

For most of history,
Anonymous was a woman.

— Virginia Woolf

SKYLINE

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

Senior LIVING,
page 7

FREE

VOL. 117, NO. 5

NEWS OF THE LOOP, STREETERVILLE, RIVER NORTH, NEAR NORTH, GOLD COAST & OLD TOWN

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The new Morton Salt R&D Center, 1357 N. Elston, will anchor the office portion of the development and occupy 20,000 square feet of the former packaging facility.

Early approval for Morton Salt site plan, to become new work/entertainment district

Need some salt for that Margarita? Help yourself to the 300-ton pile.

The ubiquitous Morton Salt plant at 1357 N. Elston, along the Chicago River and Goose Island, is closer to transforming into a \$30 million office, entertainment, concert venue, bar and restaurant center.

Morton Salt's Elston Ave. operations started in the late 1920s. The site previously served as their packaging and warehousing operations.

The redevelopment was up before a virtual Chicago Plan Commission meeting Jan. 28, to change the zoning from manufacturing to commercial space in a plan dubbed the "Salt District."

In a unanimous vote, members of the city's Plan Commission approved the creation of a waterway planned development for 1357 Property Owner, LLC.

The next step is consideration by the full City Council.

"We knew [the site] was ripe for redevelopment, and we took great care to find the right firm to help bring our vision to life," said Christian Herrmann, CEO, Morton Salt, Inc. "This redevelopment plan represents the next chapter of the Morton Salt story in Chicago – and we're incredibly proud to be part of the past, present, and future of the Elston Ave. site."

The plan is to make the Umbrella Girl and her spilled salt into a landmark entertainment complex, produced by developers



The rooftop Umbrella Girl and her spilled salt will be part of the landmark entertainment complex.

R2 and Blue Star Properties. The plan would create a new stretch of public Riverwalk over 500 feet long on the west bank of the river, as well as seek landmark status for the site, according to documents submitted to the Dept. of Planning and Development. Yes, the "Umbrella Girl" sign on the building's rooftop will be preserved, and she may soon be serving adult beverages with a salted rim.

Other changes proposed for the project include new traffic signal, redesign and pedestrian improvements at the Elston-Magnolia-Blackhawk intersection, a westbound left-turn lane at North and Magnolia avenues, removing adjacent railroad tracks and adding a sidewalk at the west side of Magnolia Ave., and crossing signal improvements at Division and Elston streets

Morton Salt closed the salt

MORTON SALT see p. 12

Crime remains primary concern, says three North Side aldermen

BY PETER VON BUOL

Crime remains the top concern in Lincoln Park according to Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd], Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd] and Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] who participated in the annual state of three wards town hall meeting of the Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce [LPCC].

This year's meeting, held virtually via Zoom, occurred on the morning of Jan. 28 and featured all three aldermen speaking to the members of the local chamber.

Ald. Hopkins had a first hand view of criminal activity in his ward during last summer's riots and looting on Michigan Ave. He had a public exchange with Mayor Lightfoot, after she questioned the accuracy of what he witnessed firsthand on the night of Aug. 10. Most people sided with Hopkins over the mayor, and he became somewhat of a folk hero to horrified Chicagoans that night when

he rushed out into the madness to see things for himself, as rioters tore up his ward. He later criticized the mayor's 'failure of leadership' in response to widespread looting in the 2nd, 32nd and 43rd wards, and that's what drew her harsh rebuke to the reality he saw in the streets.

These days the top criminal worry seems to be the rash of carjackings.

"We have to really make sure the carjacking scourge stops," said Ald. Smith. "I am also working with several state legislators to attempt to get some legislation done in Springfield to cure some of the problems that are interfering with the ability to prosecute some of these cases. We made some changes in 2018 but there is still some more to go. As Ald. Waguespack said, there is a real issue with juvenile crime."

Police say that a great number of the violent carjackings being committed city-wide are being

done by teenagers.

According to Smith, the Ethics and Government Oversight Committee of the Chicago City Council, which she chairs, has been researching solutions in the juvenile justice system for more than a year.

Police say that a great number of the violent carjackings being committed city-wide are being done by teenagers.

"The city is going offer a whole new set of reforms that will both help youth to hopefully help change their ways or, failing to do so, to offer real consequences," she added.

In addition to the increase in crime, the aldermen expressed concerns about the future of Lin-

CONCERN see p. 12

\$125,000 settlement to Gold Coast unit owner ends dispute over \$500 fine

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN

Loop North News

A condominium association in the Gold Coast has agreed to pay a unit owner \$125,000 to settle seven years of litigation resulting from a \$500 fine.

The 111 E. Chestnut Condominium Assoc. [CCA] claimed the unit owner, Michael Boucher, had violated condo rules that prohibit "obnoxious or offensive activity within the association."

Boucher says the fine was retaliation for expressing his opinions about management practices.

He paid the fine but sued the condo association and seven of its board members in November 2013, arguing the fines were a violation of the Illinois Condominium Property Act that prohibits condo boards from adopting rules that impair rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Boucher is a restaurateur who once owned Smokin' Woody's, a barbecue restaurant in the North Center neighborhood.

The trial court sided with the condo association but the Appellate Court of Illinois on June 14, 2018, agreed with Boucher.

The case was returned to a lower court for reconsideration, but COVID-19 intervened, first delaying the trial, then infecting Boucher's attorney.



The 111 E. Chestnut condominium building, seen to the right of the landmark Michigan Ave. Water Tower.

Dispute started in an elevator in 2011

On August 23, 2011, attorneys for CCA sent a letter to Boucher, accusing him of yelling profanities at

SETTLEMENT see p. 12



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In Chicago, even a lumberjack can be chic



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Sky's deep gray. Wind's picking up. Pre-dawn temp has plummeted. But I sit in luxury. Well, actually more like comfort.

A sea of soft red and black check. Lumberjack chic as I see it. The colors a precious reminder of Christmas gifts in flannel sheets, pillowcases, comforter and assorted size pillows from the family. Bunkhouse bedroom.

Wrapped in soft, fluffy comfort, a steaming mug of hot chocolate in hand, well-armed against the prediction of heavy winter weather.

Later today a chicken will be the center of attention as it is turned into a hearty chicken soup. A steaming cauldron of chicken soup for dinner, what could be better?

Add a crunchy baguette with soft Irish butter and some cold white wine, Portuguese Venho Verde, to wash it down. Each flavor a trip back to a cherished destination of sweet memory. I bought some leeks to be roasted with some French chicken breasts, which will be used in the soup. Leeks are the very best addition to chicken soup. The whole leek, stem to stern. And plenty of orzo to contribute to the pot. What great comfort this soup brings.

Then tomorrow, three pound chuck roast which I will cut and use for Boeuf Bourguignon. Another snowy day dish that's perfect while the winter snows fly.

Hard to believe that we are five weeks into 2021. I approach this new epoch of time, despite the pandemic, with hope and trust in the better days ahead. The harmony of my present surround-



Making comfort food while the winter snows fly.

ings and the warm business of my kitchen are comforting. Like taking a hot soapy shower. Or gulping a strong mug of tea.

Winter's fierceness is no match for being tastefully prepared. It's all we can do.

But that's a lot of serious joy to bring to our lockdown. Aromas. Flavors. Pungent tang all fill the oven-warmed house. Just got some beautiful apples which I will roast for a spicy dessert. (I must find my star anise.)

While we all try to make arrangements for COVID inoculations, souping and stewing are the perfect accompaniments for serious health concerns. I have lots of fresh rosemary and thyme for the souping part, and the perfect bottle of Pinot Noir for the stewing. Remember, use 90% of the wine in the stew from the start. Save 10% to put in when done just before you serve. Be organized.

Maybe more simple organization should be one of our pandemic goals for 2021?

I feel badly that I must stay in quarantine for a cherished cousin's funeral this week. Such regret is now a familiar theme to everyday life. We've learned how to appropriately express it to each other. Who knew we could learn so many new manners for coping with the stringent rule of pandemic? Is this more of our fresh modern understanding of ourselves? Are we getting to essentials more

quickly?

Are we finding our joy?

There is no more dynamic joy at the moment than being an American. How marvelous to live in our Republic with its values and political disciplines that have ensured a transfer of presidential power in a most frightening of times. Pandemic found its political match. People tougher than we thought. Americans more American than we thought. More confident. More courageous. More committed to the goals of our founders. More loyal.

At the moment I write this, WFMT is playing a remarkable orchestral version of Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story." Is there a more magical musical saga of American life than Maestro Bernstein's? Urban and urbane. Immigrant assimilation into American culture in the key of D. The subsequent resistance it creates on the streets and sidewalks of Lower Manhattan's "west side" presents a new dissonance.

But it's thoroughly harmonious American music, where each foot of turf is a gang fight. A display of new found bravado. Forbidden love across the pavement's cultural divide. Uncalculated death, heartache and tears beneath the tenement's fire escape all shaping the American story of the Post-World War world. Bernstein's pen lifting the tale into the balletic movements of dance and soft, sweet love songs that are timeless.

He wrote West Side Story in 1961. Revolutionary moment in the cultural world of pre-Kennedy America. Cold War America.

Bernstein the efete, cerebral master musician of fabled American New York chic. The glamor world of high-society with Jackie Kennedy, Truman Capote, Andy Warhol and Brooke Astor presiding over a renaissance of music and art that still shapes the destiny of urban America half a century later. In the process, Mrs. Kennedy saved Grand Central Station.

As we journey more deeply down the passageways of 2021 I am confident and encouraged at the companionship we share. Especially here in Chicago. Aren't you? I am delighted to have the company of Chicago's bright-

est and most courageous bulbs. You know them splashed across the photos of this column. Don't think it's just because they lunch in chic restaurants. Or wear the finest of couture. While often that is true, it is also true that they are the hardest working Chicagoans. Working for others. The neediest of Chicagoans. Those who need better housing. Or more nourishing food. Or more welcoming neighbors. Or more opportunities for achieving success and meaning in life.

That's why we salute people like Myra Reilly, Sherry Lea Fox, Toni DiMeola, Nena Ivon and Bobbi Panter. Grandees Cynthia Olson and Rose O'Neill. Sugar Rautbord and Sherrill Bodine.

Diane O'Connell, Kathy O'Malley Piccone and Peggy Lombardo. Lauren Lein Cavanaugh, Jolanta Ruege and Countess Bottega. Lynn Graham and Meg Nagle. Dori Wilson, Barb Bailey and Denise Tomasello. Candace Jordan, Maria Pappas and Tracy Tarrantino DiBuono. Judge Marina Amennola and Mark Olley, Dan Balanoff, Shaun Rajah, Shelley Howard, Stanley Paul, Peter Axelsen, Gordon Sinclair and Zurich Esposito.

Imagining friends like these moving with us through time, especially the new year, adds needed layers of harmony and hope.

Thanks for the countless ways they have given us such hope and courage in the darkest of times. You revive like a good chicken soup. And share warmth like a plate of Boeuf Bourguignon. The real secret hidden at the heart of all friendships. Thanks for all you give in the colorful spectacle of our lives. And to our river city perched upon the lake that we love. Remember, in Chicago, even a lumberjack can be chic.

DESIGNING WOMAN: Chicago interior designer **Lauren Coburn** stunned to learn that two of her design projects will be honored for 2020-2021 as "The World's Best," an accolade that the design community considers top of the line. To receive one is a great career achievement. To receive two at the same time makes her legendary. The honor is for two two private interior residences at the firm's Villa Blanco residences in Deerfield and Glen Ellyn. The honor is unprecedented and an extraordinarily high achievement. That's especially good for the Chicago firm that bears her name, Lauren Coburn, LLC.

CHICAAHGO: WGN reporter **Mike Lowe** was challenged to do a news report in six different

languages — and he delivered, especially good in "Bridgeportese."

EBERT FELLOWSHIPS:

Chaz Ebert just announced three new Ebert Film Criticism Fellowships for Sundance. **Hunter Harris, Sara Pelaez** and **Sophia Nguyen.** In addition to writing about films in general they will observe films which exhibit empathy, kindness and compassion. All three writers are pretty



Chaz Ebert

awesome, Chaz notes.

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO: The museum is thrilled to announce they will be reopening Feb. 11. Even more exciting is that two of their most popular exhibits, "Monet and Chicago," and "Bisa Butler: Portraits," are now extended and will be on view for several months to come.

INAUGURATION TIDBITS: Security was impregnable, but Chicago concert violinist, Dubliner **Patricia Treacy**, serenaded **President Joe Biden** in person after all, and even managed to play a choice Stradivarius at St. Matthew's Cathedral for the Biden Family Inauguration Mass with **Wilton Cardinal Gregory.** "On Eagle's Wings," was the presidential request. Treacy was on the go doing some 12 DC interview shows on TV and radio, finish-



Mike Lowe

threw's Cathedral for the Biden Family Inauguration Mass with **Wilton Cardinal Gregory.** "On Eagle's Wings," was the presidential request. Treacy was on the go doing some 12 DC interview shows on TV and radio, finish-

LUMBERJACK see p. 6

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Joe & Ted's excellent PlayPen adventure

Local brothers create city, state's only 100% Black-owned spirit company



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

Joe Moton and his older brother, Ted Robinson, grew up in the Little Italy neighborhood and at the time, it wasn't the bustling urban hub it is now. There were housing projects and hardships, said the 37-year-old Moton.

Yet even back then, the pair had big dreams. One day, they were going to create a business, centered around their love for Chicago, and good times.

Last July, in the midst of the pandemic, Moton had to re-think what he wanted to do with his life. He works in the downtown hospitality industry, experienced in the bar and restaurant scene, and while doing so he developed a passion for vodka, often experimenting with the newest popular brand. After trying several products and looking for something different, Moton thought, "Why not start my own



(L) Joe Moton, right, and Ted Robinson. (R) PlayPen Vodka is the only 100% black-owned spirit brand bottled and produced in Illinois.



vodka company?"

He tossed around the idea of what he would call his business. Then one day while enjoying some summer fun and sun on his friend's boat in the area from Navy Pier north to Oak St. known as the "Play Pen," Moton thought PlayPen -- PlayPen Vodka.

He jotted down his idea, and started looking for a partner.

During an afternoon of visiting at their mother's house, Moton and Robinson started talking about vodka and the idea of PlayPen. Robinson, who has worked in corporate jobs his entire adult life, decided he was all in, bring-

ing both his finances and skills to the table. Thus, PlayPen Vodka went from an idea to an action.

"The blend of corporate discipline and organization, and the 'get it done, while having a fun' hospitality attitude became a recipe for success," said Moton, an Edgewater resident. "PlayPen is a fun time, a good time."

Black History Month started Monday, and I'm thrilled for Moton and Robinson who, after perfecting the vodka last Fall, are now launching PlayPen. But they didn't just create a smooth-tasting alcoholic beverage. They also have created the first 100%,

Black-owned spirit company in Chicago, bottled and produced in Illinois. Knowing that has brought them a feeling of accomplishment, but also a feeling of responsibility to make the best product they can at an affordable price. (\$19.99 per bottle).

Congratulations to them both.

"We didn't realize it until two to three weeks ago," said Moton. "We knew we were the only Black spirit company in Chicago, but reaffirmed it in the state. We thought it was newsworthy and we gotta let people know."

Keeping it local and wanting high quality were crucial, so Mo-

ton and Robinson spent months researching which grain to use for PlayPen, which is made in small batches.

"Because we are from the Midwest, corn became the grain of choice," said Moton. "Midwest corn is local and accessible."

"Most vodkas are gluten-free, and corn helps with that aspect," he said. "Corn is not only local to the Midwest but also a quality grain for crafting vodka."

With that figured out, the brothers then wondered how to actually get their vodka made. They sought a local distillery that could help bring their vision to reality. The pair called nine distilleries a drivable distance from Chicago, and heard back from only four, with one being the Melrose Park-based Skeptic Distillery. Moton and Robinson met and decided to partner with Skeptic and together they crafted a recipe. While some vodkas are cooked, PlayPen is cold vacuum distilled at temperatures lower than 50 degrees, and six times carbon filtered, which brings out an unparalleled taste, Moton said. (And I love their cool Chicago skyline label and wooden cap, which resembles the wood from a boat).

"It's smooth, clean and crisp," said Moton. "We gave it different tries and chose from that."

PLAYPEN see p. 10

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Record-low mortgage rates a virus antidote

Slower sales pace on the North Side traced to slower sales in high-rise heavy Near North Side



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

The antidote to the coronavirus across Chicago's North Side residential real estate market in late 2020 was record-low mortgage rates and buyers seeking more space.

"As the COVID-19 pandemic rolled on, North Side home sales in the fourth quarter of last year reached their highest level since 2007, with 2,219 properties changing hands," noted broker Mary Jo Nathan of the Charese Team at Compass, 2044 W. Roscoe St. in Roscoe Village.

According to the Compass quarterly "Chicago North Side Market Report," combined sales of detached and attached homes on the North Side were 21% higher than during the comparable period a year earlier, and the median sales price for homes gained 8.7% to \$395,000.

The Compass report tracks home sales in nine neighborhoods—Edgewater, Lake View, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, Near North Side, North Center, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Ridge.

For the seven-county Chicago metro area, the comparable results for the quarter were a 35.4% increase in sales activity and a 12.5% rise in the median sales price.

The slower sales pace on the



The slower sales pace on the North Side when compared to the entire metro area can largely be traced to slower sales in the high-rise heavy Near North Side, said a recent Compass report. When that area is excluded, North Side sales were up 31.1% for the quarter.

North Side when compared to the entire metro area can largely be traced to slower sales in the high-rise heavy Near North Side, the Compass report said. When that area is excluded, North Side sales were up 31.1% for the quarter.

Record low home-loan rates

On January 28th, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans averaged 2.73% nationwide, down from 2.77% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed mortgage average was 3.51%. Fifteen-year fixed loans averaged 2.20%, down from 2.21% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed mortgage averaged 3.00%.

On January 7, 2021, the 30-year fixed mortgage average hit a rock bottom 2.65%, the lowest rate in the survey's history which dates back to 1971. Home-loan rates set record lows 16 times in 2020.

"Even as house prices increase at the fastest rate we've seen in years, competition to buy is strong given the low inventory that exists across the country," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "The fact that there are not enough homes to

meet demand is going to be an ongoing issue for the foreseeable future."

Homes selling fast

"We are also seeing a marked reduction in the time it takes to sell a home," noted Nathan, a North Side broker since 2000. "The average time needed for a home to go from newly listed to under contract was 76 days in the fourth quarter, 22 days less than during the same period in 2019."

Demand for single-family homes, which was strong during the third quarter, was even more evident in the fourth quarter across the Chicago area, including the North Side," said Nathan. "Single-family sales on the North Side increased 58.2% for the quarter, while sales gained 25.2% in all of Chicago and 38.7% in the seven-county metro area."

The median sales price for single-family homes rose only slightly on the North Side, gaining 0.5% to \$1,015,000, while for the overall metro area it jumped 19.1% to \$280,000.

Meanwhile, the attached-home market, which accounts for nearly 85% of North Side home sales,



North Side Median Prices—4th Q 2020

	Median Price	% Change
Edgewater		
Detached	\$649,000	-13.5%
Attached	\$232,500	+14.5%
Lake View		
Detached	\$1,467,500	+6.7%
Attached	\$422,500	+20.4%
Lincoln Park		
Detached	\$1,720,000	+20.9%
Attached	\$525,000	-9.0%
Lincoln Square		
Detached	\$852,500	+19.9%
Attached	\$341,500	+24.2%
Near North		
Detached	\$999,000	-18.4%
Attached	\$410,000	-1.2%
North Center		
Detached	\$1,177,500	+9.0%
Attached	\$449,750	-0.1%
Rogers Park		
Detached	\$535,000	-13.7%
Attached	\$200,000	+11.7%
Uptown		
Detached	\$826,000	-14.3%
Attached	\$297,450	+4.4%
West Ridge		
Detached	\$405,000	+8.0%
Attached	\$158,650	+14.1%

the median sales price climbed 6.4% to \$352,250.

"Attached-home sales volume was up in every North Side area except the Near North Side, where sales declined 5.9%, largely because high-rise units are selling more slowly right now due to the pandemic," Nathan said. "However, that is much better than the 16.1% decline we saw in the third quarter, so that market may be stabilizing."

Sales volume of attached homes registered their sharpest gains in Lincoln Square, gaining 60.7% to 98 units, and in Rogers Park, up 39.3% to 124 units, but all areas except the Near North Side saw sales up in double digits.

Median prices were more variable in the attached category, rising in six communities and falling in three. Lincoln Square was the top gainer, with the median price climbing 24.2% to \$341,500, and it was followed by Lake View with a 20.4% increase to \$422,500.

Detached sales rose in eight of

also experienced increased activity. Fourth quarter sales volume was up 16.7% to 1,920 units, and

MORTGAGE see p. 9

Perkins-Nordine House get its landmark status

On Jan. 27 the Chicago City Council gave landmark status to the Perkins-Nordine House, 6106 N. Kenmore Ave., in Edgewater.

Completed in 1903 for industrialist Herbert Farrington Perkins, the Arts and Crafts home was the residence and home office of voice-over and recording artist Ken Nordine from 1951 until his death in 2019. Nordine used a studio in

the home to record a series of spoken word albums highlighting a unique mix of poetry and jazz called "Word Jazz," including the Grammy-nominated "Stare with Your Ears."

Designed by the architectural firm of Pond and Pond, the three-story building is one of the last surviving mansions from the area's nascent years as a suburban-style residential neighborhood.

BY REJOURNALS

Kiser Group advised the Estes Villa Condominium Assoc. through a Section 15 deconversion sale. The 16-unit building at 2641 W Estes Ave. in West Ridge neighborhood sold for \$2.26 million.

Advisors Andy Friedman and Danny Logarakis represented the Estes Villa Condominium Assoc. in the sale as well as the buyer, Block and Key, LLC.

"We are pleased to have led another successful deconversion," said Friedman. "Estes Villa went through a prior sale attempt that failed, and the association was jaded from the experience. Our hands-on approach with all unit owners resulted in a near-unanimous acceptance of the contract and a seamless process from start to finish."

"Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood continues to see an increase in investor interest despite the challenging year we were

Kiser Group advises on \$2.26 million West Ridge condo deconversion



2641 W Estes Ave. in West Ridge.

just faced with," said Logarakis. "At \$141,250 a unit, this is a high price-per-unit for the product type and provides an investor the opportunity to increase rents on units that are below market through improved management and light renovations."

Built in 1930, the property features 13 two-bedroom units, three one-bedroom garden units and six garage parking spots. The building is located blocks away from two neighborhood parks, Indian Boundary and Rogers Park.

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High school sports are back, almost



By Jack Lydon

It's game on! Well, more accurately, it's practice on...

The Illinois High School Assoc. announced Jan. 27 that high school sports may resume practices immediately and games may start as early as this weekend. However, exactly when games will start in Chicago has yet to be determined.

While Chicago moved into Phase 4 of Illinois' coronavirus mitigation plan on Feb. 1, things won't be quite the same as other regions under this phase of state's reopening guidelines. Games may not resume even though Chicago did move into Phase 4 of COVID restrictions.

Even for areas of the State already in Phase 4, basketball games may not start until teams complete seven days of practice. Under previously released Illinois Dept. of Public Health [IDPH] guidelines, practices could have started last week. Games will not start in Chicago as the State of Illinois Region 11 (Chicago) moves out of "tier 1" and into Phase 4. The move to Phase 4 depends upon a number of factors related to infection rate and hospitalization rate.

Games are limited to schools within the same state "region" established for COVID purposes.

The City of Chicago is one such region. Suburban Cook County is another. The new Illinois High School Assoc. [IHSA] plan allows for games between teams of the same region and teams within the same conference regardless of region.

While all Chicago Public School [CPS] teams are obviously in the same region and can play one another, a CPS school would not be allowed to play a suburban team.

In contrast, the Chicago Catholic League [CCL] has city and suburban schools. CCL teams will be allowed to play each other but not public schools in another region. For instance, St. Ignatius (Chicago) could play Loyola Academy (Wilmette) but not Evanston.

The exact number of basketball games allowed by the IHSA is not limited, just the date by which the season must end, March 13. "The number of basketball games is a local decision," IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said in Jan. 27's press conference. Schools and conferences will be allowed to set the number of games played. Anderson said that the number of games will have to be weighed against other academic and health related considerations.

The CCL released its schedule of mens basketball games. The 15-game season will start on Monday, Feb. 8 and then the following Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until March 12. Each team will play seven games within their division and eight "crossover" games against teams from the other division. The CCL has a rule that only home fans will be allowed to attend games.

Lane Tech Athletic Director and head men's basketball coach Nick LoGalbo is not optimistic that games at Lane Tech will start anytime soon. "No matter what the

IHSA does, for us, everything is dependent on [CPS]," LoGalbo said. LoGalbo does not know what CPS will approve or when the approval will be forthcoming.

Nevertheless, CPS athletic directors are working on a schedule to play teams within each division in order to be ready. "We are looking at playing two to three games a week within each division," LoGalbo said. "Plus some non-conference games."

Current IDPH rules limit spectators at public indoor events to 50 people. The IHSA's interpretation of the 50-person limit excludes players and school staff. It is unclear how schools will handle admitting spectators.

As for spectators at games, LoGalbo was not optimistic. "CPS may not allow spectators at all. Bank on nobody." Lane is working on a plan to stream all games on the Internet.

Lane Tech womens basketball head coach Megan Molloy did not have much information about the plan going forward. "I have been meeting with my team over



Lane Tech's Sean Molloy (center) rebounding against Oak Park-River Forest last March. Photo by Jack Lydon

Google classroom and Google meets but that is about it," Molloy said.

"Getting started again is going to be challenging. It is going to be hard. I am just going to tell my team that we are going to have to make the most of what we can do; we'll have to take advantage of the time we have. That will be a good thing," Molloy said.

The scheduling of back-to-back games - varsity and sophomore games - will be problematic. IDPH rules require the proper cleaning of the facility between such games. We may not see sophomore games immediately followed by varsity games.

Interestingly, unlike in college or the NBA, health department rules require players must wear masks during games. Game rules will be modified slightly to provide one minute long socially distanced "mask breaks" when players can take off their masks and get a drink of water. There will be one such break during each quarter of the game.

High school football teams can begin practicing March 3. Games can begin March 19 and the season runs until April 24. That leaves enough time for six games. There will be no state playoffs.

Athletes will be allowed to play multiple sports but the transition for playing basketball to football will require some extra football practice time for football players going right from basketball to football. Such players will need to participate in a couple practices in helmets and pads before being eligible to play in games.

The Chicago Catholic League/East Suburban Catholic League collaboration for football released its schedule. Each team will play six games, three against the other

New Red Line station houses

The CTA has released renderings of what the new Red Line stations at Bryn Mawr, Berwyn, Argyle, and Lawrence will look like when Red Purple Modernization (RPM) construction is complete at the end of 2024.

To rebuild the four stations, the CTA will close the stations early in 2021 to begin reconstruction of the stations and track structure between the stations.

The CTA will open at that time temporary stations at Bryn Mawr and Argyle to provide Red Line access to riders. All four new stations are due to reopen by the end of 2024, when all of the station houses and platforms will be ADA accessible, and may will feature public art installations by local artists.



New Bryn Mawr station rendering



New Argyle station rendering



New Berwyn station rendering



New Lawrence station rendering

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Sherry Lea Fox, Jean Coatar Antoniou and Greg Hyder.



Shelley Howard and son Shaun with Amela Galijasevic.



Chicago Children's Choir

LUMBERJACK from p. 2

ing up at the Irish Embassy to the United States on Massachusetts Ave., where Irish Ambassador **Daniel Mulhall** hosted her playing classic Irish tunes by **Thomas Moore** while he recited poems by **W.B. Yeats**. "Down by the Sally Garden" was everyone's favorite. Quite an elegant performance I am told. No eye was dry. Also on hand, Chicago twins **Mark** and **Matt O'Malley**, bro **Brian O'Malley** and cousin, **Dr. John Ross, MD**. Chicago was front and center on the historic day with pal, former U.S. Sen. **Carol Moseley Braun** part of the crew.



Carol Moseley Braun

ALL THE ANGELS SING: **Chicago Children's Choir** performed on The Late Show with **Stephen Colbert** with **Chance The Rapper** and **Peter Cottontale** on Inauguration Day.

DON'T TELL COL. MCCORMICK: WGN America, the Chicago-based cable network,

is rebranding its prime-time news programming with a new name, NewsNation, apparently to level the playing field with CNN, FOX, MSNBC. Tribune publisher **Colonel Robert R. McCormick** must be spinning in his Cantigny grave. Fortunately, WGN-Ch. 9 and WGN AM-720 will live on in our fair city.

AS TEARS GO BY: One of the thrills of staying with my late friend, **Desmond Guinness**, was the opportunity it offered to visit with his nearby neighbor, 1960s rockstar **Marianne Faithfull**. You may remember her as **Mick Jagger's**

"girlfriend." She's 74 now, and lives just 45 min. from Dublin, out in lovely County Kildare. She often "popped in" to Desmond's Leixlip Castle home for lunch or tea. I was saddened to learn that she recently revealed she 'may not be able to sing ever again' after battling with COVID-19: 'I would be incredibly upset if that was the case,' she said. Desmond adored her and he was a great friend to Jagger. She was best on "As Tears Go By," a haunting early Stones' tune that seemed to characterize the age of rock that we were in. The song has a verse that is quite haunting as we all age. Remember? "It is the evening of the day, I sit and watch the children play, doing things I used to do, they think are new, I sit and watch, as tears go by." Keep Marianne in

your prayers

SUSTAINED BY LOVE: Deep sympathies and prayers to designer **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh** on the death of her dear mother, **Dorothy Esther Dunn Lein**, in Michigan at 92. All your Chicago friends reach out in love at this time of heartbreak.

TOP ACTOR: **John T. O'Brien** says, "Oh man this was awesome. Thank you so much @midwestfilm for the title of Best Actor at the 2020 Best of the Midwest. @cooneycm slays as a director and did a brilliant job making me look good in @dadmanwalkingseries."

TRES BONNE: Former Chicago artist **Yann Legendre**, now most successful in Paris, just did a portrait for Le Monde, **Martha Craven Nussbaum**, American philosopher and the current **Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics** at the Univ. of Chicago.

SUNNY REFINEMENT: **Kipper Lance Hendrick** and **Bud Hendrick** now have a new year and a new zip code and a new home to go along with it. They've moved to Hypoluxo Island, FL. Now having fun biking just like grandmother did in 1941 in Gulfstream, FL.

NORTHSHORE NEWS: Word is traveling fast that the very popular Gold Coast eatery, Le Colonial, is opening up in posh and leafy Lake Forest. That's just what they need up there.

PLAY BALL: He was a cultural icon overcoming racism. A baseball legend. A home run king. **Hank Aaron** achieved a fabled existence running the bases and offering a deeper, more authentic look into what it means



Patricia Treacy

to be an American in the 1950s. The nation and the national pastime will never be the same. He went to God last week at 86 years of age. Peace.

LADY WHISTLEDOWN: "Dearest Readers," Lady Whistledown wrote, "The ton are abuzz with the latest gossip, and so it is my honor to impart to you: Bridgerton shall officially return for a second season. I do hope you have stored a bottle of ratafia for this most delightful occasion."

WHO'S WHERE? **Rebecca Fons** is the Siskel Film Center's Director of Programming. Wel-

tion... birthday girl **Heather Jane Johnston**, **Sally Jo Morris Pfaff**, **Sherrill Bodine**, **Bobbi Panter** and **April Schwartz** singing out at Le Colonial and eating gooey cake... Tortoise Supper Club's **Megan** and **Keene Addington's** son, **Keene Addington II** is now on the Men's USA Floorball U-19 team. He just signed with the Texas Tornados for the Inaugural Season of the North American Floorball League. They're working to get it made an Olympic sport... Congratulations to real estate mogul **Janet Owen** whose record remains unbroken for the two highest closed sales of single-family homes recorded in Chicago... **Julie Barrish**, **Kathy O'Malley Piccone**, **Sherrill Bodine** lunching at Maple & Ash... **Shelley Howard** dining with **Amela Galijasevic** and son, **Shaun Howard** at Tavern on Rush, welcoming the return of indoor dining in the nick of time... Maestro **Stanley Paul** looking Pump Room chic in Palm Springs desert sun.

BETTE DAVIS EYES: **Sherry Lea Fox** lunched with **Jean Coatar Antoniou** and the Peninsula's Major Duomo **Gregory Hyder** under the portrait of **Bette Davis' eyes** in Booth One at Ralph Lauren Bar Grill.

THE KING IS DEAD: **Larry King** reinvented himself and the whole concept of the interview when CNN unleashed the Brooklyn lad on the voracious public. He questioned everyone. Fish and fowl. His death removes an unquestioned American icon.

Winter is not a season, it's an occupation. — Sinclair Lewis

tog515@gmail.com

SPORTS from p. 5

division teams and three cross-overs. DePaul Prep will play Carmel Catholic, Marion Catholic and St. Joseph at home and Leo, Providence Catholic and Joliet Catholic on the road.

Traditional spring sports such as baseball, softball, lacrosse, girl soccer, etc., will begin practices on April 5 with the season ending on June 19. Those sports will be afforded longer seasons because of the loss of last terms entire season.

The IHSA will not be mandating any COVID testing of athletes. "We have received no information from the Dept. of Public Health that would require [testing] of our students to be engaged in either practice of competition. While schools are obviously welcome to have testing if they have resources to do it," Anderson said.

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Over 600 residents, employees receive COVID-19 vaccine at The Clare



(L) Executive Director Kyle Exline, (C) Resident Roberta Weisberg (R) Administrator Monica Rusboldt all receiving their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

After nearly a year of navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and working diligently to keep residents safe, The Clare finally sees a light at the end of the tunnel.

Approximately 580 residents, employees, caregivers and others associated with The Clare received the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 8, with the second dose scheduled for this Friday. Employees and residents who missed the first clinic date will be eligible to receive their first dose at the February clinic, which will bring the number of those vaccinated at The Clare to over 600.

Following the initial January clinic, 99% of residents had received the first vaccination dose, as well as about 50% of employees. The goal is to have over 90% of the overall community totally or partially vaccinated following the Feb. 5 clinic date. The final clinic will take place on March 5.

“This is something we have all been looking forward to for so long,” Executive Director Kyle Exline says. “The most rewarding aspect was seeing how excited and emotional residents were to receive the vaccine. It was truly a historic and groundbreaking moment, and to be part of that with the residents was incredible.”

While the initial distribution of nearly 600 vaccines took place over just eight hours in January, logistical and operational planning occurred for weeks beforehand. In Oct., 2020, The Clare partnered with Walgreens for the administration of the vaccine, and Wal-

greens confirmed the clinic dates about two weeks before the first one took place.

From there, the community worked out as many details as possible ahead of the first clinic. This involved registering residents and employees who wished to receive the vaccine, organizing appointment times to limit long lines and excessive wait times and maintaining appropriate COVID safety and distancing measures throughout the day.

“We had to be thoughtful of all elements and make the experience a quick and effortless one for everyone,” Kyle says.

In the end, these preparations resulted in efficient, successful vaccine administration.

“The pre-organization paid off,” Administrator Monica Rusboldt says. “The day went really smoothly, and people did not have to wait extensively for their vaccine. It was also really great to see people happy and excited about something!”

Residents and staff at long-term care facilities like The Clare were included in the initial vaccination phase, per the City of Chicago’s distribution plan.

For residents like Jack Jennings and Steve Molinari, having access to the vaccine ahead of the general public represented a glimmer of hope in what has been a grueling, terrifying time in the world.

“We chose to get the COVID vaccine without a second thought,” Jack and Steve say. “The virus has controlled our lives for almost a year. Like most other people, we watched the havoc it created in our society and in our own lives. And, we did a lot of reading and listening, so when the vaccine was approved, we had no hesitation. We

knew that the vaccine was the most effective means of gaining back our freedom.”

Offering the vaccine within the community also eliminated any confusion of trying to find somewhere to get it on their own, resident Roberta Weisberg says.

“I know people who live on their own have been unsure of where they can go to get the vaccine and when they can get it,” she says. “We haven’t had to worry about any of that, which is really remarkable. We’re very lucky.”

Above all else, though, the anticipation around the vaccine at The Clare largely revolved around safety.

“I was looking forward to getting the vaccine, knowing that I was taking the steps to protect myself in these difficult times,” resident Dr. Mary Davidson says.

Although the vaccine doesn’t yet eliminate necessary precautions around masks, testing and more, it certainly does provide more room for comfortability and movement around the community itself. The goal is to reinstate in-person dining and small group programs at The Clare, both in limited capacities within the state of Illinois’ restrictions, a few weeks after the administration of the second dose of the vaccine.

“We know we still have to follow the guidelines regarding masks and social distancing, but we have a sense that a heavy weight has been lifted,” Jack and Steve say. “It’s hard to express the feeling of relief!”



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Simple steps to better self care

BY ANGELA PATTERSON

As the world continues to work through the health challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more important to focus on routine health care needs and lifestyle changes you can make to improve your daily wellbeing this year. Here are some easy ways to focus on better self care (and, some you can even do them at home):

- **Stop smoking:** The sooner you stop smoking, the sooner your body can begin to heal. There are a variety of possible customized smoking cessation plans which could include over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapy, support-

ive counseling and options for prescription medications for those struggling to quit.

- **Lower your numbers:** Need help managing long-term conditions like high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes? Now is the perfect time to start. Start with a simple evaluation and blood test to determine the right medication to reduce your numbers and effectively manage your condition year-round.

- **Sleep soundly:** Is snoring keeping you awake? Health conditions like sleep apnea could be the cause. You may be eligible for a home sleep test to see if you have this common, but potentially serious, condi-

SELF CARE see p. 10

Police Beat...

Group beats, robs passenger on Red Line

A group of up to eight offenders beat and robbed a 61-year-old man aboard a Red Line train in River North Friday morning, police said. Earlier in the morning, another group robbed a man of his backpack and phone on the Blue Line downtown.

The incidents and other recent reports reinforce a Chicago Tribune finding that the CTA train system's violent crime rate has doubled despite having significantly fewer riders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most recently, the 61-year-old was riding the Red Line around 5:20 a.m. when a group of about eight young men battered him and took his wallet at the Grand Red Line CTA station, according to CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli.

He sought help after exiting the train at Van Buren. Fire department personnel treated him for his injuries at the scene, Bartoli said.

She said the suspects are several Black males between 18- and 22-years-old. Police searched for the offenders in a pedestrian tunnel that links the Red and Blue Line trains, but no arrests were made.

Around 12:30 a.m. Friday, a group of four young men or teenagers approached a man on the Blue Line near Washington. The group told the victim, who's in his 40's, to hand over his backpack and phone. He complied and the offenders fled, according to Chicago police.

The Blue Line victim was not injured, police said.

On Jan. 24, at least three CTA passengers were struck with a baseball bat, sprayed with mace, or both by a pair of offenders who committed a series of attacks on the Red Line between downtown and Howard St. Several other passengers reported being threatened by the pair. No charges have been filed in any of the incidents.

Robbery, carjacking, and auto theft reported in 15 minutes in Lincoln Park, Lakeview

A mini-crime spree swept through Lakeview East on Jan. 28, leaving a restaurant robbed, a man carjacked, and a restaurant patron without his car. The three crimes unfolded in less than 20 minutes.

First, a gunman entered the Dunkin' at 2706 N. Halsted and ordered the cashier to open the register around 8:55 p.m. The robber fled southbound on Halsted with an undetermined amount of cash. Police said the offender is a Black male who wore a face mask and a black jacket.

Then, at 9 p.m., a carjacker took control of a man's Honda Civic at the intersection of Broadway and Diversey. The victim told police the offender held his hand under his jacket as if he had a gun. Police believe the Civic was used later in the night by a carjacking crew in Edgewater.

Minutes later, four men drove away with a green Honda CR-V that was left running outside Taco and Burrito House, 3038 N. Broadway. The car's owner was picking up an order from the restaurant at the time of the theft, according to a witness. A group of men used a green Honda CR-V during a carjacking in Wicker Park later on Jan. 28.

Armed carjackers take Volvo in Edgewater, then ditch it to take a BMW instead

A group of carjackers who started to drive away with a man's Volvo in Edgewater Jan. 28 spotted a nice BMW down the street — so they got out of the Volvo and carjacked the Beemer instead, according to police.

Another carjacking was also reported in Andersonville.

Police said a 56-year-old man and his 17-year-old son were parked in their 2006 Volvo when four men rolled up on the 1200 block of W. Thorndale around 11:38 p.m.

According to police, two men got out of the other car, a Honda Civic that was carjacked earlier in Lakeview, and ordered the victims out of the Volvo at gunpoint.

As the carjackers started to drive away, they saw a 55-year-old woman driving her BMW X5 that was stopped in traffic. They got out of the Volvo, pulled out their guns, and forced the woman from her car, police said.

The Volvo was left behind. Police found the BMW abandoned in the North Lawndale neighborhood around 3:24 a.m. Jan. 29.

Police said the carjackers were four Black males who may be teenagers. They wore hooded sweatshirts and dark clothes.

In the Andersonville carjacking, the victim told police five men pulled up in a black Chevy Suburban as he parked in the 5200 block of N. Lakeview around 7:50 p.m. The offenders displayed two guns and took his white 2009 Volkswagen Tiguan.

Area Three detectives are investigating the carjackings.

Murder charges filed after romantic partner dies from stab wounds

Prosecutors on Jan. 27 filed murder charges against an Uptown man who allegedly severed an artery in his romantic partner's arm during an altercation over whether they would invite a third person to join them for sex.

We reported first about the incident on Jan. 20 after Marquez Haggard, 25, was charged with aggravated battery in the incident.



Marquez Haggard

But the alleged victim, Dandre Tatum, never regained consciousness after suffering severe blood loss and he died on Jan. 23 after care was withdrawn, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.

Now, Haggard is facing a new charge of first degree murder.

Haggard and Tatum, 45, had been in a romantic relationship since last summer and the two got together at Haggard's home in the 1200 block of W. Argyle on the evening of Jan. 9.

Murphy said Tatum became upset when Haggard started looking for a third person to join them for sex and tried to leave. But Haggard struggled with Tatum, pulling on his arm and clothes to make him stay, according to Murphy.

Tatum struck Haggard to get away and the confrontation moved to a parking area behind Haggard's apartment where Haggard pulled out a box cutter and stabbed Tatum in the right arm, Murphy said.

The blade severed Tatum's brachial artery and he ran from the scene.

Haggard then called 911 and said he stabbed an intruder in his apartment and said the man was running down a nearby alley, Murphy said.

Several people flagged down responding officers to direct them to Tatum, who was unconscious and bleeding heavily from his arm on the

steps of a home in the 5000 block of N. Glenwood, Assistant State's Attorney Jocelyn Schieve said during Haggard's previous bail hearing.

Police followed a blood trail from Tatum's body until they arrived at a large pool of blood on the parking pad behind Haggard's apartment, Schieve said.

Investigators returned to Haggard's apartment last week and his landlord gave them the box cutter that is believed to be the murder weapon, according to Murphy.

During a bond hearing on Jan. 12, Judge Charles Beach allowed Haggard to go home on electronic monitoring by posting a \$500 bond. Beach was on the bench again Wednesday when the upgraded murder charge was presented against Haggard.

After hearing about Haggard's "strong support network" and lack of criminal history, Beach raised his bail amount to \$150,000. Haggard will need to post an additional \$14,500 to get out of jail on electronic monitoring again.

"There's a difference between an act between two people who know each other and are in a relationship that perhaps becomes heated and between an individual and an anonymous person on the street," Beach said.

Man attacked with box cutter during robbery on Red Line train

A 45-year-old man was stabbed repeatedly with a box cutter and robbed Jan. 26 as he rode a Red Line train on the North Side, police said. No arrests have been made.

The man was riding northbound from Berwyn to Argyle around 10:30 p.m. when the offender approached him with a box cutter and asked what time it was, police said.

Suddenly, the offender became aggressive and started stabbing the victim, who suffered cuts to his throat, hand, and right thigh.

The offender took the victim's wallet and got off the train when it stopped at Argyle.

An ambulance transported the victim to Weiss Hospital, where his condition stabilized, police said.

Officers at the scene said the suspect is a bald Black male in his 50's with a slim build who stands about 5'-8" tall. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Brazen thieves burglarize five stores, steal ATM from gas station

A roving band of thieves broke into at least five businesses across Lakeview and Lincoln Park Jan. 26 before they ended their spree by stealing the ATM from an Old Town gas station that was open for business, according to CPD reports. No arrests have been made.

The crew tampered with ATMs and stole cash registers and merchandise from a series of stores.

Around 3:30 a.m. police responded to a burglar alarm at Smoker's Zone, 3326 N. Clark. Cops found the front door broken and the store burglarized.

Two other businesses were targeted in the same area: Taste of Manhattan Bagels at 3268 N. Clark and Pipes and Stuff, 3174 N. Clark.

Then, around 6:10 a.m., witnesses saw two cars pull up to Broadway Liquors, 3158 N. Broadway. About six young men got out of the vehicles, broke the front door, and tried to take the ATM, a passerby said. The crew failed to dislodge the cash machine, but they did take the register.

Fifteen minutes later, they broke into Park View Grocer, 1940 N. Clark in Old Town. According to a police report, three burglars were seen going into the convenience store, where they took the register, cash, and inventory.

But they saved their boldest move for last.

After leaving the Park View Grocer around 6:30 a.m., they drove a couple of blocks south, and two members of the team entered the 24-hour Shell service station at 130 W. North Ave.

The duo ripped an ATM out of the wall and loaded it into a black Jeep Cherokee that was waiting outside, according to CPD spokesperson Sally Bown. The clerk was not injured.

People who saw the Broadway Liquors burglary said a black Jeep Cherokee was one of the cars that the crew used there, too. The other appeared to be a minivan, they said.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Arrest is made one day after cops warned of serial 7-Eleven robber

One day after Chicago police warned the public about a man who robbed a downtown convenience store nine times in a month, cops made an arrest and charges have been filed in two cases.

The robber, who sometimes pushed employees and once claimed to have a gun, repeatedly took liquor and



Ivan Weldon

cigarettes from behind the counter at 7-Eleven, 48 N. Wells, between Dec. 17 and Jan. 18, according to CPD records.

Video of an incident on Jan. 14 shows a tall man pushing the much smaller store clerk into a display case before making his way behind to counter to steal merchandise. A source said the offender struck the cashier with a coffee pot.

The robber, who shoved employees and once claimed to have a gun, took liquor and cigarettes from behind the counter at the 7-Eleven nine times between Dec. 17 and Jan. 18, police said.

On Jan. 25 prosecutors charged a man in connection with one of the robberies and another theft from the store Jan. 24.

Police arrested Ivan Weldon in the Loop around noon after he stole more inventory from the store, prosecutors said.

The store manager recognized him as the person who has gone behind their counter repeatedly to steal alcohol and cigarettes, Assistant State's Attorney Franka D'Antignac said.

Weldon is charged with robbery for an incident on Dec. 18 in which he allegedly claimed to have a gun as he ordered a store clerk to leave him alone while he took cigarettes, cigars, and beer.

After his arrest, Weldon told police he's "been doing this for five years" and claimed to own the property, D'Antignac said.

Weldon is on parole for aggravated battery of a CTA employee in the Loop. Illinois Dept. of Corrections lists him as an "absconder," meaning he has not complied with the terms of his early release.

His public defender said there might be a mental health component to Weldon's alleged behavior.

After hearing the allegations, Judge Mary Marubio set Weldon's bail at \$150,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he is released. Marubio said she intentionally set the bail at an amount that he probably cannot in order to keep him in custody.

Charges filed in North Side carjackings police linked to a pair of shootings

Charges have been filed in two North Side carjackings that police have linked to subsequent hijackings that resulted in two victims being shot, one fatally.

First, a 17-year-old boy is charged with carjacking a Lakeview woman of her red Audi A3 on the 1400 block of W. Wolfram on Nov. 23, according to police.

CPD said the teen was arrested at the juvenile detention center, which indicates he may have already been in custody for other matters.

Police said the boy was identified as the offender who put a gun to the woman's back as she walked away from her car around 6:18 p.m. The victim was also robbed of her phone and wallet, a police spokesperson said at the time.

About six hours later, the woman's car was used by a robbery crew that mugged a man in Logan Square. Shortly after that, two offenders used it in a botched carjacking that left another man shot in Bucktown. A surveillance camera recorded portions of that incident.

In the other case, 16-year-old former Lakeview High School student Denroy Garcia is charged with carjacking a 24-year-old man in Lincoln Park around 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 13.

The victim was sitting in the passenger seat of a black Audi A3 on the 2600 block of N. Lakeview when a gunman climbed into the driver's seat, pointed a gun at him, and ordered him to get out, a police spokesperson said after the crime.

Eight days later, the Audi was used by a carjacking crew that shot and killed Shuai Guan in Bridgeport.

Garcia, who is charged as an adult with Guan's murder, chased down and fatally shot the 33-year-old father because he could not figure out how to operate Guan's car, prosecutors alleged. He is being held without bail.

ATM burglars strike again targeting taco stands in Lakeview, Bucktown

A band of burglars who specialize in stealing ATMs from businesses during overnight hours struck twice recently in the Lakeview neighborhood. The crew apparently tried to take another cash machine in Bucktown minutes earlier, but failed.

The latest crimes come less than a week after the team struck a series of stores across the North Side Jan. 26.

Patrol officers reported seeing two Jeeps — one black, the other white or gray — speeding around North Side neighborhoods around 4:20 a.m. Feb. 1.

Just before 5 a.m., police found the front doors smashed out at Arturo's Tacos, 2001 N. Western in Bucktown. Officers said the burglars used a sledgehammer to break in and then tried to take the restaurant's ATM, but the men failed to dislodge it.

But the crew had better luck about 30 minutes later at Burrito House, 3547 N. Lincoln in Lakeview. There, the team got away with an ATM and cash register after breaking through the front door, according to a CPD report.

Around 7 a.m., a passerby found the front door glass broken out at Traspasada, 3605 N. Ashland. It was also burglarized. Police said the ATM was gone and the restaurant's

Mother of 2 killed when drunk driver crashed on Lake Shore Dr.

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Berwyn woman has died of injuries she suffered in an alcohol-related crash on Lake Shore Dr. in Lakeview over the weekend. Prosecutors on Monday charged the driver of the car she was riding in with her death.

Emely Garcia, 24, was conscious and spoke with first responders at the crash scene but died of internal injuries about three hours later at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, prosecutors said. Three other passengers and the car's driver were injured.

Garcia was the mother of two young children whose photos she posted on her Facebook page.

The driver, Manuel Perez, is charged with aggravated DUI causing death, negligent driving, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and transporting open alcohol.

Perez and two of his co-workers were drinking at a bar in Cicero with Garcia and another person Friday night, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.

After drinking beers and shots of hard liquor, Perez drove the other four around in a car owned



Emely Garcia

by one of the passengers, according to Murphy. They stopped along the way to get more alcohol and Perez drank a vodka and tequila drink, Murphy said.

At 3:36 a.m. Saturday, the group was traveling southbound in the 3000 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. when Perez allegedly slammed the car into the concrete center barrier on a curve.

According to Murphy, all three surviving passengers told police that Perez, age 23, was drunk and speeding at the time of the crash.

He said rescue workers had to extricate Perez from the driver's

seat. One of the back seat passengers also had to be cut out of the vehicle.

Garcia was "alert" at the scene, according to Murphy, but her condition worsened at the hospital, and she was pronounced dead at 6:41 a.m., the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office said.

Perez, who suffered a broken hip, had a blood alcohol content of .20, about 2.5 times the legal limit, and he tested positive for cocaine, Murphy alleged.

One of the back seat passengers also suffered a broken hip. Another received 13 stitches to close a wound to their forehead.

Perez has no criminal background.

"These cases are difficult," Judge Marubio said after hearing the state's allegations, "and obviously [there was] a very tragic accident in this case."

Marubio ordered Perez held in lieu of \$100,000 bail. If he can post the mandatory \$10,000 deposit bond, he must refrain from drinking alcohol and wear a "SCRAM bracelet," Marubio said. SCRAM devices detect alcohol consumption by testing the wearer's sweat and alert authorities to violations.

Man charged with two Red Line robberies, three months after getting "affordable bail"

BY CWBCHICAGO

Just three months ago, prosecutors charged Michael Sturdivant with robbery for allegedly beating and robbing a passenger who fell asleep on the Orange Line downtown. Judge Charles Beach allowed him to get out of jail by posting \$500 bond.

Sturdivant, 26, was in bond court again Jan. 25, charged with robbing two more passengers on CTA trains last week. Both of the robberies, as well as the one he's accused of committing last autumn, were captured on CTA surveillance video, prosecutors say.

On Jan. 15, Sturdivant and two others boarded a Red Line and the two accomplices began going through the coat and pants pockets of a man who was sleeping on the train, prosecutors said.

One of the accomplices kicked the victim in the chest when he

woke up. But the victim stood up, fought back, and tried to regain control of his wallet. That's when Sturdivant joined in and punched



Michael Sturdivant

the man several times, according to Assistant State's Attorney Franka D'Antignac. Sturdivant later told police he helped fight the victim because he "didn't want to look like a p*ssy," she said.

The victim got off the train at Cermak and notified police. Detectives distributed photos of the robbers from CTA surveillance footage and one of the cops who arrested Sturdivant for last fall's robbery recognized him, D'Antignac said. The victim also identified Sturdivant in a photo

line-up on Jan. 16.

That same day, Sturdivant and the other two offenders were wearing the same clothing when they robbed another man on the Red Line platform at 63rd St.

The two accomplices demanded the victim's phone and wallet, but he offered his bookbag instead. Both of the alleged accomplices then attacked the man and took his wallet out of his pants pocket. Sturdivant admitted to "putting his hands on" the victim because he was becoming aggressive. D'Antignac said all three robbers chased the victim as he ran to the ticket booth for help.

The second victim was unable to identify the offenders in a photo array, D'Antignac said.

Police arrested Sturdivant Jan. 23. D'Antignac said he identified himself in CTA images from both attacks and admitted to participating in both robberies.

In October, prosecutors said Sturdivant and three juveniles battered and robbed a man who fell asleep on the Orange Line near the Quincy station.

After asking the victim for his money, one of the juveniles punched the victim in the face, and the group went through his

fell 13.5%.

Nathan noted that a lack of inventory continues to constrain single-family sales in some North Side communities. For example, Rogers Park had just two homes for sale at the beginning of January. Other areas with less than a three-month supply of homes on the market at that point were Edgewater, Lake View, Lincoln Square, North Center and West Ridge.

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

MORTGAGE from p. 4

the nine communities covered by the North Side Market Report, with Near North staying steady at 11 units sold. The biggest increase was in Uptown, up 150% to 10 units, but sales were up at least 50% in the seven other communities, led by a 91.3% gain in West Ridge.

As for the median sales price, Lincoln Park led the way with a 20.9% gain, followed by Lincoln Square at 19.9%. Four communities did see their median prices decline and all by double digits. Near North Side was off 18.4%, Rogers Park down 13.7%, Uptown down 14.3% and Edgewater



Cops seek men who robbed Brown Line passenger at Southport

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are asking for help as they try to track down two men who robbed a CTA Brown Line passenger at the Southport station Jan. 27.

The victim was on the train around 4 a.m. when the offenders demanded his money, police said in a community alert Jan. 29. Both men then forcefully took the man's phone and cash.

According to the alert, the offenders were seen at several CTA locations during Wednesday's early morning hours. Police included surveillance photos of the duo walking through a Loop Red Line CTA station in the bulletin.

Anyone with information about the men can contact Det. Ray Verta in CPD's Mass Transit In-

vestigations Unit at 312-745-4443 or 773-664-4880. The case number is JE-124310.

The Jan. 27 robbery is one of several reported on the CTA's North Side and downtown train lines last week.

Up to eight men beat and robbed a 61-year-old man on the Red Line at Grand on Jan. 29. Another group robbed a different victim on the Blue Line near Washington earlier in the day, according to police.

On Jan. 31, at least three CTA passengers were struck with a baseball bat, sprayed with mace, or both by a pair of offenders who committed a series of attacks on the Red Line between downtown and Howard St. Several other passengers reported being threatened by the pair.

Probation for carjacking delivery driver

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man has received probation for his role in the carjacking and robbery of a delivery driver in Uptown two years ago.

Dylan Sanders, 21, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery in exchange for the two-year probation sentence. Prosecutors dropped aggravated battery and other charges in the deal.

Around 10:30 p.m. April 11, 2019, a sushi delivery driver reported that up to 10 teenagers attacked him as he made a delivery near Magnolia Ave. and Gunnison St. During the attack, some members of the group drove away with his car, which had been left idling in the street, according to a

police report.

Police said the victim, who suffered cuts to his face, sought help at a nearby bar.

Sanders was arrested two days after the 2019, carjacking as he allegedly drove the victim's Honda Fit in Rogers Park.

It was the 13th time he had been arrested in Chicago in 14 months, according to CPD records.

Judge Catherine Haberkorn oversaw the carjacking case.



Dylan Sanders

pockets to take his phone and wallet, prosecutors said.

After being taken into custody a few weeks later, Sturdivant allegedly made a statement on video in which he admitted to holding the victim's wallet, saying, "I did what I did, and I got caught."

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PLAYPEN from p. 3

Their goal in the first 12 months is to be in restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and places like Walmart. Hopefully, after Chicago, will come other markets in nearby states. Moton said the next improvement will be increasing the six times distilled to 10 times and also creating PlayPen Black, an expensive, quality, luxury vodka.

“PlayPen is just about hopes -- relaxing, enjoying yourself and pour it and play,” Moton said. “That’s our take on it and we’ll see where it goes I guess.”

And how is PlayPen best served? Moton drinks his martini style, with three shots of PlayPen and one shot of water. When I laughed and told him there had better be a bed nearby if I were to drink that, he said lightweights like me should use two shots PlayPen and one shot of water -- shaken or stirred, martini-style.

We wish Moton and Robinson the best of luck in their new endeavor. And if you do get yourself a bottle of PlayPen, please, drink responsibly.

Dori ... All of us at this newspaper were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of the trend-setting, beautiful PR guru Dori Wilson. Unfortunately, we were going to press just when we heard of the news. Our condolences go out to Dori’s family and friends. Please read our extended cover-



Bowzer the turtle was rescued recently from Indian Boundary Park in West Ridge.

age next week.

Indian Boundary rescue!... Kudos to some quick-thinking Indian Boundary Park employees who recently saved the life of a turtle that was abandoned in the park’s lagoon.

Apparently, a park visitor alerted employee Marvin Tate that a turtle was stranded on the lagoon’s ice. It was around 5 p.m. and getting dark, and I’m told the turtle should have been hibernating and because of the cold, it was barely moving. Had it been left there overnight, it surely would have frozen to death.

Tate alerted another employee, Cynthia McGhee, and she and yet another employee pulled the turtle to them on the ice “like a hockey puck” using broomsticks

and poles. They placed him safely in a tote box and McGhee called animal rescue places but had no luck finding anyone who would take the turtle.

So, she brought the lucky tortoise home. According to research done by McGhee’s son, Felix, an animal lover, it seems to be a yellow-bellied slider, about seven-inches long. It is a land and water turtle belonging to the family Emydidae.

Felix also found out that when turtles hibernate, if it gets warm, sometimes the pond or water they’re hibernating in will “burp” and the hibernating turtle will get pushed up with the bubble.

The turtle, now named Bowzer, will stay with Felix, who has a worm farm and keeps a handy

supply. Bowzer swims in the bathtub and will live there until April, when he will be returned to the lagoon with other turtles.

Park supervisor Phil Martini asked me to help get the word out to people to please not drop their unwanted pets off at Indian Boundary. Bowzer was an easy rescue, but most times, that’s not the case.

“If there’s something we can do we will, but generally, we don’t interfere,” said Martini. It’s not a sanctuary, so “please don’t drop off pets because they won’t be taken care of and they’ll die,” said Martini, who has supervised the park on and off since 1988. “There’s no mechanism for them to be cared for or to get to a shelter.”

Throughout the years people have abandoned various animals, but last year was the most unusual. Someone dropped off a domesticated skunk, one that had been de-scented so it had no defense. The skunk had double stripes, which identified it as not being from around here, Martini said.

Bowzer was very fortunate because he was reachable, Martini said. He’ll be reintroduced to Indian Boundary’s lagoon in April since it’s believed that’s where he came from.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

register was damaged. Video showed the offenders using a sledgehammer to break in around 4:53 a.m.

On Jan. 26, a group of about 6 offenders used a black Jeep and another vehicle as they broke into groceries, liquor stores, and retail shops throughout Lakeview and Old Town.

They wrapped up their night by brazenly dislodging and stealing an ATM from an Old Town service station that was open for business with an employee present.

Police issued two community alerts about the burglary team later the same day. In those bulletins, detectives linked the break-ins to a series of other retail break-ins that were reported in Lincoln Park on Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and 20.

According to CPD, last week’s crew consisted of about six Black males between 18- and 30-years-old who wore masks, gloves, and dark clothing.

Anyone with information about the burglars can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263.

Group beats, robs passenger on Red Line

A group of up to eight offenders beat and robbed a 61-year-old man aboard a Red Line train in River North Jan. 29, police said. Earlier in the morning, another group robbed a man of his backpack and phone on the Blue Line downtown.

The incidents and other recent reports reinforce evidence that the CTA train system’s violent crime rate has doubled despite having significantly fewer riders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most recently, the 61-year-old was riding the Red Line around 5:20 a.m. when a group of about eight young men battered him and took his wallet at the Grand Red Line CTA station, according to CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli.

He sought help after exiting the

train at Van Buren. Fire department personnel treated him for his injuries at the scene, Bartoli said.

She said the suspects are several Black males between 18- and 22-years-old. Police searched for the offenders in a pedestrian tunnel that links the Red and Blue Line trains, but no arrests were made.

Around 12:30 a.m. Jan. 29, a group of four young men or teenagers approached a man on the Blue Line near Washington. The group told the victim, who’s in his 40’s, to hand over his backpack and phone. He complied and the offenders fled, according to Chicago police.

Man shot with rifle inside River North hotel room

A man is hospitalized after being shot in the leg with a rifle while inside a River North hotel room Jan. 30. The shooter fled the scene with the weapon before police arrived.

Police responded to a call of a person shot in a third-floor room of the Hampton Inn, 33 W. Illinois, around 7:20 p.m. Officers found an 18-year-old man inside a guest room with a gunshot wound to his left leg.

In a media statement, CPD said the victim was inside the room when someone “entered the room with a firearm and fired shots at the victim.”

One shell casing from a rifle round was also found inside the room, according to a CPD report. Officers at the scene said the victim was not cooperating with their investigation.

Cops applied a tourniquet to stem the victim’s blood loss until paramedics arrived to transport him to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

The shooter was described as a Black male wearing a pink hoodie and blue jeans at the time of the incident. Witnesses reported seeing three men walk out of the hotel carrying two duffel bags moments before police arrived, but it was not immediately clear if they were involved in the case.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Hotel parties have been an on-going source of shootings and gun-related incidents around the downtown area since room rates have nose-dived during the COVID pandemic.

Armed crew robs food delivery drivers in Edgewater and Uptown

Groups of armed robbers targeted two food delivery drivers within 15 minutes in Edgewater and nearby Uptown on Jan. 29, but neither victim was carjacked. One of the hold-ups took place a block from where two armed hijackings were reported on Jan. 28.

In Friday’s first incident, police said a 28-year-old man was robbed as he prepared to make a delivery on the 1300 block of W. Thorndale around 6:50 p.m.

As he stepped to the back of his vehicle, a black SUV pulled up and five men got out. One of the men displayed a handgun and ordered the victim to hand over his property. The crew got away with his wallet, keys, phone, and cash, according to Officer Ronald Westbrooks, a CPD spokesperson.

The offenders got back into their SUV and drove away — only to come back down the block moments later. Westbrooks said the victim thought they were going to take his car, but they continued driving.

SELF CARE from p. 7

tion.

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According to the victim, the robbers were five Black men between 5’-5” and 5’-8” tall who wore black ski masks and black clothing. Their vehicle may have been a Jeep Cherokee.

Then, just after 7 p.m., another food delivery driver was robbed by five men in the 1600 block of W. Carmen, Westbrooks said.

That driver, age 32, returned to his car after making a delivery when the group walked up to him and two of the offenders displayed handguns. According to Westbrooks, the men threatened to kill him before taking his earbuds, eyeglasses, and car keys.

After the robbery, all five robbers got into a silver Chevy Equinox and drove westbound on Carmen. Once again, the victim’s car was not taken. He told police the robbers were Black males in their late teens who weigh between 120- and 150 lbs and wore black clothing.

On Jan. 28, a group of four offenders carjacked two drivers just minutes apart on the 1200 block of W. Thorndale, about a block from where Friday’s first hold-up was reported.

Five men in a black SUV robbed a man on the 5200 block of N. Lakewood in Andersonville around 7:50 p.m. Jan. 28, too.

No one is in custody for any of the crimes. Area Three detectives are investigating.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

are struggling with their mental health. A healthcare provider can talk to you about how you’re feeling and even prescribe medication, if clinically indicated.

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Angela Patterson is a Chief Nurse Practitioner for Minute-Clinic at CVS

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale**Real Estate For Sale**

030303

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
LOWELL HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,

-v-
TRINITY GREEN LLC-88 W SCHILLER

Defendants
19 CH 10492
88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001
CHICAGO, IL 60610

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 14, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 25, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001, CHICAGO, IL 60610
Property Index No. 17-04-209-043-1008
The real estate is improved with a condominium.
The judgment amount was \$60,897.28.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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For information, Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 175 N. Archer Avenue, Mundelein, IL, 60060 (847) 537-0500. Please refer to file number CLOW001/39010.

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

Thomas M. Olson
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CONCERN from p. 1

coln Park's entertainment scene and the return of tourism.

"We have a lot of ambitious plans for that," said Smith. "We have to work on getting people to come out again. We are going to sit down with the members of the Lincoln Park Chamber, as the pandemic eases, to really push Lincoln Park to the head of the pack [as a destination]. I am deeply concerned about our theaters and our live entertainment. We have so many music venues. The theaters are nearly all non-profit. Without support, some of these theaters could die. I am really looking forward with the city and the chamber and how we are coming to remind people to come out to Lincoln Park."

Kim Schilf, chief executive officer of the LPCC, asked the aldermen about the likelihood of a city park replacing what had been a scrapyards operated by General Iron at 1909 N. Clifton Ave.

"One of the things we are trying to do is to look at the way we approach land planning. If there is going to be a park in our area, we want to make sure there is equality across the board," said Waguespack. "We would like to see a similar type of park space developed on the South Side of the city. Probably a little bit Southwest. So, when you are looking at some of the plans we are talking about, there are connectors. An ability for all people throughout the city to use the same space. If Lincoln Park gets a new park, then [some] critics will say 'inequality.' The way we approach it is to try to make sure there is a focused effort by the city to find funding for different parks."

As in previous years, the Sterling Bay development known as Lincoln Yards,

which occupies the riverfront land that had once been the A. Finkl & Sons Steel Mill, continues to attract a large amount of interest from meeting participants. Along with the possibility of having Lincoln Yards become a Midwestern 'Silicon Valley of Healthcare' and the middling success of the shared-street program in Lincoln Park.

As for the shared-street concept, where bike riders and walkers are encouraged to mingle with cars in the streets, "We did

"We did have a shared-street test run. While it was wildly successful from a use standpoint (we had hundreds of people walking every day), it was not a hit with the immediate neighbors. It was aesthetically awful," said Ald. Michele Smith.

have a test run. While it was wildly successful from a use standpoint (we had hundreds of people walking every day), it was not a hit with the immediate neighbors. It was aesthetically awful," said Smith.

"So, I doubt we will redo that kind of thing, again. Instead, we will look much more closely at issues to make it safer to bike, walk and to drop off kids at St. James Lutheran School at 2101 N. Fremont. We are going to do some signage to help with their pick-up and drop-off to make it smoother for everyone. St. James has been a great partner. That said, I don't think we will be putting in a shared street, again. We are going to look at long term solutions," Smith said.



R2 Companies partnered with Skydeck on the Morton Salt site redevelopment plan. Morton Salt sold the 4.25-acre riverfront site in 2017 for \$15 million. The property includes two giant former salt sheds with 50'-tall ceilings, as well as smaller brick structures that will be repurposed.

MORTON SALT from p. 1

storage and packaging warehouse in 2015, after using it for 86 years. R2 Companies partnered with Skydeck, the investment arm of The Michael Polsky Family Office in Chicago, on the Morton Salt site redevelopment plan. They sold the 4.25-acre site in 2017 for \$15 million. The property includes two giant former salt sheds with 50'-tall ceilings, as well as smaller brick structures that will be repurposed.

"We have worked hand-in-hand with Morton Salt on this iconic riverfront site

— and together, we have found an innovative way to give the property new life," said Matt Garrison, Managing Principal of R2. "It is the most recognizable building in the North Branch Corridor, with unique attributes including dramatic 50' ceiling heights, column free space and over 500 linear feet of frontage. The project will create an important access point to the river, provide more green space and serve as a retail and entertainment anchor for Goose Island. This project will be a catalyst for even more economic development as we take it to the next level."

SETTLEMENT from p. 1

an employee of the association who tried to enter an elevator with him. Video of the incident was captured, without audio, by a security camera, and a board member who later viewed it said, "You can almost see the spit coming out of his mouth, he was so furious with her."

Five days later, Boucher received a second letter, saying he had used profanity with another employee while trying to get a replacement key card, an incident in which witnesses said he was "rude and disrespectful."

At a hearing with the condo board, Boucher's attorney, Norman Lerum, requested a copy of evidence against Boucher, but the request was denied. Lerum later asked for a copy of a videotape of the hearing and that request also was denied.

Board members described in detail how Boucher deserved the fines, testifying that in addition to the two incidents for which he was fined, Boucher had in the past "used sexist, racist, and scatological language, insulted employees, and exposed his scrotum to people in a board meeting."

Complaints against Boucher include calling a female doorman a "cocky bitch," a black unit owner a "ghetto dog," and a condo board president of Italian heritage a "dago."

Boucher says he is "aggressive with everyone" but denies many of the charges.

Settlement was no windfall, says attorney

According to Lerum, the settlement amount "wasn't that significant over and above attorney's fees."

Lerum says that after the case was sent back for trial in 2020, "there was a lot of litigation that we did not anticipate," resulting in "litigation fatigue."

The pandemic kept pushing back the trial date and then Lerum himself caught COVID-19 and was out for three weeks.

"I wanted to try the case and Michael wanted to try the case, except that I anticipated that our trial date would be continued, and I anticipated that it was going to take a lot longer to resolve," said Lerum (left). "Even though he felt like he really wanted to clear his name and clear his reputation and demonstrate that many of the allegations and accusations about his behavior were in fact not true."

Lerum says the 2018 appellate court decision in favor of Boucher was "a bright light for unit owners."

"It firmly established that section 18.4(h) of the Illinois Condominium Property Act is enforceable. It basically states that an association cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion or abridge freedom of speech in any respect, or prohibit the right to peaceably assemble, in a general sense. So, by statute, it guarantees First Amendment rights to unit owners," Lerum said.

The appellate court also ruled CCA violated the Illinois Condominium Property Act by refusing Boucher's request for a copy of the recording of the meeting at which the board considered the misconduct charges, and the association and board members violated their fiduciary duties by withholding from Boucher evidence brought against him.

"It should send the message that they can't be hiding things from unit owners," said Lerum. "They're making decisions about other people's money and other people's property, and when they do that, they need to be honest. They need to be transparent about what they're doing, in a way that invites a discussion, invites maybe a difference of opinion so that a resolution can be reached."

Condo association is no place for open discussion, argued defense attorney

In her unsuccessful petition asking the Supreme Court of Illinois to reconsider the appellate court ruling, Diane Silverberg, a principal of Kovitz Shifrin Nesbit, said Boucher's constitutional rights to free speech were not violated, and condo associations should not be discouraged from issuing fines for bad conduct.

She said the relationship between a condo association and its owners is "contractual, formalized in reasonable covenants," and not a forum for "facilitating academic discourse."

The appellate ruling, she said, would be unfair to unit owners who choose to live in an association with an enforceable code of conduct.

"If left to stand, the [ruling] will enfeeble boards to the point where even good boards, such as that comprised of [the defendants], may shirk from the statutorily mandated enforcement of its governing documents to enforce rule violations," wrote Silverberg.

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