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— Judy Garland

SKYLINE

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Senior LIVING,
page 7

FREE

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

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[Clockwise from top left] Winners include residential, 999 N. Lake Shore Dr.; Outdoor Café Roberts Pizza, 465 N. McClurg; Institution, Northwestern Univ. Feinberg School of Medicine, and Commercial, 541 N. Fairbanks.

Streeterville's 2020 beautification winners shine during a dark year

Despite a pandemic, multiple protests, rioting and all the crime, violence, carjacking and looting that took place in the Streeterville neighborhood in 2020, the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] has continued to serve as a community organization that advocates and promotes Streeterville for all who live in, work in and enjoy the neighborhood.

In celebrating its 45th anniversary,

SOAR president Deborah Gershbein and her membership helped to recognize the good that shined over bad in presenting their annual Beautification Awards to their Streeterville neighbors.

In 1987 SOAR established its Beautification Awards for Streeterville, and each year since, they have awarded buildings in the neighborhood with this prestigious award. "Despite these challenging times, SOAR decided to

continue with its Beautification Awards in 2020," said Gershbein. "This year was more important than ever as the award has established a tradition of honoring the efforts of those that keep our urban neighborhood bright and beautiful and thriving. We wanted to thank the property owners who worked hard to keep our neighborhood beautiful during

WINNERS see p. 12

Nearly 9,000 affected by state mailing SNAFU

Incident involving protected health information

Due to a mailing mistake, almost 9,000 files statewide relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families [TANF] and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] were misdirected to the wrong people.

The State claims that a file received from the National Change of Address registry at the U.S. Postal Service was matched against an out-of-date client file by a state employee, and that the resulting file was loaded into the State's eligibility system, and incorrectly changed the addresses for 8,848 of the Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services [HFS] and Illinois Dept. of Human Services [IDHS] households.

As a result of the error, in late

November and December 2020, notices were mailed to 8,848 households at incorrect addresses.

Notices were sent to the right customer name at the wrong customer address.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and corresponding regulations of the State of Illinois, the HFS and the IDHS are notifying state residents of a security incident within the State of Illinois.

The notices may have included name, case number, status as a recipient of medical assistance, TANF or SNAP benefits, names of dependents, birth dates, medical information numbers, medical eligibility category, and medical coverage dates. Of the 8,848 notices that were mailed, one notice included a complete Social Security number, and five notices in-

cluded a complete bank account number.

To date, the State is unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of personal information as a result of the incident.

The State is now in the process of sending letters to the individuals whose information was sent to the incorrect address, members of the Illinois General Assembly, and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General.

Individuals with questions may write to: HFS HIPAA/Privacy Officer, 201 S. Grand Ave. East, Springfield, IL 62763, or email HFS.Privacy.Officer@illinois.gov. Credit reporting agencies and the Federal Trade Commission can also offer information about fraud alerts and security freezes and contact information for those organizations are being provided to the affected individuals.

Loop pedestrian activity down 58% last year



Intersection of Randolph & State streets in the Loop.

Photo by Adam Alexander

The decline in pedestrian activity in downtown Chicago is typical for the entire country, according to a new report.

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

There's been plenty of easy street parking in the Loop these days. Pedestrian activity in the Loop last year was less than half of what it was in 2019.

Chicago Loop Alliance [CLA] says its measure of people walking on State St., from Wacker Dr. south to Ida B. Wells Dr., was down 58% in 2020 from 2019.

Vehicle traffic was down 39%.

"The Loop has suffered enormously during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Michael Edwards, CEO of CLA. "Office workers largely stayed home, many other workers were laid off or furloughed, and tourism took a huge hit. The Loop's storefront economy cannot be sustained by downtown residents alone. We are hopeful the COVID-19 vaccine starts to bring people back downtown safely."

Perhaps one of the biggest business trends in a generation is the

PEDESTRIAN see p. 12

Postal problems continue on North Side

Over the last three months, almost every North Side neighborhood - and neighborhoods city-wide - have complained about delayed and spotty U.S. Postal Service mail delivery.

It is a problem that appears to be spreading further, rather than being fixed by the U.S. Postal Service [USPS] or any local federal officials.

Every North Side alderman these days seems to be encouraging USPS customers that have a concern with their mail delivery, questions about specific pieces of mail, and or other service issues to contact their local Postal station or the Consumer Affairs office at 312-983-8403.

On the North Side, city and state officials are encouraging residents and businesses to contact Congressmen Michael Quigley and Jan Schakowsky, and

Senator Dick Durbin.

Mail service in Chicago has been spotty for well over a decade, but in the last year, the in-

Many communities now complain of no mail deliveries in weeks to a full month, and a lot of USPS customers are now going to their neighborhood branches to try and collect their mail in person, with mixed results.

ability to deliver mail even a few times a week became ubiquitous. Many communities now complain of no mail deliveries in weeks to a full month, and a lot of USPS

POSTAL see p. 12



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Cultivating the resilience to stir the pot



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

The recent polar vortex and the almost 12 months of quarantine have given me a certain fresh "Chicago toughness."

The monastic intelligence that has grown during our lockdown has not been without some measured wisdom and thoughtful incentives. Our everyday cautions against the COVID virus have not been without some character-building.

So we fall back on our strengths which may be more visible to us now. Those resources are life-giving.

Perhaps it's because we're reading better literary material. Maybe it's because we're better focused in determining what's of real value.

Maybe we're just eating better, resting more, drinking less or helping more.

Do you feel more invested in things?

I love that many people have begun a new relationship with food, taking things more seriously in the kitchen, around the dining table, eating as a family again. More homemade soups, cheesy pastas, bedtime hot chocolates, homemade biscuits and breads. Some have discovered the many layered joys that better foods bring to the overall quality of life, in ways that a few White Castles can't conceive of. Or what sharing a favorite Pinot Noir is really all about.

Saturday I made a Boeuf Bourguignon, one-pot cooking, French peasant style. A chuck roast (4 lbs), good, marbled beef, cut in large pieces.

For the slow, long cook, here's

the secret: Brown the meat in some olive oil and sprinkle some sugar on the meat as it browns. The sugar works to create a caramel-like glaze. Makes the meat brown perfectly. Later this "browning" will be responsible for the deep, dark, savory quality of your sauce. It starts in the beginning.

We make this dish a lot. So perfecting its refinements has been slow and subtle. After the browning, just add most of a good bottle of Burgundy. (Save about 8 oz and add it 20 minutes before serving.) Add brown mushrooms, a thinly sliced red onion, carrots. No celery (important). Bit of tomato paste (no tomatoes). Fresh rosemary and a big tablespoon of Herbs du Provence. Coarse black pepper, fresh crushed garlic to taste (I use five big cloves) and chopped parsley (a lot).

Then add some good beef broth, two or three cups. Simmer slow for three to four hours. You can thicken the sauce at the end.

Sample the dish while it simmers. You'll be amazed how it changes. I don't use salt. If you do, go lightly.

Serve with creamy mashed potatoes, I also like potatoes latkes (we get ours from Ukrainian Deli) and crunchy French bread. Wash it down with a fruity French red wine. Splurge.

No food has the power like this stew to keep everyone warm. This, for me, is the essential French dish, perfected over the living of real life in France. Savor the leftovers, I like to turn them into a pie two days later.

Creating a classic meal like Boeuf Bourguignon easily becomes a joyous celebration of cooking accomplishment and magnificent tastes. All the great flavors are there, your job as chef is to bring them together and let the heat and time work its magic.

I really believe that this is what we need to be about right now, cooking well, as we hit the 12-month mark of quarantine and pandemic.

As we mark time between our inoculations.

And as we attempt to shape what we can't control with the things we are really good at.

I've noticed that I have made new transition paintings in the last few weeks. I'd like to think that it's a spiritual thing, an aesthetic expression of something going on inside of me, closed up for so long during the pandemic.

No matter how much snow is on the ground or how low the temperature sinks. At such moments of reality, we always have Boeuf Bourguignon and a fresh painting to do. By which I mean we have the challenge to create something luscious in a perilous time.

Maybe your dish is a Chicken Cacciatore or a Lamb Stew made with Guinness. Or a French Omelette. Or a tuna salad canapé.

I suppose what I'm trying to encourage in the characters of our Chicago readers, you, is that hope is to be found in the strangest of places. With people we may never have expected to uncover it. Or from the past when we never took the time to figure out. Many folk have lost precious friends and family to the pandemic. Their loss will seriously alter our living. But we also have the resources to go on. To build lives of meaning and purpose that will strengthen others around us. People willing to stir the pot with us.

Or pour the wine or slice the bread despite the warring factions of fractious local politics. And human greed. And heartbroken fears. We have fresh resources to lift our vision from worrying about ourselves, to finding the hurt in one another. That's what this Boeuf Bourguignon is all about. The human resilience to create "le dish classique."

Chicago's toughness is our capacity to survive.

U R B A N A M E R I C A ' S B E S T: Rob Weibert-Kendt, an arts journalist, is editor of American Theater magazine and a frequent contributor to the New

York Times, Time Out New York, other publications of note and a popular blog, The Wicked Stage. He recently wrote an optimistic, hope-filled piece in 'America,' the prestigious publication by the Jesuits, calling Chicago the nation's greatest city. Try and get a copy of the magazine, worth the read. The piece was triggered by Steve James' stylish five-part documentary, "City So Real," the work of National Geographic magazine and Hulu. Try and view the whole thing. You'll be glad you did. 'City So Real' explores Chicago, a great American city in

need of redemption.

WHO'S THE BOSS? If more aldermen got hoodwinked at local Chicago saloons, either saloons would get safer or thugs would

get less daring. Glad **Ald. Brendan Reilly** [42nd] is OK. Sorry he was hoodwinked and roughed up by thugs while at the Boss Bar on Clark St. Known to be his favorite watering hole. The thugs must be new in town not knowing who Reilly was. They're lucky he didn't press charges. **Royko** up. Aldermen should be free



Ald. Brendan Reilly

to patronize their locals in the ward. This is the equivalent of **Old Man Daley** getting pick-pocketed at Schaller's. Or **Ald. Tom Tunney** [44th] getting Mickey-Finned at the Cubby Bear.

In the past aldermen like **Bathhouse John Coughlin** or **Hinky Dink Kenna**, of Levee District fame, or "Chicago ain't ready for reform" North Side aldermen like **Paddy Bauler**, who once operated a speakeasy at Willow and Howe streets during prohibition - or **Charlie Weber**,

whose ward headquarters was a bierstube next to St. Alphonsus Church - would have made sure the thugs were 'sleeping with the fishes.' But now that **Mike Madigan** has vacated his Democratic Chairman's seat, there's no telling who'll be moving on or staying put. Even in the 42nd Ward.

REAL MAN: Visionary performer and tech-savvy musician **Todd Rundgren** is in the middle of a 25-city virtual concert tour from Chicago's South Side. His performances on the "Clearly Human Virtual Tour" are all geo-fenced and individually programmed to a different US city featured on the tour. But in the real world, Todd is performing all of his shows from one undisclosed location on this fair city's South Side.



Todd Rundgren

Always ahead of the trends, Todd thinks this might be the future of the touring business in a pandemic era. So no more waiting in long lines to use stinky porta-potties at Alpine Valley, something we can all be thankful for. Plus the beer and munchies are cheaper.

THE HOUSE OF BLUES: **Prince Harry** and **Meghan Markle, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex**, are set to sit down with the media mogul **Oprah Winfrey** on March 7. The 90-minute interview, aptly called "Oprah with Meghan and Harry," is set to air 7 p.m. on CBS.

A HIGHER STANDARD: Three cheers for North Side State Rep. **Kelly Cassidy** who called for **Mike Madigan** to step down long before it was popular, back when he was still denying any wrongdoing. She demanded a "high standard" for party leadership after seeing the 'king had no clothes' back in July, bucking the party leadership on principle, before the parade had even formed. We're just saying...

UNAPOLOGETIC: A solo exhibition by **Roger J. Carter** opens to the public on Tuesday, March 9 at Pilsen Yards, 1163 W. 18th St. Opening day will be solely focused on the artwork and feature a variety of new creations available for sale. The exhibition will run for one month concurrently with the restaurants dining



Roger J. Carter

schedule. You must RSVP online to secure a viewing a time. Punctual arrival is strongly suggested for this highly anticipated show.

LYRIC OPERA: A beguiling

RESILIENCE see p. 6

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Going ape over "Gorilla In The Room"



Heart
of the
'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

If you're a cancer patient, a cancer survivor, a caregiver, theater fan, military enthusiast or just someone who wants to read a beautifully-written and inspiring new book by a local author, please pick up a copy of Gold Coaster Ed Tracy's "Gorilla In The Room And Other Stories."

In June 2008, Tracy was diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer, and the great thing is, he's here today to tell his story. As he battled the disease, Tracy was surprised by the fact that when chemotherapy treatments commenced, he started recalling specific life experiences with vivid memories.

Soon Tracy was exploring his past and that's what we get to read about. From the get-go we start learning about his growing up in rural Vermont farm country, acting in college theater, and his heartfelt remembrances of many of his inspirational friends and mentors.

Along with that, Tracy -- who has quite the imagination -- also imagined a cancer-treatment-based musical comedy, "Gorilla In The Room," set in an oncology ward on a Broadway stage with costumes and music and patients and hope and the "Club" that nobody wants to be in, the Cancer Club.

When he needed to mentally check out of chemo treatment, Tracy checked into imaginary "Gorilla" rehearsals.

He has put together a wonderful collection of essays, letters and other writings and he takes us back and forth between the musical and homespun stories of people, places, and events that inspired him. We follow Tracy's life from the farm to New York and later Chicago, where he helped launch the Pritzker Military Library and became a theater critic.

Along the way we meet Medal of Honor recipients, theater and media personalities as well as doctors, Tracy's family, Buster Keaton's widow, and even Werner Klemperer who was Colonel Klink on the old TV sitcom "Hogan's Heroes." The book is meant to "inspire others to face the challenges in their own lives, live with and learn from their mistakes, practice forgiveness, cherish accomplishments no matter how small, and remember to respect and honor the people who had faith in them along the way."

And that it does.

This is not a tale about cancer -- it's much more than that. It's a hope-sending memoir, filled with stories of resilience, love, family, friendship and fascinating people. I laughed, I cried, and as a fel-



Gold Coaster Ed Tracy has written an endearing new book, Gorilla In The Room.

Photo by Matt Ferguson/ExecPIX.com. Book cover art by James Dietz.

low "Club" member and cancer survivor I identified with Tracy. I mourned with him when his parents died and when he wrote of his mother, Helen, singing the Irving Berlin song "Always," I quietly shed a tear for my own grandmother, who used to sing "Always," -- her favorite -- to me when I was a little girl.



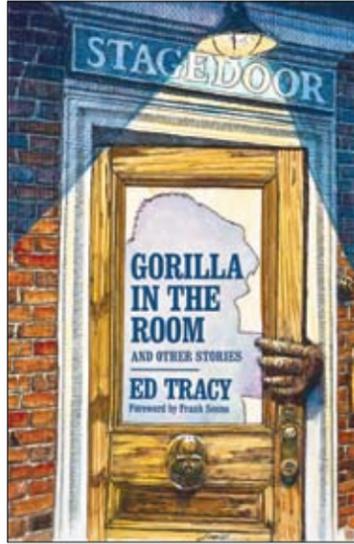
Art by James Dietz

When he needed to mentally check out of chemo treatment, Tracy checked into imaginary "Gorilla" rehearsals.

Tracy is an award-winning television/webcast producer/program host who's president of Roxbury Road Creative, LLC, a Chicago-based professional management company. He has produced major events and hosted presentations for the City, the National World War II Museum, EbertFest, the Union League Club of Chicago, the Richard H. Driehaus Museum, the Chicago History Museum and many more. Tracy is also the proud owner of a Chicago Midwest Regional Emmy Award as executive producer/co-host of a live broadcast of the Medal of Honor Convention Opening Ceremony at Soldier Field. And besides all the aforementioned accomplishments, he also managed to snag one of our town's most gifted entertainers/writers/producers, Denise McGowan.

I had no idea that he was as talented as his lovely wife!

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month with Friday being Dress in Blue Day. If you can, put on some blue clothing or a blue ribbon to raise awareness of this horrible disease and honor those affected by it.



We caught up with Tracy for a little more info on "Gorilla." We thank him for chatting.

Q. What made you decide to write Gorilla in the Room and why did you choose that title?

A. Until you receive a cancer diagnosis and join the "Club," it is difficult to imagine how you and those around you will react to it. That was Rule #1 for me: Nobody's cancer journey is the same. It was that advice from my surgeon that kept me off the Internet and focused on my family, my job and getting back in the game. When I felt up to it during treatment, I wrote about topics that were not related to the work I was doing at the time. And I became a very active listener and observer. Conversations took on new meaning and I was acutely aware of what people were saying to me.

There was no place that this was more apparent than in the chemotherapy treatment center at Northwestern Hosp. In the face of so many others facing their challenges around me, I began to imagine a Broadway musical filled with patients, caregivers and hope. I shared the idea with my medical team and the dedicated clinicians in the ward, who were treating over 30 patients in multiple shifts over the course of a day. The arc of the show then poured out one night, a trainwreck of a musical comedy with Joe Gorilla, a larger-than-life central character who, with his minions--the "Chaosals"--appear throughout the musical to cause the kind of havoc in and around the ward operations that only members in the club will relate to in their own lives. "Gorilla in the Room" was the first song written for the musical.

Q. How difficult, both emotionally and physically, was it to put it all together?

A. Emotionally, it was very therapeutic for me to explore my past as if I was telling the story to an old friend. The essays, letters and stories are all connected by the musical scenes. The tributes to people I knew, mentors and moments that had an impact on my life seemed to crystalize during my chemotherapy treatment.

Morton's Salt project passes muster in City Hall

A new riverfront concert and entertainment district may soon become a reality now that City Hall has approved a zoning change request.

The developers of a former Morton Salt warehouse along the west bank of the Chicago River could soon begin its \$50 million redevelopment as the plan was approved by City Council on Feb. 26.

The vote was what developers Blue Star Properties and R2 needed to allow nonindustrial uses for the facility, which sits on 4.25 riverfront acres adjacent to Goose Island.

Chicago restaurant and entertainment group 16" on Center plans to put on concerts and other events at the Elston Ave. property known for the salt company's landmark "Umbrella Girl" sign.

Once done, the complex may be able to accommodate crowds as large as 3,600 inside a former salt shed, and 7,000 people outside. The site is large enough for multiple events to happen simultaneously.

"We're very optimistic about the future of live entertainment and live experiences in general," Golden told the Chicago Tribune. "We want to redefine what a live music experience is in Chicago. Having that



fairground allows you to have some food, walk around, look at some jewelry or books, and after the show you have a drink on the river or take a boat ride. It is a magical type of place. At night it's beautiful." 16" on Center also owns concert venues Empty Bottle and Thalia Hall, along with Revival Food Hall.

The developers say they are in talks with groups such as breweries, coffee roasters and small manufacturers of products such as furniture to lease space in the main brick structure.

Morton Salt has leased-back a 20,000-square-foot research-and-development space at the site.

The developers hope the be underway this summer and have already lined up construction financing. The first tenants could move in by early next year, and the indoor events venue should open by late summer 2022.

Writing was a great escape for me at the time and helped to ease the sadness of loss that I felt for on the passing of John Callaway, Werner Klemperer and Medal of Honor recipient Walt Ehlers. I learned later that writing letters was a way to process the grief of sudden loss.

One result of my treatment was a severe and lasting case of peripheral neuropathy which affected my hands and feet and curtailed activities like golf, bike

GORILLA see p. 10



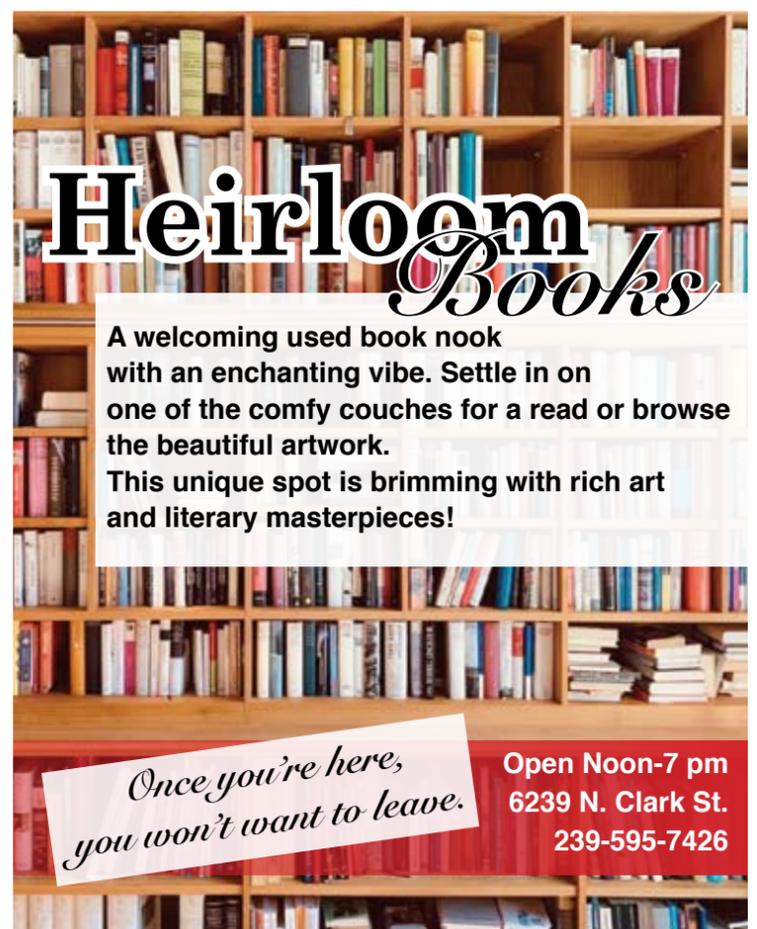
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Chicago's home and condo markets off to fast start



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Strong buyer demand during the pandemic kicked Chicago's home and condominium resale market off to a fast start in January, analysts say.

Residential resales climbed 16.9% to 1,678 units, while the median price rose 15.8% to \$310,000, and the average market time dipped 17 days to 85 days, reported Midwest Real Estate Data, the regional multiple listing service. The total inventory of homes for sale increased 7.9% to 7,143 units.

"However, when we look at the detached and attached markets separately, we see some important distinctions," noted housing analyst Mary Jo Nathan of the Charese Team at Compass Roscoe Village.

Resale home listings scarce

In the detached single-family home segment, inventory fell 46.1% to 1,345 existing-home listings. Despite strong demand for homes, the lack of supply held sales to 714 units, a 7.9% increase over Jan. 2020. The median home sales price spiked 21%



"Optimism continues as the economy slowly regains its footing, thus affecting mortgage rates," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "Though rates continue to rise, they remain near historic lows."

to \$275,000, and average market time decreased by 19 days to 75 days.

"Despite the inventory headwinds, January's results were exceptional from a historical perspective," noted Nathan, a North Side residential real estate broker since 2000.

"The median sales price was the highest ever recorded for Chicago in January, while the sales total was the largest and average market time the lowest since 2006, the peak of the housing boom that preceded the Great Recession," Nathan said.

Condo listings soar

In the housing attached market—which primarily consists of condominiums and town homes—there were 964 city sales in January, up 24.5% from the same month in 2020. The median sales price gained 10% to \$345,000, a

January record, and average market time shortened by 17 days to 91 days. Attached housing inventory skyrocketed 40.6% to 5,798 units, compared with January of 2020.

"Many condo buyers are also sellers because they are looking for more space now that they are working from home during the pandemic," Nathan explained. "A significant number of buyers want to move to a single-family home, which helps explain why demand is so strong in that segment."

Sales hot in the suburbs

As robust as city home sales were in January, the suburbs were even hotter. Sales across the seven-county Chicago metro area were up 22.5% to 7,000 homes, and the median sales price rose 15.8% to \$272,000. Average market time was 72 days.

The increases were comparable

in both housing segments. Detached home sales up 21.4% and the median price gained 17.9% to \$299,900, while attached sales rose 24.7%. The median price increased 10.3% to \$215,000.

Mortgage-rate creep

On Feb. 25, benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.97% nationwide, up from 2.81% a week earlier, reported Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey. A year ago, 30-year fixed loans averaged 3.45%. Fifteen-year fixed mortgages averaged 2.34%, up from 2.21% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed loans averaged 2.95%.

On Feb. 25, Gateway Capital Mortgage in Chicago was quoting 2.877% on 30-year loans and 2.5% on 15-year mortgages, reported RateSeeker.com.

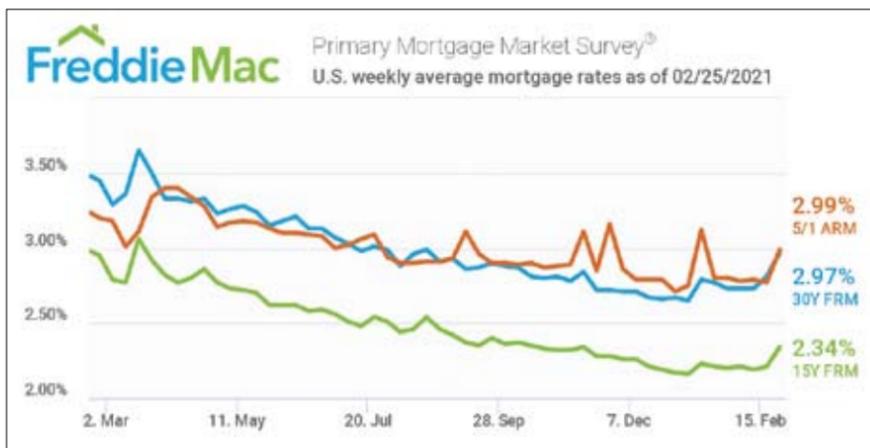
The Freddie Mac survey is focused on conventional, conform-

ing, fully amortizing home purchase loans for borrowers who put 20% down and have excellent credit.

"Optimism continues as the economy slowly regains its footing, thus affecting mortgage rates," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "Though rates continue to rise, they remain near historic lows."

However, when combined with demand-fueled rising home prices and low inventory, "these rising rates limit how competitive a potential home buyer can be and how much house they are able to purchase," Khater said.

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.



Restaurants, hotels call for reopening plan

Industry officials warn they can't last another year

BY PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois

Officials from the hotel, restaurant and convention industries told a state Senate panel last week that they need a clear plan for how they will be allowed to reopen as the COVID-19 pandemic wanes, warning that without such a plan, many will go out of business permanently.

"We need to know ... a strategy, we need to know the metrics as we move forward because we cannot, we cannot lose another summer here in the state of Illinois," Sam Toia, president and CEO of the Illinois Restaurant Association, told the state Senate's newly-formed Tourism and Hospitality Committee during its

first virtual hearing.

The committee was set up this year by Senate President Don Harmon because the state's tourism industry has been among the hardest hit by the pandemic.

Currently, all regions of the state are under Phase 4 mitigations, which limits private gatherings to no more than 50 people. But Toia argued that many restaurants are capable of handling larger numbers of people safely, and he said there should be a more specific plan that would allow bars, restaurants and hotels to gradually move out of Phase 4 toward Phase 5, which is full reopening.

"We just want to know when we can go back to having conventions, having parties, private

parties, figuring out when we can have some fans in stadiums. This is very, very unclear," he said. "And we just want to get adjusted of what Phase 5 is going to look like. I don't think we can wait 12 to 18 months."

Michael Jacobson, president and CEO of the Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association, agreed, saying that without such a plan, hotels risk losing not just another season, but another year.

"What our industry needs is clarity," he said. "Meeting planners are making their plans right now for events booked this summer and beyond. ... Because of how long these planners book in advance, we cannot take a day-by-day approach to these restrictions. Otherwise, we are putting months and months of future business at risk of leaving our state. And once a meeting leaves Illinois, it

becomes so much harder to convince that organizer to come back to our state."

Jacobson said the statewide average occupancy rate for hotels in Illinois in December was only 27%, roughly half what it was a year earlier. That compared to a nationwide average occupancy rate of 37%.

During a one-week period in January, he said, the occupancy rate among Chicago hotels was down 84% from a comparable week in 2019.

"It has become clear that we will be among the last industries to recover from this disaster. In fact, we don't anticipate a recovery to pre-pandemic levels until 2024 at the earliest," Jacobson said. "And that is assuming that the recovery accelerates here in the next couple of months."

Toia and Jacobson both noted that other states are adopting plans that allow for a more grad-

ual reopening of businesses with larger and larger group limits. Both also argued that workers in those industries should be prioritized for vaccinations.

According to the "Restore Illinois" reopening plan, the state can only move into Phase 5 when "testing, tracing and treatment are widely available throughout the state. Either a vaccine is developed to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, a treatment option is readily available that ensures health care capacity is no longer a concern, or there are no new cases over a sustained period."

Toia and Jacobson argued that with vaccines now in distribution and the spread of the disease greatly slowed, it's time for the administration to start making more specific plans for how and when the state can transition to Phase 5. The state's rolling seven-day case positivity rate on Feb. 25 was 2.7%, the lowest it's been since early July.

Senate Health Committee Chairwoman Sara Feigenholtz, from the North Side's 6th District, said the committee would review that letter and any response the administration provides. "Our goal is to meet and construct a safe plan to get tourists into hotels, restaurants and our cultural institutions. There is a path to do this safely, and Illinois must look at the modeling and metrics of other states in order to kick-start a struggling industry."

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Corruption spikes in 2019; Chicago still America's 'most corrupt city'

Illinois remains third among the states



Some of Chicago's most powerful political figures have recently been named in criminal investigations, adding to Chicago's world-wide, age-old reputation for vast political corruption.

BY STAFF

Corruption spiked in Chicago in 2019, a year when some of the most important public corruption scandals in the history of Chicago and Illinois were exposed, according to a report released by political scientists at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago.

"Bombshell corruption news in 2019 dethroned the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representative; forced city's most powerful alderman to relinquish his Finance Committee chairmanship; upset Chicago's Mayoral election campaign; torpedoed the most powerful and well-known candidate, and caused the resignation of numerous public officials," said former Ald. Dick Simpson, a political science professor at UIC, and the principal author of the report.

The investigation surrounding Michael Madigan caused him to lose reelection as Speaker in 2021 and to resign his seat in the House.

Other co-authors of the report, entitled Corruption Spikes in Illinois, are Marco Rosaire Rossi, a PhD candidate and political science student at UIC, and Thomas J. Gradel, a former political consultant. In the report, the authors analyze public corruption statistics published annually since 1976 by the U.S. Dept. of Justice [DOJ].

DOJ's Public Integrity unit compiles convictions by Federal Judicial Districts which are based in major cities. The authors also researched court filings, releases from the three U.S. Attorneys in Illinois, and articles by state's major news outlets.

In 2019, federal public corruption convictions rose to 26 in Northern Illinois Federal Judicial District, which is based in Chicago, bringing Chicago's cumulative total to 1,770 for the 43-year period since DOJ began publishing the statistics.

Chicago's 26 convictions in 2019 were double the total of 13 in 2018, but down from an average of 41 per year. And, if you look at only the last decade, 2010 to 2019, Chicago, with 285 convictions, slips to 6th place, tied with Miami. Richmond, Virginia, with 391, had the most corruption convictions in the decade; followed by Baltimore, Maryland, 352; Los Angeles, California, 342; Newark, New Jersey, 303; and Austin/

San Antonio, Texas, 290.

The State of Illinois had 32 total corruption convictions in 2019, which included the 26 from the Chicago-based judicial district. Since 1976, Illinois had a total of 2,152, making it the third most corrupt state on a per capita basis. While California, New York and several other states had more federal public corruption convictions than Illinois in the 43-year period, the Prairie State has a much smaller population and thus a higher rate of convictions per capita.

Despite the decline in convictions in recent years, Chicago's cumulative total of 1,770 convictions, with an average of 42 con-

over a two-year period. Solis agreed to record Burke's conversations after he was confronted by law enforcement with evidence of his own alleged misdeeds.

On Jan. 29, 2019, the Sun-Times reported that it obtained a federal affidavit stating that the FBI secretly recorded Speaker Michael Madigan trying to get business for his law firm from a developer brought to him by Ald. Danny Solis. The developer wanted to build a hotel in Chinatown and Madigan wanted a new client for his law firm.

In May 2019, the FBI raided the City Club's offices for documents about Commonwealth Edison.

The FBI had a subpoena seeking information on political hiring and contracting at Commonwealth Edison. Michael Madigan was named in the subpoena.

Speaker Madigan had other legal and political trouble. In March, Alaina Hampton, a former campaign worker filed a federal sexual harassment lawsuit against four of Michael Madigan's campaign committees. She charged that Kevin Quinn, a Madigan aide, had sent her a barrage of unwanted messages and phone calls in pursuit of a romantic and sexual relationship. She settled the lawsuit later in 2019 for \$275,000.

Madigan then fired Quinn. He also forced the resignation of Tim Mapes, his chief of staff and clerk of the Illinois House, after Mapes was accused of making repeated inappropriate comments to a clerk in the Speakers office.

Additional political corruption scandals were exposed in 2019

In July, John T. Coli, former head of Teamsters Local 727 and Former President of Teamsters Joint Council 25, pleaded guilty to accepting \$325,000 in cash from Cinespace Chicago Film Studios. Cinespace employs workers represented by Coli's union. The joint council represents more than 100,000 workers in Illinois and Indiana. Coli, as a Teamster chief, was a political powerhouse in Illinois.

In August, Illinois State Senator Thomas Cullerton of Villa Park was indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly receiving more than \$250,000 in salary and benefits as an organizer for the Teamsters. Coli hired Cullerton for a "ghost" job, that didn't ac-

Chicago's 26 convictions in 2019 were double the total of 13 in 2018, but down from an average of 41 per year. And, if you look at only the last decade, 2010 to 2019, Chicago, with 285 convictions, slips to 6th place, tied with Miami.

victions per year, makes it the most corrupt city in the nation. Los Angeles is in second place with a total of 1,588, an average of 37 per year; followed by New York/Manhattan 1,361 or 32 per year; Miami 1,234 or 29 per year; and Washington D.C. with 1,199 for an average of 28 per year.

Bombshell Corruption in 2019

On January 2, 2019, the FBI charged Ald. Edward Burke [14th] and Chairman of the City Council Finance Committee, with attempted extortion for allegedly offering to approve remodeling permits for a Burger King restaurant in exchange for business for his law firm. The FBI disclosed that federal agents had recorded Burke's telephone conversations for more than 19 months. As a result of the scandal, Burke resigned as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mayor Rahm Emanuel ordered an independent audit of the \$100 million-per-year workers compensation program that had been under Burke's control. In June 2020, Mayor Lori Lightfoot transferred day-to-day control of the program to an outside private company.

Ald. Danny Solis, Alderman [25th] and Chairman of the City Council's Zoning Committee, wore an undercover device to record conversations with Burke

Cook County Board brings transparency to TIF spending

The Cook County Board of Commissioners has enacted an ordinance that would increase disclosure in an area where it is long overdue — Tax Increment Financing districts [TIF], Treasurer Maria Pappas said Feb. 25.

The Board approved an amendment to the Debt Disclosure Ordinance, which allows the Treasurer's Office to gather vital financial data for the county's 547 primary taxing districts and publish it on cookcountytreasurer.com.

The amendment would give taxpayers the opportunity to examine how TIF dollars have been spent and to whom. This information also would be posted online for taxpayers to view and download. Pappas suggested the idea to the board and helped draft the amendment.

"The Board took groundbreaking action regarding transparency when it passed the Debt Disclosure Ordinance in 2009," Pappas said. "I am grateful to the Board for doing the same with TIFs."

North Side Commissioner Larry Suffredin [13th] was a lead sponsor of the amendment,

which had 13 cosponsors, including those serving the North Side: Bridget Degen [12th] and Bridget Gainer [10th].

In Cook County, 444 TIF Districts accounted for more than \$1.3 billion in property tax revenue last year — or 8.4% of the entire \$15.6 billion billed.

TIF tax funds may go to four North Side parks

The playgrounds at four North Side neighborhood parks may be improved with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) tax receipts proposed to City Council Feb. 24.

If passed, the sites will get new equipment and/or resurfacing. Each project would replace older visitor amenities with modern equipment that meets today's safety and accessibility standards.

The parks and funding amounts include Theodore Gross Park, 2708 W. Lawrence Ave., (\$175,000); Winemac Park, 5001 N. Leavitt St., (\$200,000); Salmon Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland Ave., (\$125,000), and Broncho Billy Park, 4437 N. Magnolia Ave., (\$175,000).

actually exist. Federal prosecutors alleged that Cullerton violated labor law for being paid as an organizer despite doing little or no work for the Teamsters.

In September, the home of State Senator Martin Sandoval of Cicero was raided by federal officials seeking bribery evidence related to the placement of red-light cameras in suburban municipalities. Sandoval was indicted and pleaded guilty in 2020. He died in Dec. 2020 of COVID-19 complications.

In October, State Representative Louis Arroyo of Chicago, who was also a lobbyist, was charged with bribing a State Senator to obtain changes in Illinois gambling laws to benefit his client.

The report also describes a 2019 raid on Ald. Carrie Austin's 34th Ward office; the guilty plea to fraud charges by former Ald. Willie Cochran [20th]; the indictments of six Harvey, IL, officials; guilty pleas by two Chicago police officers for accepting bribes from a lawyer referral ser-

vice in exchange for information about traffic accidents and crash victims; the conviction of Chicago police officer Eddie Hicks for racketeering, drug conspiracy and other charges; and other numerous incidents of corruption.

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Talk on Loyola Beach Dunes habitat



The Northtown Garden Society is hosting a guess speaker who will be speaking about dune habitat restoration at Loyola Beach, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 4, on Zoom.

Ann Whelan, a longtime resident of Rogers Park, who is known as the "Dune Steward," leads a group of over 200 volunteers who have worked since 2003 to protect and restore the dune

habitat at Loyola Beach Dunes, 1230 W. Greenleaf.

Their mission is to maintain a native wilderness in the city and restore the dunes as a native shoreline.

The Zoom meeting ID is 7068727845, and password is x56XGG. For more information on the Northtown Garden Society visit www.northtowngardensociety.org.

Letter to the Editor

Is this how tyranny starts?

Your story "Is the Land of Lincoln being cancelled?" and Mr. O'Gorman's column [Feb. 24] are spot-on regarding the erasure of American history going on in the name of being "woke."

The language of the people quoted in [these two] articles is absolutely Orwellian. When this country descends into despotism and tyranny it can

be said that this is one of the places it started.

Hopefully I won't be alive to see it.

If I am, I will be sent to a death camp because I am a straight, White male that isn't "woke." I am not fragile, guilty or ashamed.

Robert Wise, Edgewater

RESILIENCE from p. 2

75-minute program that showcases the talent in Lyric Opera's Ryan Center training program and serves as a lively introduction to **Enrique Mazzola**, the Music Director designate of Lyric. For more information about this 75-minute concert, as well as other Lyric programs visit www.lyricopera.org.

PANDEMIC LUNCH: Reports from Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill are that conditions are healthy and strong. Tables are set at approved controlled distances safe for dining. And the patio is presently getting a rest and face-lift before the Spring weather arrives. Reservations essential.

WHO'S WHERE? **Thomas Demetrio** made his Broadway debut in Times Square with signage declaring him the lawyer ranked first by Illinois Super Lawyers for 2021... attorney **Dan Balanoff** down in Austin, TX, when they lost power, marooned with friends, then began to collect needed items for folk getting desperate and working with Austin disaster relief network... **Chuck** and **Candace Jordan** at Palm Beach Grill and lookin' for a place to dance off dessert... **Shay Clark** still in Dublin, up early and outdoors armed with the Irish Times, a mug of coffee and a fa-



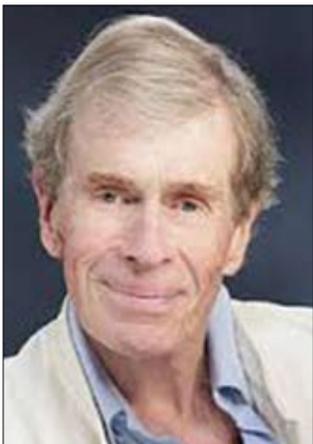
Thomas Demetrio



Guy Stanley Philoche



Enrique Mazzola



John Reilly



Keith Haring



Sherrill Bodine with Sebastian and Christina.

mous hot cross bun... **Heather Farley** packing her bags and out the door for warm breezes in Palm Beach... **Linda** and **David Mahan**, aka "Shake and Looney," making progress sailing from Maine to Florida now in moss covered, sunny Savannah, GA... **Mark Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** in Hyde Park for breakfast at Medici on 57th St., bumping into **Toni Preckwinkle** urging them to visit the Medici's restaurant bakery that's heaven on earth... Treasurer **Maria Pappas** touring Sweet Connections Bakery with **Tom Kailis**, overwhelmed with the cheesecakes... **Sugar Rautbord** looking tres chic with just the right jewels reminiscing about her first novel... famed

Chicago lawyer **Pat Tuite** posting photo of himself standing outside Dublin house from which his father came to America... Harlem's successful Black artist **Guy Stanley Philoche** spending more than \$70K on art work from struggling artists during the pandemic (my hero)... **Todd Protzman Davis** is in Lucca, Italy, the olive oil capitol, same spot **Chet Baker** played trumpet 60 years ago... **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** and **Dr. Joaquin Brieva** making snow angels in Lincoln Park... **Paul Tuminaro** noshing at Parigi in Dallas before heading back to Chi-town... **Jolanta Ruege** in Scottsdale, AZ ... writer **Sherrill Bodine** is all love and smiles with precious honorary grand-

children **Sebastian** and **Christina**... friends and fans of Crystal **Lucas Perry**, who co-starred in **Richard Robin's** Broadway musical, "A Sign of the Times," were all geared up to see her on "Law and Order," on Feb 25, where she wowed viewers... **Karin Carlson** and son, **Brock**, doing a catch-up dinner... thoughts and prayers to **John Reilly**, currently rehabbing after taking a terrible tumble on the ice and a visit to the ER. Hope you heal fast. Stay safe and warm with **Nurse Myra**.

WON THE WEST: Colt ends 175 years as an American gunmaker with purchase by Czech firearms company.

PRADO: The Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid has acquired

a 1929 painting by the Cubist artist **María Blanchard**, in a move that has angered some who claim that the work exceeds the museum's purview. Some in the Spanish art world have claimed that, because of its date, the painting belongs with the city's Museo Reina Sofía, which has historically specialized in art from the 19th-century onward. According to a report by the Spanish newspaper ABC, the Prado's purchase of the work, for which it paid €70,000 euros (about \$84,900), breaks with a 1995 decree that distinguishes what the two museums can collect.

KEITH HARING: 'Keith Haring' is a new biography shedding light on the American graffiti art of **Keith Haring** with author **Simon Doonan** intentionally reflecting 'the crazy energy' of Haring's 1980s New York. Gotta read.

VAN GOGH LIKE NEVER BEFORE: If you're visiting the massive immersive **Vincent Van Gogh** exhibition at the Germania Club, 108 W. Germania Place, prepare to be blown away by the colossal proportions of Van Gogh's works. The exhibition is open seven days a week from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. through Labor Day, Sept. 6. Call 844-307-4644.

People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring.

- Roger Hornsby

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Senior LIVING

The pandemic turns one-year old: a reflection from The Clare's executive director

BY KYLE EXLINE
The Clare Executive Director

As the COVID-19 pandemic approaches its one-year anniversary, I wanted to take an opportunity to reflect on the year we are leaving behind and look ahead to what's to come at The Clare.

Navigating the pandemic at The Clare is one of the greatest challenges I have faced in my career to date. It has been stressful, grueling and adrenaline-inducing at the same time. Every answer we unlocked about COVID-19 seemed to prompt more questions. Recommendations changed daily, and how we operated one day could drastically change the next. We shifted our perspective to be very short-term, focusing on the micro details of the day in front of us rather than looking ahead at the next 6 to 12 months. We faced positive COVID-19 cases, contact tracing, sick friends and family, social isolation and fear of the unknown.

After 10 months, we finally had



Kyle Exline

our first vaccine clinic in January, which brought so much hope and positivity back into our lives. In partnership with Walgreens, we successfully vaccinated 690 people, which represents well over 80% of The Clare community. Nearly 100% of our residents received the vaccine, and a majority of our employees did, as well. What's more, we provided the vaccine to 55 potential residents on our waitlist. One resident even said to me, "I think we vaccinated all of the Gold Coast!" With the vaccine clinics behind us, we can now finally think about what comes next.

Through it all, we had each other. Enduring this situation in our community has

only strengthened the bond we all share. We always tout the people living and working at The Clare as our greatest amenity, and the pandemic has only spotlighted that more over the last year. I cannot express my gratitude enough for our residents and employees who have come together for this COVID-19 journey.

Over the next few months, we will continue to reassess guidelines, loosen restrictions and reopen The Clare in accordance with state and city mandates and recommendations. We started this process by reinstating in-person dining at a limited capacity in The Grafton, a dining option at The Clare, and allowing small group programming. Moving forward, we will take everything step by step, always monitoring the local positivity rate and continuing to test our employees and residents. We will remain vigilant with social distancing and mask wearing. Eventually, we will look to

open our doors to family members, so they can once again visit and connect with residents on site.

We always tout the people living and working at The Clare as our greatest amenity, and the pandemic has only spotlighted that more over the last year. I cannot express my gratitude enough for our residents and employees who have come together for this COVID-19 journey.

After a year with so little to look forward to, there is much anticipation for everything that lies ahead. Of course, we will continue to confront everything together, just like we always have.

Clean up your pot record

Did you get busted for pot possession back in the day down at U. of I. or Southern Illinois? No lying now... many did. New Leaf Illinois can help North Side residents clear their cannabis criminal records.

Yes, weed is now legal in Illinois, but a weed-related criminal record might still be holding you back. Now is the time to clear your record to turn over a new leaf. Removing cannabis convictions from your record is not automatic, but free legal help starts with you, and is just a few clicks away.

Visit newleafillinois.org or call 855-963-9532 to get started. A legal aid professional will evaluate your eligibility and get in touch with you about potential next steps.

New Leaf Illinois is a network of 20 non-profit organizations, funded by the state, working to provide free legal services to people who want to remove cannabis convictions from their record.

Some minor cannabis offenses will be automatically expunged (which may take some time); for other cannabis convictions a petition will need to be filed in court.

The expungement process itself varies depending on the particulars of each case. Some criminal records are eligible for expungement under the new law and if you meet the income guidelines, you will be referred to one of the legal aid partners to receive free representation in court. If you do not meet the income-level requirement, but are still eligible for an expungement, you will be given specific guidance on a path forward and referrals to legal resources.

There are three possible expungement paths, two of which are automatic, and one which requires going into court. New Leaf will help you determine your next steps based on your cannabis record, and offer assistance where they can.

Individuals who are not U.S. citizens should consult with an immigration lawyer before pursuing an expungement as obtaining an expungement could negatively impact pursuing immigration legal status or U.S. citizenship.

Visit Illinois Legal Aid Online where you can learn more about the different paths to expungement, including forms, worksheets, informational videos and other resources to pursue expungement on your own.



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Info for seniors on vaccine distribution

The Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services, Senior Services Division – Area Agency on Aging at Northeast (Levy) Regional Senior Center, 2019 W. Lawrence Ave. is a place for senior citizens to seek information, help or guidance on the Covid-19 vaccination.

For additional information on programs and services for older adults, call 311, or the DFSS/Area Agency on Aging I&A hotline at 312-744-4016, or by email at aging@cityofchicago.org.

A telephone conference call with with Bob Gallo, State Director of AARP Illinois, and Cmsr. Dr. Allison Arwady, of the of Chicago Dept. of Public Health on vaccine distribution for older adults will be held 4:05 p.m. Thursday, March 4. To participate, dial 866-495-1089. This event will be streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/AARPIllinois>.



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Police Beat...

Foxx orders office to stop making parole recommendations

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx has ordered her office to stop providing recommendations about whether convicted killers should be released from prison on parole, reports the Sun Times.

Foxx put an end to the long-standing practice after being criticized for not opposing parole for two convicted cop killers over the past year. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office previously took positions against releasing the men.

According to the newspaper's report, she sent a letter to Illinois Parole Board Chairman Craig Findley on Feb. 24 in which "Foxx said prosecutors aren't in the best position to judge inmates' fitness for parole."

Prosecutors typically offer the board information about inmates' crimes from the state and victims' perspectives.

Foxx said the idea that prosecutors should make parole recommendations is a "relic," the Sun-Times reports.

Loop firebug has been setting dumpsters on fire for weeks, reports show

A little firebug is roaming alleys and setting dumpsters ablaze in the Loop, according to a CPD report and officials at DePaul Univ. No serious damage has been reported in the fires, which have been popping up since early January.

Two fires were reported Feb. 21. DePaul security discovered one in a dumpster at 1 E. Jackson around 1:45 p.m. and DePaul issued a safety alert about an arson case. Then, around 6 p.m., a witness reported seeing a man setting a dumpster on fire behind 14 E. Jackson, according to a CPD report. The suspect was described as a man wearing a blue jacket and carrying a green bag.

According to city records, Sunday's second fire is the first one to be officially recorded in an arson report by Chicago police.

But DePaul Univ. issued a public safety alert about arson fires around its downtown campus on Jan. 20. In it, school officials said the arsonist is about 40-years-old with short black hair. The suspect had been seen wearing a black jacket, blue gym shoes with white stripes, and often carried a blue or maroon and gray backpack, according to the school's bulletin.

DePaul said fires had been reported in an alley between the 200 blocks of S. State St. and Wabash Ave. on Ja. 2, January 3, 16, and 17.

Three charged with setting fire to a CTA van

Three people have been charged with arson for allegedly setting fire to a Chicago Transit Authority van during a period of rioting last spring.

Denzel Stewart, 24, of Chicago, Lamar Taylor, 23, of Chicago, and Darion Lindsey, 19, of Park Forest, are each charged with one count of arson, according to an indictment unsealed Feb. 24 in federal court in Chicago. The indictment accuses the three of maliciously damaging and destroying the CTA van by setting fire to it on May 30, 2020.

Police video footage shows a man in a pink hat trying to set a cardboard box on fire in the middle of State St. as a CTA van sits unattended in the middle traffic island. The man drops the box and then sets fire to an item that is inside the van. As he walks away, another man runs around the van and closes the vehicle's doors.

Stewart and Taylor were arrested Feb. 24. They pleaded not guilty at their arraignments before U.S. Magistrate Judge M. David Weisman. Detention hearings for Stewart and Taylor were held 10:30 a.m. Feb. 26. Lindsey was already in law enforcement custody on an unrelated charge, and his arraignment on the arson charge has not yet been scheduled.

The arson charge is punishable by a minimum sentence of five years in federal prison and a maximum of 20 years.

Duo charged with taking over \$18K from Ulta Beauty



Deamonte Glover Tavaris Bowens

Two men, both of whom are on parole, are accused of stealing more than \$18,000 worth of cosmetics during a series of raids on an Ulta Beauty store in February. Cops arrested the duo near Boystown last week.

Deamonte Glover is charged with all of the heists, while Tavaris Bowens is charged with taking part in two. Both men are 20-years-old.

It all started on Feb. 9 when Glover and two accomplices headed to the fragrance aisle at Ulta, 4140 S. Pulaski, prosecutors said. Glover allegedly held a large plastic bag open while the other two loaded it with merchandise.

"I don't mean any harm," Glover allegedly told a store employee who told them to stop. Then he and the other two left with \$5,618 worth of products, according to prosecutors.

On Feb. 20, Glover, Bowens, and three others allegedly returned to the store and walked out with \$9,103 worth of products in a plastic bag.

And on Monday, Feb. 22, Glover and Bowens returned to the store and walked out with \$3,744 worth of merchandise, prosecutors said.

But on the third trip, the men allegedly grabbed a box that contained a GPS tracker. Police followed pings from the device to locate Glover and Bowens a short time later as they drove in the 3100 block of N. Broadway in Lakeview, prosecutors said.

Judge Charles Beach set bail for both men at \$45,000 and ordered them to go onto electronic monitoring if they can post 10% deposit bonds. Glover is not eligible for release until he meets with the Illinois Parole Board about the possible revocation of his parole.

You may remember Glover. We told you about him a couple months ago after he pleaded guilty to robbing a man at the Chicago-State Red Line CTA station just four days after he was

charged with shoplifting \$700 worth of coats in the Loop.

Three teens charged with armed robbery of DePaul student

Three juveniles — the oldest only 15-years-old — are charged with armed robbery for mugging a DePaul University in Lincoln Park on Feb. 25.

The victim, age 23, was walking when three offenders started following her around 7:15 p.m., according to CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli. When the woman stopped on the 2200 block of N. Fremont, the robbers grabbed her arm, displayed a gun, and ordered her to surrender her valuables, Bartoli said.

She complied with their demands and they ran away with her property.

Police searched the area and arrested the offenders near Dayton and Belden streets as they tried to use the woman's credit card to order a Lyft. Cops recovered two look-alike handguns from the suspects, according to a CPD report.

Bartoli said the offenders are boys ages 15-, 14- and 13-years-old. The younger ones are charged with armed robbery with a firearm, while the oldest is charged with aggravated robbery indicating a firearm. No further information is available about the trio because they are juveniles.

Shots fired, man stabbed during brawl outside Loop hotel

Shots were fired and a man suffered stab wounds during a brawl outside a downtown hotel Feb. 28. No one was struck by the gunfire, according to police.

The argument broke out around 2:17 a.m. in front of LondonHouse Hotel, 85. Wacker. Police said a 36-year-old man involved in the altercation received four stab wounds to his hip and leg.

Police in the area also reported hearing shots fired, and shell casings were found at the scene. According to an officer at the scene, video showed someone in the crowd might have fired a gun into the air during the fight.

The victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Police detained a suspect for questioning who resembled the man who fired shots.

According to a CPD statement, the person who stabbed the victim is a bearded man who may be Hispanic. He stands about 6' tall, weighs about 210 lbs, and was wearing blue jeans.

The stabbing victim has a criminal record that includes felony gun convictions, according to state records. Police at the scene said he and witnesses to the incident were not cooperating with CPD's investigation.

Woman charged with hijacking 2 cars, including one that struck and injured bicyclist

An Irving Park woman is charged with two recent violent carjackings on the North Side, including the hijacking of a vehicle later involved in a hit-and-run collision that left a bicyclist seriously injured.

Judge Susana Ortiz ordered Veronica Harden, 36, held in lieu of \$1 million bail.

The first carjacking occurred around 1:25 p.m. February 6 in the 3300 block of W. Belmont. Prosecutors said a woman left her eight-year-old son in her parked car while she ran into an Aldi store. The victim ran toward the Buick Enclave when she saw it back out of the parking space, Assistant State's Attorney David Shin said.

She grabbed the door handle and was dragged for about 20' as a heavy-set woman with pink hair drove it away. The Buick ran over the victim, and she suffered a broken foot, broken ribs, and a punctured lung, Shin

said.

As the carjacker turned a nearby corner, the child opened his back door and jumped from the moving car, according to Shin. The boy suffered a sore ankle.

Surveillance video at a Target store later recorded Harden as she tried to use one of the victim's credit cards which was inside the car, Shin said.

According to police, on Feb. 10, someone who was driving the hijacked Enclave struck Alex Betzel as she biked north on Kimball near Addison St.

"She lost a lot of blood, both her lungs were severely bruised and punctured by her ribs, causing them to fill with blood and one to collapse," Betzel's girlfriend said in a GoFundMe post. "She has nine broken ribs, with multiple ribs being completely displaced, a broken cheekbone, and a laceration on her forehead."

Police found the Buick behind an unoccupied home in the 3100 block of N. Christiana on Feb. 19.

Shin said the owner of the home gave police permission to search the building. Cops allegedly found property belonging to Harden and the carjacking victim inside the home.

Harden has not been charged with the hit-and-run.

In the second carjacking, Harden allegedly pulled a 64-year-old woman from her car in the Walgreens parking lot, 4343 N. Kedzie, around 9:30 p.m. Feb. 24.

Shin said the victim had just returned to her car after picking up a prescription when Harden opened the door and ordered her out. When the victim refused, Harden grabbed her by her clothing and threw her out, Shin said. She then allegedly drove away with the woman's car.

Witnesses from both carjackings identified Harden as the hijacker, Shin said.

Police were searching the area near Harden's home for the second carjacked vehicle on Friday when they discovered it in traffic, according to Shin. Harden was driving when cops pulled it over, he said. She was allegedly wearing the same clothes that the carjackers are seen wearing in surveillance video of the hijackings.

Harden, a six-time convicted felon, is charged with aggravated vehicular hijacking with a passenger under age 16; aggravated battery of a victim over age 60; aggravated battery; kidnapping a victim under age 13; and aggravated vehicular hijacking of a handicapped victim, according to CPD.

She did not appear at her bond hearing because she is hospitalized to treat collapsed veins, sores on her legs, and sepsis, a police officer told Judge Ortiz. No mugshot was available for Harden because she is hospitalized.

Uptown carjacking

It seems like whatever strategy Chicago police leaders deployed to achieve a purported "20% reduction" in carjackings during a snow-sacked February doesn't work when temperatures rise.

At least four hijackings were reported between noon and 10 p.m. Saturday on the North and Near West Sides alone. There is some good news: Cops made three arrests in connection with two of the crimes.

Most recently, a 23-year-old man was carjacked around 9:24 p.m. on the 4700 block of N. Beacon in Uptown, according to Officer Ronald Westbrook, a CPD spokesperson.

The victim was walking when two males got out of a silver Nissan, put a gun to his head, and demanded his keys, Westbrook said. One of the hijackers drove away with the man's 2014 Ford Focus while the other returned to the Nissan, which sped from

the scene with a third offender inside.

Minutes later, the Nissan crashed on Lake Shore Dr. at Grand Ave.

Police arrested two male juveniles at the crash site, one of whom is 15-years-old. Ambulances took the suspects to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for observation. Charges are pending.

The Ford Focus and the carjacker who drove it away have not been located.

According to a CPD report, the Nissan was taken in an armed carjacking around 8 p.m. on the 500 block of W. 43rd St. by three men armed with guns.

Earlier, a food delivery driver was carjacked in the West Loop. Westbrook said the 28-year-old driver parked his car to make a delivery when he saw someone else get into the driver's seat around 5:35 p.m. on the 900 block of W. Randolph.

According to Westbrook, the victim opened the driver's door, but the carjacker kicked and pushed him out and then began driving away, which caused the victim to be dragged for a short distance.

The 17-year-old carjacker then crashed into another car and ran from the scene. Police arrested him in the 800 block of W. Fulton after a foot chase. Charges are pending.

Another carjacking was reported shortly after noon in West Town. There, two men displayed at least one handgun and took a delivery driver's 2015 Land Rover on the 500 block of N. Halsted. A second victim was also robbed.

The offenders, described as two Black males wearing black hoodies with white writing, were last seen driving the stolen car southbound on Halsted.

Bed-ridden man with eight gunshot wounds allowed felon to escape by taking his e-bracelet

It's not easy to commit a felony while lying in bed, recovering from eight gunshot wounds.

But prosecutors say that's exactly what Olajuwon Hughes did last week when he allegedly allowed a man who's facing Class X felony gun charges to put his electronic monitoring bracelet onto Hughes' ankle so he could escape.

"Sir, what you've done is one of the most dangerous things someone can do," Judge Arthur Willis told Hughes during a bond hearing Feb. 26. "You've allowed an individual who's charged with a dangerous weapons offense to be in the wind — doing who knows what, who knows where — and you had their band on because you're laid up at home."

Hughes, 26, moaned in pain from his gunshot wounds as he appeared before Willis via Zoom on Friday. He has a broken arm, has difficulty walking, and is in "significant pain" since he was shot eight times in January, his defense attorney said.

Prosecutors said sheriff's office workers on Feb. 24 went to the residence where the alleged gun offender was supposed to be on home confinement to check on the accused armed habitual criminal.

Nobody answered the door. And, when they called the phone-enabled GPS unit, someone who identified himself as the detainee answered. But he never allowed authorities in.

When they returned to the home later in the day, Hughes eventually came to the door with the electronic monitoring bracelet on his ankle, prosecutors said. They took him

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Lane Tech girls open CPS season with win over Westinghouse

DePaul Prep continue rolling through Catholic League



By Jack Lydon

Chicago Public Schools basketball is finally underway. The Lane Tech girls varsity team took on Westinghouse on Feb. 24, with an exciting 51-48 win at Lane Tech to open the season.



DePaul Prep's TY Johnson slides on the gym floor after diving to save a ball against St. Ignatius.

The Lane team, (whose mascot name has yet to be decided after Lane dropped "Indians" last year), jumped out to an early 15-9 first quarter lead over the Westinghouse Lady Warriors.

The Lady Warriors battled back in the second and third quarters outscoring Lane 26-21. Westinghouse's senior point guard Addison Curry drained a three at the start of the fourth quarter to give the Lady Warriors their first lead of the game, 38-36.

The Lane girls charged back with points off the break. They spread the ball around with points from six different players in the fourth quarter.

The Lane girls scoring was led by Sr. point guard Eily Quinn (St. Benedict elementary) with 18 total points, two three pointers, for field goals and four free throws. Lane junior forward Anastasia Lamperis scored 14 including an impressive 7 of 8 free throws.

Lane senior forward Maria Katsigrodakis added eight points. Lane junior Lauren Collins had five.

Westinghouse scoring was led by senior point guard Addison Curry with a total of 13 points, including four three pointers and a free throw. Senior Tania Allen had ten. Senior center Kimberly Scott had eight.

No spectators were allowed in the Lane's gym. This reporter watched the game on Lane Athletics YouTube channel. All Lane games will be streamed live at: www.youtube.com/channel/UC-NF40kaDL_lo9w104aCCilw.

In the second game of the year, Feb. 25, Lane girls head coach Megan Molloy led her team in the second game of the year at Payton College Prep. Again, no spectators or media were allowed in the gym for this game and there was no live stream.

"Due to COVID protocols we are not allowing outside media

into our games at this time," Payton athletic director wrote in an apologetic e-mail.

The Payton girls' basketball program has enjoyed much success in recent years. The Grizzlies went 24-10 last year and 22-11 the year before for two straight regional championships. Hopefully, CPS will get its act together and allow media into the games so we call all find out what happens.

Payton defeated Lane 56-48.

It had been 358 days since the Lane Tech boys' varsity team had last played and they were scheduled to open the season at home against Farragut on Feb. 26. However, the game was postponed at the last minute for unexplained reasons. The next game was scheduled for Monday, March 1, against Jones and Friday, March 5, against Lincoln Park.

In other area scores, Northside College Prep handled Lake View 28-23 in a low scoring affair. Col-

lins edged Payton 51-49, and #3 ranked Whitney Young walloped Lincoln Park 74-39; while Francis Park dropped Latin 71-56.

Chicago Catholic League play continued, and #6 ranked DePaul Prep Rams continued winning with Catholic League cross-over victories over St. Ignatius (5-4, 5-4) on Feb. 19 and Providence Catholic (Lemont)(1-8, 1-8) on Feb. 24.

St. Ignatius has a good young team. This reporter has seen the Wolfpack several times this year. But Tom Kleinschmidt's DePaul Prep Rams handled them 59-38 on Feb. 19.

The Rams jumped out to an early lead with tremendous defense and points off the break.

There was plenty of fight in the Wolfpack. Matt Monroe has his team playing well and playing as a team. After opening the game with an 18-6 run, the Rams went a little cold.

When asked what happened, Kleinschmidt said, "Well Ignatius happened. They're a good team. They spread us a little bit. We went to our bench. We haven't played in 11 days. They're a good team. That's what happened to us."

Nevertheless, the Rams were too quick and too athletic. TY Johnson and Rasheed Bello are the best front court I have seen this year.

On Feb. 24, the Rams hosted Providence in the final CCL cross-over game with a team from the White Division. The Celtics were no match for the Rams. The Rams jumped out to a 15-3 first quarter lead but struggled a little on offense in the second quarter. The defense never lets up. I can't recall the last time I saw a single digit score going into half time. The Rams lead 23-9 at the half and won 55-38.

Where to slow down to avoid speed cameras

Now that the city has gone back ticketing and fining drivers going six-miles per hour over the speed limit, here are the locations where North Side drivers need to slow down to avoid getting nabbed.

Under Mayor Lori Lightfoot's orders, drivers will be fined \$35 if a speed camera catches them going 6-10 mph over the speed limit and \$100 if they're going even quicker. Tickets are sent in the mail.

- The locations are:
- 449 and 450 N. Columbus Dr.
 - 324 E. Illinois St.
 - 11 E. Chicago and 14 W. Chicago
 - 2448 N. Clybourn Ave.
 - 2432 and 2443 N. Ashland Ave.
 - 3111 and 3130 N. Ashland Ave.
 - 2549 W. Addison St.
 - 3521 and 3534 N. Western Ave.
 - 1142 W. Irving Park Rd.
 - 2705 and 2712 W. Irving Park Rd.
 - 2721 W. Montrose Ave.
 - 4429 and 4446 N. Broadway
 - 4432 N. Lincoln Ave.
 - 4433 and 4436 N. Western Ave.
 - 3034 W. Foster Ave.
 - 5885 N. Ridge Ave.
 - 3137 W. Peterson Ave.
 - 6523 N. Western Ave.

Senior point guard TY Johnson led the Rams with 22 points. Senior guard Rasheed Bello added 11. Junior Dylan Arnett had eight.

The Rams opened CCL Blue Division play Feb. 26, at St. Laurence earning their fifth victory of the year in five tries. DePaul Prep 60, St. Laurence 30.

The Rams face Loyola, Mt. Carmel and Fenwick this week. This week should go along way to deciding who will win the Chicago Catholic League in 2021.

Armed carjacking and ATM theft team strikes 12 businesses Sunday as FBI joins the hunt

BY CWBCHICAGO

A prolific group of criminals specializing in armed carjackings and ATM burglaries targeted at least 12 businesses Feb. 28 just days after the FBI announced that they are getting involved in CPD's pursuit of the crew.

Police believe the crew has been active for weeks, stealing ATMs, cash registers, cigarettes, and liquor during overnight hours and carjacking drivers when they need a new vehicle to get around.

As recently as Sunday morning, the men were traveling in a Dodge Durango, bearing Illinois license plate S339713, that they carjacked from a woman in West Town on Feb. 24, according to the FBI and CPD records.

The crew is also linked to an attempted carjacking in Logan Square Feb. 24 that left a 31-year-old driver with a gunshot wound to his hand. Prosecutors charged Travon Duffie, 17, with that crime and said he fired a second round at the victim's stomach that was deflected by the man's iPhone.

In a bulletin issued Friday, the FBI urged the public to call 911 if they see the Durango.

The Durango was used again early Sunday as the crew swept across the North Side, Lincolnwood, and the Near West Side. ATMs and cash registers were among the items taken from businesses at:

- A restaurant in the 1600 block of W. Howard
- A convenience store in the 5300 block of N. Sheridan
- A convenience store in the 1100 block of W. Thorndale
- A tattoo parlor in the 4400 block of N. Broadway
- A bar in the 4400 block of N. Broadway
- A convenience store in the 4700 block of N. Sheridan
- A convenience store in the 3900 block of N. Sheridan
- A convenience store in the

1300 block of N. Western

- A restaurant in the 2000 block of W. North
- Two gas stations and a liquor store in suburban Lincolnwood

On Feb. 25, the men used the same Durango in another series of break-ins that targeted:

- A taqueria in the 2600 block of W. North
- A liquor store in the 3300 block of W. North
- A convenience store in the 5800 block of W. Fullerton
- A liquor store in the 2900 block of N. Harlem

They also burglarized at least seven businesses during the overnight hours of Feb. 23 and 24.

TEAM see p. 10

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North Side again tops the list nationwide for bedbugs infestations

BY DEB KINER

Even though fewer people traveled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, bed bugs did not get the memo to stay home.

Chicago ran away with the top spot on Orkin's annual Pest Control's Top 50 Bed Bug Cities List for 2020 with Baltimore and Washington, D.C., coming in second and third.

Orkin said it bases its list "on treatment data from the metro areas where Orkin performed the most bed bug treatments from Dec. 1, 2019 – Nov. 30, 2020.

And as usual, Chicago's North Side and Downtown areas are ground zero for reported infestations. According to the online Bedbug Report, in the last year Chicago had 485 bed bug reports. Visit bedbugregistry.com/metro/chicago/ to see if a report has been filed in a building you visit.

The Univ. of Nebraska also has a comprehensive website [lancaster.unl.edu/pest/bedbugs.shtml] to get information on bed bugs and how to get rid of them.

Bed bugs are troublesome household pests. They're sneaky, hard to find, and can pose potential health risks for you and your family. High density living and a population base that travels a lot are credited for the high incidences of bed bug infestation on the North Side.

Bed bugs don't care about cleanliness



(L) Typically, bed bugs are 3/16" long and are red to dark brown in color. *Image courtesy Orkin, LLC* (R) Bed bugs can be different sizes and shapes depending on life stage and feeding status. Comparison from L-R: poppy, sesame, flax and apple seeds. *Image courtesy Univ. of Nebraska*



or social class, they can thrive in an immaculate, five-star hotel room just as easily as somewhere run-down. All they need is proximity to people and a crevice to hide in.

To the untrained eye, rooting out a bed bug infestation can prove difficult, and even if discovered, home remedies and over-the-counter deterrents are often ineffective. Bed bugs multiply quickly, and in just six months, a few can turn into a full-on infestation of 13,000 or more. Detection is critical to break the bed bug life cycle before they become a bigger problem.

Bed bugs may be able to live 6-12 months without food and can survive in infrequently-used hotel rooms or vacant apartment buildings until occupied by an unfortunate victim.

Bed bugs usually attack humans, but may feed on other warm-blooded animals, including pets.

They cannot fly, so most of the time, people move bed bugs from place to place. The most common ways bed bug infestations get started are when travelers bring bed bugs home from infested hotels or motels in their luggage.

They may also be brought home with infested used furniture or by hitching a ride to another location by hanging on clothing. (So be careful if you visit someone who has an infestation.)

Family members living away from home may bring them home on holidays.

Once brought inside apartments or hotel rooms, bed bugs readily travel to other bedrooms as their numbers increase. If you live in an apartment, you can get them from your neighbors.

Orkin recommends these steps to inspect for bed bugs:

- Survey the room for signs of an infestation. Be on the lookout for tiny, black, ink-colored stains on mattress seams, in soft furniture and behind headboards. They can even hide out in electrical outlets and picture frames.
- Lift and look in bed bug hiding spots: the mattress, box spring and other furniture, as well as behind baseboards, pictures

and even torn wallpaper.

- Elevate luggage away from the bed and wall. The safest places are in the bathroom or on counters.
- Examine your luggage carefully while repacking and once you return home from a trip. Always store luggage away from the bed. Be sure to also examine all second-hand furniture and clothing before bringing it in your home and inspect after guests visit.
- Place all dryer-safe clothing from your luggage in the dryer for at least 45 minutes at the highest setting after you return home.

America's top 10 infested cities

The ranking includes both residential and commercial treatments, they are:

1. Chicago, IL
2. Baltimore, MD
3. Washington, D.C.
4. Detroit, MI
5. Columbus, OH
6. Cleveland, OH
7. Indianapolis, IN
8. Cincinnati, OH
9. Los Angeles, CA
10. Grand Rapids, MI

Human bed bugs are found worldwide and are dispersed through human travel. During the last decade, there has been a significant increase in bed bug infestations in the U.S. Although bed bugs have never been shown to transmit diseases, people living in bed bug infested homes may experience psychological stress, anxiety and insomnia. During the day, bed bugs hide in cracks and crevices near the bed or places where people sleep at night. At night, bed bugs come out of their hiding places to feed. Bites are most often found on the upper body: neck, arm and shoulders, but may be found on legs or ankles.

GORILLA from p. 3

riding and others. For a time, typing was incredibly frustrating and when combined with the general confusion that chemotherapy caused, I began using an early speech-to-text program in 2008. I became very proficient with the program and was fortunate to be able to keep up my work and production schedule. I tired easily and still had to rely on others in the organization for their support as I processed everything that was happening at the time which is a big part of the overall story.

Q. What do you hope people will get from your book? What would you like them to walk away thinking?

A. Tell your story. As important as it is to

visualize life after a cancer diagnosis, cancer fighters and those around them need to know that there is life during the journey. That means something different for everyone and Rule #1 always applies. Forty is the new 50 with respect to colorectal cancer, particularly if you have a family history of the disease. Start the conversation, ask questions, document your family history, be mindful of changes in your overall health and seek out early testing and treatment. Colon cancer, if caught early, can be a very manageable disease.

"Gorilla In The Room," can be purchased at Barbara's Bookstore, 201 E. Huron St., The Bookstall in Winnetka, as well as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indie, etc.

TEAM from p. 9

That Wednesday spree was capped off by the Durango carjacking and the shooting of the other hijacking victim.

The burglary team has been taking ATMs, liquor, cigarettes, and other valuables during early morning raids for weeks. They struck multiple locations on Dec. 26, 2020, Jan. 1, 20 and 26, Feb. 3 and 4.

Records show they have generally targeted mom and pop convenience stores, Mexican restaurants, and liquor stores where free-standing ATMs are usually permanently installed.

They have also taken an ATM from an Old Town service station that was open for business at the time of their raid. And now, they've expanded to include CVS and Walgreens on their target lists.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

into custody.

At the jail, an officer realized that Hughes is not the person who is supposed to be wearing the ankle monitor. According to prosecutors, Hughes has tattoos on his forehead and neck, which the gun offender does not have, and the men allegedly have completely different physical appearances.

Hughes allegedly explained that sheriff's deputies put the ankle bracelet on him by mistake one month ago when they changed the ankle band on the other guy. But investigators checked the body camera footage from the officers who handled the bracelet swap. It clearly showed them putting the band on the right person. Hughes was not on any court-ordered electronic monitoring, Murphy said.

"If somehow a band was being placed on you

by mistake, I would suspect an individual would say, 'I am not the person who is supposed to have that band on. Don't put that band on me. I'm supposed to be able to go and do what I need to do in the world,'" Willis hypothesized.

Murphy said the man who is supposed to be wearing the home monitor and GPS is now missing. Prosecutors charged Hughes with aiding the escape of a felon.

Willis told Hughes he is "causing disrepute to the entire electronic monitoring system. You can't have that."

He then ordered Hughes held in lieu of \$250,000.

In an ironic twist, Willis said Hughes must go onto electronic monitoring if he can post the required \$25,000 deposit bond.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

<p>Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>030303 242424</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF Cook County, Illinois, County Department, Chancery Division. Nationstar HECM Acquisition Trust 2015-2, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not individually, but solely as Trustee Plaintiff, vs. Sandra Graff; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendants. Case #2017CH5204 Sheriff's # 210007-001F F17030262 CPN Pursuant to a Judgment made and entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will on March 23rd, 2021, at 1pm in room LL06 of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction the following described premises and real estate mentioned in said Judgment: Common Address: 6749 North Rockwell Street, Chicago, Illinois 60645 P.I.N: 10-36-404-037-0000 Improvements: This property consist of a Single Family Home. Sale shall be under the following terms: payment of not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the successful and highest bid to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier's check or certified funds at the sale; and the full remaining balance to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier's check or certified funds within twenty-four (24) hours after the sale. Sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments. Premise will NOT be open for inspection. Firm Information: Plaintiff's Attorney DIAZ ANSELMO LINDBERG, LLC 1771 W. DIEHL, Ste 120 Naperville, IL 60563 Sales Department foreclosuresnotice@fal-illinois.com 866-402-8661 fax 630-428-4620 For bidding instructions, visit www.fal-illinois.com This is an attempt to collect a debt pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.</p> <p>171717</p> <p>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</p>	<p>North Township Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION ALLIANT CREDIT UNION, AN ILLINOIS STATE CHARTERED CREDIT UNION Plaintiff, vs. LAKE POINT TOWER RENAISSANCE PLAZA, LLC F/K/A LAKE POINT TOWER COMMERCIAL, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, LAKE POINT TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, AN ILLINOIS NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION, EVANGELINE GOULETAS, AN INDIVIDUAL, A. ROBERT ABOUD AND COMPANY, AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2019 CH 00969 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNITS 217, 219 and 221 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 30, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 1, 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 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 217, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-214-058 The real estate is improved with a condominium. Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 219, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-214-060 The real estate is improved with a condominium. 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601 W. Monroe St.

New pair of high-rises proposed for Monroe St.

Pacific Reach Properties is bringing a proposal forward to construct two new high-rises at 601 W. Monroe St. The site is currently a surface parking lot, adjacent to Heritage Green Park and the Presidential Towers complex.

The proposed Planned Development includes two towers, one being 47-stories at 535', and the second 40-stories at 465'.

As proposed, the east tower contains approximately 537 apartments, 23,405 square feet of retail space, and 397 parking spaces; the west tower consists of approximately 516 apartments, 6,904 square feet of retail space, and an additional 33 parking spaces within the garage.

The west tower becomes the backdrop to the 50,000 square foot public park, Heritage Green Park. Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] encouraged the developer to add over 30,000 square feet of retail adjacent

to the Park and Monroe, Jefferson and Desplaines streets to encourage pedestrian activity along the entire building perimeter.

The first and second floors of the west building directly adjacent to the park will be planned for a food and beverage tenant; this active use will provide additional security to this important neighborhood amenity.

The developers say that the two contemporary towers are linked through their opposing arrangement with a shared expression of a vertical element inspired by the Chicago River. They have been working on this proposal since 2018, and have incorporated a number of changes in the design, programing, and massing. Notable improvements include a hotel eliminated in favor of additional multi-family units (1,053 total units).

The tower height was reduced from 54 stories/43 stories to 47 stories/40 stories, while the podium height was reduced by one level.

Car parking was reduced from 449 spaces to 430 total spaces, and loading access was removed from Desplaines St. and moved to Jefferson St. The retail space was increased from 11,000 square feet to 30,000 square feet.

The project developers are now seeking a floor area ratio bonus which will contribute \$5,500,000 to the City's Neighborhood Opportunity Tax. To accomplish this proposal, the Development team will next be required to present their plans for approval to the Chicago Plan Commission, Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards and City Council.

Road closure at Lakeshore East

Lendlease Construction will be installing façade panels for Cascade Park at the IJKL site at Lakeshore East development, that will require the closure of Lower Harbor Service Dr.

The roadway will be closed from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. during Saturday and Sundays, March 6 and 7, March 13 and 14, and March 20 and 21. All dates are weather dependent.

Zooming with Ald. Hopkins

The League of Women Voters [LWV] of Chicago is premiering an interview with Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] 6 p.m. Thursday, March 4.

Ald. Hopkins is in his second term representing the residents spanning from Streeterville and the Gold Coast to Lincoln Park, Bucktown and Ukrainian Village.

This event is part of LWV Chicago's ongoing Zooming with the Aldermen series, which aims to interview all 50 aldermen about the issues that matter to Chicagoans.

Opportunities for representatives to meet and talk with their constituents have been limited during the pandemic, and even virtual meetings limit conversations and questioning when one person literally has the ability to mute an entire audience at the push of a button.

The event is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending should register at igfn.us/e/j6Jgmw. The interview will be made publicly available following the premiere at lwwchicago.org.

POSTAL from p. 1

customers are now going to their neighborhood branches to try and collect their mail in person, with mixed results.

Staffers in political offices all over Chicago have seen a sharp increase in the number of calls and emails from constituents who have been waiting anxiously for checks, medications, bills, and other important pieces of mail that are lost delayed for days, if not weeks. These delays also impact business owners, who rely on fulfilling orders via mail now more than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the pandemic and extreme winter weather two weeks ago have caused additional recent challenges to timely mail delivery, the reality is that those delays are a small part of a broader, long-term problem: tens of thousands of packages and parcels and hundreds of thousands of letters that sit undelivered in Post Office city-wide.

PEDESTRIAN from p. 1

2020-21 flow of economic activity into suburban or rural main streets from urban downtowns.

Many Chicagoland workers have also abandoned CTA and Metra commutes into cities, or chose the safer living spaces as they worked from home, a trend that downtown advocates fear may endure once the pandemic-threat subsides. The transformation portends dire repercussions for metropolitan business districts nationwide and here in the Loop and surrounding adjacent areas.

2020 started with pedestrian activity up one percent over the same period in 2019. Then, beginning with pandemic lockdowns in March, activity plummeted 80% from a year earlier, to a level never previously recorded, says CLA.

Edwards says his organization, tasked with attracting people to the Loop and accelerating economic recovery, is exploring projects and programs that will "build energy in the Loop once again."

2020 started with pedestrian activity up one percent over the same period in 2019. Then, beginning with pandemic lockdowns



The decline in pedestrian activity in downtown Chicago is typical for the entire country. Pedestrian activity in downtowns nationwide last year.

in March, activity plummeted 80% from a year earlier, to a level never previously recorded, says CLA. It was up slightly during protest riots in May and again during looting in August.

The decline in pedestrian activity in downtown Chicago is typical for the entire country. Pedestrian activity in downtowns nationwide last year, according to the CLA report, was down 59% from 2019.

And those people who are heading downtown these days clearly prefer to drive themselves. A Nov. 2020 CLA study shows a spike in driving above pre-pandemic levels as restrictions are lifted. A personal car is the most common way survey respondents said they were getting to work (55%). The CTA trains were second with 28%, followed by CTA buses at 21%. [Some people

noted multiple modes of transportation.]

According to a story in Crain's Chicago, Bloomberg News analyzed foot traffic data for downtown merchants in five major U.S. cities and compared them to merchants in five nearby suburbs for the period spanning mid-October through November of 2020 — a period that included Black Friday.

Downtown merchants in Lower Manhattan, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas and San Francisco saw an average foot traffic decline of between 64% and 77% for the period, with downtown San Francisco suffering the most. Meanwhile, the suburbs saw a decline of between 31% and 45%, with the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg, Illinois faring the best.

WINNERS from p. 1

these unprecedented times."

The award pays tribute to the buildings in Streeterville that help to keep it a beautiful world class neighborhood. This year's awardees are:

- Residential: 999 N. Lake Shore Dr.
- Institution: Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- Commercial: 541 N. Fairbanks
- Outdoor Café: Roberts Pizza, 465 N. McClurg

The criteria for the beautification awards are landscape contributes to the overall quality of life in Streeterville, or shows substantial improvements in quality and interest. Works that demonstrates creativity, is well maintained and inspires others in Streeterville to improve their own landscaping.

Considering the trauma their community suffered under in the last year, SOAR is right to take pride in their tradition of honoring the efforts of those that keep their urban neighborhood beautiful and thriving, by paying tribute to the people and buildings in Streeterville that help to keep it a beautiful world class neighborhood.

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