

The monotony and solitude of a quiet life stimulates the creative mind.

— Albert Einstein

# SKYLINE

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

[insideonline.com](http://insideonline.com)

## After years of soaring violent crime, a new commander taking over CPD's Mass Transit Unit

BY CWBCHICAGO

While the announcement that former Dallas Police Chief David Brown has been chosen to be Chicago's next police superintendent is certainly big news, there's been another important personnel change at CPD this week.

The departure of a police commander is not something we usually report on, but when the commander is Cindy Sam — the ineffectual head of the department's Mass Transit Unit, it is important.

Violent crime on the city's transit system rose sharply in recent

years while Sam publicly insisted that the problem was not crime but the public's "perception."

Of course, Chicago's other 2.5 million residents knew the truth: the problem was crime, not perception. Violent crime on CTA trains and platforms increased 104% in the five years since 2015.

The city finally began to take serious action against CTA crime last month after two members of the Mass Transit Unit infamously struggled with — and then twice shot — an unarmed man at the Grand Red Line CTA station.

Now, finally, Sam is out. Retir-

ing, the department says. Sources within the department say she hadn't been seen much in recent weeks.

Matt Cline, a tactical lieutenant in CPD's public transportation section, was promoted to replace her on April 1, a department spokesperson said.

Cline is the son of former Chicago Police Supt. Phil Cline, who resigned amid controversy in 2007.

Matt Cline is taking charge of the city's mass transit operations as CTA ridership has dropped almost 80% during the Covid-19 crisis.



Victor Skrebneski, photographer and supporter of the Chicago Film Festival for more than 50 years, died April 4 at the age of 90.

Photo credit © Linda Matlow/PIXINTL

## Don't bogart that joint, pot world changes with City Hall shut down

BY PATRICK BUTLER

On New Year's Day and the first few weeks afterward, marijuana was such a hot commodity long queues of customers were wrapped around some city blocks waiting to buy some reefer.

Until recently, even medical patients were not able to make curbside pickups.

But all that's changing.

The state of Illinois just approved Cresco Labs' proposed store at 436 N. Clark St. and MOCA Modern Cannabis' planned shop at 216 W. Ohio St.

Both spots were part of a group of five proposed dispensaries that received approval from Chicago's Zoning Board of Appeals in March. They were the first and last dispensary approvals the Zoning Board of Approval [ZBA] made before the coronavirus

pandemic caused the city to shut down, delaying future meetings.

The city's recreational cannabis rules required approval from the ZBA, and created seven zones for marijuana sales.

In order to facilitate the "social distancing" required since the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, everyone must pre-order, and be careful to stand at least six-feet away from the next customer when picking up their stash. In some cases, only three purchasers at a time are allowed into a pot store.

At least one cannabis shop was reportedly taking everyone's temperatures as they walked in.

While most other stores have been ordered closed, the newly-opened pot shops — along with banks, supermarkets, hospitals and medical offices, gas stations, day care centers, dry cleaners, fu-

neral homes, and others — including cannabis dispensaries also remain open as "essential" services by order of Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

"We had to literally change the entire way we operate overnight. It's like reinventing the wheel all the time," Paul Lee, general manager at Dispensary 33, 5001 N. Clark, told a Chicago Tribune reporter.

In addition, some cannabis shops require reservations and are operating with fewer workers, often because employees are either feeling sick or simply worried about exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

To make matters even worse, some companies who had been hoping for licenses at least by the end of last month, are still waiting because neither the ZBA nor the

CHANGES see p. 12

## Lincoln Park Clinical Psychologist charged in \$3.2 million health care fraud scheme

Story on page 5

## See your neighbor playing in a park, dial 1984

BY CWBCHICAGO

Contrary to popular belief, all of Chicago's parks are not closed to the public. And confusion about what's open and what's not open is driving a wave of 911 calls from concerned citizens who think people are banned from entering their neighborhood park.

The confusion has also turned neighbors into George Orwell's beloved apparatchiks from 1984, calling Big Brother every time somebody steps outside.

On March 28, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot ordered the lakefront trail, "lakefront-adjacent parks," the Riverwalk, and the 606 Trail closed after warm weather drew crowds to those locations earlier in the day. The lack of "social distancing" prompted the mayor's actions. Lightfoot also shuttered the parks' fieldhouses and playgrounds.

At the same time, Lightfoot banned "contact sports, like basketball and football," according to the order's text. But going out for exercise while maintaining distance is still perfectly fine.

Since then, concerned neighbors have repeatedly summoned police to shoo away individuals from parks that remain open to

the public. Even the sight of two people playing tennis, a traditionally non-contact sport, has generated multiple 911 calls from near Oz Park.

But members of the public aren't the only ones who are unclear about where they can go and where they cannot. And what, exactly is "lakefront adjacent?"

On March 31, Chicago Park District security asked police to help clear people from park property near Stockton and La Salle in Lincoln Park. But cops didn't see any unsafe congregating in the area and one officer told his dispatcher that the area in question — located more than one-third of a mile from the lake — appeared to be open to the public, per information cops received.

But on April 2, police and park security returned to the same general location to direct joggers and walkers out of the park.

So, which parks are open? Fortunately, the Chicago Park District has published a zoomable map of all park facilities for easy reference, see the Chicago Park District COVID-19 Response Map at <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/about-us/news/chicagopark-district-response-coronavirus-covid-19>.

## Property Tax Exemptions due April 10

All Cook County Property Tax Exemptions are due Friday, April 10.

The Assessor's Office administers property tax exemptions that may contribute to lowering the property tax bill. Some of the most commonly administered exemptions include the

- The Homeowner Exemption provides property tax savings by reducing the equalized assessed value of an eligible property. Most homeowners are eligible for this exemption.

- The Senior Exemption provides property tax savings to qualified seniors age 65 or older, by

reducing the equalized assessed value of an eligible residence.

- The Senior Freeze allows seniors age 65 or older with a gross household income of no more than \$65,000 to freeze of the equalized assessed value of their properties for the year preceding the year in which they first apply and qualify for this exemption.

For a full list of available exemptions and information on how to apply, call 312-443-7550 or visit [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com).



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# Trusting in yourselves and each other



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

After breakfast I sat in the dining room writing this column. What's strange is I never write at a table. When I write, it's usually spread out in bed. Pillows everywhere. Eyeball to eyeball with my laptop's screen.

This bears no resemblance to the writing habits of one of film's favorite gossip columnists, Waldo Lydecker. You know, from the 1944 film noir classic, "Laura." Clifton Webb plays the dilettante columnist who is nasty, cruel, acerbic and always writing in the bathtub.

In the largest bathroom ever.

Amid so many knickknacks and toys, including a typewriter, both as a writer and a bather.

Watch the movie if you are unfamiliar. It's a murder mystery during World War II, but the war is never mentioned. A well-made black and white classic.

But Waldo Lydecker is a force of phony nature. No real writer would ever be so silly as to compose in the tub, like he was at High Mass. Even if he has servants and a huge wallet. But from the suds, he rips apart the famous and the self-possessed. I always thought it silly, even more so now. Bunky Cushing loved to call me Waldo. He knew it made me crazy.

Writing is much more of an art form than scribbles in the tub. Even if you are writing in long hand/cursive. Or on a vintage 1944 typewriter. Sorry but the very idea of a bath is abhorrent to me. Although in light of the pandemic I can see wanting to watch the water go down the drain.

We all want to watch the water go down the drain on this one.

We can hardly sleep at night reading the latest on COVID-19, and since the Brits are just getting up when I am going to bed, I can get a quick take on things before

shut-eye from them.

Looks like the British public is finally taking things seriously.

But sadly, it seems that many who went to the non-cancelled Cheltenham Races [March 10-13], where 60,000 people were packed like sardines in the stands, are starting to fall victim to the disease. Those horsey aristocrats and drunk working class blokes won't get much sympathy.

Our pandemic sensory preceptors are already kicking in to sort through the wise from the foolish. If a certain royal princess falls stricken, it will be a trifecta.

But a bizarre, other worldly science-fiction seems cast over the world. All you have to do is peruse the streets and boulevards of Chicago to see the haunting ghost town character that has taken the place of "that toddlin' town."

I only actually see and converse with one human in person. I see people walking their dogs down Winchester St., but have no tactile connect. I hear from a small circle on the phone, daily. And a large army of wonderful people online.

How do we relate to the pandemic in 1918? "The Spanish Influenza." My grandmother's 19-year-old sister, Kate, newly arrived in Chicago, caught it and died. The family always talked about her like she was in the next room.

My connection is more through painting. Some of the youngest and finest painters in Europe died in their prime from the dreaded flu. Not least of them the Austrian Egon Schiele. He paints like a young rebel in stately Vienna. And though drafted into the Austrian Army, he never stopped painting, even going so far as to paint the portraits of enemy prisoners he was guarding in the jail cells. A lot of his work would be considered daring and risqué. Vienna has some stunning religious art of his, and some family works that are extraordinary. No one paints the human form as he did. Modern, angular, colorful and daring. He is beloved among Austrian sophisticates. His works remains filled with meaning for people.

Stories abound of countless Chicagoans who have opened their hearts to others during this time of social distancing. People



Clifton Webb plays a dilettante columnist in the 1944 film noir classic, "Laura." His character is a nasty, cruel, acerbic journalist who is always writing from his bathtub in the largest bathroom ever.

going out of their way to help others survive.

During the darkest days of the "Blitz" in World War II, it was a genteel Jewish artist, a gifted pianist who helped raise the nation's spirits and Londoners' hearts. Myra Hess was a gifted pianist who made her debut with Sir Thomas Beecham in 1907. She was the toast of European concert halls. In 1922 she dazzled Americans who fell in love with her strong but delicate style. She was so popular that she was able to circumvent regulations and hold some extraordinary concerts in the daytime during the war. At night London went dark. The streets abandoned. Her concerts all took place at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. She did this for six years and paid each artist who performed Five Guineas no matter how famous they were.

By the time of the armistice she had held almost 2000 concerts, personally performing more than 150 times. She proved herself a most excellent ensemble player, helping the nation to maintain its hope and unity no matter how many bombs fell at night.

You may be familiar with the concert series staged every Wednesday at lunchtime at the Chicago Cultural Center. The "Dame Myra Hess" concerts. Broadcast live over WFMT. Don't miss it.

Chicago is no stranger to tragic catastrophes. It will be 150 years ago in 2021 that the Great Chicago Fire erased three-fifths of the city. Out of it Chicago grew to be the urban capitol of the heartland, architectural center of America, commodities capital of the world, railroad giant of the age, and the political center of modern life.

Not a bad record for a place that was once a pile of charred rubble.

It happened because people were trusting in themselves and each other. It occurred because the inventive spirit of the age was most at home along the banks of Lake Michigan. From Long John Wentworth to Michael Jordan. And from Jane Addams to Lori Lightfoot, the spirit of the heartland, the American Prairie, unfolds street by street, no matter how many crooks we lock up, how many storms cloud our sky, or who cheats on their spouse and who refuses to wear a flower in their lapel.

Of course disaster looms like a nutty cousin. But so does the spirit of Chicago.

The streets might be empty, but Chicagoans' hearts are filled to the brim.

I had a cheery e-mail from Pat Daley Martino, my favorite Daley. She is sweet and kind and always a reminder of her dear father, Mayor Richard J. Daley. I'm sure he'd be proud of Chicagoans in this crisis, stepping up to make things work in "the city that works." Someone explain that to Waldo Lydecker. I think he just went down the drain.

We might be in lockdown, but...

**CHICAGO**

**SYMPHONY:** "During these times of uncertainty, and with the absence of live music in our concert halls, I hope that people everywhere will remain connected to the wonderful artistry of the Chicago Symphony through these special programs."—**Riccardo Muti.** The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Assoc. has launched a six-program CSO radio broadcast series on WFMT 98.7 FM. From the CSO's Archives: Maestro's Choice—For All Music Lovers in These Difficult Times will be available to listeners, and streaming on wfmt.com and their app. The broadcasts will also be accessible for on-demand streaming on csosoundsandstories.org.

**BIENVENUE:** Welcome to the U.S.A., **Duke and Duchess of Sussex and Master Archie Mountbatten Windsor.** We will treat you with more respect.

**JUST IN:** Farm Bar Market is open! Check out the farm sourced foods from produce, coffees, liquor, jams and salad oils. See what they have available. The market will be open at Noon Tuesday-Sunday. 1133 W. Granville Ave. near the the "L." Value and quality from the farmlands.

**TIDBIT:** Sneak out at night and go look at the moon and Venus. It will do you good.

**MR. MANNERS:** Tom Farley, seen regularly on NBC's Today Show, suggests if you are struggling with how to keep the peace at home while quarantining check out the podcast "What Manners Most," featuring an interview with relationship expert **Andrea Syrtsh.**

**WORD TO THE WISE:** One of our Gold Coast readers recently identified a serious concern. Re-

altor **Jim Kinney** relates: "Northern Trust on Oak St. has horrible customer service. They are now open only Tuesday and Friday by appointment only. They don't answer the phone to make an appointment. There were several older, non-digital customers in the foyer very upset about not being able to get money. Lucky for me I can use the ATM. The attitude at the door was terrible. They need to review how they handle these older customers." Many thanks, Jim.

**CPD NEWS:** Former Dallas Police Chief **David Brown** nominated by **Mayor Lori Lightfoot** to be Chicago's next police superintendent.



Mayor's choice for Police Superintendent, David Brown.

**TIDBIT:** Australia will ship one million liters of alcohol to Taiwan in exchange for three tons of material used to make face masks. Good deal.

**THE MUSIC DIMS:** Some say he was the greatest musician/composer since **Igor Stravinsky.** His work was harsh at times and brash, dynamically complex and painful like the century of Polish history he was born into. But **Krzysztof Penderecki** will always stand at the gate of stunning modern music. He died last week. Deeply mourned as a hero in Poland. Grieved in Paris. And in Chicago where his work was always assaultive and

## TRUSTING see p. 6

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# Mask maker, mask maker, make me a mask

(And some good soul food too)



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

Rachel Poretsky is a “hobby sewist,” who thought she’d be able to complete some big projects for herself while stuck at home. But that didn’t happen because instead, Poretsky is keeping busy lending a helping hand to our hard-working health care providers by sewing masks through the recently-created Facebook group, Chicago Mask Makers.

“A few people who know that I sew tagged me on a Facebook post or messaged me about it early on,” said Poretsky. “I was reluctant at first; I am a research microbiologist at UIC and was skeptical about how hand-sewn masks could be considered effective Personal Protection Equipment [PPE]. A physician friend also questioned their efficacy.

“I donated the PPE I had in my research lab to the UIC hospital and offered some reagents and

laboratory equipment for testing and figured that was all I could contribute,” added Poretsky. “But then I heard/read counter arguments about how a non-woven layer could be helpful and better than just a cotton mask, how some healthcare workers were using them over N95s to prolong the usage of those masks, and how masks were being rationed and not provided to everyone. I was swayed and joined a local mask-makers group on Facebook.”

Poretsky already had fabric and elastic at home. For the nose wire, she used pipe cleaners that had been waiting for a craft project. At first, she made about 25 masks and gave them out to nurses, a security guard in an emergency department, doctors.

“A week or so later, the word spread that we were doing this, the mask makers group grew, and the demand jumped a ton,” said Poretsky.

“We also have guidelines- they must include a non-woven layer,” said Poretsky, who tries to make cheerful masks with rainbows, characters, animals. “For that, I cut up all the reusable shopping bags that I had in my house. These are the fabric-like bags that are made of the appropriate material.

“It gets tedious,” she added. “But every time I realize what a



Rachel Poretsky, left, and her fellow Chicago Mask Makers member Lacy Lauber are keeping exceptionally busy sewing masks for health care workers.

difference I’m making, I keep going back. I do love to sew, so I’m glad that it can be at least moderately helpful during this pandemic.”

Chicago Mask Makers has “so much more demand than we have sewists,” she said. If anyone out there has sewing skills or wants to help in some other way, this Facebook-based group needs you.

“People can help even if they don’t sew by providing the non-woven bags, cutting fabric, or sharing any other materials that might be useful,” said Poretsky.

“We definitely need more help,” said one of the group’s administrators, Lacy Lauber, a registered nurse with Vios Fertility Institute, which has offices in the West Loop and Bucktown.

Most hospitals requesting masks are in the medical district area, but Northwestern Memorial and Lurie Children’s hospitals are also receiving donations, said Lauber. As of Sunday night, the group had distributed more than 1,600 masks, by request only.

On Facebook, they sent out an SOS for material donations, “and it just kind of exploded,” said Lauber. (A shout out also to team members Brie Maldonado, Rachel Hahs, Amy Nieves, Anita Lebling, Christine Baumbach and Jaymi Raad).

“We’re almost 3,000 deep in requests,” said Lauber. “It’s kind of overwhelming. The need is so big and just keeps growing.

“We’re thankful for our health-care providers,” said Lauber.

“People are stepping up to the plate. This many hands make light work. This is a need far greater than ourselves.”

\*\*\*

Over at Chicago Upholstery, 7101 N. Ridge Ave., business partners Dale Forbes and Julian Marc are diligently working to keep their small staff of six employed.

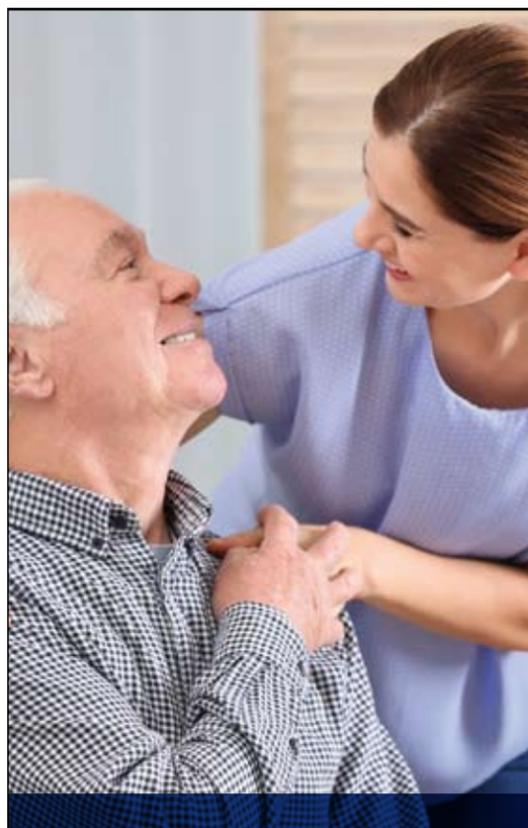


The East Rogers Park-based Chicago Upholstery Company is keeping its employees working by creating and selling handmade masks.

“We were closed quickly, so we turned the business into making different types of masks and isolation gowns, both disposables and washables, for anyone,” said Forbes, who is operations manager of the shop and has brought back and retrained four out of six employees thus far.

Creating guideline-followed non-sterile, disposable, and also washable surgical masks, as well

**MASK** see p. 6



## Foolproof Strategies for Preventing and Managing Aggressive Behaviors in Dementia

Presented by Stephanie Goldstein, BSW, LBSW



Persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia frequently exhibit behaviors that are difficult to understand, manage and treat. Perhaps the most challenging is when the patient acts out with physical, verbal or even sexual aggression.

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# Coronavirus imperils Chicago's residential real estate market



## The Home Front

by Don DeBat

While real estate is still listed as an “essential service”—just like groceries, liquor and pot stores—the world-wide coronavirus epidemic nearly has shut down the housing market in Chicago.

The Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity [DCEO] has issued the following regulatory edicts:

- Open houses are not permitted.
- Showings of occupied rental properties are not permitted.
- Showings of vacant or owner-occupied units are permitted if necessary and scheduled in advance, but limited to no more than four people. Virtual showings are preferred.

“Many Chicago high-rise build-

ings are only allowing resident access,” noted veteran Realtor Jim Kinney of Baird & Warner. “No dog walkers, no trainers, no cleaning people, no construction, no Realtors, etc.”

An enterprising Kinney said: “After some pleading with the building manager, I was allowed to get the appraiser into my listing so we can hopefully get this deal closed. We had to go in through the loading dock and take the service elevator, but it worked.”

In late March, Baird & Warner’s “North Side Market Analysis” reported that since the “Shelter in Place” order was issued by Gov. J. D. Pritzker, 178 sellers have chosen to take their homes temporarily off the market. Many were unlisted for safety reasons. There also were 113 cancellations of active listings.

“Surprisingly, despite the unfolding of events, there does not seem to be a rush to lower prices by sellers. There were only 34 price changes in the last week of March,” said broker John Irwin of Baird & Warner’s Lincoln Park office. “Some homes were relisted with lower prices, but many new sellers are waiting for some market stability before they list their homes.”

Exceptionally low interest rates sparked a boom in the Chicago residential market between December and February, Irwin noted, and that trend continues into April.

On April 2, Freddie Mac’s Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that the benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage average declined to 3.33% from 3.5%. A year ago, the 30-year fixed loan averaged 4.08%.

“Mortgage rates have drifted down for two weeks in a row and that drop reflects improvements in market liquidity and sentiment,” said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s Chief Economist.

“While the market has stabilized relative to prior weeks, home-buyer demand has declined in response to current economic

conditions,” Khater said. “The good news is that the pending economic stimulus is on the way and will provide support for both consumers and businesses.”

### Uncle Sam to rescue

The federal government has ordered that landlords who own buildings that are federally financed through the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development [FHA], Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac, may not evict tenants for non-payment of rent, or charge fees or late payment penalties for a period of six months since the \$2.2 trillion Care Act was enacted by Congress.

The legislation also prohibits foreclosures on all federally backed mortgage loans for a 60-day period, as of March 18—and provides up to 180 days of forbearance for those impacted by a financial hardship related to the Covid-19 emergency.

Imagine what will happen if apartment tenants don’t pay their rent, and landlords don’t pay their mortgages and real estate taxes, which are earmarked to pay police, firefighters, paramedics and many health care workers.

### U.S. leads world in virus cases

Since Feb. 24, in a world-wide coronavirus survey by nation, the U.S. now surprisingly leads the globe by a huge margin with 368,533 confirmed cases, according to a Johns Hopkins Univ. study last updated on April 7.

We’ve also done the most testing so that has skewed the totals.

Spain is second on the virus list with 140,510 cases, followed by Italy with 132,547, and Germany with 103,717. China—where the coronavirus allegedly started—has only 82,718 cases (if their numbers can be trusted), even though it has three times the population of the U.S.

**“While the market has stabilized relative to prior weeks, home-buyer demand has declined in response to current economic conditions,” Sam Khater said.**

As a veteran journalist, this writer wonders how President Trump, the federal government and the American people got so far behind the bus on taking the virus seriously.

As late as this week, reports from friends and acquaintances residing in California and Florida say tens of thousands of people are partying at the beach in a “spring break” mood, while thousands of Americans in New York, Chicago and New Orleans are dying from the virus. As of April 7, there were about 12,262 virus cases in Illinois and 307 deaths.

### Hunker in a bunker

Cold-War tensions sparked the construction of thousands of pri-

vate atomic-bomb fallout shelters in the U.S. during the 1950s and 1960s.

So, it is no surprise that inquiries and sales are skyrocketing for coronavirus bunkers and shelters across the country, reports the Los Angeles Times, despite what we all just saw in the award-winning film “Parasite.” The bunkers come equipped with special air-filtration systems, which buyers believe will come in handy to keep out a deadly virus that can reportedly linger in the air for several hours.

Since the Trump administration has ruled that gun shops are considered “essential businesses,” as coronavirus concerns multiply, more and more Americans are exercising their Second Amendment Rights by buying guns and the number of background checks are skyrocketing, reports the Associated Press. In Illinois, so are applications for Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) cards.

Apparently, for Americans who fear a broader societal collapse down the road, a secure bunker or safe room—with a year’s worth of food, and plenty of guns and ammo—may provide peace of mind. (Sorry, but you will have to supply your own parasites.)

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

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**3550 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 2211**  
 This condo features beautiful gray wood floors throughout, a cook’s kitchen with white shaker soft-close cabinets, white & stainless steel appliances, LED under-cabinet lighting, undermount sink & a full range of stainless steel appliances, along with a breakfast bar. Gorgeous bathroom with new floor & wall tile & vanity. **SOLD**

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## High taxes, unemployment could create a troubled real estate market

BY JACKSON ELLIOTT  
 Medill News Service

Chicago’s high real estate prices and the lack of buyers might indicate a commercial and residential market bubble, one real estate agent said.

It’s a market bubble that may soon deflate now that employers have laid off large blocks of workers and discovered it’s OK for their other employees to work from home. The combination may well lessen the long term demand for office space in downtown office towers.

With the economy in freefall as a result of the virus pandemic, Chicago may be on the verge of a major real estate correction.

Anthony Zammit, a 17-year industry veteran and the CEO of Lofty Real Estate, said that the market might be slowing, a sign of over-inflated real estate prices. The market uncertainty is enhanced in that polls now show that half of Illinois residents want to leave the state, according to a recent Gallup survey.

If the job market is slow to recover after the shelter-in-place order is lifted then real estate demand could dampen even further.

“We were in a pretty strong market [until recently] and in the last five years people were making money and working, [and they were] buying,” he said. But great

economic conditions don’t last forever, and now after the Chicago economy screeched to a halt in the last two weeks, people are frightened.

Chicago residents may now struggle to find a buyer. Until recently most people were able to sell their house for the asking price, according to data from Redfin real estate. But whether buyers are still willing to pay the asking price for expensive North Side housing remains to be seen.

Compared to other major American cities, Chicago homes were spending the longest time on the market before selling and sell above their asking price least often, Redfin found. Still, only 15% of Chicago homes sell for lower than their listed price - but that data was pre-pandemic. This may change quickly now that so many people have been laid off.

Zammit said that high taxes also make high priced real estate hardest to sell in the Chicagoland area if homeowners can expect to pay between \$7,500 and \$9,500 in taxes per year.

He said that the state’s high taxes overall are one of the reasons for Illinois’s population loss. “Chicagoland is going to be more expensive than Springfield. But the taxes here are insane,” he said.

Until now, Illinois real estate prices have remained high despite the state’s shrinking popula-

tion, said Zammit. From 2014 to 2019, Illinois lost over 157,000 residents, according to US Census Bureau figures.

Until recently, Zammit said the market was buoyed due to a strong national economy. Millennials, who haven’t lived through a down housing market, also keep the Chicago market higher. They often buy Chicago properties that older house buyers won’t purchase, he said.

“People are not making money right now, and a lot of Millennials don’t know anything other than a rising real estate market,” he said.

The same trend of high prices coupled with lower demand can be seen in Chicago rents. Over half of Chicago’s population now rents houses, Zammit said. High rents, a weak housing market and high unemployment would be a bad mix for the region.

“If the housing market falls into a bad times, rental rates could still go up or stay the same because of high taxes and high demand,” he said. “If fewer people are buying, then more people are renting, and that generally drives up prices.”

To fix high rents some people have suggested rent controls but that would only make the city’s housing problems worse, Zammit said.

“Developers aren’t going to

**TROUBLED** see p. 6

# Lincoln Park Clinical Psychologist charged in \$3.2 million health care fraud scheme

## Allegedly exploited mentally disabled patients

A Lincoln Park-based clinical psychologist was charged in an indictment filed on Jan. 3, for his participation in a health care fraud scheme involving approximately \$3.2 million in allegedly fraudulent claims billed to Medicare for psychological counseling and psychological testing for severely mentally disabled adults that was never actually performed.

Hubert Dolezal, 78, who lives in the Old Town neighborhood, was charged in an indictment filed in the Northern District of Illinois with 15 counts of health care fraud. Assistant Attorney General Brian Benczkowski of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, Special Agent in Charge Lamont Pugh III of the U.S. Dept. of



Hubert Dolezal

Health and Human Services Office of the Chicago Regional Office and the FBI's Chicago Field Office made the announcement.

According to the indictment, from Dec. 2012 to June 2018, Dolezal allegedly engaged in a scheme to bill Medicare for psychological counseling, psychological testing and neuropsychological testing of severely mentally disabled adults living in community-based housing. The indictment alleges that Dolezal defrauded Medicare through submission of claims for services that were never performed, and for services performed on a routine, rather than an as-needed basis.

The indictment also alleges that Dolezal was double-paid for services, collecting payment from Medicare and the organization running the community-based

housing.

The indictment alleges that Dolezal submitted approximately \$4.4 million in fraudulent claims to Medicare, and that Medicare paid a total of approximately \$3.2 million on those claims. An indictment is merely an allegation and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. Trial Attorney Leslie S. Garthwaite of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section is prosecuting the case.

The Fraud Section leads the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, which is part of a joint initiative between the Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to focus their efforts to prevent and deter fraud and enforce current anti-fraud laws around the country. Since its inception in March 2007, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force has charged nearly 4,000 defendants who have collectively billed the Medicare program for more than \$14 billion.

# Would you take a job without knowing how much you will make? Uber and Lyft drivers do

BY KARI MCMAHON  
Medill News Service

Ride-hailing companies such as Uber and Lyft provide their customers with an estimated cost of a journey before they order the ride. But their drivers only see an estimated duration, leaving them in the dark about how much they will make.

In Chicago, the median wage for a ride-hail driver per trip is \$10.78, according to Gridwise, the developer of a ride-hail advice app. This is after the ride-hail company has taken its cut but before drivers' expenses, which makes their earnings even lower.

Drivers said their take changes day by day depending on passenger availability, journey distance and hours worked as well as the cost of expenses, which can include insurance, cleaning, tax and car maintenance. They find it almost impossible to make a stable living.

Marcy, a full-time ride-hail driver, said she was "really pleased" with her post-expense income from Lyft in 2017 and 2018. But then "everything changed drastically" when the company went public in 2019.

"The amount of money I could make on Lyft changed; it did a complete 180. They kept lowering the rate. They took away a bunch of bonuses and challenges," Marcy said.

Seeing her earnings decline, she decided to drive for Uber in addition to Lyft. She said this almost made it worse because suddenly she lost access to all the bonuses and challenges offered by Lyft to boost earnings. Some drivers be-

lieve the apps have ways of knowing when a driver is working for both companies, and they will try to discourage it by reducing access to their best income-boosting opportunities.

After years of losses, ride-hail companies Uber and Lyft are under pressure by Wall Street to achieve profitability since they went public in spring 2019. At the same time, the competition in the market has become so intense that the companies have continued to offer significant fare discounts to riders. Drivers have said this comes at their expense, and

they're making far less money than when their employers' were privately funded by venture capital firms.

The companies make money by taking a cut of the fare in the form of a service fee, which is variable and not disclosed publicly. Uber has said in the past that it takes a 25% fee, but a study from the Economic Policy Institute, an independent nonprofit think tank, found in 2018 that Uber takes as much as 33%.

Taxis, by comparison, charge

JOB see p. 10



Gary T. Johnson with First Lady Michelle Obama and Joyce Chiu at an awards ceremony at the White House in 2016.

## History Museum president retiring

Gary T. Johnson was named the eighth President of the Chicago History Museum in Aug. 2005. Johnson is now leaving the North Side institution, and while no last date has been announced, he says he plans to depart as soon as his replacement can be found.

A lifelong Chicagoan, Johnson's passion for local history is evident through his leadership at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., focusing on community outreach and strengthening the institution's capacity to serve its mission of sharing Chicago's stories. Taking the job after 28 years as a lawyer, in 2017 Johnson shifted the museum's thinking

to "digital first," prioritizing what's online in projects and operations.

He also was a frequent visitor to the Chicago area grade schools to share artifacts from the Museum's collection. He has visited more than 350 classrooms in neighborhoods throughout Chicago.

Johnson said he also takes pride in building the museum's holdings in photography, including the acquisition of some five million images from the Chicago Sun-Times. Under his guidance, the museum was the second local institution to mount an exhibition of street photographer Vivian Maier, after the Chicago Cultural Center.

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**MASK** from p. 3

and disposable, isolation gowns, Forbes and Marc started reaching out to nursing homes and hospitals for business.

"We were able to bring back workers, one by one," said Forbes. "We're retraining them and repurposing for masks and gowns."

"It's serving a purpose," said Forbes. "We're just a little shocked we have no orders from Chicago but we do have them from Arizona, New York and North Dakota."

But all has not been easy for this dynamic duo. There's no elastic to be found, said Forbes. The two vendors he works with are now closed and there's only one source available to find the material he needs.

"They only have 1,000 yards left," said Forbes. "We're trying to invest to purchase as much as we can."

The first batch of masks were donated to first responders in Rogers Park. Then, elderly neighbors started asking and they received masks too. Then large orders -- 1,000 pieces from Arizona, 1,500 from North Dakota -- started coming in. But, "We were really,

really surprised there were no orders from here," said Forbes.

Now that the CDC has recommended wearing masks, Forbes is getting calls from families too. I bought four, well-made children's masks for my grandkids, but what was created for them would be quite different from the almost four layers of protection a first responder would receive.

"I got a message that (NY governor Andrew Cuomo) is looking for companies like ours to supply them," said Forbes. "Sooner or later, everybody is going to want them."

"It's very important for us to keep people working," he said. "It was really, really important for us to bring them back and get them working and provide for their families and do something really good. It's good that we're doing something."

**He's a soul man...** with a lot of soul and a heart of gold. I'm talking about Lewis Edwards, owner of I'm Soul Hungry, 2043 W. Howard St.

Edwards started feeding seniors in Rogers Park and Evanston after he went to attempt feed his mom, who has dementia, in

**TRUSTING** from p. 2

elegant. His "Paradise Lost" was commissioned by the Chicago Symphony some years ago, by z Bogiem.

**PLAY BALL:** **Bill Bartholomay, Sr.**, was a grandee of the old school of "noblesse oblige." To his "manner born" pedigree nothing was more important than a ballgame. The catalyst for a lifetime of commitment to his nation, his family and his city. He was a 24 karat Chicagoan with all the refinement of his elegant education. He had high-achievement skills and great success in life. **Cynthia Olson** recalls, he was best man at her wedding to the late **Chuck Olson**. And notes, "Bill was a beloved staple at the Racquet Club and everywhere else that he graced with his presence." But it would be his ownership of the Milwaukee Braves (appropriate as the grandson of a beer brewing fortune) and the team's subsequent move to Atlanta in 1966 that carved his epitaph in gold. The move is often credited with the urban expansion and high achievement of the City

of Atlanta. He was a door-opener and deal maker like no other. But to understand his success, you must know his passion. Baseball. "I was an honorary Cubs bat boy when I was nine years old. I'm as enthusiastic now as I was then." Baseball's biggest fan died last week in New York. A Chicago memorial is planned.

**OPERA NEWS:** The Lyric Opera has cancelled the remainder of the season and will reschedule. "O mio babino caro," to quote **Puccini**.

**STANDING OVATION:** **Sherry Lea Fox** with **Mark Olley** and an army of others ask: Who is joining in tonight and every night at 8 p.m. to applaud (literally) a thank you to Chicago Health Care Heroes? (At this writer's house we have blue light back on Beethoven's bust in the window as a sign.) And for good reason, it's time to fly the Stars and Stripes too.

**CONFINED TO QUARTERS:** We are all in the same social boat, but that doesn't mean we can't entertain ourselves. Or



Lewis Edwards, owner of I'm Soul Hungry in East Rogers Park, is keeping seniors and his community, well fed.

a nursing home. He noticed, "A whole bunch of other seniors who did not see anyone."

So on his Facebook page, Edwards started taking monetary donations to start donating and delivering dinners -- about 250 to 300 of them -- to nursing homes

in Rogers Park and Evanston. "Other seniors started calling me to deliver to them as well," said Edwards, who grew up on the North Side and attended Goudy, Swift, and St. Gertrude schools.

Besides dishing out good will, Edwards is serving up some

mouth-watering soul food including fried chicken or baked chicken with roasted garlic, plus two sides of either mac and cheese, collard greens, green beans or sweet potatoes. Everyone gets a main entrée plus two sides and corn bread. It's free for some seniors and half price for others. Edwards has also decided to extend his half-priced meals to all of his customers.

"I have a great staff," said Edwards, who lives at Montrose and the lake. "I'm trying to stay open to pay them. They have families they have to take care of."

Moreover, Edwards also just spent some money on remodeling his business. He built a stage up front for live bands and comedy shows. "But now with this stuff, it's hit us hard out of nowhere," he said.

Yet he's been blessed, so he's trying to pay it forward, said Edwards.

"The community has shown the love," said Edwards. "First elders, then customers who've lost jobs have come in so I thought, 'Let's do it for everybody.'"

"I feel great, as long as I can keep doing it."



Bill Bartholomay, Sr.

even spend our time wisely, as the nuns used to remind us. Around town Chicago's snazziest citizens are keeping things in play. First, **Ferdia Doherty**, **T.J Callahan** and Chef **Eric Mansavage** from Farmhouse made a special delivery of tasty vittles to all the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and first responders at Stroger Hospital, appreciative of everything they are doing to keep our city safe and healthy. That's a familiar Chicago story... also **John** and **Myra Reilly** keeping spirits up preparing the kitchen table for lovely evening dining. French "faience" porcelain china for the wild mushroom soup with crispy

baguettes, placemats from St Paul deVence, napkins from Gordes in Avignon. Flowers in cache pot from Deyrolle in Paris. ... **Brian White** and **Jim Kinney** hosting a Zoom cocktail/costume party at their LSD pad (once **Leslie Hindman's** flat) with Jim in prison stripes. Brian was a sherriff. Was former **Gov. Blago** invited?... writer **Sherrill Bodine** and hubby,

**John**, remembering BFF **Lynda Silverman** who left us all too soon. Memories of wandering the tiny streets of Bellagio's town center with her prompted Sherrill to order Veal Limone with linguine and Limoncello cake from 'Next Door Bistro' in Northbrook and to toast Lynda with champagne. "I miss her every day," she said... Bond Girl **Diane O'Connell** creating the perfect setting for "dinner for one" in her flat overlooking Oak St. Beach and recalling happier days with **Lyn McKeaney** and **Bill Zwecker**... Chicago fashion designer **Lauren Lein** is already working on batch two of face masks for health care workers. Mine was left in a bag hanging in my garden... Club owner/musician **Chad Willetts** and the gang at Le Piano, first name in cabaret/jazz venues in East Rogers Park, is closed but has shifted gears to produce protective wear for health professionals... hats off to **Dierdre Canty** for establishing the Galway Arms Employee Fund during the current crisis... "These have I lived for: Love and music: Vissi d'arte." Thanks to my friend **Shirley Baugher** for these words.

**TIDBIT:** Sophia's Room--Estate Sales, Liquidations and Appraisals 773-729-0638 Open now, open 24 hours. **Sophia du Brul**.

**SALVE REGINA:** **Tomie dePaola**, the prolific children's author and illustrator who delighted generations with tales of Strega Nona, the kindly and helpful old

witch in Italy, died Monday at age 85 at Dartmouth, New Hampshire.

**MUSIC INSTITUTE:** Due to official restrictions on large gatherings and the need to combat COVID-19 with social-distancing, the Music Institute of Chicago has canceled its Anniversary Gala, which was scheduled April 20 at the Four Seasons in Chicago.

**GET WELL WISHES:** Tenor **Placido Domingo**, **Tom Hanks** and **Rita Wilson**, **Andrew Cohen**, **Idris Elba**, **Chris Cuomo**, **Prince Charles**, **Prince Albert of Monaco**, **Cardinal Angelo De Donatis**, **Pope Francis'** vicar for the diocese of Rome, **Brit PM Boris Johnson**, **Jackson Browne**, **Sen. Rand Paul**, **Sophie Trudeau**, **Karl von Habsburg**, **James Dolan** and **Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles** (Camilla's ex-husband, which means both men she wed caught the disease).

**TIDBIT:** Corona stops play. Just when you thought it couldn't get worse, Wimbledon is cancelled.

**In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.** -- *George Orwell*

tog515@gmail.com

**TROUBLED** from p. 4

come in because the price of the property is still going to go up, taxes are still going to go up, but the rent is staying the same," he said.

Although the equity markets have dropped 20-30% for the first time in a decade as the coronavirus hit, Zammit said the real estate market has been more immune to the disease panic so far. Unlike companies on the stock market, properties can't go bankrupt, they just change hands.

"Investors are still going to invest," he said.

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# Safe meal prep and storage during Coronavirus

**Consumers now more than ever need to stop food borne illness**

With the media encouraging consumers to stock up on food and supplies and prepare food at home during the coronavirus pandemic, food safety is paramount.

Mitzi Baum is the CEO of STOP Foodborne Illness, the only national public health organization whose mission is to support and engage people directly impacted by foodborne illness and mobilize them to help prevent illness and death by driving change through advocacy, collaboration and innovation.

STOP is a national, nonprofit, public health organization located in Ravenswood, and dedicated to preventing illness and death from foodborne pathogens. They offer concerned consumers tips for reducing the risk of illness.

“Older adults, pregnant moms, babies and small children, and immune-compromised individuals are at greater risk to contract a foodborne illness from improperly prepared or stored foods,” said Baum. “We are all susceptible to the dangerous foodborne illnesses that nationally cause 3,000 to die each year with another 128,000 hospitalized, many of whom continue to suffer from ongoing consequences including heart disease, diabetes, gastro issues, and stress disorders. The very first advice we petition all to practice is that of thoroughly washing one’s hands before, during, and after food preparation with warm water and soap.”

If you do notice a spot on your food, you shouldn’t sniff it to see if it’s gone bad, as you can inhale the mold spores, which can cause respiratory issues. And remember that mold on food can also indicate the presence of potentially harmful bacteria. Sometimes you just need to throw out the food, in which case, you should put it in a closed bag or wrap it in plastic before throwing it away and disinfect any surfaces it may have come into contact with.

Here are four tips to help you prevent foodborne illness in your home:

1. Store foods at safe temperatures. When coming home from a frantic trip to the grocery store, it is easy to forget which foods need to be refrigerated, which need to stay frozen, and which should be stored in a dry, cool place. Check the packaging on your purchased items before stowing them away. Bacteria thrives in the danger zone, which is between 40° F - 140° F. According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, [USDA] we must “always keep meat, poultry, fish, and eggs refrigerated at or below 40 °F and frozen food at or below 0 °F.” Frozen foods left out on the counter for more than two hours, they must be discarded.

2. Prepare foods, especially meat, safely. The USDA does not recommend washing meat, poultry, or eggs. While the intention may be to wash off any harmful pathogens, the reality is that wa-

ter splashed from these foods will contaminate kitchen surfaces, or worse, other food. Your hands, however, should be thoroughly washed. Before, during, and after preparation, sing the Happy-Birthday or ABC’s (for 20 seconds) while using soap and water to scrub those five-fingered germ carriers clean!

3. Keep your kitchen space uncrowded and clean. Yes it may seem like an impossible task these days, especially with kids running around your ankles and groceries up to your ears. However, a clean prep space is vital to safe food preparation. Step up your campaign against germs by

**Safe internal temperature for meats, poultry and fish:**

**Poultry – Whole and Ground:** 165 °F in thigh, wing, and breast

**Burgers and ground meat:** 160 °F

**Whole cuts of beef, pork, other meats:** 145 °F (rest for three minutes before serving)

**Fish and Seafood:** 145 °F

*\*Color and aroma are not indicators of safely cooked food. The only way to ensure your meat, poultry, and eggs are safely cooked is to use a meat thermometer.*

cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting with every use of the kitchen. Regularly replace sponges and dish towels, or clean them with hot water. Sanitize all kitchen surfaces that hands may touch, including countertops, sink faucets and knobs, sink drains, and cutting boards. Above all, keep your hands clean. Wash your hands throughout preparation, and especially right before you eat.

4. Prepare and eat leftovers in a timely manner. Lunch or even tomorrow’s dinner just became that much easier. If leftovers are properly sealed away within two hours of being out at room temperature, they can be refrigerated for up to four days. If you anticipate that there will be more than four days between meals, pack your leftovers away in airtight containers and place them in the freezer.

Be careful how you store your food, prepare your food, maintain

**SAFE** see p. 10

## Food pantries are busy but change in distribution plan emphasizes ‘social distancing’



Leona, a volunteer at Lakeview Pantry, helps pack “grab and go” bags.

BY PATRICK BUTLER

A third of the city’s free food pantries may have been put out of business in the past few weeks because of the coronavirus ravages, but here on the North Side, places like the Lakeview Pantry, 3831 N. Broadway; Care for Real, 5341 N. Sheridan; and the American Indian Center, 3401 N. Ainslie, are still soldiering out there.

Many like these pantries, of course, have had to make a few changes along the way.

They’ve gone from passing out fresh fruits and vegetables to non-perishable foods. And the foods are already bagged in different sizes, depending on the recipients’ family size.

The trend is away from having the clients “shop” for their groceries in favor of “grab and go” bags, said a spokesman for Care for Real, founded 49 years ago for what was intended to provide temporary aid to victims of what was then “arson alley” along the Kenmore/Winthrop corridor between Foster and Devon avenues.

Today there’s still a need, just a different one, according to Care for Real, noting that “Food is in high demand these days as layoffs and reduced paychecks add to the strain people already face.

But among the changes are a

new distribution plan emphasizing “social distancing,” eliminating the need for clients to wait in close proximity in our waiting room.

Unfortunately, however, Care for Real’s clothing closet will be temporarily closed to minimize any contact between the clients and the people behind the counter to reduce risk of transmitting the virus.

And anyone wanting to contribute used clothing is being asked to keep their donations until the “closet” reopens in the coming weeks, according to the agency. Do not drop them off at the door and drive away.

Same thing with the American Indian Center, which will be closed to the public until April 30.

Those needing help can call 773-275-5871. Calls will be returned within 24 hours.

According to a statement by Heather Miller, the center’s director, “We recognize that this is an evolving situation and we are closely monitoring public health announcements. We will make updates on our hours, problems and services as the situation develops. Please check our website and social media for all information.”

“Finally, we are taking extra precautions to keep our staff, volunteers and visitors safe. We are providing hand sanitizers and wipes in common areas and disinfecting public spaces more frequently. Employees who are experiencing flu-like symptoms will be working from home to keep our facility clean and safe.”

Like these and other feeding programs, the Lakeview Pantry has been adjusting to the times. Change, after all, has apparently been nothing new the Lakeview Pantry, founded 50 years ago by Jo Bolger, Kate Marshall and Barbara Langer-Tchaou as the “People’s Pantry of Lakeview,” serving five homebound clients.

These founders started out collecting food from the local Jewel, as well as the long-gone Evergreen Grocery and Treasure Island supermarkets.

Today, the Lakeview Pantry has 30 staff, 4,000 volunteers and serves 15 different North and West Side neighborhoods.

The pantry also provides social services including mental health counseling, job search assistant, and crisis intervention for their clients.

In recent weeks, the Lakeview Pantry has seen “unprecedented” demand during the coronavirus crisis, Greater Chicago Food Depository spokesman Greg Trotter told Chicago Tribune reporter Peter Nickens.



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# Police Beat...

## Daylight gunfight leaves bullet holes in cars, Lake View High School door

Bullets struck two parked cars and another flew through the door of Lake View High School after occupants of two vehicles exchanged gunfire April 5. No injuries were reported.

Officers responded to a call of shots fired on the 4000 block of N. Ashland just before 5 p.m., according to Officer Ronald Westbrooks, a CPD spokesperson. Police were met by a witness who reported seeing a man in a white Subaru exchange gunfire with an occupant of a gold-colored SUV nearby.

Both of the shooters' vehicles fled the scene, but four vehicles parked on the 1500 block of W. Belle Plaine were struck, including a 2008 Acura, a 2014 Prius, a 2003 Ford Explorer, and a 2005 Ford Sedan, according to Westbrooks.

Officers also discovered a bullet hole in a door of Lake View High School, Westbrooks said. Shell casings were found in a nearby alley and on the street.

Area North detectives are investigating. Investigators were exploring the possibility of a connection between the Subaru and a shooting in Rogers Park [see below] that unfolded less than an hour before the Lake View incident.

## Masked man robs Lincoln Park DogHaus

Police are looking for the masked man who robbed a Lincoln Park bar and restaurant April 3.

Officers responded to a robbery in progress call shortly before midnight at DogHaus Biergarten, 2464 N. Lincoln. Police said a 27-year-old employee reported that a man walked into the establishment, demanded property from a worker, stole the tip jar, and took two tablets while implying that he had a gun.

The robber then ran from the store and fled eastbound on Altgeld St., according to police.

Like many restaurants, DogHaus is only offering carry-out, curbside, and delivery during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The offender is described as a white man who stands about 5'-7" tall. He wore a black mask, gray jacket, and blue jeans. Area North detectives are investigating.

## Teen charged with attacking, robbing woman in Uptown; Second woman attacked nearby

Two women were battered in separate attacks about 30 minutes apart late Thursday and early Friday in Uptown, police said. A 14-year-old boy is charged in connection with one of the crimes.

First, a 30-year-old woman told police that a group of three men or boys grabbed her and threw her to the ground on the 4800 block of N. Magnolia around 11:40 p.m. April 2. The offenders took her phone and wallet, then fled through an alley.

While police searched for the robbers, a 34-year-old woman approached cops near the Lawrence Red Line CTA station with blood flowing from her forehead, according to a CPD report. The woman said a male offender approached her on the 1100 block of W. Lawrence and punched her in the face repeatedly during an apparent robbery attempt at 12:03 a.m. April 3.

The robber fled without taking any of her property, she said. An ambulance crew transported her to Weiss Hospital for treatment.

Around the time of the second attack, officers stopped a 14-year-old boy on the 1200 block of W. Lawrence because he matched the description of one of the attackers in the first crime. That victim identified him as the offender and her phone was found in the teen's possession, police said.

The juvenile, who lives in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood, is charged with one count of felony robbery in connection with that case. No one has been charged with the second attack, police said.

## Medical examiner unable to determine how woman found in burning car died

The death of a woman who was found in the back seat of a burning car in Andersonville last winter remains a mystery. The Cook County Medical Examiner was unable to figure out how Yasmine Parker, 23, died, according to newly-released information.



Yasmine Parker

Her cause and manner of death are now both listed as "undetermined" in county records.

Fire department personnel and police found Parker's body in the back seat of her burning vehicle, which was parked on the 1400 block of W. Faragut around 12:50 a.m. on Nov. 22.

Her car still bore California license plates. She moved to Chicago last August in the hopes of becoming a pharmacist, her father told WGN-TV shortly before Christmas. He said she fell into the wrong crowd here.

Some neighbors said they had noticed Parker's car on the block for a few days before it burned. Blankets and a few other items were seen inside. A police source said detectives were considering the possibility that Parker was living in the vehicle. The fire may have been started by a candle that was left burning as she dozed off in the back seat, the source said.

But Parker's father told WGN that he believes she was intentionally killed by a man she hung out with in Chicago. Officially, CPD classifies the case as a death investigation.

## Suspect sought in January Lakeview home invasion



WANTED

Chicago police issued images of a man they want to speak with in connection with a January home invasion in Lakeview.

Three offenders armed with handguns entered the home on the 1300 block of W. Fletcher around 4 a.m. Jan. 4 and robbed four men who were inside, police said.

The man seen in images released Monday used one of the victims' debit cards near the 6700 block of S. Stony Island shortly after the crime, according to a CPD bulletin.

On Jan. 5 we reported that two men, ages 23 and 24, told police that the offenders entered their home after a friend stepped out to go to a nearby convenience store.

The offenders took two ATM cards and demanded the PINs before they left. They then withdrew a total of \$1,300 from the victims' accounts, a police spokesperson said in January. A television and electronics were also taken in the home invasion.

Anyone with information about the man in the above images can contact Area North detectives at 312-744-8263 about case JD-104232.

## Man charged with robbing Loop bar during shutdown

A Chicago man is charged with burglarizing a Loop sports bar that has been closed for two weeks due to the COVID-19 outbreak. His excuse for being inside a bar that's been closed since March 15? He had to use the bathroom.



Jerry Brown

Police were called to Flight Club, 111 W. Wacker, at 6:14 p.m. March 30 after a representative of the darts-oriented bar and restaurant reported seeing someone walking around the kitchen via a remote camera feed. The witness provided a description of the prowler and police searched the area for suspects.

Cops stopped Jerry Brown, 28, a few minutes later on the 200 block of N. Clark. He told officers that he was "just using the bathroom" at the bar, according to a CPD spokesperson. But police say he was also carrying property stolen from the establishment.

Prosecutors charged Brown with felony burglary and felony possession of burglary tools, police said.

In Nov. 2017 Brown was charged with felony robbery after he allegedly punched a man in the face and robbed him on the 300 block of N. Lower Michigan in the Loop.

And in Sept. 2017 he was charged with window peeping after a Boystown woman reported seeing him peeking into her apartment window on the 800 block of W. Aldine. The outcomes of those two cases were not immediately available because the Clerk of Court denied access to public court records.

are investigating.

## Woman shot in Rogers Park

A woman was shot while sitting in a car in Rogers Park April 5 police said. No one is in custody.

The victim, 38, told police she was on the 1500 block of W. Jonquil Terrace when she heard gunfire and realized she had been shot around 4:12 p.m., according to Chicago police.

An ambulance transported the woman to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston for treatment of graze wounds to her left hand and chest.

Police believe the gunman fired from an older model Dodge Durango with running boards and rear end rust damage.

No one is in custody. Area North detectives are investigating.

Red Line attack trio

Three people attacked and pushed a 59-year-old man onto the Red Line CTA tracks during a robbery at the Roosevelt station Thursday morning, according to a CPD report. No one is in custody and the victim is going to be OK.

The offenders assaulted the victim at the station, 1167 S. State, and tried to take his bag around 7 a.m. They then pushed him from the platform onto the tracks, causing him to suffer facial bleeding and an injured hand.

He was able to climb off the tracks and keep possession of his bag.

According to the victim, the attackers are a white male in his 20's who stands 5'-9" tall and wore a white hoodie with a design on its front; a black female in her 20's who weighs about 300 lbs and wore a camouflage hoodie; and a 6'-tall black male who wore a black hoodie.

An ambulance transported the victim to Mercy Hospital for treatment. Area Central detectives



Police said this man attacked and robbed a woman on an elevator at the Clark-Lake Blue Line station.

## Suspect sought in attack, robbery of 66-year-old woman on downtown train

On April 1, Chicago police released images of a suspect in an attack and robbery of a 66-year-old woman at the Clark-Lake Blue Line station downtown.

On March 31 the man stepped onto an elevator at the train station with the victim and then demanded her valuables and fought with her for control of her purse around 1:30 p.m.

According to the victim, the offender posed as a security guard. She said he is black, about 60-years-old, and wore a dark longer-length coat. He either wore a gray hat or had gray hair, she reported. The victim declined medical attention.

The Clark-Lake CTA hub, located inside the James R. Thompson Cen-

are investigating.

## Teens charged with committing three armed robberies

It turns out there's a more to the story of the 16-year-old boy who prosecutors charged last week with committing three armed robberies with a handgun since Mar. 24.

Back in October, prosecutors charged him with a long list of felonies, including two robberies and gun possession. But, the county decided to release him from custody to await trial.

Police arrested the teen Monday afternoon on the 900 block of N. Cambridge a few minutes after he allegedly displayed a handgun and robbed a 39-year-old man on the 1300 block of W. Chicago.

He was carrying a 9-millimeter handgun when police arrested him, officers said.

Detectives quickly connected the boy to the armed robberies of 7-Eleven stores in Lincoln Park and Little Italy on Mar. 24.

Prosecutors charged him with three felony counts of armed robbery with a firearm, felony unlawful use of a weapon, and misdemeanor possession of 30 to 100 grams of marijuana.

Now, we have confirmed through two sources that the teenager continues to await trial for a host of felony charges that prosecutors filed against him last autumn.

Among the felonies he's been facing since October: robbery of two stores, unlawful possession of a handgun, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, and aggravated fleeing.

Authorities decided to release him from custody to await trial. He apparently took full advantage of his second chance to get another gun and commit even more armed robberies.

## Boystown's infamous burglar back in custody after breaking into another home

Ryan Brandis may be the subject of more crime blotter stories than any other person in years.

He has gone to prison for breaking into an untold number of apartment building laundry and bike rooms around Lakeview and Uptown. Then, the state released him from prison early. And he quickly wound up back in custody.

That's how he got a nickname as the "In-And-Out Burglar" because he

is usually bustling with activity because it serves six of the transit agency's train lines. But CTA traffic is down sharply during the novel coronavirus outbreak and the Thompson Center building itself has been closed since Mar. 16.

Police said on April 1 that the offender struck the woman several times before taking her money and debit card from the purse. He then fled onto Lake St. The victim said the man posed as some type of security officer, according to a CPD report.

Anyone with information about the crime can contact Area Central detectives at 312-747-8380 regarding case JD-198999.

kept getting arrested for theft and burglary every time authorities released him from jail or prison.

He was sent back to prison in 2017 but got released early again last October.

On March 16, Chicago police issued a bulletin after Brandis went "missing" while on parole.

Police say they located the "missing" Brandis on March 30. Not surprisingly, they say he burglarized a Boystown residential building minutes before they found him.

A witness called 911 around 1:45 p.m. April 1 after they saw the 32-year-old kick in the front door of a home on the 800 block of W. Cornelia, police said today. Neighbors helped cops locate Brandis on nearby Halsted St., where he was taken into custody after a short foot chase.

Prosecutors charged Brandis with felony burglary and misdemeanor theft.

## Missing person

Brian Brandt, a 5-foot-10, 165-pound white man with green eyes, black hair and a scar on his back, was last seen in Uptown near Chicago Lakeshore Hospital, 4840 N. Marine Dr.

His last known residence is in the 600 block of W. Webster Ave.

Anyone with information should email his mother at otmcbs57@gmail.com or call Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8380.

## Don't leave keys in cars, people!

Police are warning residents about a recent rash of motor vehicle thefts on the Near North Side. In each of the incidents, the victims' vehicle is parked, unoccupied, and running with the keys in the ignition when an offender approaches and swipes the vehicle while the driver is away.

Incidents include one on the 0-100 block of E. Pearson St. on March 19; the 0-100 block of E. Grand Ave. on March 29; the 200 block of E. Illinois St. on March 30; the 0-100 block of W. Ontario St. on March 30, and in the 1200 block of N. La Salle Dr. on March 30.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

# Would-be owner of Chicago gun stores can't argue city owes \$1M for unconstitutional gun control ordinance

BY D.M. HERE  
Cook County Record

A gun dealer's claim that the city of Chicago deprived him of more than \$1 million in profits fell flat March 10 when a federal judge ruled the calculation fell "somewhere between optimism and speculation."

While Second Amendment Arms cannot reasonably sue for lost profits, it may still qualify for nominal damages, U.S. District Court Judge Robert M. Dow Jr. said. The suit also remains alive on a different count, in which Second Amendment Arms is joined by gun owner Tony Kole in opposing the city's ban on laser sights.

Dow ordered the parties to provide additional briefing on the laser-sight ban by March 31, calling the initial briefs "limited" and "thin."

"Given the gravity of the issue, the court believes everyone – the parties, the court and the individuals whose rights are at stake – would be better served by a more robust explanation of the parties' position and the applicable law," Dow wrote.

The plaintiffs allege the city's ban on sales or ownership of laser sights is unconstitutional.

Dow also questioned the quality of the evidence introduced on the ban – both sides submitted little more than newspaper articles to support their positions. Dow directed attorneys for both sides to explain whether and why the court should consider this evidence.

Dow also ordered attorneys for R. Joseph Franzese, owner of Second Amendment Arms, to provide additional briefing on the subject of nominal damages in his suit against the city for profits he says he lost to a separate ordinance that has been declared unconstitutional.

Franzese, a self-employed barber, sold firearms as a suburban side business for several years be-

fore applying for a Chicago business license in 2010. Franzese said his plan was to open five gun stores within 18 months, but he was derailed by a city ordinance banning the sale of firearms in the city limits. The ban was enacted in 2010 and overturned in 2014 as unconstitutional. He sued the city in 2010.

## ***R. Joseph Franzese kept no documentation of his sales prior to 2010 and could not give a historic estimate of the profits from his business.***

Were it not for the city ban, Franzese said, he would have turned a profit of more than \$1 million over those four years. He offered testimony from economist Robert Southwick to support his claim, but Dow found their methods of calculating the profits unreasonably optimistic.

Franzese kept no documentation of his sales prior to 2010 and could not give a historic estimate of the profits from his business. He did not write a business plan for his five-store concept until 10 months after applying for the business license – months after he said he wanted the first two stores open. The plan did not account for real estate, insurance, construction, inventory or payroll, accord-

ing to court documents.

Southwick's estimates of lost profits assumed Franzese had "significant capital" to open the stores, though Franzese had never spoken to banks or investors about acquiring capital. Southwick also assumed the stores would be immediately profitable, with no data to support the assumption.

"Southwick assumes the very thing he must prove, profitability," Dow wrote. "The record provides little factual foundation for assuming SAA's profitability, or even its existence. ... The source of his ... assumption was somewhere between optimism and speculation, neither of which is a reliable basis for an expert's methodology."

Without the aid of his expert testimony, Franzese is unable to establish lost profits with any reasonable certainty, the court ruled. Since Franzese did not even meet with investors or research real estate costs, Dow expressed skepticism that the store could even have launched successfully, much less have turned a profit.

It is possible Franzese could still be eligible for nominal damages if he can prove his Second Amendment rights were violated by the overturned ban. Dow ordered Second Amendment Arms' attorneys to submit a brief arguing for nominal damages by March 31.



Photo courtesy Facebook

## **Drink the gin, but don't drink the hand sanitizer**

Ravenswood's KOVAL Distillery has heeded a call put out by Illinois leaders and have converted their plants from making whiskeys and specialty spirits into the production of hand sanitizer.

That decision led to a plan that created a product, funded its manufacture and distributed large amounts of the liquid to nursing homes, hospitals and first responders at no charge.

The effort was bolstered by a gofundme campaign that is right now just a few thousand dollars short of \$70,000.

The containers of hand sanitizer will reach thousands of users through the help of partners such as local politicians and organizations like Medspeed and Chicago Beyond. Local brewers have also aided in the process including growler donations from Hamburger Mary's Chicago to bottle and beer to distill from Temper-

ance Beer Co. and Urban Renewal Brewery.

The product has been delivered to the Chicago Police Dept., O'Hare air traffic controllers, the Howard Brown Health Center, The Friendship Center, Night Ministry, The Ark, Common Pantry, UCAN, Deborah's Place, Sarah's Circle, Advocate Christ, Cook County Sheriff's office, ambulance companies, countless hospitals, and police and firefighters in the Chicago area.

KOVAL, 5121 N. Ravenswood Ave., has been working with city officials and the Bureau of Alcohol and Tobacco and Firearms to lift the restrictions and taxes allowing them to pivot to the new product. They now have that approval and have produced over 1,000 gallons of sanitizer made from a mix of ethanol, water, glycerine, and hydrogen peroxide.

## **New free meal pick-up locations**

Chicago Public Schools has updated meal pick-up site locations during Spring Break and after.

On the North Side, those locations include McCutcheon Elementary School, 4865 N. Sheridan Rd.; Armstrong, 2110 W. Greenleaf; New Field, 1707 W. Morse Ave.; Kilmer, 6700 N. Greenview Ave.; Mather, 5835 N. Lincoln Ave.; Lasalle, 1734 N.

Orleans St.; Payton High, 1034 N. Wells St.; Lane Tech, 2501 W. Addison St.; Clinton, 6110 N. Fairfield, and

After Spring Break, the following schools will be meal pick-up sites: Hayt Elementary School, 1518 W. Granville; McCutcheon Elementary School; Peirce Elementary School, 1423 W. Bryn Mawr; and Swift Elementary School, 5900 N. Winthrop.

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**SAFE** from p. 7

your cooking spaces, and approach leftover meals.

The coronavirus pandemic has many consumers afraid for their families, friends, and own personal well-being.

Most cooked foods are high-moisture, and there's no safe way to remove the mold and all of its spores from the food if it appears. With meat, it's especially common for mold to be present alongside harmful bacteria, so even if you see just a small spot of mold, it could be a sign of a more dangerous contamination.

STOP is optimistic that certain preventative measures can be taken to counteract foodborne illness during this sensitive time.

If you think you have been sickened from food, reference their webpage, and contact your local health professional.

STOP is the only national nonprofit public health organization whose mission is to support and engage people directly impacted by foodborne illness and mobilize them to help prevent illness and death by driving change through advocacy, collaboration and innovation. For more information visit <https://stopfoodborneillness.org>.

**JOB** from p. 5

passengers a much higher fare. John Coyne, co-owner of American Taxi company, said his company "charged a small fraction" as a dispatch fee to drivers. He said their rate is around 8% to 11% in comparison to Uber and Lyft's rate of 25% to 28%. Taxis also typically have a standard tipping rate of between 15% to 20% in the U.S.

When Uber launched in 2011, they told riders that fares included tips for drivers. Harry Campbell, founder of the Rideshare Guy blog, said Uber at the time was paying drivers three to four times more than what they are now. When drivers' wages started to decline, many of them complained they were not receiving their tips and wanted passengers to tip them directly. But in 2015, Uber published a blog post that said they were reluctant to introduce tipping because individuals could have a bias towards tipping certain genders or races.

Two years ago, Uber introduced "180 days of change," a program where the company made changes and improvements for drivers, including the introduction of tipping. Campbell said he believed Uber was responding to the deteriorating relationship the company was having with drivers about low pay.

Some ride-hail drivers said the tips have helped boost their cut, but they also said that many riders tip little to nothing.

"Customer service is something that we bring to the rideshare," said Susan Arnold, a 65-year-old full-time Uber driver, adding that she receives tips from about 30% of her passengers, which she believes is more than most.

Matt, a full-time Uber driver from Chicago, said he receives tips from roughly 20% of his riders and the amounts varied widely.

"[Tipping] is nowhere near other service industries or even the taxi industry [receive], where almost every single taxi is tipped in some way at least in the U.S.," Matt said.

A recent working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research found during a four-week study that 60% of riders did not tip. The study was developed in partnership with Uber and examined societal influences in tipping.

Bharat Chandar, a Ph.D. student at Stanford Univ. and a former Uber employee involved in the study, said part of the reason for the low tipping was likely because Uber gave riders the option to tip after they have finished the ride.

"In taxis, typically while you're paying for the trip, you're basically right in front of the taxi driver," said Chandar. "Social pressure from being in front of the person you're tipping could influence tip rates on taxis [in contrast to ride-hails]."

Some ride-hail drivers said an ability to see the fare and choose whether to accept or decline the ride would provide them with more control over their income. By being able to select fares, drivers would be able to make informed decisions instead of relying on tips to subsidize undesirable fares.

"If everyone across the board on the app was given the information to make better

decisions, it would help everyone," said Marcy, the full-time ride-hail driver.

Both Uber and Lyft allow drivers to decline rides, but Marcy said they feel pressured to accept most of them because the algorithm would punish the drivers by offering them fewer rides and bonuses.

Marcy said she has even tested her theory about the algorithm with other drivers and passengers. During one of her fares a passenger arrived at a restaurant only to realize it was closed. The passenger requested another journey but was assigned to a driver a few minutes away even though she was still inside Marcy's car.

**"Customer service is something that we bring to the rideshare," said Susan Arnold, a 65-year-old full-time Uber driver, adding that she receives tips from about 30% of her passengers, which she believes is more than most.**

**Matt, a full-time Uber driver from Chicago, said he receives tips from roughly 20% of his riders and the amounts varied widely.**

"They penalize me by docking me in my acceptance rate, which therefore docks me in what tier I can move up in, which therefore docks what kinds of rides I get assigned to me," Marcy said. "It's a vicious cycle."

Uber and Lyft did not respond to a request for comment.

Gig workers in other industries besides ride-hailing have faced similar problems. Workers for food delivery services such as Postmates and DoorDash, and odd job platforms like TaskRabbit have complained about issues such as low pay and lack of transparency even as their employers receive millions of dollars in funding to secure dominance in the growing industry.

The European Union has taken a particularly strong stance on the lack of transparency for platform gig working, introducing a new law that guarantees gig workers certain rights such as increased transparency.

Earlier this year, the California legislature passed a law that set a higher standard

in classifying individuals as employees. The bill had been introduced after the California Supreme Court ruled that companies must meet three requirements to determine whether workers were classed as employees or independent contractors. For example, workers must perform tasks without the direction of the company and the tasks must be separate from the company's business activities.

Uber fought the legislation heavily and in January responded to the implementation by introducing new features that would help ensure that drivers were considered contractors, not employees. The features included the ability for drivers to see the estimated fare and decline rides without it affecting their status. The company also capped its service fee at 25%.

During the fourth quarter earnings call last month, Dara Khosrowshahi said that early feedback from drivers on the changes in California had been very positive and that the company had rolled out the features to be very clear about their position as a platform.

"The question is, who is that language for?" said Mike Ramsey, senior automotive research director at Gartner. "The cynical part of me says that when you put language like that out there, the designation is not so much for the people who are using the platform as it is for the regulators or lawyers."

Ramsey said the companies want to be viewed as a technology platform, but the reality is that many drivers rely on the platform much in the same way they rely on an employer. He said Uber will likely choose to roll out similar features in other cities unless the trial in California fails.

Still, drivers are hoping the features will be introduced in Chicago. Until then, drivers like Matt, rely on the public becoming better informed about the way companies control their pay structure.

"The market between the driver and Uber is one thing and the market between the rider and Uber is another thing and what the rider pays has virtually nothing to do with what the drivers getting," Matt said.

**Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale**

**Real Estate For Sale**

080808  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION ABS LOAN TRUST V Plaintiff, -v- IRENE D. PIETRUCZYK AKA IRENE PIETRUCZYK, WOODSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, HOLLYWOOD TOWERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 18 CH 07521 5701 N. SHERIDAN RD., UNIT 6K CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 9, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 13, 2020, 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 5701 N. SHERIDAN RD., UNIT 6K, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-407-017-1248 The real estate is improved with a residential condominium. The judgment amount was \$37,814.56. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition

**Real Estate For Sale**

of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 323467. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 111 East Main Street DECATUR IL, 62523 217-422-1719 Fax #: 217-422-1754 E-Mail: [CookPleadings@hsbattys.com](mailto:CookPleadings@hsbattys.com) Attorney File No. 323467 Attorney Code. 40387 Case Number: 18 CH 07521 TJSC#: 39-7790 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 18 CH 07521 I3148718 010101 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

**Real Estate For Sale**

SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff, -v- DARIUSZ GLAB MARCHAJ, 555 WEST ALDINE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2018 CH 10528 561 WEST ALDINE AVENUE UNIT 2 CHICAGO, IL 60657 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 7, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 21, 2020, 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 561 WEST ALDINE AVENUE UNIT 2, CHICAGO, IL 60657 Property Index No. 14-21-312-048-1019 The real estate is improved with a condominium within low-rise with no garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a

**Real Estate For Sale**

mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602 Tel No. (312) 346-9088. 312-346-9088 E-Mail: [pleadings@mccalla.com](mailto:pleadings@mccalla.com) Attorney File No. 267327 Attorney ARDC No. 61256 Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 2018 CH 10528 TJSC#: 40-1549 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2018 CH 10528 I3148783 252525 **Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700**

**Real Estate For Sale**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC; Plaintiff, vs. CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK & TRUST COMPANY OF CHICAGO AS TRUSTEE UNDER A TRUST AGREEMENT DATED APRIL 16, 1984 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 60669; STREETERVILLE CENTER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; BANKFINANCIAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS S/I/I TO SUCCESS NATIONAL BANK; JOHN MARKAY; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF CHICAGO LAND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE TO LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK & TRUST COMPANY OF CHICAGO, AS TRUSTEE UNDER A TRUST AGREEMENT DATED APRIL 16, 1984 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 60669; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A CERTAIN TRUST AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 26, 2011 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 8002356492; CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A CERTAIN TRUST AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 26, 2011 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 8002356492; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 19 CH 11378 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 17-10-203-027-1009 and 17-10-203-027-1010. Commonly known as 233 East Erie Street, Units 909 & 910, Chicago, IL 60611. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g) (4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The

**Real Estate For Sale**

property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455. W19-0527 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3149851 080808 010101 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; Plaintiff, vs. HAROLD L JOHNS; OZ PARK GARDENS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 19 CH 8874 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-33-121-080-1078. Commonly known as 2036 N. Larrabee St, Apt. 8106, Chicago, IL 60614. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g) (4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Ms. Kimberly S. Reid at Plaintiff's Attorney, Marinucci Law Group, PC, 134 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602. (312) 940-8580. 19-07007 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3148548 252525

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## City Sticker wavers

Ticket enforcement on compliance-related violations, including City Stickers and Residential Parking Permits, will be suspended until April 30. The City will also be waiving late fees and back charges on City Stickers during this time.

The Office of the City Clerk will be waiving late fees and back charges on City Stickers through April 30 for residents whose stickers were up for renewal in January, February or March 2020. These dates may be extended should the Office of the City Clerk be closed past April 30. Submit any questions to [ez-buy@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ez-buy@cityofchicago.org).

## PPE donations

For all personal protective equipment (PPE) donations, email [PPE.donations@illinois.gov](mailto:PPE.donations@illinois.gov). For health questions about COVID-19, call the hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov).

# Music teachers turn to online lessons

We may be keeping our distance but the music continues for many piano students and teachers who have turned to online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Julie Lovison of The Lake Shore Music Studio on the North Side has been working with her students via iPhone and iPad using Facetime and Skype.

"It's just great that this technology is available," said Lovison, the past President of Chicago Area Music Teachers Association [CAMT]. "I'm so happy to see the faces of my students and be able to hear what they have been practicing. A side benefit already has been one former student who called to take an online lesson because she is feeling like she has more time now to devote to piano playing. Traditionally we would be competing with soccer practice, Little League and other sports this time of year so it's nice to have a chance for those kids with split loyalties in regard to their activities to have some time to concentrate on music."

Many parents are desperate to have a structured activity for their children that they do not have to plan or necessarily supervise themselves these days, and the benefit continues as students take time to practice between lessons.



(Left) Julie Lovison talks with her piano student via iPad. (Right) Young piano student works on an electric keyboard at home.



Also playing music provides children and adults stress relief. "It's a natural outlet to express inner emotions and offers a diversion from the often grim news reports people are getting on TV and the Internet," said Lovison.

The CAMT was to hold their annual conference in March at the Marriott on Michigan Ave. but that was cancelled, like most every public gathering has been. Lovison would normally have been on hand to represent the Robert Pace Piano Approach

as a local consultant and teacher trainer. The CAMT has pledged to make a number of their planned training sessions available to teachers via the organization's website.

Lovison who typically uses a group piano teaching method has been exploring various additional popular video platforms such as Zoom which allows for multiple cameras and more participants, with the hope that her students will be able to get back to having personal interaction with each other including some musical games

and a chance to comment and critique one another's performances.

"I am certainly not the only one doing this," she said. "A number of my colleagues have been sharing best practices via social media."

***Many parents are desperate to have a structured activity for their children that they do not have to plan or necessarily supervise themselves these days, and the benefit continues as students take time to practice between lessons.***

One family reported to Lovison that one child was taking a piano lesson with her downstairs while her sibling was taking an online violin lesson with another teacher upstairs. "We are all learning to adapt. The upside of this experience for me is being able to take the opportunity to get up-to-speed on remote teaching technologies while my students and I continue to stay connected and enjoy making music together."

## Federal low-income housing tax credits awarded to Lawson YMCA

Federal low-income housing tax credits were awarded to the Lawson House on March 30 for a high-rise residential building at 30 W. Chicago Ave.

The 23-story Art Deco Lawson House former YMCA Building now offers 400 affordable apartments. Completed in 1934, Lawson House YMCA was designed by Perkins, Chatten & Hammond.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit is a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit for affordable housing investments. It was created under the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and gives incentives for the utilization of private equity in the development of affordable housing aimed at low-income Americans. The program is administered at the state level by state housing finance agencies with each state getting a fixed allocation of credits based on its population.

Typically the tax credits are auctioned off to wealthy investors who use them to lower their own taxes. The proceeds of the sale are then used by developers to leverage more lending on their projects.

"We know it's important to save the structures we have if we can. One thing that we're excited about is that we were able in this round to preserve our single



Photo courtesy of [www.ChicagoArchitecture.info](http://www.ChicagoArchitecture.info)

largest single-room-occupancy building in the city of Chicago. That's the Lawson House. That's an example of a preservation deal that matters a lot to us," Housing Commissioner Marisa Novara told the Chicago Sun-Times.

### CHANGES from p. 1

City Council itself have gotten to hear their applications as City Hall - for all practical matters - is now closed for business.

The City Council and other government agencies have been forced in recent weeks to focus on Covid-19 related issues, apparently pushing a number of other issues including the licensing of new cannabis dispensaries on the back burner. Once they re-open attention may be focussed instead on planning for a second outbreak, boosting the crippled economy and dealing with general insolvency of the city, county and state.

Cresco Labs, which already operates five dispensaries in the state, hopes to open five more, including one in the Gold Coast area. Another contender, PharmaCann, operates four stores in the state, with plans to open two more in the city - one in Logan Square and another on the Near North Side. One needs an OK by the City Council for a zoning change and both need approval by the ZBA before anything can happen.

Two other companies' requests were torpedoed by Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] during separate community meetings. One of the companies, Verilife (PharmaCann LLC) wanted to open shop at 12-14 W. Maple St. while Sunnyside\* (PDI Medical III) was eyeing a location at 21-29 W. Division.

In a letter to constituents sent out the next day, Hopkins said his office received

"hundreds of e-mails, letters, phone calls and walk-ins," adding he will oppose putting cannabis dispensaries at either of the proposed locations, citing residents' concerns about crime, location, and increased congestion in that particular Gold Coast neighborhood.

***Ald. Hopkins said he intends to "voice my opposition to those applications" next time it comes up at the Zoning Board of Appeals whenever that happens.***

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Illinois now has 55 medical marijuana dispensaries, and when recreational sales began, all were able to apply to sell recreational marijuana from their existing storefronts and apply for a license to open a second shop.

So far, about 50 marijuana stores around the state have received all needed local and state approvals to sell recreational weed. They have sold about \$110 million worth of legal weed since New Years Day, but some have now stopped selling recreational weed due to the pandemic.

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