

It is not the horse
that draws the cart,
but the oats.

— Proverb

Plans for pot shop at Rainforest Cafe have burned out

Turns out clout wasn't enough to save the proposed pot shop at The Rainforest Cafe, 605 N. Clark St., in River North.

The plan to turn the rainforest themed building into a recreation cannabis dispensary was axed after numerous complications and controversies related to how they were trying to get their state-sanctioned dope-dealing license.

On Jan. 3 the attorney representing the dispensary partners said they had abandoned their plans because the development was being delayed by litigation, uncertainty and growing costs.

The plan drew concerns over how the Palatine-based Progressive Treatment Solutions [PTS] would achieve their license by using an equity-based loophole in the state's regulations. The partnership's clout was coming in part from their CEO, Terry

Peterson, the former 17th Ward alderman and former CTA Board Chairman, who has served for decades in city government. The Sun-Times also reported that PTS had recently donated \$139,500 to state lawmakers, and currently has two high-powered lobbyists working on its behalf in Springfield.

Last year PTS notified the city of their desire to get a Special-Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals [ZBA] to relocate an existing dispensary they owned in Norwood Park to River North.

However, state law says that a dispensary cannot open within 1,500 feet of an existing pot shop unless it's owned by a so-called "social equity applicant," in which case a separate set of state regulations would kick in.

There are already three dope dispensaries within 1500-feet of

the 605 N. Clark St. location in River North (Sunnyside Dispensary at 436 N. Clark St., Verilife Dispensary at 60 W. Superior St. and MOCA Modern Cannabis dispensary at 216 W. Ohio St.). At the time PTS did not have social equity status, a designation created to diversify the white-dominated weed business.

So PTS partnered with Bio-Pharm to move the plan forward. Bio-Pharm is one of the companies that received a Social Equity Cannabis License from the state in 2021. The partnership also hired a workforce of people that meet various social equity requirements, like living in an area that's been harmed by the drug war or having a previous marijuana arrest or conviction.

The parallel set of rules are

PLANS see p. 12

No in-person option for Jan. 16 community meeting on Fern Hill's Old Town plans

Now that developers Fern Hill have made their plans known, the 2nd Ward office is hosting a community meeting 6 p.m., Jan. 16 to get feedback on the company's high density development proposal for the north side of North Ave. between Wells St. and LaSalle Dr.

The site in question is now occupied by a Walgreens store and a Moody Church parking lot. The developer hopes to erect a new high density, mixed-use 36-story, nearly 400-foot tall tower with 500 rental units, but only provide 150 off-street parking spots available to the building's residents.

The meeting will be held virtually, with no in-person option available, meaning that somebody from the city or ward office will likely have the ability to mute all conversations, questions and independent voices but for those chosen by the moderator to speak. The ward office claimed in a notice release Jan. 3 that any resident who "pre-registers to speak will be given a time-limited opportunity to do so."

The opaque, limited format of virtual meetings likely guarantees there will be no back and forth debate allowed between the developer, city and neighbors; That

the moderator may use the mute button to shut down spontaneous conversations, cheering, jeering, and cajoling that are signatures of real free-speech community meetings, denying stakeholders the ability to mull over options or allow for on-the-spot negotiations.

Citizens have come to see that the signature of virtual community meetings - and specifically the over-use of the ubiquitous 'mute button' - is a general lack of free speech, and inability to have any open give and take between parties to a meeting.

Fern Hill is expected to offer a short presentation providing an overview of the proposal and highlighting any recent updates.

Public comment will begin immediately after the presentation, but that means that only one person can speak at a time, with all audience groaning, heckling or complaining left muted. The ward office says they will be taking questions via the chat function both during and following the presentation.

Those wishing to join the meeting may register at https://us06-web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BP1qMz6ARCawDW0KWYSY0A.

Privileged bike path closes Dickens/Stockton intersection

Secret Dickens Greenway deal a cautionary tale for all communities

BY RONALD ROENIGK

Crafty North Side drivers have long enjoyed the pleasant views and time saved by turning north on Stockton Dr. off LaSalle Dr., passing by the Farm in the Zoo and Green City Market to Dickens Dr., then heading west on Dickens into Lincoln Park, thereby avoiding the usual traffic backups on Clark St.

Well that scenic detour appears to be ending, as it is the victim of Chicago's new scourge: the privileged bike path. This is a cautionary tale to all Chicago communities on secret city deals negotiated behind citizens' backs.

(Note to readers, not all bike paths are "privileged." A privileged bike path is one that takes a taxpayer-funded public accommodation - such as a roadway - and cordons off all or some of that roadway for the exclusive use of one entitled class of user. While public streets are intended to be open to all forms of transportation from big trucks down to pedestrians on foot, Chicago's privileged bike paths are cordoned off - many times behind bollards or concrete barriers - and reserved for the exclusive use of one 'privileged' class of user: bikers.)

In October, work began on a contraflow bike lane that allowed cyclists to travel in both direc-



Dickens Dr. is now blocked at the intersection with Stockton. There are posted signs saying, "Do not enter except bikes." Chicago Park District employees can also use the block to park their cars on.

tions along the one-way stretch of Dickens Ave. near Oz Park and east into Lincoln Park. Work was completed on Dec. 22, and today

A casual reading of the city's first set of plans does not show a blockage of Dickens at Stockton. The first reference to blocking Dickens is seen in a July 20, 2023 email written by Ald. Timmy Knudsen [43rd].

the entrance to Dickens at Stockton Dr. is blocked for all but bikers and for Chicago Park District

employee parking.

A casual reading of the city's first set of plans does not show a blockage of Dickens at Stockton. The first reference to blocking Dickens is seen in a July 20, 2023 email written by Ald. Timmy Knudsen [43rd].

This situation has now created strife within the community, and this problem now sits squarely on Ald. Knudsen's desk. It appears that one of his first accomplishments after winning his aldermanic seat in 2023 was to mislead his community about the fate of the Dickens Greenway, and in the eyes of many 43rd Ward residents, in making things worse.

BIKE PATH see p. 12

**Diehard fans:
Future of Chicago sports
is stormy, See page 3**

Former hotel may go residential, but will provide zero parking

Details have recently been released for a proposed residential conversion at 201 E. Delaware Plc. in Streeterville.

The former 18-story home of the Raffaello Hotel and more recently the Gale Hotel is being offered up for a residential conversion under a proposal by Florida-based Pebb Capital.

The stunning part of the project proposal is that the developer is planning to provide zero off-street parking for residential and guest use. The developers will now need to receive approval from the Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd], the Committee on Zoning, and keep from being tarred and feathered by nearby residents over all the added density with no parking, in one of the most congested, and difficult parking areas in the city.

The developer is proposing

to convert the building into 140 apartments, 56 hotel rooms, and a 2,800-square-foot ground floor restaurant space along Delaware. Off-street parking is available in several nearby buildings.

The property is located at the corner with N. Mies Van Der Rohe Way just behind the John Hancock Center Building. A new retractable glass roof has been proposed for the roof level.

The shuttered hotels once featured 170 hotel rooms along with a restaurant. The details were discovered in a recent rezoning application submitted by the developer in late December.

Work on the 200-foot-tall structure will include repairs to the Mediterranean-style facade along with new windows, hoping to preserve the building's original character.



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It was a Gilmore Girls Christmas



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Where are those Gilmore Girls when you need them?

Lorelei, the mom. Rory, the preppy daughter. Perhaps they're off visiting Emily and Richard Gilmore, Lorelei's tony, blue-blood Connecticut society parents.

Well, truth be told, they were visiting me at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Like me, they were checking out the views of the lakefront from my electric bed, and ringing the nurses station phone.

Being a patient today in our new 2024 means that instead of being force-fed tepid WASP cuisine, you can take advantage of what the neighborhood has to offer. Lou Malnati's pizza. A Gibson's rack of ribs. Tenderloin Sliders from Luxbar. And a cheeseburger and fries from Ralph Lauren Bar

& Grill. (Don't tell my cardiologist!)

Being hospitalized twice in two weeks offers one the opportunity to not only avoid most of the shallow secular Christmas holiday celebrations, but to journey more deeply into the solitude and self-introspection of aging and being ill.

No amount of humor can actually right that boat. Only the companionship of my sibling, and true friend, Steve, are able to provide me with the stamina of real productive visiting.

Plus the added Christmas treasure from them this year of a new Ralph Lauren blazer and all the works. Gray flannel slacks, khaki trousers, denim shirts, sweaters I could wear at Oxford U. and buckskin moccasins, fleece-lined swede boat shoes.

So, even in my hospital room, I had lots of heavy duty Christmas gifts, real "preppy" armament, to help me meet the cultural and fashion expectations of growing up in American privilege.

Or as I say, "Just dress like you're in prep school 50 years ago."

If you dress right you will act right. There's something to be said for that. If your Oxford cloth shirt is doing its job properly, then no one needs to coax you into kindness or generosity. It should flow naturally, like a bright light bulb in the creative imagination of JFK.

Or if your navy blue flannel blazer, replete with pocket crest, tartan hankie and regimental striped tie are in alignment, then no one has to teach you how to be generous and bountifully giving. It comes comfortably. Naturally. An intelligent expression of recognizing your own good fortune, like having a grandmother who is a fabulous cook.

Most of all when your freshly polished Bass Weejun penny loafers have that over-polished

shine to it, no one has to point you in the direction of the needy or the vulnerable. They are already visible and near at hand. As near as your shimmering Irish Setter, romping all over your lawn. Turning doggy cartwheels on your creeping bend.

No one has to remind you to feed the hungry or make sure they aren't thirsty.

These are external human components that should be an easy reach for a true gentleman. No one is asking you to act outside your capabilities. No one is suggesting you ask for help against your will in finding America's needy.

Caring for other humans is a gentle affirmation of the humanity they come wrapped in.

We embrace them in generous portions. Sizable amounts.

We seek to warm them and protect them against the forces of nature that have the capacity to do them harm. We wrap their vulnerability against the elements of nature, politics, economics, history and poor judgments. Releasing strength and support to construct lives of stability and service.

That's the great resourcefulness of judgment-free giving. Lives transformed and ennobled by expansive compassion and gentlemanly understanding.

It doesn't take long to realize the dynamic power that rides the waves of human compassion.

It's why we need a new start to the new year.

It's a transforming mystery focused on human wholeness. Human completeness.

No wonder it speaks so eloquently in words of divine inspiration in the wonderment of the Christmas mystery. A saga about human wholeness. Human fullness.

And human frailty. We're all just one misfortune away from awaking Christmas morning in a hospital bed. (And thank you to all the good nurses and doctors who go to work on Christmas!)

It's Creation again on the Eden ground of the Bethlehem plain. A cycle of compassionate wellness beyond the blindness of human myopia. Beyond the terror of silent ears shut to all warnings of hope.

What a way to begin a fresh year. Every year.

But sliding into a fresh time carries us into a vulnerability that sustains us in the most awkward of moments. The most imbalanced of postures. The most unguarded moments of righteousness.

New Years are ripe. Rank. Raw. Like the Gilmore girls themselves. As distant as the recipe for good health. But as near as the prescription for balanced living and stable equilibriums.

We hunt the night skies not for sleighs of well-deserved coal sacks, but for clues to the passage of the divine. The journey, long and whole, filled with grit and the familiar taste of tar.

A mom and daughter, the best of friends, certain that the choices made as a teen, just might follow on the rest of your life. Scented with the fragrance of long-off Eden's Garden. The streets so well criss-crossed by the Gilmores. Together.

OLD TOWN DRAMA: Folks in Old Town are pushing back and letting **Ald. Brian Hopkins** know they're none-to-happy over Fern Hill's plans to add lots more density to their community. Big meeting scheduled for Jan. 16.

ACT NOW: More than two years ago, the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society submitted a proposal to the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners asking them to rename the park at 1932 W. Lunt to honor the **John and Amanda Pollard Family**. The Pollards were the first African-American residents of that community, who came to the Village of Rogers Park in the 1880s to escape Missouri's Jim Crow laws that limited their opportunities after the Civil War.

They have been patiently awaiting consideration for their proposal by the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners, but after two years, they are tired of waiting. 2024 is time for a yes-or-no decision. They are not giving up until they get a hearing and a vote. That means attending meetings of the Board of Commissioners every month until they act, and organizing a series of other local activities to press for

action as needed. They are meeting tonight, 7 p.m. Wed, Jan 10, at Paschen Park, 1932 W. Lunt Ave. Go give them a hand.

GOOD DOCTOR: As we are recognizing doctors, we're hearing good things about **Dr. Rami Lutfi, MD**. Dr. Lutfi's passion remains in his work at the Chicago Institute of Advanced Surgery, and traveling the world lecturing, proctoring, and operating. Most recently he was selected to receive the prestigious ASMBS LEAD Award for his Excellence in Clinical Care.

Born in Damascus, Syria — a country still torn by war — Dr. Lutfi's family roots shaped his career. His

parents and sister were pharmacists in the business of importing much-needed medications to the Middle East. His aunt was an educator who was also highly influential in spreading much-needed literacy and knowledge in the region.

Dr. Lutfi got involved with the city administration and developed with its government a special access program to treat obesity in the lower socio-economic minority patients on Chicago's South Side.

Yet, Dr. Lutfi's biggest success remains at home with his wife **Aida** and his two girls, **Lea Maria** and **Talia Barbara**. More like him please!

LEONA'S: Exciting news. Leona's Restaurants officially opened their doors at their new location in Lyons. Come visit at 8315 Ogden Ave. or give a call at 708-526-8599. Can't wait to see

CHRISTMAS see p. 8

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Diehard fans: Future of Chicago sports is stormy



The Home Front
by Don DeBat

If you are a five- or six-decade, diehard Chicago sports fan, better buy your team's gravestone and burial plot now. The future is not looking bright.

In 2023, the improving Chicago Cubs, with the addition of free-agent Cody Bellinger, posted a winning season (83-79 record) and finished in second place in the National League Central Division, but the team faded in September. This writer is a diehard six-decade Cubs fan. (My Cubs 2024 outlook is in this column.)

The hapless Chicago White Sox finished fourth in the American League Central Division, but lost 101 games and won only 61 contests in 2023. The Sox have one big star—outfielder—Luis Robert, Jr. Blame all this on Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf. Advice: Sell the team.

At the beginning of the New Year, all of the city's other professional sports teams are in last place or close to it. Look at this mess:

- Chicago Bears: Record is 7-10 after Sunday's 17-9 loss to the playoff-bound Green Bay Packers in the NFL's National Conference-North Division. The rebuilding Bears earlier were eliminated from the playoffs.

Despite the recent great play of third-year QB Justin Fields, and a vastly improved defense, at season's end, the Bears are at another quarterback crossroad.

The only ray of hope is the Bears have the first pick in the 2024 NFL draft. Should they draft another quarterback? Advice: Stick with Fields. At No. 1, draft

Ohio State wide receiver Marvin Harrison, Jr. Pray the McCaskey Family eventually sells the team.

- Chicago Bulls: Although playing better recently, the team has a 16-21 record—good for next to last in the NBA's Eastern Conference-Central Division. Injured star Zach LaVine wouldn't mind playing for another team. Unfortunately, no team wants him at his envisioned big-buck price. Blame all this on Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf. Advice: Sell the team.

- Chicago Blackhawks: Record is 11-26, good for last place in the NHL's Western Conference-Central Division. However, the team's rookie star, Connor Bedard, recently was injured with a broken jaw after a brilliant start. The Hawks are in a three-year rebuild. Advice: Hold on.

How bright is Cubs' future?

As a former sports editor and writer for the Chicago Daily News, the truth is I have issues with the business-management and long-term future of the Cubs.

On the eve of the Jan. 12 Cubs Convention, it seems like the team owners—the billion-dollar Ricketts family—are more interested in developing Wrigleyville real estate into Disneyland instead of winning the World Series. Here's why: Cubs owners are too cheap. They may be a big-market team, but they need to over-pay and spend some of that Wrigleyville entertainment-venue profit.

Also, keep in mind Cubs tickets are not inexpensive. For the April 18, 2024 Cubs opener versus the Miami Marlins, you will be asked to pay \$1,323 for a box-seat ticket near the third-base dugout, or \$1,172 per ticket to "Club W" further up on the left field line—and \$496 for a "Catalina Club" box seat. A poor fan's left-field bleachers ticket, which cost 50¢ in 1960, is \$24.

If I were a consultant for Cubs' President Jed Hoyer a few weeks ago, I would



Now that Ernie Banks is gone, the beloved Andre Dawson should be the new "Mr. Cub," helping to promote the team.

have advised him to offer Japanese hitting and pitching star, Shohei Ohtani, \$750 million—not \$700 million—for a 10-year deal.

Make it \$500 million now, and \$250 million more after Tommy-John surgery fixes Ohtani's pitching arm. That's \$50 million more than the Los Angeles Dodgers paid, but it might have locked him in. Later, the Dodgers signed Japanese star-pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto for \$200 million. Why not offer Yamamoto \$250 million?

If the Cubs were serious bidders for the Japanese twins, and signed them, it could have attracted several other top free-agent stars to the Cubs. Why not pay Cody Bellinger, the free-agent Cubs star, \$200-million-plus? Then, over-pay big-time free

agents. Let's win again now!

Unfortunately, as of deadline, the penny-pinching Cubs are twiddling their thumbs. They have not signed one important free-agent pitcher or hitter since the 2023 season ended.

Here are more Cubs-boosting ideas called from the diehard fans in the bleachers:

- Cubs road games should be broadcast free on WGN-TV, with a great booth team reminiscent of Jack Brickhouse and Harry Caray. That might again make the Cubs "America's Team," adding billions of dollars to the value of the franchise.

- With 40,000 fans in the sold-out seats at Wrigley Field, Chicago home games should continue to be broadcast on Marquee Sports Network for those "Cub-alcoholics" who need a daily fix and are willing to pay the \$19.99-a-month fee to watch home games.

- Petition the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame to change Andre Dawson's HOF statue to Cubs "C" from Montreal "M," as requested by the great Dawson. Now that Ernie Banks is gone, hire the beloved Dawson to be the new "Mr. Cub," helping to promote the team. Then, erect a statue at Wrigley Field to honor Dawson.

- New Cubs manager Craig Counsel will need all the help he can get to move this .500-team up in the standings to a playoff spot.

This writer played and managed more than 2,000 Chicago slow-pitch 16-inch softball games, compiled nearly 4,000 hits, and won more than 50 championships in a 47-year career. This Chicago Softball HOF inductee is always available free for consulting.

SPORTS see p. 4

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Car thieves escape after ramming cop car in Lakeview

BY CWBCHICAGO

Two suspected car thieves rammed a Chicago police squad car in Lakeview, ripping off the cop car's door as they sped away. No arrests have been made, but officers found the stolen car abandoned a couple of blocks away.

CPD tactical officers saw a 2011 Hyundai Sonata with a broken rear side window around 7:10 p.m. Jan. 5. Stolen cars frequently have broken side windows, especially on theft-prone Kias and Hyundais. Thieves bust the glass, climb in, and start the vehicle by using a USB plug as a key.

Plus, the two men inside the Hyundai were wearing masks, so the cops were particularly suspicious. They decided to pull the car over in the 1600 block of W. Wellington.

When the Hyundai's driver pulled over at Ashland Ave., the cops positioned their squad car in front of it, according to a CPD crash report.

After the officers exited their Ford Explorer, the Hyundai's driver accelerated, striking the cop car's passenger door, which was reportedly ripped from the frame. The Hyundai sped away, heading south on Ashland, the re-

port said.

Police found the Hyundai a short time later in the 1500 block of W. Wrightwood after a resident called 911 to report that two men abandoned a car and ran away. The men who ran from the vehicle were described as Black, probably in their teens, wearing black puffy coats and masks.

Officers said a group of "people who like to steal cars" lives in the area. The Hyundai's owner lives in Gurnee, according to the police report. On Google Street View, his home is nestled on a tree-lined street featuring white fences and carefully maintained yards.

MLK Day

at History Museum Jan. 15

The Chicago History Museum will be hosting a celebration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday Jan. 15, at the museum, 1601 N. Clark St.

This family-friendly day

features musical performances, interactive activities, and community organizations. Entrance to the museum and the days festivities will be free to all Illinois residents.

Sarah's Circle seeking local artist for mural

Sarah's Circle in Uptown are requesting proposals from local artists for a mural installed on Sarah's On Lakeside, their newest affordable housing development.

They are searching for artists who can translate their mission and work to end homelessness for women into a public art piece that represents the wider community.

They are hosting an information session on Jan. 18 for artists interested in submitting designs. These sessions will be an opportunity to learn about their mission and work. The session will be at 1005 W. Leland Ave. from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Those who would like

to participate may email jjilly@sarahs-circle.org to RSVP. Mural submissions are due March 6.

Sarah's Circle is a Chicago-based nonprofit that has been serving unaccompanied homeless adult women for 44 years. They provide services to homeless women through four programs: the Daytime Support Center, Interim Housing Program, Permanent Supportive Housing Program, and Rapid Rehousing Program.

They are now expanding and broke ground on Sarah's on Lakeside last June.

SPORTS from p. 3

At age 32, I took batting practice at Wrigley Field and hit a ball off the left-center field wall at the 368-foot marker.

That poke happened in 1974. Jim Marshall, manager of the then last-placed Cubs, said: "Batman, if you were 10 years younger, I'd give you a contract. You hit better than most of the guys on my bench."

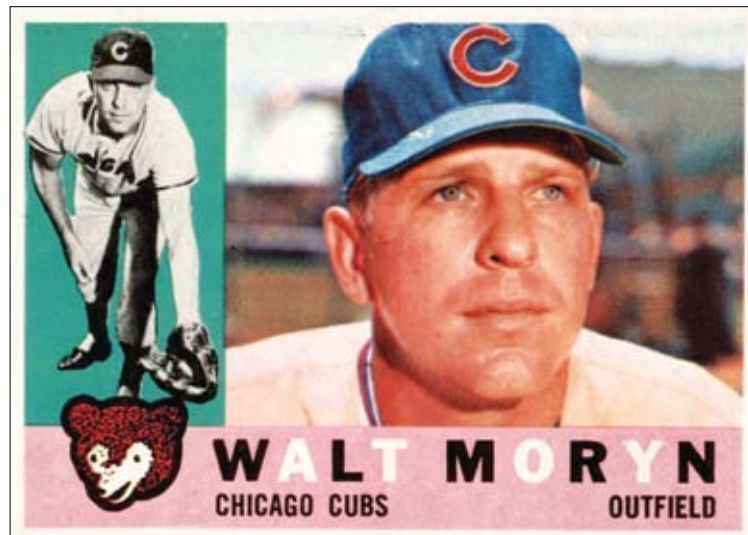
The Chicago Cubs currently are seeking a "Senior Director of Media Relations." This is the "dream job" for any media-type and baseball lover—especially this writer—and probably every fan swilling Bud Lite at the Cubby Bear saloon on a hot summer afternoon in Wrigleyville.

The out-of-this-world job, which pays \$125,378 to \$176,809 per year (depending on experience), involves "directing all media relations activities associated with the Chicago Cubs throughout the MLB season and off-season," reports the Cubs website.

The position is designed to "support and provide counsel to the field manager, Cub players, uniformed personnel and the baseball operations department in their daily interaction with the media."

Required qualifications for the Cubs media job—which this writer already has in spades—include:

- "Strong media/PR acumen, with the ability to work productively and positively with media, major league staff and internal departments."



Late Cub outfielder Walt (Moose) Moryn looked up and said, "nice catch, kid" when this reporter shagged a foul ball.

- An undergraduate degree in journalism, communications, or a related field, and at least 10 years of experience in sports information or media/public relations for a sports organization.

- Working knowledge of baseball statistics and computer technology also is required.

- Nonstandard business work hours exceeding 40 hours per week, extensive travel, including about seven weeks of spring training.

- Required to work all home games, and at least half of the road trip-games.

- Required to represent the organization at business and social functions, and may be requested to work for the National League Office and/or Commissioner's Office for the League Championship Series, the World Series and/

or All-Star Game.

It's been quite a while since this applicant filled out a job application. The last one I can remember was typed on my Smith-Corona manual typewriter in 1968.

Why not give it a shot? After all, this dinosaur newsman—with a master's degree in journalism and more than 30 years of newspaper experience—has been grinding out thousands of news stories and columns for nearly six decades.

While many of my friends and professional associates agree that this writer would make a fine candidate for the Cubs' media job, unfortunately I failed to formally apply, and would refuse the job if offered.

As a loyal fan for six decades, I have many fond memories. As a teenager in 1957, I caught a batting practice ball while hanging over the rail on the left field catwalk, which now is a \$24 seat.

The late Cub outfielder Walt (Moose) Moryn looked up and said: "Nice catch, kid." In 1960, I watched from the bleachers as Don Cardwell pitched a no-hitter in his first game as a Cub, and Moryn made a historic diving catch for the last out to save the game against the St. Louis Cardinals.

So, what's the problem? The dream job doesn't pay enough. Considering what they are asking for the 24-7, year-round traveling position, for an extremely talented, sports-savvy and educated applicant, the Cubs should double what they are offering to a range of \$250,000 to \$350,000.

Go Cubs! Let's play ball!

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

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Pay your late taxes to avoid Annual Tax Sale

Sale began Tuesday

Cook County property owners may have run out of time to pay taxes that were due in 2022 and avoid the Annual Tax Sale. That sale began Tuesday.

To find out if your property is on the Annual Tax Sale list visit cookcountytreasurer.com and 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.

You may also use the website to correct your mailing address. Each year the U.S. Postal Service returns thousands of certified notices sent to owners of properties on the Annual Tax Sale list because property owners have not kept their mailing addresses up to date.

The Annual Tax Sale is going on now through Jan. 12 for properties with unpaid 2021 property taxes due in 2022. Delinquent tax bills will be re-offered for sale on Jan. 16. The Annual Tax Sale occurs 13 months after the due date.

Owners of 47,216 proper-

ties owe more than \$211 million in taxes that were due in 2022. More than 26,000 owe more than \$1,000 while 20,888 owe less than \$1,000, including owners of 14,738 properties in Chicago and 6,150 parcels in suburban Cook County.

The Treasurer's Office mailed certified notices alerting property owners that their unpaid taxes are to be offered for sale, which would put a lien against their properties. It is the first step in a process that can end with a property owner losing their home, business or land. Besides the mailings, the

Treasurer's Office published lists of properties with delinquencies tax lists in local newspapers.

Payment can be made online for free at cookcountytreasurer.com, or in person at any Chase Bank and most community bank locations in Illinois.

Investors buy delinquent tax debt during the Annual Tax Sale. The Annual Tax Sale does not involve the sale of actual properties.

By law, the Treasurer's Office cannot and does not give legal advice related to tax sales. You are strongly advised to seek an

attorney's advice relating to any sale of your taxes. If your taxes are sold your options include redeeming your taxes, seeking a Sale-in-Error Declaration or filing a statutory "Redemption Under Protest."



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Technology helps us serve a diverse population but people make the difference

BY MARIA PAPPAS

Cook County's complex property tax system confuses many taxpayers. Many have a tough time understanding assessments, exemptions, tax levies and other terms we use to describe parts of the system.

Paying taxes can be even more difficult for people who primarily speak a language other than English. There are a lot of them in Cook County. According to the Census Bureau, 35.8% of the county's 5.27 million residents speak a language other than English in their homes. That's about 1.8 million people.

E pluribus unum, Latin for "Out of many, one." That is the traditional motto of the United States, and that motto is stamped on all U.S. coins currently being manufactured.



Maria Pappas

That also mean one Treasurer's office must serve those many citizens.

I realized we needed to better serve multilingual residents when I became treasurer in 1998. Since then, my office has created outreach materials that explain the tax system in English and 27 other languages.

Our website, cookcountytreasurer.com, can easily be translated into 133 languages. We created short informational videos in English, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Cantonese and Mandarin.

You can use our website to download a copy of your tax bill, pay your taxes and change your mailing address. You can search the past 20 years of bill payments to find out if you are owed a refund for past duplicate or overpayments. You can discover ways

to potentially reduce your tax bill by applying for exemptions.

Many homeowners are unaware they are eligible for significant savings through a homeowner's exemption simply for living in their home as their principal residence. Another commonly missed exemption is granted to senior citizens over the age of 65. The Senior Freeze Exemption is available to senior citizens whose annual household income is \$65,000 or less.

You can find out if you're missing exemptions by using the purple box, "Your Property Tax Overview," on the homepage. Type in your address and a picture of your home should appear to let you know you're researching the correct property. You can use our website to search for more than \$93 million in available refunds and \$57 million in missed exemptions.

We can issue refunds for missed exemptions going back four years. Sadly, many homeowners have

missed out on exemptions for decades. Our office is committed to helping as many people as possible better understand the property tax system and potentially save money on their tax bills.

Patriarch of legendary Old Town business dies



Louis J. Glunz, III

Those who have passed down Wells St. have surely noted the stately building, store and tavern on the corner of Division and Wells called The House of Glunz. The building, its business and the Glunz family have quite a history on Chicago's North Side.

Last week the family lost their patriarch, Louis J. Glunz, III age 93, who died Jan. 6, while attending daily Mass.

The Glunz legacy began in 1888 when great-grandfather Louis Glunz Sr. journeyed from Westphalia, Germany to the Old Town neighborhood. His relationships with buyers, sellers

and producers—distilled from hard work and trusted handshakes—are valued generations later and create the foundation for the collections.

For over 130 years The House of Glunz curated the finest wines and spirits at their best value. The House of Glunz is a legend and one of the best, most venerable wine and liquor shops in Chicago.

Lou lived a life committed to his faith, family, and service. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Loyola Univ. in 1951. He earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the Univ. of Notre Dame in 1954. In 1956, Lou founded Regis Technologies, a pharmaceuti-

cal development company, and remained passionately committed to its mission for the rest of his life.

He also lead his family business until the mid-1990s, Louis Glunz Incorporated, a beer and wine distributorship. He held leadership positions in numerous charitable organizations, including a role as the President of the Board of Catholic Charities in Chicago.

Visitation is 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at Donnellan Family Funeral Services, 10045 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The funeral Mass is 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Saint Francis Xavier Church, 524 Ninth St. in Wilmette.



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Police Beat...

Man charged for COVID-19 fraud

A federal judge has sentenced Quamdeen Amuwo to five and a half years in prison for fraudulently obtaining more than \$2.9 million in small business loans and grants under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

From April to Nov. of 2020, Amuwo, 41, of Chicago participated in a scheme to defraud the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan [EIDL] program. The EIDL program was intended to provide loan assistance and grants to cover working capital and other operating expenses for legitimate businesses suffering the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the scheme, Amuwo submitted to the SBA numerous applications for loans on behalf of businesses that he and others purportedly owned. The applications contained false statements and misrepresentations concerning the purported entities' owners, employees, revenues, costs, and dates of establishment. In support of his applications, Amuwo provided false business registration forms and bogus personal identifying information of the purported owners.

Amuwo led and organized a sophisticated fraud scheme that caused the SBA to disburse at least \$2.9 million in EIDL loans and grants into bank accounts that he and others controlled. He used the money to make cash withdrawals, transfers, and purchases for his personal benefit.

A federal jury in June convicted Amuwo on all 12 wire fraud counts against him. In addition to the prison sentence, on Jan. 3 U.S. District Judge Edmond E. Chang ordered Amuwo to pay more than \$2.9 million in restitution.

Ride-share driver robbed at gunpoint in Lincoln Park, forced to surrender phone PIN

A ride-share driver was robbed at gunpoint and forced to unlock her phone as she waited for a passenger in Lincoln Park on Jan. 5. Chicago police said the 44-year-old was inside her car in the 2000 block of W. Diversey when a black SUV, possibly a Jeep, pulled up around 4:05 a.m. Four men got out of the Jeep; one displayed a gun and demanded her property, while the others pounded on her vehicle, a police spokesperson said. The woman surrendered her valuables, and the crew returned to the SUV and drove away. She was not injured. Police did not release descriptions of the suspects.

The crime is strikingly similar to a series of armed robberies that have targeted ride-share drivers on the West Side over the past month. Chicago police have warned Uber and Lyft drivers about the crime pattern, saying drivers have been targeted as they dropped off or picked up passengers.

During the robberies, one robber opened the victims' driver's door and ordered them to surrender their

phones and wallets. They then forced each victim to reveal their phone PIN. Many of the West Side victims have also been pistol-whipped, according to CPD.

In addition to those robberies, three ride-share drivers have been shot on the West Side since Dec. 3. Two of them, possibly targeted by armed robbers, died. The one who survived was shot during a carjacking attempt on Jan. 3.

Cop, smash-and-grab suspect shot during 'exchange of gunfire' near the Mag Mile

Chicago police officers exchanged gunfire with a member of a smash-and-grab burglary crew moments after the group raided the Prada store on Oak St. Jan. 8.

The suspect is in surgery after receiving multiple gunshot wounds, and one officer, a 55-year-old man with 17 years on the job, was shot in the leg. His injuries are not life-threatening.

Those are some of the details revealed by CPD Supt. Larry Snelling during a press briefing outside Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where the suspect and officer were being treated.

Snelling said officers responding to a burglary at the Prada store, 30 E. Oak, encountered a member of the burglary crew near State and Walton streets shortly after 4 a.m.

He was armed, and the officers ordered him to drop his gun, Snelling said.

An "exchange of gunfire" ensued, with two officers firing shots, according to Snelling.

The injured officer fired shots, as did a 29-year-old cop who joined the force six years ago, the superintendent continued.

Other members of the crew who escaped in several vehicles remain at large, Snelling said, and detectives are working on the shooting and burglary cases.

Video provided to this reporter shows a smash-and-grab crew running in and out of the Prada store after they drove a Dodge Durango through the storefront around 4:15 a.m. Officers at the shooting scene said they could not identify the injured suspect because he carried a fake identification.

Twelve years for man who went on robbery, carjacking, burglary spree while on bail in 2022

A Chicago man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for going on a weeks-long crime spree across the North Side while he was on bail for a pending drug case in September and



Jeremiah Magdaleno

October 2022. Jeremiah Magdaleno, 27, pleaded guilty to a host of felonies, including carjacking, armed robbery, burglary, and auto theft, according to court records.

Judge Ursula Walowski sentenced him to prison terms of between 3 and 12 years for each charge, with the time to be served concurrently. He is expected to be paroled in October 2028 after serving about six years.

His crimes began on September 28, 2022, when Magdaleno allegedly broke into an apartment building in the 1300 block of W. Morse and stole

up to 20 packages from the mailroom, prosecutors said. The burglary was videotaped. Walowski handed him six years for that.

He received another three-year sentence for stealing an SUV that had been left running in the 6200 block of W. Newport on Oct. 21, 2022. Prosecutors said he spray-painted it black.

Five days later, he broke into a Marathon gas station in the 5600 block of N. Lincoln and stole three vehicle titles and a check. He broke into the gas station again the next day, taking 70 packs of Newport cigarettes before escaping in a black Chevy Tahoe, prosecutors said. Walowski sentenced him to three years in prison for each burglary.

On Oct. 29, 2022, Magdaleno rolled up in a black truck as a 68-year-old man parked in the 6000 block of N. Mozart. Prosecutors said Magdaleno hit the man in the face with a metal object and stole his car. A doctor used seven stitches to close a gash on the victim's face.

Walowski sentenced Magdaleno to 12 years for the crime.

Around 2:20 a.m. Oct. 30, 2022, Magdaleno allegedly entered a 7-Eleven in the 1400 block of W. Pratt while armed with a pipe. Prosecutors said he hit the counter with the pipe, forced one employee to empty the register, and ordered another to load cartons of cigarettes into a milk crate. The crime earned him another 12-year sentence.

Two arrested, cops nearly run over during street 'takeover' in the Loop

Chicago police arrested two people during a street "takeover" in the Loop early on Dec. 1. But a driver who nearly struck an officer while fleeing the scene got away.

A video posted to the Citizen app showed two cars spinning donuts in the intersection of Wacker and Franklin around 3:30 a.m. A couple of passing motorists stopped on the Franklin St. bridge and joined another 60 or so spectators, forming a circle around the performance.

The footage shows the crowd breaking up quickly as police units arrived.

The video footage shows the two officers who get out of the first squad car on the scene and walk over to the intersection. As they prepare to deploy stop-sticks to keep one of the cars from leaving. The driver sped away and nearly struck one of the cops.

Some CPD units followed the driver onto the outbound Kennedy Expy., but they broke off the chase at Armitage, and the Infiniti got away.

Two other people were arrested at the scene. Details about those charges were not immediately available.

Earlier in December, Chicago police impounded a woman's car after a Berwyn man allegedly used it to spin donuts in the 3100 block of S. Western Ave.

About a week later, the same man was arrested again for allegedly spinning donuts in a different car during a takeover at 51st and Kedzie. Cops impounded it, too.

Teen boys charged with robbery after police helicopter follows them across town

Two teenagers face armed robbery charges after they allegedly robbed a woman on the Near North Side and fled in a freshly hijacked car to the West Side, with a Chicago police helicopter following them from above.

The 15- and 16-year-olds are also believed to be responsible for the carjacking, but they have not yet been charged with the crime.

Police said the carjacking occurred in the 3800 block of W. Washington around 3:20 p.m. Jan. 3. A 63-year-old woman had just parked her Kia Rio and was stepping out when two males walked up, and one pointed a gun at her face, according to a CPD

report.

The hijackers took control of her car and drove away.

About an hour later, the hijacked Kia was used by two people who robbed a 26-year-old woman on the Near North Side, a separate CPD report said. The woman was in the 100 block of W. Elm when two masked robbers took her property at gunpoint. They fled in the hijacked Kia.

A Chicago police officer quickly spotted the Kia as it headed through River North and jumped onto the expressways. CPD's helicopter moved in, found the Kia, and began tracking it from above.

Guided by the helicopter, cops arrested the 15-year-old and 16-year-old when the car stopped in the 1600 block of W. Monroe around 4:45 p.m., according to CPD.

They are each charged with armed robbery with a firearm in connection with the Near North Side robbery. The older boy, who was allegedly driving the stolen Kia, is charged with possessing a stolen motor vehicle. Prosecutors charged the 15-year-old with criminal trespass to a vehicle.

'Person of interest' questioned after man is found strangled in Lincoln Park apartment

A suspect is being questioned after a man was found dead in a Lincoln Park apartment on Jan. 3. The Cook County medical examiner determined that the 43-year-old was a homicide victim who died by asphyxiation and assault.

Chicago police and fire personnel responded to an apartment in the 500 block of W. Deming just before 7 p.m. after a 911 caller reported that their friend was choking, according to dispatch records. The caller said they were attempting CPR.

Officers found the 43-year-old unresponsive in a bedroom, and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The 911 caller was taken to Area Three police headquarters for questioning, a police spokesperson said Jan. 4. Investigators will surely want to know why the caller thought his friend was choking when, in fact, someone choked his friend to death.

This is the first murder in Lincoln Park since Oct. 16, 2022, when a man was shot to death at the J Parker rooftop lounge at Hotel Lincoln, 1816 N. Clark.

Drive-by gunman shoots two people near Wrigley Field

Two men were injured by a drive-by gunman near Wrigley Field Dec. 30.

Chicago police said the victims, both 27 years old, were walking in the 900 block of W. Grace when the gunman shot at them from a brown sedan around 2:31 a.m.

EMS took one of the men to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in good condition with a gunshot wound to his right leg, according to CPD. The other man declined medical attention for a graze wound to his leg.

At least one window on a nearby home was also struck by a bullet. No injuries were reported inside the house.

The men are the eighth and ninth people shot in Lakeview this year. Before this morning, the most recent shooting was in the 1100 block of W. Eddy on Nov. 19.

Man shot while driving in Rogers Park

Chicago police say a man was shot while driving in Rogers Park on Jan. 1, not far from the Loyola Univ. campus.

The 24-year-old was driving in the 6400 block of N. Sheridan when someone fired shots at him from another vehicle around 5:47 a.m., according to a CPD media statement. A bullet grazed the victim's forehead.

He continued driving until he reached the 6000 block of N. Sheridan. There, he drove into a curb and sought help from Chicago police officers who were handling an unrelated

medical emergency call.

The Chicago Fire Department transported him to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in good condition.

There were 31 people shot in Rogers Park last year, down slightly from 33 in the previous year but up from 24 in 2021.

Robbers body-slammed 58-year-old man after following him from North Side restaurant



Mugshots of Kobe Lee (left) and Felix Lopez.

Two robbers body-slammed a 58-year-old robbery victim before rifling his pockets and trying to escape via the CTA Brown Line, according to prosecutors. Officials said one of the robbers is on parole, and the other was released from custody just two days earlier after being arrested for shoplifting at Macy's.

Kobe Lee, 20, and Felix Lopez, 18, were detained during separate court hearings on Jan. 3.

Lee and Lopez allegedly followed the 58-year-old victim out of an Albany Park restaurant around 10 p.m. Jan. 1. When they reached the 4800 block of N. Troy, they picked the victim up and slammed him to the ground, causing his head to hit the concrete, prosecutors said in detention petitions.

They allegedly went through the man's pockets and took his valuables. When he tried to push them away, they repeatedly punched him in the face and head and then walked away, leaving him on the ground, according to the prosecutors.

A witness followed them and called 911 with descriptions of the robbers, including one who was wearing a Scooby Doo jacket, officials said.

Chicago police officers found Lee and Lopez on the Kedzie Brown Line CTA platform about 40 minutes after the robbery, prosecutors said. Lee was wearing a Scooby Doo jacket, and Lopez matched the second robber's description, according to their arrest reports. The victim identified them as the attackers.

Prosecutors said the officers found Lopez in possession of cocaine worth \$7,872.

Court records show Judge Susana Ortiz detained Lopez and Judge Barbara Dawkins detained Lee.

Lopez was charged with misdemeanor retail after security accused him of shoplifting from Macy's on State St. on Dec. 30. Ortiz cited the fact that he had been on pretrial release for just two days as one of the reasons she detained him.

Lee was paroled in July after serving half of a three-year sentence he received for possessing a stolen motor vehicle. He was also accused of robbery in that case, but prosecutors dropped the charge in a plea deal, court records show.

Both men are charged with robbery and aggravated battery in a public place. Lopez is also charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Two teens arrested for Near North robbery

Two teen male offenders were arrested 4:46 p.m. Jan. 3, in the 1600 block of W. Monroe St. They were identified as the offenders who, less than 30 minutes earlier, took personal property at gunpoint from a 26-year-old female in the 100 block

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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News outlets would get live access to scrambled police radio traffic under proposed Illinois law

BY CWBCHICAGO

An Illinois legislator has introduced a bill requiring local law enforcement agencies to provide newspapers and licensed broadcasters with live access to encrypted law enforcement radio systems.

Encryption technology scrambles radio transmissions so they can only be heard on special radios approved and owned by police departments. Emergency services, particularly police departments, have been encrypting their radio systems, which prevents the general public and reporters from hearing the activity.

The Chicago Police Dept. began encrypting some radio channels over a year ago. Former Mayor Lori Lightfoot's administration claimed encoding was neces-

sary because criminals were monitoring the airwaves and, at times, interrupting police radio traffic with stolen police radios or equipment purchased independently.

All 22 Chicago police district frequencies are encrypted. Many suburban police agencies have used encryption for years, and conversion to encrypted networks is becoming increasingly common.

The city of Chicago allows Broadcastify, a company that provides online access to radio frequencies nationwide, to stream the transmissions on a 30-minute delay. Most cities, however, provide no public access at all.

During the 2023 mayoral campaign, current Mayor Brandon Johnson said he would give the media real-time access to CPD's radio activities. He further said that

violence prevention groups also needed access to do their work.

But no changes have been made to the city's encryption policy since he took office in May.

Now, Rep. La Shawn Ford [8th] has introduced legislation that would force local governments to provide "by license or otherwise" access to encrypted police radio transmissions to FCC-licensed broadcasters and to publishers that meet the state's legal definition of a newspaper by Jan. 1, 2025.

"I understand the desire to prevent members of the public from using real-time police scanner information to commit crimes or to evade law enforcement," Ford said in a statement released by the Illinois Press Association. "Blocking accredited media

from real time access is counter to governmental transparency and does not lend itself to the original stated purpose of the encryption program."

"I would not be surprised if this legislation undergoes many transformations as it moves through the process," Illinois Press Assn. President and CEO Don Craven told his membership - including this newspaper - in a Jan. 4 letter.

One change that will be made: Ford's proposal states that any local police agency that "encrypts police scanner transmissions" would be bound to provide access to certain media entities. Scanners, devices that allow people to hear radio traffic but not participate in it, are not encrypted—radio transmitters are.

Board of Ed wants to pull cops out of schools

BY HANNAH SCHMID
Illinois Policy

The Chicago Board of Education [BOE] is preparing to remove police officers from public high schools. Local School Councils [LSC] already have the power to remove officers, but district leaders are taking away that local control.

The BOE is reportedly preparing to remove police officers from high school buildings in the fall.

Mayor Brandon Johnson and Chicago Teachers Union [CTU] leadership have vocally opposed police officers being stationed in Chicago Public Schools [CPS] buildings. The school board was appointed by Johnson, a former CTU organizer, and will vote on whether to renew the \$10.3 million police contract this summer.

During his campaign, Johnson said police "have no place in schools." Once in office he ultimately deferred to LSC's to vote on whether to keep police officers in schools.

CTU leadership advocates police-free schools, claiming a police presence "perpetuates the racist school-to-prison pipeline." They also took legislative action to push policies that could put other students in danger by restricting police presence and discipline of students.

Research on the effectiveness of school resource officers varies. That shows the importance of letting decisions rest with local leaders, who understand the environment and needs of their own community and schools.

The BOE wants to take away that autonomy from principals, teachers and families. It is expected to unilaterally decide to

Research on the effectiveness of school resource officers varies. That shows the importance of letting decisions rest with local leaders, who understand the environment and needs of their own community and schools. The Board of Education wants to take away that autonomy from principals, teachers and families. It is expected to unilaterally decide to remove police officers from high schools.

remove police officers from high schools.

Each school in CPS is different. Principals and other community members on LSC understand the environment and needs of their schools. They are best equipped to determine the necessity of school resource officers.

CPS formerly provided every high school with two police officers. In 2019, CPS gave authority to LSCs to determine whether to keep the officers. No schools removed officers that first year.

During the next four years, LSC's in 25 high schools voted to remove all officers. This school year, just 16 high schools have two officers and another 23 have one officer. There are 91 traditional high schools in CPS.

Now CPS and CTU leadership want to remove all officers from Chicago high schools regardless of the wishes of local

school council members. Some principals are voicing disagreement with this proposal by the board.

William Howard Taft High School Principal Mark Grishaber said, "I think a blanket (school resource officer) policy for the entire district in terms of safety is not the best for" Taft and some other schools. Most students and faculty at Taft support having police officers assigned to campus.

CTU advocates for fewer police in

schools, other polices that could harm safety.

This isn't the first time CTU has advocated for situations that could put students at risk.

The union lodged a witness slip in favor of a bill allowing the Illinois State Board of Education to award competitive grants to districts that reallocate funding away from school-based law enforcement personnel to other practices, such as "restorative justice programs" and use of social workers. Grant funds were explicitly prohibited from being used to increase the use of school-based security personnel.

Similarly, CTU lodged its opposition to a bill allowing school safety and security grants to law enforcement agencies to help defray the costs associated with hiring a school resource officer.

And the union also opposed using metal detectors in schools, objecting to a bill requiring public schools to install walk-through metal detectors at public entrances and directing the Illinois State Board of Education to make grants available, subject to appropriation. The bill also would have required metal detectors at institutions of higher education, hospitals and courthouses.

One woman hospitalized after string of robberies hits Lincoln Park and Lakeview

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are investigating a string of robberies and a carjacking reported in Lincoln Park and Lakeview last weekend. It's not clear if there are any connections between the crimes, which occurred between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

The first incident, a carjacking, occurred around 3:38 p.m. Jan. 6 in the 1400 block of W. Belden. An 18-year-old man was unloading his parked car when three hijackers walked up to him, a CPD spokesperson said.

One of the carjackers put the victim in a chokehold while the others took his keys and other items from his pockets, the spokesperson said. The group then drove away with the man's gray 2016 BMW. Police did not release descriptions of the suspects.

Then, a woman was mugged as she walked near the 1100 block of W. Armitage around 6:50 p.m. She told police that a solo robber displayed a gun and took her purse and phone. An officer at the scene described the suspect as a young, skinny, clean-shaven Black male with short braids who wore a black hoodie. He escaped on foot.

Another woman was punched and pistol-whipped as she struggled with four robbers in the 2400 block of N. Orchard around 10:02 p.m.

The 27-year-old was walking with a 32-year-old woman when four robbers exited a red SUV, the CPD spokesperson said. Two of the offenders had guns.

The police said the younger woman struggled with the group, and they struck her in the head with a handgun and punched her in the face. After taking property from both women, the robbers drove away.

EMS took the injured woman to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment.

Cops were told via radio to be on the lookout for four Black males, one of whom wore a yellow hoodie and a mask that had a face graphic on it.

Shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday, a man reported that he was targeted in an attempted robbery near the intersection of North and Cleveland avenues. He told police that a gunman got out of a gray sedan and came toward him. But he screamed and ran, leaving the robber behind.

Another robbery was reported in the 800 block of W. Wellington just before 5 a.m. Jan. 7. A man was walking with friends when a silver sedan pulled up, and a man

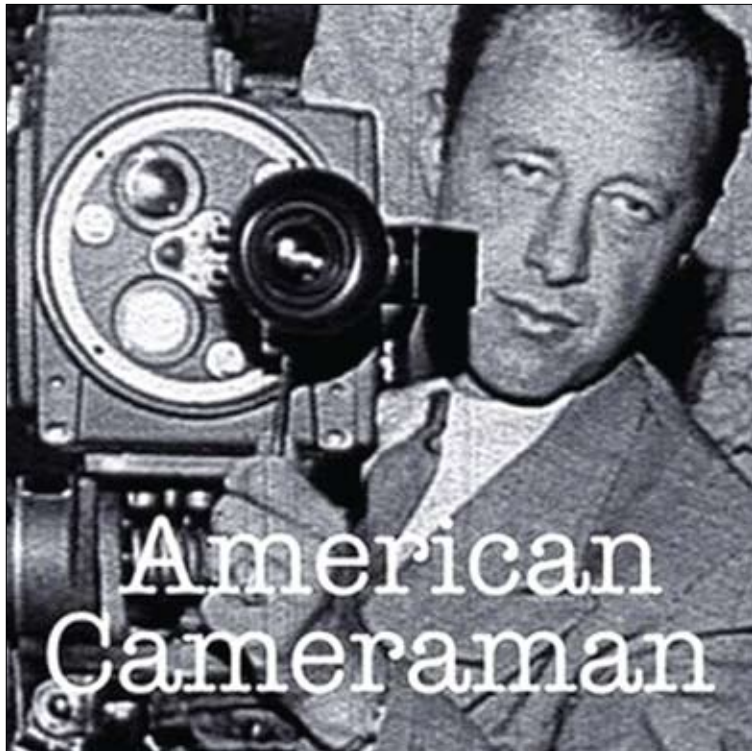
got out with a gun, taking his wallet and phone.

Robbery reports citywide jumped 23% last year according to the CPD's year-end data. The category was up 38% compared to 2019.

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American Cameraman documentary of noted Chicago broadcaster offered Jan. 27



View the screening of American Cameraman Jan. 27 at the Edgewater Branch of the Chicago Public Library.

The Edgewater Branch of the Chicago Public library will host a free presentation of the documentary American Cameraman. The film is about the career of William Birch, who was an integral part of the Chicago broadcast

news scene.

The showing will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at 6000 N. Broadway.

Birch saw history from behind the lens as he covered presidents from Truman to Reagan, the rise of Fidel Castro and the riots in Selma. This documentary explores the century's news film treasures from the silent era through the ascendancy of television news.

Birch was inducted into the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame, got the Silver Circle Award Commendations and a resolution from mayors and governors. There will be a discussion of the film afterwards with light refreshments.



Armando Vasquez and Joey Mondelli.



Karen Zupko

CHRISTMAS from p. 2

you there.

LA SCAROLE: Freshly released from the hospital, I wasn't quite the bundle of joy that makes the holidays come to life. I was "post-holiday" depressed, delighted and deloused. Feeling really good about some things and just so-so about others.

My dearest of sister/bros had come into my house and scrubbed and cleaned, as Jesus scrubbed the feet of his 12 apostles, and readied my placed for my return. Such a kindness, it's humbling. And they grocery shopped too, so I could survive.

Needing a place to dine after 6 p.m., I found myself with the need to eat fine Italian food. Rang LaScarole on the phone and they said they'd have a table. No one said they could tell that I'd been in a hospital.

So off we went to LaScarole and had the cheer up time of my life. **Joey Mondelli** - the owner - was welcoming, warm and filled with sound advice. "Make sure you get some Pizza Bread," he said.

We did. And I wasn't prepared for the dramatic result. I sank my teeth into something rich and flavorful with every bite. Joey was so kind and solicitous. Roasted shrimp were followed by a roasted chicken breast with artichokes. I can still taste them. This is fine food with complexity and robust fullness. Chicago's best. A banquet fit to make **Mary Magdalene** weep. Clarence the angel, Second Class, was right, no man is a failure, if he has friends. Thank you to all my friends.

CHICAGO NEW YEAR'S EVE: **Lynn Graham** says the the New Year's Eve bash at the Peninsula Hotel was Chicago's finest for food, fashion and social folk. She should know, she gets around. Her husband, **Bill**, traveled all the way from Japan, where he is stationed, to join the glamorous festivities here, but experienced air travel glitches that rearranged his ground arrival time... **Mamie Walton** was the picture of elegance and raised the level of refinement for the night.

WHO'S WHERE: Yes, we all miss Old Town's Honorary Mayor **Shelley Howard**, it's well to remember him during the holidays, he was a king... **Carole Cheung** sparkling at Jade Garden Chicago's top of the line Asian cuisine in the refinement of Hyde Park's full bloomed for 2024...



Carole Cheung



Queen Margrethe II

Todd Justic dining with mom, **Jane Justic** at Rocco's Tacos and Tequila Bar in Naples, FL... **Michael Kutza's** holiday party with **Steve Van Tress**, **David Sanchez**, **Candace** and **Chuck Jordan** embracing the hilarity and the cuisine... famed restaurateur **Gordon Sinclair** just finished watching *The Crown* and was touch at the poetic ending... **BJ Murray** reflecting at the Roxy Hotel in Tribeca (formerly The Tribeca Grand, NYC)... **Bobbi Panter** and **Matt Arnoux** at the world's most splendid hotel Les Bristol in Paris, flashing memories of the very finest food, lodging and lunches. **Rose O'Neill** and I would take the Irish diplomats there when we'd visit from Dublin... **Kathy Wolter Mondelli**, **Bethany Kitick**, **Whitney Reynolds**, **Leah Chevie** and **Julia Jacobs** at the Knollwood Club in Lake Forest for Leah's birthday celebration... **Rose Gomez** cooking an elegant Grand Mariner Soufflé in Switzerland ... **Karen Zupko** at the Norton Museum... **Maria Pappas**, please keep sharing your photos of holy places... Lake Forest's **Dennis** and **Marikay Grant** up in Minneapolis with grand babies... **Barb Bailey** returned from West Virginia but missed **Tony Ocean's** birthday bash.

ROYAL ABDUCATION 2024: Hope you have not missed the Royal Surprise of the Millennium, the resignation of Danish **Queen Margrethe II**, who has been on the regal throne for six decades giving her people civility, dignity, beauty and intelligence. There are strong voices saying

she's doing it to give her son and heir **Crown Prince Frederick**, 55, time to get the fit of the throne with his Australian wife, **Crown Princess Mary**, with their handsome family that will include a new 18-year old **Crown Prince Christian**. The present Queen, known to family members as Daisy, is said to smoke two packs of powerful Danish cigarettes a day and at 6-foot tall is a stickler for tell it like it is real life.

These royals are a very popular commodity. Handsome. Well-groomed. Well-dressed always. Part of the beauty and drama of European royal life that isn't British. Not a bit of the unusual House of Windsor dumpiness or silly antics now made popular in "The Crown." The Danish Royals are all part of the beauty bath family that is counted as close relatives in the Spanish, Greek, Swedish Royal households. They all seem to leave the psycho-sexual screw-ups for the British to model in public. The change-over is supposed to take place on Jan. 14, when the Danish Queen passes her crown to her son. Lift a winter glass of "Skoll" to the royal transition.

The human spirit is not dead. It lives on in secret... It has come to believed that compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind.

- Albert Schweitzer

tog515@gmail.com

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Letters to the Editor

Holiday scenes resembling Chicago

With so many Chicagoans living and working in the diverse areas, I'm wondering what reading choices and movie choices folks made during the just completed holiday season.

Every Christmas season I read and then watch Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*. The one in which Capote narrates. The relationship between the young boy Truman and his elderly aunt is so beautiful, honest, and passionate.

Near the end of the story as the aunt and Capote lay on some grassy land flying a homemade kite, the aunt's Christmas gift to Truman, as she couldn't afford to buy a bicycle for him like she had very much wanted, she observes that if she were to die soon heaven could not be any prettier than this scene set in rural Monroeville, Alabama.

Chicago's North Side neighborhoods are a long way from rural Alabama but for me I hope that the afterlife would resemble the ponds surrounding the Lincoln Park Zoo.

For scenes more resembling Chicago I also read and then watch Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. I prefer watching the version where Alastair Sim appears. The businessman Scrooge reminds me of the uninspiring political characters at City Hall and those often drearily walking along that business section of the Loop. After he changes, Scrooge seems more like the wonderful Chicagoans I meet and know in areas like Lincoln Park, Lakeview, Uptown and Rogers Park.

*Fred Case
Lakeview*

No room at the Inn

Just like Joseph and an expectant Mary could not find a room, and had to seek refuge in a stable, migrants Jose and Maria are finding no room available in Chicago. (Didn't the Broadway Armory, where migrants are now being housed, once serve as a stable?)

Chicago opened its arms and announced to the world that it was a "Sanctuary City." And now we turn on the "No Vacancy" sign?

As long as the migrants stayed in Texas, we were a Sanctuary. All our elected officials overwhelmingly paid lip service to the idea. Why not be generous, when it doesn't cost anything? Clearly El Paso is the only American city well-suited to manage six million refugees.

Now those seeking sanctuary are coming to Chicago. And we will pay for it through increased taxes. Only Chicago is running out of money.

Will we step up? Open up our homes to migrants? Or will we just continue to pass laws to punish the bus companies that bring the freedom-seeking BIPOC people?

What's going on now reminds me of the racist redlining and zoning laws intended to keep certain neighborhoods and suburbs white.

What's next, banning BIPOC people from coming into Chicago? Uptown was once the site of mass Appalachian migration, and some South Side neighborhoods welcomed Black families during the great migration from southern states. It brought us masses of people coming here to work in our factories.

This city was once tops in tourism, financial services and international trade.

Odd to see white and Black Democrats now making the most noise about "those people" coming in and taking "our money."

But this is what we voted for. During periods of high inflation, the way employers stifle wage inflation is with below-minimum wages paid to migrant workers. Yep, \$400 billion for Ukraine means \$4/hour for Jose to bus tables and for Maria to make tortillas.

Then this summer, all the poor and homeless people will be shoved up and moved when the DNC comes to town in August to convene and claim to be the party that believes in "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming masses."

Brandon Johnson talked the talk and now we walk the walk.

Maybe we can cut the payrolls at certain public schools that are mostly empty but have the full complement of administrators, teachers, aides, staff, engineers and custodians to help cover the tab? Or use them as migrant housing. Even if they detour through Aurora, they're coming here, and we'll need to get them three squares and some space.

Then the city's private social service contractors can hire Jose and Maria to help out, giving them a raise to \$5 an hour.

*Mike Sullivan
Avondale*

Have something on your mind about your community?
Write a Letter To The Editor at insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com



This is your last chance to go see the special exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry on the Roman city of Pompeii, which disappeared after it had been buried under volcanic ash from Italy's Mt. Vesuvius volcano. The exhibit ends Jan. 15.

Last chance to see Pompeii Exhibition at Science and Industry Museum; Closes Jan. 15

BY PETER VON BUOL

Pompeii: The Exhibition, a popular temporary exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr., will be closing on Jan. 15, after a nearly year-long stay at the museum. The exhibit contains more than 150 artifacts excavated from the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, which disappeared in 79 A.D. after it had been buried under about 20 feet of volcanic ash from Italy's Mt. Vesuvius volcano.

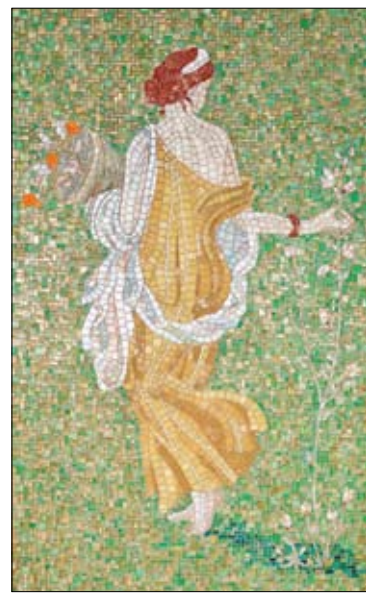
This is your last chance to go see this special exhibit.

Within a few decades after the eruption, the memory of the location of the once-prosperous Roman city of more than 10,000 residents, disappeared. Not until the end of the 16th century, when an architect working on an underground municipal aqueduct accidentally uncovered part of the site, did the city begin to re-emerge.

The exhibit includes fine art, such as well-preserved frescoes, mosaics, sculptures and jewelry, and also everyday household items which help provide a snapshot into the daily life of the residents of Pompeii, whose city was entirely covered in volcanic ash and in the process, frozen in time.

Despite being more than 2,000 years old, some of those everyday items are still entirely recognizable. The exhibit depicts daily life in Pompeii through an incredible combination of projections, audio, video, and photographic murals supplemented by more than 150 priceless artifacts on display from the unparalleled collection of the Naples National Archaeological Museum in Italy. These artifacts, which include gladiator armor, weapons, pots, furniture, jewelry, medical instruments, and many more objects, provide a comprehensive view of how the people of Pompeii lived, loved, worked, worshipped, and found entertainment before disaster struck in this bustling commercial port and strategic military city. "There are pots and pans, plates

and glasses that have changed very little in 2000 years. There are also several artifacts that are just very unusual to us today. It's all part of recreating the life of these individuals, what their life was like, how they lived, how they worked, how they worshipped, how they found entertainment, all of those different aspects of



Pompeii in Ravenswood

This mosaic can be found at Spacca Napoli, in Ravenswood. The noted restaurant features the food from Naples, and the mosaic is a replica of one covered by the eruption of 79 A.D.

The work was done by Ginny Sykes, the wife of Jonathan Goldsmith who owns the restaurant. She also did the Venetian glass found on both of their ovens.

life, leading up to that fateful day when Mount Vesuvius erupted," said Voula Saridakis, museum curator and a historian of science and technology.

Pompeii is most famous for the lava encrusted bodies that were found of people who were trapped in the city when hot volcanic ash landed on the town in mass quantities.

"Ash covered them, it completely molded to their shape with skin and clothing. And the position they were in was captured, because it quickly hardened," said Saridakis. "What happens is the soft tissue will deteriorate, but the bone remains" The exhibit uses

plaster molds in the shape of the human remains.

"They're capturing the whole actual imprint of the body and clothing and whatever else and the position of the body, but the bones are still inside that void." But all of the original remains stay in Italy. And these copies are made for these exhibitions.

Roman technology included an elaborate system of aqueducts which had provided Pompeii residents with safe water.

"The Romans were really advanced with providing homes with fresh water. They built aqueducts which were able to get water to all their different districts throughout the Italian peninsula. They also developed a system which used rain water to provide running water to Roman villas built for the wealthy," said Saridakis.

Ironically, despite their knowledge of science and technology, Pompeii's residents were not as knowledgeable about the dangers posed by volcanic eruptions.

"It was not lava that destroyed Pompeii, it was a surge of rock and ash that just flew down the countryside from Mt. Vesuvius. These pyroclastic surges covered the whole area, including Pompeii and the neighboring town of Herculaneum," said Saridakis.

The exhibition requires a timed-entry ticket. Advance reservations are recommended. For more information visit msichicago.org/pompeii.

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North Side College Prep closes out four-day tourney 1-3

BY JEFF ZIMMERMAN

The Maine East Boys Blue Demon Holiday Basketball Tournament concluded Dec. 30 with an unexpected winner. Vernon Hills defeated the tournament favorite Leyden 52-41 for the championship.

The 16-team four-day tournament has a mix of local suburban teams, Chicago Public League schools and four from the South Side and South Suburban area. North Side College Prep, a first time participate closed out the four-day four game tourney (1-3) record.

The Mustangs entered the tournament 6-6 with their lone win in the consolation bracket over Morton Grove Academy, with a score 65-55. North Side, in their vic-

tory was paced by 34 points from Steven Tran. Over four games the Mustang senior totaled 89 points.

"Tran is our go to guy," said North Side head coach Matthew Rollins, "when he goes we go."

Tran was 5 of 10 from three-point range against Morton Grove's 1-3-1 zone defense.

Vernon Hills breezed through three games leading up to their championship but their first-round win over Morton Grove gave the Cougars their stiffest test 37-29.

North Side opened up the tournament the first day by losing 66-59 to Sandburg. The Mustangs in defeat made 13-threes compared to four by Sandburg, but North Side couldn't stop the Eagles inside game. Sandburg took a 36-30 lead at the break but in the third quarter, North Side caught

and passed the Eagles 43-41 on a three pointer by Tran.

Sandburg followed up by out-scoring the Mustangs 15-7 in the closing minutes of the third period to take a 57-51 lead entering the final quarter.

North Side cut the Sandburg lead to 60-59 with one minute left but baskets by David Vargas and Yanal Sweiss put the Eagles up 64-59 to seal up the win.

"It was rare that we were out-shot from three-point range," said Sandburg coach John Daniels. "My team shooters shoot, in our league, this is the only way we can compete, we are a fun team to watch."

The Mustangs were led in scoring with 23 points by Matthew Sternuik and Tran had 13.

"The game against Sandburg

was highly competitive, the officials let both teams play," Rollins said. "There were only five foul shots in the game. I feel we stayed with Sandburg during the entire game because they can score quickly. I scouted them and they scored 92 points in a win against Oak Lawn and they were red hot from the field. I feel like we held our three-point shooters down but had trouble competing against them on the boards."

North Side dropped their second loss in the tournament against Argo 55-53. Tran, for the second straight game, scored more than half of the Mustangs points with 30.

North Side had an opportunity to tie the game with three seconds left on a long downcourt pass to Sternuik underneath his basket.

He caught the ball and lost his balance but still shot the ball on his way down but his shot attempt failed to tie the game. The defeat to Jones College Prep was when North Side fell behind by 17 points during the first half but rallied in the fourth quarter but still lost 57-51. Owen Amir-Arjomand led the Mustangs with 17 points, Derrick David 14 and Tran 12.

"I like this tournament a lot," noted Rollins. "It's good because every team is guaranteed four games in the four days. The competition should get us ready when we resume play in January in our North White Division games. I feel that there is a lot of work to be done especially defending dribble penetration and rebounding on both ends of the backboards."

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

of W. Elm St.

Responding officers quickly located the offenders, who were also found to be in possession of a stolen motor vehicle. The offenders were placed into custody and subsequently charged accordingly. No additional information is available at this time.

Burglars are ransacking River North restaurants

Chicago police are warning about burglars who are breaking into restaurants to steal cash registers and money during overnight hours. Near-

ly all of the crimes occurred in River North.

During each break-in, one or two men entered a restaurant by prying open a patio door, according to CPD. The prowlers ransack the business, take cash, and haul away the registers.

Detectives linked six recent restaurant burglaries to the crime pattern: on Dec. 19 in the 700 block of N. Wells and the 500 block of N. Clark; in the 800 block of N. State on Dec. 20; on Christmas in the first block of W. Kinzie and the 1500 block of N. Wells; and in the 600 block of N. Franklin on Dec. 26.

They said the burglars are Black men between 30 and 35 years old who stand 5'-6" to 5'-8" tall and weigh 160 to 170 lbs.

Tips about the crimes can be shared with detectives at 312-744-8263. Refer to crime pattern #P23-3-104.

Police are also investigating two burglaries at high-end liquor stores.

In both cases, several men wearing hoodies broke into the stores and loaded bottles of wine and spirits into a silver Kia Stinger. One store was targeted in the 1500 block of N. Wells around 5 a.m. on Dec. 31, and another was hit in the 3400 block of N. Southport around the same time.



Travoughtntay Williams (inset) and CTA surveillance images of the Jarvis robbery suspect.

Man gets 498 days plus probation for robbing victims ages 78 and 79

A man charged with robbing a 79-year-old woman on the Red Line in July 2020, a few days after robbing a 78-year-old man near an ATM, has been sentenced to time served plus two years of mental health probation, according to court records.

Travoughtntay Williams, 36, pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery and robbery of a victim over the age of 60 in exchange for the sentence from Judge Peggy Chiampas.

"At around 11:25 a.m. on July 5, 2022, Williams grabbed a 78-year-old man from behind in the 1700 block of W. Morse after following the victim from a nearby ATM, officials said. The victim said he felt something sharp in

his back as Williams told him to "hand it over." At around 11:25 a.m. on July 5, 2022, Williams grabbed a 78-year-old man from behind in the 1700 block of W. Morse after following the victim from a nearby ATM, officials said. The victim said he felt something sharp in

Surveillance video showed Williams sat on a bench outside the bank as the victim made a withdrawal and then grabbed the victim from behind, prosecutors said.

Four days later, Williams allegedly robbed a 79-year-old woman of her purse at the Jarvis Red Line station, according to Jackson. Chicago police issued a community alert about the CTA robbery and released surveil-

lance images of a suspect. Someone who knows Williams identified him from the bulletin.

According to court records, Judge Chiampas sentenced him to concurrent terms of 498 days time served plus mental health probation.

At the time of the robberies, Williams was on probation for punching a Walgreens employee in Streeterville and dragging her down an aisle by her hair in July 2020. When the Walgreens attack occurred, he was on bail for attacking a Lakeview senior citizen, according to court records.


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North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff,

-v- CHRISTOPHER STEPHENS, THE 549-551 W. BELDEN AVENUE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants

2022 CH 07580 551 WEST BELDEN AVENUE GRW CHICAGO, IL 60614 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 14, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 2, 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 551 WEST BELDEN AVENUE GRW, CHICAGO, IL 60614 Property Index No. 14-33-111-063-1003

The real estate is improved with a 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

Real Estate For Sale

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, 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.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-04122 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2022 CH 07580 TJS#F: 43-4589

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 07580 13235827

101010

030303 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

Real Estate For Sale

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST; Plaintiff,

vs. AARON SCOTT; 1209 NORTH STATE STREET CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 23 CH 5112

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 29, 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. 17-03-112-041-1011. Commonly known as 1209 North State Parkway, Unit 11, 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. 149-192472 ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13235195

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

101010

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO AJAX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2020-A, MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2020-A Plaintiff,

-v- EDMUND C. MEADOWS, III, WENDY S. MEADOWS, 937 W. GEORGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, STATE OF ILLINOIS, BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A. Defendants 2022 CH 03401

937 WEST GEORGE STREET, UNIT 1W CHICAGO, IL 60657 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 4, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 29, 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 937 WEST GEORGE STREET, UNIT 1W, CHICAGO, IL 60657 Property Index No. 14-29-225-034-1004 (Vol. 488)

The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$506,821.54.

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

Real Estate For Sale

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.

Real Estate For Sale

For information, contact JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 21-9111.

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.

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E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. 21-9111 Attorney Code. 40342 Case Number: 2022 CH 03401 TJS#F: 43-4607

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THE LOCK UP SELF STORAGE at 1930 N Clybourn Ave, Chicago, IL 60614 will sell the contents of the following units to satisfy a lien to the highest bidder on 01-23-24 by 11:00 AM at WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM. All goods must be removed from the unit within 48 hours. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account.
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State of the Wards meeting Feb. 8

The Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce's State of the Wards 2, 32 and 43 meeting will be 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at Whirlyball, 1825 W. Webster.

Guests will learn more about future plans and programs from Lincoln Park's three aldermen: Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd], Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd], and Ald. Timmy Knudsen [43rd].

Reservations are requested and the costs range from \$30 to \$40. Call 773-880-5200.

PAWS volunteer open house

Pets Are Worth Saving [PAWS] is hosting a volunteer open houses 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 and Thursday Jan. 25, where guest will learn more about how to make a life-changing difference at PAWS Chicago.

Register for their volunteer open house, where you'll get to ask questions, meet pets, and more. The events will be held at the PAWS Chicago Pippen Fasseas Adoption Center, 1997 N. Clybourn.

Panel discussion on the life cycle of artists

The DePaul Art Museum will be hosting a panel discussion and conversation 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 24, with Life Cycles artists William J. O'Brien, Devin T. Mays, Iris Bernblum, and Ava Wanbli moderated by Bibiana Suarez where they will share their changes as artists, their experiences as teaching artists, and art as a mode of survival.

The event is free and will be held at the DePaul Art Museum, 935 W. Fullerton. Registration is required, call 773-325-7506 or write to artmuseum@depaul.edu.

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Proposed new tower at Clybourn-Halsted applies for TOD zoning

The developers behind a controversial high density high-rise proposed for Clybourn and Halsted have submitted a zoning application to erect a mixed-use tower at 1565 N. Clybourn Ave. The application was submitted by The Georgetown Company for a building that would fill a 12,000 square-foot site, replacing an existing commercial building that recently held a Bank of America branch.

The proposal would put up a 37-story, 450-foot tall building with a 2,500 square-foot retail space on the ground floor. It would be one of the largest buildings in the area if approved.

The shocking part is the 396-unit build-

ing is seeking Transit Oriented Development [TOD] zoning, meaning they will provide only 70-off-street parking spaces for future residents, with another 88 spaces for retail parking. It would add a great deal of new density to one of the most congested intersections on the North Side.

The TOD still needs to get the support of Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd], where they may face one pushback. During a recent community meeting, existing residents expressed grave concerns over the added density and lack of parking. The developer hopes to break ground on the tower in 2025, targeting a completion date sometime in 2026.

BIKE PATH from p. 1

Community organizations in Lincoln Park who have stated their opposition to various parts of the Greenway plan include The Lincoln Central Assoc. [LCA], The Oz Park Advisory Council, the Lincoln Park High School parents organization and the Sheffield Neighborhood Assoc. These are all long-established, well-respected organizations in Lincoln Park, several of which were formed well before Ald. Knudsen was even born.

A 2019 survey conducted by the LCA found their membership broadly opposed the bike path. Their letter to former 43rd Ward Ald. Michele Smith stated their "strong opposition to the proposed Dickens Neighborhood Greenway ... proposed to run through ... our neighborhood, including a stretch of sidewalk in Oz Park."

LCA's objection was based on feedback received from the membership and others living in or in close proximity to the neighborhood they represent. "This feedback reflects [an] overwhelming (62.3%) opposition to the proposed Greenway."

When the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] announced last year that it was withdrawing a request for federal funding for the project, many in the community lost track of the issue thinking it was settled.

The Illinois Dept. of Transportation [IDOT] required CDOT to respond to community safety concerns before it would approve federal funding for the privileged bike path project. CDOT was either unwilling or unable to respond to those safety concerns and withdrew its request for federal funding for the Dickens Greenway privileged bike path project.

Then Lincoln Park's rookie alderman was somehow able to find \$911,889 in City of Chicago taxpayer funds, funded from a line item titled "2022 Special Funding/divvy," to use to restart the project, allow-

ing the city to suddenly block Dickens Dr. and connect the Lakefront Bike Path to the 606 bike trail and riverfront trail.

Neighbors rightly felt burned by the bait and switch, as Ald. Knudsen never announced publicly that he had found these new mystery funds to connect the two bike trails. The community thought the plan had been rejected after the three prior community meetings. Indeed on June 7, 2023, CDOT notified Lincoln Park residents that they were withdrawing the Dickens Greenway from the request for federal funding.

Left undisclosed was that the project was still going forward by switching over to Chicago taxpayer funds. Prior to that, the project had always been linked to federal funding. Federal funding was featured in all three of the neighborhood meetings held to discuss the project.

A July 20, 2023, email shows that Ald. Knudsen was actually aware of the funding bait and switch underway. An email obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request submitted by Ed Fitzpatrick, a Lincoln Park resident, "shows that the closing of Dickens at Stockton was [Ald. Knudsen's] idea."

"The closing was not included in any of the three neighborhood presentations and came as a complete surprise to everyone," said Fitzpatrick, a biker who owns seven bikes. "There has never been a public correction of the representation that Dickens Greenway was to be federally funded."

In Ald. Knudsen's email to CDOT Cmsr. Gia Biagi, the alderman suggests a "landing point that ends Dickens at Lincoln Park West" so that "Dickens would no longer have car access onto Stockton."

This newspaper called and spoke off the record to a 43rd Ward staff member about the issue, but neither he or the alderman chose to speak on the record.

But the alderman's office did speak publicly about this conflict on the social media site NextDoor, and appeared to lay



Multiple requests over safety and legal concerns were presented by area residents to both IDOT and CDOT before, during and after Aug. 1, 2022, meeting. As IDOT controlled the federal funds, they instructed CDOT to respond in writing to those citizen concerns before IDOT would approve the funding. Ed Fitzpatrick says CDOT never responded, "apparently because they could not."

the blame for the closure of Dickens on the CDOT.

"Over the past few days, our office has heard concerns from neighbors about the newly closed portion of Dickens between Lincoln Park West and Stockton," starts their post. "This closure was initiated by the CDOT to create a "landing point" to increase pedestrian and bike safety as the Greenway approaches the park. CDOT decided to close this stretch of Dickens after community feedback at the numerous meetings that were held regarding the Dickens Greenway, and because there is an access point to Stockton one block north at Webster."

Multiple requests over safety and legal concerns were presented by area residents to both IDOT and CDOT before, during and after Aug. 1, 2022, meeting. As IDOT controlled the federal funds, they instruct-

PLANS from p. 1

meant to help foster equal outcomes in Illinois' white-dominated dope business. Peterson is a Black man.

PTS has also been led in part by David Flood, whose family owns Flood Brothers Disposal, a trash-hauling company that has held many lucrative contracts with city agencies. According to the Sun-Times, Flood previously served as the treasurer and principal officer of the influential and deep-pocketed Medical Cannabis Alliance of Illinois, which is now known as the Cannabis Business Assoc. of Illinois.

ed CDOT to respond in writing to those citizen concerns before IDOT would approve the funding. Fitzpatrick says CDOT never responded, "apparently because they could not."

As noted in a Jan. 24, 2023 email, CDOT began to consider withdrawing the request for federal funding instead of meeting IDOT's requirement for transparency.

Rather than responding to citizen questions and concerns, "CDOT sent me a letter announcing that it was withdrawing the request for federal funding," said Fitzpatrick. Well after IDOT demanded CDOT address citizen concerns, "Subsequent supplemental emails [raising additional concerns] likewise were never responded to."

CDOT either could not - or would not - respond despite the threat that the project would lose federal funding. Left unspoken was the option to use other city funds to execute the plan in secret.

And those plans did move forward in secret. The bait was federal funds. The switch was to city funds. Shazam! A done deal.

Nearby neighbors were never alerted by the alderman or other city officials to the new funding source, nor that CDOT would block off the entrance to Dickens to motor vehicles. Indeed the neighbors discovered the mysterious funding on their own, which should also be a cautionary tale for all local communities who may find themselves negotiating with the city and CDOT over the greater expansion of privileged bike paths throughout the city in 2024. That cautionary tale: trust but verify.

It appears that the key to the successful expansion of privileged bike paths city wide is in keeping those plans secret from the nearby residents who are generally those most affected by the changes. The decision making process is hastened and simplified through intentional opacity, leaving communities unaware and unable to organize protests against privileged bike path expansion plans until it's too late.

And so this newspaper was greeted on News Year's Day with complaints from Lincoln Parker's who took to social media to grouse about their lack of access to Dickens from Stockton, and over an alderman and his fellow co-conspirators who kept those plans secret.

But after the PTS + Bio-Pharm partnership received approval from the ZBA, a nearby dispensary filed a lawsuit saying the proposed location would have violated state law that seeks to prevent clusters of weed shops opening near each other.

The lawsuit argued that while state law allows social equity operators to operate within the 1,500-foot boundary, the law doesn't really allow two or more social equity operators to set up shop that close to each other, and that's when the owners decided to extinguish their Rainforest Cafe plans, fearing legal costs would spiral higher with no guarantee of succeeding.

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