla Ivankovich who purchased the site last year. The new owners are a 6’ -11” tall former collegiate basketball player who is a renowned orthopedic surgeon by day and a blues guitarist by night. The architect the couple has chosen for this project is unknown.

Reportedly the couple has already spent over \$600,000 toward its restoration but extensive repairs are still needed according to Block Club Chicago. The Preston Bradley Center is both a city and national landmark, creating stricter rules for the work, but the effort appears to have broad support of nearby neighbors and community organizations. Parts

of the Preston Bradley Center revival will be displayed this spring as work on the facility continues.

No completion date for the project has been given, but it would add capacity to the entertainment district area that also expects to see the addition and opening of Double Door entertainment just west of the Center.

The Preston Bradley Center was built in 1925 by the Rev. Preston Bradley for the Peoples Church of Chicago. The 58,000 square-foot J.E.O. Pridmore-designed structure opened a year later with a large 1,200-seat auditorium that rises three levels with superb acoustics, that will soon be enjoyed by bands and their fans.

For the last decade portions of the building were being used as a men’s shelter by North Side Housing and Supportive Services. Due to building code violations, the city closed the building for occupancy during the summer of 2022. That shelter is now being relocated to N. Clark St. in Rogers Park.

After years of dwindling church attendance and financial

PRESTON see p. 12

Doorway to ruling Europe, we say thank you to Dr. Kissinger



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

When we were growing up in the exhilarating world of General D. Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s, it was often hard to recognize the expansive personality of the war-time General in the subdued 34th President of the United States. The golfer.

The man who defeated Adolf Hitler was often portrayed more as a thinker and a by-the-book soldier than a more modern rule-breaker or political maverick.

Perhaps the Allied victory in Europe in May 1945 froze the personhood of this general in mid-frame for us. The eventful conclusions of World War II are, of course, measured by many from the beach landings that began on Normandy sands on June 6, 1944. Then by each recorded land mile from the English Channel all the way to Berlin.

With diplomacy arching his every movement among political leaders like Churchill, Stalin and De Gaulle, Eisenhower and his American staff chose a calculated measurement of the terrain, daily, among the allies of high military rank. Providing the American five-star general with an engagement not unlike that reserved for a holy man. No pearl handled revolvers here. Or custom made inventive uniforms. He was no General George S. Patton or Earl Mountbatten of Burma. For Ike it was West Point all the way.

More than any other, more colorful American military leader, General Eisenhower's persona appeared to better fit the quiet, self-effacing "Kansas"- style for America's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. But hidden at the heart of his humanity, Eisenhower was a man of purpose and strategy. For

the re-construction of Europe and the neutralization of the Soviets.

A new emerging political type of Republicanism was in tune with the young, poorly informed American G.I. who wanted only to live and wed and start a family, the dream they carried in their heart from basic training. Counting, now, the number of the living and the dead in the age of nuclear fission.

Eisenhower would become the "Everyman" of America's victorious military accomplishment. A vague new warrior in a "Cold War," of un-proportioned measure.

Of course this is the president of two terms that would beget not the martyred youthful president born in our century, but the strange diplomacy of the late centurion Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The linguist diplomat as if Nixon's time was the Age of Louis XIV. Midnight flights to Beijing with just one change of shirt in his briefcase. The blank emotion that permits the ability to stare the Chinese down.

That, of course, was the "American Era" of distant wars and rice paddies and Truman Capote literary cocktails on Fifth Avenue. Brooks Astor in the shadows, Leonard Bernstein at his podium, and the U.N Security Council able to feel the pressure from the squeeze of the hand of the Secretary of State.

There'd been no Secretary of State like Kissinger since Robert Lansing in 1918 and Thomas Jefferson at our start. And maybe Eisenhower's John Foster Dulles.

I say all of this so that we might remember that even in our worst of times there is some sunshine beaming its light under the bed. Like a rainbow cone on a rainy day. Or a Christmas tree from our childhood.

As I write I can smell the tree we bought last night at Spruce on Damen. I deliberately kept it in the warmth of the house so that its pungent pine will coat the air in a blistering fragrance. Smelling much like Dr. Kissinger, himself, in the Nixon madhouse on Pennsylvania Ave. We have an 18th century iron urn in which our tree is a perfect fit. Perfectly trimmed. After an unfortunate week in the hospital, decorations for this Yule will be simple



So as we deck the halls and say thank you to Dr. Kissinger, we are thinking of our readers, grateful for your friendship and attention.

but elegantly American creative.

I love the struggle to make Christmas deeply meaningful. During the season I will do one Lobster Pot Pie with sparkling Rosé and on the Eve of the Eve a Roast Goose Bernoise with stuffing, Potatoes Fondant and a Spinach soufflé. And lots of Cherry Pie. With elegant German White Wines. There will be Irish Smoked Salmon on Irish Brown Bread.

So as we deck the halls and say thank you to Dr. Kissinger, I am thinking of you my readers, grateful for your friendship and attention. Remember we need a plan to save Chicago from the inmates now in charge. And we must make 2024 our year to shine.

Who knows what mischief we'll get in. HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

NORTHWESTERN MEDS: No one was more surprised by my recent stay at Northwestern Hospital than me, especially as I was being transported via Chicago Fire Dept. ambulance to measure the effect of rhinovirus on my heart and lungs. Hospital staff were fabulous getting me back on my feet. RL staff worked overtime keeping me fed. Thanks **Chef Ryan**. My sister and bro-in-law were great cheerleaders keeping me positive with prayer. And column fans were generous visiting in person and via phone. The biscotti did the trick. Another deadline made.

O'MALLEY - BIDEN CHRISTMAS: Great goings-on for the O'Malleys. **Papa, Mark O'Malley**, will have his movie star-looking children in tow for their

best trip yet to Washington D.C for **President Joe Biden's** White House Christmas Party. Big-bro **Patrick O'Malley** will escort his three sisters, **Lucy, Maeve** and **Courtney**, through the historic



Fire Commissioner Santiago, Kathy O'Malley Piccone and Michael, the gentleman whose life was saved.

presidential landscape, while his dad will shuttle wife, famed Irish violinist, **Patricia Anne Treacy**, ready with the president's favorite Irish carols. The O'Malleys are starting to outnumber the **Kennedys**.

GIBSON'S HERO: **Kathy O'Malley Piccone**, managing partner and maître d' extraordinaire who has been with Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse since its opening, received an award from the Chicago Fire Dept. last week for saving the life of a customer a few months back. Last week, they gathered together in the bar to surprise Kathy and praise her for acting fast on her feet. "We don't know what we'd do

without you, Kathy," **Steve Lombardo** said. Check out the photo of **Fire Cmsr. Santiago**, Kathy and **Michael**, the gentleman whose life was saved.

Do the mankind a favor and learn how to do the Heimlich maneuver, it may save a life one day.

ST. CHRYSOSTOM: **Cathy Bell Bartholomay** at St. Chrysostom's Church where every year they begin the holiday season by adopting a family or a senior citizen through the church Christmas basket program for those in need. On drop-off day the warm generosity of the parish and the thought of all the families and seniors whose Christmas morning will now be a bit brighter.

CARDINAL'S CONCERT: **Cardinal Cupich** extends a special happy and holy Christmas to all, a time filled with blessings and overflowing with love. Grateful to

all who sang and prayed at Cardinal's Christmas Concert at Holy Family Church, especially **Rich Daniels, Paddy Homan** and **Paul Mariano**.

αναπαύσου εν ειρήνη: "Rest in Peace" to the gentlemanly and gracious **Frank Kuchuris**, a man of refined culture and big business.

KISSINGER see p. 8

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Slashed interest rate on late property tax payments could prevent home loss

BY MARIA PAPPAS

As my office prepares for the Annual Tax Sale, we're doing all we can to help people avoid losing their homes because of unpaid property taxes.

One of the biggest legislative reforms to the Illinois property tax system in decades takes effect with tax bills due March 1, 2024. That's when the interest rate charged on overdue tax payments will plummet to 9% a year from the current 18%. My office proposed the reform and helped convince lawmakers to approve the change.

This is a big deal because it will lower the cost for making late payments and allow more homeowners to pay off delinquent bills and avoid the Annual Tax Sale. The lower interest rate is expected to save folks who make late payments about \$30 million per year. We championed the interest rate cut to give families a chance to build generational wealth.

Property taxes are due in two annual installments. If you fail to pay your 2023 First Installment property taxes by March 1, 2024, you will be charged 0.75% monthly interest. For taxes that were due in 2023 and earlier, the old monthly interest rate of 1.5% will continue to apply.

By law, the Annual Tax Sale occurs 13 months after Second Installment taxes were due. The Annual Tax Sale for 2021 taxes that were due in 2022 is set to occur between Jan. 9 and 12, with a reoffer of properties on Jan. 16.

Right now, investors known as tax buyers are registering for the sale. These tax buyers hope to make money by collecting interest owed on tax debt. The best way for homeowners to avoid the Annual Tax Sale is to pay their tax debt in full. Nearly half the properties listed in the upcoming Annual Tax Sale owe less than \$1,000.



Maria Pappas

My office has sent notices to owners of properties on the Annual Tax Sale list and published information in local newspapers. Visit cook-countytreasurer.com to find out if your property is on the Annual Tax Sale list. Use the purple box on the home page labeled "Your Property Tax Overview" and search using an address or Property Index Number. A banner with an urgent warning will appear if your property is on the Annual Tax Sale list.

In addition to cutting the interest rate, the new law gives counties new tools to return chronically tax delinquent properties to productive use. Also, the legislation closes loopholes that have allowed tax buyers to drain about \$40 million each year from governments serving mostly Black and Latino residents.

Cmdr. Brennan to retire

Commander Joseph Brennan is stepping down from being the Commander of the 24th Police District. Cmdr. Brennan is retiring after serving the district for over three years. During this time he helped build a great relationship throughout the community.



Cmdr. Joseph Brennan

He also previously served as a Captain in the 14th (Shakespeare) District and in the 10th (Ogden) District. He also served as the Tactical, Watch Operations and Field Lieutenant in the 10th (Ogden) District. As a Sergeant, he served in the 10th District Gang Team, FBI Joint Task Force and

Gang Investigations Division.

The new 24th District Commander is Robert Vanna. Cmdr. Vanna has over 32 years of experience at CPD and he says he hopes to enhance the relationship between the 24th Police District and the community.

Check fraud soars 104%, fueled in part by widespread mail theft

BY CWBCHICAGO

Banking officials are warning Illinoisans about a rise in check fraud cases, an old scam that is getting a new lease on life thanks to organized mail theft rings.

In Illinois, data shows that over 26,000 Illinois consumers and businesses fell victim to check fraud in 2022, a 104% increase from 2021.

In one tricky scheme known as "check washing," criminals use common chemicals to erase ink on stolen checks, then write the check for a large sum. The fraudulent checks are then either cashed or sold online.

The Illinois Bankers Assoc. said criminals target their victims with sophisticated schemes that can involve a legitimate payment request, a blank check stolen from a checkbook, a previously paid or canceled check found in the garbage, or a check

placed in the mailbox to pay a bill.

"Things are tight, and inflation is already high, so we want to make sure, as best as we can, that people are aware of this and they're protected and don't fall victim to this crime," IBA president Randy Hultgren said.

A Financial Crimes Enforcement Network report found that banks reported roughly 680,000 incidents of check fraud last year, marking a significant increase from the 350,000 reports made in 2021. The U.S. Postal Service has also reported an unprecedented increase in mail theft and check fraud.

Hultgren advises ordering checks from a reputable source, imprinting digital checks with a bold font that is difficult to alter, and regularly tracking and monitoring bank accounts.

CHECK see p. 10

Letter to the Editor

David vs Goliath in Old Town

The dynamics of the news coverage recently of the battle between Northwestern Univ. and neighbors opposing a redevelopment of the football stadium adjacent to their homes is playing out now closer to home by the biblical David, in the form of Old Town neighbors, and Goliath, the developer Fern Hill!

For over two years now, the community has been directed to engage in a so-called transparent survey with the promise of a replacement grocery store for former Treasure Island. It has now come to pass that the developer's actual master plan is to completely alter the very Gateway to Old Town at LaSalle/North Ave./Wells from its current zoning with low- and mid-rise buildings clad in the historic red-brown brick architecture aligned with Moody Church, Walgreens and Pipers Alley, and to dramatically change its appearance and the heartbeat of a long-standing communi-

ty by building a 36-story behemoth, adding over 700 units to a crowded area, providing 450 more automobiles to the current nightmare of traffic congestion along its almost impassable local corridors, eroding property values as a byproduct, impeding the access of Chicagoans and tourists alike to Old Town's shops and entertainment, and the Old Town Triangle's historic preservation district with the overflow of pedestrian and auto traffic, and basically failing the test of sound urban planning.

If all who care as much as we neighbors do in preserving the character, safety and value of Old Town and decry Fern Hill's overdevelopment plans, please join us in our battle by contacting Ald. Brian Hopkins at ward02@cityofchicago.org to deny this developer's proposal.

Corinne Svoboda
Old Town



(Left) Artist Gwen Yen Chiu with internationally heralded artist and Chicago native Richard Hunt at the installation of Yen Chiu's large-scale sculpture at the intersection of Lincoln Ave. and Halsted St. on July 19, 2021. Chicago Sculpture Exhibit established the award, in partnership with Hunt, that Yen Chiu received, to help bring new perspectives and added diversity to the large-scale public art world by offering a \$10,000 prize to emerging and/or mid-career sculptors for production of new work. *Photo by Sheila Swann* (R) Pat Butler (far right, standing) in 1999 interviewing local members of the Illinois National Guard during maneuvers at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. *Photo by Leigh Hanlon*

LEGENDS from p. 1

D.C.

On March 16, 1960, while serving in the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, Hunt desegregated the Woolworth's lunch counter in Alamo Plaza. Hunt was the very first African American served there. This brave action made San Antonio the first peaceful and voluntary lunch counter integration in the South.

Hunt was the first African American visual artist to serve on the National Council on the Arts, appointed by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968. Hunt created abstract welded sculptures by acquiring bumpers and fenders from junkyards, which became a signature of his work. He was only 35 years old at the time of his 1971 exhibition at MoMA, the first retrospective for an African American sculptor at the museum. The exhibit titled *The Sculpture of Richard Hunt*, included 55 sculptures, eight drawings, and twelve prints.

Hunt sculpted major monuments and sculptures for some of our country's greatest heroes, including Martin Luther King, Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune, Jesse Owens, Hobart Taylor, Jr., and Ida B. Wells. His sculptures commemorate events from the slave trade and the Middle Passage to the Great Migration. His massive 30-foot, 1,500-pound bronze, *Swing Low*, a monument to the African American Spiritual, hangs from the ceiling of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Hunt's masterpiece, *Hero Construction*, stands as the centerpiece of the grand staircase at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 2022, Barack Obama commissioned Richard Hunt as the first artist to create a work, *Book Bird*, for the Obama Presidential Center.

Hunt was a treasured celebrity

in Chicago's art world, crowned by such success to make him a noteworthy master of shape, size, meaning and modernist purpose. His evocative Chicago style is apparent, whether of civic welcome, historic introduction, or academic advance. Translating the poetic energy of Chicago's lakefront living, or ghetto residency, or the drama of valuable lessons in racial identity and artistic civil rights. His style denotes an impeccable simplicity wed to a thoroughly bold force of hammer, mallet and buffer. His most dynamic of work, in the lobby of the national Museum of African American History, sums up the footfall of slaves on their American journey to urbanization. His work alters the predicability of such history.

Hunt is survived by his daughter Cecilia, an artist, and his sister Marian, a retired librarian, both of whom live in Chicago. A celebration of art and life, open to the public, will be held in Chicago.

Pat Butler, longtime leader in Chicago community journalism

Patrick, "Pat" Butler, a lifelong Chicagoan who was one of the deans of Chicago journalism, passed away on Dec. 14 at age 83.

He wrote for this newspaper - and others - for decades, indeed for his entire professional career.

"I was too poor to go to law school, too immoral to join the clergy, and I had a bad left eye that kept me out of the Army, so what does one do in a case like that but become a newspaperman?" Butler would say, laughing. "And I haven't regretted it for a single moment."

Butler began his journalism career as a stringer with the Lerner Newspapers in 1967, eventually moving up to managing editor.

In its heyday, Lerner published

54 weekly and semi-weekly editions with a circulation of 300,000 on the North and Northwest Sides of Chicago and in suburban Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties. Besides writing news, he often wrote columns such as "Pat's People" and others.

Among Lerner's titles were the *Booster*, *News-Star*, and *Skyline* which served Chicago's North Side. The Lerner papers went through several ownership changes including Pulitzer, Hollinger, and Pioneer Press. Butler was always part of the deal and he continued to work for those publications and others in the chain until his health forced him to slow down.

In 2013 he was laid-off from Pioneer Press. "He got in trouble because he was active in union politics for the Chicago News Guild," noted his longtime partner, Kathy Hills.

Inside Publications had acquired the *Booster*, *News-Star*, and *Skyline* in 2009, so Butler continued writing for those publications until his passing.

He joined the *Gazette Chicago* staff in 2006, continuing to work there until his passing as well.

In 1987, Butler won a Peter Lisagor Award, the highest honor in Chicago journalism, for his Lerner series on how the loss of factory jobs put a strain on mental health and alcoholism services in Chicago. In 2013, he won an international Apex Award of Excellence from Communications Concepts, a journalism and publishing think tank outside of Washington, DC, for his *Gazette Chicago* coverage of a proposed Newman Center dormitory for the Univ. of Illinois Chicago. He won many other journalism awards over the decades as well.

"We very much appreciated Pat's skills and experience," said Mark J. Valentino, editor and publisher of *Gazette Chicago*. "Having such a seasoned reporter on the *Gazette Chicago* team was a real asset for the decades that Pat worked with us. Even though he didn't drive and always took the CTA, he was willing to go anywhere in our coverage area to get the story. His old-school savvy and style will be missed."

Among the exciting events of Mr. Butler's rough-and-tumble journalism career were covering the 1968 riots after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. "He was still a stringer for Lerner in 1968 and they couldn't get any

other reporter to cover the riots, but Pat would," Hills recalled. "They immediately hired him full time. Leo Lerner, the editor and publisher, clearly loved him."

"In my second night in Cabrini-Green covering the riots, I found myself crouched behind a squad car with another reporter and a cop as a sniper was shooting from the ninth floor," Butler recalled. "The nearest shot landed eight or nine feet away."

He also covered the tumultuous Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1968, again going into territory that few other reporters were willing to enter.

Butler covered City Hall during the mayoralty of Richard M. Daley, and when the mayor called on him during a news conference he would often sigh in anticipation of a tough question.

"Pat loved that and so did the rest of the press corps," Hills said.

During a group tour of Cook County Jail, Butler recalled the tour guide asking if anyone had the courage to sit in the electric chair. One of Butler's associates pushed him forward, and before he could protest, "two guards strapped me in the chair, took my glasses off, put a hood on my head, and read a fake death sentence," he said.

Of the experience, Butler quipped, "I got a charge out of it."

During his career, Butler noted, he met three presidents of the United States, doing a thorough interview of President Jimmy Carter; two presidents of the Republic of Ireland; a king; a queen; and interviewed many colorful Chicagoans, local politicians, activists, criminals, and newsmakers.

Butler also served more than a dozen years as president of the Ravenswood/Lake View Historical Assoc. and for several years anchored a cable TV news/feature show, *North Side Neighbors*. He also was a former president of the Kiwanis Club of Lake View.

Because of his love of news and history, he wrote several books about the North Side: *Hidden History of Lincoln Park*, *Hidden History of Ravenswood and Lakeview*, and *Hidden History of Uptown and Edgewater*, published by History Press. He termed his books "a kind of curio shop of people and places that time forgot. I had so much fun writing them."

Butler was a frequent speaker on Chicago history and gave tours of historic Graceland Cemetery on the North Side. He was even part of history himself, having dated a grand-niece of Mary Todd Lincoln, President Abraham Lincoln's wife, for three years as a young man.

Born at Columbus Hospital in 1940, he grew up in the North Side neighborhoods of Rogers Park, Edgewater, and Uptown. From seventh grade through high school, he attended Maryville Academy. "He was a grateful Maryville kid," Hills noted.

Butler worked his way through Columbia College Chicago, attending from 1961 to 1965. As a Columbia student, he liked to spend time at Bug House Square, more formally known as Washington Square Park, 901 N. Clark St., which for many decades was considered the most celebrated open air free-speech location in America and was known for ordinary people giving speeches on whatever topics they chose.

"Pat was proud that he lasted 30 seconds the first time he spoke before he got the hook," Hills recalled. Butler was also a former honorary mayor of Bug House Square.

Of journalism, Butler said, "I liked the excitement. I liked being close to where the action is. I think 50 years from now there will still be newspapers and reporters. It may all be digital, but the news business will still exist. We keep the politicians in line," he concluded.

Butler was the partner of Kathy Hills; father of Kathleen Butler Greenan; father-in-law of Ryan Greenan; grandfather of Patrick (Paddy) and Declan; brother of Regina Dziejior; uncle of John Dziejior; cousin of Terry Butler and his wife, Gertrude; son of Valerie Sankauskas and Thomas Butler.

Visitation is today, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 3 to 8 p.m., at Lawrence Funeral Home, 4800 N. Austin Ave. Prayers will be Thursday, Dec. 21, 11:15 a.m. at Lawrence Funeral Home, followed by a procession to Mary, Undoer of Knots/St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, 4646 N. Austin Ave., where Mass will begin at noon. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Maryville Academy and the House of the Good Shepherd would be appreciated.





(Left) Robert Lewis May. (Center) Original manuscript of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." (Right) Songwriter Johnny Marks' "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" song hit No. 1 on the U.S. charts the week of Christmas 1949.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer inspired by visits to the Lincoln Park Zoo

BY PETER VON BUOL

Eighty-four years ago, the story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer appeared as a promotional booklet published by the Chicago-based Montgomery Ward and Company. The story made an immediate impact on Christmas lore as the company operated more than 500 department stores and had a highly-successful mail-order business.

The story of Rudolph, the little reindeer who saved Christmas, was introduced as a Christmas story by Robert Lewis May, then a copywriter for Montgomery Ward. Given the assignment while his wife, Evelyn, was dying of cancer, May had made frequent visits to the Lincoln Park Zoo as a way to provide a diversion for their daughter, Barbara.

At the time, May and his family lived at 2734 N. Mildred Ave., less than two miles from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Then, as now, admission to the zoo was free.

Back then, the zoo had two species of deer with spots. Fallow deer from Europe and Axis deer, originally from India.

While Barbara enjoyed seeing all the zoo animals, deer were her favorites. Inspired by his daughter (and Hans Christian Andersen's story, *The Ugly Duckling*), May wrote Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer about the heroic young deer who used a glowing red nose to guide Santa's sleigh on a foggy Christmas Eve.

According to California-based journalist Nate Bloom, who interviewed members of the May family, executives at Montgomery Ward had wanted a "cheery Christmas story" that could be given away to shoppers to generate good will.

Upon completion, May was convinced his tale would become a hit. Company executives, however, had not been so sure because they were afraid the public would connect the heroic Rudolph with the on-screen persona of comedian W.C. Field.

In his Hollywood films, Fields usually portrayed a comedic character who was an alcoholic. Because Fields suffered from a skin condition that had turned his nose red, the department store executives were afraid custom-



Gene Autry, former Uptown resident, recorded "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" as a favor to his wife, who liked the Rudolph story.

The story of Rudolph, the little reindeer who saved Christmas, was introduced as a Christmas story by Robert Lewis May, then a copywriter for Montgomery Ward. Given the assignment while his wife, Evelyn, was dying of cancer, May had made frequent visits to the Lincoln Park Zoo as a way to provide a diversion for their daughter, Barbara.

ers would associate the young Rudolph's nose with heavy alcohol consumption.

In a 1990 interview published in the Chicago Tribune, May's daughter, Barbara, said her father had told company executives he would not change his hero's red nose.

To help sell his concept, May convinced artist Denver Gillen, a friend who worked in the retailer's art department, to visit the zoo in order to sketch the zoo's deer. When Gillen showed May his images, he believed his friend had captured the essence of the zoo's playful deer and used the images to sell his concept to company executives who had doubted him. Some of Gillen's images included deer with spots. These may be a clue as to what species of deer had inspired Gillen.

In 1939, Montgomery Ward's gave out more than two million copies of the free booklet and May became an instant celebrity.

By 1947 (no books were printed during World War II), more than six million copies had been given away. Shortly afterwards, as a token of appreciation, May was given the copyright and a successful spoken-word record album was created in time for Christmas sales.

In 1948, May's brother-in-law, songwriter Johnny Marks, wrote Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The following year, Gene Autry, the singing cowboy, recorded the song and it became a national hit. Autry had gotten his first big break in show business while performing as a regular on Barn Dance, a national radio program hosted by Chicago's WLS AM 89 radio station.

Songwriter Marks would revisit the story of Rudolph on numerous occasions. Marks also wrote Run, Rudolph Run for Chuck Berry as well as additional songs for the 1964 Rankin/Bass Rudolph television special that remains an

annual children's favorite.

In Dec. 1975, May wrote a column for the Gettysburg Times newspaper and described the impact the story of Rudolph had on children.

For May, Rudolph's story had been somewhat autobiographical. As a youngster, while May had been academically successful and had skipped grades, this also made him feel socially awkward. He always found himself to be the youngest and smallest of his peers.

"Today, children all over the world read and hear about the

little deer who started out in life as a loser, just as I did. But they learn that when he gave himself to others, his handicap became the very means through which he achieved happiness. My reward is knowing that every year, when Christmas rolls around, Rudolph still brings that message to millions, both young and old," May wrote.

At the age of 71, May died on Aug. 10, 1976 and is interred at St. Joseph Cemetery in River Grove, IL.



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Police Beat...

Lakeview restaurant burglars brought along a 13-year-old



Mugshots (L-R) Steve Aliprandi and Mikeya Phipps.

Chicago cops responding to a burglary in progress at a Lakeview restaurant quickly detained three suspects, including a 50-year-old man with an extensive violent crime background and a 13-year-old girl, according to CPD records.

Officers went to Las Tablas, 2942 N. Lincoln, around 5:30 a.m. Dec. 18 and found the front door pried open, officials said.

They quickly detained 50-year-old Steve Aliprandi of Schererville, IN, near the entrance. He told the cops that two females were still inside the business, according to his arrest report.

One of those females, 21-year-old Mikeya Phipps of Dolton, soon emerged from the restaurant entrance with her hands up, police said. She told the cops her little sister was still inside, her arrest report said.

Cops searching for the other female made their way to the elevator, which had been loaded with 12 bottles of Bacardi Limon rum, four bottles of Don Ramon tequila, and 21 bottles of Patrón tequila that had been removed from the restaurant's storage area, the reports said.

The officers saw the second female in a corner when the elevator doors opened in the basement. They asked how old she was. She replied, "13 years old," according to the reports.

Both adults are charged with burglary.

Aliprandi has an extensive criminal record, according to court records: four years for burglary in 1991, seven years for carjacking in 1996, 10 years for carjacking in 2006, two concurrent 18-year sentences for carjacking and armed robbery in 2012, and 15 months for theft last year.

Based on that background, prosecutors asked Judge Susana Ortiz to keep him in jail to await trial. She rejected that request and sent him home with a nighttime curfew.

He failed to show up for court this morning, and a judge issued a warrant for his arrest, according to the court's case file.

Phipps, who was released by Judge David Kelly, has shown up for her court dates.

One-man crime wave: He raped one woman, kidnapped and robbed three people, then died after crashing into police squad car

A man died in a car crash Dec. 15 after going on a violent crime spree inside a South Loop condo building where he sexually assaulted a woman, robbed others, and even kidnapped three victims, two of whom were in the car with him when he slammed into a Chicago police squad car, officials said.

One woman was robbed at knifepoint at the building in the 1500 block of S. Wabash shortly after midnight. The robber took her purse, keys, and phone.

About two hours later, shortly after 2:30 a.m., police responded to calls of a man threatening to rob people at knifepoint inside the resi-

dential building.

The man, who has not been identified, first battered and sexually assaulted a 48-year-old woman at knifepoint inside the building, according to a CPD news release. An internal bulletin distributed within the police department said the victim was an off-duty police officer who was assaulted inside an elevator.

Two 27-year-old women came upon the assault in progress, and the assailant forced all three women into a condo at knifepoint, the news release said. A 27-year-old man entered the residence while the robbery was unfolding, police said, and the assailant robbed him, too, according to CPD.

At about this time, the woman who was sexually assaulted escaped and took herself to Rush Hospital for treatment. The police said she was in fair condition.

The man then forced both 27-year-old women and the man into a Volkswagen Jetta owned by one of the women and drove to a Subway restaurant in the 700 block of W. 31st Street. He forced the man into the restaurant and took money from the register at knifepoint. Police said the attacker slashed a 36-year-old man's shoulder inside the restaurant, but that victim declined medical attention.

Police said the male kidnapping victim remained inside the restaurant while the offender returned to the Volkswagen and sped away.

Within moments, the man slammed into a marked Chicago police squad car, but he continued driving until he crashed into a field in the 3000 block of Pitney. The vehicle rolled into the field, ejecting the assailant, who was found dead about 20 feet from the Volkswagen, according to a CPD crash report.

The report says the kidnapper lost control of the car after hitting a curb and "continued uncontrollably through a metal fence, then rolling an unknown number of times in the empty unpaved lot.

The two women, who were still inside the wreckage when police arrived, are in good condition at Stroger Hospital, police said.

Detectives continue to investigate the crimes.

Ulta Beauty Lincoln Park store again burglarized

Chicago police detectives have released new information about a group of burglars who have been targeting cosmetics stores after an Ulta Beauty store in Lincoln Park was targeted for the second time Dec. 14.

At about 6:42 a.m., a newer gray Cadillac sedan pulled up to the 1000 W. North Ave. store, and at least one burglar forced their way through the front door, police say. The prowlers gathered bottles of high-end perfumes, including Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, and Yves Saint Laurent, then sped away.

Cops briefly tracked the getaway car by following a GPS tracker secreted in one of the perfumes, but no arrests have been made.

The same Ulta store was burglarized at 4:02 a.m. on Dec. 5. The police believe the same crew is responsible. Detectives have also linked the group to Ulta burglaries in the following locations:

- 2700 block of N. Clybourn at 2:30 a.m. Nov. 15 and 3:20 a.m. Dec. 10
- First block of S. Halsted at 3:05 a.m. Nov. 15 and 6:40 a.m. Dec. 10
- 1300 block of N. Ashland at 3:30 a.m. Dec. 5

CPD said the group breaks the store's front window or uses a pry tool to force their way through the front door. After they gain entry, they haul away perfume and cologne from the displays.

The burglars used a dark green Dodge Charger in many of the previous burglaries, police said. They described the burglars as two or three Black males between 16 and 20 years old who wore ski masks, dark hood-

ies, and dark track pants with white stripes.

In the hours leading up to the Nov. 15 break-ins, the crew robbed or carjacked victims in the 1800 block of W. Belle Plaine, the 5300 block of N. Damen, the 4400 block of N. Lincoln, the 2200 block of W. Irving Park; the 900 block of W. Grace; and the 3500 block of N. Clark, CPD's previous alert said.

Information about the burglars can be shared with Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263. The community alert number is 23-CWP-065A.

Man get 62 years for shooting two people outside Uptown restaurant

A judge sentenced a Chicago man to 62 years in prison Dec. 13 for shooting two men outside an Uptown restaurant in 2019.

Judge Neera Walsh found Keyonta Alexander, 25, guilty of nine counts of attempted murder and two counts of aggravated battery by discharging a firearm during a bench trial in Sept.



Keyonta Alexander

2021. Alexander has been fighting to get a new trial ever since.

Last week he was sentenced: Walsh merged the 11 felonies Alexander was convicted of into two counts of attempted murder and sentenced him to 31 years on each count, to be served consecutively, according to court records.

The shooting occurred around 8:15 p.m. on March 19, 2019, outside Family House restaurant, 1007 W. Argyle.

Witnesses said two men were standing in a small group when someone in the gathering pulled out a handgun and started shooting as the others ran away.

Police said a 27-year-old man was shot in the chest, groin, both legs, and right arm. A 23-year-old man suffered a graze wound on his jaw.

The critically injured man was found outside an apartment building near Argyle and Sheridan. The other man was found a short distance away.

Man gets 10 years for carjacking Lyft driver in Andersonville, accomplice gets three years



Mugshots (L-R) Hansen Dandridge and Cormarion Watkins.

A man has been sentenced to ten years for carjacking a Lyft driver in Andersonville last year. The man who was driving the stolen car when cops closed in has received a lesser sentence.

The 65-year-old Lyft driver pulled over on the corner of Foster and Clark to pick up a passenger when two men stepped from the back seat of a Cadillac sedan that pulled up next to him around 12:15 a.m. June 24, 2022.

Prosecutors said Cormarion Watkins, 19, pointed a gun at the Lyft driver and ordered him out of his Hyundai Elantra. Watkins drove away with the car after another man hopped into the passenger seat.

The victim ran across the street and called 911. Chicago police officers spotted his car minutes later with another man, 19-year-old Hansen Dandridge, in the driver's seat. Dandridge sped away, ran a stop sign, and disregarded a red light before crashing into a hydrant in the 1600 block of W. Thorndale, a CPD report said.

Cops arrested Dandridge and Watkins after brief foot chases. Prosecutors said Dandridge threw a loaded handgun with a defaced serial number into a yard as he ran

from the police.

Neither man had any criminal background at the time, officials said.

Watkins has now pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular hijacking of a senior citizen. He received ten years from Judge Ursula Walowski. Prosecutors dropped a more serious charge of aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm and five gun charges, according to court records.

With the state's standard 50% sentence reduction for good behavior and credits earned while in jail, he is expected to be paroled on June 4, 2027.

Dandridge pleaded guilty in September to possessing a stolen motor vehicle and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. Walowski handed him three years for the stolen vehicle charge and a concurrent year for the gun violation.

He reported to prison on Sept. 19 and is expected to be released tomorrow, according to Illinois Dept. of Corrections records.

The Cadillac that Watkins was in before the hijacking had been carjacked in River North less than an hour earlier, according to CPD records, but neither he nor Dandridge was accused of committing that crime.

14-time convicted felon, on parole for Uptown restaurant burglaries, burglarized another restaurant

A 14-time convicted felon who received a two-year sentence for burglarizing three Uptown restaurants was arrested again Dec. 11. Chicago police say he burglarized another Uptown restaurant.



Larry Banks

Larry Banks, 50, pleaded guilty in August to three counts of felony criminal damage to property, which were reduced from burglary charges, in connection with the three restaurant break-ins that occurred in Feb. 2022.

He reported to Stateville Correctional Center on Aug. 24 and walked out the same day, thanks to credits he earned while the case was pending.

Now, he's charged with burglarizing yet another Uptown restaurant while on parole.

Prosecutors say surveillance video showed him breaking into Dong Ky restaurant and bakery, 4877 N. Broadway, on Dec. 2 and stealing \$100. He left a briefcase behind containing "business and utility records," according to a criminal complaint.

CPD officers recognized him as they patrolled Uptown on Dec. 11 and took him into custody. They said he had a woman's credit card, too.

He's charged with burglary and theft of lost or mislaid property. Banks remains in the county jail while state officials review his parole status.

This is the second time he has been arrested since walking out of jail on Aug. 24.

Exactly a month after he was released, on Sept. 24, he was charged with misdemeanor battery after a 63-year-old man told police that Banks punched him in the face and then smacked him in the eye with an ashtray while he was on the ground. Prosecutors dropped the case on Oct. 16.

Banks has the not-so-unusual experience of receiving more lenient sentences for every crime he commits.

He received a whopping 14-year sentence for burglarizing an Uptown restaurant in 2011. He got out of prison in May 2018, and just seven months later, prosecutors charged him with burglarizing Little India restaurant, 1109 W. Bryn Mawr. Court records show Banks fought the case for nearly three years, serving as his own attorney for at least some of the time. Prosecutors dropped the case on Jan. 6, 2022.

The very next month, prosecutors said video showed him committing

the three burglaries he's currently on parole for.

Before catching the 14-year sentence in 2011, Banks had been sentenced to two terms of 30 months for theft in 2009, 18 months for damage to school property in 2009, three years for narcotics in 2007, two years for drugs in 2005, 4-1/2 years for theft from a person in 2002; four years for burglary in 1999; seven years for narcotics in 1996; 28 months for drugs in 1995; and five years for narcotics in 1992, according to IDOC.

Migrant charged with Red Line stabbing was armed with a butcher knife

A Venezuelan migrant accused of critically stabbing a man at the Grand Red Line station was armed with a butcher knife when Chicago police officers arrested him, prosecutors said Dec. 13.

Judge Barbara Dawkins ordered Carlos Pascual Gomez, 32, detained as a safety threat during a court hearing this afternoon.

Officials said Gomez had been



Carlos Pascual Gomez

drinking when he stabbed and seriously injured a 34-year-old man in the 500 block of N. State around 3:30 p.m. Dec. 11. A friend

of the victim followed Gomez into the Loop and directed cops to him, a CPD arrest report said.

Cops who detained Gomez on the corner of State and Madison found a butcher knife in his front waistband and blood on his hands, according to the report.

The victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital with lacerations to his head. He was initially listed in critical condition, but his status stabilized at the hospital, the report said.

Initial reports said the stabbing occurred on a Red Line train, but the police report said it happened outside the Grand CTA station.

Gomez is also accused of stabbing a tire and a side window of a man's Mustang on State St. shortly before police arrested him.

He is charged with attempted murder and criminal damage to property.

According to the CPD arrest report, Gomez lived at the Standard Club migrant shelter, 320 S. Plymouth, in the Loop.

Gomez also listed the shelter as his home when he was arrested for allegedly having alcohol or drugs on the Red Line at State-Lake, according to court records. That charge was dropped in August.

Delivery driver shot near downtown homeless camp

A food service delivery driver was shot as he stood outside a homeless camp just west of the Loop on Dec. 16. No arrests have been made.

Chicago police said the 24-year-old was standing near a gas station in the 1000 block of S. Desplaines when someone fired shots, striking him in the buttocks around 1:50 a.m. He was taken to Stroger Hospital in fair condition.

A major homeless encampment has stretched along the west side of Desplaines St. in the area for years. Overnight, police and an evidence technician worked inside the camp, where several shell casings had been found. Bullets also struck the victim's car.

On July 5, a shooting at the homeless camp left one man dead and another seriously injured.

In May 2020, a man was shot and killed at the BP station, 1004 S. Desplaines, just a few steps from where this morning's shooting occurred.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Lower loan rates give rocky home market a holiday boost



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicago home buyers are getting some early Christmas cheer—the gift of lower mortgage rates.

On Dec. 14, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans declined to an average of 6.95% from 7.03% a week earlier. A year ago, the key rate averaged 6.31%

"Potential home buyers received welcome news last week as mortgage rates dropped below 7% for the first time since August," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

The early holiday gift was wrapped with a colorful bow. The Federal Reserve last week kept its key interest rate unchanged at about 5.4%—its highest level in 22 years—for a third straight meeting. And, the Fed signaled that it expects to make three-quarter point cuts to their benchmark funds next year.

"If inflation continues to decelerate and the Federal Reserve Board starts lowering the federal funds target rate next year, we likely will see a gradual thawing of the housing market in the new year," predicted Khater.

On Dec. 14, Freddie Mac survey also reported that 15-year fixed mortgages averaged 6.38%, up slightly from 6.29% a week earlier. A year ago, 15-year fixed loans averaged 5.54%. The survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully amortizing home-purchase loans for borrowers who place a down payment of 20% and have excellent credit.

The slow decline of mortgage rates in recent weeks already is causing Chicago's rocky North Side resale home market to level off, according to an optimistic forecast from Baird & Warner's December Market Analysis, co-authored by Realtors John Irwin and Jackie Lafferty.

"Although Nov. 2023 was the 21st consecutive month of year-over-year home sales decreases in Lincoln Park, Near North Side, Lakeview and North Center, the volume drop was less than 1%," reported Irwin. "It appears that the market may be leveling off, or hitting bottom."

While the results vary among the four neighborhoods, Irwin and Lafferty are beginning to see some positive signs. "However, with inventory levels continuing to drop, a real estate rebound may be fragile," Irwin warned.

The Baird & Warner December Market Analysis also noted the following positive trends:

- Home sales. The number of resale homes that went under contract in Nov. 2023 rose by 5.9% versus the same month in 2022. This is a vast improvement over

past months where the North Side market saw double digit decreases.

"The neighborhoods of Near North Side and Lakeview reported unit sales increases of 26.6% and 7.1% respectively, while Lincoln Park and North Center continued to decline," Irwin reported. "When we looked at homes under contract by price point, most of the sales increases came from homes priced under \$1 million."



Baird & Warner Realtors John Irwin and Jackie Lafferty

November North Side Median home prices

2023 vs. 2022: + 1.1%
 Nov. 2023 vs. Nov. 2022: + 8.8%
 Neighborhood Price Comparison:
 Near North - 0.8%
 Lincoln Park + 5.8%
 Lakeview + 16.9%
 North Center + 13.1%
 Price-Bracket Comparison:
 Under \$500,000 + 14.9%
 \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 + 9.1%
 \$1 Million to \$2 Million + 3.4%
 Over \$2 Million - 7.5%

Source: Baird & Warner

- Home prices. Baird & Warner reported a solid 8.8% resale-home price increase in November for the second consecutive month. While Near North Side prices fell slightly by less than 1%, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center all posted increases, as did homes priced under \$2 million.

- Interest rates. "One of the key

real estate villains for the past two years seems to have been arrested for the time being," Irwin said. "Interest rates are beginning to show some stability and have dropped to under 7% for 30-year fixed rate conventional loans." Irwin noted that James Tausche of Draper & Kramer optimistically predicted that rates may drop as low as 5.5% by the second quarter of 2024.

- Mortgage limits. The maximum mortgage limit for conventional home loans has been raised to \$766,550 in 2023 from \$726,000 in 2022. Loan limits for other loans such as Federal Housing Administration-insured mortgages also have also been increased.

"These loan-limit increases, in addition to interest-rate decreases, are restoring some of the buying power that has been lost over the past two years," Irwin noted. "This hopefully will bring both buyers and sellers back into the market."

- Homes for sale. Historically low inventory levels continue to hinder a real estate rebound. "In Nov. 2023, the market experienced an 18.5% decline in listings compared with November of 2022." Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center all experienced double-digit listing decreases ranging from 27% to 37%.

- Outlook for 2024. "Many sellers have built equity in their existing homes, but inventory levels and rising interest rates in 2022 and 2023 have kept them from selling their homes and becoming buyers," Irwin said. "Hopefully, interest-rate stability in 2024 will get them off the sidelines, increasing inventory levels for what is already a healthy buyer pool."

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.

CTA crews spiff up rail stations

The Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] says they have now completed the work outlined in its 2023 clean up program. That plan targeted nearly 30 rail stations as well as 14 bus turnaround areas throughout the city.

The scope of work included lighting upgrades, repainting and behind the scenes improvements to employee work areas. The CTA reports that all identified projects are done, ahead of schedule, and within the \$6.5 million budget.

On the North Side, these repairs took place on the Red Line at Howard, Sheridan, Addison, Clark/Division stations; on the Brown Line at Armitage, Chicago, Francisco, Montrose, Irving Park, and Addison stations; and in the Loop at the Merchandise Mart and Washington/Wells stations.

Some of the more intense work included concrete repairs, removal of outdated fixtures and equipment, and repairs to utility and plumbing lines. Work also included smaller cosmetic upgrades such as replacing sheet metal or damaged signage, cleaning, and repair of surfaces (e.g., columns, walls, railings, fencing/gates, platform fixtures, etc.) and power washing was also performed.

Along with 14 bus turnaround makeovers, including ensuring areas are graffiti free; repainting painted services; and LED lighting conversions and components.

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Kukla, Fran and Ollie on the big screen

The Chicago History Museum will be showing some newly digitized episodes of Kukla, Fran and Ollie on the big screen in their Robert R. McCormick Theater, 1601 N. Clark St.

The shows will be put on from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26 through Sunday, Dec. 31. The shows are free with the price of admission.

In 1947, puppeteer Burr Tillstrom brought an extraordinary troupe of performers already familiar to many Chicagoans to local television station WBKB. Joined by their front-of-stage friend Fran Allison, the Kuklapolitans—Oliver J. Dragon, Buelah Witch, Cecil Bill, Madame Ooglepuss, Fletcher Rabbit, Colonel Crackie, and Kukla himself—were welcomed into hundreds of thousands of American homes on network television shows of a variety of lengths and formats in the 1950s.

Working without a script, the cast of Kukla, Fran and Ollie improvised conversations about everyday life laced with humor, astute commentary on current events, original music, and perennial features.

Visitors may also want to visit Madame Ooglepuss in Chicago: Crossroads of America on the second floor, which focuses on a selection of stories that illustrate Chicago's crossroads nature and its national influence.

KISSINGER from p. 2

A graduate of the historic Virginia Military Institute. The silent portion of your Big Mac and a Chicago executive of historic proportions. The family's generational Greek pedigree and Chicago credentials established them as class A entrepreneurs in the baking industry. And when the mad man of burgers, **Ray Kroc**, was set to open his very first McDonald's in Des Plaines back in the 1950s, his father cautioned Kroc to make sure his parking lot was well-paved. Sadly with no funds available, he said it was a goal left undone. So Frank's father, on a handshake promised to take care of the paving himself. Kroc said that Grandpa Kuchuris was entitled, then, to create all the buns for the burgers. 70 years later that act of kindness recalls the multi-million dollar business of "buns" for the whole world. Frank ran the business globally his whole life, together with a loving family of humor, learning and beauty. I join in mourning the loss of this grand man of Chicago's baking industries. And send love and heartfelt respect to his children who always gave him delight.

CSO: From **Todd S. Davis** ... "**Hilary Hahn's** performance of the Brahms Violin Concerto was superb, and I was also delighted to see my favorite cellist, **Brant Taylor** on stage as well. A top-notch evening indeed."

TOPS: Daisies at 2735 N. Milwaukee Ave. This Logan Square spot was just named Eater Chicago's 2023 'Restaurant of the Year.'

PRE PAY: Cook County property owners don't need to wait for their next property tax bills to arrive in the mail next year to find out how much they will owe, says Treasurer **Maria Pappas**. Taxpayers can visit cookcountytreasurer.com to view, download and prepay their First Installment 2023 property tax bills. The First Installment, which is 55% of the previous year's total tax, is due March 1, 2024. An early look at the bills allows property owners to plan ahead. A lot of bills come due after the holidays. Pappas is posting the bills online months before they are due helps people plan accordingly.

The First Installment 2023 bills go in the mail around Feb. 1.

THE JEWISH DELI: Eli's Cheesecake's is still the talk of the town. Now rich history at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, as part of their new special exhibition, "I'll Have What She's Having": The Jewish Deli," takes it further. Joining Eli's President, **Marc Schulman** on the panel of all-star foodies, very comedic, were, **Larry Levy**, founder of Levy Restaurants, **Rich Melman**, founder of Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants, **Ken Raskin**, owner of Manny's Cafeteria and Deli, with moderator WGN Radio personality



(Back row L-R) Marc Schulman, WGN Radio's Bob Sirott, Ken Raskin, (front row L-R) Rich Melman and Larry Levy.



Frank Kuchuris



Felecia Feketitsch



Patrick O'Malley with Lucy, Maeve and Courtney O'Malley.



Cardinal Cupich's carol concert at Holy Family.

Bob Sirott. Don't miss this.

WINTER DANCE: **Miss Mack, Mack Oliver** is back teaching dance at Chase Park in Ravenswood, starting Jan. 10. Children's programming is her full-time gig, doing children's concerts, ballerina birthday parties and teaching dance and yoga in schools throughout Chicago. Sometimes her guinea pig, **Guieseppe Lin Manuel**, makes guest appearances in her digital programming. Register now, her classes fill quickly.

WHO'S WHERE: **Shaun Rajah** famed of the Langham Hotel, began the week with a harmonious blend of celebrations. Kicking off with his rendition of "Santa Baby" at the The Service Club of Chicago. Singing alongside cabaret royalty **Denise Tomasello** and **Gregory Hyder**... **Karen Zupko** had a fun evening at The Chicago History Museum with the "Dredge," the assorted blue blood aging prep school choristers who haven't lost their pedigreed style, with Astor Street's **Vern Broders** singing swell in top hat as their voices put everyone in the spirit... Artist **Rosemary Fanti** doing a holiday luncheon with mother, **Delores**, and her delightful ladies of Knit Wits... Happy Birthday to **James Francis McNulty III**, off with lovely Anne visiting West Coast offspring from Portland to San Francisco... **Janet and Rodger Owen** so much in love... Some of the cast of Downtown Abbey discovered an easy hand move to create publicity for the English blue bloods on the New York subway... **Irene Michaels** with **Arny**



Janet and Roger Owen.

adding another award to her collection, thanks to everyone who voted for her and special thanks to **Eileen Shapiro**... **Kim Duda, Father Gregg Sakowicz** and morning mass goes at Holy Name Cathedral... **Ken Norgan** and friends at the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce Santa Lucia festival at the Drake Hotel... **Melinda Jakovich Lagrange** hollydaying with her team at WAC... Designer **Takara Beathea-Gudell** got a happy surprise visit from **Angelia Hopson** and **Teresa Dismukes** at her design show booth... **Felecia Feketitsch** at Tufano's on Vernon Park making the best martinis in Chicago for **Joey DiBuono's** legion of fans... **Suzie Fortsmann Kealey** was snapped for her 2023 Christmas card on the lawn at pretend Downtown Abbey, at the real Highclere, looking very regal during her travels to the great houses of England.

YOUR 'HOOD: Back in the 1920s Chicago School sociologists — a group of social scientists based at the Univ. of Chicago — helped divide the city into Community Areas. These 77 discrete geographies have been used ever since to define and measure parts of Chicago. But many now acknowledge that Community Areas — like West Town and New City — conceal the city's smaller, vibrant and varied neighborhoods and can't account for changes in neighborhood boundaries. To better capture neighborhoods, in 1978 the Chicago Dept. of Planning developed a map of 228 neighborhoods. While that map includes many places obscured by the Community Areas — like Chinatown, Andersonville, and Park Manor — it was created more than 40 years ago and drew on a field survey of just 10 residents in each neighborhood. In the last four decades, the city has changed. Isn't it time our map of neighborhoods did too? So they're doing it again. Visit <https://chicago-neighborhoods.com/> or urbanism@uchicago.edu.

THE CLINK: Cook County Sheriff **Thomas J. Dart** and Illinois Secretary of State **Alexi Giannoulis** announced a partnership to provide State Identification Cards for individuals leaving Cook County Jail. It's the first of its kind for a county jail. The program will gradually expand to provide IDs to everyone in Cook County Jail.

The one thing women don't want to find in their stockings on Christmas morning is their husband.
-- **Joan Rivers**
tog515@gmail.com

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CHARTER from p. 1

and budgeting standards and practices. “This would include “independently and professionally scored and reported analysis from an independent budget office supporting the City Council. There also could be prohibitions on borrowing or selling assets to cover operating costs.

“A constitutionally mandated and enforceable process of input and engagement with residents and constituent leaders regarding major expenditures and policies could reduce inefficient offices and operations,” Ferguson said. “Financial resources could be redirected to better align with community priorities.”

Some of the provisions could yield cost-savings, according to Ferguson. “Efficiencies would be assessed and incorporated into the regular budget process.”



Joe Ferguson, executive director and board president of (re)Chicago, is an expert in local governance and national government accountability. As Chicago’s Inspector General he led a 100-person team in independent municipal oversight.

Photo by Bob Kitsos

If the city had a charter

“A city charter would prevent things like the notorious parking meter deal, approved approximately 72 hours after introduction,” Ferguson said. This happened “without time or information needed for thorough evaluation and assessment resulting in the 75-year leasing of an element of critical and revenue-generating infrastructure at lower than market value.”

He continued, “This will cost residents and visitors exorbitant amounts for generations, in return for which the city received money to cover a short-term op-

While the parking meter debacle occurred in 2008, there are more recent examples of major actions undertaken by the mayor or City Council. Ferguson cited the Bally’s Casino deal, the turnover of the downtown lakefront to NASCAR, and the sell-off of property held in trust for public housing to a professional sports team.

erating budget deficit that it spent in two years.”

Ferguson explained that if the proposal had happened in New York City, which is governed by a charter, it would first have been independently and professionally scored by the NYC Independent Budget Office. Then it would be reported to the City Council and the public ahead of public hearings. It may have required a voter-referendum approval.

While the parking meter debacle occurred in 2008, there are more recent examples of major actions undertaken by the mayor or City Council. Ferguson cited the Bally’s Casino deal, the turnover of the downtown lakefront to NASCAR, and the sell-off of property held in trust for public housing to a professional sports team.

The Chicago City Council is the legislative branch of the city government and would be responsible for drafting and passing the city’s charter. In assessing city government Ferguson said, “It’s Groundhog Day here, always. There are no guard rails or lane dividers.”

Ferguson said the mayor, who heads the City Council, has an extraordinary amount of legislative power and, basically, there are no checks or balances. “The aldermen think of themselves as mini-mayors, especially the longer-tenured ones,” he said.

“Mayors know they can go only so far in interpreting and applying their powers, because if they go any further, they’re crossing into at best ambiguous, and at worst violative territory,” he continued. “If the City Council drifts into a place of transactional compliance with a mayor, a member of the public can file a lawsuit saying, ‘You guys can’t do this because the constitution says you can’t.’”

Adopting a charter

There are three ways to adopt a city charter. One is a Chicago voter referendum on the changing and creation of a charter commission. The second is for the mayor

and City Council to authorize the creation of a charter commission. Ferguson said that’s unlikely because they would be entering into an exercise that might result in a diminution and redistribution of certain powers, including those of the mayor.

The third way is legislation in Springfield that creates a charter commission and amends the Cities and Villages Act by sunsetting certain provisions that apply to Chicago. This then would be replaced with referendum-approved recommendations of the charter commission.

How the public can participate

People can become more informed and provide input for a city charter. Ferguson, an Edgewater resident, and his team founded Reimagine Chicago -- now (re) Chicago -- in 2022, a strategic initiative to assess and address flaws in the city’s governance structure.

He said, “Invite us into your community meeting to make presentations and to discuss this means of reforming Chicago government in a way undertaken by every other peer city. Also, talk to your city and state-elected representatives about the need for a charter commission to reform Chicago government and encourage them to meet with us to discuss the benefits of and process for a city charter.”

According to (re)Chicago’s website, “Our current system is best described as dysfunctional, lacking the checks and balances that foster sound decision-making. A long history of transactional power politics has led to perpetual struggle and crisis. Community engagement is often an afterthought.

The website continues, (re)Chicago aims to reset the balance of power and install accountability in Chicago’s government through a citizen-driven process, leading to voter-approved, constitutional-level changes in its municipal governance structure.”

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CHECK from p. 3

He adds that consumers should contact their bank immediately if they suspect suspicious behavior.

“The tactics used by these criminals are constantly evolving, and Illinois bankers are encouraging consumers to stay informed and vigilant,” Hultgren said.

Organized mail theft has become part of the “new hustle in urban America,” a law enforcement source told this reporter in January.

One arm of the operation is responsible for stealing USPS master keys from mail carriers, often at gunpoint. Those keys are passed on to “joggers,” who use them to open banks of mailboxes in residential buildings and steal the contents. The stolen mail is passed on to another arm of the organization specializing in financial crimes like identity theft and check washing.

Since 2020, the USPS’s police force has

Since 2020, the USPS’s police force has been limited to protecting the agency’s physical assets rather than going on patrol to help protect the system as a whole and mail carriers in particular.

been limited to protecting the agency’s physical assets rather than going on patrol to help protect the system as a whole and mail carriers in particular.

The change was a direct order from Postmaster General Louis DeJoy in 2020. Courts have upheld DeJoy’s authority to limit the police force mission.

Illinois’ senior senator, Sen. Dick Durbin, is introducing legislation that he hopes will put the postal police back on the street.

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

202020 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff,

-v.- MATTHEW D. EHRHART, WAVELAND COMMONS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE Defendants

2022 CH 08263 1648 W WAVELAND AVENUE, 3E CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 15, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 8, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 1648 W WAVELAND AVENUE, 3E, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-19-223-055-1005 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$316,566.45. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 22-059115. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CHAD LEWIS ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810 CHICAGO IL, 60601 561-241-6901 E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM

Attorney File No. 22-059115 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439 Attorney Code. 65582 Case Number: 2022 CH 08263 TJSC#: 43-4382

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2022 CH 08263 13234685

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff,

-v.- PATRICIA NAJDUK A/K/A PATTI NAJDUK, EL LAGO CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA M BRUCE A/K/A PATRICIA MARGARET BRUCE, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, PATRICIA NAJDUK, INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA MARGARET BRUCE, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF KATHERINE P SANTOS Defendants

2023 CH 00643 6157 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD #19A CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 13, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 18, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 6157 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD #19A, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-211-024-1185 The real estate is improved with a high rise condominium.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. 312-346-9088

E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 22-13491L Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 2023 CH 00643 TJSC#: 43-4170

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2023 CH 00643 13234464

131313 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Real Estate For Sale

COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,

-v.- ROBERT ROONEY, AKA ROBERT R. ROONEY; STATE OF ILLINOIS; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY; PARK TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants,

19 CH 10237 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 14-08-203-017-1255. Commonly known as 5415 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD UNIT 2203, CHICAGO, IL 60640.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. 23-001958 ADC F2 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13233676

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION FIFTH THIRD BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

-v.- CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO NORTH STAR TRUST COMPANY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO PARK NATIONAL BANK & TRUST OF CHICAGO AS TRUSTEE U/T/AT DATED 3/5/1999 A/K/A TRUST NUMBER 10238; BARBARA B. VON LANGE; MALIBU CONDOMINIUM; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO NORTH STAR TRUST COMPANY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO PARK NATIONAL BANK & TRUST OF CHICAGO AS TRUSTEE U/T/AT DATED 3/5/1999 A/K/A TRUST NUMBER 10238; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANT Defendants,

22 CH 9504 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 14-05-215-015-1057. Commonly known as 6007 N. Sheridan Road, Unit 10A, Chicago, IL 60660.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act THE SALE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO GENERAL TAXES, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AND TO A PRIOR RECORDED FIRST MORTGAGE

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6925. 6722-187667 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13233727

060606 -----

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY

GUARDIAN CREDIT UNION 4501 W. Greenfield Ave. West Milwaukee, WI 53214,

Plaintiff, v. TREVELLE H. DOUGLAS 10036 S. Morgan St. Chicago, IL 60643, Defendant.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS Case No: 23CV008124

kee, Wisconsin 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

We are attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated this 1st day of December, 2023.

DARNIEDER & SOSNAY

By: Electronically signed by Michael A. Sosnay Michael A. Sosnay, Attorney for Plaintiff State Bar No: 1059549 P.O. ADDRESS 735 N. Water Street, Suite 205 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 277-1400

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN To each person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after December 6, 2023, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233, and to the plaintiff’s attorney, whose address is 735 N. Water Street, Suite 205, Milwau-

North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION Wabash Superior 1 LLC, a Delaware LLC Plaintiff(s)

-v.- Symmetry Tower/Chicago Project Owner, LLC, et al Defendant(s) Case Number: 2019 CH 06658 Sheriff No.: 240001

Pursuant to a Judgment made and entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will on January 30, 2024, at 1:00 P.M., in Room LL06 of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction the following described premises and real estate mentioned in said Judgment:

Legal Description: PIN(s): 17-10-101-008; 17-10-101-009; 17-10-101-010; 17-10-101-011; and 17-10-101-012 Common Address: 739 N. Wabash Ave., 42 E. Superior Street; 44-46 E. Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Improvements: non-residential property consisting of a three-car garage with storage above on Wabash (737 N. Wabash); a three-flat with restaurant space (42 East Superior); multi-level (3) commercial space (44 East Superior) and multi-level mixed use space (46 East Superior)

Sale shall be under the following terms: payment of not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the successful and highest bid to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier’s check or certified funds at the sale; and the full remaining balance to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier’s check or certified funds within twenty-four (24) hours after sale. Sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments. Premises will NOT be open for inspection.

For information: Jamie L. Burns, Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC, 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606

This is an attempt to collect a debt, pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Law Firm Information: Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC Address: 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606 Phone: 312-346-8380 13234689

202020 -----

Real Estate For Sale

131313 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; Plaintiff,

-v.- UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JOHN J. MOORE; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; CARL SANDBURG VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION NO.2; CRAIG MOORE; DAMON RITTENHOUSE AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR JOHN J. MOORE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

22 CH 10301 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 17042070861216. Commonly known as 1460 NORTH SANDBURG TERRACE, UNIT 309, CHICAGO, IL 60610.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6925. 6766-188153 ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13233680

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CITIMORTGAGE, INC.; Plaintiff,

-v.-

Real Estate For Sale

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ERIC MATHIASSEN; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.; ELAINE MATHIASSEN; EVAN MATHIASSEN; MARK MATHIASSEN; ROBERT JOHN MATHIASSEN; WILLIAM BUTCHER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ERIC MATHIASSEN; HURON-WELLS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

22 CH 11127 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 17-09-210-017-1004. Commonly known as 156 W. Huron, Unit 4D, Chicago, IL 60610.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6925. 6710-186021 ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13233684

060606 -----

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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

202020 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION FIFTH THIRD BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; Plaintiff,

-v.- NAYELI ESPINOZA; FARWELL ESTATES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

22 CH 5725 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 16, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 12, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 11-32-123-016-1014; 11-32-123-016-1030. Commonly known as 6836 N. Lakewood Avenue, Unit G and parking space G-4, Chicago, IL 60626.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6925. 6722-185633 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13234356

Real Estate For Sale

BINYOMIN CHESNY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants

2022 CH 06513 2547 W. FARWELL AVE CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 16, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 12, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 2547 W. FARWELL AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-36-229-004-0000

The real estate is improved with a single family residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

Real Estate For Sale

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For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-04483 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2022 CH 06513 TJSC#: 43-3948

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2022 CH 06513 13234198

060606 -----

Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We

New 40-unit Cornerstone mens homeless shelter proposal for Wilson Ave.

Community meeting Jan. 8

Cornerstone Community Outreach, 4628 N Clifton Ave., is proposing to expand their campus to add a non-congregate homeless men's shelter at 1140 W. Wilson.

A non-congregate shelter is a shelter where male residents have their own rooms instead of sharing one large room.

The site is currently zoned C1-5, which allows for a non-congregate shelter with a special use permit. Cornerstone is also seeking Tax Increment Financing funding from the Wilson Yards TIF to complete the project.

Cornerstone, and city officials are hosting a community meeting

on this proposal 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, 2024. The meeting will take place at Wilson Abbey, 935 W. Wilson. There is also an online survey being conducted at <https://www.46thward.com/cornerstone>.

The plan calls for 40 units for homeless men. Residents get their own unit, including their own bathroom and kitchenette, and will be provided with case management, support services, access to meals, and other resources down the block at Cornerstone's community shelter and the Sylvia Center on Clifton Ave.

Though the city's Dept. of Family and Support Services [DFSS] does not run a criminal background check prior to accepting

the residents, staff reportedly do a national and Illinois sex offender registry check, and if they are on the registry, Cornerstone says they will not be accepted. There will be no curfew for residents and they will not have to leave the facility to access provided services. Cornerstone says that traditional curfews have made it difficult for individuals that work second and third shifts to access shelter.

Cornerstone partners with the DFSS to operate four homeless shelters – two shelters for families and two for adult individuals. Along with shelter, Cornerstone operates a weekly food and clothing pantry for neighborhood residents.

One of those shelters is located in the Epworth Church, 5253 N. Kenmore. Cornerstone has embarked on a search to find a new location after the church was sold and was awarded funding by the city to create a new non-congregate shelter. Cornerstone was able to enter into an agreement with Cedar St. to transform 1140 W. Wilson into a non-congregate shelter. Presently 1140 W. Wilson is a market-rate Single Room Occupancy residential building with 40 units.

The family shelters can accommodate up to 44 families, and the adult shelters can accommodate 72 individuals.

January Puppet Festival

The 6th Chicago International Puppet Festival, Jan. 18-28, 2024, is bringing more than 100 puppet shows and events from around the world to venues large and small throughout the city.

The festival is primarily for adults, but the Chicago Puppet Fest has seven shows on tap for all ages, including the Free Neighborhood Tour, with 10 free performances of Tears by the River by Krystal Puppeteers of Kenya touring to nine locations throughout the city, the return of Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About A Terrible Monster by Chicago favorite Manual Cinema.

For more information visit chicagopuppetfest.org.

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3F3662 (Lewandowski, Brett)
3F3631 (Meehan, John J)
3C3242 (Sherrad, Sven)
3F3502 (Tate, Latrice)
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This sale is to be held on Thursday,
December 28, 2023, at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

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TURF WARS from p. 1

pus are often believed to be tied to gang culture, as well as higher-profile incidents, such as one on Oct. 20 in which three teenagers were shot in a parked car on the 4400 block of N. Sheridan Rd.

The prevalence of gang culture and violent crime in Chicago has attracted national attention, putting the systemic problems in a vacuum. It can be hard to decipher between fact and fiction when looking into the problems we face.

In Rogers Park, there is a strong established community centric effort organized and led by locals. Groups such as Circles and Ciphers, provide music-driven restorative justice organizations working with young people affected by violence, and formerly incarcerated individuals, in and around the Rogers Park. Community-focused groups such Communities Partnering 4 Peace, a Rogers Park and Uptown based group, is directly affiliated with ONE Northside, which works primarily in violence prevention and youth outreach through direct engagement and support of community members.

Policy Director and Chief of Staff, Les-

lie Perkins [49th ward], noted, “there is additional funding in the 2024 budget for violence disruption, youth employment, and to implement the GoodKidsMadCity Peacebook ordinance.”

The GoodKidsMadCity plan calls for divesting upwards of \$40 million from the Chicago Police Dept. [CPD] budget to be used for youth job-training programs and violence prevention efforts.

The CPD will see a \$50 million increase to their nearly \$2 billion 2024 budget, just as confidence in city leaders and politics are waning.

When addressing violent crime and gang violence, perspectives and feelings towards some of the city’s most infamous issues can vary wildly.

Jessica Brandt, a mother and former gang member from West Town says, “Gangs ruined Chicago, walking anywhere you could be on the edge of territory or not.”

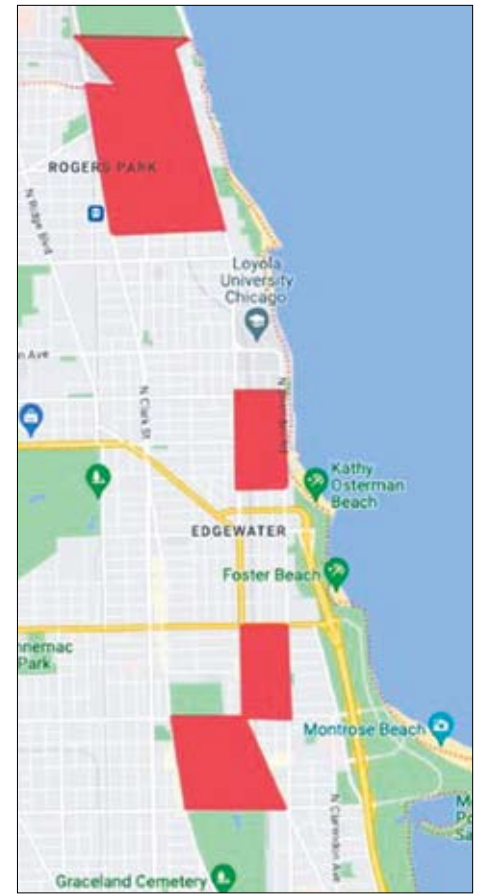
The recent uptick in crime was bolstered in the summers following COVID-19 lockdowns, causing more unease and doubt across the region. Despite multiple spikes in violent crime in recent years, according to CPD in 2022, gang-affiliated gun violence has been on the decline since the

mid-2010s.

“In comparison [to the Loop] I wouldn’t say it’s unsafe here, there are certain areas you want to avoid,” said Cynthia Nguyen, a Loyola senior.

Rogers Park is divided by both the presence of a large University and one of the busiest passenger-rail corridors, which create a varying difference of perspectives on the topic. But now, with a pressing migrant crisis and budget deficit, CPD reports that violent crime and homicides have reached pre-pandemic levels. This should not dismiss concerns over the primary driver of gang violence, demand for illegal narcotics and lack of youth opportunities. Communities that reach out and take an interest in their young people’s environment is a step in the right direction.

(At right) Chicago police investigators have deemed the areas shaded red to have a “strong possibility” of retaliatory shootings as a North Side gang war heats up. Gang turf boundaries are roughly Ardmore to Granville, Broadway to Sheridan; Morse to Juneway, Clark to Sheridan; Foster to Lawrence, Broadway to Sheridan, and Montrose to Lawrence, Broadway to Clark.



PRESTON from p. 1

hardships, the building was sold in 2022 for \$2 million.

Now the Ivankovich family is moving to transform the center into a venue and community center. At its core will be the renovated auditorium for concerts and a new office for their non-profit OnePatient Global Health, which focuses on providing healthcare services. Additionally a music studio will be added, existing church offices and artist studios will remain. The Peoples Church will also retain a presence in the building.

Karla Ivankovich told Block Club that the

Preston Bradley Center will be the headquarters of their OnePatient Global Health initiative. She said one of the center’s main focuses will be on health services and education, as the Ivankoviches have dedicated their lives to providing healthcare to the underserved. Youth outreach is also a priority, as Daniel Ivankovich has partnered with nearby Uplift High School to allow students to utilize the center.

“For our outreach component, we have to look at factors like: Can someone pay their bills? Do they have a support system? Are they in a domestic abuse situation? Is there suicidal ideation?” Karla Ivankovich told Block Club. “If you don’t address the

behavioral health needs of a patient, then whatever the issue is will get worse.”

The center will host activities like group physical therapy and Tai Chi to promote health and wellness for seniors.

The community center will also be a haven for music and the arts, as a music studio will be added to the building, which will reportedly be the setting for educational programs, music therapy and jam sessions. As the head of the Chicago Blues Society, Daniel Ivankovich - a.k.a., ‘Chicago Slim’ - plans on recruiting his blues contemporaries.

According to Block Club, the intersection of music and health has defined the

trajectory of Daniel Ivankovich’s life. Although he had played the violin as a kid, he was determined to make it to the NBA. But during his freshman year at Northwestern Univ. he tore his ACL, crushing his hoop dreams. In the suddenly dark period of his life, he turned to music, and he honed his craft at the Checkerboard Lounge on the South Side, where he became acquainted with blues legends L.C. Thurman and Buddy Guy. Ivankovich saw it as his responsibility to give back to the community that got him back on his feet during that “horrible time” of his life, and right now the healing will be focused on the Preston Bradley Center.



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