

You don't lead by pointing
and telling people some place to go.
You lead by going to that place
and making a case.

— Ken Kesey

City Council passes mayor's plan for new borrowing against TIF funds

Taxpayers get \$1.25B in new high interest debt

The City Council Committee on Finance reconvened its recessed meeting April 17 and voted to recommend approval of Mayor Brandon Johnson's proposed \$1.25 billion bond borrowing proposal. The proposal deferred by the City Council, postponing a final vote on the proposal until a special council meeting on April 19.

On Friday the City Council authorized the massive new spending plan, which is a key victory for the mayor's plan to wean the city off a longstanding reliance on Tax Increment Financing [TIF] districts.

It passed 32-17 despite objections from opponents seeking tighter Council oversight of future spending. This new borrowing plan will now face some of the highest interest rates in two generations.

Municipal Bond yields moved higher across the board last week. Fitch recently set Chicago's bond rating to BBB+. Last Friday Moody's rating agency affirmed the city's Baa3 rating on Chicago's general obligation unlimited tax debt; the Baa1 rating on Chicago's revenue bonds; and the Baa1 rating on senior lien sewer bonds.

A big part of the problem with borrowing now is that Chicago only has \$13 billion of assets available to pay bills totaling \$51.4 billion. Because Chicago doesn't have enough money to pay its bills, it has a -\$38.4 billion financial hole.

In the Finance Committee earlier in the week, Johnson allies fended off efforts by Aldermen Bill Conway [34th] and Brendan

Reilly [42nd] to lower the borrowing amount to \$350 million and reduce the threshold for projects to require Council approval from \$5 million to \$1 million.

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"I share [the Mayor's] commitment to expanding affordable housing and spurring economic development across our city. It's never been a question of if we invest in Chicago, but rather how we do it," said Conway on Friday. "It's discouraging that multi-

ple efforts to ensure transparency and responsible spending were blocked today. We're elected to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, and I remain concerned about the financial impacts that the Mayor's bond plan will have."

The new mayor's lack of experience, poor judgement on spending, and his close ties to the Chicago Teachers Union, are at the heart of the issue for Conway, who suggested a pilot program as a place to start before putting taxpayers on the hook for a billion-dollar debt.

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BORROWING see p. 12

Murder charges filed in connection with 2022 downtown shooting that killed two, injured one

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man has been charged with murdering another man in a downtown parking lot during the summer of 2022. Lavarious West, 23, is detained at the Cook County jail after a grand jury returned a true bill indicting him on six counts of murder. West also has two Class X gun cases pending.

The Chicago crime data site HeyJackass.com obtained surveillance video of the shooting and published it within days. The footage shows a group gathered in the parking lot at 430 S. Clark around 3:20 a.m. Aug. 6, 2022.

A man in the group wearing a white t-shirt pulls out a gun and shoots Deontae Winfrey from a few yards away. As the crowd scatters, a man wearing a pink hoodie standing next to the first gunman fires more shots at Winfrey.

While the man in pink is firing, he receives a gunshot wound to his back and immediately falls to



Mugshots of Deontae Winfrey, Lavarious West (inset), and a video frame from surveillance footage of the murder.

the ground. The shooting continues. Bullets hit the ground, sending clouds of white debris flying from the pavement.

There is a pause, followed by more gunfire. Finally, three men run up to Winfrey, who remains badly injured on the pavement. All three open fire on him from close range. A fourth gunman, positioned deeper in the parking lot, fires at Winfrey, too.

A group of people returns to the lot to attend to Winfrey as some of the shooters haul away the fallen gunman in pink.

In addition to Winfrey, a second man was killed in the gunfire. A third was shot and survived.

In a detention petition, prosecutors said multiple Chicago police officers identified West as one of

CHARGES see p. 12

Alderman announces planned resurfacing projects, start this week

Based on feedback from residents, Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] used the Aldermanic Menu Fund to authorize street/alley resurfacing projects on the following blocks:

- W. Huron St., from N. Hudson Ave. to N. Sedgwick St. (Start Date: April 24)
- Alley Bounded by Superior/LaSalle/Huron/Clark (Start Date: April 24)
- Alley Bounded by Illinois/LaSalle/Hubbard/Clark (Start Date: April 24)
- N. New Street, from East Illinois Street to East River Dr. (Start Date: April 24)
- E. Grand Ave., from Lake Shore Dr. to North Streeter Dr. (Start Date: April 25)
- E. River Dr., from N. New Street to North McClurg Court (Start Date: April 26)
- N. McClurg Court, from E. Riv-

er Dr. to E. North Water (Start Date: April 26)

- Ramp from Upper E. Wacker Dr., from N. Columbus Dr. to Lake Shore Dr. (Start Date: April 26)
- N. Harbor Dr., from E. Water Dr. to E. Randolph St. (State Date: April 29)

Throughout each project, vehicular access to the above streets and local driveways/parking garages will remain open. However, expect delays (one or two minutes) while the Chicago Dept. of Transportation is on-site.

At the beginning of each project, work crews will remove the top layer of asphalt and return at a later date to install binder and new asphalt.

Each project is expected to take a month to complete. Project start and end dates are weather dependent.

Privileged bike lane installation on east side of Clark this May

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation is expanding its privileged bike lane network throughout the City. They have decided to install a southbound privileged bike lane on the east side of N. Clark St., between W. Oak St. and W. Grand Ave. This bike lane will connect to the westbound bike lane on the north side of W. Grand Ave.

The bike lane will be adjacent to the curb and the parking lane will be between a lane of traffic and the bike lane.

The city is also installing bicycle signals at select intersections, pedestrian bump-outs/refuge space as obstacles to downtown traffic flow. Work is expected to begin in early May.

Landmark Status proposed for memorial to renowned surgeon

The John B. Murphy Memorial on the Near North Side would be designated as an official Chicago Landmark under an April 17 recommendation introduced to City Council today by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks.

Located at 50 E. Erie St., the memorial was built in 1926 for the American College of Surgeons [ACS] to honor one of its founders, John B. Murphy [1857-1916], who was a leading surgeon committed to improving the surgical profession and teaching standards.

Architects Marshall & Fox designed the memorial in the French Renaissance style with

an ornate, limestone facade and bronze doors that depict key figures in the history of medicine. The interior consists of a 1,000-seat auditorium, an anteroom and a grand lobby.

The adjacent Richard H. Driehaus Museum purchased the memorial from the ACS in 2022 and started work to add a learning center, library and seminar rooms, among other improvements that align with the designation, which would protect all exterior elevations of the building, as well as the lobby, anteroom, and auditorium from major alteration or demolition.



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Chicago has always been not one city, but fifty



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

There is no more destructive or insidious urban corrosive than the geographical isolation that prevents a Chicagoan from freely moving through the neighborhoods, the Wards, of the city.

It is essential that we are free to taste the flavors and textures of life that bubble up in the vast regions of this city.

No words of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley are more emphatic or more cherished than his observation early in his career that "Chicago is a city of neighborhoods." No description is more apt or more complete than that.

Our common identity is the neighborhood. Our common purpose is the neighborhood. Our common loyalty is to the neighborhood. A piece of local geography where we are at home. Where we make our deepest contribution to the quality of local life. Where we best make our plans for growth and development.

In our neighborhood we grow, evolve and ripen.

We might have a vast knowledge of the larger city, but in the neighborhood we have the familiar urban grid - our favored routes, shortcuts and signposts for directions. Our treasured landscapes

and personal landmarks. Our beloved haunts and cherished roadways. They might lead to our favorite barstool, coffee shop, bakery, local diner, wine seller, beauty shop, pizzeria, breakfast joint, steakhouse, burger grill or candy shop.

Neighborhoods are shaped by the emotional elements that swim the streets of our everyday livelihood and the boulevards of our dreams. The pantomimes of childhood. The life-scripts of adolescence. They shape the size and color of our imaginings. The music of our hearts and the background soundtracks of youthful achievements.

Whether that's learning to roller skate, ride a two-wheeler bike, knock a baseball into the sky, catch a football in one hand or sing in the choir. Together with a shoveled sidewalk, a raked lawn, trimmed hedges, and a local library where your name is known.

Ultimately the nostalgia of past times and achievements help to widen definition to our neighborhoods. They fashion the atmosphere in which we learn what are the limits of who we are, show us pain and joy, allow us to discover what it is possible to become and what the boundaries of our living are.

Our neighborhoods aren't just the geography in which we walk or run each day. They are the landscape of our humanity. Our souls. From our favorite coffee shop or our family's house of worship. Perhaps it's the school in which we learned, or the spot we found our truest friend. Or our most trusted guide to life.

To adequately note their proportions provides us with the de-

tails of rhythms and rhymes that shape the contours of the most significant urban landscapes. Not just a few yards, feet or inches in our backyard or our front lawn. But the very climate of our life because of them.

We offer this quick overview of whatever neighborhood is yours so we can value it beyond the obvious dimensions. It's just a suggestion for expanding the value and the worthiness of the place we belong.

Perhaps it moves us to locate fresh friends who have walked the same sidewalks and crossed the same streets. Gone to the same hot dog stand, little league field, bowling alley, bus stop and newspaper stand.

Chicago has always been not one city but 50. The composite of all those small local communities that form our local political wards. Complex. Variegated. Muscular. Dynamic portions of the urban grid that organize its business of cleaning streets, repairing sidewalks, fixing streetlights, collecting garbage, repairing pavements, removing snow and ensuring all the essentials that keep a neighborhood thriving and alive.

But understanding the nature of Chicago neighborhoods is a full-time occupation. It requires people who care about the quality of local life, and have the reason and intelligence to create plans to keep each neighborhood well-ordered and high-functioning. Sharpening our local capacity to keep our neighborhood safe and secure. Establishing them as free from murder and mayhem. Without being the victim of the greed of others, or the social dysfunction of the desperate or addicted, or the sad fate of being abused by

the violence of others.

Chicago neighborhoods need the thoughtful respect of others, people of watchful disposition and reasoned willingness to defend the vulnerable, the weak and the wounded.

We desperately need that so we can translate its effectiveness and stability into successful strategies for political achievements and social success. All the elements needed to help others achieve peace and justice. Along with food, housing and employment.

Openness to the needs of others is more readily achieved in our urban neighborhoods, if they are politically intelligent. Right now such reasoned political efforts seem a thing of the past here in Chicago.

The effective organization for which political Chicago has always been famous appears to have disappeared in the strange political paralysis of ineffective leadership borne out in the last two elections.

The Chicago City Council no longer appears to be a body of urban representatives with sound judgment, common sense and political stability to enact conscientious strategies for well-balanced and engaging leadership.

Wrecking the structures and strategies of past decades appears to be the new standard of the city's government. Financial ineptitude has spilled over the far reaches of poorly trained first-time elected leaders.

Internal quarreling and strange socialist political loyalties seem out of balance with the patterned alliances of the 50 Wards. The withdrawal of many longtime serving aldermen consigns the City Council to an eternal inability to reason their way out of the complex disaster their poor abilities forge.

Just look at Marlene Hopkins, whose negligence in the disaster of the demolition of the former Crawford Power Plant in the Little Village neighborhood four years ago, led not to her sidelining in governmental leadership, but in her promotion.

The Chicago City Council just approved her as Mayor Johnson's

choice to run the City's Dept. of Buildings. Something is out of whack with such diminished outrage in responsible leadership.

The prophetic words of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley become a sad reminder of the present disregard for effective Democratic urban rule.

Meanwhile Mayor Johnson has his own kettle of stinking fish brewing in his own political cauldron of failure and neglect. Sad in this city of neighborhoods, once the envy of the nation.

Our neighborhoods aren't just the geography in which we walk or run each day. They are the landscape of our humanity.

GANG & THE KOOL: Architect **Jeanne Gang** and architectural reporter **Lee Bey** and the Bey Crew made a distinguished presentation at a Chicago Humanities Festival event. We love our hometown Gang gal.

I'M WITH LOU: I'm lucky. I live in a neighborhood, Wicker Park, that has a Lou Malnati's. That means fabulous deep dish Chicago pizza is less than a half-hour away from the time you hang up. Recently a broad survey of the best "Chicago-style pizza" was released. So naturally some pizza joint in Northern California came in with the best. Insane. This would only make sense if you didn't know how to cook, or eat. A recently released Yelp survey has declared that the best "Chicago-style" pizza in the entire United States and Canada can be found — not in Ravenswood, the South Loop or the Fulton Market District — but in, wait for it, Monterey, California, at a joint called Heirloom Pizza. Sorry, I'm with Lou.

LYRIC OPERA: A somewhat more dignified change has come to the Lyric Opera, two years early, after 13 years with the re-

FIFTY see p. 9

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Local group eyes legislation linked to opioid treatment options

BY TERRI DEE
Illinois News Connection

Drug overdose deaths now kill more people in Chicago than shootings. Over 2000 residents of Cook County died from drug overdoses in 2022, that last year full records are available. Nearly 3,300 people died from opioid overdoses in Illinois in 2022.

One report found that the fatality rate of opioid overdoses is 1.5 times higher in Chicago than in the state of Illinois. Opioid-related deaths in Chicago have decreased 18% in 2021 compared to 2020, but the opioid epidemic persists in the city.

The problem exploded during the 2010s during the period of legal opioid sales by big pharmaceutical companies, then entered the illegal criminal realm once the government - driven by consumer complaints - cracked down on the growing menace.

Once people with addictions can no longer get legal opioids over the counter, they frequently turn to illegal drugs like heroin and fentanyl.

Now legislation in Congress could expand treatment choices for

people with opioid use disorder.

Current federal regulations mandate that people battling addictions use government-approved treatment programs to receive methadone - a drug that curbs opioid cravings.

Senate Bill 664 would expand access through board-certified addiction specialists, who could prescribe methadone in a clinic or doctor's office.

Lindsey Vuolo - vice president of health law and policy at the nonprofit Partnership to End Addiction - said the measure would remove hardships for people who need help.

"The fact that methadone can be prescribed for pain without these restrictions really demonstrates that there isn't medical justification for these types of restrictions," said Vuolo. "And so, it's really crucial to make effective treatment low barrier - or ideally, no barrier - so that people who are in need of these medications can access them without undue restrictions."

If there is one thing government regulators at all levels like doing, it's building barriers that require bureaucratic fixes from regulat-

ing authorities. And wrestling with bureaucracy is generally not a strong suit for drug addicts.

Opponents of expanding methadone access have concerns about possible misuse, or that the drug could be distributed or sold illegally.

The bill is in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and has been there since February.

Under the current restrictions, the government-approved programs are the only option for people getting methadone treatment.

Vuolo pointed out that there aren't enough of these programs, and people receiving the treatment must undergo counseling - which can create even more hurdles to getting care.

"People have difficulty using their insurance to access care and can't afford to pay for the cost out of pocket, and lack of access to providers," said Vuolo. "There's a workforce shortage, so there aren't enough trained providers who are able to provide treatment for opioid use disorder and substance use disorder. Behavioral health in general, there's also lack of mental health providers."

City hosting meeting over anti-semitism

Ald. Debra Silverstein will be hosting a 50th Ward Town Hall meeting 6 p.m. Monday, May 6, joined by Chicago Police leadership and the head of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations to discuss the growing epidemic of antisemitic hate in Chicago and discover how you can report hate crimes or discrimination.

Meeting attendees can learn about the new CHI vs Hate legislation that, if passed, will add a whole new layer of free speech legislation, hopping to tamp down incidents.

Addressing the anti-Jewish hate, Ald., Silverstein said she convened a meeting last week with the Chicago Police and elected officials to "discuss the horrible rash of antisemitic flyering that has been happening across Chicago and in the northern suburbs."

She says that hundreds of cars and doorsteps have been "littered with gross and hateful flyers in a direct attempt at intimidation. With nearly a dozen incidents occurring across at least six wards, it is time for a coordinated city response to this wave of hate."

She says this was the first meeting between police, aldermen, and

the head of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. "Those present at the meeting included police leadership from the Superintendent's Office and Civil Rights Unit, as well as CCHR Commissioner Nancy Andrade, Mayor Daniel Biss of Evanston, and multiple City Council aldermen."



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Spring storm, home-loan rates back over 7%



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

As thousands of Chicago-area families go house hunting this spring, the dream of homeownership continues to drift further and further away.

On April 18 average long-term mortgage rates inched above 7% nationwide for the first time this year, reported Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey.

Benchmark 30-year fixed-rate home-loan rates hit 7.10%, up from 6.88% a week earlier. That's its highest level since Oct. 26, 2023, when 30-year fixed loans hit 7.79%.

A year ago, 30-year fixed mortgage rates averaged a more affordable 6.39%.

"The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage surpassed 7% percent for the first time this year," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "As rates trend higher, potential home buyers are deciding whether to buy before rates rise even more, or hold off in hopes of decreases later in the year."

On April 18, interest charges on 15-year fixed loans averaged 6.39%, up from 6.16% a week earlier. A year ago, 15-year fixed mortgages averaged 5.76%.

Khater noted that home purchase applications rose modestly last week, but "it remains unclear how many home buyers can withstand increasing rates in the future."

The Freddie Mac survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully amortizing home-purchase loans for borrowers who place a down payment of 20% and have an excellent credit score of 740 or higher.

The truth is home buyers in Chicago and across the nation really are starting to get rate-shy.

Sales of existing U.S. homes fell 4.3% in March to a seasonally adjusted 4.19 million, reported the National Assn. of Realtors (NAR). That's the first monthly decline in sales since Dec. 2023, and follows a nearly 10% monthly sales jump nationwide in February.



Lawrence Yun

"Home sales essentially remain stuck because mortgage rates have been stable and inventory is not really rising," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist.

Unfortunately, Yun predicted that mortgage rates are likely to rise above 7% in the coming weeks. Early in 2024, Yun had predicted that 30-year fixed loan rates would average 6.3% by the fourth quarter of this year.

The interest-rate rise is a direct result of the Federal Reserve Board's aggressive interest-rate hikes intended to tame soaring inflation numbers not seen in 40

years.

The Fed has raised its key benchmark-lending rate to a range of 5.25% to 5.50%, the highest level since 2007. Based on moves by the Fed, mortgage analysts say 30-year fixed home loans could reach—or surpass—the 8%-level in the near future. Home loan rates have not hit the lofty 8%-level since Aug. 11, 2000—more than 23 years ago.

Searching for a better deal, some borrowers are beginning to flock to riskier adjustable-rate mortgages [ARMs], lenders say.

"This week we have issued 30-year loan commitments with rates as high as 7.5%, depending on down payments and borrower credit scores," said Jeremy Rose, Chicago-based loan consultant for Loan Depot, one of the largest lenders in the nation.

"Mortgage interest rates may have gradually declined over the past two decades, but home prices have tripled," Rose noted.

Today, the buyer of a \$400,000 home with a credit score of 740, who places a 25% downpayment and takes out a \$300,000 mortgage for 30-years at Loan Depot, would pay a rate of 7.5%. If the buyer is willing to pay a 1% discount point, or a loan fee of \$3,000, the interest rate would drop to 7.125%.

"The most motivated buyers will accept the current level of mortgage rates and make offers when they find a place that's suitable," said Holden Lewis, a home and mortgage expert at Nerd Wallet. "High mortgage rates aren't holding buyers back as



Jeremy Rose

much as lack of inventory and high prices."

"If you're always waiting for the perfect market conditions to arise, you could end up missing out on a lot of great opportunities," warned Jacob Channel, senior economist at Lending Tree.

Mortgage-rate history

Thirty-year fixed-mortgage interest rates ended 2020 at a rock-bottom 2.65%—the lowest level in the Freddie Mac survey history, which began in 1971.

Home-loan rates set new record lows an amazing 16 times in 2020, and tens of thousands of homeowners refinanced.

Archives of the now-defunct Federal Housing Finance Board show long-term mortgage rates in the 1960s were not much higher than the Great Depression, when lenders were charging 5% on five-year balloon loans.

Nearly six decades ago, between 1963 and 1965 you could get a mortgage at 5.81% to 5.94%. Between 1971 and 1977, the now-defunct Illinois Usury Law held rates in the 7.6%-to-9% range.

In the early 1980s, runaway inflation caused home-loan rates to skyrocket into the stratosphere. According to Freddie Mac, benchmark 30-year mortgage rates peaked at a jaw-dropping 18.45% in October of 1981 during that Great Recession.

Rates finally fell below 10% in April 1986, and then bounced in the 9%-to-10% range during the balance of the 1980s. Twenty-three years ago—in Aug. 2000—when some of today's Millennial borrowers were still in diapers, lenders were quoting 8.04%.

Between 2002 and 2011, rates bounced in the 4% to 6% range. They inched into the 3% to 4% range until 2020, when they fell into the rock-bottom 2% bracket.

Good luck loan hunters!

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.

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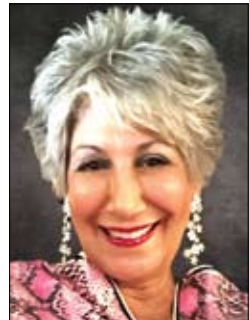
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Senior citizen exemptions help give homeowners a break on big tax bills

BY MARIA PAPPAS

Senior citizens can get a break on their property tax bills, but they need to apply when seeking savings for the first time.

The popular tax break is known as the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption [SCHE]. For homeowners already receiving the break, SCHE are automatically renewed for properties that were not sold to new owners in the last year.



Maria Pappas

Homeowners applying for SCHE for the first time are eligible if they are 65 years of age or older and own and occupy their property as their principal place of residence. If a married couple jointly own a home, they are eligible when the older partner is 65.

To receive the SCHE, the applicant must have owned and occupied the property as of Jan. 1 and must have been 65 years of age or older during the tax year in question.

That means many homeowners who turned 65 in 2022 are now eligible for the tax break for the first time. They should apply now so the SCHE savings can be reflected on their 2023 Second Installment tax bills, which are expected to be due Aug. 1. The deadline to apply for exemptions on 2023 tax bills is April 29.

To apply, visit cookcountytreasurer.com to check the exemptions you are receiving.

ing. Go to the purple box labeled Your Property Tax Overview. Use your address or 14-digit Property Index Number [PIN] to search. If results show that you are not receiving a SCHE and you are entitled to one, click on the link that says, "Apply for a missing exemption."

Typically, you can apply for refunds for missed exemptions going back four years. However, due to the pandemic, some Second Installment due dates were delayed until later in the year.

This means that at the moment you can actually redeem missed SCHE for five tax years: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018. You should allow at least six weeks for your refund application to be processed.

Dollar amounts of refunds vary depending on tax rates and other factors. Each year that a SCHE was missed could mean a refund of several hundred dollars or more.

Bernice Ward of Chicago's Austin neighborhood was a recent guest on my "Black Houses Matter" radio show on WVON-AM 1690. Ward, 71, raised four children as a single mother and drove a CTA bus for 15 years, among other jobs.

Ward called in last September when my office held an All Houses Matter phone bank with ABC7. That's when she learned about the SCHE. We helped her apply for her refund.

"They gave me information I wasn't aware of," Ward said. "I was so happy."

Ward told me she planned to invest her refund into improving her home's curb appeal.

"I want a new security door, I want my porch painted," she said. "I've been here quite a while. It's home to me."

Police Beat...

Attackers fire shot, assault man and pregnant woman in Ravenswood

A group of men fired a gun and physically attacked a man and a pregnant woman in Ravenswood on April 21. Both victims were injured in the attack, but no gunshot injuries were reported, according to Chicago police.

A police spokesperson said the couple, both 33 years old, was in the 5000 block of N. Wolcott when a gray sedan pulled up around 10:15 p.m. Three men exited the car, while a fourth stayed in the vehicle.

Police said one of the men pulled out a "blunt object, resulting in a physical altercation with both victims." The group returned to the car, and one of them fired at least one shot from the vehicle before it left the area, striking no one.

A source familiar with the incident said the male victim was in the process of surrendering his wallet when the altercation began. However, the group left without getting anything from the victims. The exact motive for the crime has not been determined.

The woman was taken to Swedish Hospital for treatment. The police said her condition had stabilized. The male victim declined medical attention.

Armed caravan committed 15 robberies in two days

The latest warning from Chicago police about the city's seemingly endless supply of armed robbery crews involves a group of up to eight armed men who've committed at least 15 holdups during two sprees in three days.

We first told you about the group after they went on a lightning-fast crime spree around the Clybourn Corridor on April 11 and 12.

During each crime, multiple men confront victims on the street to take phones and other valuables at gunpoint. They've been traveling in several different cars, sometimes moving in a caravan of three vehicles, according to a source familiar with the investigation.

Last Friday's robberies began around 4:45 a.m. when they robbed a 29-year-old man as he got out of his car in the 1300 block of N. Halsted.

Similar crimes occurred after that in the 1800 block of N. Halsted, the 1400 block of N. Kingsbury, and the 1600 block of N. Sheffield.

Police believe the same group committed even more robberies on April 15.

The crew started on the Northwest Side sometime around 4 a.m. and worked their way across the city, reaching Lakeview and Lincoln Park around 5:30 a.m.

Robberies on April 15 were reported in the following locations, according to police: 5300 block of W. Patterson; 3200 block of N. Keeler; 2700 block of N. Leclair; 5100 block of W. Barry; 4900 block of W. Fletcher; 2900 block of N. Lavergne; 1400 block of W. Cornelia; 3200 block of N. Southport; 2100 block of N. Cleveland; 800 block of W. Armitage, and on the 2100 block of N. Halsted

CPD's alert described the suspects as a group of four to eight Black men between 18 and 25 years old wearing masks and black clothing. Anyone with information about the men can call Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263.

Two women shot a car on the Kennedy Expy., then shot a man in Old Town



Mugshots of Alana Carroll, left, and Kierra Henderson.

Two women engaged in an expressway shooting near downtown Chicago April 13 and then headed to Old Town moments later to shoot one of their boyfriends, too, prosecutors claim. Alana Carroll, 21, and Kierra Henderson, 22, have been detained to await trial on multiple counts of attempted murder.

Carroll and Henderson were traveling in Carroll's white Honda Pilot when they crossed paths with a Chevy Malibu occupied by two women on Sedgwick St. near North Ave., according to a Chicago police arrest report.

Carroll swerved toward the oncoming Malibu, then pulled a U-turn and pursued the vehicle onto westbound North Ave., eventually striking the other car from behind, the report said. Both vehicles pulled over, and all four women got out. An argument ensued, but the two women whose car was allegedly struck returned to

their vehicle and drove away after one of them thought they saw Henderson clutching a gun in her waistband, the report continued.

Carroll pursued the women again, striking the Malibu two more times and chasing it onto the inbound Kennedy Expy., officials said. As she pulled next to the other car near the Eisenhower Expy. ramp, Henderson pulled out a gun and fired shots at the other car, according to the police report. There were no reported injuries, but the Malibu sustained damage from bullets.

Prosecutors said Carroll and Henderson returned to Old Town, where they encountered Carroll's boyfriend in the 1400 block of N. Orleans around 10:30 a.m.

Witnesses told police they saw a man arguing with two women in a white SUV and then heard a gunshot and saw the car drive away, the CPD report said. The man, Carroll's 35-year-old boyfriend, fell to the ground with a gunshot wound to his leg, prosecutors said in a detention petition.

Officials said Carroll used Henderson's gun to shoot the man, and surveillance video showed her returning the firearm to Henderson after the shooting.

Officers in the area quickly stopped Carroll's SUV and arrested both women. The cops allegedly found a gun inside Henderson's purse, along with her firearm owner's license. Prosecutors stated that although she could legally own guns with the license, she lacked a license to carry a concealed weapon.

Carroll is charged with two counts of attempted murder for the expressway incident and aggravated domestic battery for allegedly shooting her boyfriend. Judge Thomas Nowinski ordered her detention.

Judge David Kelly detained Henderson on three counts of attempted first-degree murder.

Hate crime charge filed after swastikas are found at Boystown grade school

A South Loop man is charged with felony hate crime for allegedly drawing swastikas on an "equality" sign posted outside a Boystown elementary school.

Jarrod Barnes, 43, was heard saying, "teaching kids to be faggots [sic]," according to a Chicago police report documenting his arrest.



Jarrod Barnes

Officers responded to Nettlehorst Elementary School, 3252 N. Broadway, on April 15 to investigate the incident. As they were waiting for an evidence technician to arrive, Barnes appeared across the street, and a witness to the defacement pointed him out to police, the report said. Officers took him into custody.

The cops allegedly found four Sharpie markers in his possession—one in his pants and three in his backpack.

Prosecutors charged Barnes with hate crime at a school and institutional vandalism of a school and asked Judge David Kelly to detain Barnes as a public safety risk.

Kelly denied the detention petition. Instead, the judge ordered Barnes to observe a nighttime curfew and stay away from the school. He also

instructed Barnes to surrender any weapons and his firearm owner's ID card to law enforcement, according to entries in the court file.

Barnes will not be going home right away. He had an outstanding arrest warrant at the time of the incident for failing to appear in court for a pending misdemeanor battery case.

In that case, two employees at Starbucks, 155 N. Wabash, told police that Barnes spit on their arms on December 26. Barnes failed to appear in court on March 5, prompting Judge Peter Gonzalez to order the clerk to send him a postcard reminder. Gonzalez signed the arrest warrant when Barnes didn't show up on April 5, court records show.

Ald. Bennett Lawson [44th] said on Twitter that he is "horrified" by the graffiti.

"We have no tolerance for anti-semitic, homophobic, or hateful incidents of any kind, and I hope the Jewish community in the 44th Ward and across our city know that I stand with them and their right to live without fear in our neighborhood," the freshman alderman wrote.

Robbery spree sweeps across Lakeview, Ravenswood

Armed men went on a 45-minute crime spree April 14, robbing at least four people as they made their way from Lakeview to Ravenswood. So far, no arrests have been made. At least two other robberies were also reported on the North Side, including one in which men tried to steal a woman's dog.

The robberies occurred just two days after Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and CPD Supt. Larry Snelling claimed to have a strategy to fight the city's growing robbery problem. Their announcement on Friday came barely six months after Johnson claimed in September that CPD had deployed a strategy to address the robbery problem.

Last night's spree began around 9:30 p.m. in the 3100 block of N. Seminary. A woman told police that two men, one armed with a gun, jumped out of an older black sedan and demanded her property.

About 15 minutes later, a 25-year-old woman was robbed in a similar fashion in the 1500 block of W. School. Two men exited a car, displayed a gun, and demanded her personal belongings, a CPD spokesperson said. She was not injured.

Another woman was robbed around 10 p.m. in the 1400 block of W. Leland. Again, two men got out of a black sedan, displayed a gun, and robbed her.

A few minutes after that, an identical robbery occurred in the 4600 block of N. Paulina. This time, the robbers hit the female victim. Police brought paramedics to the scene to check her out.

In each case, the robbers were described as two Black men in their late teens or early 20s. One wore a white hoodie, the other a black hoodie. Both wore face masks, and some victims said they wore gloves, too. At least one accomplice remained in the getaway car as the men carried out the robberies.

Further north, a 51-year-old woman was targeted by robbers as she walked her dog in the 1300 block of W. Albion between 10:15 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. A police spokesperson said a white sedan pulled up and two men got out

while displaying firearms. They tried to rob her, but left without getting anything, the spokesperson stated. An individual familiar with the situation told this reporter that the men tried to take the woman's dog.

Overnight, a woman was carjacked in the Uptown neighborhood. The 23-year-old told police she was in an alley near Kenmore and Montrose when a small group of men walked up and dragged her from her 2022 Mazda. The primary hijacker was a Black male wearing a ski mask who stood about 6'2" tall, she said.

Last September, as robberies across the city marched toward a 23% annual increase, Mayor Johnson assured the public that CPD had a strategy to reverse the tide.

Like last year, robbery crews that commit strings of robberies, sometimes more than a dozen at a time, are primarily responsible for the growing problem. On April 12, Johnson and Snelling summoned the media to police headquarters so they could trot out yet another strategy, which did not include any new ideas.

"Our message is clear," Snelling told the assembled news cameras, "there will be consequences."

CPD has not updated its weekly statistics report online since March 31. As of that date, robberies were up 1% citywide, but increases were much greater in other neighborhoods.

On the Near North Side, the local police district's robbery count was up 15% as of March 31. Robberies were up 33% in the Lakeview-based Town Hall 19th district, which covers the area between the lake and the river from Fullerton to Lawrence. North of there, in the Lincoln 20th district, robberies were up 58%. Then, on the Far North Side, between the lake and the river from Peterson to the city limits, robberies were up 65% in the Rogers Park 24th district.

Paroled 8-time felon had gun, meth, fentanyl, cocaine, pot, and heroin in a stolen car

Prosecutors say a man on parole for his eighth felony was found driving a stolen car with two guns, meth, cocaine, fentanyl, pot, heroin, and more.

Chicago police officers pulled Neal Benjamin over in the 7700 block of N. Paulina last weekend because they learned the car he was driving had been reported stolen, according to Benjamin's arrest report.

Benjamin, 36, was "reluctant to respond" when the cops asked if he had a gun, the report said, so the officers asked him to step out of the 2023 Mitsubishi Mirage.

Under Benjamin's seat, the cops allegedly found two phones sitting on top of a loaded firearm. Benjamin admitted he owned the two phones but denied having anything to do with the gun, officials said.

According to the arrest report, cops found \$1,312 in a "large wad" in Benjamin's pants pocket, along with 50 baggies of suspected rock cocaine.

A bookbag in the back seat contained 80 pills of suspected fentanyl, baggies of heroin, Xanax pills, crystal meth, cocaine, cannabis, and a bag containing a pink rock of "unknown narcotic," the arrest report said.

Prosecutors filed complaints listing values for each of the alleged drugs: \$440 worth of Xanax, \$4,182 in pot, \$1,980 worth of methamphetamine, \$180 in heroin, \$153

POLICE BEAT see p. 8

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Migrant arrested seven times since arriving in Chicago, twice in April

BY CWBCHICAGO

Here's another "New Neighbors Update," a chance to share some recent troubles Chicago's newest residents have encountered with the legal system.

Yuehigor Fajardo Gonzalez, a 30-year-old Venezuelan migrant living at the Standard Club shelter in the Loop, was arrested on April 9 after shelter staff members allegedly found him in possession of a single 9-mm bullet at the security checkpoint.

Gonzalez told police that he got the bullet in Oklahoma and "he keeps the bullet in his pocket for good luck that he doesn't get shot," according to his arrest report.

He's charged with unlawful possession of ammunition without a Firearm Owner's ID card, a misdemeanor.

Another Standard Club resident is charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct for allegedly scaring passengers by waving an 8-inch knife on a CTA train.

A customer service agent stopped the train at the Cermak

Red Line station and summoned police, who detained Winderon Buitrago-Habanero. The officers said they recovered an 8-inch knife that CTA security said Buitrago-Habanero had been waving around, causing other passengers to become "alarmed and disturbed."

Buitrago-Habanero was also issued an ordinance violation for possessing weapons on the CTA.

Two new neighbors we told you about in March, both arrested five times since arriving in Chicago, have been arrested again.

In fact, Linder Jose Galves Carbajal has been arrested two more times since our March 11 update, bringing his arrest total to seven.

Target employees reported that he stole \$38.98 worth of Modelo beer and Santa Margherita wine on April 2, leading to his arrest. The following day, a judge released him.

Less than a week later, on April 9, he was arrested after a Chicago Fire Dept. crew returning from a job saw him beating up another man in the 1300 block of S. Canal, according to a CPD arrest report. The firefighters detained Gavales Carbajal until police arrived and treated a cut above the alleged victim's eye.

After that, Judge William Fahy put him under electronic monitoring.

His previous arrests were based on allegations that he battered two migrant shelter employees on March 2, shoplifted from Nordstrom Rack in the Loop on Oct.

31, shoplifted fragrances from a Marshall's and Modelo from a Walgreens on New Year's Eve, and stole merchandise from a Burlington in the Loop on Jan. 29.

Carlos Omar Mavarez Viloría, 27, was arrested on April 12 for allegedly shoplifting two 23.5-ounce cans of Four Loko from a convenience store in the Loop. Chicago cops said he ran from them twice, "almost knocking several people down [and] causing a panic."

Due to his alleged behavior, Mavarez Viloría became the first migrant we're aware of to be tazed in Chicago.

He's charged with misdemeanor retail theft, reckless conduct, and resisting police.

In February, Mavarez Viloría was arrested after a convenience store clerk in the Loop told police he pulled out a gun and said something to the effect of "I will shoot you."

Cops found him inside a different 7-Eleven and allegedly recovered a black lighter resembling a firearm from his pants pocket.

His other arrests since becoming a Chicago resident were for allegedly possessing a crack pipe on Lower Wacker Dr. on Sept. 11 and for allegedly shoplifting a pair of shoes from the Loop Nordstrom Rack store. Prosecutors dropped both of those cases within weeks, although Judge Peter Gonzalez did order authorities to destroy the crack pipe.

ARRESTED see p. 9

Letter to the Editor

The fight for freelancers

The April 17 article on gig workers was good at giving legitimate, useful information on the new laws governing their business reporting status. I have another angle regarding independent contractors I'd like to share.

For seven years I worked at the tax preparation service, H & R Block, where I worked with the general public preparing their taxes. What I consistently experienced were employees being treated as independent contractors, being issued a 1099 misc instead of a W-2 form. That means there were no taxes withheld and my unfortunate clients had to pay out-of-pocket all taxes due for the year. 100% of the employer's opted not to bother to set up their employee taxes and decided to treat them as independent contractors. It always resulted in difficulties and an added expense to file the clients' tax return because they're forced to file as if they were running a business, when they have no expenses to deduct and that re-

quired filing extra Schedules that cost extra.

The volume of businesses engaging in this practice was shocking. Mostly construction businesses, but also churches and even offices workers. I just recently went to a job interview where the employer stated that I would be paid as an independent contractor! Yep really, so it's still going on.

I believe these new rules are yet another attempt by the IRS and legislature to "fix" the huge problem of businesses not paying employees taxes, along with the misuse of filing 1099 Misc to employees.

It is unfortunate that legitimate gig workers are caught up in the same net meant to reform delinquent business practices.

Eileen Burns
Rogers Park

"Dead Man Walking" author to speak

Sister Helen Prejean who is known around the world for her passion against the death penalty will be joining the Catholic Lawyers Guild 11:30 a.m., Friday, April 26, for a thought-provoking community event about the death penalty.

Sr. Helen has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on capital punishment and in shaping the Catholic Church's vigorous opposition to all executions. She is an advocate against the death penalty and was the nun whose story was depicted in her book entitled "Dead Man Walking," which was turned into a feature film starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn.

The event consists of a plated lunch followed by Sr. Helen's presentation with an opportunity for Q&A at the University Club, 76 E. Monroe St. For more information or tickets call 312-641-2100.

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POLICE BEAT from p. 6

worth of fentanyl, and \$1,225 worth of cocaine. Benjamin is currently on parole for aggravated unlawful use of a weapon with a previous conviction. According to Illinois Department of Corrections records, he received a six-year sentence for that case and was released on Sept. 25 after serving less than half of the time. He is now charged with Class X armed habitual criminal, Class X armed violence, manufacture-delivery of cocaine, manufacture-delivery of fentanyl, manufacture-delivery of heroin, manufacture-delivery of cannabis, manufacture-delivery of another substance, manufacturing methamphetamine, unlawful use of a weapon by a felon, and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. He's also charged with misdemeanor driving on a revoked license. Judge Charles Beach, noting Benjamin's eight previous felony convictions, granted the state's detention petition on public safety grounds.

Drive-by shooting caught on camera near Howard CTA station

Surveillance video of an April 14 shooting near the Howard CTA station shows a drive-by gunman opening fire on a group of people gathered around a car. Bullets are seen flying off the pavement of Howard St. as the shooter's car speeds west. A 27-year-old woman suffered a graze wound to her ankle when the gunman started shooting around 2:59 a.m., a Chicago police spokesperson said. She told police she was about to get into a vehicle when someone started shooting from a dark sedan, according to CPD. The car the victim was standing near and a nearby business were struck by bullets. A local resident provided video footage from two surveillance cameras. They said a longer version of the video showed a small group of people waving at a car as they walked out of the CTA station. The car did a U-turn and stopped to talk with them on the corner of Howard and Paulina streets. The conversation is ongoing as the gunman's

car rolls up. Notice the white puffs rising from the pavement behind the fleeing car, each a cloud of debris caused by a bullet striking the roadway. The victim marks the 11th shooting victim in Rogers Park this year, matching the neighborhood's total at this point in 2023. Those numbers compare to seven victims at this point in 2022 and two as of this date in 2021. **Four years for burglar who kicked down Boystown woman's door as she tried to hide** A man accused of robbing a random woman after breaking into her Boystown apartment has been given a four-year prison sentence. Derrick Mhoon, 22, received the sentence from Judge Aleksandra Gillespie after pleading guilty to one count of residential burglary. Prosecutors dropped three other felony charges, including robbery. Chicago police responded to a burglary in progress at the woman's apartment in the 700 block of W. Belmont around 1 a.m. July 17, 2023. As they arrived, they heard a woman screaming and the sounds of a struggle. Officers said the 26-year-old opened the front door "in a panic" and explained that a man was

in her apartment, and she didn't know who he was. The woman was in her bedroom when she discovered Mhoon had entered the unit, apparently by breaking through the building's main entrance door, police said. She locked her bedroom door and called the police. Mhoon kicked the door in, punched the woman on the arm, and demanded her phone, police said in his arrest report. They claimed he had the woman's driver's license and credit cards when they arrested him. Officers tried to get Mhoon charged with home invasion, but prosecutors never signed off on that. He is scheduled to be paroled on April 30, 2025. At the time of the burglary, Mhoon was on pretrial release for misdemeanor retail theft, a charge stemming from allegations that he tried to steal \$385 worth of merchandise from an Uptown Target store. He pleaded guilty shortly after being arrested for the burglary and received a four-day sentence.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com



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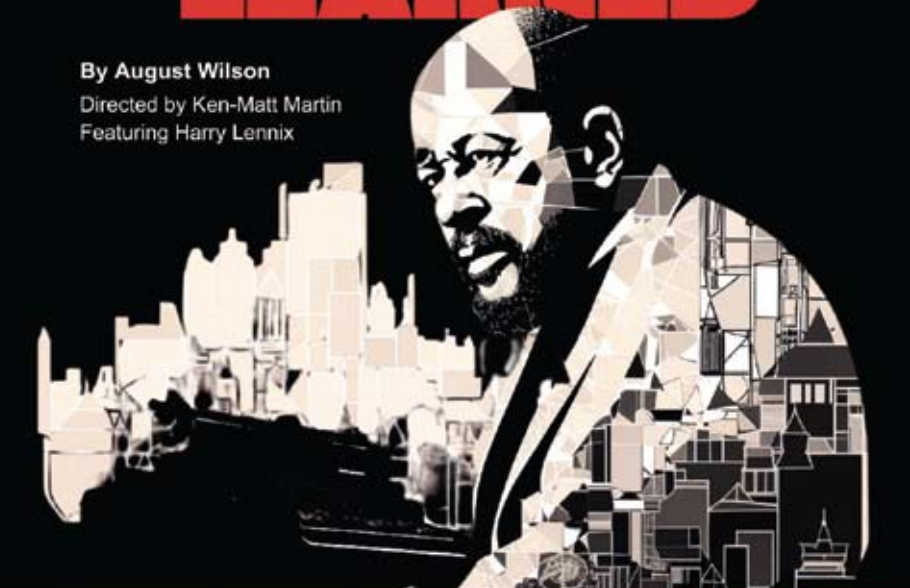
Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
<p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC Plaintiff, -v- AMIR MOHABBAT, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF IAN WILLIAM BELL, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF OF IAN WILLIAM BELL, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 22 CH 06122 1416 WEST CHASE AVENUE UNIT D CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 28, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 29, 2024, 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 1416 WEST CHASE AVENUE UNIT D, CHICAGO, IL 60626 The real estate is improved with a condominium with no garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 601 E. William St., DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 1647156. 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. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 601 E. William St. DECATUR, IL, 62523 217-422-1719 Fax #: 217-422-1754 E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com Attorney File No. 1647156 Attorney Code. 40387 Case Number: 22 CH 07913 TJSC#: 44-326 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 22 CH 07913 13242339</p>	<p>for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 17, 2024, 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 6433 N. DAMEN AVE APT 1E, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 11-31-401-104-1053 FKA 11-31-401-075 The real estate is improved with a residential condominium. The judgment amount was \$305,695.35. 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, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 601 E. William St., DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 1647156. 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. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 601 E. William St. DECATUR, IL, 62523 217-422-1719 Fax #: 217-422-1754 E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com Attorney File No. 1647156 Attorney Code. 40387 Case Number: 22 CH 07913 TJSC#: 44-326 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 22 CH 07913 13242339</p>	<p>title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, 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. 14-21-03953 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2019 CH 11678 TJSC#: 44-671 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2019 CH 11678 13242339</p>
<p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR LEGACY MORTGAGE ASSET TRUST 2021-GS3 Plaintiff, -v- JASON JOHNSON AKA JASON G. JOHNSON, EDGEWOOD PARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 22 CH 07913 6433 N. DAMEN AVE APT 1E CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 16, 2024, an agent</p>	<p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST Plaintiff, -v- VICTOR CABILES, CHRISTINE L. CADLAON, GREENPOINT MORTGAGE FUNDING, INC. Defendants 2019 CH 11678 2715 W. CHASE AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 13, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 15, 2024, 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 2715 W. CHASE AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-25-423-018-0000 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, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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</p>	<p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION UMB BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE FOR PRL TITLE TRUST I; Plaintiff, vs. CURTIS D. TUCKEY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 23 CH 8413 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 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. 11-32-331-002-0000. Commonly known as 1217 W. Arthur Avenue, Chicago, IL 60626. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 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 The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6960. 1491-194977 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13242010</p>

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FIFTY from p. 2

tirement of **Anthony Freud** as General Director President and CEO. Supporters say great artistic growth has taken place under his leadership. However, some critics insist he traded in opera for Broadway and gutted the contract of both the orchestra and the chorus. Hired his husband to be dramaturg. The end of an error.

BRAVO: Jewish Neighborhood Dev. Council President **Beverly Siegel**, chosen for special recognition by State Sen. **Ram Villivalam** in connection with Women's History Month, cited her volunteer work "to improve the value proposition of living in West Rogers Park" as some of the most gratifying she's done. Having enjoyed a rewarding career as a freelance writer, public relations professional and award-winning documentary filmmaker, the life-long North Side resident has been devoting her energies for the past four years to the JNDC mission of strengthening and enhancing West Rogers Park and surrounding city and suburban areas.

YORK FURRIER: After 93 years in biz, due to retirement, the doors to York Furrier are now closed. Call 630-832-2200 to schedule an item pick-up appt., or leave name, address, phone and email address to receive a fur care service referral. The store will be open to preview and inspect items in-person today, April 24 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., in Elmhurst.

CHICAGO TULIP: The Consul General of the Netherlands, **Bart Twaalfhoven**, has presented Chicago with its own unique tulip this spring with a majestic Dutch color to liven up the season. It was presented to **Kimberly Bares**, President/CEO of the Mag Mile Assoc., with the generous kindness of the Chalet and De Vroomen Garden Products. The hybrid tulip is a vibrant shade of variegated gold and orange from the noble House of Orange.

MILK SHAKE: Oberweis Dairy can't find a buyer and is filing for bankruptcy. Laying off 127 workers.

NEW OWNER: Franklin Park chef, **Vito Barbanente**, is hanging up his toque and apron. He has sold the ever popular Pescatore (fisherman in Italian) and will depart the classic Italian eatery at the end of April. His story is legend coming from Italy in 1972. With a hand-written book of his mother's recipes. With these he mesmerized hungry diners. Collecting a reputation of high excellence. Especially the fish and seafood.

UKRAINE: Ukrainian Prime Minister **Denys Shmyhal** joined Gov. **J.B. Pritzker** and President **Joe Biden's** special representative, Penny Pritzker, in Chicago to tout the importance of American investment in Ukraine.

REVOLUTION AT LA SCALA: Milan's La Scala, one of the world's most prestigious and

ARRESTED from p. 7

Last summer, he was accused of shoplifting \$193 worth of Major League baseball hats, watches, a backpack, and food from Walmart. He received seven days for that. His other case from last summer, filed after Macy's employees said he tried to shoplift \$158 worth of t-shirts in the Loop, was dropped by prosecutors.



Kathy Wolter Mondelli, Kristine Zielbauer Kinder and Tammy Kohl.



Bart Twaalfhoven



Vito Barbanente



Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Penny Pritzker.



Anthony Freud

historic opera houses, has named **Fortunato Ortombina** as its new director. He arrives in September. The announcement was made by the Mayor of Milan, **Giuseppe Sala**. The new director will fully take over in 2025 from **Dominique Meyer** who has been boss since 2020. It's been a serious dog and cat fight since Italy's far-right government of **George Meloni** has been attempting to promote Italian nationals over foreigners.

WHO'S WHERE: Architect **Lucien Lagrange** and wife, realtor **Melinda Jakovich Lagrange** at the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation looking fab in black tie... **Marius Morkvenas** and **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** in Avandaro, Mexico with friends for weekend at La Mexicana... **James M. Kinney** rushed to the ER by ambulance but is feeling fine now... **Cardinal Blase Cupich** remembering **Cardinal Francis George** on the ninth anniversary of his death... **Paul R Iacono** and **Candace Jordan**, friends for 15 years... **Dr. Rose Gomez** and **Lilli** off to Monte Carlo for tennis and casino... Congrats to **Whitney Reynolds** on her new show premiering on PBS... **Blase Foria** with **Ron Sullivan**, **Natalie**, **Mama Marie Sullivan** and sister **Lucy** at the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines... Grammy-winning



Chicago's Magnificent Mile Tulip.

tenor **Aaron Blake** has joined King University for 2024-25 as Artist in Residence... **Kathy Wolter Mondelli** on the town with **Kristine Zielbauer Kinder** and **Tammy Kohl**... British actress **Helena Bonham Carter** is the granddaughter of **Eduardo Propper de Callejón**, a Spanish Jewish Diplomat to France who saved 30,000 Jewish lives from the Holocaust during WWII... **Mark Olley** and **Jim Elsworth** noshing on the spectacular vittles at Hopleaf in Andersonville... Saw the lovely **Voula Tsakalis** at Gibson's still serving the Prime Rib French Dip, the best lunch in

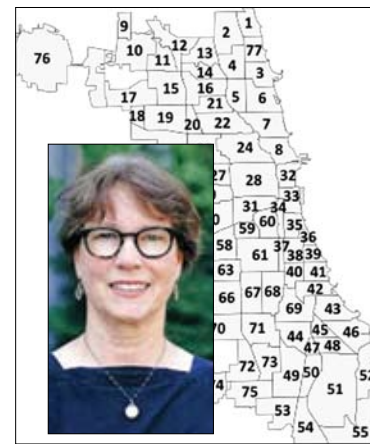
town, assisted greatly by **Diego**, now a six year veteran server.

DREAM AWARDS: The Dream Awards will be held on Saturday, May 18, and honor legends who have achieved their dreams in Music, Film, Dance, Media and Journalism. The glamorous event will be held at the Kehrein Center For The Arts, 5628 W. Washington Blvd., created and produced by Harrison Entertainment. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Building Brighter Futures (bbcenterforarts.org).

A man is called selfish not for pursuing his own good, but for neglecting his neighbor's.

- *Richard Whately*

tog515@gmail.com



(Inset) University of Chicago Professor Emily Talen.

Unpacking Chicago's Community Areas

The Edgewater Historical Society and Edgewater Branch Library are hosting a program on Chicago's 77 community areas 10 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the library, in the Betty A. Barclay Community Room, 6000 N. Broadway.

Chicago's official map of 77 community areas has remained unchanged since Edgewater received its designation in 1980. Now, an effort is under way by University of Chicago Professor Emily Talen to possibly change that map to more closely reflect where community residents think they belong.

Talen will lead a public examination of how Chicago first got its community map, how it has served the City for the past 100 years, and how it could change during this free event.

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Pot shop proposal for Streeterville to be heard May 17

The Zoning Board of Appeals [ZBA] is planning to host a public meeting 9 a.m. May 17 on a proposed new recreational marijuana dispensary in Streeterville.

In March the Zoning Administrator for the City of Chicago ruled that Guidepost Montessori at Magnificent Mile qualifies as a school under the legal definition provided in state law. This school is within 500 feet of 620 N. Fairbanks, making the location ineligible to be used as a recreational cannabis dispensary under the Chicago Zoning Ordinance.

The dispensary applicant is appealing the Zoning Administrator's ruling, and at

the last meeting of the Chicago ZBA the applicant's lawyer asked for a continuance on the appeal to May 17.

No public testimony will be taken during the appeal.

If the Zoning Administrator's ruling is overturned by the ZBA members, the applicant can proceed with their special use application hearing with public testimony. If the Zoning Administrator's ruling is upheld by the ZBA members when they hear the appeal on May 17, then the ZBA process ends - but the dispensary applicant could take the case further to the Circuit Court of Cook County if they choose.

BORROWING from p. 1

The effort was delayed by Johnson's own handpicked Finance chair, Ald. Pat Dowell [3rd], a supporter of the plan. Her move stopped opponents of the bond deal from using a parliamentary move to block it themselves.

The plan hopes to reduce the city's reliance on Tax Increment Financing [TIF] by borrowing money using municipal bonds. While the exact math is still fuzzy, the mayor claims the city would pay off the \$2.4 billion in new accumulated debt through 2061 by using property tax revenues coming from expiring tax increment financing, or TIF, districts.

But by law, expiring TIF money that is not longer being captured must be divided between all taxing bodies (think libraries, streets and sanitation, the Park District), leaving the city of Chicago getting only about 20% of the haul. Whether the debt repayments plan would require those various taxing bodies to contribute their own funds is unknown.

Dowell and the opposition are demanding accountability measures to the plan, over an administration that is losing credibility, in large part due to the control the CTU has over the Mayor's office. Some in City Council are calling for guidelines for spending, frequent progress reports, and a \$5 million threshold at which projects funded by the new borrowing require City

Council approval.

Unknown is how all this new spending will affect the city's ability to use TIF surplus in the future to support the budget. "This year, we used \$434 million," Conway said. "What impact will this have on our bond rating, with the outlook just lowered a couple of weeks ago?"

Ald. Bill Dowell and the opposition are demanding accountability measures to the plan, over an administration that is losing credibility, in large part due to the control the CTU has over the Mayor's office.

The plan would allocate the new cash equally between the Housing and Planning and Development departments, totaling \$625 million each over five years, with a focus on affordable housing construction and preservation. The portion going to Planning and Development is expected to support neighborhood development and small businesses, but nobody really knows what that may really mean, and skepticism is thick among City Council members and tax payers. Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd] has questioned the lack of comprehensive fiscal analysis and urged a closer examination of the plan's implications.

Four arrested after cops witness carjacking in River North

BY CWBCHICAGO

Four suspects are in custody after Chicago police officers saw them carjack a man in River North, and then engaged the hijackers in a pursuit that ended with

their arrests.

The officers were near the intersection of Chicago Ave. and Wells St. when they saw the hijacking unfold around 6:46 p.m. April 19. According to a CPD statement, a 31-year-old man was inside his car in the 700 block of N. Wells when a black Kia Sedan pulled up next to him.

Three men got out of the Kia, and one displayed a gun as they ordered the victim out of his car. Police said one hijacker took the victim's vehicle and the other two returned to the Kia. Both vehicles sped from the scene.

The officers who saw the hijacking radioed information about the crime and pursued the Kia until it crashed near Adams and Damen just before 7 p.m. CPD said four male suspects were arrested, and the victim's car was recovered.

Charges are pending.

CHARGES from p. 1

the three gunmen who walked up to Winfrey and shot him from close range.

According to court records, Winfrey was on parole for a felony gun case when the murder occurred. He also has two pending Class X armed habitual criminal cases. The allegations in the pending cases are nearly identical.

In the first, Chicago police officers said West ran from them after he was seen walking back and forth, adjusting his waistband on the corner of 71st and King Dr. on the evening of June 14, 2023.

He ran, and cops chased him and caught him. They retraced his flight path and recovered a loaded 9-millimeter handgun from a front yard, according to a CPD arrest report. At the end of August, he went home for electronic monitoring.

Then, on Feb. 19, Chicago cops alleg-

edly saw West and another man wearing ski masks and black puffer jackets, again at the corner of 71st and King Drive. The men walked with their left arms pressed tight against their bodies, leading the officers to suspect they were concealing firearms, according to their report.

West and the other man ran when the cops approached them, the report said. Officers heard the "clang sound of metal hitting a surface" as they chased West, according to the report. They eventually found him hiding in a convenience store restroom.

The CPD report said West was wearing his electronic monitoring bracelet when they arrested him.

He has been detained at the Cook County jail since the February case was filed.

There were 38 people shot in the Loop during 2022, a number eclipsing any other year since at least 2001.

Senior Resource Fair May 9 at Near North Library

The Chicago police will be hosting a Senior Resource Fair 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 9 at Near North Library, 310 W. Division St.

A variety of city, county and state agencies relating to senior services will be participating. No reservation is required.



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