

I do believe that [Bill] Clinton never inhaled ...
because when I met him,
he had no idea who I was. — *Tommy Chong*

SKYLINE

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

insideonline.com

Groundbreaking at last for high profile vacant Streeterville lot

DuSable Park
to be used as construction
staging area

Chicago's most famous hole in the ground may soon get filled in. According to their website, developers Related Midwest hope to get started on a two-tower project at 400 N. Lake Shore Dr. by the end of this year.

Having already been approved by the city, Related Midwest is suggesting completion date in 2024.

The efforts will utilize the 3.5-acre DuSable Park, located on land east of Lake Shore Dr., as construction equipment and materials staging site. The timeline fits into the previously announced schedule for the park with plans to begin work in 2024 and open in 2025.

Having been first announced in 1987, DuSable Park may be the most delayed parks project in Chicago history. The park site is part of a former commercial and industrial site, at the mouth of the

VACANT see p. 16



Two towers will soon be added to 400 N. Lake Shore Dr., with DuSable Park (photo, top) being used as a construction staging lot.

Rendering courtesy of Skidmore Owings & Merrill

New 20-story high-rise proposed for Streeterville

Nearly 50,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, 248 apartments; but only 100 parking spots

Mavrek Development is proposing to construct a new 20-story mixed use high-rise at 218 E. Grand Ave. [535 N. St. Clair St.]

The site is currently a three-story parking garage containing 255 off-street parking spaces.

As proposed, the building will create 248 new residential apartment units, and almost 50,000 sq. ft. of commercial work space, but only provide 100 parking spaces, continuing the city-wide trend to reduce off-street parking in new residential developments. While

the current zoning calls for a ratio of .55 parking spots per unit, this plan is offering only .30 parking spots per unit.

According to his recent newsletter, Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] said he requested the number of proposed off-street parking spaces be reduced from 138 to 100 spaces (75 reserved for residents and 25 for office tenants).

This part of Streeterville is already one of the most congested areas of Chicago. The added density to this location and proxim-

ity to generally high-use streets such as Grand Ave., Illinois and Ohio streets - all within one block - will grow demand for increased residential and commercial traffic in the vicinity.

As the project is discouraging private car use, it will grow the demand for shared car services, and bikes and scooters being used by residents and workers. Add in the emergency vehicles used by Northwestern Hosp., police, and

HIGH-RISE see p. 16

Shootout at Godfrey Hotel

**Hotel guest injured
during exchange of gunfire
with armed room invaders**

BY CWBCHICAGO

A 53-year-old man suffered a graze wound to his face after someone knocked on his hotel room door April 17 in River North, police said. It happened around 11:36 p.m. at the Godfrey Hotel, 127 W. Huron.

The man told police that a stranger knocked on his door and then forced his way into the room when the victim opened it.

Once inside the 14th floor room, the intruders demanded the victim's property at gunpoint and began firing shots at him, police

said. The victim returned fire.

Police recovered the victim's handgun and a dozen shell casings from the room and hallway, according to a CPD report. Bullet holes riddled the hotel room, according to officers at the scene.

The report said the victim, who has a Lincoln Park address, told police that two women and a man were involved in the attack. He described them as two White women wearing glasses and jumpsuits and a Black male who stands about 5'-5" tall wearing a black mask and winter cap.

Public records show the victim has a home in Lincoln Park and has owned restaurants and bars in Chicago.

Area Three detectives are in-

vestigating the man's claims.

Sunday's incident is the second "shots fired" incident inside the Godfrey Hotel in two years.

On June 19, 2020, CPD responded to 911 calls at the hotel and encountered several people running from the building who said there was a shooter on the 7th floor, according to police.

Cops went to the floor and found multiple bullet holes throughout the hallway and shell casings lying outside a guest room door. A man told the police that another man tried to shoot him.

Officers found several IDs, "large amounts of drugs" and a gun in a guest room, according to Chicago police.



Chicago Joe's is now closed, a casualty of the pandemic. At 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, the historical contents of the property will be auctioned off.

Memorabilia auction at Chicago Joe's - North Center landmark

BY DON DEBAT
The Home Front

Al Rompza, owner of Chicago Joe's restaurant and saloon for the past 34 years, is one of the toughest guys on Chicago's North Side.

Unfortunately, this week Rompza has a tear in his eye.

The famous Chicago Joe's now is closed for business, a casualty of the pandemic. At 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, the historical contents of the property at 2256 W. Irving Park Rd. will be auctioned.

This writer met Rompza on the handball court at the Irving Park YMCA in 1979. Big Al hit a backwall-kill shot so hard that the black rubber handball exploded on the front wall of the court.

During our after-game chat in the locker room, Al noticed that I was wearing a Chicago Daily News softball jersey with "Billy Goat Saloon" lettered on the back.

Al asked if I needed a sponsor for my 16-inch softball team. Back then, I was the captain of Mike Royko's 16-inch Chicago Sun-Times softball team. I also managed and played short center for Solidarity, a championship team that competed at Oz Park and Kosciuszko Park.

At that time, Rompza, a burly man of Polish descent, owned the Burwood Tap on the corner of Burling and Wrightwood in Lincoln Park. Al was a great sponsor, and members of the Solidarity team were great drinkers—a very successful marriage.

The team was named Solidarity because at least 15 of the players on the roster were of Polish-American descent. The rest were Italians and Greeks. One was Jewish, and this writer has French

and Bohemian blood.

My Risk softball team was launched in 1985, and that group also was sponsored by the Burwood Tap, which Al's father—Joe Rompza—originally opened.

The Rompza family lived in apartments above the saloon.

In 1988, Rompza purchased the old Grover's Oyster Bar and launched Chicago Joe's, featuring an interior festooned with antiques and Chicago memorabilia. Soon after, Rompza once again offered to sponsor the Risk softball team, and that marriage lasted 30 years.

The famous Chicago Joe's now is closed for business, a casualty of the pandemic.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, the historical contents of the property at 2256 W. Irving Park Rd. will be auctioned.

"Chicago Joe's is named after Joe Rompza, my father, who grew up in the neighborhood, played handball at the Irving Park YMCA and loved good home cooking prepared by chef Charles Kowalski," Al Rompza said.

"Chicago Joe's also was a great place to just have a drink, visit with colorful regular patrons, and enjoy the historic Old Chicago atmosphere with its museum-quality vintage sports memorabilia," he said.

It also was a great place to meet a future wife.

After Risk softball practice in May of 1992, I met Realtor Sara Benson at Chicago Joe's. I learned she was an exclusive buyer's bro-

CHICAGO JOE'S see p. 8

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Bread's poetic instructions help us hunt for our love of Chicago



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

"Wouldn't you know it? She wouldn't show it." -- Bread

At the risk of sounding like an old fogey I am loathe to claim any favorite tune that isn't riddled with rock, rap, risqué lyrics or a shelf life of three years.

But the great thing about really being an old fogey is, in truth, you don't ever have to care.

Maybe it's because recently I seem to have been surrounded by so many loving friends who are suffering. So many sudden deaths. People need to know, as they grieve, that they are loved and cared for. And their importance is no accident, but rather the outgrowth of their unique character and emotions.

I seem to have been intense in helping assure them to know how close they are held in the great mystery. The mystery of God's love. And my own. And others.

Lately while at my personal trainer's home gym, he's been playing my requests on his superb sound system making my routines

rhythmic and peaceful.

Since it's just not the time for razzmatazz, I suggested we find some older hits that are both balladic and poetic. He was all for it.

First to pop up was Bread's timeless 1972 melody, "Diary." Instantly my exercise session soundtrack transported me to where I was back in the day it was playing on every radio station. Singing of lyrical, unrequited love to the ears of America's youth.

It was summer sun. Full sails of wind skimming the waters up at Grand Beach, MI, in a dandy sailboat. Ice-cold Diet Pepsi to combat the heat. And articulate, savvy friends whose beach conversations lifted the mind, as well as the heart.

Even the aromas of some of the great foods we concocted after a full day of sun and sand and sailing came back, together with sunsets on the Lake Michigan shore.

And the search of the horizon for Chicago's skyline off in the distance on the other side of the lake. We'd count the number of identifiable buildings whenever the skies were clear.

If you're under 40 you probably don't even know who the rock band Bread was, back in the great era of their fame 1970-1977. No less the tune they made so famous, "Diary." Or their 13 other great hits on the charts within that short timespan.

David Gates, Jimmy Griffin and Robb Royer formed the rock group. Gates was a magic and poetic writer. A true bard. At home seizing the ambiguities of life and the perplexities of being a human with emotions and a heart.

It was still the post-Woodstock era, but Gates opened a lost door in the low wall of our cultural expression when he composed, carrying us 'Bread Heads' into his poetic imagination. Like a surgeon finding the source of our hurt, heartache or transformative joy.

If you're a geezer, I know right about now you're humming some tune Bread laid on your heart. Some small musical plunge into what makes us truly human and capable of survival. In spite of life's pain and hurt. No matter that at times we blunder. Or stand misunderstood. Or totally fail to comprehend the power of our own emotions.

Confession: I've been listening to Bread now on my laptop. Over and over. Moisture in my eyes. More than usual. I got it bad.

Tuning into that era in my life without cellphones, computers, facebook, Instagram or Uber. I've been repeat-listening to David Gates' poetry of storytelling in "Diary." Now way more sentimental than 45 years ago. But life-giving.

If you don't recall details of the song's story, it's like this. A young man discovers his girl-

friend's diary under a tree. And he begins to read it. Overjoyed that the romance he thought rather low-key on her part, was really full-fledged. In the diary she even writes she is really deeply in love. The love she always waited for.

He's so excited as he reads about her hidden emotions. He's all about what can be. That is, un-

else, not me."

Now what?

I guess I'm bringing all this up, not because I'm nostalgic (though I am). But because I'm feeling the need for words that caress and turn us in the right direction in life.

That dynamic never comes to an end. It's ongoing, no matter who we love. Or who loves us.

Our culture and our City are in desperate need of love we can count on. Love we can trust. Less psychotic acting-out. More holding each other close. Uncovering the sweet things that we need. Beyond the looting of life. The car-jacking of our love. The episodic heartache of everyday living.

Maybe Gates and Bread are a beginning for us? They are for me. Like a sunny summer at Grand Beach. Or a sailboat tacking in the windy memory of a time past. Or a choir singing the Ukrainian National Anthem at the Cubs home opener. Love near enough to smell.

If you think of it, say a prayer for Jimmy Griffin and Robb Royer. They have moved more deeply into the mystery of love more than 20 years ago. Each a cancer victim in the years after fame. And poetry. David Gates is still on the planet. But how lucky we are. Bread's poetic instructions really help us hunt for love. Transforming everything in its power.

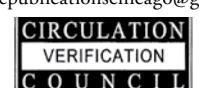
FOX NEWS: Anita Blanton
has joined Chicago Fox owned

POETIC see p. 12

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Lincoln Park Resident Brings Mobile Flooring Showroom to Area

"I grew up in a family business and wanted to run my own in Chicago. Floor Coverings International was the option with over 3000 flooring choices and several awards for Customer Service and Satisfaction."

Christina Scharer of Floor Coverings International North Metro Chicago

Lincoln Park resident Christina Scherer came from a family of achievers having grown up as the daughter and granddaughter in a family business.

With a marketing background and having studied engineering as well, it became clear to Christina that home improvement was the sector to be in with people nesting more and more. And, a recent study showed that the number one home improvement that adds value to the home is new flooring.

"As a mother of two small children I love the new durable engineered wood floors that look fantastic and also take a beating from kids and pets and still clean up so easily. I am my own typical customer," Christina said.

Christina's territory covers near north neighborhoods of Lincoln Park, Lakeview, North Center, Roscoe Village, Logan Square, Bucktown, Buena Park, Irving Park, Avondale, Boys Town and Wrigleyville. You can reach Christina at 773-571-0119 or Christina.Scherer@floorcoveringsinternational.com or go to the website at <https://northmetrochi.floorcoveringsinternational.com>



Cook County approves \$4.25M in loans for affordable senior and veteran housing projects

On April 5, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved \$4.25 million in HOME Investment Partnership Program Loan funding for two new affordable housing projects in Bellwood and Chicago Heights. HOME Investment Partnership Program Loans are an investment made by Cook County to grow affordable and permanent supportive housing development projects for families and individuals in communities in suburban Cook County.

"Cook County is proud to provide HOME Investment Loan funding to assist in devel-

oping these important and essential affordable housing projects," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "I believe strongly, as many do, that housing is a human right. The tremendous demand for this type of housing represents an urgent need that we must continue to address until all residents have a safe and affordable place to live."

Today's announcement furthers Cook County's commitment to House America: An All-Hands-on-Deck Effort to Address the Nation's Homelessness Crisis, a federal

initiative launched in Oct. 2021 in partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to increase affordable housing in places like Bellwood and Chicago Heights which almost exclusively serve members of the public who are most vulnerable and subject to homelessness, including the elderly and veterans.

"The pandemic has exacerbated the affordable housing and homelessness crisis in Cook County," stated Xochitl Flores, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development Bureau Chief. "A lack of affordable housing remains a barrier to residents

and families' health, safety, well-being, employment, and education."

Projects include the Bellwood Senior Apartments consists of the new construction of an 80-unit, affordable housing building for seniors who are 62 and over located at 540 W. 25th Ave., Bellwood; and Chicago Heights Veterans will be a new construction family housing community for extremely low and low-income veterans and their families developed and managed by the Housing Authority of Cook County [HACC]. The proposed midrise will consist of 82 units.

For more information on House America, visit www.hud.gov/house_america.

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West Ridge residents Annabelle, 2, Betsy, 10, and Amanda R.



Left to right: Amina, Adalyn and Riyah enjoyed the sunshine, and the candy.



The Easter Bunny and Torrick Ward.



Eighteen-month-old Maeve was on the hunt for eggs.

Holy happiness!

Easter Bunny surprises peeps at Baby Wranglers eggs-travaganza



**Heart
of the 'Hood**
by Felicia Dechter

We hoppity-hopped around town searching for a very large, floppy-eared rabbit -- the one and only Easter Bunny. We finally found him, partying with some cute chicks in the little Circle Park at the end of Morse Ave. in East Rogers Park.

Even though I've met plenty of celebs, I was so star-struck by the Bunny's to-dye-for good looks that I was a basket case. He was really hop stuff. And he was having a super great hare day.

Bunny had arrived a day early, on Saturday, and he said it was a heavenly sight to see the park dotted with a few thousand, brightly-colored Easter eggs. Some were glittery and blingy, others were shaped like carrots, while yet others were just good, old-fashioned plastic eggs (all of which are recycled for next year). They were stuffed, chockfull of not only yummy candies -- the good stuff -- some also had prizes redeemable at generous local businesses.

A hundred or two peeps came to see the bunny and join in the morning's fun, which included an awesome Easter Egg Hunt, a kid-attracting bubble machine, and playing silly games such as hop in the bunny sack and corn-hole carrots, among others.

I was all ears and it seemed like everyone who came was counting their blessings, as it has been a long, two-year egg hunt hiatus. Many were part of the neighborhood's popular social media group, the Baby Wranglers of East Rogers Park.

While there, I met Torrick Ward, a Rogers Parker who's running for Judge of Cook County's 9th Subcircuit. (The election is in June). I was impressed that Ward -- who seems like a good egg -- took the time to set a table up and introduce himself to the community. I also liked the spiffy, blue reusable tote bags with his name that he was handing out!

A couple of nights before the event, a small group of people -- myself included -- gathered at my daughter Tedi's house to stuff thousands of Easter eggs.

Volunteers also showed up Saturday morning to hide eggs.

Many thanks to those who helped as well as all the other volunteers and businesses that helped make this eggs-traordinary community event possible.

Feeling groovy... You may (or may not) have noticed I took the last couple of weeks off. Both the hubby and I finally got hit by



Annelise, of Rogers Park, and her harey friend.

COVID. For two years, we went nowhere. Then, we went to the Eagles concert, followed by our granddaughter's Irish dance recital the next night and Goodman Theatre the night after that.

It was a busy week. We let down our guard, and boom!

He started feeling it first, with horrible body aches. It then went into bad cold symptoms. Because we're both high risk, my husband was immediately started on anti-viral pills once he tested positive, which he did with both a government-issued home kit and at an immediate care center.

About four days later, I woke up in the middle of the night feeling like my throat was closing up. It was so sore and swollen that I was afraid I'd have to go to the ER. I took a government-issued home test, it was negative. First thing in the morning I went to an immediate care facility. Positive.

That was Sunday, and they arranged for me to have a monoclonal antibody infusion the following day. By that time my head was huge, and I wondered if the brain fog would ever clear. I couldn't focus, didn't want to even try. And the fatigue was and still is a problem. I'm still tired (egg-hausted!).

I firmly believe that being vaccinated and boosted helped us get through safely though. Again, I get not wanting to get the vaccination. The COVID vax is the only one I've ever gotten except for required childhood vaccines.

COVID numbers are on the rise again. Please, be careful. You don't want this sickness. We were lucky. But as you know, not everyone has been. Stay safe.

Party like it's 1969!... like the Easter Egg Hunt, back after a two-year hiatus is

the cool Waldo Forever Fest. Woo-hoo!

The Midwest's first and largest 420 festival -- a celebration of cannabis and community -- will be held April 23 at Dispensary 33, 5001 N. Clark St. Expect a full day of live music, drag performances, local food, cannabis education, and activations. Additional, week-long festivities include several citywide Waldos W33kend sponsored pop-up events on April 20 as well as a brunch concert on April 24 at City Winery in the West Loop.

The additional festivities include pop-up events April 20 including Rollin' with the Homies: Mixer + Movie at Davis Theater, Jokes for Stoners at Zanies Comedy

Club, Stoner Trivia at Redline VR, a punk rock show at AliveOne, and a comedy production debut at the Annoyance Theatre called Spliff, Laugh, Love that will run for eight weeks. The week will conclude with a Daytime 420 Concert with Dan Deacon at City Winery April 24.

A tale of two audience members... it was the best of plays, it was the worst of plays, depending on who you're talking to. Two different people gave me their take on "Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man," which has a limited engagement at

HAPPINESS see p. 6

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Judge trims Chicago car impound case, but city still faces suit for selling ‘abandoned’ cars

BY SCOTT HOLLAND
Cook County Record

A judge has split up a long-standing legal action challenging Chicago's vehicle impounding policies, but will allow plaintiffs to keep pressing their claims that the city violated their constitutional property rights by seizing vehicles and then selling them to tow companies before the owners had enough time to retrieve their cars.

In June 2019, attorneys filed suit on behalf of Andrea Santiago that were aimed to force the city to pay up on two classes of perhaps tens of thousands of car owners whose vehicles were either towed by the city after being declared abandoned, or were later “disposed of by the city” — a phrase that often meant the cars were quickly sold to tow companies, which later resold the vehicles for scrap and parts.



In Nov. 2020, after the city removed the complaint to federal court, U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly said Santiago's complaint met thresholds needed to certify it to proceed as a class action. The city appealed, and the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals vacated Kennelly's order and sent the case back to district court in December.

After Santiago filed an amended complaint, the city again moved to dismiss. Kennelly ruled on that motion in an opinion issued April 5, only partially granting the city's request.

Santiago's amended complaint sought to create two classes, one for people whose vehicles the city towed away and a second for those whose vehicles the city sold.

According to court documents, Santiago is a senior citizen who uses a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis. Her daughter, Lisanda Velez, drives Santiago in her mother's vehicle. On June 5, 2018, a city employee placed a sticker on the window of Santiago's 1998 GMC Savanna 1500 indicating the city deemed the vehicle aban-

doned and would tow it if not moved within seven days. Velez saw and removed the notice but didn't tell her mother, although she did move the van and put signs in the windows indicating it wasn't abandoned.

On June 13, the city towed the van and mailed two impound notices. Before July 5, Velez tried to recover the van, but the lot denied her request because Santiago is the sole owner. Velez returned later that month with a notarized letter, but the vehicle was disposed of on July 16, 2018.

Kennelly granted some wins to both sides on the question of whether the lawsuit can continue.

Notably, Kennelly sided with Santiago's position that the city violated Fifth Amendment rights of vehicle owners when it sold their cars.

“It cannot be said that one has notice that her car will be disposed of when the city does not follow the procedures outlined in its ordinances,” Kennelly wrote. “Based on the ‘additional notice’ language of the ordinance, it would be reasonable for a vehicle owner to think that her car will not be disposed of until the city sends an additional notice after the first one. The court further notes that the mailed notice that

Santiago received contained inaccurate information regarding how long she had to collect her vehicle before disposal.”

Kennelly partially rejected the city's argument Santiago lacks standing to challenge the sticker notice policy, saying Velez isn't Santiago's legal agent, nor did Velez's knowledge of the sticker impute to her mother. However, he agreed with the city that “had Velez not removed the sticker, Santiago likely would have seen it when she got into the car.” He also said she lacks standing to challenge the content of the notification sticker because she said she never saw the actual sticker.

He likewise said Santiago can't challenge the city's failure to provide a hearing before towing because even if that process existed, and if the sticker told owners of their right to a hearing, Santiago wouldn't have known, only Velez.

Santiago also cannot pursue her unjust enrichment claim because her complaint “alleges no facts suggesting that she ever paid a fee to the City in connection with the towing and impoundment of her van,” only that the city got money for selling it to United Road Towing. And because her new van hasn't been towed, she can't ask the court to declare the city's pol-

icy violates due process rights.

The judge allowed the unjust enrichment claim for the second putative class, but rejected Santiago's contention that the city also violated Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable seizure, as that “is limited to an individual's interest in retaining her property and cannot be invoked by the dispossessed owner to regain her property.”

Kennelly rejected Santiago's request for injunctive relief for the vehicle disposal class, saying it would be speculative as was applied to the tow class. He also refused to issue a writ of mandamus forcing the city to send additional notice of impending disposal.

Kennelly dismissed the count of unjust enrichment for the tow class and Fourth Amendment violations for the disposal class. He did not dismiss the unjust enrichment or the Fifth Amendment claims for the disposal class, ordering the city to respond by April 26.

In the ruling, the judge also sent the remaining counts, for which Santiago could not demonstrate standing to pursue in federal court, back to Cook County court.

Letter to the Editor

Are public housing high-rises coming to Lincoln Square?

There is trouble in paradise, kiddies.

City Hall has said “NO, not yet” to The Community Builders [TCB] and Ald. ‘Lying’ Matt Martin's attempts to use low income housing funds for their construction plans.

And “NO” to their attempts of saving a few parking spaces for Lincoln Square's businesses.

But what did Matt, the local chamber of commerce, TCB and the Heart of Lincoln Square [HOLS] do?

They opened the door for City Hall, not themselves. It's a Pandora's box, and it's now open.

Now that the neighborhood has been exposed to the concept of public housing, it's suddenly clear, it's City Hall's show. The local community has lost control of the debate and the decision, it's been moved downtown.

And we know who is to blame for that, we've been taking attendance all along here.

City Hall does not need anyone's permission, blessing or in-

put to give away real estate and fund public housing with your tax dollars.

The City owns it. Not Ald. ‘Lying’ Matt Martin, nor the chamber, HOLS nor TCB.

And City Hall does not need to limit construction to six stories. Other developments in residential neighborhoods have been 10, 13, 14, 16, 19 and even 20 stories. And it might be coming to Lincoln Square, just like 4383 N. Broadway. Ten stories.

The owner wanted to build four stories. The alderman and neighborhood said no.

Then a developer came in, bought the land and cut a deal with City Hall.

Or 5150 N. Milwaukee, 10 stories. The Jefferson Park neighborhood said no. City Hall said yes.

Bryn Mawr and Chester: 600 units. The alderman and neighborhood said no.

There are 400 vacant apartments in the neighborhood. The Pavilion Apartments have over 100 Section 8 rentals. The mayor

played the race card and got her way.

The following developments were built among three and four floor buildings:

- Division and Milwaukee: 20 stories.
- 838 N. Noble: 19 stories.
- 1170 N. Racine: 16 stories.
- Greenvale and Chestnut: 16 stories.
- 1414 N. Damen and 2020 W. Schiller: 13 stories each.

Some decisions by politicians can have long-lasting implications. ‘Lying’ Matt, the chamber, HOL and TCB opened the door to building on the parking lot. Will City Hall step forward to close the deal? You just watch what happens next.

And does ‘Lying’ Matt need to step aside? Nope, City Hall has already pushed him - and the Lincoln Square community - aside.

*Mike Sullivan
Avondale*

HAPPINESS from p. 5

the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

I haven't seen it, was supposed to go but just wasn't up for it. But for those who are interested in going or are on the fence about it, here's what I was told:

Person #1: A 50-year-old straight male who attended with his wife, and his gay sister. “I wouldn't recommend it,” he said.

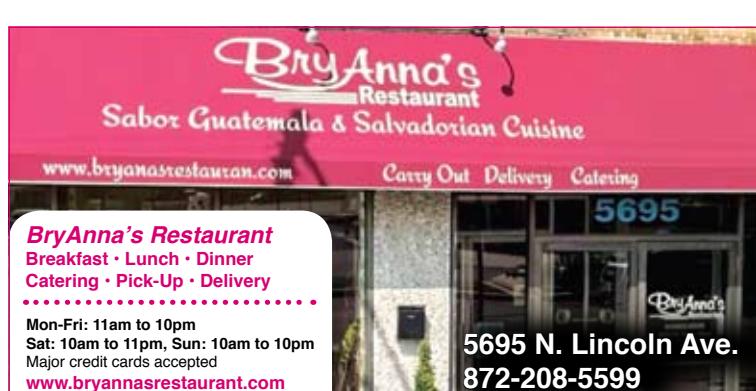
It made him a bit uncomfortable and although he got a laugh or two, he was not impressed, especially when audience members had to stroke their Playbills.

Person #2: A 60-year-old straight female, who attended with a girlfriend. “The show was hysterical and very interactive with the audience.”

“Dan,” played by Adam Fane, the gay man who co-wrote the book, was perfect and really

stirred the pot!” the woman exclaimed, laughing. “The female professor was just as convincing and blossomed to a vamp by the end.

“You can't leave out the super performance by Bradley Meyer, who not only looked the GQ part but was able to stay in character even when tickled with a pink feather. This is a perfect play with a lot of comic relief.”



Sheriff Dart announces anti-carjacking legislation

On April 6, Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart announced legislation requiring auto manufacturers to create a 24/7 recovery hotline to help law enforcement quickly track stolen vehicles.

The inability for law enforcement to access tracking information in real time after a carjacking makes it difficult to catch offenders and prevent the vehicle from being used in additional crimes. Currently, each auto manufacturer has their own process for obtaining such existing information, often causing unnecessary delays. Under the legislation, law enforcement can obtain this information, if the owner consents, when a vehicle has been carjacked or is being used in the commission of

other violent crimes.

Cook County experienced 2,060 carjackings in the last 12 months and carjackings rose 38% from 2020 to 2021. The Sheriff's Office has been gathering and analyzing detailed data on the crime as part of its work with a regional carjacking task force. The Office also has been engaged in discussions with auto manufacturers since December about a potential hotline and other ways the industry could help combat the rise in carjackings.

"Tracking is a game changer. Gaining better access to this information in a way that protects consumers will go a long way to turning back the rise in this particularly vicious crime," said Dart.

"In analyzing data on this crime, we know that the sooner we know where the car is, the better chance we have of finding the offenders and preventing the vehicle from being used in other crimes."

SB 4205 is sponsored by State Sen. Michael Hastings and HB 5744 is sponsored by State Rep. Marty Moylan.

"The faster we are able to tackle this issue and arrest the people who carjack, the better off and safer society will be," said state Sen. Michael Hastings. "I am extremely proud of this bill."

"A comprehensive response to the recent rise in carjackings must include input from our law enforcement," state Moylan said. "I am proud to collaborate with law

enforcement officers like Sheriff Dart to come up with solutions to this public safety issue."

The legislation also will require auto manufacturers to provide law enforcement agencies details about the tracking capabilities available in their vehicles by model, year, and version. In addition, auto manufacturers will waive all fees associated with initiating, renewing, or maintaining the vehicle tracking and/or vehicle disabling systems in response to law enforcement investigations involving carjackings or other violent crimes.

The public will also be able to access information about whether their cars can be tracked on the Sheriff's website.

Last December, Dart wrote to auto manufacturers requesting their assistance in creating a hotline law enforcement can use to receive vehicle tracking information in real time. He also testified on March 1 before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee about the rise in carjackings and his work with automakers on solutions.

In the meantime, Dart developed a consent-to-track form that owners can submit to the Sheriff's Office to grant access to vehicle tracking information in the event it's illegally taken. Having the completed form on hand will make it easier for law enforcement to access tracking information from manufacturers.

Finding hijacked cars is easy; charging the drivers with carjacking not so easy

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police continue to find people driving hijacked cars, but many of those drivers are still being charged with crimes that are much less serious than carjacking. That's usually because the victims cannot identify them as the offender who actually took their car.

Here is what happened after police recovered two cars that were taken in recent hijackings we reported on.

Goose Island case

On April 2, a hijacker took an Indiana man's rental car on the 1200 block of N. Halsted near Goose Island.

The 62-year-old victim was in a parking lot when the carjacker stepped out of a silver car that was driven by an accomplice, hit him in the head, and drove away with his vehicle, according to a CPD report.

Five days later, a CPD license plate reader spotted the stolen car traveling through Back of the Yards. Police tried to pull the car over, but the driver sped away, so they ended their efforts to pull the car over.

But they spotted the car again a few minutes later in a nearby alley. As the squad car pulled up, the driver sped from the alley and struck the patrol car, breaking one officer's wrist and dislocating another cop's finger, prosecutors said.

The driver bailed out of the car and ran. He didn't get far.

Prosecutors charged Seth Johnson, 19, of Kane County with possession of a stolen motor vehicle and aggravated fleeing, both felonies. They also charged him with two misdemeanor counts of resisting. It was his first arrest.

Judge Charles Beach set his bail at \$25,000, meaning Johnson had to post \$2,500 to get out of jail.

Lakeview carjacking

On the evening of March 29, two masked hijackers took a 28-year-old Lakeview man's car at

Identification difficult

"I understand some of the frustration is felony versus misdemeanor, that all comes from witness identification," Lt. Thomas Keene told residents at a Bucktown-Wicker Park community meeting last year. "What that person's role in the crime was and who can identify them? Can the witness identify them? Can the victim identify them?"

Some Illinois legislators have proposed laws that would increase the seriousness of driving a hijacked vehicle, even if the driver may not be responsible for the carjacking. So far, those legislative efforts have not gained traction.



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Plant sale April 30 at Pottawattomie Park

The Spring Plant Sale is coming back at Pottawattomie Park, 7340 N. Rogers, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday April 30.

Gardeners may stock up on your annuals, perennials, and houseplants during the sale. All

proceeds will benefit landscape improvements and youth programming at the park.

Those who have plant cutting or divisions to share, may bring those along, too! The sale is cash only and will take place at the park.

Artists needed for Artists on the Wall

The Loyola Park Advisory Council [LPAC] is set to continue the Artists of the Wall event tradition this summer and is now calling for artists.

The event will take place two days (June 18-19) over Father's Day weekend at Loyola Park. A total of 150 spaces will be painted over the two days.

Beginning on Sunday, May 1, registration will open for spaces. The spaces will be opened 50

slots at a time over three days (May 1, May 3, and May 5). Artists are limited to only one space. The LPAC will vet the registration list and allow only one space per family.

For more information, or to register, visit www.loyolapark.org/registration/. The LPAC also seeks volunteers, those interested may email at loyolaparkac@gmail.com.

Buena Park wine walk May 1

The 4th annual Toast of Uptown: A Buena Park Wine Walk will be held starting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 1.

All attendees will receive a wine tasting glass which is the ticket to this event—simply present it at each stop along the route for wine samples.

This wine walk will take guests on a tour through the many businesses that call Buena Park home. Wine selections have been chosen by North Buena Deli & Wine as well as local restaurants and cafes.

Small bites from local eateries will also be provided along the route.

The Uptown Chamber has partnered with Lakeview Pantry to host a food drive during the walk. Lakeview Pantry works to provide fresh groceries, social services, and free mental health counseling programs to those in need. Those who make a \$10 donation by May 1, will be entered to win the Toast of Uptown Gift Package – a \$250 collection of gift cards and merchandise from Buena Park businesses.

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INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

CHICAGO JOE'S from p. 1

ker, and as real estate editor of the Chicago Sun-Times, I asked her to write a guest column on the subject. A romance followed, and we were married in August of 1994.

Around that time, Al Rompza and I shared a few bachelor-party cocktails, and ended up skinny dipping in his Old Irving Park home swimming pool at 4 a.m.

Over the years, Rompza has sponsored several men's and women's neighborhood softball teams, which often partied on the expanded outdoor dining patio with space for 80 people, this newspaper's co-ed 16-inch softball team - The Inside Dirt - included.



The Home Front
by Don DeBat

White Sox Hall of Famer Minnie Minoso was a regular customer at the saloon, and so was the Cubs cheerleader, Ronnie (Woo-Woo) Wickers.

Later, Risk was renamed Vintage Risk, a legendary team with a roster of Chicago 16-Inch Hall-of-Fame Softball players. Chicago Joe's sponsored the Risk and Vintage Risk teams for three decades.

Auction attendees should note that the walls and ceilings at Chicago Joe's are covered with signature baseball bats, batting helmets, vintage hockey sticks, old boxing gloves, historic sporting event tickets, signed championship Risk and Vintage Risk 16-inch softballs and a collection of historic black-and-white photos of Windy City sports palaces—from Comiskey Park and Wrigley Field to the original Soldier Field.

There's also a terra cotta lion's head dating to the 1800s, and a collection of vintage Chicago politician and sports celebrity photos, including Mayor Richard J. Daley, and Chicago Bears Hall-of-Fame tight end Mike Ditka.

Highlighted in the Chicago Joe's historic collection are neighborhood scenes including vintage photos of North Side Chicago saloons and neighborhood scenes such as State St. and Maxwell St., old beer advertising signs, historic Illinois license plates and vintage el-train signage along with a collection of historic newspaper front pages from the Chicago Daily News and Chicago Tribune.

There also is an original 1920s event poster starring Billie Holiday from Colosimo's Café—a restaurant and nightclub once owned by mafioso James "Big Jim" Colosimo.

Auctioneer Randy Donley, owner of Donley Auctions based in Union, IL, said he was surprised that most of the memorabilia is old and original. "Rompza purchased these items when they were already considered antiques, and he just took great care of them," Donley said.

"My Dad is sad about closing



The Rompza family (Left to Right): Mother Jean, Kelly, son Bradley, Nicole, Emma, son A.J. and Al Rompza share a moment of good cheer.



The championship Vintage Risk 16-inch softball team celebrates in the bar at Chicago Joe's after a win at Horner Park in 2016. The saloon sponsored the team for 33 years.



Al Rompza, owner of Chicago Joe's, flexes his muscles after a bike ride in Horner Park.

"My Dad is sad about closing the restaurant and hosting the auction," said son Bradley Rompza.

"He put it all together. It took years to acquire all the antiques and memorabilia."

the restaurant and hosting the auction," said son Bradley Rompza. "He put it all together. It took years to acquire all the antiques and memorabilia."

Even the 15-foot-tall Chicago Joe's neon marquee will go on the auction block, but Al Rompza insisted that Chicagoans have the first shot at buying the good stuff. Bradley said his father kept only five items from his historic collection:

- A framed photo of Joe Rompza in his World War II Army uniform. (He fought in France and Germany after the D-Day invasion in 1944.)
- A framed photo of Joe Rompza on Lake Shore Dr. in his 1949 white Chrysler convertible.
- A photo of the Cubs' first night game at Wrigley Field on Aug. 9, 1988.
- A demolition photo of Grover's Oyster Bar while Chicago Joe's was undergoing remodeling.
- And, a vintage City of Chi-

cago voting machine featuring mechanical levers. Mayor Richard J. Daley likely used machines like this to help John Kennedy get elected president in 1960.

Landrosh Development purchased the mixed-use restaurant-apartment building and the adjoining 30-car parking lot. The company plans to raze the building to make way for 42 rental apartments and ground-floor space for a new restaurant.

Hopefully, the new proprietors will name the place Chicago Joe's II.

For more information about Chicago Joe's memorabilia auction, call 1-815-923-7000, or visit: <https://www.donleyauctions.com/>

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

Lawmakers finally realize there is a problem, pass bill to combat organized mob looting

BY GRACE KINNICKUTT
Capitol News Illinois

A measure aimed at addressing high-profile “smash-and-grabs” and other organized retail crimes that have so severely damaged Chicago’s retail districts was among the scores of bills passed during the General Assembly’s final sprint toward its adjournment.

So it’s official, there is an election coming up and the incumbents are horrified they may be held accountable for their ‘defund the police’ and ‘free the perps’ policies over the last few years.

Its backers, among them the Illinois attorney general and the Illinois Retail Merchants Assoc., called it one of the strongest actions in the nation to define organized retail crime while increasing prosecutors’ ability to hold criminals accountable.

Whether the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office and Kim Foxx will change their ways as a result of this legislation has yet to be seen.

Republicans, for the most part, voted for the bill, but several GOP lawmakers called it watered down and removed their names as cosponsors after a late amendment was filed to appease crime victims groups and civil liberties organizations.

House Bill 1091, which will still need approval from the governor to become law, defines “organized retail crime” in state law with the intent of reducing offenders’ ability to avoid prosecution.

Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton, chief sponsor of the bill in the Senate, said it is aimed at trying to prevent “the big fish from coercing the small fish into stealing.”

Senate Amendment 4 changed the focus of the bill to identify ringleaders, or “managers,” of organized retail crime rings, creating greater penalties for them than for the low-level individuals who steal from stores and may be victims of human trafficking.

That amendment states an individual commits retail crime and is subject to a Class 3 felony charge when, “in concert with” another individual or group, the person “knowingly commits” retail theft from one or more retailers.

Committing assault or intentionally damaging property of the retail establishment would also fall under the definition. Anyone committing a battery as part of such a crime could be charged with a Class 2 felony.

A person is guilty of being a ringleader of an organized retail crime operation if they recruit individuals, supervise finances or direct others to commit retail theft with intent to resell merchandise that exceeds \$300 in value. Ringleaders can also be found guilty if merchandise is stolen while in transit from the manufacturer to the retail establishment.

Ringleaders, or “managers” as they are called in the bill, would be subject to Class 2 felony charges.

After midnight in the Senate, HB 1091 passed 42-10, later passing the House 96-5 with Democratic Rep. Carol Ammons, of Urbana, and Chicago Reps. Curtis Tarver, Mary Flowers, Will Guzzardi, and Kelly Cassidy voting no.

The effort to address organized retail crime is also backed by a \$5 million in taxpayer funds within the state budget, allowing the attorney general’s office to award grants to state’s attorneys and law enforcement agencies that investigate and prosecute organized retail crime.

During the House floor debate, Minority Leader Jim Durkin, who voted for the measure, said he was disappointed the bill was “the best we could do.”

Durkin tied his argument back to a criminal justice reform

passed by Democrats in Jan. 2021 that Republicans have repeatedly seized on to call Democrats soft on crime.

Saturday on the SAFE-T Act’s creation of a cashless bail system that does not take effect until Jan 1, 2023. Under the cash bail

forcible felonies such as first-degree murder, sexual assault, arson and any other felony involving the use or threat of physical force; stalking and aggravated stalking where the defendant poses a threat to the victim if released; abuse or battery of a family member where their release poses a danger to that family member; gun crimes where the defendant poses a threat to a specific person; and cases where the defendant is considered a flight risk.

Durkin said that under the cashless bail provision of the SAFE-T act, offenders could be charged but released from custody to commit smash-and-grab thefts again.

“We’re not doing anything to discourage or deter the people who are destroying the River North neighborhood, businesses on the South Side, the West Side, everywhere else in Chicago that have had to deal with this in the past year-and-a-half,”

Minority Leader Jim Durkin said.

Those repeated criticisms of the criminal justice reform known as the Safety, Accountability, Fairness, Equity-Today Act, have, to a large extent, driven some of the public safety-centric proposals pushed by Democrats this year, including the retail crime measure. And in an election year, that means trouble.

Durkin focused his arguments

provision, bail bonds and conditions of bail will be replaced by a system of pretrial release to be developed by the Illinois courts based on a detainee’s alleged crime, their risk of not appearing for their court date, and the threat or danger they may pose to the community if released.

Exceptions from pretrial release under the new law include

PROBLEM see p. 13



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Police Beat...

Man stabbed during fight on Red Line train

A man was stabbed during a fight on a Red Line CTA train near the Chicago station on April 12, police said. It's the latest sign that officials are not meeting promises to reduce violence on the city's transit system.

Police, citing preliminary information from a witness, said the victim got into an argument that turned physical while riding the train around 11:45 a.m.

During the fight, the offender pulled out a knife and stabbed the 40-year-old victim in the abdomen. The victim exited at the Chicago station, 800 N. State, while the offender continued northbound on the train, according to information gathered at the scene.

EMS took the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where his condition stabilized.

CPD did not release a description of the offender. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Former U.S. Postal Service clerk charged with stealing checks

A former U.S. Postal Service mail carrier in Chicago has been indicted on federal charges for allegedly stealing government stimulus checks from the mail.

Olivia L. Bryant, 33, is charged with three counts of theft from the U.S. mail.

Bryant pleaded not guilty to the charges during her arraignment April 11 in federal court in Chicago. A status hearing is set for 1 p.m. May 13, before U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey.

The indictment accuses Bryant of stealing three pieces of mail from her route in Chicago in March 2021. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Małgorzata Tracz Kozaka advised the Court during arraignment that the stolen mail contained government stimulus checks.

Gun recovered after year-long meth investigation ends in Boystown

A North Side man was armed with a handgun when police arrested him near Boystown at the conclusion of a year-long methamphetamine investigation, according to police and prosecutors. Miguel Espino, 24, of Rogers Park used the Grindr dat-

ing app to arrange some sales with undercover cops, police alleged.

Police arrested Espino on the 500 block of W. Brumpton on April 6, moments after he allegedly sold meth to an undercover cop during an arranged meet up. Officers who moved in to arrest Espino after the transaction found a loaded handgun in his possession along with more meth.

Espino sold meth to undercover officers repeatedly since last spring across the North Side, Rosemont, Schiller Park, and Skokie, according to allegations court records. Police allegedly recorded some transactions and used "marked" money for the deals, which they say were arranged via text and Grindr messaging records.

While police valued the narcot-

ics in some transactions at a couple of hundred dollars, others involved meth worth thousands of dollars, according to the allegations.

Prosecutors charged Espino with armed violence and nine counts of methamphetamine delivery.

Judge Susana Ortiz ruled Espino could go home on electronic monitoring by posting a \$1,000 deposit toward his \$10,000 bail.

Armed men take ATM from Edgewater gas station

Armed robbers took an ATM from an Edgewater station April 13, police said. It's the second time criminals have targeted the business since Saturday.

A masked man walked into the service station at 3:13 a.m. and implied he had a gun as he walked to the back door, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. He let another man in through the back and two stole the business' cash machine.

The service station clerk, a 37-year-old man, was not injured.

Police saw a gray minivan head north on Clark St. as they arrived, but no arrests were made.

On April 9, a group of people broke into a gaming machine at the same business, 6262 N. Clark St.

At 9:45 p.m., four men and a woman surrounded the gaming machine until the cashier asked them what they were doing, Bartoli said. They fled after he intervened. But the employee noticed they had damaged the machine and took cash from inside.

Area Three detectives are investigating both incidents.

Two 12-year-olds among 5 juveniles charged with stabbing man at Roosevelt CTA station

Five juveniles, including two 12-year-olds, are charged with misdemeanors in connection with the April 8 assault and stabbing of a man outside the Roosevelt CTA station. None of them is charged with a felony.

Police said a 30-year-old man got into a physical altercation with five males inside the train station around 6:12 p.m. One member of the group pulled a knife and stabbed him in the chest.

The fight moved into the street, where a passing patrol officer saw the group punching and kicking the victim as he lay on the ground. All five offenders returned to the station and boarded a southbound train. EMS took the victim to Insight Hospital and Medical Center in fair condition.

Cops used CTA's surveillance network to track their movements, and officers took them into custody near the 35th St. Green Line station.

A CPD spokesperson said all five of the people arrested are juveniles: A 12-year-old boy is charged with misdemeanor reckless conduct causing bodily harm. He was also cited for fare jumping.

Another 12-year-old boy is charged with misdemeanor reckless conduct. CPD cited him for having weapons on CTA and not paying fare.

The others, boys ages 14, 16, and 17, are charged with misdemeanor reckless conduct. Police also cited them for fare jumping.

Wave of armed robberies reported downtown

Chicago police are investigating a burst of armed robberies that occurred in the Loop, Streeterville, and the Near North Side on April 15. Most of the hold-ups appear to be related and might be part of an ongoing robbery pattern that detectives warned the public about this week.

Friday night's spree may also be linked to an armed robbery in Streeterville earlier in the day. In that case, two men confronted a woman with

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

a handgun and took her purse near Ohio and Fairbanks around 2 a.m. The robbers were wearing ski masks and escaped in a gray Buick SUV, according to a CPD report.

Another robbery occurred in Streeterville around 9:14 p.m. Friday. A 36-year-old woman was on the 600 block of N. St. Clair when two men tried to pull her purse away, said Officer Alex Aguas, a CPD spokesperson. The men fled in a black Nissan sedan that was driven by a third man, according to Aguas. Once again, the offenders were reportedly wearing ski masks.

Minutes later, three men robbed a 24-year-old woman at gunpoint as she walked on the 300 block of W. Walton, Aguas said. They took her purse and fled in a gray SUV.

Next, four robbers confronted 29-year-old man as he walked on the 300 block of S. State around 10 p.m., said Aguas. The crew robbed him at gunpoint and escaped in a silver SUV.

Police also received calls from at least two other robbery victims in the Loop around the same time. But the local police district did not have any patrol units to handle the calls, according to dispatch records. Officers who were dispatched over 30 minutes after the initial reports could not find victims.

Area 3 detectives issued a community alert last week about an armed robbery team that had committed at least three hold-ups in River North and Old Town.

Each time, between one and four offenders wearing ski masks took the victim's valuables at gunpoint and fled in a black vehicle. Four masked men confronted a man with handguns on the 500 block of N. Franklin around 12:45 a.m. April 11; on April 10, a three men forced a 28-year-old man to withdraw money from an ATM at Fifth Third Bank, 33 W. Huron, around 1 a.m., and a masked man displayed a gun and took purses and wallets from victims at the BP service station, 1647 N. LaSalle, around 10:30 p.m. April 8.

According to the alert, the suspects are Black males between 20- and 40-years-old who stand 5'-10" to 6'-2" tall. Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263.

Armed carjackings reported in Lakeview, Uptown on Sunday

Four armed men pushed a driver to the ground and stole his car in Lakeview on April 10, police said. Earlier, an armed carjacker took another man's car in Uptown.

The Lakeview victim, a 29-year-old man, was standing next to his car on



Chicago police officers recover a safe that Timothy Jackson (inset) allegedly ditched outside Tribune Tower.

Cops catch seven-time felon carrying a safe down Michigan Ave.

When people talk about making the Magnificent Mile safe again, this is probably not what they have in mind.

A parolee with an extensive history of burglaries and thefts in the downtown area faces fresh charges after police saw him carrying a large safe down Michigan Ave., prosecutors said. And, no, the safe does not belong to him.

But even though he is on parole for severely injuring a man during an attack in the Loop, the state is not thinking about sending him back to prison, records show.

Police were first called about a burglary in progress by the owner of a Streeterville nail salon who saw someone breaking into her shop via a remote surveillance feed around 5 a.m. April 7. The owner told police she saw a man force the door open, remove a safe from the office, and head west from Bedazzled, 221 E. Grand, according to a CPD report.

Cops spotted Timothy Jackson, 31, strolling down Michigan Ave. near Tribune Tower a few minutes later. He was carrying a safe, they say. When Jackson saw the cops, he dropped the safe and ran, Assistant State's Attorney Loukas Kalliantasis said. Cops arrested him nearby.

Prosecutors charged him with burglary and Judge Charles Beach said he must post a \$4,500 deposit toward his \$45,000 bail to get out of jail.

Jackson is on parole after being sentenced to prison for three felony cases last June.

during the first quarter, with 433 cases compared to 423. There were 198 during the first quarter of 2020 and 110 in 2019.

Police are asking for help with a year-old suburban murder that has links to Rogers Park

Officials are hoping to crack a year-old north suburban murder case that has links to the Rogers Park neighborhood.

The Cook County sheriff's office, which is leading the investigation, said Erik Esquivel lived in Rogers Park until someone shot at him in Nov. 2020. He packed up and moved to Maine Township, near Niles, with his girlfriend and their newborn daughter.

Just a few months later, a gunman shot Esquivel and his girlfriend as they sat in their car outside their new home on the 9600 block of Greenwood Rd. Esquivel died. The woman, also 18, survived.

After the shooting last year, Arlington Cardinal reported the gunman was a Hispanic man wearing a black knit cap, a black hoodie, a black gaiter mask, and black pants.

Officials said the killer escaped in a stolen silver Jeep that police later found abandoned in Rogers Park.

On April 13, the sheriff's office released video of the Jeep as investigators tried to drum up new leads.

"We left the city because of this

(violence)," the sister of Esquivel's girlfriend told the Tribune last year. "And it still followed us."

Anyone with information about the case or the Jeep can contact detectives at 708-865-4896 or 847-635-1188.

Charges filed after Lightfoot bodyguard allegedly spots a gun in man's shoulder bag

A Wisconsin man faces felony charges after a cop assigned to Mayor Lori Lightfoot's security detail saw the outline of a gun in his cross-body bag while they waited in line at a fast food restaurant near Millennium Park on April 12, according to prosecutors and a source.

It happened around 9 p.m. at Shake Shack, 14 S. Michigan, adjacent to the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel.

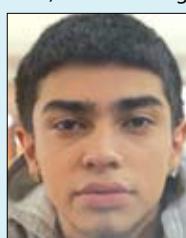
Lightfoot spent the evening celebrating the 100th anniversary of former Mayor Harold Washington's birth with many of the city, county, and state's most powerful officials.

Then, she apparently wanted some Shake Shack.

Officially, prosecutor Loukas Kalliantasis said only that an on-duty Chicago police officer was in line at the restaurant when he noticed the outline of a handgun and an ex-



Miguel Espino



Erik Esquivel

She said one hijacker pushed the victim to the ground and displayed a gun. The group then climbed into his gray Nissan Sentra and fled eastbound.

The victim, who was working as a delivery driver, declined medical attention.

Bartoli said suspects are Black males between 15- and 25-years-old who wore jeans and jackets.

In Uptown, a man was outside his car on the 5100 block of N. Clark when a hijacker displayed a gun and drove off with his blue Toyota 4Runner around 3:20 p.m., according to a CPD report.

That victim described the carjacker as a bald Hispanic man with a large beard.

Citywide, hijacking reports paced slightly ahead of last year's record

Loop Alliance staffer dismisses crime problem as robberies, carjackings, auto thefts, and shootings soar higher than pre-COVID years

BY CWBCHICAGO

Some of our readers probably don't know this reporter started covering the crime beat nine years ago, April 13, 2013, because a group of Wrigleyville and Boyntown residents became fed up with false information being provided by the Chicago Police Dept. about a major robbery problem in their neighborhood.

To this day, nothing gets our keyboards burning faster and hot-

ter than someone misleading the public about a crime problem.

One of the surest ways to know someone is trying to cover up a major crime problem is when, rather than comparing their neighborhood's crime stats to previous years, they instead compare their neighborhood's crime to a different neighborhood.

It's like saying you weigh 25 lbs less than your brother. Yet, you weigh 50 lbs more than you did last year.

So, you can imagine our skepticism when Kiana DiStasi, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer of Chicago Loop Alliance, spoke glowingly about the downtown neighborhood's crime statistics. The alliance, if you haven't already guessed, promotes the Loop.

"Violent crime [in the Loop] is less than one percent of the city-wide total," DiStasi told WBBM radio on April 11, "and if you look at shootings and homicides, it's

actually less than one percent."

So, in DiStasi's world, because less than one percent of the entire city's violent crime happens in the Loop, things are fantastic in the Loop.

Incredibly, there were 121 motor vehicle thefts in the Loop during the first quarter — that's more than the first quarters of 2021, 2020, and 2019 combined.

Ok. Well, let's compare the Loop to itself rather than the rest of the city.

There were 70 robberies in the Loop during the first three months of this year, up from 29 last year. This year is out-pacing 2019 and 2020.

There were six carjackings during the first quarter, up from two last year, three in 2020 and zero in 2019. Last week alone, there were at least three more hijackings in the Loop.

Criminal sexual assaults are at a high point, too. There were 10 during the first quarter, up from four last year, five in 2020, and six in 2019.

Incredibly, there were 121 motor vehicle thefts in the Loop during the first quarter — that's more than the first quarters of 2021, 2020, and 2019 combined.

Aggravated battery cases this year have more than doubled from last year and are in line with the bustling first quarters of 2019 and 2020.

Burglaries are up from six last year to 28 this year. That's in line with 2020, but double 2019's

performance.

Murders and shootings? There have been three shootings and no murders in the Loop so far this year. That's up from zero at this point last year. The first quarter of 2020 had three shooting victims in a single incident, one of whom died. In 2019, there was one shooting victim. They survived. There was also one murder, a man beaten to death.

For all of last year, there were 23 shootings in the Loop. By comparison, there were 23 shootings for the seven full years between 2013 and 2019 combined. The Loop had 13 shootings in 2020.

Last year's violent crime total, 427 incidents, was one shy of 2019, when the neighborhood was booming with activity.

"If you're down here regularly, it's very different than what people are seeing when they're just watching negative or isolated incidents on the news," DiStasi told WBBM.

We can agree on one thing. It's very different in the Loop.

New York subway gunman used to live in Uptown

Shooter dished out one-star Yelp! reviews while he was here

Frank James, suspected of shooting 10 people as he fired 33 rounds on a New York City subway train April 12, was arrested April 13 after he called a Crime Stoppers tip line to report where police could find him.

James left a years-long trail of videos and social media rants, including, this reporter has learned, Yelp reviews of an Uptown hotel that he once called home.

In 2017, James, 62, lived at the Aragon Arms Hotel, a single-room occupancy hotel 4917 North Kenmore in Uptown. Like the other three Yelp reviewers who've

posted opinions of the Aragon Arms, James was not pleased.

"This is not a hotel it is a dump. I would not have stayed as long as I have if I could afford to move. The manager is a mean old bi*ch who hates complaints and always threatening to throw people out who make her mad. The new female desk clerk they just hired is an evil piece of sh*t who will smile in your face while stabbing you in the back."

He gave it one star.

Other users posted photos showing a dead rat, a filthy toilet, and piles of garbage inside the

Aragon Arms.

James posted a handful of other reviews under the name "Frank J." The Yelp account's profile photo also appeared in some of James' YouTube videos and social media posts.

In April 2016, James reviewed the now-closed World Gym at 909 W. Montrose:

"This gym sucks the manager is a rude piece of crap the rest of the staff especially the janitors talk about overweight members in Spanish. Let me say if you're not gay this is not the gym for you another big reason I quit."

next to him in bed with a gunshot wound to her temple.

Murphy said police found no firearms or shell casings in the apartment and there were no signs of robbery.

Judge Maryam Ahmad ordered Banks held without bail on two counts of first-degree murder.

In January, a federal grand jury indicted Ocie Banks, Jr. for a series of armed robberies of suburban cellular stores. He is charged with three counts of robbery, one count of attempted robbery, and four counts of using, carrying, and brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence in that case, federal prosecutors said in a press release announcing the charges.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel Fuentes allowed Banks to go home on a \$10,000 appearance bond after his father agreed to serve as the third-party custodian on Jan. 20, court records show. Authorities released the younger Banks from custody even though his father was not present at the court hearing, according to the documents.

On April 13, US District Judge Martha Pacold revoked Banks' bail and issued a warrant for his arrest due to pretrial violations, records show.

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Berwyn man is accused of killing his mother and father in an Uptown senior center apartment over the weekend while awaiting trial on federal allegations that he robbed a series of phone stores at gunpoint. The murders occurred less than three months after the father signed paperwork to get his 33-year-old son out of federal custody, court records show.

Ocie Banks, Jr. is the 14th person charged with killing or shooting — or trying to shoot or kill — someone in Chicago this year while awaiting trial for a felony. The alleged crimes involve at least 28 victims, eight of whom died.

Ocie Banks, Sr., Sheila Banks, and their son lived together until Sheila kicked the son out of their home because of ongoing abuse of the father, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said. The father, age 79, then moved out of the home to share an apartment with their son in Berwyn.

On April 8, the younger Banks drove his father to Sheila's apartment in the Wilson Yard senior



Ocie Banks, Jr.

housing complex, 1032 W. Montrose, for a card party, Murphy said. Surveillance video from the complex showed that two of Sheila's neighbors were already in her apartment when the father and son walked in, Murphy said.

Shortly after 3 a.m. April 9, Sheila, 61, walked her friends to an elevator, then returned to her apartment, according to the video.

The footage, which Murphy said was "constant," next showed the son exiting his mother's apartment around 6:01 a.m. He appeared to lock the door and then leave the complex.

No one else entered the fourth-floor apartment until the Bankses were found dead the next evening. Chicago police discovered the couple after Ocie Banks Jr. asked them to do a well-being check because they could not contact the couple, said Murphy. The son and other family members were present when police arrived at Wilson Yard.

Officers found Ocie Banks, Sr. lying face down in the bed with gunshot wounds to his forehead and back. Sheila Banks was lying



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POETIC from p. 2

WFLD as an anchor for Good Day Chicago. WMAQ's always gracious **Art Norman** suggests that we welcome the alumna of Hampton Univ. who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science from the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. Welcome Anita.

PEACE: Jim Ramsey, long-time WGN weatherman, who retired in 2017, has died at 69. The well-respected member of the station's powerful Chicago presence logged 42 years in broadcasting. He came to WGN in 1987 and is deeply mourned at the station and throughout Chicago. His graceful Southern drawl was always appreciated.

A SILVER LINING: Dr. Sandy Goldberg is thrilled, once again, to have WGN's sensational **Micah Materre** return as the emcee for their Glitz and Glamour fundraiser, May 11. Not only that but Micah will also be one of their highlighted celebrity models walking the runway. Micah's support of A Silver Lining Foundation's mission is personally substantial.

CURTAIN CALL: Steppenwolf Theater began their first rehearsal of **Antoine Checkov's** "Seagull," with lots of laughter. Lots of tears. Lots of artists talking about art. Everything Chekhov would have wanted.

HAYMARKET OPERA: Haymarket's favorite night of the year is back live this year. Join for the Early Opera Cabaret with Haymarket Opera Company on Thursday, April 28.

AVE ET VALDE: Lee Flaherty was a man of expansive Chicago character. A man of style, bearing, imagination and resourcefulness. Gifts that have always been the making of folk, here, where the Prairie meets the lake.

A Chicago booster through and through. The Nebraskan-born youngest son of a farm laborer was never afraid of hard work or bright ideas. In fact, they were at



Anita Blanton

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Jim Ramsey



Amy Morton



Lee Flaherty

the core of who he was.

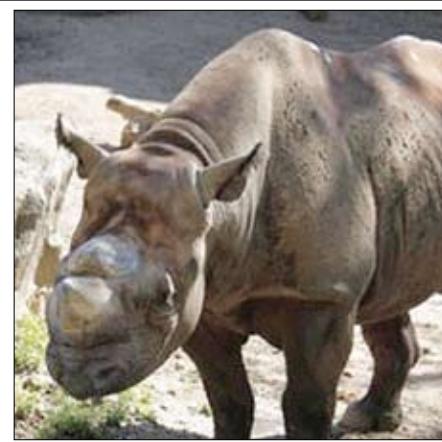
Flair Communications was born here in 1964, the child of his boundless passion. His death recently at 90, remains a testament to his transforming Chicago ways. He leaves behind a long list of historic achievements in the high style of Chicago's greatest icons like **Potter Palmer**, the **Swifts**, the **Armours** or **McCormicks**. From the Chicago Marathon to Old St. Patrick's World's Largest Block Party, Flaherty expanded the vision of Chicagoans, revitalizing Chicago's River North in the process. And was proud to be a Knight of Malta.

ZOO NEWS: "Ricko, the Rhino," has died at Lincoln Park Zoo after an acute illness. He will be missed. He was 25.

VATICAN CHOIR: Cardinal Domenico Bartolucci Choir, the former choirmaster of the Vatican Sistine Chapel, rare stateside performance in Chicago, April 23. Special performance at The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, 1224 W. Lexington St. Call 312-421-3757.

NOTRE DAME: Sharon Lavigne, the founder and director of Rise St. James, will receive the Univ. of Notre Dame's prestigious 2022 Laetare Medal. Rise St. James is a faith-based grassroots organization fighting for environmental justice in a region in Louisiana known as Cancer Alley.

WHO'S WHERE: Sherrill Bodine on a whirlwind holiday to Prague, Czech Republic... Karen Zupko enjoyed a sensational day on Snowmass in Colorado, all that you hope for in spring skiing... Bruno Bernard singled out at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill for his skill and performance on duty... Barb Bailey is with birthday girl Judy McLaughlin Rossignul-Rice at Le Piano celebrating with Bernard Rice and Katie Thayer McCammond... Dan Kirk at Resorts World Las Vegas with Carrie Underwood for another amazing Vegas weekend jam-packed with special events, but the most special was catching up with Carrie before her show... Myra and John Reilly, Bobbi Panter and Matt Arnoux joining Lyza Schlenkler in Sarasota, FL,



"Ricko," the rhino.



(Ret) Judge Rhoda Sweeney, Kathy O'Malley Picone and Bulls owner Mickey Norton.



Yossi Held, Frank N. Jeffrey, Todd Hatoff and Zach Simon.



Shelley Howard, Tim Borden, Steve Jarvis and Ari Golan.

for some needed R&R and some huge crab legs... Actress **Estelle Harris**, who lovingly portrayed the mother of George Costanza on "Seinfeld" for 27 episodes, died recently at age 93, was also the voice of Mrs. Potato Head in the "Toy Story" films... Congrats to lovebirds **Jeff and Stephanie Leese Emrich** sweetly celebrating 188 months together... **Dave and Carolyn Richter** in Rehoboth Beach, DE... **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** celebrating a fresh year with great cake... Former Chicago Police boss, **Garry McCarthy**, has been named the interim chief of the Willow Springs Police Department... Bravo restauranteur **Amy Morton** still blazing trails in the Chicago area restaurant industry now with an all-women management team... get well wishes to the great **Rodney Alec** who's in St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital after a bit of surgery following a fall... Legendary **Gordon Sinclair**, **Greg McFall** and **Joe Mulligan** lunching and trading tales at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill, in the Bette Davis Booth... (Ret) **Judge Rhoda Sweeney** at the Bulls game cheering with Gibson's **Kathy O'Malley Picone** and Bulls co-owner **Mickey Norton**... Thanks to eagle-eye **Ellen Credille** for the reminder that the correct spelling is brouaha, not "brew ha-ha," though I prefer my "brew" version and will stick with it... **Ken and Mary Claire Scorsone Moll** at NYC'S Fordham Univ. where their baby, **Keely Moll**, heads in the Fall... artist **David**

Cook is getting quite edgy in his new work... **Christopher Clinton Conway** back in Dublin and looking more an Irish squire than ever... **Shelley Howard** marking history with the original 80's club DJ's pow wow at Topo Gigio with

Tim Borden, **Steve Jarvis** and **Ari Golan**... Two ladies of distinction, Dame **Sherry Lea Fox** and Lady **Mamie Walton**... love **Lucia Adam**'s remarkable portrait of artist **Georgia O'Keefe**... Judicial candidate **Dan Balanoff** front and center at Wrigley for the chilling Cubs home opener with

Nick Scalise... diehard **Sophia du Brul** was also out on Waveland Ave... Happy 95th birthday to Chicago's grand man of music, guitar legend **George Freeman**... **Eamonn Cummins** and **Pennie Taylor** with **Julie Casimiro** and **Jim Moriarty** welcoming back their friend, journalist and war correspondent **Mike Tobin**, after he spent six weeks covering the horrors of Ukraine... **Yossi Held** at Workshop Kitchen & Bar with

Frank N. Jeffrey, **Todd Hatoff** and **Zach Simon**... **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** bound for St. Thomas, VI, from Aspen no less, connecting with **Tom Cooney** there... **Eamonn Cummins** and **Pennie Taylor** counting one full year on the kiss heard round the world - Begorrah!... Happy Birth-

day to Little Star, **Celia Magdelein**, reaching the big eight... Chef **Trevor Teich** and the team at Claudia are thrilled to have been awarded a Michelin Star in the 2022 Michelin Guide.

MAZEL TOV: Thad Wong

with **Corey Kaplan** at New York Bagel Deli, Lincoln Park, best bagels in Chicago by a long shot. Thanks Corey, Sunday mornings are better because of your landmark business.

SERVICE CLUB: Join The Service Club of Chicago on May 16, for The Spring Hat Luncheon at the The Ritz-Carlton Chicago. All welcome. Purchase your tickets now. Get your hats ready.

ROME ART: The Roman Casino di Villa Boncompagni Ludovisi, better known as Villa Aurora, is once again on the market. The villa claims the only ceiling mural painted by the 17th century painter Caravaggio. A peone to the gods of alchemy, the ceiling adorned the alchemy labs of some who thought lead could be turned to gold. Asking price is around 400 million Euros. **Rose O'Neill** and this reporter visited the villa with the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See some years ago. Quite an experience.

A STAR IS GONE: Bobby Rydell, the Philadelphia born 1950's era crooner has died at age 79 from COVID-related pneumonia. The singer famed for 'Wildwood Days' and 'Volare' was the inspiration for Rydell High in 'Grease.' He also starred along with **Ann-Margaret** in the film version of 'Bye, Bye Birdie.'

Daughter, don't give your love to the first man you see, just bide your time so your heart will be free, to find the one, girl, you don't have to run.

— David Gates

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Noted local physician and magician pulls new theater out of his hat

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, let's hear it for the Rhapsody Theater and Dr. Rosenkranz.

Roger Parkers are soon to be reintroduced to an old friend with a new name, the former Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., will now be known as "Rhapsody Theater."

First opened in 1912, the historic venue was then known as The Morse Theater, but today it has a new owner along with the new name in physician Dr. Ricardo Rosenkranz, as we reported several weeks ago.

The beloved 230-seat East Rogers Park landmark was purchased by the good doctor, who is known by many as a top shelf and highly respected magician. Rosenkranz was a student of legendary magician Eugene Burger for nearly 20 years.

With a nod to the historic past, the theater boasts classic art-deco designs and features a restaurant and performance space that reflects its unique and diverse history, with a state-of-the-art audio and video systems.

As a performer, Rosenkranz has been often seen on the stage of Magic Chicago, and is a regular performer and lecturer at the annual Magic and Meaning Conference in Las Vegas.

According to reporting by Chris Jones in the Tribune, Rosenkranz said he expects to perform at the



Dr. Ricardo Rosenkranz, MD, is the new owner of the newly renamed Rhapsody Theater in Rogers Park. He will be performing -- magic; not surgery -- on his own stage in the coming months.

theater himself in due course. His previous home, the Royal George Theatre in Lincoln Park, has closed. The new programming philosophy at the Rhapsody will compete with, or compliment, the Magic Lounge in Andersonville, a successful operation specializing in an art form long at home in Chicago. The Magic Lounge opened in 2017.

Rosenkranz recently completed a highly successful run at the legendary Magic Castle in Los Angeles. In 2017 Dr. Rosenkranz was invited to perform for Penn and Teller's Fool Us on the CW Network.

Rosenkranz is a regular guest at The McBride Magic and Mystery School in Las Vegas, one of

the premier schools of magic in the world. In 2015 Ricardo was elected to membership in England's prestigious and exclusive magician's society, The Magic Circle. In 2017 Dr. Rosenkranz was awarded the title of Associate of the Inner Magic Circle with Silver Star by the Magic Circle leadership.

But now Rosenkranz will also serve as producer and artistic director of Rhapsody Theater. He says he plans to re-open the theater in June with performances by the magician Carisa Hendrix ("Lucy Darling") and also by the psychic entertainer Ross Johnson. Tickets are to go on sale May 1.

Born in Mexico City, Mexico, Dr. Rosenkranz is Assistant Pro-

fessor in Clinical Pediatrics at the Northwestern Univ. Feinberg School of Medicine. Ricardo holds Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees from Stanford Univ. He obtained his Medical Degree from Cornell Univ. Medical School in 1990, completed a Pediatric Residency and a Fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Northwestern in 1993 and 1996 respectively.

Later this summer Dr. Rosenkranz says the theater will host two-time Magic Castle stage magician of the year Rob Zabrecky. Magicians likely will change by the day of the week. According to Jones, further plans for the Rhapsody, which has hired Mark Kozy as general manager, calls for a new tenant in the currently vacant restaurant space and an upstairs lounge suitable for close-up magic.

PROBLEM from p. 9

North neighborhood, businesses on the South Side, the West Side, everywhere else in Chicago that have had to deal with this in the past year-and-a-half," Durkin said.

Durkin praised a section of the bill which requires online marketplaces to keep records on sellers, but he said Amendment 4 watered the bill down.

The legislation requires third-party sellers to verify the user's identity with a bank account number or other information to prevent stolen goods from being sold online. Third-party selling marketplaces, such as Amazon or eBay, would be required to suspend sellers who knowingly sell items that were stolen or are believed to be stolen.

The measure also allows the state attorney general to call a statewide grand jury to prosecute organized retail crime.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul in a news release said the legislation will provide law enforcement with more tools, building on an existing Organized Retail Crime Task Force through which his office partners with law enforcement agencies to investigate organized retail crime.

"Organized retail crime is committed by sophisticated criminal enterprises that harm our communities in ways that extend beyond lost revenue and stolen products," Raoul said in a news release. "These complex operations rely on theft and resale of stolen products to fund and perpetuate the cycle of violence."

"If you vote yes for this bill, you are telling me, and every survivor in the state of Illinois, to pound sand," Rep. Kelly Cassidy said. "You are telling me and everyone in the state of Illinois that you care more about the retailers and the businesses in your districts than the victims of a violent crime."

through even more dangerous illegal activities like trafficking drugs and firearms."

Sen. Sue Rezin, noted concerns during a committee hearing that removing language pertaining to the 1970 organized crime-related Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, would weaken the bill.

But Rob Karr, IRMA President, said the statewide grand jury will be more efficient and give the same powers as the RICO law but on a smaller scale.

The measure would allow prosecutors the ability to consolidate charges against an offender in one county even if a ring of smash-and-grab thefts happen across multiple counties. A statewide grand jury will have the power to investigate, indict and prosecute violations of organized retail thefts.

"These are people who are stealing things and monetizing them and then using those monies to fund other illicit activities such as drugs, human trafficking," Karr said in a follow-up interview after the subject matter hearing.

Victims of organized retail theft – including retail establishments – will have a right to at least seven days' notice of all court proceedings under the bill.

While Senate Amendment 4

was filed in response to civil liberties and victims' rights organizations who feared that some of the lower-level individuals committing retail crime may have been forced into it as human trafficking victims, Rep. Kelly Cassidy, still opposed the final language.

She shared a story of how a police officer discouraged her mother from reporting her abusive father. She said the bill sends a message to survivors that retailers are more important than victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

"If you vote yes for this bill, you are telling me, and every survivor in the state of Illinois, to pound sand," Cassidy said. "You are telling me and everyone in the state of Illinois that you care more about the retailers and the businesses in your districts than the victims of a violent crime."

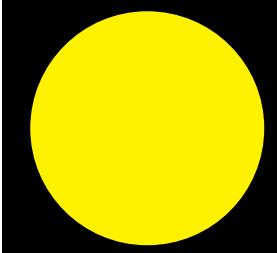
Rep. Kam Buckner, who sponsored HB 1091, said he filed HB 5748 to address the issues Cassidy brought up regarding domestic and gender-based violence. That measure would give other victims the same seven-day notice as outlined in the organized retail crime bill.

That bill was filed on Friday, April 8, and has not been considered in either chamber.

Expanded outdoor dining takes over Broadway this summer

Get your sun hat out and don't try to park on Broadway, they're dining in the streets again this summer.

They're blocking off one weekend a month this time of year when the crowds will take to, and fill the streets. Mark your calendars the announced dates for outdoor dining are Saturday, May 14 – Sunday, May 15; Saturday, June 11 – Sunday, June 12; Saturday, July 9 – Sunday, July 10; Saturday, Aug. 13 – Sunday, Aug. 14, and Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24 – 25.

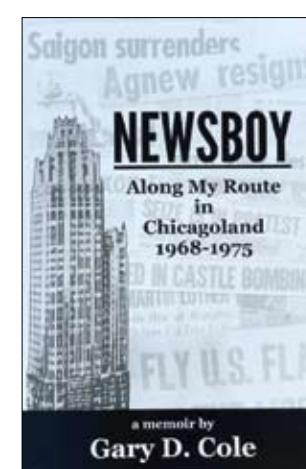


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"Newsboy" is a childhood memoir that revolves around author Gary D. Cole's Chicagoland newspaper route during the 1960s and '70s.

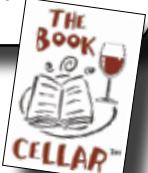
The book is both a portrayal of the young narrator's community, paper route, and customers, as well as a chronicle of his efforts as a boy to process the dizzying news events that he tracked in the newspaper during this turbulent period.

including the 1968 Democratic National Convention, the collapse of the 1969 Cubs, and the Chicago 7 trial. Due to "Newsboy's" focus on neighborhood and news coverage, all net proceeds (\$10 for every copy sold) from sales at The Book Cellar through July 1, 2022 will be donated to Inside Publications - this newspaper you're reading.

"Independent, community-based journalism is facing an existential crisis," said Cole. "A collaboration among a local bookstore, a publisher of neighborhood newspapers, and an author of a community-grounded memoir struck me as an ideal way to support this critical media source."

Chicago Tribune columnist and WGN Radio host Rick Kogan called "Newsboy" a "terrific book."

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North Township Real Estate For Sale**Real Estate For Sale**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS TRUST SERIES MLCC 2006-2 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES Plaintiff,

v.-
LAWRENCE D. RYAN, ELIZABETH D. RYAN, HARRIS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Defendants
20 CH 07019
1930 N. HOWE STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60614
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 14, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 20, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1930 N. HOWE STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60614
Property Index No. 14-33-302-065-0000 & 14-33-302-066-0000

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$1,732,128.06.

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/or 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.

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Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

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 mortgagor,

Real Estate For Sale

within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

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 mortgagor, 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 mortgagor shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g).

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, contact Alexander Potestivo, POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 263-0003. Please refer to file number 313452.

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POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610
Chicago, IL, 60606
312-263-0003
E-Mail: iplleadings@potestivolaw.com
Attorney File No. 313452

Attorney Code: 43932

Case Number: 20 CH 07019

TJSC#: 42-1372

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.

Real Estate For Sale

Case # 20 CH 07019
I3192566

202020 -----

131313 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2020-RPL3 TRUST Plaintiff,

vs.
IRENE A. FERNANDEZ, 400 NORTH LASALLE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants,
21 CH 3553

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, May 11, 2022 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. 17-09-259-022-1060. Commonly known as 400 N. LASALLE ST., UNIT 1306, CHICAGO, IL 60610.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagor 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 Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1215. 21-00547

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I3191303

060606 -----

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POLICE BEAT from p. 10

tended ammunition magazine in a satchel worn by Treveon Broadway, 19. Kalliantasis did not mention Lightfoot or reveal that the cop works on her security detail.

The officer, who was in line directly behind Broadway, then saw Broadway walk outside to an idling vehicle and return to the restaurant, Kalliantasis said.

Lightfoot's security officer called for back-up from the local police district and cops began investigating the car and the front seat passenger, who allegedly had a baggie of pot lying at his feet.

Broadway then emerged from the restaurant and asked police if there was a problem. There was, apparently.

Police searched the car and found the black satchel lying on the back seat as if someone had tossed it inside. On the floorboard beneath the bag, cops found two loaded handguns, each loaded with armor-piercing bullets in extended magazines and equipped laser sights, according to Kalliantasis. And one gun was allegedly equipped with a switch, enabling it to generate automatic gunfire.

Kalliantasis said Shake Shake's manager confirmed the bag police found in the car is the one Broadway brought into the restaurant earlier.

Assistant Public Defender Suzin Farber called the allegations "a complicated scenario" and argued that Broadway did not display the guns or point them at anyone. She said he lives with his parents in Milwaukee, attends high school there, and has no criminal record.

But Judge Kelly McCarthy focused on the alleged weapons as she pondered Broadway's bail conditions.

"I don't find these are for personal protection at all," McCarthy said of the allegations that he had armor-piercing bullets and laser sights.

She set bail at \$15,000, meaning he must post a \$1,500 deposit to get out of jail. McCarthy

gave Broadway permission to return to Wisconsin over the state's objections.

Prosecutors charged him with two counts of felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, two counts of possessing high-capacity magazines, and other misdemeanors.

A woman who works in the building said she did not see Lightfoot in the restaurant, but did see the mayor's SUV. Another person familiar with the situation said Lightfoot was "close by" but not inside the restaurant.

Lightfoot's office did not answer inquiries about where Lightfoot was during the incident, if the officer was ordering food for the mayor, and if the mayor had a statement about her security officer's diligence.

Another Lakeview carjacking, where hijackings have tripled this year

Police are investigating another carjacking reported April 12 in Lakeview, where vehicular hijacking reports have tripled compared to the same time last year.

Carjackers also took a man's vehicle at gunpoint in the South Loop a few minutes later.

The Lakeview victim, a 33-year-old man, targeted outside Clark Street Dog, 3040 N. Clark around 9:09 p.m., according to a CPD report. Police said two hijackers pulled him from his silver 2010 Chevy Aveo and drove away with the car.

CPD did not release suspect descriptions.

The hijacking is the second of the week and the 12th of the year for Lakeview, which had four carjacking reports at this point last year, none by this time in 2020, and one in 2019.

A few minutes later, two men reportedly carjacked a driver at gunpoint inside a residential building's parking garage on the 1200 block of S. Michigan. Police found his stolen Mazda3 shortly before 10 p.m. in the S. Shore neighborhood.

Chicago police took 450 carjacking reports

POLICE BEAT see p. 15**Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale****Real Estate For Sale****Real Estate For Sale****Real Estate For Sale**

202020 -----

131313 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES I TRUST Plaintiff,

v.-

JOSEPH D. JOHNSON A/K/A DARNELL JOHNSON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MALIBU EAST CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF MAE F. JOHNSON, JOSEPH JOHNSON, AS ADMINISTRATOR, JAMES JOHNSON, STEPHEN M. JOHNSON, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants

2020CH02263
6033 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, APT 29J
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 February 1, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 3, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 6033 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, APT 29J, CHICAGO, IL 60660
Property Index No. 14-05-215-017-1304

The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, 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/or 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.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

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 mortgagor,

Real Estate For Sale

gagée, 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 mortgagor shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

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

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527

630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com

Attorney File No. 14-20-00683

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Attorney Code: 21762

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Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of business in the State," as amended, that a certificate was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. Registration Number: Y22008965 on April 6, 2022. Under the Assumed Business Name of Flower Flat Antiques, with the business located at 622 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL 60613.

The true and real name(s) and residences of the owner(s)/partner(s) is: Owner/Partner Bruce Jasinski address: 604 W. Patterson Ave., Apt. 1, Chicago, IL 60614, USA.



Miscellaneous

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4C4191 (Smith, Carl)

3F3602 (Kim, Tae Ju)

4C4230 (Altheimer, Michael)

3F3604 (Walangie, Lucas)

4C4252 (Wilburn, Nicolaus)

for public sale of miscellaneous items.

This sale is to be held on Thursday,

April 28, 2022, at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

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Interested in helping the environment, those less fortunate? Recycle Plus, operating since 1990, offers recycling service as well as: Used plastic buckets (food grade) various sizes & shapes, cardboard boxes, old lumber, furniture, reusable shopping bags made in Chicago from repurposed fabric. Contact Recycle Plus Inc Gary Zuckerman 773-761-5937 or 773-858-1210 Email: recycle_plus_chicago@yahoo.com

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POLICE BEAT from p. 14

this year through April 5, up from 435 during the period last year, 2019 in 2020, and 114 in 2019.

Someone keeps firing shots near Belmont and Broadway

Community group supports Ontario St. hotel conversion proposal

But more traffic congestion expected for Streeterville

On Monday, the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] issued a statement in support of the proposed conversion of vacant high-rise office space into a hotel at 446 E. Ontario St. "We support the project and proposed amendment to the Planned Development," but SOAR still has a few concerns.

Those concerns revolve mostly around existing congestion and traffic issues in the high density neighborhood.

The building's owner, Group Fox, worked with short-term rental operator Sonder Hotels to unveil plans to convert five vacant

floors in the office building located just west of Navy Pier, into a hotel.

The development team and Sonder Hotel made their presentation on March 9.

Demand for short-term rentals from people visiting Northwestern Hospital appear to be on the rise, as multiple apartment landlords have rented out big blocks of units to hotel operators near medical centers nationwide.

Meg George, the attorney for the project, provided responses from the development team which were presented to the SOAR Board for consideration, before SOAR issued their statement of support.

The project will involve the renovation of the vacant office space (floors 6-10) of

the 60-story high-rise into a 101-room hotel with studios, and 1-3-bedroom units. There will also be an open terrace with landscaping on the sixth floor.

The Sonder Group has agreed to operate the hotel with a minimum two-night stay, as that was "critical to our approval. Streeterville has been plagued with short term hotel room occupancy which has contributed to the increased crime," said the statement. "We hope that they will adhere to their model of appealing to those traveling on business, to tourists, and to families who prefer a different hotel experience."

The community group said it understands that there is a need for a hotel option that individuals/families that are in town for longer periods of time can utilize, especially those receiving medical treatments at nearby hospitals.

"We hope that the proposed hotel will establish a strong relationship with the medical institutions in Streeterville. For this reason we would like to see a commit-

ment to increasing the onsite presence of staff for both hotel operation and security if needed. We would appreciate a condition in the Planned Development Amendment that a report would be provided to your office every six months identifying any incidents of anti-social behavior and traffic congestion."

The proposal states that there will be separate entrances for the hotel and residences and hotel guests will not have access to any of the residential amenities which means no parking on site for the hotel guests.

Ontario St. already suffers from vehicle congestion, which seems to be getting worse every year. Traffic congestion is a significant area of concern for area residents. That means the lack of dedicated parking for hotel guests, lack of a dedicated drop off zone for vehicles, and difficulty accessing the hotel entrance for guests using the residential parking garage will remain an issue going forward.



Having been first announced by Mayor Harold Washington in 1987, DuSable Park may be the single most delayed parks project in Chicago history.

VACANT from p. 1

Chicago River that has been the subject of environmental remediation. Mayor Harold Washington originally made the announcement that a park will be situated on the point where the Chicago River meets the lake, and named in honor of Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, who settled nearby in the 1780s and is known as the "Founder of Chicago."

The lot is located on a long vacant site of the failed Chicago Spire development, a single skyscraper that was to rise nearly 2,000-feet.

The multi-million dollar project will have a major impact on the Chicago skyline. The revised two-tower concept has the north tower becoming the tallest at a reduced height of 875-feet. The shorter southern tower will top out at 765-feet. The property is proposed to offer 300 underground parking spaces.

In 1857 the State of Illinois sold 40-acres, including the site later to be known as DuSable Park, to the Chicago Dock and Canal Trust. It had been the original jetty for the Chicago Harbor Lighthouse, where

soil was deposited.

In 1893 the company dug out the Ogden Slip to allow boats to pull cargo from railroads at North Pier and the DuSable Park site was filled in by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1948 the Chicago Plan Commission passed a resolution excluding use of lakefront property to only recreation or for harbor or terminal facilities for passenger and freight vessels. In 1964, the Chicago Dock and Canal trust leased the land to the developers of Lake Point Tower. Chicago Dock and Canal Trust sold the land south of the tower to Centex (now PulteGroup) with an option to build additional towers on the site that is now DuSable Park.

Related Midwest will built in two phases with the north tower going first, followed by the south tower. It is possible that the eventual southern tower could become taller before its groundbreaking. Between both structures, the project may result in 1,100 residential units. Related Midwest will also be giving \$10 million to help construct the adjacent DuSable Park, which will have a direct entrance from the development's grounds.

HIGH-RISE from p. 1

fire and other vehicles drawn-in daily from the Post Office, Amazon, UPS, Fed Ex and various food delivery services, and the new high-rise should generally exacerbate the already tightly constricted area.

The proposed residential lobby is located on Grand Ave. That location will create a demand for short-term curbside pick-up/drop-off activity near the lobby, and create a new choke point with cars double parking on the block.

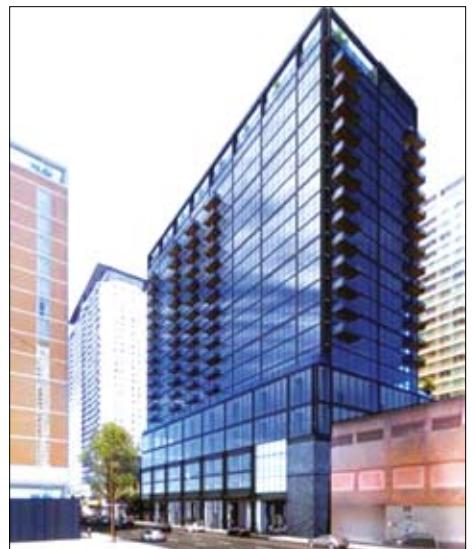
The developers are proposing a new 15-minute Standing Zone on the north side of Grand Ave. for two spaces. The eastern portion of the site's Grand Ave. frontage includes six metered parking spaces, and those metered spots may be targeted to help open space for the expected additional congestion.

To accommodate a Standing Zone, the developer is asking that two new metered spaces be established on the east side of St. Clair St. north of Grand Ave. and south of their proposed loading docks. This curb space is currently serving entry driveways for the existing parking garage.

As part of the proposed redevelopment, the St. Clair St. frontage may be reconfigured and the southern 50' of the site used for parking.

Alternatively, the west side of St. Clair St. is now designated as no parking. The developers say the 40-foot street width could accommodate an active curbside lane.

As proposed, the mixed use building, designed by NORR, would also house 7,958 sq. ft. of retail space on the ground-floor, and 41,127 square feet of office space.



A new 20-story mixed-use high-rise with 248 apartments and 50,000 feet of commercial space will rise at 218 E. Grand Ave.

Parking and loading dock access is proposed via St. Clair St.

Other than the reduction in required parking, the developers are not seeking any other zoning relief, and plan to develop the site under the existing zoning rights currently in place. As an as-of-right development, this project does not require an alderman's approval.

The residential lobby entrance is planned on Grand Ave. with the office lobby also from St. Clair St. A multi-story podium base contains the lobby, leasing offices, residence support spaces, street front retail and 2.5 floors of parking.

These 2.5 floors of parking would be clad with translucent glass and contain a knee wall to block headlights.



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