

## Lincoln Yards work may be underway by this fall

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Construction of a “Life-Sciences” building will begin this fall on part of the former Lincoln Yards site, Fred Krol, representing Sterling Bay developers, told a Jan. 7 Zoom meeting hosted by Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] and the Sheffield Neighborhood Assoc.

It is the first structure to be built in the \$6 billion Lincoln Yards, a 53-acre planned development along the North Branch of the Chicago River.

The eight-story, 320,000-square foot site will be located on W. Concord Plc., Krol said.

“Chicago’s medical research community is growing rapidly, and there is a demand for quality lab space. This site is proof of that and we are excited to grow a portion of our portfolio” for part of our development, Krol said.

Chicago’s biotech industry has grown in recent years with billion-dollar local cancer fighting company Tempus among the most notable recent startups, Krol noted, adding that other recently emerging health care companies include Cancer IQ, Higi and ExpORer Surgical.

Another Sterling Bay medical oriented business building, the Prysm Institute, opened last year at 2430 N. Halsted, Krol said, adding that three biotech companies opened in that building last year, which was previously the site of Lurie Children’s Hospital (earlier known as Children’s Memorial Hospital.)

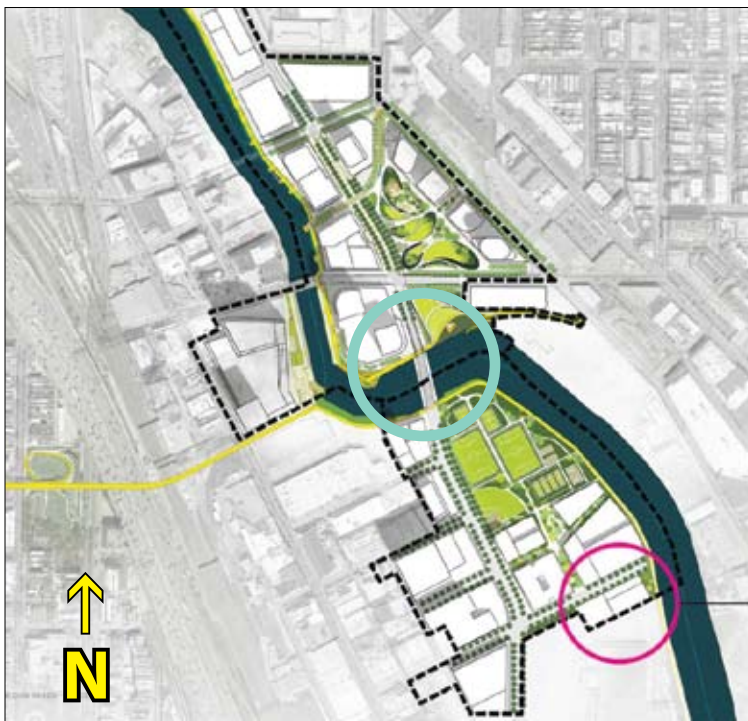
James Gillespie, executive director of the Prysm Institute said efforts are being made to attract

LINCOLN YARDS see p. 12



The proposed new Life Sciences building.

Images courtesy Sterling Bay, Gensler



The eight-story, 320,000-square foot Life Sciences building will be located where the bottom circle is, while the middle circle shows where the new bridge will cross over the river.

## Top cop claims 1,127 people arrested for carjacking last year; The actual number is 178

BY CWBCHICAGO

At a Jan. 21 press conference Chicago Police Supt. David Brown called to address Chicago’s carjacking problem. He opened his remarks with this claim:

“In 2020, there were 1,417 incidents of vehicular hijackings. Chicago police arrested 1,127 — that’s 1,127 — offenders for these crimes,” Brown said.

That’s false. Completely, off-the-charts not true.

Last year, Chicago police arrested 178 people for vehicular hijackings. Who told us that? The Chicago Police Dept.

The other 949 arrests that

Brown lumped in with those were for criminal trespass to vehicles, a misdemeanor that simply means someone was inside a car without permission.

Many of those 949 people were passengers in cars that someone else stole — and they may not have even known the car was stolen. Many others were charged with criminal trespass to a vehicle for snooping around inside someone’s car looking for spare change. There are myriad ways to be charged with a misdemeanor criminal trespass to a vehicle. But putting a gun in someone’s face and taking their car is not one of those ways.

CPD often seems to have an institutional inability to tell the truth with numbers. No matter who the superintendent is, the department churns out statistics that twist numbers within an inch of their lives.

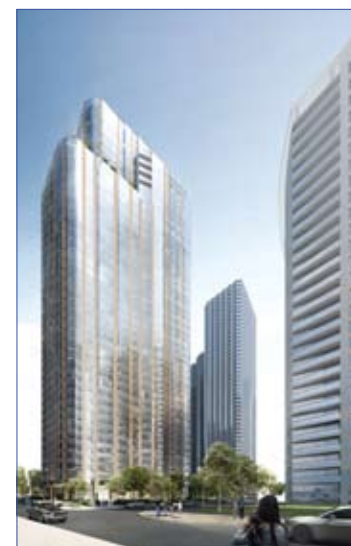
No one in their right mind would believe that Chicago police arrested 1,127 people in a year when there were 1,417 carjackings — particularly when the CPD itself has said that COVID-19 masks make it harder to identify carjackers.

But the press is running with Brown’s claim, so the CPD is suc-

ARRESTED see p. 12



Cirrus



Cascade

## Cirrus and Cascade top off in Lakeshore East

Earlier this week, construction on new residential towers known as Cirrus and Cascade, formerly known as parcels JKL, topped off construction.

Magellan Development broke ground on these projects in Sept. 2019, following approval by the City Council in 2018 and several community meetings in 2017.

Lend lease and Magellan announced the topping-off of Cirrus, a 47-story, 350-unit luxury condominium tower at 211 N. Harbor Dr., and Cascade, a 37-story, 503-unit luxury apartment tower at 455 E. Waterside Dr., together representing one of the final phases of the Lakeshore East master plan in downtown Chicago.

The developers also announced that adjacent Cascade Park, a publicly accessible green space connecting Cirrus and Cascade to the lakefront and Chicago Riverwalk, will open ahead of schedule

in summer 2021.

With units priced from the mid-\$400,000s to over \$4 million, residents of Cirrus and Cascade will also share access to amenities housed in a podium connecting the two buildings overlooking adjacent Cascade Park.

Cascade Park is a 0.8-acre green space designed by Claude Cormier + Associés. It will feature landscaping, passive wellness features, pathways, outdoor living rooms for recreational use, terrace seating and a dog run. Although privately developed and maintained, Cascade Park will serve neighbors in the surrounding community, establishing a connection to the lakefront and Chicago Riverwalk in its terraced landscape design that slopes from North Harbor Dr. to Lower Lake Shore Dr., and a new bike and walking path that connects Lakeshore East Park to the Lakefront Trail.

## Loop businesses unsure about bringing employees back to work on-site

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN  
Loop North News

Businesses in the Loop are still uncertain about when all of their employees will be back to work in person.

According to Chicago Loop Alliance [CLA], when asked when their entire staff would return to work in the Loop, 64% of responding businesses said they were not certain. Twelve percent said all of their staff would return during the first three months of 2021.

CLA says 19% of Loop businesses surveyed in December were open with all staff working

onsite, down from 29% in November. Some 40% were open with some staff onsite and some working remotely, up from 35% in November. Four percent of businesses in the Loop were open with all staff working remotely, down from 15% in November.

Twenty seven percent were closed temporarily, up from 13% in November.

Michael Edwards, President/CEO of Chicago Loop Alliance, says they expect the reopening of Chicago Public Schools and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to impact decisions by Loop businesses about on-site work.

**Downtown hotel operators continue to face pandemic lockdown challenges,**  
Story on page 5

# City of Chicago, itself, has a powerful sense of humor



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

First we have a banana peel. Then we have an unsuspecting bumpkin. Then the slip. And the slide. The fall. The laugh. That's one way to look at humor.

I have an odd sensitivity for humor. Maybe it's my Irish roots. Humor after all is largely about the juggling of the world of emotions and ironies. And that's where the Irish abide. Caught between those two worlds. For weal or woe.

God gave me a huge appreciation for the irony in life. Isn't that the start of all good stand up? But I'm no joke teller. What Irishman is?

I talk to my sister, Mary Regina, everyday and spend almost all our time together roaring over the goings on in our childhoods. Our relatives. The oddballs and goofs who wandered through our lives. Our dueling Irish grandmothers. Tippling aunties. Catholic educational regiments. Learning the piano. Charming our Dominican nuns. And the endless opportunities supplied by our parents to test out new material. Comic relief, we called it. Sacrilegious pratfalls more likely. Spontaneous impressions and refined imaginations that let us always search for the humorous and the ridiculous in everyday events.

But that has never included the telling of jokes, but for a few "knock, knock," jokes. I have never been one for those long and involved complex stories with a punch line. I've always believed that a college graduate is incapable of telling a joke. Even a dirty one. That's what Limerick's are for.

For me, humor is a lot like cooking. Everyone needs it, and many folk take their turns at it.

But really good cooking is a gift. It takes the facile ability to realize the opportunity that ingredients possess. The knowledge and intelligence to know what really works well together.

Like cooking, humor is best when it is domestic, familiar and free of self-conscious indulgence.

That's when it's at its most robust, free of the constrictions of kitchen, oven or self-imposed constraints.

It allows us the chance to see our living in a whole new light... usually the light of day. No layers of trying to please others or conjure up a blessing on your behavior.

Humor is often the gauntlet tossed, warning given or notice served. Especially to the bullies we live with, attend school with, or share our peanut butter and jelly sandwich with.

Humor permits us the chance of opening up public humiliation on those who make life miserable for others. Be they spouse, children, relatives or friends. It can be the challenge to a dual of wits and reckoning.

Nothing gives us better ammunition than the sappy protocols of woke culture. You know, the appeal for peace at any price and a rereading of historical accuracy. It lets folk doctor the x-rays and reinvent the human story.

Who did what and to whom? Especially if you were a general, a missionary, a founding father, guiding light or favorite son.

I'm amused at the humor quotient that might remain at the Chicago Tribune. Little laughter arising from those hallowed halls these days. Just trying to think who might be able to mansplain the current situation to Colonel McCormick, the Perry White of the grand old lady. While he used more bark and bite than belly laughs, I think he might be howling at the present conundrum.

As the newsroom moves to the

Tribes' printing facility at Chicago Ave. and the Chicago River. Which I don't believe they own any longer.

And the rumors are they won't be housed on the river that long either.

The paper is just about moved out of the Prudential Building, a favorite of Col. McCormick's. He was the grandson of the paper's founder Joseph Medill. The Chicago mayor elected right after the Great Fire of 1871 on the "Fire Proof Ticket." (Now that's funny.) His peptic ulcer used to regurgitate whenever he saw the Prudential Building's modernist silhouette against the lakefront sky. Of course he'd be thinking of his great architectural competition to design and build the new 36-story Tribune Tower on Michigan Ave. It was one of the most international of gambits and brought architectural contributions from around the world.

Young Raymond Hood and John Mead Howells submitted a Neo-Gothic design for the building in 1923 and won. The centennial will be upon us soon.

I wonder if the new condo association for the recently re-used Tribune Tower has any plans to celebrate?

So you see even the City, itself, has a powerful sense of humor. The City is filled with such comedy. Usually arising out of the history and myth of everyday Chicago life. Studded with the bones and deadlines of reporters and photographers who combed the saloons, morgues, whorehouses and churches of Chicago trying to find our story written on the coal shovels of everyday life and aboard the newsprint barges making their way up river.

Remember the day that Mayor Big Bill Thompson brought the rodeo to the City Council back in the late 1920s? First time real clowns ran around the chamber.

Here's another funny one. After Thompson's death in 1944, two safe deposit boxes in his name were discovered to contain nearly \$1.84 million (\$26.7 million today) in cash. See, humor is everywhere. Look! A banana peel!

**CARDIAC COW:** Just a year ago, popular ABC newswy, **Paul Meincke**, now retired, underwent emergency open heart surgery at Cedars-Sinai while visiting family in Los Angeles. He surprisingly survived the aortic valve surgery and recovery. He says his docs there were magic. So he just penned a special letter of gratitude to the docs and medical staff expressing his thanks for what he saw as heroic medical care. None more impactful to the nation, he notes, than the efforts underway at present to save us from the pandemic. He said while it's been a bumpy road, wife **Wendy** has made sure he's a new man after receiving his bovine aortic valve. And says he's eating his broccoli and is enjoying being "part cow."

We're glad your doing so well, Paul.

**EDGEWATER NEWS:** **Russ Goeltenbott** of Drew's on Halsted reports some sad news. "**Peggy Gelsomino** from Ginos East Pizzeria in Edgewater entered her Eternal Home yesterday. Peggy was an Edgewater institution. She made pizzas for Ginos East for over 20 years, until she was close to 90 years old. Her pizzas were the best and made with so much Love. I will miss our cocktails together, watching the Cubs Games with you. So many great conversations learning about your family and your husband's restaurant."

**HOLLYWOOD IN CHITOWN:** Chicago Gold Coast screenwriter/producer/singer-songwriter/author **Danny Kravitz** celebrates his newest film, *The Marksman*, #1 at the box office replacing *Wonder Woman*. Kravitz co-wrote the screenplay, which stars **Liam Neeson** and **Katheryn Wynn**, and was directed by three-time Oscar nominee **Robert Lorenz** who grew up in suburban Chicago filled still with his family.

**DEPARTURES:** Amid the sad turmoil and departures at the Chicago Tribune, **Phil Vettel**, the four decades food critic, appears to have saved his best words for last which must make long-time restaurateur **Gordon Sinclair** ecstatic. In summing up, Vettel notes the highlights of cuisine he encountered. "I also dined countless times at the inimitable Gordon restaurant, whose dapper owner, Gordon Sinclair, was the restaurant's lone constant. Gordon ran through a great many chefs in its 23 years, for which I was grateful; each chef change gave me an excuse to return." Phil saved the

best for last.

**WARNING:** Coyotes are roaming Chicago cemeteries. No they are not dogs or even human smugglers. Be careful. They've been seen in our parks, and in Graceland, St. Boniface and Rosehill cemeteries.

**PROGRESS:** Miss **Anita Harris** turns 102 this week. "I'm so happy I have lived long enough to see a Black president and now a Black woman vice president! I think that's great, we seem to be moving forward."

**PRETEND IT'S A CITY:** Designer **Jeffrey Banks** has me hooked on Netflix's "Pretend it's a City." The seven part documentary by **Martin Scorsese** about writer/humorist **Fran Lebowitz** and her take on New York City. She's funny, erudite, and outrageously blunt with her most humorous impatience and urbane perceptions of NYC. Don't miss this.

**BOOTH ONE:** Barb Bailey

with galpals **Julia Jacobs** and **Rosemary Fanti** at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill. **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** could not be with them but sent the cutest homemade cookies.

**DIVAS AND ARIAS:** Former Tribune exec **Paul Malarik III** reminds us actor, comedian and director, **Charles Nelson Reilly**, best known as a hilarious game-show panelist on "Hollywood Square" was a devotee of the opera. It was his lifelong passion. The two met at the "Fantasy Of The Opera", Lyric Opera of Chicago's annual gala back in the day.

**RIPOSARE IN PACE:** **Cynthia Olson's** dear friend, **Alberto Terrani**, the Italian stage and TV actor, died last week. His late wife was the great mezzo soprano **Lucia Valentini** who appeared at the Lyric some years ago in "Cenerentola." Now both are gone. "I will love them forever," Cynthia says.

**HAIL, HAIL, THEY'RE HERE:** **Julie Barrish** is with **Charlene Lieber** at Hilton Chicago Hotel with lifelong friends met through Pink Hope, seeking to get the gang back together again. I spot **Nancy Resnick**, **Joyce Sandler**, **Stephan Lieber**, **Linda Kinzelberg** and **Beverly Valfer** for starters.

**WILDE AWARDS:** The **Oscar Wilde** Awards honoring Irish contributions to Hollywood, held

## HUMOR see p. 6

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INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications

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Chicago, IL 60660  
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# Mentorship program offers musical training and more



Heart  
of the  
'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

Daniel Cogolludo would make Beethoven proud. For as long as he can remember, the West Loop teen has been a classical music fan. And at the age of four, Cogolludo picked up his first violin.

He has been playing it ever since.

"Ever since I was a baby I loved music, especially classical music," said the 16-year-old Cogolludo. "My father played the guitar at our church and my mother sang the psalms, so I grew up in a musical environment."

"I enrolled at a local academy and had to choose between the violin and the piano. The huge wall piano was too big for my small hands so I went with violin since it had many different smaller sizes -- a decision I do not regret in the slightest way. There's just something about the sound it produces that inspires me and lightens up my mood," he said.

Last August, Cogolludo started violin lessons with a new private teacher, Mónica Lugo, who encouraged him to prepare for the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI) auditions that were happening the following month. CMPI is a mentorship program that offers financial support and music training for talented students from underrepresented communities in the city.

"This news gave me so much more motivation to continue practicing since it meant I had a goal to work towards," Cogolludo said. "I found it especially motivating during quarantine, considering that going through the pandemic -- both for me and many other musicians I know -- is a difficult time. It was also a completely new experience for me since I had never had to prepare a video recording for such an important audition."

Cogolludo spent a lot of his childhood between the West Loop and Spain. His mom, Mireya Garcia, is originally from the Back of the Yards neighborhood and his dad, Jose Cogolludo, is from Madrid. As a result, Cogolludo has attended schools both in Spain and in Chicago, making him fully bilingual and biliterate.

Thanks to his ethnic roots, Cogolludo was able to apply for CMPI, a multi-organization collaborative effort established in 2018 with a \$3.5 million grant from the huge arts and humanities supporter, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. (Caucasians can apply, however, they have to meet certain criteria). In Fall 2019, CMPI's mentorship program launched for gifted student musicians from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, offering its student "Fellows" a robust training curriculum -- now virtu-



Daniel Cogolludo

al until further notice -- designed to prepare young musicians to successfully audition into top tier college-level music schools in the country. Over the course of the initial Mellon Foundation grant, about 150 program participants will be able to be enrolled.

The selection process includes auditions and interviews, including interviews with family members and other caregivers. Chosen musicians are carefully assessed and provided with comprehensive and vital supports -- musical and extra-musical -- including financial, instructional and academic. CMPI offers quality music training including weekly private lessons, ongoing written and verbal feedback, master classes and mock auditions with musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, monthly mentorship for the entire family from professional musicians, and more.

According to the League of American Orchestras, African American and Latino musicians hold less than three percent of the positions in major American orchestras. Now in its second full season, some 93 student Fellows are currently enrolled in CMPI, representing 57 zip codes from across the greater Chicago area and reflecting the diversity of the city (31% African American, 51% Latino, seven percent Caucasian, five percent Southeast Asian, two percent South Asian, and four percent East Asian).

The group's long-term goal is to help address the ongoing lack

of diversity in American orchestras, which they say threatens the vitality and viability of classical, orchestral music. The project focuses on talented, instrumental, classical musical students who've demonstrated both aptitude and interest in pursuing intensive study and a career specifically as a professional performing musician.

This collaborative process was initiated and coled by the West Loop-based Merit School of Music -- which helps young people of all backgrounds achieve lifelong success through music -- and the Chicago Sinfonietta, which promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion through its orchestra roster and fellowship programs for orchestral musicians and conductors. Other participating organizations include the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Chicago High School for the Arts, Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, DePaul University School of Music, Hyde Park Suzuki Institute, Musical Arts Institute, and Ravinia Festival.

You can apply online and applications for CMPI 2021-22 are due Feb. 5, followed by virtual information sessions and audition video submissions. For additional program offerings, application guidelines and to sign up, visit [chicagopathways.org/audition/](http://chicagopathways.org/audition/).

Cogolludo said CMPI has allowed him to push himself musically much more than he would



Adrienne Thompson

have ever imagined.

"To be able to advance so much in so little time is due to their constant support and motivation," said Cogolludo, whose favorite classical works are "Navarra" and "Zapateado" by Pablo de Sarasate.

For example, Cogolludo has mentors to talk to and the staff is always there for encouragement.

***Children of color are made to feel like a nerd if they like classical music. This gives them the opportunity to find other support and kids who love classical music like they do. Confessing they like the oddball classical music is real for these guys, Adrienne Thompson said.***

Additionally, seeing high-level instructors during master classes and talented performers during recitals is an enriching way to learn from others, adding to the overall experience. Another helpful aspect of CMPI was getting to know fellow cohorts. Cogolludo said working with students of different ages, backgrounds, and cultures is definitely rewarding.

"The program walks you through the requirements and is fundamental for a smooth transition into higher education," said Cogolludo. "Sadly, there aren't enough counseling or mentor-

ship opportunities to guide teens through this difficult process, especially in underrepresented communities. CMPI offers a place exclusively for people with the same passion, making it ideal for people like me that are looking to learn from others and sharing experiences."

CMPI accepts musicians in grades nine through 12, and on a smaller scale, grades six through eight, said its project director Adrienne Thompson. Thompson has been involved with CMPI since 1998 as parent, volunteer, and alum parent volunteer who was then hired to be director in Atlanta. She had eight children, and numbers five, seven and eight went through the program.

"It is so important because so often our kids are told they have limits," said Thompson, who plays the flute and lives in Bronzeville. "There are no limits if you're willing to work."

Children of color are made to feel like a nerd if they like classical music, she said. This gives them the opportunity to find other support and kids who love classical music like they do. Confessing they like the oddball classical music is real for these guys, Thompson said.

"They need to feel that loving classical music is valid," said Thompson. "Really what we are trying to teach our kids -- we are trying to free them to be who they are."

"They're attracted to this music," she added. "We want to give them confidence to be who they are. They've already caught the classical music bug. We're using 'The Village' concept of raising a child."

She said CMPI looks for three things: Kids who have potential, kids who like to practice, and kids who have the support of their family. "If you have those three things, you can create miracles," Thompson said.

**MENTORSHIP** see p. 4

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# Property tax deadline pushed back but lenders want cash



## The Home Front

by Don DeBat

What the tax man giveth, often the banker taketh away.

On Nov. 24, 2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on a motion by Comr. John P. Daley, voted to give Chicago and Cook County property owners a 60-day extension on payment of the 2020 real estate taxes because of the pandemic.

The extension, titled the "COVID-19 Tax Relief Ordinance," pushed back the deadline for paying the first installment of taxes this year to May 3, from March 2. The second installment of taxes will be due on Oct. 1, instead of Aug. 2.

The action should provide relief for thousands of homeowners who pay their real estate taxes directly. The extension means that no late-payment interest penalties will be charged on billions of dollars of tax bills.

However, don't expect a tax-payment break if your bungalow or two-flat is burdened by a mortgage. Most tax payments are paid on-line by mortgage holders from non-interest bearing property-tax escrow accounts held by banks and mortgage companies.

"Banks and mortgage companies generally will not recognize the 60-day pandemic tax-payment extension and will dutifully pay the taxes to Cook County on March 2 and August 2 this year,"

predicted Michael Griffin, a Chicago real estate tax appeal attorney.

Illinois lenders are not required to pay interest on tax-escrow accounts. However, lenders in 15 states—including New York, California, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin—pay interest on escrow accounts.

In Illinois, borrowers have an option at closing on a property to open an interest-bearing account to be used for payment of real estate taxes. When a mortgage is paid down to 65% of its original amount, and if the loan is not in default, the lender must notify the borrower that he or she may terminate the escrow account and pay the taxes directly.

Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi recently gave Cook County property owners, including beleaguered homeowners in Chicago's wealthy neighborhoods from River North and Old Town to Lincoln Park and Lakeview, a glimmer of hope—lower tax assessments.

Kaegi sent "COVID-19 assessment-adjustment letters" to thousands of Chicago property owners, noting that the pandemic has caused a "significant economic downturn, and lower property values" depending on the property's type and location. Unfortunately, these temporary reductions were only for 2020 since all of Chicago will be reassessed in 2021.

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



A COVID-19 Tax Relief ordinance pushed back the deadline for paying the first installment of property taxes this year to May 3, from March 2. The second installment of taxes will be due on Oct. 1, instead of Aug. 2.

cago's South Side.

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

Two examples of COVID-19 assessment reductions in Old Town follow:

- The owner of a brick Victorian four-flat received a \$13,083 reduction in assessed value to \$117,745 from \$130,828. He paid a 2019 real estate tax bill of \$26,285 on the property. The first-installment 2020 tax bill, which represents 55% of last year's bill, is \$14,456.

Despite the COVID-19 assessment reduction, the lender, anticipating higher taxes in 2020, increased the owner's monthly tax escrow payment by \$515 to \$2,852 from \$2,337 for January through April of 2020.

- The owner of a brick Victorian

six-flat received a \$11,145 reduction in assessed value to \$100,298 from \$111,443. The owner paid a 2019 real estate tax bill of \$21,701 on the property. The first-installment 2020 tax bill, which represents 55% of last year's bill, is \$11,935.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot's 2021 pandemic budget will include a \$93.9 million property tax hike as part of a \$1.6 billion real estate tax levy. About \$34 million of the real estate tax hike is linked to a future rise in the consumer-price index.

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

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

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

Real estate taxes for 2020 are expected to rise when the second installment of the bill comes due on Oct. 1, 2021. However, predicting a hefty property tax increase this year really centers on two wild cards—the tax rate and the state equalization factor, which can't be challenged by taxpayers.

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

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

Visit the Assessor's website: [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com), or call 312-443-7550 to find comparable properties or start the appeal process. The Assessor has concluded appeals process for 2020.

Visit [www.cookcountyboardofreview.com](http://www.cookcountyboardofreview.com), or call 312-603-5542, to appeal with the Cook County Board of Review. The Board of Review has almost concluded the appeals process for 2020. Or, call Michael Griffin, an expert tax-assessment lawyer, at 312-943-1789.

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

## SBA loan town hall meetings

There are two upcoming virtual town hall meetings for those interested in applying for SBA loans for small businesses.

The meetings are being hosted by Cook County Cmsr. Bridget Gainer [10th], and Robert Steiner, SBA District Director.

At 10 a.m. Jan. 29 a meeting designed for not for profit organizations will be held at <http://bit.ly/nfptownhall>, with State Rep. Kelly

Cassidy moderating.

At 11:30 a.m. Feb. 19 there will be an online town hall meeting designed for entertainment and venue industries, that will be held at <http://bit.ly/entventtownhall>. Among the speakers will be Ald. Ton Tunney, State Sen. Sarah Feigenholtz and U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley.

For more information write to [district10@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:district10@cookcountyil.gov).

## MENTORSHIP from p. 3

Learn more about CMPI at [www.chicagopathways.org](http://www.chicagopathways.org).

**Spreading the love...** how about being a sweetheart and sending a valentine to some local assisted living, long-term care, and/or rehab facility folks? The Edgewater Library and Edgewater Village are partnering to collect Valentine's Day cards -- either store-bought or handmade are fine. This could be a great activity for the little ones, as well as anyone else.

If you need supplies, the Edgewater Library, 6000 N. Broadway, will have a small selection of crafting materials that can be picked up through Friday, which is when all cards are due. They don't have to be fancy, just have them come from your heart.

Please email Librarian Katy Linehan ([klinehan@chipublib.org](mailto:klinehan@chipublib.org)) with the number of cards you can provide. If you can't come by when the library is open, bundle your cards and put them in a bag in the outside book drop. Clearly label the bag: Attn: Edgewater Village Chicago.



Staff at Chicago Methodist Senior Services distributed about 500 holiday cards to its residents in Wesley Place, Hartwell House and Covenant Home from Edgewater Village Chicago volunteers.



Katy Linehan, left, adult services librarian at the Edgewater Branch Library, and Betsy Kane, Program Committee member at Edgewater Village.



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# Lincoln Square revisiting site of 2020 fight

BY PETER VON BUOL

Last years' battle over a commercial parking lot in Lincoln Square is rearing its head again in 2021.

And thanks to the unfortunate 2020-21 trend toward only holding online virtual meetings, a lot of people in the community now feel their voices are literally being suppressed, as city officials sprint to try and seal up another deal hoping to avoid the community pushback they got in 2020.

In late 2019 a scheme was hatched between city officials, the 47th Ward office and an out of state developer - The Community Builders - to turn a commercial parking lot into a five-story affordable housing project.

When neighbors rallied to protect their parking lot, Ald. Matt Martin [47th] claimed that people in his ward were undertaking a misinformation campaign against the project. Martin even released a statement after the deal was already in the planning stages on what the developer wanted to build, while also decrying the "falsehoods" being circulated to "mislead community members."

It was not a great start toward engaging his constituents in open debate, after keeping the larger community in the dark for months by only telling a select few of his supporters about the proposal.

That bullying continued during a Jan. 21 Zoom meeting where nobody was permitted to ask direct questions of aldermen Martin or Andre Vasquez [40th], or Cmsr. Marisa Novara of the Chicago Dept. of Housing, as would have been the case had

a real community meeting be held out in the open, rather than online.

The few questions that were taken online, were chosen by an aldermanic staff member from the hundreds of questions and responses that were being posted live in the chat box.

If that Zoom chat box was any reflection of the level of community disagreement over the project, then City Hall and Martin's office have another problem on their hands as they try to plop a high density Equity Transit Oriented Development [ETOD] down at 4715 N. Western Ave.

The lots in question at Leland and Western avenues that make up the area proposed for the ETOD housing development, were actually taken from their former owners in 1975 by City Hall in an eminent domain action to support the commercial district with a metered off-street parking lot. To now turn that property over for free to a private developer seems a disservice to those people who gave up those properties for a greater community need over 40 years ago.

As was the case in 2020, neighbors who joined the Jan 21 online meeting again fear that the loss of the commercial parking lot would damage a number of nearby businesses and local institutions. Those that would appear to be most at risk are the many unique small retailers and independent restaurants that have helped turn the community into a regional draw, bringing people into Lincoln Square from the entire the six-county region.

Also benefiting from the parking lot are cultural institutions such as the Davis The-

ater, Old Town School of Folk Music, and the DANKHaus German Cultural Center. Losing the lot would make it more difficult for them to draw in customers from outside of the community, especially if Resident Only Permit Parking is expanded in the community, as Ald. Martin suggested it might be during the Zoom meeting.

Losing that open parking lot during and after construction of a residential development would also leave the popular and well-attended Lincoln Square Farmers Market, the German American Festival, Apple Fest and Mayfest struggling to survive.

While the alderman and commissioner explained their plans Jan. 21, the tenor of the chat box for this online meeting grew quite vitriolic, with those people hoping to save the parking lot being met with a mantra that claimed that cars are evil and killing the planet, and that people should bike or ride a bus or train to get into the community.

And oddly the very premise of putting an ETOD in Lincoln Square would seem to be in direct conflict with Mayor Lori Lightfoot's own agenda, which was spelled out in a Sept. 2020 Policy Plan draft on the city's ETOD goals.

That plan "proposes a roadmap for City actions over the next three years to advance racial equity, community wealth building, climate resilience and public health goals through equitable ETOD."

The Mayor's plan calls for ETOD developments to be focussed on South and West Side neighborhoods that have long been overlooked by City Hall; not in wealthy, mostly white neighborhoods like Lincoln

Square.

As the plan explains, "TOD development approved between 2016 and 2019 reveals disparities in growth patterns between neighborhoods, reinforcing existing racial inequities. During this time, almost 90% of new TOD projects took place in the North Side, Northwest Side, in Downtown and around the West Loop."

"In contrast, little TOD activity occurred near [transit station] areas in the South and West Sides. Where new TOD development is occurring, White population has increased, Black population has decreased, and Hispanic/Latinx population has increased in some areas and decreased in others."

The effort to build a new ETOD in Lincoln Square leaves many neighbors to ask, if the city really wants new ETOD development to serve predominantly minority communities, how they could now be expending scarce city resources adding another ETOD to a wealthy White North Side community, when social and minority equity is supposedly so vital?

The Mayor's plan explains that the demographic shifts point to established systemic racially-oriented displacement patterns. "In contrast, areas [on the South and West Sides] near rail stations that are eligible for TOD benefits but that have not seen TOD project activity have 40% more residents of color, 23% more low-income residents and 16% more residents with a high school education or less than areas where TOD projects have occurred."

FIGHT see p. 9

## Downtown hotel operators continue to face pandemic lockdown challenges

**No full recovery until 2024**

After their worst year on record, the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Assoc. [IHLA] recently released its 2021 State of the Hotel Industry report, examining the economics of recovery.

Chicago-area hotels were greatly impacted by the pandemic and will face these same challenges in 2021, with occupancy rates in Chicago too low to operate profitably. Chicago has already seen several big name bankruptcies and closings.

According to the IHLA, 23 downtown hotels have closed. The Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St., which is in foreclosure, has become the most prominent Chicago victim of the collapse of the local lodging industry.

The Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago, 909 N. Michigan Ave., The Park Hyatt Chicago, 800 N. Michigan Ave., and Peninsula Hotel, 108 E. Superior St., have temporarily closed due to the pandemic, as have two other big convention hotels, the Sheraton Chicago and the Chicago Hilton.

Disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic and economic lockdown resulted in historically low room occupancy in Chicago, massive job losses and hotel closures across the nation.

Occupancy rates in Chicago have dropped as low as 35% and room rates are down over 54% year-over year.

While the industry expects to recover, it will take several years to fully rebound.

Business and group travel will be largely contingent on widespread vaccine distribution and is not expected to begin to return until the latter part of the 2021. The industry does not expect pre-pandemic travel levels to return until 2024. Additionally,

pre-pandemic employment levels won't return until at least 2023.

This will also greatly burden the millions of people, vendors and government who once relied on the hotel industry for employment and will impact state and local governments that rely on hospitality related tax collections.

"Even as vaccines begin to be rolled out and other businesses begin to reopen, the hotel industry largely remains at a standstill. These projections show that getting back to normal will be a slow process, as hotels were among the first businesses to close during the pandemic and will be among the last to open. While I am confident in the industry's ability to recover, additional assistance will be needed from elected officials at all levels of government to help get people back to work and keep our doors open," said Michael Jacobson, CEO of the IHLA.

The report shows that while hotels are projected to add 200,000 operations jobs nationwide in 2021, this will remain nearly 500,000 jobs below the industry's pre-pandemic level of 2.3 million employees.

In Illinois, 26,124 direct hotel-related jobs have been lost, and 119,408 total jobs lost supporting the local hotel industry.

Half of U.S. hotel rooms are projected to remain empty.

Business travel is expected to be down 85% compared to 2019. This is expected to last through April 2021, and then will only tick up slightly.

Travel for leisure will be the first to return, with 56% of consumers expecting to travel in 2021, which is roughly the same amount as an average year.

Nearly half of consumers see vaccine distribution as the key to future travel.



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# Historic Our Lady of Lourdes Parish consolidated with St. Mary of the Lake Parish

BY PETER VON BUOL

Citing mounting debt and declining enrollment, officials from the Archdiocese of Chicago on the evening of Jan. 22 announced Cardinal Blase Cupich's decision to consolidate Ravenswood's historic Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1601 W. Leland Ave. with the nearby St. Mary of the Lake Parish, 4220 N. Sheridan Rd.

Cupich consolidated Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary of the Lake as a new parish to be named St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The two churches will be served by one pastor and his pastoral team. The change will take effect July 1 with both St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches to be used for Masses and other church services.

That evening, Auxiliary Bishop Mark Bartosic announced the archdiocese has decided it will be selling the building once home to the former Our Lady of Lourdes parish school at 4641 N. Ashland Ave.

Both parishes are part of the archdiocese's "Wrigley Field Grouping" which also includes St. Benedict, 2215 W. Irving Park Rd., and St. Andrew Parish, 3546 N. Paulina St. While St. Andrew Parish and St. Benedict parish will continue to operate as separate parishes, they have been united in a contractual agreement to work together.

"This decision builds upon the activities that these parishes have already co-sponsored over the last several years and asks them to more deliberately plan on ways that two Catholic parishes can support one another," according to a written statement from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

While the decision to keep the

churches open brought a sigh of relief to the anxious parishioners who had attended the Jan. 22 virtual meeting held by the Archdiocese of Chicago, the reprieve may only be temporary. Bartosic added the status of each of the buildings in the Wrigley Field Grouping will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Among those relieved the church buildings will be preserved in their present form is the architectural preservationist group Preservation Chicago.

"[We were] very pleased that the Archdiocese of Chicago chose to keep open all of the magnificent churches and church buildings in what they are describing as the 'Wrigleyville group,' without any closures at this time," said Ward Miller, executive director of Preservation Chicago. "We realize there is a consolidation proposed, including that of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary of the Lake, and that will likely proceed forward as of July 1. There are also some annual reviews which were mentioned in the announcement, which are a bit worrisome for each of the communities, schools, and their various buildings, along with some guidelines and goals to be implemented."

Unfortunately, added Miller, while the archdiocese has kept the church buildings open, parishioners are now facing more pressure than ever. "While some may see the archdiocese's Renew My Church as a call to reinvigorate their church others may find the pressure overwhelming."

"It's unfortunate that these spectacular buildings, which are important cornerstones, gateways, anchors and landmarks in our communities, are now under such mandates and pressures, as they provide a sense of community to many, while they continue to be a source of so many social services, in addition to centers of faith and contemplation," said Miller. "A loss of any of these resources, these buildings, these schools and community centers, are all a great tragedy when consolidated, closed and sold. Sometimes, they are even lost to demolition, which benefits very few, if any in the community and therefore another loss and missed opportunity—destined for landfill. This was not the intention of the original communities of people that built and

sponsored these structures."

Miller adds the upcoming sale of the former parish school building may bring about a new opportunity to reinvigorate the community.

"We are all hopeful that the building will be reused for a new idea and purpose, which will serve the community. Perhaps some of these structures could become Landmark-eligible and the Archdiocese of Chicago should encourage a Chicago Landmark Designation of their churches and ancillary buildings, as they were often built by the community and given to them to maintain, staff and steward in perpetuity. Sometimes that commitment and promise - which came with that community gift - is overlooked and forgotten, but important to remember as well," Miller said.

Designed by the prominent Chicago architectural firm of Worthmann and Steinbach, the church

was originally built in 1916. Dozens of the churches and homes designed by the architectural firm have been recognized by the city of Chicago on its Architectural Resources Survey. The building was originally located across the street.

The church's honors Our Lady of Lourdes, an honorific title bestowed upon the mother of Jesus Christ. In 1858, Bernadette Soubirousa, a young teenager who lived near Lourdes, France began seeing visions of a person who appeared to be Mary. Despite initial skepticism by local church officials, the young girl's visions were eventually accepted "worthy of belief" and the site of her visions has become a popular site for religious pilgrimages.

Soubirousa's story was the subject of a 1941 best-selling historical novel Song of Bernadette. The book served as the source for a popular 1943 movie of the same

name.

Chicago's Our Lady of Lourdes is the designated national shrine of the French pilgrimage site. Worship services at the church include those associated with the site in France.

While the archdiocese has been combining parishes, which are geographically close to one another, Miller suggests the archdiocese should also take into consideration other factors as well.

"The consolidations represent a broad community area, which although geographically close in proximity, really do represent differing areas of people, income brackets and neighborhoods. On a map they may look close to the outside observer, but each of these communities are different and we should be looking at preserving many of these sacred buildings, institutions and places and insuring their long-term future," Miller said.



Anita Harris



Lauren Lein Cavanaugh, Barb Bailey, Sherrill Bodine and Laurie Borse.

## HUMOR from p. 2

every year since 2006, has been canceled. Traditionally taking place on the Thursday night before the Academy Awards, the cautions of pandemic necessitated the move.

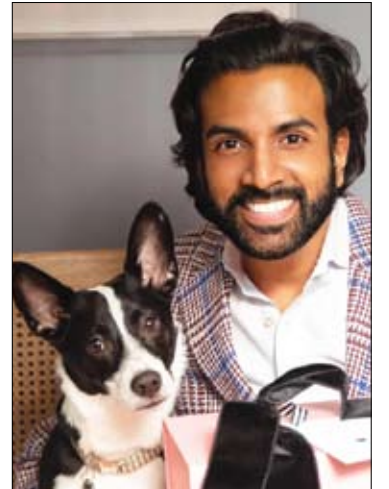
**PARIS MAKEOVER:** Paris' famed Champs-Élysées—the avenue leading to the Arc de Triomphe—will be transformed into a greener, more pedestrian-friendly site through a planned €250 million (\$304 million) project. But the French avenue's "green makeover" won't be finished until after the city's 2024 Summer Olympics.

**END OF AN ERA: Siegfried Fishbacher**, of Siegfried & Roy, the fabled Las Vegas duo, has died of cancer at age 81. His Partner **Roy Horn** died of COVID last May at age 75. Their magic act utilizing large animals including exotic cats started in the 1960's and continued until several years ago when Roy was mauled by a tiger.

**WHO'S WHERE: Jolanta Ruege** at Northbrook Court, hoping shopping therapy never goes out of style and is still politically correct... **Jane and Joe Yount** in sunny Palm Desert, CA... **Harold Washington** TV mini-series in the works by playwright **Ike Holter**... Happy Birthday to **Caleigh Tully** celebrating with parents **Ellen and Tom Tully**... birthday girl **Staci McClane** with **Bobbi Panter, Nina Mariano, Sherry Lea Fox** and **Sylvia Perez**... **Shaun Rajah** inviting



Bobbi Panter, Nina Mariano, Sherry Lea Fox, Sylvia Perez and Stacie McClane.



Shaun Rajah

folk to special Bridgerton Teas at the Drake Hotel with special tea cakes he knows Lady Whistledown would approve... County Treasurer **Maria Pappas** re-walking the runway in the memories of those fashion junkies who recall the Aibi Aifi show and how splendid she looked in her **Lauren Lein** little black dress that she bought that night... beauty author **Irene Michaels** at Tavern on Rush signing her latest book with **Michelle Stromberg Ohlhaber** and **David M. Lissner**... **Jonathon Wells** with lovely **Gail Wells**, AKA, Mom, at Harbor Shores... artist **David Cook** has emerged with a wonderful new series of American botanicals... writer **Sherrill Bodine**, lunching with designer **Laurie Borse** and **Barb Bailey** at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill. Borse, normally working at her home in Paris, was in Chicago designing in the age of COVID... desert beauties **Sherry**

**Lea Fox and Mary Lasky** at sunny and warm Mummy Mountain, Paradise Valley, AZ... **Chrissy Jacobs** mending nicely after arthroscopic surgery on her knee's torn meniscus... attorney **Thomas Murphy** at the snowy Indiana Dunes... artist **Adam Handler** has paintings in Asia. If you are in Taiwan check out One Art at the Taipei Art Fair where he has a series of girl and tulip paintings.

**VENICE FILM FEST:** The 2020 Oscar-winning South Korean filmmaker, director **Bong Joon Ho**, will head up the international jury for the 78th Venice Film Festival in September.

**This is one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather.**

-- Phil Connors

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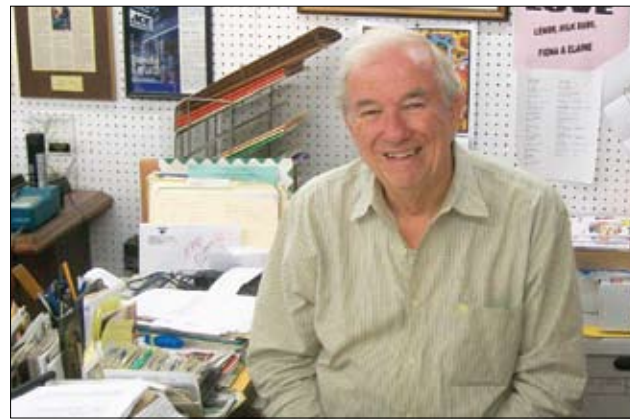


Kevin and his father Dan O'Donnell.



Leah and Richard Steel with Dan O'Donnell.

Photo courtesy of Dimitre



Dan O'Donnell in his hardware store.

Photo courtesy of New City

# Lincoln Park's best neighbor, Dan O'Donnell, dead at 80

BY PATRICK BUTLER

He was the best neighbor anyone could have.

Not every neighborhood has a Dan O'Donnell, but every neighborhood needs a Dan O'Donnell.

Whether it was loaning you that special tool you needed to fix the furnace, finding you - and vouching for - a laborer, looking after a lonely senior citizen, or buying a sandwich and coffee for a stranger, kindness defined the man.

He was the guy who drove your mom to the doctor in a pinch, slipped some nun a handful of cash on the sly, showed up with a bag full of groceries when the paychecks ended, or a handful of kids Christmas gifts for families with less, as he did just this last Christmas.

He was the guy who would make arrangements to help get a young man back home to his own family in Ireland after an accidental death on Chicago's lakefront, as he did in 2009. That was Dan O'Donnell.

O'Donnell died Jan. 19 in Florida after suffering a severe brain hemorrhage. He had just taken a powerboat ride with his son on the Gulf Coast, and died back on shore with the salt spray still on his face and sea water in his veins. He loved being on the water more than anywhere else.

Dan had many boats in his life, and frequently took those who didn't have the resources to own a boat out for joy rides.

"There are tears - lots of them - on both sides of the Atlantic as word gets out around town," said North Sider Kathy Hills last week on learning of his death.

At one time or another, the Lincoln Park hardware store owner, church-goer, world traveler, community activist and member of dozens of community organizations helped just about anyone who crossed his path in need of help, said Leah Steele, retired head of the Sulzer Library, and board member of the Ravenswood Lakeview Historical Assoc., and volunteer at the Irish American Heritage Center.

"My memories of Dan always include him helping others," Steele said. "I remember when a young girl developed a flesh eating-disease and the next thing I knew he had filled up the Sulzer Library with the press and others who wanted to help," she said. "Boy did she get help, and quick!"

Or when he helped a young

Keith O'Reilly whose carefree summer in Chicago ended in tragedy when he decided to dive in for a swim while watching the sunrise over Lake Michigan after a night out. He died after severely injuring his head and spine diving off the North Ave. pier.

"He negotiated the medical cost down [for O'Reilly and the young girl] to practically nothing and provided other support for the families," Steele said. That young girl has grown up to be a healthy young adult today.

When the Katrina hurricane struck, O'Donnell rallied his neighbors and friends to send semi-truck loads of food, supplies and clothing to the stricken. That done, he turned to other needs, raising up to \$15,000 for local food pantries, Steele said.

***He was the guy who drove your mom to the doctor in a pinch, slipped some nun a handful of cash on the sly, showed up with a bag full of groceries when the paychecks ended, or a handful of kids Christmas gifts for families with less, as he did just this last Christmas.***

"If Dan found someone who needed help, he provided what he could - or found someone who could do it better," Steele said.

In an earlier day he and his friend Rev. George Rice also found time to get the city to create the Archbishop Sheil Community Park on Southport, and later get run-in by the police for holding fundraising Bingo games for St. Andrew's Church. (Don't worry, a nun snuck all the cash out a backdoor during the raid.)

Then, years later, after Rev. Rice died, O'Donnell pulled a work crew together and rehabbed his dear friend's home for his wife Marilyn.

Dan was a founding member of the Friends of Lake View High School, and helped to raise tens of thousands of dollars for the school. He personally helped to rehab the large stained glass window above the building's south side entrance.

He was a founding member of the Friends of The Sulzer Regional Library, and he and a few others raised funds for many concerts, author readings, children's readings and services to the hard-of-hearing. The Friend's group paid for the grand piano that is still in use at Sulzer.

In 1967 O'Donnell took a part-



Ald. Michele Smith [43rd], Dan O'Donnell, Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Ald. Tom Tunney [44th]. Photo courtesy of City of Chicago Mayor's Office

interest in Armitage Hardware, 925 W. Armitage Ave., eventually buying out his partner. Founded as a general store in 1896, it became a hardware store in 1922. In its hey day before the advent of Home Depot and Menards, it was what a real hardware store was supposed to be. Prices were fair and 'fix-it' advice safe, solid and abundant.

The O'Donnell family have pretty much gotten out of the hardware business now, but they still have a small retail storefront and do a healthy online business selling Weber Grills and smokers, as well as other dry goods.

Back in the 1960's, when Dan and his wife invested in the community, Lincoln Park was the furthest thing from its current incarnation of million-dollar homes and pricey stores and restaurants. "You could buy anything on the block for \$4,000," O'Donnell recalled in a 2003 Chicago Tribune story. "It was just a gang-torn neighborhood." The O'Donnell clan helped renew and rebuild Lincoln Park, and later in life he and his wife actually moved into a suite on the top floor of their landmark building.

A 50-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Lakeview, every year he helped to raise money on Peanut Day that was dispersed to dozens of North Side charities.

He did dozens of favors for schools, churches, and charitable organizations in his community, mostly behind the scenes, never expecting praise or honors. It's just what good neighbors do.

Some of his favorite projects were caring for his historic Lincoln Park-area properties, always working on them with an eye toward architectural preservation.

But in recent years, he was probably best known for his work with Irish J-1 students visiting Chicago during the summers. What started as an effort to find summer housing and jobs for two girls and six boys found sitting on their luggage in front of a drug store on Armitage Ave. in the 1990s turned into helping thou-

sands of kids manage a summer in Chicago, since many showed up in town with little money, no job lined up, nor a place to stay. At times the emergency housing was in his hardware store's own basement, or a church basement up the street.

"I just want the kids to leave with a good taste of America. I don't want them to go home with bad memories," he told the Chicago Tribune in 2009.

The program had grown to the point where by 2013, nearly 1,500 Irish students, ages 19 to 21, were turning up at Armitage Hardware every year seeking help. And help he did, finding them apartments and work, getting CTA passes and phones, arranging for use of the internet facilities at DePaul Univ., directing them to the Social Security office, providing maps, purchasing household items on the cheap at Target, and suggesting where to go for fun (and where to avoid danger) in Chicago... anything they may need to get set up for the summer.

On March 13, 2013, O'Donnell was honored by the Irish Immigrant Support Group and 300 well-wishers at Gaelic Park on the South Side, and in Feb. 2020 he was awarded by the The Ireland Network of Chicago for his work with Irish students.

Some of his nearby neighbors may not have met him, but in Ireland he was a legend. If not for the pandemic travel ban, Aer Lingus may have had to add extra flights to Chicago to get the mourners to his funeral.

As early as five years ago, friends were suggesting the Irish J-1 program would only grow larger and that he needed more help. The program still needs a helping hand. O'Donnell won't be there to help out this summer, but his son Brian will be taking over that duty. Volunteers are welcome, any takers?

He is survived by his wife Kathleen, daughter Erin, sons Kevin and Brian, their spouses and bunches of grandkids and neighbors whose lives were all enhanced by their proximity to the best neighbor in the 'hood. They will all miss him dearly. Services were held Jan. 27.

Contributions may be made to the Kiwanis Club of Lakeview, and sent care of Armitage Hardware Direct, 925 W. Armitage, Chicago, IL 60614. All donations will be given to the local charities and organizations that O'Donnell held dear.

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# Police Beat...

## Woman beaten, pistol-whipped and carjacked near Wrigleyville

A 32-year-old woman was pistol-whipped, punched in the face, and carjacked near her Lakeview home around 7 a.m. Jan. 19.

The woman was driving her black Dodge Charger through an alley on the 3600 block of N. Bosworth when a blue SUV blocked her path, police said. A man got out of the SUV, displayed a handgun, and ordered her out of her car.

According to the police report, he then opened her driver's door, punched her in the face, and clobbered her in the head with the handgun. She got out of the car, and the offender drove away westbound toward Ashland, followed by the blue SUV, police said.

Witnesses said the carjacker plowed into an obstacle as he sped away, so the Charger probably has damage to the front left side.

Police searched for the cars and suspects — described as three young Black males who may be teenagers — but came up empty-handed. The suspects were reportedly wearing dark clothing and masks.

No arrests have been made. The victim was treated at the scene for her injuries, police said.

At least two more carjackings were reported on the North Side Jan. 18.

Around 6:18 p.m., a gunman knocked on the driver's window of a 35-year-old man's car as he sat in the parking lot at Walgreens, 4010 W. Lawrence. The offender put a gun to the victim's head, demanded his valuables, and then ordered him out of the car, police said. The entire incident was captured on store surveillance video.

According to the victim, the carjacker was a young male of unknown race who stood about 5'-6" tall and wore a mask.

Later, another man was beaten and carjacked in Lincoln Square.

The 51-year-old victim was in the 2600 block of W. Gregory near Lincoln Avenue when three offenders displayed a handgun, punched him in the head, and took his white Acura MDX. He said the carjackers got out of a white sedan before they attacked him.

No arrests have been made.

## Willis Tower carjackers linked to shootings, robberies across city and suburbs

A June 20 carjacking outside the former Sears Tower was captured on video and police have linked the hijackers to a string of violent crimes, including shootings, restaurant robberies, and other carjackings across the city and suburbs. The men also battered and robbed a pedestrian in the Loop.

Chicago police said the armed men, who travel in carjacked vehicles, may be linked to shootings on the city's West Side. A source said they are also responsible for a shooting in Oak Park.

The men have also robbed fast food restaurants during late evening and early morning hours by crawling through the businesses' drive-thru windows, police said.

According to a CPD report, the men went after the employees' car keys, purses, and other property after entering the restaurant 7:19 a.m. Jan. 17.

On Jan. 19, the crew hijacked a driver in the 9800 block of S. Halsted around 5:17 a.m., police said. And they're suspected of committing robberies in suburban Summit, Maywood, Matteson, Palos Heights, Oak Forest, and Oak Park, according to CPD.

Police said the robbers are three to four masked men who may be driving the silver 2011 Mitsubishi Outlander that was carjacked outside Willis Tower Jan. 21. It bears Illinois license plate BN48756.

A law enforcement source said the robbers arrived at Wednesday's carjacking in another stolen vehicle bearing a plate that begins with CK135.

Anyone with information about the robberies can contact Area Four detectives at 312-746-8251 regarding crime pattern P21-4-008BA.

## More carjackings

The carjackings won't stop. And, once again, the early evening hours of Jan. 19 proved to be prime time for hijackings on the North Side.

In Old Town, three offenders armed with a gun pushed a man and took his car in the 200 block of W. Scott around 5:15 p.m. The hijackers drove away with the victim's white 2013 Ford Fusion.

According to the man, the suspects were three Black males in their mid- to late teens. One wore a black and blue winter hat with a blue jacket, and another, who had short hair, wore a gray puffy jacket. No description was available for the third suspect.

Police had a little more success after two carjacking attempts unfolded minutes apart in the West Ridge neighborhood.

First, a group of five men reportedly brandished a knife, battered a man, and tried to take his car in the 6100 block of N. Artesian around 6:15 p.m. But their efforts failed, and they fled the scene.

About 20 minutes later, they apparently popped up again in the 6200 block of N. Washtenaw. That's where a man reported that a group of six young men beat and kicked him, then took his backpack, wallet, and keys, and tried to take his car. But the car wouldn't start, and the group ran away.

Police searched the area and found four suspects nearby. The group was taken in for questioning.

Then, shortly after 8 p.m., a 50-year-old Jefferson Park man was carjacked as he unloaded groceries outside his home in the 4900 block of N. Mason. He told police that two offenders got out of a Honda Civic and one of them displayed a firearm.

The offenders ordered him to hand over money, but he didn't have any, police said. So, the gunman jumped in the man's black Infiniti M35 and drove away.

Police spotted the carjackers' Honda Civic a short time later and tried to pull it over. But the vehicle sped away and crashed in the 5300 block of W. Lawrence, according to CPD. All of the car's occupants ran from the scene. Officers found a gun inside the crash car.

## 74-year-old "thug" cop killer gets life sentence for Lincoln Square bank robbery

A 74-year-old man who spent about 15 years in prison for killing a Chicago cop in 1968 (and another 30 years behind bars for robbing a restaurant after he got out) will spend the rest of his life in federal prison for robbing a Lincoln Square bank in July 2018.

It probably didn't help that David Walsh last year threatened to kill the federal judge overseeing his case.

In July 2018, Walsh went to a Ravenswood retirement home and tried to recruit an acquaintance to join him in a series of small-time bank robbery jobs, the FBI said after his arrest. The

other guy declined the opportunity.

The next day, Walsh walked in wearing a plastic mask and robbed the U.S. Bank branch at 4725 N. Western Ave., with a loaded gun in his pants.

With \$3,700 of the bank's money in his shirt, Walsh ran into a nearby alley and changed his clothes. Then he slipped away on a train at the Western Brown Line CTA station.

Not long after that, the guy Walsh tried to recruit as a partner contacted the FBI because he used to make money as a paid federal informant. He snitched on Walsh, but the feds say they didn't pay him for his help this time.

The tipster wore a wire and met with Walsh a couple of more times to discuss his bank robbery proposal while the FBI built a case. Agents moved in and arrested Walsh as he rode around



David Walsh

a bank parking lot on Milwaukee Ave. in the informant's car. Walsh received a 20- to 40-year sentence for fatally shooting a Chicago police officer

who asked him if he was authorized to carry a handgun in 1968. He was paroled in May 1983. Five weeks later, he was charged with distributing cannabis and got a six-month sentence.

He got a two-year sentence for the guns and got out of prison on April 1, 1987. On April 11, saying he wanted to celebrate his 10th day of freedom, he robbed a South Side restaurant.

Walsh received a 60-year sentence for the restaurant robbery "celebration," and then got out in half that time in 2017. The next summer, he robbed the bank in Lincoln Square.

But his willingness to threaten authorities didn't fade.

During a court hearing last year, Walsh told U.S. District Judge Gary Feinerman, "I not only would blow your f\*cking brains out, you pig, but I would kill your entire f\*cking family and torture and murder each and every f\*cking one of them, you filthy, motherf\*cking lying pig motherf\*cker you."

During the hearing, Feinerman said he was planning to give Walsh 13 years for the Lincoln Square bank robbery. This week, the judge sent him away for life.

## Convicted 16 times, felon now charged with Old Town home invasion

A 16-time convicted felon who's on parole for three burglaries and who once faced attempted murder charges for shooting at Chicago police officers is now charged with committing an armed home invasion in Old Town.

Roosevelt "Robert" Allen, 52, was ordered held without bail by Judge David Navarro during a bond hearing Jan. 14.

"You have demonstrated yourself to be a clear and continuing danger to the safety of every member of the community," Navarro told Allen, who first went to prison during the Reagan Administration.

Allen, who was released early from prison in July after serving half of three concurrent 12-year sentences for burglary, is accused of breaking into a high-rise apartment in the 1300 block of N. Wells 6:40 a.m. Jan. 20.

Assistant State's Attorney Lorraine Scaduto said surveillance video shows Allen trying to pry open the apartment building's front door for nearly an hour before a female resident walked out, allowing him to enter.

Minutes later, a 25-year-old man woke up and saw Allen next to him, rummaging through a desk, Scaduto said.

When the victim asked what was

going on, Allen identified himself as "Lewis" and walked into the living room.

The victim, unclear about what was happening, followed him there until Allen pulled out a pocket knife, extended it toward him, and began walking slowly in his direction, according to Scaduto.

The victim was so scared, he ran from his apartment and, rather than



Roosevelt "Robert" Allen

risk waiting for an elevator, scurried down 14 flights of stairs to the lobby. There, he told a front desk attendant about what happened.

Police drove the victim around the neighborhood while he tracked his stolen phone. They found Allen nearby on the 200 block of W. Scott, and the victim immediately recognized him as the intruder.

Allen was carrying the victim's phone and Ventra card. A duffel bag belonging to the victim's roommate, who slept through the home invasion, was found next to Allen. Police recovered another phone and earbuds that were allegedly stolen from the first victim's desk, as well as a knife.

Allen was wearing the same jacket with a distinctive patch that the intruder is seen wearing on the building's surveillance video, Scaduto continued.

Neither victim knows Allen, but Scaduto later said Allen previously went to prison for burglarizing one of the home invasion victims' residences in 2014.

She told Judge Navarro that Allen had been sentenced to prison 16 times: 10 times for burglaries, four times for theft-related cases, and one time for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

But the aggravated assault case was originally charged as attempted murder after Allen shot at police officers who tried to intervene as he and others fired guns at each other at a Cabrini-Green housing complex in 1989, she said.

According to state records, he eventually received a sentence of just one year for aggravated assault in the case.

He is currently on parole for three separate burglaries that he committed in July 2014, Scaduto said, adding that two of those cases "involved the exact same victim" as the Jan. 20 home invasion.

During the July 2014 burglaries, Allen was on parole for a series of burglaries committed in 2006. During those break-ins, he took \$20,000 worth of high-end champagne from a bar on Hubbard St. in River North. He was also convicted of returning to the same bar days later to steal another \$5,600 worth of liquor.

## Uptown armed robbery

Two 26-year-old men told police they were robbed while walking in the 700 block of W. Hutchinson when a pair of gunmen got out of a silver Audi around 9:50 p.m. Jan. 18. The offenders each pointed guns at the victims and took their phones and wallets before returning to the SUV, which sped away, according to Officer Ronald Westbrook, a CPD spokesperson.

A silver Toyota that appeared to be traveling with the robber's Audi crashed nearby, and its occupants ran from the area. That car had been stolen in Skokie. Westbrook said the robbers are two Black males in their mid-20's who stand about 6' tall. One of them wore a red shirt.

## Hapless thief charged with burglarizing same Target store twice in one night

A little over a year ago, prosecutors charged Armad Jones with burglarizing a car in Lincoln Park after he allegedly fell asleep inside the vehicle.

If new allegations against Jones are true, he's continuing to have horrible luck as a burglar.

Prosecutors say surveillance video shows Jones burglarizing the electronics department at Target, 1667 W. Division, around midnight on Dec. 21, 2020. And then coming back to the store to burglarize it again four hours later.

Jones, 26, stole a phone during his first after-hours shopping trip, prosecutors said. He returned through the same back door around 4:30 a.m. to steal a Fitbit and other electronics, according to the state's allegations.

He was arrested over the weekend after Target security guards recognized him when he returned



Armad Jones

to the store during business hours. Prosecutors said he was carrying the same blue backpack and wearing the same hat that the burglar wore. He was allegedly carrying five stolen credit cards issued in different names, too.

One of the stolen credit cards was used at a West Loop pharmacy, and video from that store shows Jones is the person who used it, according to prosecutors.

Jones received a three-year sentence in March 2017 for two burglaries, according to court records. The year before that, he received a 142 day jail sentence for burglary of a vehicle in Chicago.

In September 2019, a 27-year-old woman police after she found Jones sleeping behind the wheel of her car.

During a custodial search at the 19th District station, cops allegedly found a trove of "suspected proceeds from criminal activity" in his possession, including four cellular phones, two portable speakers, seven rings of varying sizes, an iPod, a necklace, and two watches.

It was the third time he was arrested and charged with theft-related crimes that month. He's been arrested 16 times since 2014.

Now, prosecutors have charged him with two counts of burglary, identity theft, and unlawful possession of debit cards in connection with his arrest at Target.

## Man robbed at gunpoint while shoveling snow in Rogers Park

A man was robbed at gunpoint as he shoveled snow in Rogers Park Jan. 20, police said. Detectives recently issued a community alert about armed robberies in the area.

The victim, age 45, was clearing snow when the offender walked up and displayed a handgun on the 7300 block of N. Ashland, CPD spokesperson Karie James said. The victim handed his valuables to the robber, who fled south on Ashland.

According to the victim, the robber is a Black male, 25- to 30-years-old, about 5'-10" tall, and 230-240 lbs.

Area Three detectives on Saturday warned about an armed robbery pattern in the area after investigators linked two recent cases. One of those hold-ups took

# Spree killer's gun linked to unsolved Chicago shootings

BY CWBCHICAGO

The gun that Jason Nightengale used to kill four people and wound three others in a shooting spree across Chicago and Evanston on Jan. 9 has been linked to other "shooting incidents" in the city, according to a Sun Time report.

Ballistics tests, which compare unique microscopic marks that guns leave on bullets and shell casings, matched casings from Nightengale's gun to casings found at other shooting scenes in Chicago, a CPD spokesperson

confirmed.

Police are now looking at some of the city's unsolved murder cases to see if there may be links to Nightengale.

Police are working to determine how Nightengale got the gun, which has been on the street "a long, long time," the paper said.

CPD has declined to identify individual crimes that Nightengale might be linked to. The department has specifically declined to comment on rumors that Nightengale might be responsible for two random slayings of men in the Rogers Park neighborhood.

Ballistics tests determined that the bullets used in those murders were fired by the same gun used weeks later in shootings near the United Center and Lawndale.

In the week before his shooting spree, Nightengale posted a series of disturbing videos to social media that showed him brandishing a gun and looking for people to victimize. Nightengale's shooting spree ended when Evanston police killed him in a shoot-out. Three of his victims died on the day of the attacks. Last weekend, 61-year-old Marta Torres became his fourth murder victim.

## Lyft driver beaten in Lakeview carjacking attempt; hijacking in River North

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Lyft driver was beaten with a pistol by two teenagers who tried to carjack him in Lakeview after they ordered a ride via the service's phone application Jan. 24.

Another hijacking was reported Jan. 23 in River North.

The rideshare driver, who was left bleeding, managed to maintain control of his Lexus, and the offenders ran away on foot following the 1:36 a.m. attack in the 1100 block of West Oakdale. The 59-year-old driver responded to a Lyft ride request from an account user named "Meliqu," according

to a CPD report.

When he arrived at the pick-up location, two young men got into the Lexus, put a gun to his head, and then began beating him in the head with the weapon as they tried to take control of his luxury car.

But the driver refused to give up and a fight broke out. The offenders got out of the car and ran away westbound on Oakdale, then northbound on Racine.

The suspects are two Black males who are 13- to 15-years-old, the driver reported. They're both about 5'-6" tall and wore black North Face-brand winter coats.

In River North, a group of hi-

jackers used two vehicles to box-in a driver as he sat in his parked car on the 100 block of W. Kinzie around 6:35 p.m. Jan 23, according to police.

Two men got out of one of the cars and ordered the 38-year-old victim out of his white 2018 Range Rover. The man followed their instructions and they took off westbound with his car.

Both of the accompanying cars also drove away. The victim's Range Rover was spotted by CPD license plate readers about 45 minutes later in Little Italy.

### FIGHT from p. 5

Key findings of the Mayor's study shows that nearly 90% of new development benefiting from TOD incentives occurred on the North and Near Northwest Sides, and in and around the West Loop. "In contrast little new TOD development occurred in the West, South, Southwest or even Far Northwest Sides." Also that from 2012 to 2017, the Black population decreased in almost all areas where TOD activity occurred near a CTA rail station while the white population increased.

During the same time, the Black population increased in areas near CTA rail stations that were eligible for TOD benefits but did not see TOD activity, whereas the white population decreased in these areas.

The plan also says that there has been a loss of Hispanic/Latinx population in areas near the CTA Red/Brown Line stations and near Metra stations on the North/West sides where TOD activity occurred.

The plan suggest that any new ETOD requirements will be adjusted by neighborhood to "ensure investment is facilitated in areas that the private market tends to skip over, like parts of the South and West Sides."

The 2019 ETOD Ordinance directed the Plan to include "performance measures that meet the stated goals of eliminating the displacement of residents and small businesses, supporting transit investment, and fostering investment in communities of color and low-income communities." And

in Sept. 2020 the Dept. of Housing was charged with applying a racial equity screen to its allocation of Low- Income Housing Tax Credits as part of updating the City's Qualified Allocation Plan in 2021, since many of Chicago's current plans and regulatory requirements "date back to earlier plans [that] reinforced systemic racism both deliberately and inadvertently in the categorization, location, and prioritization of Black and Brown communities."

The 2020 ETOD Policy Plan outlines a set of actions the City needs to take over the next three years to drive more ETOD development to the South and West Sides in an evaluation framework focused on outcomes, equity, and implementation criteria.

In the 47th Ward, between giving away the real estate to an outside developer at no cost, and offering up low income tax credits, millions of dollars in critical city assets would be expended to serve a housing project in one of the wealthiest and whitest neighborhoods in the city. One of the stated goals of the City's plan is to facilitate "development in neighborhoods historically disinvested,

while avoiding displacement in neighborhoods already experiencing accelerated investment," as Lincoln Square would appear to be enjoying.

The city's plan in fact points out that until now, Chicago's TOD developments have "exacerbated the displacement of low-income residents, small businesses and people of color in places such as Logan Square, Pilsen, and the West Loop as the market for TOD and walkable urban living has accelerated rapid change and increased land values, housing prices, and rents. Yet in areas that have been structurally disinvested, with TOD potential, including several prioritized by the Mayor's INVEST South/West initiative, see a continued lack of investment which also fuels displacement of businesses and households."

The plan calls for city planners to advance ETOD demonstration projects to test and deploy many of the proposed policy changes to South and West Side communities including Bronzeville, Rosalind, Pullman, New City, Auburn Gresham, Greater Englewood, South Shore, North Lawndale, South Chicago and Austin.

## Park District resumes in-person programming

In-person programming for the Chicago Park District will resume Monday at parks across the city after the State adjusted metrics that determine COVID-19 restrictions for Illinois regions.

Winter programs previously scheduled to begin Jan. 4 were suspended in accordance with the State's Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation plan to suppress the pandemic spread.

Under the current guidelines, limited, socially distanced pro-

gramming will be offered at parks across the city. Programs will run now through March 28. In order to adhere to strict capacity limits, all in-person participants must register. Masks must be worn at all times. Virtual programs continue as originally scheduled running from Jan. 4 through March 21.

For more information call 312-742-7529 or visit <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/winter-2021-programs>.

## Three attacked, robbed on Red Line by bat-wielding, pepper-spraying duo

BY CWBCHICAGO

Monday.

CPD announced that a 15-year-old female and a 23-year-old woman in the back of the head with a baseball bat as they rode the Red Line northbound at Morse, according to Officer Hector Alfaro, a CPD spokesperson. A male accomplice then tried to take the victim's phone and valuables. When the victim refused to cooperate, the male offender sprayed her in the eyes with pepper spray, according to Alfaro.

At least three CTA passengers were walloped with a baseball bat, sprayed with mace, or both Sunday night by a pair of offenders who unleashed a series of attacks on the Red Line between downtown and Howard St. Several other passengers reported being threatened by the pair. No arrests have been made as of 2 a.m.

The woman got off the train and called police.

Around the same time, a man reported being attacked and robbed by a man and woman on the Red Line near Berwyn. The victim said the male offender pulled out a knife and demanded his wallet. When the victim didn't hand it over, the woman pepper-sprayed him and took his watch.

He got off the train and the offenders continued riding northbound.

Then, around 10:45 p.m., the duo robbed another man on the Red Line near Belmont. That victim said he was riding the train southbound when the woman pepper-sprayed him and the man displayed a metal bat as they robbed him of his phone.

The woman is Black, in her mid- to late teens, and was seen wearing a long red winter coat with red or pink shoes. The man is in the same age range and wore dark winter clothes with a red hoodie underneath.

Throughout the evening and into Monday morning, several callers reported seeing a man and woman matching the robbers' descriptions threatening Red Line passengers with a bat and mace near stations at Chicago-State, Clark-Division, and Howard.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

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POLICE BEAT from p. 8

place just a couple of blocks from where the snow shoveler was robbed Wednesday.

In that case, which unfolded at 6:45 a.m. Jan. 15, a gunman robbed a man as he walked in the 1600 block of W. Jarvis. The offender took the victim's iPhone and cash.

The other robbery that police listed in their alert took place in the 1200 block of W. Thorndale around 7 p.m. Jan. 13.

Man robbed four 7-Eleven stores last week, looted Mag Mile in August

A man who teamed up with a woman to rob four 7-Eleven stores within an hour last week was AWOL in two other criminal cases and also participated in the looting of a Mag Mile cosmetics store during riots on Aug. 10, prosecutors said Jan. 19.

Dorian Skipper, 38, of Blue Island, is charged with four counts of robbery, burglary, and looting.

But, to tell the story, maybe we should begin at the beginning.

On Dec. 27, 2019, Skipper was accused of stealing \$1,975 worth of perfume and cologne from the Ulta Beauty store at 430 N. Michigan. Prosecutors charged him with felony retail theft, and a judge released him on a recognizance bond.

Then, on August 6, police responded to a 7-Eleven store at 1027 W. Addison across Wrigley Field. A clerk called police after a group of six to eight people raided the store for alcohol and cigarettes. Skipper took a man's bike outside the store while threatening to shoot him, Assistant State's Attorney Lorraine Scaduto said Jan. 19.

Cops found Skipper and the bike near the Fullerton Red Line CTA station a few minutes later, according to a CPD report. But the victim refused to assist with robbery charges, and Skipper was only charged with theft, Scaduto said. Skipper was released on another recognizance bond the next day.

Just three days later, while on bail for the bike incident and the Ulta Beauty retail theft cases, Skipper was caught on video as he and dozens of others looted the same Ulta store around 3:30 a.m. on Aug. 10.

One of the officers who arrested

Skipper in the bike case allegedly recognized him when detectives released surveillance images of the Ulta looters. But Skipper stopped showing up for his court cases, and he remained at-large.



Dorian Skipper

"I have no tattoos. Look at my face," he said. "You can see me now. None."

Scaduto, suggesting that the tattoos may have been temporary, said Skipper had identified himself in surveillance images of the looting and told an officer, "I can't deny that."

Sniper and his accomplice Jessica Short allegedly took about \$10,000 worth of tobacco products, alcohol, and cash from the four stores. Employees were pushed and threatened as Skipper went behind the store counters to collect inventory, Scaduto said.

They are accused of robbing stores at 343 N. LaSalle in River North; 567 W. Lake in the West Loop; and at 3600 W. Belmont and 3005 N. Pulaski. The crimes took place in about an hour, starting just before 8 a.m. Jan. 14.

Three charged with Lakeview, Lincoln Park robbery spree

A 22-year-old man and two juveniles are charged with committing a series of robberies across Lakeview and Lincoln Park on Jan. 21 before crashing their car in Streeterville. Friday, a possible fourth victim of the crew filed a report with police.

Delvon Brown, 15, and a 16-year-old male were arrested within minutes of the crash, which was witnessed by officers who had been following them since moments after the final hold-up, according to CPD records.

Around 4:15 p.m., three men robbed a Lakeview resident at gunpoint as he walked in the 1200 block of W. Nelson. The two juveniles are charged with committing the hold-up.

Moments later, a woman was walking home from work in the 900 block of W. Wolfram when a dark sedan pulled up, and the two juveniles approached her from behind, according to prosecutors.

One of the attackers pushed her against a car, jabbed a gun in her waist, and took her phone. Police later found the gun in Brown's possession, prosecutors said.

At 4:29 p.m., a man was walking to his car on the 400 block of W. Wrightwood when a car rolled up. According to the allegations, Brown and one of

During his bond hearing Tuesday, Skipper vigorously defended himself against the Ulta allegations when Scaduto said he was identified partly by distinctive facial tattoos.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

the juveniles got out, pointed a gun at him, and demanded his property. They sped away with his phone and wallet.

But the getaway driver made a crucial mistake seconds later when he sped through a red light at the corner of Fullerton and Lakeview in front of an unmarked CPD detective unit.

The detectives ran their car's license plate and learned that the vehicle had been reported stolen. Officers trailed the car until it crashed on the corner of Ontario and McClurg in Streeterville a short time later.

Police found a toy handgun on the passenger side of the car. Brown, who allegedly ran from the car's passenger seat, was carrying property from the Wrightwood and Wolfram victims when cops arrested him, prosecutors said.

He is charged with theft in the Wolfram case, aggravated robbery in the Wrightwood case, and criminal trespass to a vehicle.

Brown's public defender, Courtney Smallwood, said he recently filed papers to join the Army.

"So, while that first victim was a victim of an armed robbery... Mr. Brown is before me on Class one theft" in that case, Judge David Navarro noted. He then ordered Brown held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

The 15-year-old is charged with three counts of aggravated robbery, felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle, and misdemeanor theft.

Prosecutors charged the 16-year-old with three counts of aggravated robbery and possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

No further information was available about the juveniles.

On Friday morning, a Lakeview woman who saw media coverage about the robbery spree called police to report that she was also targeted by the group.

The woman told officers that she was on the 1100 block of W. Barry when men emerged from a car with Arkansas license plates and took her phone.

Charges have not yet been filed in that case.

Test drive turned into a carjacking in Uptown

The city's carjacking community deployed one of their under-used techniques to take an Uptown man's vehicle on Jan 22.

Police said the car's owner was trying to sell his Lexus RX300 online and agreed to meet with a prospective buyer for a test drive around 9:20 p.m.

As the supposed buyer drove the victim's car onto the 800 block of W. Wilson, he became angry and asked the owner if he was a cop, according to police. He then pulled out a handgun and ordered the car's owner out of the vehicle. The 35-year-old man complied.

Police said his Lexus was last seen heading eastbound on Wilson with a black Chevy Equinox trailing behind. No injuries were reported.

The carjacker was a Black male in his late teens to mid-20's who stands about 6'-2" tall. According to the victim, he wore a white shirt with a red hat and had a scar near his eye.

Two women and possibly a third person were seen in the Equinox, too.

Package, mail burglars targeting buildings in Ravenswood, Lincoln Park

A mail and package theft team has forced their way into multi-unit residential buildings on one Ravenswood



Delvon Brown

block four times since Christmas Eve, police said Jan. 22 in a community alert. The same crew struck again twice last week in Lincoln Park.

Police said the team of two men and two women has taken packages and mail from buildings on the 3900 block of N. Ravenswood at 2:33 p.m. on Christmas Eve; 3:40 a.m. on Christmas Day; 2 a.m. on Jan. 8; and 9:15 a.m. on Jan. 10.

They moved to Lincoln Park and targeted building on the 2700 block of N. Hampden at 2:52 a.m. Jan. 19 and the 2600 block of N. Clybourn at midnight Jan. 20, according to the alert.

Detectives said the thieves are two men and two women of unknown race with light complexions between 20- and 30-years-old.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding pattern 21-3-017.

Gunshot narrowly misses 10-year-old inside West Ridge home

An 18-year-old man narrowly missed shooting his 10-year-old brother while handling a gun in their West Ridge, prosecutors said. Just eight days earlier, the man's own mother called police to their home because he was shooting a gun then, too, according to prosecutors.



Juan Gonzalez

Just before 9 p.m. Jan. 20, Juan Gonzalez grabbed a handgun from a closet in his family home on the 6700 block of N. Artesian and began playing with it on a couch while his 10-year-old brother played video games at their dining room table, Assistant State's Attorney Franka D'Antignac said Friday.

Suddenly the 10-year-old heard a loud pop and dove to the floor, D'Antignac. Gonzalez's uncle and grandmother ran to the living room and found a hole in the ceiling, she said. The uncle allegedly told Gonzalez to clear the gun and put it back in the closet and the 18-year-old complied.

Family members called police to the scene, and officers recovered a loaded 9-millimeter handgun with a defaced serial number from the closet, D'Antignac said. An ammunition canister containing 78 rounds of ammunition and a loaded 45-caliber magazine were also seized, she said.

Gonzalez allegedly admitted to firing the gun and told police he did not know there was a round in the chamber.

Police said Gonzalez was wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet and was carrying \$30 worth of crack and a Xanax pill when they arrested him.

Prosecutors charged him with reckless discharge of a firearm, possession of a firearm with a defaced serial number, aggravated assault, and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.

Judge David Navarro set his bail at \$100,000 and ordered him held without bail for violating the terms of bond in the case for which he was wearing the electronic monitoring bracelet.

The pending case stems from an incident on Jan. 12. Around 3:45 that morning, police responded to multiple calls of shots fired in the 6700 block of N. Artesian, including one from a woman who identified herself as Gonzalez's mother and said she thought her son was out of control, prosecutors said during a bond hearing the next day.

Other 911 callers said the shooter was a Hispanic man who was wearing an orange sweatshirt, according to the allegations.

Clybourn Corridor carjacking among at least five on North, Northwest Sides

Chicago seems to be producing new carjackers faster than the city's police can catch them. At least five vehicular hijackings were reported Jan. 21 on the North Side and Northwest Side, including one on the bustling Clybourn Corridor shopping strip.

Around noontime, two men jumped out of a black Dodge Charger, pushed an Old Town woman against a wall, took her purse, and drove away with her Porsche SUV outside DSW, 901 W. Weed St.

According to a source, the hijacked luxury car was later found abandoned on the 7200 block of S. Perry in the Grand Crossing neighborhood.

A bystander captured the carjacking on phone video. The suspects are two Black males between 18- and 24-years-old who wore masks, black hoodies, and dark pants.

Among other carjackings Jan 21:

- Four armed men got out of a car and tried to take a woman's vehicle as she drove near Foster and Melvina in the Jefferson Park neighborhood around 5:45 a.m. The woman leaned on her horn and sped away. She notified police after arriving at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Streeterville, where she was going to see her father.

- The same group is suspected of carjacking a man in Avondale about 30 minutes later. According to a CPD report, two carjackers got out of a dark car, displayed guns, and took the victim's gray 2019 Toyota Corolla in the 3100 block of N. Kimball. Another offender, believed to be a woman, drove the group's getaway car, which may be a Honda CR-V. The victim said the two hijackers were Black males. One is about 5'-5" and in his early 20's. The other is about 5'-11" tall and appeared to be in his early 30's, according to the victim. Both had guns.

Store clerk shot during robbery in North Center

An armed robber shot a convenience store clerk in the shoulder during a hold-up Jan. 23 in North Center, police said. No arrests have been made.

The offender walked into Sarah Mart, 3601 N. Damen, pulled out a firearm, and fired shots at the clerk shortly after 5 p.m., according to CPD. One round grazed the clerk's left shoulder.

Police said the robber then continued into the store, ordered the victim to hand over cash, then fled in an unknown direction.

Officers on the scene said the gunman is a White male who stands about 5'-5" tall, heavyset, and 25- to 40-years-old. He was seen wearing a gray t-shirt with blue jeans.

The victim was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Aggravated Robberies at convenience stores

Police are warning people about recent rash of convenient store robberies downtown occurred in December and January.

In each instance, an unknown offender entered a convenient store and removed items displayed for sale. In one occurrence, the offender implied he is armed with a handgun.

Incident are all on the 0-100 block of N. Wells St., dated: Dec. 17, 2020 at 8:25 p.m., Dec. 18, 2020 at 5:45 p.m., Jan. 7, 7:29 p.m., Jan. 8, 4:34 p.m., Jan. 8, 4:55 p.m., Jan. 11, 7:50 p.m., Jan. 12, 4:45 p.m., Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m., and on Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m.

The offender is an African American male, 40-45 years old, between 5'-10" to 6'-1" tall, and 150-180 lbs.

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LINCOLN YARDS from p. 1

more women and minority-owned medical-oriented business to that location.

According to Crain’s Chicago Business, “The biomedical and biotech sectors accounted for 44% of \$877 million in funding raised by 942 startups spun out from Illinois universities between 2013 and 2017.”

Construction of the Lincoln Yards Life Science building is expected to begin this year. Work on a new Dominick Street Bridge, an extension of the Bloomingdale 606 Trail east of the Kennedy Expy. is also expected to start this year, the developers told the local residents. Pending City reviews, construction is tentatively set to begin sometime in the 3rd quarter of 2021.

Dominick St. will be a new North/South roadway and bridge crossing the river. The new bridge may help connect a new Metra station with automobile traffic, water taxi

stops, bike trails and dedicated busway. There will be pedestrian ramps connecting the riverwalk to the Dominick Street bridge.

The new bridge will be 80’ wide, including automobile roadway in each direction, 10’ sidewalks on either side and a single 10-foot two-way bike lane on the east side of the bridge. The bridge is expected to cost \$35 million.

The City Council has already allocated \$1.6 billion in property taxes for Lincoln Yards and the “78,” a separate project in the South Loop, Ald. Hopkins told a group of Lincoln Park and Bucktown residents attending the meeting.

Hopkins said 33 of his City Council colleagues voted for the life science building after a “spirited public debate. It’s needed. It’s necessary. It’s something the community wants,” he said later.

He added that other possible plans for the Lincoln Yards site include a library.



The Dominick Street Bridge will be part of a new North/South roadway crossing the river. Image courtesy Sterling Bay, Gensler

Local residents, activists and nearby business owners fought City Hall and Sterling Bay over the project for months, before City Council voted in April of 2019 to approve \$1.3 billion in property tax subsidies for Lincoln Yards.

Sterling Bay executives said they expect to have 23,000 permanent jobs and more than 10,000 construction jobs, adding the entire project is expected to be completed in about 10 years.

ARRESTED from p. 1

ceeding in making some people think that over a thousand people were arrested for carjackings last year when not even 200 were.

“In 2020, Brown said there were 1,417 carjackings, and police arrested 1,127 people in carjacking-related crimes,” says the Jan. 21 Sun Times.

“In 2020, there were 1,417 incidents of carjackings, and police arrested 1,127 suspects, Brown said,” claims the Jan. 21 Chicago Tribune.

Brown’s claim did not pass the sniff test, so we asked CPD to clarify the 1,127 arrest claim. And we got the truth. We also asked the department how many of last year’s

**Chicagoans will never know how many carjackings were attempted but failed in 2020 (or in any year). Why? Because the police department does not have a crime category for attempted vehicular hijacking.**

1,417 carjackings have been “cleared” by detectives, meaning the crimes are considered solved.

We were told that number, which would give a truer picture of CPD’s success rate, is not available.

Brown made another claim during the press conference. He said there have been 144 carjackings already through Jan. 20, 2021. That’s true.

He also said police had arrested 104

people in connection with those crimes. That is not true.

Then, there’s this: during Thursday’s press conference, Brown said the CPD would assign some of its citywide resources to each of the city’s five detective areas to try to catch carjackers.

Those resources arrived in the areas earlier this week. According to an officer, Area Three, which includes everything from Rogers Park to Bronzeville and the

United Center to Streeterville, received a total of eight officers and one sergeant to combat carjackings.

Then, there’s this interesting nugget: Chicagoans will never know how many carjackings were attempted but failed in 2020 (or in any year). Why? Because the police department does not have a crime category for attempted vehicular hijacking.

If you try to rob someone of their wallet and fail, it’s recorded as an attempted robbery. If you try to burglarize a home and fail, it’s recorded as an attempted burglary. But if you try to carjack someone and fail, it gets classified as an attempted robbery.

“We’ll never know how many carjackings fell through,” a cop told us this week.

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