Pedestrian Designated Streets may not revive retail, while still adding more cars

A Pedestrian Designated Street is a new high-density change in zoning law that is now being used in some neighborhoods to build high-density buildings. It is being sold as a way to aid and protect retail districts but could be viewed as a Trojan Horse used to add more high-density housing without adding off-street parking spaces.

PHOTOS AND STORY
BY PETER VON BUOL

At an April 10 meeting of the South Lakeview Neighbors [SLVN] neighborhood organization, the executive director of the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce [LVCC] unveiled his plan to have a section of Lincoln Ave. rezoned to a Pedestrian Designated Street [PDS]. The zoning change would allow developers to build with greater density than that allowed under current zoning, and would discourage “non-walkable” businesses that require sidewalk cut-outs, including drive-thru banks and restaurants and car washes.

And fair warning, the PDS designation is a new high-density change in zoning law that may soon show up in other North Side neighborhoods too.

In one instance, at 3720-3722 N. Ashland Ave., a PDS zone was established in the 47th Ward that is only 50’ wide. It was clearly intended to give the developer the ability to put up a single high-density building with little to no parking included and which would not have been allowed under the previous zoning.

Decades ago, the Lincoln, Belmont and Ashland shopping district was among the busiest in the city. However, in recent years, numerous storefronts have long remained empty.

PEDESTRIAN see p. 7

Retail vacancies at their highest levels since 2010

‘Point, click, shop’ means retailers don’t need as much space

BY MARLA FORBES

When Trump Tower opened to controversial fanfare in the height of the recession in 2009, no one thought twice about the 70,000 square feet of unoccupied retail space; it was, after all, the worst economy in over 70 years.

Ten years later the space remains unoccupied and asking rents have plummeted from $350/ square foot to $50/square foot. Even at seemingly bargain prices, the space cannot be leased.

It comes as no surprise to anyone, that here on the North Side, and indeed nationwide, storefront retail has seen better days. Increased online shopping and retail space overcapacity has retail vacancies at their highest levels since 2010.

Many residents have become all too familiar with the ubiquitous white butcher block paper that now covers storefront windows and doors in many tony neighborhoods.

Industry data indicate that 10% under current zoning, and would discourage “non-walkable” businesses that require sidewalk cut-outs, including drive-thru banks and restaurants and car washes.

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Are you content, or would you like to do this whole thing over, given the chance? If you could control things, what would your life look like? How would it be different?

Long ago I had a philosophy professor who was born in Belgium, into a large family of Roman Catholics, who later settled into American academia and became caught up in all the usual pursuits such that this life entails. But he was a man very unsettled by the residue of obligation. Not that this counts, but he was rather grand, well thought of and was somewhat famous in philosophical circles.

He was considered a leader in liberal spirituality circles too. And he was very funny. Droll and adroit.

He began one lecture by saying that in another life he wanted to come back as the only child of an older, Conservative Jewish man. He would not be caught up in all the usual worries of every peckiness and demands. Free rivalry. Freedom from religious obligations in life. Freedom from the ballroom floor. Freedom from absent from temple. Expecting, parental disappointment. Untangling all the strings. It’s about remembering and obligation. Untangling all the strings.

You are already part of the melee of family life. And people have certain expectations of you. They require some significant presence. (You have to show up for things.) A sense of emotional interest. (They want to feel some connection.) And some willingness to internalize the family vocabulary. (They need to know how to communicate with you.)

Being a certain age helps a lot of us. After 12 years (or more) in Catholic schools and a heavy diet of Reverend Mothers and Monsignors, it’s not likely that you escaped the consequences of your religious circumstances. All those nighttime religious vigils orchestrated by grandmothers was more powerful than the Spanish Inquisition in deepening our family’s fervent religious devotion. It’s always there to haunt you, like a Dickensian ghost or a rediscoved third grade report card, signed by your mother. That’s a bad thing.

And what to do if there’s no rambling Fifth Ave. co-op in your life? It’s a far-fetched image of domestic design, to be sure. Pure cinema. Like the Dakota in “Rosemary’s Baby,” or those chic pads with panoramic views of Central Park. They seem far from the tiny studio apartments of budding actors and artists or the tenements of lower Manhattan featured on Woody Allen celluloid. Fifth Ave. might as well be a dream as distant as Miss Marple’s village of St. Mary Mead.

Such thoughts must flow from our predictable belief, though, that the grass is always greener somewhere else. In front of some one else’s patio. Or out of someone else’s window. Your family’s cooler than mine. My aunts and uncles less eccentric. My cousins less psychotic than yours.

But doesn’t life also teach us that every glance out the window is a peek into the pains and heartaches of others? Into the brokenness and bitterness of people just like us? I hope it does. I am really slow to think that we can have meaningful lives without some obligation. Isn’t that one of the things that makes us human?

In fact there is no life without obligation. Give a litter and you’ll wind up with a cappuccino, from me. Or a chocolate chip cookie. Or a ham sandwich. Or a piece of Irish soda bread.

Obligation is the price we pay for those not around in the good ole days. It’s not a bad occupation, especially if you were lucky to come caught up in all the usual程序 and artists or the tenements of lower Manhattan featured on Woody Allen celluloid. Fifth Ave. might as well be a dream as distant as Miss Marple’s village of St. Mary Mead.

Maybe being Jewish in New York is easier than being Irish, or Belgian, but I seriously doubt it. You pay the price in any event for that five bedroom co-op, small family, living in “snobsville” on the East side of the park and being absent from temple.

Being human is a quirky thing, but it’s all know. Maybe the grass isn’t any greener, more elegant or any easier any place else. Maybe the Big Apple is no more a life solution than Wilmette or Gary, Indiana is. But after all, the solution to life is found in the level of our own generosity and patience with one another. Just ask the Soviets about what it was like in the 1940s.

Maybe some parents are less intrusive and manipulative and bossy than others. But I have my doubts about these as well. The cure for all of that would seem to be found in forging relationships of meaningful confident assurance. Predictable and affirming. Guess what? It’s a trade-off.

It’s not easy trying to bridge the gap between aging parental liberals and clueless millennials around the holiday dinner table. Or at the uncomfortable foot of the coffin at a family wake. Or at the socially im-plausible wedding of family relations excited doing the Chicken Dance on the bathroom floor. Recently I have taken refuge in the freedom and light of a new family obligation, filling in the blanks of family history for those not around in the good ole days. It’s not a bad occupation, especially if you were lucky enough to have seen the family parade pass by in its glory days of robust grandparents and impish uncles of humor and patriotism, and aunts of resolute judgment and old fashioned take no prisoner-style of relationships.

The task of family historian is no classroom enterprise for its patina of family wake. Or family wake. Or one else’s window. Your family’s cooler than mine. My aunts and uncles less eccentric. My cousins less psychotic than yours. But doesn’t life also teach us that every glance out the window is a peek into the pains and heartaches of others? Into the brokenness and bitterness of people just like us? I hope it does. I am really slow to think that we can have meaningful lives without some obligation. Isn’t that one of the things that makes us human?

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A woman is beaten every nine seconds in the United States. One in three women and one in four men in the U.S. have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. Forty to 45% of women in physically abusive relationships are raped or sexually assaulted during the relationship.

Three women are murdered every day by an intimate partner. The stats are heart-wrenching, and sexual assault and domestic violence numbers continue to rise, worldwide. Yet Chicagoans -- and your hairdresser -- are trying to do something about that.

The gals and guys who do your hair are working with the organization Chicago Says No More (CSNm), a coalition of agencies serving those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault across the metro area and across Illinois. CSNm was established by Kristie Paskvan, senior advisor to the chairman at Me- sirow Financial, in response to the tragic murder of college student Nadia Erazalde by her ex-boyfriend just after Thanksgiving 2014 while she was working at Nordstrom, with 14,000 members and located at 440 S. LaSalle St. -- it is the first group of beauty pros in the country to offer this course, which was prepared by CSNm and required for 2018 license renewal for all hairdressers.

Karen Gordon, owner of J. Gordon Designs, 2326 N. Clark St., is a member of the board of directors for Cosmetologists Chicago/America’s Beauty Show and one of the first people to take the CSNm class. “It was important for me because the statistics are so staggering high,” said Gordon. “This means I will know or have known more people than I ever thought imaginable who will be, or have been, a victim of domestic violence or sexual abuse.”

Below, Gordon chats a bit about the class. We appreciate that a visit to the hair salon has become more than just making us look beautiful.

Q. What did you learn from taking the class?
A. By taking the course I was able to recognize some of the more subtle signs of domestic violence/sexual abuse. I was also able to understand what is expected of me as a cosmetologist and what I am “qualified” to do (and not to) to help someone. There is a great misunderstanding among cosmetologists. Many think they will be required to intervene or give advice and are fearful that they could be held legally accountable if they don’t help someone who may need assistance. In most instances we are not qualified to help. This should be left to counselors and other professionals. And, there are no legal ramifications. Rather, we are being trained about the warning signs of domestic violence/sexual abuse and on how we can provide victims with information on where they can go for help.

Q. The course is being offered at America’s Beauty Show. Do you think it’s just for women or do men benefit too from it?
A. Many people believe that only women are victims of domestic violence or abuse, but that is not true. Men are victims as well. And, both men and women will most likely know somebody who is a victim, so it is important that everyone take the course regardless of their gender.

Q. Why do you think this became law for hairdressers? Is it because people tend to tell them their problems/secrets?
A. This became a law due to two things. First, hairdressers tend to have very close personal relationships with their clients. Clients often confide in us, so in our conversations we might become aware of an abusive situation. Second, we work very intimately on people and may be able to detect physical signs of violence or abuse. This is something very unique about our profession, and why lawmakers feel we may stand a better chance of guiding someone to the proper resources for help than people who work in other fields.

Since taking the course last year, someone I knew became a victim of domestic abuse. The abuse was emotional, physical and financial. When this person confided in me, I was able to refer them to the SNM website. They called one of the organizations on the website and received advice on where to go for counseling.

I am glad to report that this person found the courage and strength to leave the abusive relationship and is now in the process of piecing their life back together again, hopefully in a healthier way.

Can’t help falling in love… Elvis Presley fans (including me) were “All Shook Up.” At the Hard Rock Café last week when a private preview party of the upcoming musical “Heartbreak Hotel” was held. On hand to discuss the show and rock the house was its star, Eddie Clendening, who will star as Elvis. Join Alderman Hopkins

For Email Updates, Sign Up at www.aldermanhopkins.com

Karen Gordon, owner of J. Gordon Designs in Lincoln Park.

IN MEMORY OF COMMANDER PAUL BAUER

Heart of the 'Hood
By Felicia Dechter

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS
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HAIRDRESSER see p. 11

Karen Gordon, owner of J. Gordon Designs in Lincoln Park.
Soft Hands Sam starred for Royko’s softball team

The 1979 Chicago Sun-Times team is pictured at the Grant Park Tournament of Champions (Left to Right — Back Row): Don Garbarino, Bob Gorzynski, Paul Sortal, Don DeBat, Dean Karouzos, Mike Royko, Len Cutdzilo, Dave Sortal, Sam Gendusa and Al Hansen. (Front Row): Clark Bell, Jim Warren, Mike Zilinziger, Steve Loh, Herb Gould and Dan Cudzilo.

Moustached, slim Sam Gendusa, who resembled New York Yankee baseball star first baseman Joe Pepitone, is second from the left in the back row of this 1974 Chicago Daily News team photo. A young Mike Royko, also sporting a moustache, is standing in the middle of the back row.

A young Sam Gendusa can be viewed in the background on the famous July, 1982, “Royko at The Goat” video on YouTube, which features a typical Sun-Times’ team victory party at the Billy Goat Saloon on Michigan Avenue’s lower level.

Lad, I understand you are starting a softball team,” said Mike Royko. “Here’s how we’ll do it. I’ll be the manager, and you will be captain.”

Gendusa, was killed in Germany in combat during World War II, when Sam was an infant,” recalled teammate and friend John Nocita, retired Art Director of the Sun-Times. “Sam was a football star at Foreman High School.”

His mother, Vida Gendusa and roommate Don Garbarino and I continued to play for the star-studded team that won the “A” League championship at Kosciuszko Park in the 1980s. Many of the fine Solidarity players were of Polish heritage, including Joe Olding, Tim Weigel and Dennis Oudek, Steve Wysocke, Glen Placek, Rob Placek, and Mike Skowronski.

“Sammy always said Batz was one of his favorite teams because it was loaded with softball characters and potential future Hall of Famers,” recalled Garbarino, a power hitter who batted cleanup for the Daily News, Sun-Times and Royko’s Raiders.

Batz stars included Jess of Ron “Beefalobob” Brausch’s legendary Clarendon Park team, Hall of Famer Davey Hardt of the mighty Wolves, and his son, Ricky Hardt, who is still pitching A-league softball at 60 years of age.

In 1985, Solidarity was re-born as Risk, and Gendusa and I continued to play for the star-filled team, which later featured Hall of Famers Al Placek (Playboys), Tom Horn (Lettuce), Sal Ganir (Dwarfs), “AA” stars Gary Begner (Defenders), Dave Ganir (Dwarfs), Larry Comstock (Defenders) and future Hall of Famers Keith Dickens and John

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County partners with bill collector to track down unpaid taxes

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

North Side residents who bought a car in recent years may need to begin watching their mail for an envelope from Cook County, demanding payment through hundreds of dollars under a county tax, thanks to an ongoing, little-known arrangement with a debt collector and local law firm depu-
tized to act as county attorneys.

The county, since 2012, has as-
sessed so-called use tax at a rate of one percent on the sale price of all cars purchased by county residents, whether at car dealers in or outside the county, as well as from private individual sellers, if the vehicles are registered to an address in Cook County. For purchases made at dealerships in the county, such taxes are the re-
ponsibility of the dealerships to collect and pay to the county.

But for vehicles purchased out-
side the county, county ordinar-
cies require taxpayers to pay the use tax by the 20th day of the month following the car’s purchase.

For example, if a Cook County resident buys a car in Lake Coun-
ty or Will County or Northwest Indiana in April, and the dealer doesn’t pay what they owe when they bought a vehicle, along with a “full range” of other debt, according to an executed and stamped copy of the approved contract obtained under the Free-
dom of information Act by The Cook County Record.

In addition to “home rule tax-
es,” the contract authorizes PCTC to pursue debt owed to the office of Cook County Circuit Clerk Dorothy Brown and to the Cook County Health and Hospital Sys-
tem, which includes John H. Stroger Hospital. The contract is scheduled to expire in 2020.

Cook County spokeswoman Becky Schlikerman said boost-
tax collection efforts has been a priority for Preckwinkle, since she took office in 2011.

“An immediate change to sup-
port these goals was modernizing tax collection efforts has been made so new sources of revenue to shore up the county’s financial situation. In 2017, for instance, the Cook County Board, at Preckwinkle’s urging, imposed a controversy-
plagued and ill-fated tax of soda pop and other sweetened bever-
ages, in the hopes of bringing in hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue.”

Amid public outcry over the tax’s impact on the price of pop, sweet tea, energy drinks and other sweetened drinks, followed by a string of embarrassing lawsuits over retailers’ collection of the penny per ounce tax, the County Board opted to rescind the tax.

In a document explaining the pro-
posed county budget for Fiscal Year 2018, county officials noted the county needed to find a way to plug a $72 million hole left af-
ter the tax was repealed.

An increase in use tax collec-
tions likely wouldn’t patch a bud-
get hole that size, indeed, use tax accounts for about 4.5 percent of the county’s tax revenues, according to the comptroller reports.

However, that share of the county’s total tax take has in-
creased along with use tax collec-
tions in general, rising from just 2.5% of the county’s total tax rev-
ue as recently as 2010.

To further boost those collec-
tions, and squeeze as much as possible of what the county is owed under the tax into county coffers, the county in Jan. 2015 contracted with Harrisburg, PA-based Penn Credit, and, by ex-
tension, the PCTC firm to chase down those the county believes didn’t pay what they owed when they bought a vehicle, along with a “full range” of other debt, according to an executed and stamped copy of the approved contract obtained under the Free-
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Japanese Americans ‘remember when’ at all-camps reunion April 29

The next All-Camps Reunion event to be held by the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) will be 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 29. The event is free and open to the public at 4427 N. Clark St.

This event is jointly sponsored and organized by JASC, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago, and the Japanese American Citizens League Chicago Chapter.

The program this year will include a performance by Keishi Uchima and a screening of newly digitized films from the JASC archives that have not been seen in over 40 years.

Light refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 773-275-0997 ext. 222.

Camps reunion is for anyone who was formerly incarcerated/interred in the Japanese American Concentration Camps during World War II.

All friends, family, and community members are also welcome. The last meeting was held back in 2014.

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8:30am & 11:00am Sunday: 9:30 am Prayer 10 am Worship

Sunday Church School 10:45am Adult Forum 10:45am

Dr. Kim C. Hill Senior Pastor

Sunday: 9:30 am Prayer 10 am Worship 10:30 am Worship, Sunday School 10:45 am

10 am Kingdom Kids Place

8:30am & 11:00am Sunday Mass 8, 9:30, 11am & 12:30pm

Weeklyday Mass Mon - Fri 8:30am - 12:30pm

Saturday Mass 9am - 5pm

Church School 10:45 am

Children’s Study 10 am

Sunday Mass 8, 9:30, 11am & 12:30pm

Coffee Hour 11:45 a.m. Worship 11:00am

The Forum Discussion 12:15 pm

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While the contract requires the company to provide regular reports on its collection activities to the county, as of publication, county officials said they are still waiting on Penn Credit to produce those numbers.

A founding partner at PCTC did not reply to a request for comment.

Clausen of the Jets. With players like this it is no wonder that greater Chicago Risk team and the Vintage Risk saloon “B” team—managed by this writer—went on to win more than 30 league and tournament championships at Hamlin Park, Horner Park, 63rd Park and Trebes Park over the past 33 years.

Simultaneously, the historic Sun-Times team continued to win titles over the past two decades in the Grant Park League in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, along with major tournaments, including the 1993 and 1994 Old Style Classic Stars on the Old Style Classic Parks.

For the Sport Style Classic teams included Hall of Famers Dan Brichetto, Tom (Bomber) Horn, Al Placek and Dan Cahill, along with “A” and “AA” players—Steve Kus, Dave Southwell, Mark Masterson, Glenn Placek, Rob Placek, Dean Karouzos and Larry Comstock.

Several fine Sun-Times tournament teams, organized by future Stars on the Old Style Classic Jimmy Greer, Bob Clausen of the Jets.

Larry Comstock.

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FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

A number of metal-on-metal hip replacement models were recalled due to early failure and other problems. If you had hip replacement surgery between 2005 and 2012 and then had a revision surgery in 2015 or later, you may be entitled to financial compensation.

If you had hip replacement surgery between 2005 and 2012 and then had a revision surgery in 2015 or later, you may be entitled to financial compensation.

The contract requires the debt collectors to attempt to contact those the county owes money to and attempt to persuade them to pay the alleged debt tax must be paid, whether or not they still own the car for which the tax was allegedly not paid.

While the contract requires the debt collectors to attempt to contact those the county owes money to and attempt to persuade them to pay the alleged debt, the county can and does send such collections to an administrative hearing, whether the alleged debtor is present or not.

This can and has resulted in the county taxpayers years and 21 days to request a new administrative hearing.

County officials assert such collections activities account for about 5-7 percent of the total use tax revenue Cook County brings in each year.

However, how many such collections the county has initiated in recent years has been difficult to track down.

In response to repeated requests from The Cook County Re caverners, the county says they or their debt collectors mailed a total of 322,242 use tax collection notices and 39,905 administrative hearing notices over the last seven years.

Despite repeated FOIA requests, however, Cook County Re caverners have said they are unable to provide numbers indicating how many of those notices were sent annually, telling this reporter they need to obtain those figures from their debt collectors.

While Penn Credit’s contract purportedly requires the company to provide regular reports on its collection activities to the county, as of publication, county officials said they are still waiting on Penn Credit to produce those numbers.

A founding partner at PCTC did not reply to a request for comment.

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A number of metal-on-metal hip replacement models were recalled due to early failure and other problems. If you had a revision surgery in 2015 or later, you may be entitled to financial compensation.

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When store fronts are too costly, new license allows mobile merchants

Last week Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] proposed a new Mobile Merchant license under the Regulated Business License for the City’s growing mobile boutique industry.

The Mobile Merchant license would allow mobile boutique operators, who currently operate under the Emerging Business Permit (EBP), to receive a renewable two-year license. The new license activity offers more flexibility in allowing the sales of non-food merchandise from a mobile vehicle.

Mobile boutique trucks are a growing niche in the Chicago area and in other large urban settings. In 2016, the city was approached by several boutique owners who wanted to sell retail clothing, shoes, handbags, and art inspired gifts from mobile vehicles. This activity did not fit into any existing category, so the City granted these Emerging Business Permits to allow these owners to operate for two years.

Due to the high cost of real estate and high property taxes, for some small retailers leasing or buying a commercial storefront is out of the question. Most mobile retailers have gross sales of less than $100,000 per year, and 80% of mobile retailers nationwide now operate out of a truck. The cost for outfitting a truck for retail varies according to the materials used and the hourly labor rate if the owner does not do the work themselves. But the average cost is between $5,000-$10,000. Exterior vinyl decals for advertising add another $1,500.

Located in the vicinity of public-transportation (the Paulina Brown Line CTA station in this instance), these TOD buildings are supposed to discourage car usage and therefore, they have only a few available parking spaces.

A mixed-use property within 1,320’ of a CTA or Metra station today has a minimum parking requirement of 50% of that which is normally required; if that property is on a PDS, the distance doubles to 2,640 feet, which allowed the Paulina CTA Station to be used for the section of Lincoln Ave. south of Belmont to be considered for TOD construction. If they apply to City Hall for an administrative adjustment process, a developer can get that minimum parking requirement down to zero.

The argument that TOD’s do not attract automobile traffic isn’t always true. Some transit studies have shown that as much as 80% of travel emanating from a TOD buildings is still done by auto. In addition, those who come over to visit a TOD resident may choose to drive and often they seek street parking.

At the meeting, Crandell told those in attendance that would otherwise not be allowed to operate to do so under a pilot program.

In 2016, the city was approached by several boutique owners who wanted to sell retail clothing, shoes, handbags, and art inspired gifts from mobile vehicles. This activity did not fit into any existing category, so the City granted these Emerging Business Permits to allow these owners to operate for two years.

Outside of the traditional licensing structure to safely operate on an experimental basis, and gives entrepreneurs the chance to test their business ideas for up to two years while the City works to identify the necessary license framework.

“This will make it possible for new merchants like North and Hudson to test their concepts, and like them, grow to brick and mortar. In a time when so much local retail has been threatened by ecommerce, this is one step to nurture local business,” said Ald. Smith.

These operators will now fit within our licensing structure, and other innovative and emerging businesses will hopefully be encouraged to come to Chicago and operate under “this permit,” said BACP Commissioner Rosa Escareno.

The EBP was created in 2012 as part of a City’s license reform which simplified the licensing process for business owners by consolidating from 117 to 40 license types. The EBP allows businesses that fall under this permit, to receive a renewable two-year license.

The first EBP permit was issued to Rebecca Mueller of North & Hudson for mobile boutique operation. Stella Lally was the second licensed mobile truck operator. To date, there are seven mobile boutique trucks operating under an EBP. These permits are set to expire in June. Under the proposed ordinance, these entrepreneurs would be eligible to continue their business activity under the Mobile Merchant license.

Mobile boutique trucks are easy to find on eBay and Craigslist, and many of the trucks had previous lives as delivery vehicles. This new license allows businesses that would otherwise not be allowed to operate to do so under a pilot program.

The first EbP permit was issued to Rebecca Lally of Stella Lally. This will make it possible for new merchants like North and Hudson to test their concepts, and like them, grow to brick and mortar. In a time when so much local retail has been threatened by ecommerce, this is one step to nurture local business,” said Ald. Smith.
and “Howard’s End.” (The 1980s was ex-
actly when I was at school in England.) I
just re-watched their 1992 “Howard’s End.”
I bring this up because there is a new
2017 mini-series based on “Howard’s End”
on Starz. A critic/friend of mine railed
against the newest version. I have not
seen it. Have any of you? My friend disliked
the new mini-series. She’s tough. Twenty-five
years ago I living in Manhattan, I used to see
the Merchant/Ivy gang grocery shopping
in our NYC neighborhood (73rd and First
Ave). We shared the same bodega. They
were all very easy to know as humans and I
have no idea what you think.
JUST A BIT OUTSIDE: Sister Jeanne
Dolores Schmidt, BVM, now a beloved
Chicago cultural icon, tossing out the first
ball of the season for the Cubs, warming
the wind with her wicker slider.
THOSE OLD FRIENDS: Sun Times
Neil Steinberg lunching at Ralph Lau-
ren Bar & Grill, so was Hazel Barr, Biba
Roche and journalist Megan McKinney,
and writer Lucia Adams and this colum-
nist were there as well. Big congrats to
Kyle de la Fontaine on his move from the
bar at RL to Floor Manager at Gibson’s Ita-
lia (can he make a Mojito).
WHO’S WHERE? Maestro Stanley
Paul rumored to be returning from the des-
cert, much missed… Pat Toney at Steinway
for her grandchild’s first piano concert.
Trud Wong in Washington, DC with his tribe of Wongs (the
coziest of families) jammed into a bicycle pedi-cab, cre-
ating a memory that will outlast all other details of their trip…the
author Sherrill Bodine and husband, John, celebrating
their anniversary at Gibson’s Italia… Jeff Kinney with Gov-
ernors Bruce Rauner (R-IL) and Scott Walker (R-WI). I’ve
done for Jim… Niamh King and husband, Edward Luce,
in Jerusalem lighting an Easter (Orthodox) candle in the
Ethiopian (Monophyte) portion of the Basilica of the
Holy Sepulchre… Spencer Gartner is all checked in
at Morris’s Resort in Grand
Cayman with plenty of sun… Barrister
Bernard Dunleavy examining the dra-
ma of the special exhibits at London’s
Royal Academy of Arts and dinner
at historic rules (I love this place)… School teacher
Sean Esghay just an-
nounced that his St. Josaphat Hawks
killed it “Won our first game!” He’s
a proud coach … serious horse woman
Patricia Bidwill catching the rays in
Hermosa Beach CA, do I hear ponies?…
wonderful running into Steve and Peggy
Lombardo on their way into Gibson’s, I
confessed I was going next door to Hugo’s for
51 sylsters… Bobbi Panter winging to
LAX.
ROYAL WEDDING: HRH Prince
Harry and soon to be HRH Meghan
Markle’s Royal Wedding promises to be
an elegant and happy occasion and if you
can’t be at Windsor, be at the Drake Hotel
to watch the royal event with suitable dig-
nity and cheer on a reserved screen eating
Hawthorned Castle, in Midlothian. Her
life was given to dramatically enhancing all
literary pursuits, bankrolling some of
the finest artistic achievements of the age,
like “The Paris Review,” of which she was
publisher for 25 years. She also created a pre-
miere literary retreat for writers at her castle.
Her life, married to the chair-
man of the food com-
pa ny
bearing their name,
was itself a renaissance in literary life. She was
the step-mother of the
late US Senator John
Heinz III (R PA) and
the founder of the Haw-
thorned Literary Prize
back in 1983. She was born Doreen Mary
English and loved the writer’s word.
NO COMMANDO: Did management
recently sit a popular busboy down at a
proud coach … serious horse woman
Patricia Bidwill catching the rays in
Hermosa Beach CA, do I hear ponies?…
wonderful running into Steve and Peggy
Lombardo on their way into Gibson’s, I
confessed I was going next door to Hugo’s for
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ROYAL WEDDING: HRH Prince
Harry and soon to be HRH Meghan
Markle’s Royal Wedding promises to be
an elegant and happy occasion and if you
can’t be at Windsor, be at the Drake Hotel
to watch the royal event with suitable dig-

DRAKE PALM COURT: International
turned entertainment star Bette
Merkle, will be the special guest of honor.
She is the co-host of the “Chicago’s Got Talent” com-
petition and will be entertaining the guests with a
celebratory performance.
With the arrival of warmer weather, the
Drake Hotel will be hosting its annual summer
entertainment series, known as the “Drake
Palm Court.” The series features various
performers and artists, including live music,
adventurous food and drink specials, and
unique experiences for guests to enjoy.

PAX ET BONUM:
Author Sherrill Bodine and husband,
John, at Gibson’s Italia.

RAY & RITA: Ray and Rita.

June 16th. Call 773-465-9700 for rates
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George theater cabaret
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neighborhoods’
festivals, parades, art
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May 23rd.
Be in it.

Final Ad Deadline: May 16th

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The zoning change would allow developers to build with greater density than that allowed under current zoning, and would discourage “non-walkable” businesses that require sidewalk cutouts, including drive-thru banks and restaurants and car-washes.

**PEDESTRIAN from p. 7**

attendance the designation will benefit the community because it will encourage additional walkable businesses to choose Lincoln Ave. He lamented that decades ago, developers had not included first-floor storefronts in their buildings and that has made it more difficult for retail storefronts to thrive.

Despite Crandell’s enthusiasm for the expansion of PDS streets, not all communities in the Chicago area have experienced a retail boom after passage of the new designation. Frustrated by what it considers to be too many vacant downtown storefronts, the city council of Highland Park recently dropped the designation. The ordinance had a short life span. It had been enacted in 2004 after the suburb’s city council had expressed concerns about an influx of drive-thru banks. These banks included sidewalk cut-outs, and, at the time, the suburban city council believed the pedestrian character of its downtown had been diminished.

According to the Pioneer Press, Joel Fontane, Highland Park’s director of community development, was among those who advocated for dropping the PDS designation for parts of its downtown. It was noted that many shoppers now make most of their purchases online and rarely set foot in a retail store.

By eliminating the PDS designation, empty storefronts in Highland Park can now be used for other purposes. Among those who have studied implementation of pedestrian streets and their impact on local communities is Joseph P. Schwieterman, Ph.D., Professor at DePaul University’s School of Public Service and director of the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development at DePaul.

“In a purely simplistic way, more development does mean more retail demand. But, I think the real question is, are those benefits tiny compared to the perceived downside of added density? And yes, [bricks-and-mortar] retail shopping will likely continue to decline. Adding more people does not mean less retail activity,” said Joseph P. Schwieterman, Ph.D.

is to create a pleasant, walkable neighborhood that encourages people to set out on foot. That can add to a neighborhood’s appeal,” said Schwieterman. “You may have to be extremely patient to add to any sort of retail renaissance, which appears unlikely at this point in time. If the only goal of a pedestrian street is to stimulate retail, that is a long, hard road.”

In addition, Schwieterman said the transit-oriented developments are often linked to pedestrian streets and this often raises neighborhood parking concerns, especially when there is no permit parking.

“The TOD ordinance is a delicate trade-off between the added costs and benefits of added density. It is important to strike the right balance. It is hard to measure how much demand will rise with the added density. Consumers are very fickle. They often jump in the car for large-scale retail purchases but will walk for simple conveniences such as a carton of milk. Restaurants are a bright spot. People like to eat local. Usually neighborhoods get pretty worked up over parking concerns with these developments. I do think it is a well-written ordinance, but I also know there are legitimate concerns,” Schwieterman said.
Rogers Park man found with Big Brown mail
A man living in a Rogers Park apartment has been accepting mail of the world’s largest shipping company, UPS. That’s right, mail intended for the UPS HQ in Atlanta was being forwarded to Apt. L2 at 6750 N. Ashland Ave. and being accepted by Dustin Spruce, 24. The change of address was submitted in Oct. 2017. Among the items received by Spruce were contracts, credit cards, and legal documents intended for top executives of the company named Big Brown. Spruce had apparently submitted a change of address forwarding mail intended for UPS. The UPS sweep did not detect the change in address.

“420 concert in Lakeview canceled over security concerns
Friday night’s “420” concert at the Vic Theatre in Lakeview was canceled by promoters after Chicago police told theater owner Jam Walton, according to charges.

“Gritty with no filter added, a must read for anyone interested in true stories” ~Stephanie McIIquham

“She writes in such a manner that you feel like you are standing with her as she tells you the story.” ~Tom Finnelly

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The Vic show was canceled over concerns about security. The Vic show was the second concert featuring Wright to be canceled this year in Chicago over security concerns. The WGCI Take Over Jam at the Chicago Theatre was canceled at the last minute in March after police raised security concerns.

Spruce told the Chicago Tribune, “It’s never been any problem, any acts of violence or anything like that that should restrict me from trying to do shows, so I’m just trying to get to the root of the problem, whether I have to hire more security or whatever the case may be.”

Two convicted felons, including one who is on parole, were arrested Thursday evening. No one was injured.

Keith Sandifer

Robert Archer

Stacey Means

Two convicted felons, including one who is on parole, were arrested Thursday evening. No one was injured.

The offender then forcefully removed some of her belongings and fled on foot in an unknown direction.

Offender is described as a male black, 18-25 years of age, 5’-7 to 5’-11, 150-180 lbs., with a dreadlock hairstyle highlighted in red/auburn color. He was wearing a red colored sweatshirt with a white and black colored ensign on the front of his sweatshirt.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call police at 312-744-6261.

Two charged with robbery on Chicago Ave.

Tyrese Taylor, 27, and Kantray Watkins, 23, have been charged with robbing a 30-year-old man on the Chicago Ave. Red Line CTA platform early April 18.

Watkins is described as a male African American in his 20s who stands 6’-2” tall, weighs 200 lbs., with hair in a low fade, and had been arrested again for robbing a man in the 200 block of W. Grand around 11 a.m. on April 13.

Detectives watched as Stacey Means, a 24-year-old Lakeview woman was robbed

A 24-year-old Lakeview woman was robbed around 12:47 a.m. The two then began beating the victim and took his wallet before running away, according to authorities.

Cops said they found Sandifer hiding behind a wall of the building.

Stacy Means

A woman’s purse

Adrianita Taylor

A woman’s purse

A 24-year-old Lakeview woman was robbed Thursday evening.

The victim, who suffered minor injuries, was found both men had a history of robbery.

Police said the victim saw the offender walking down the 200 block of W. Cornelia.

The offender then forcefully removed some of her belongings and fled on foot in an unknown direction.

Offender is described as a male black, 18-25 years of age, 5’-7 to 5’-11, 150-180 lbs., with a dreadlock hairstyle highlighted in red/auburn color. He was wearing a red colored sweatshirt with a white and black colored ensign on the front of his sweatshirt.

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Two charged with robbery on Chicago Ave.

Tyrese Taylor, 27, and Kantray Watkins, 23, have been charged with robbing a 30-year-old man on the Chicago Ave. Red Line CTA platform early April 18.

Two men were arrested with a falsely reported charade.

The police officer said the offense was a robbery.

The victim, who suffered minor injuries, was found both men had a history of robbery.

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Women charged with robbing man at knifepoint near Belmont Red Line CTA station

Two transgender women are in custody, charged with robbing a man at knifepoint near the Bel- mont Red Line CTA station early Saturday. One of the accused was previously convicted of “acci- dentially” burning down a home in Boystown and also accused of robbing another man in Boystown—an incident that she ex- cused as a “mistake.”

Prosecutors today said that Ryan Handzel, 22, and Dionte Smith, 24, flagged down cops near the 800 block of W. Fletcher at 3:30 a.m. Saturday and reported that a man had been robbed. Cops spoke with the alleged rob- ber who said the women had it twisted: They had just punched him in the face and robbed him at knifepoint, according to prosecu- tors. A search of Handzel and Smith revealed that they were in posses- sion of the true victim’s property, according to po- lice. Both wom- en are charged with felony armed robbery. Judge Mary Marabio or- dered them held without bail on Sunday.

In Oct. 2016, Handzel was ac- cused of punching a 24-year-old man in the face two times during an argument in the 800 block of W. Waveland. When the victim dropped his cell phone after being punched, Handzel picked it up and handed it to another offender who fled the scene, police said. Police said Handzel told them, “I hit [the victim] in the head twice, but I didn’t intend to steal [the] phone.” He was charged with battery and theft, but the charges were dropped when the victim failed to appear in court.

Most famously, Handzel is one of two women convicted of “accidentally” burning down a 126-year-old Boystown home in April 2016. Handzel and her co-offender, Keith L. Williams, were both sen- tenced to probation for the fire. Handzel continues to list the Crib youth shelter at 835 W. Ad- dison as his home.

Man stabbed in Uptown; victim critical, suspect in custody

A 41-year-old man was criti- cally wounded in a stabbing on the street near Truman College in Uptown Sunday evening, po- lice said. A suspect is in custody. Patrol officers were flagged down by witnesses outside of the Jimmy John’s restaurant, 1148 W. Wilson at 5:45 p.m. Officers immediately pursued a suspect who was taken into custody in the 4600 block of N. Racine. A bloody knife was found across the street from the suspect, who was arrested.

At 7 p.m., an officer stood guard over the knife at 4628 N. Racine while another cop was stationed near blood stains on the sidewalk at 1148 W. Wilson. Police said the victim had been transported to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center with stab wounds in his lower back and left thigh. No further details were released about the suspect or the motive for the attack.

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the Brokenness of Our Country and Took Black Music

Ken White

Joe Petruecchi, 27, was ac- cused of punching a 24-year-old man in the face two times during an argument in the 800 block of W. Waveland. When the victim dropped his cell phone after being punched, Handzel picked it up and handed it to another offender who fled the scene, police said. Police said Handzel told them, “I hit [the victim] in the head twice, but I didn’t intend to steal [the] phone.” He was charged with battery and theft, but the charges were dropped when the victim failed to appear in court.

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the Brokenness of Our Country and Took Black Music
In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. Division 82, Civil Judge, Hon. Sara E. Noelle, Presiding.


In re a Prontice Community Association for the Management of an Order of Possession for 30 Days After Entry of Judgment in Accordance with Section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Human Rights Act.

Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, Will on May 30th, 2018, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, 15 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

1631 N. Francisco Ave Chicago, IL 60647

Property Index No. 14-16-301-041-1717.

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.

Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. The judgment amount was $77,950.88.

Plaintiff, as represented by attorneys for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:00 AM on May 30th, 2018, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes required by The Condominium Property 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.

The judgment amount was $77,950.88.

NOTICE OF SALE

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF YOUR PROPERTY AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE SALE.

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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.

Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. The judgment amount was $77,950.88.

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NOTICE OF SALE

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF YOUR PROPERTY AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE SALE.

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Plaintiff, as represented by attorneys for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:00 AM on May 30th, 2018, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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For some retailers, the costs of maintaining retail storefronts have far exceeded the benefits. Traditional retail spaces are being replaced by new retail formats that offer more flexibility and lower costs. This shift is significant because it not only affects individual retailers but also has implications for the broader economic landscape. While some traditional retail spaces are being vacated, others are being repurposed. For example, many shopping centers are converting some of their retail spaces into office spaces, coworking areas, or even residential units. This repurposing of retail spaces not only helps to address the financial challenges faced by many retailers but also allows for the creation of new types of commercial and residential spaces.
Man on parol arrested for robbery

A man accused of burglarizing a Loop jewelry store was released on a recognizance bond, escaped from electronic monitoring, and then remained at large for a month until he got the chance to try out a new restaurant, robbing a downtown restaurant.

In January, a DNA database had generated a hit on a blood sample found at the scene of a December 31 jewelry store burglary in the first block of North Michigan Avenue, a police source said, and a photo of a hand holding a pointed object inside a paper bag, cops said. He pushed a female restaurant worker, fled the restaurant without more or I'm going to shoot you, and took money from the register, according to prosecutors.

The restaurant owner chased Harper and confronted him nearby. Harper grabbed the man and said he had a gun, and ran off, the police source said. A few minutes later, a witness to the robbery flagged cops down after spotting the suspect near State and Congress. Cops say they recovered a paper bag and the restaurant's keypad.

He was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery, battery, and escape.

---

Chicago police today declined to cite a suspect involved in the burglary and robbery of a Loop jewelry store.

**Stolen and recovered:**

- **Jewelry:** One silver charm bracelet estimated to cost $1,000, one silver charm necklace estimated to cost $100, one silver ring estimated to cost $30, one gold charm necklace estimated to cost $50.

**State and Congress:**

- **Jewelry:** One silver charm bracelet estimated to cost $1,000, one silver charm necklace estimated to cost $100, one silver ring estimated to cost $30, one gold charm necklace estimated to cost $50.

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$4M in improvements for Seward Park

The Near North Side’s Seward Park, 375 W. Elm St., would be improved with $4 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance to the Chicago Park District, through financial measures introduced to City Council last week by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

TIF assistance in the amount of $4 million would support improvements to the field house at Seward Park, including ADA-access upgrades, a new roof, new windows, and masonry and concrete repairs. The park’s playground would be also updated with new ADA-compliant equipment.

The work would be entirely funded by property taxes collected through the TIF.

CARJACKING from p. 1

home in the 1300 block of Waveland. The victim reported seeing a minivan pull into the alley moments before an armed man got into her passenger seat and demanded her car keys at gunpoint.

Moments later, Chicago police spotted the woman’s stolen Volkswagen heading eastbound on Belmont at Ashland. Officers engaged the vehicle, which fled southbound on Halsted and struck a 23-year-old man in the 2400 block of N. Halsted.

Police supervisors terminated the chase after the pedestrian was struck. Witnesses reported that the man was seriously injured in the hit and run. The carjacking occurred minutes before the incident.

Less than two minutes later and just a block away from where the VW was ditched, another carjacking was reported. A woman told police that she was grabbed by the neck and removed from her green 2000 Honda Accord with Wisconsin plates by two armed men.

The Honda sped from the scene and was last spotted heading westbound on Augusta Blvd. near Sacramento in Humboldt Park.

Police said the vehicle had severe front end damage after colliding with a series of parked cars.

Around 10 a.m., police in Lakeview found the silver Dodge Caravan that was used in the earlier crimes. It had been dumped in the 3800 block of N. Wayne, a couple of blocks from where the Lakeview woman was carjacked. Police said the van had been reported stolen in Little Village.

On the eve of the 101st Anniversary of the United States entering World War 1, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, 104 S. Michigan Ave., announced the final 50 WW1 Memorials to be awarded grants and honored with the official national designation as “WW1 Centennial Memorials.”

The profound impact of the war moved citizens in places across the U.S. to commemorate both the national and local sacrifices from the conflict through monuments, buildings, plaques, parks, groves, even roads and highways.

The program was created to help draw attention to WW1 memorials. Many of these WW1 memorials have deteriorated due to the ravages of time, exposure to the elements, neglect and even vandalism.

All 100 memorials, in all 100 cities have now been designated including such national landmarks as: Chicago’s “Soldier Field,” LA’s “Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum”, San Francisco’s “War Memorial Veterans Building and Opera House”, Honolulu’s “Naturatorium” and Washington, D.C.’s “National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park.”

The newly-designated memorials will receive a $2,000 matching grant, towards the restoration, conservation and maintenance of these local historical treasures. The program has now awarded $200,000 in matching grants and designated 100 memorials in 100 cities as official “WW1 Centennial Memorials.”

“By focusing on restoring these communities’ national landmarks as: Chicago’s “Soldier Field,” LA’s “Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum”, San Francisco’s “War Memorial Veterans Building and Opera House”, Honolulu’s “Naturatorium” and Washington, D.C.’s “National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park.”

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“By focusing on restoring these communities’ national,” according to police and a witness. Witnesses said the Jeep continued southbound on Halsted after the collision.

The intersection of Buckingham and Halsted is painted with pedestrian crossing stripes and is marked with stop signs for all on-coming vehicles.

The victim was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center where she was pronounced dead.

Hit and run death on Halsted St.

The victim of a Boystown hit and run has been identified as Dorata Gieslinska, 36. She was struck by a car and killed Thursday evening. The responsible driver remains at-large.

Gieslinska was walking westbound when a red Jeep Renegade struck her near Nookie’s Tree restaurant, 3334 N. Halsted, according to police and a witness. Witnesses said the Jeep continued southbound on Halsted after the collision.

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FREE WORKSHOPS AND COACHING FOR 50+ JOBSEEKERS

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