

Third-party candidates' ballot access rules officially loosened

Federal judge grants more time and allows fewer signatures during pandemic

BY REBECCA ANZEL
Capitol News Illinois

A federal judge's ruling Thursday made official what Capitol News Illinois reported earlier this week: Requirements for third-party candidates to be on November ballots in the state will be loosened this election cycle.

Rebecca Pallmeyer, chief judge of the Northern District federal court, agreed with the state's Libertarian and Green parties that stay-at-home and social dis-

tancing requirements in Illinois have made gathering the required number of petition signatures by June 22 "practically impossible."

The parties filed a lawsuit on April 2, and attorneys for Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois State Board of Elections acknowledged in a court filing "the need for some accommodations."

Because both the Libertarian and Green parties are considered "new" under state election rules, their candidates must obtain a greater number of signatures than those with "established" parties — typically, Democrats and Republicans.

Those same regulations dictate "new" party and independent

candidates have from March 24 until June 22 to gather enough signatures — in person with a campaign worker watching — to qualify for inclusion on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

Pritzker instituted his stay-at-home order March 20, and announced Thursday it will extend through at least May 30.

"The combined effect of the restrictions on public gatherings imposed by Illinois' stay-at-home order and the usual in-person signature requirements in the Illinois Election Code is a nearly insurmountable hurdle for new party and independent candidates at-

BALLOT see p. 8



A commonplace "manure vault" that would have been found in any North Side Chicago alley right up to the early 20th century.

While rare, wooden alleys are now landmarks

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Chicago alleys don't usually make the National Register of Historic Places, but the one stretching between N. Astor and N. State streets on the Gold Coast just behind the former Cardinal's residence is an exception.

After all, it's the only wooden thoroughfare left of the wooden block pavements that made up 62% of Chicago's 774 miles of improved streets back in 1891, fully 481 miles of wooden thoroughfares.

Built in 1909, the wooden pavement cost only a third of the cost of stone but was quickly falling out of favor to the point where 25 years later, the cost of a wooden paved street would run higher than an asphalt pavement as the price of timber skyrocketed as Midwestern forests disappeared.

And that alley was rapidly being eaten by the elements in 2011 when local residents including Maureen O'Brien, then president of the Gold Coast Neighborhood Assoc. and then-Ald. Vi Daley [43rd], who in turn reached out

to Chicago transportation dept. streetscapes director Janet Attarian, who in turn helped form the self-styled "Band of Blockheads," who got to work re-learning the almost long forgotten art of wooden streetpaving.

The Gold Coast Wooden Alley is one of two remaining wood block alleys in the city; the other is on the 2100 block of N. Hudson Ave.

The reborn 18-foot wide Gold Coast alley was partly repaved by the volunteers with six, eight, and 10-inch long wooden paving blocks as similar as possible to the original cedar block pavers sit in tar and gravel. Cedar was chosen as it does not rot in water.

For the volunteers, it was more than just another neighborhood beautification project.

Chicago, after all, may have some claim to being the home of the American alley. You won't find many alleys in places like New York, Los Angeles or Denver for several reasons, said local historian Dennis McClendon sev-

WOODEN see p. 8

Street resurfacing plans could lock up Gold Coast

The Illinois and Chicago departments of transportation will soon begin their Spring street resurfacing projects and it may block access to and from the Gold Coast.

Blocked in on the east and north sides by the barriers of Lake Shore Dr. and Lincoln Park, now the western access to the neighborhood is targeted for major road work.

The following streets are to be resurfaced, with State St. already underway:

- State St. from Chicago Ave. to North Ave.
- Dearborn St. from Chicago Ave. to North Ave.

- Clark St. from Chicago Ave. to North Ave.
- Wells St. from Chicago Ave. to North Ave.
- LaSalle Dr. from Ohio St. to Division St.
- Clybourn from Division St. to North Ave.
- Halsted St. from North Branch St. to Division St.

This work includes ADA sidewalk improvements, sections of curb and gutter removal and replacement, milling, paving, and striping. All scheduled work is weather permitting. During construction, temporary "No Parking" signs will be periodically posted as required.

State trying to fill need for expanded mental health needs during lockdown

BY PATRICK BUTLER

More and more people now believe the COVID-19 'cure' may be more deadly than the disease itself ever was. And the economic collapse forced on citizens by their government is now taking a toll.

With many people feeling all kinds of uncertainty these days as a result of the COVID-19 plague, "the good news is that help is not only on the way, it's already here" three legislators and a panel of three mental health experts agreed during one of the North Side's first major webinar conferences last week.

"Like so many changes in state government these days, there are a lot of details to be worked out" including new "tele-help" services that would never have been tried just a short time ago, State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz [6th] said.

"If it works out as well as we think it's working out, it's going to be very difficult to remove that kind of access and put the genie back in the bottle," Feigenholtz said. "Telehelp access is going to be the new normal."

But the downside of the 'new

normal' is that those suffering the greatest level of depression these days may not reach out by phone or in person to anyone, choosing instead to end their own lives. And if that person is living alone, as many are these days, nobody finds out until a neighbor may check in on them.

During a question-and-answer period, Dr. Hossam Mahmoud, medical director of Insight, and president of the Illinois Psychiatric Society, cautioned not to confuse "social distancing" with "social isolation," adding that "it's important to maintain as much interaction as possible with your circle of friends and acquaintances."

Feelings of loneliness and helplessness are cruel killers. Researchers have found direct links between loneliness and a variety of psychiatric disorders, not just depression. Alcohol and drug abuse, sleep problems, personality disorders and Alzheimer's disease are all connected to spending too much time by yourself. Isolation is tied to physical problems too. The same studies show loneliness leads to diabe-

tes, autoimmune disorders (rheumatoid arthritis and lupus), and cardiovascular diseases. And, the older you are, the more impact it can have.

The politicians say this telemedicine new approach will be especially helpful in rural and underserved communities. One program already in the works is a call-in program linking up an individual with questions with a health service within 24 hours, said State Rep. Ann Williams [11th], adding "the state and city have really stepped up."

Callers will also be able to text agencies handling unemployment, food and shelter and be contacted within 24 hours by someone who can help out. Participants will include local agencies like the Howard Brown Center, Heartland Center, Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Thresholds, and the Chicago Women's Health Center, among others.

The use of online teleconference connections with mental health providers will expand with many people moving online dur-

HEALTH see p. 8

Near North lobby pirates

BY CWBCHICAGO

Police are warning residents of the Near North Side of reported thefts of delivered packages. In each incident, the offender(s) enters the main lobby in apartment buildings or porch area and takes packages that have been delivered to the victim.

Incidents include one on the 500 block of W. Oak St., April 2, in the evening hours; the 500 block of W. Oak St., April 8, and on the 1000 block of N. Cleveland Ave., April 16, both in the afternoon hours; 500 block of W. Oak St., April 21, and again on the 500 block of W. Oak St., April 21, both in the afternoon hours.

Police are asking for descriptions of any suspicious people including any vehicle description and license plate information. Those who may have informa-

tion should contact the Bureau of Detectives — Area Central at 312-747-8380.

A second batch of area residential burglaries include those committed on the 600 block of W. Division St., April 12, during the morning hours, and one on the 1400 block of N. Dearborn St., April 12, during the evening. In each incident, the offender(s) forces entry into residences by entering side windows. Once inside, the offender(s) removed property and exits through the door.

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What is too much power, and is there such a thing as overkill?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that we're all feeling a peculiar sense of powerlessness as we move to a second month of lockdown.

Quarantine. Shelter-in-Place. Social distance. And defensive living. The residue of powerlessness is serious.

Anxiety. Depression. Listlessness. A peculiar spot for Americans to find themselves.

Power is an odd commodity and distracting phenomenon. No matter how much of it we have, there's always someone who has a bit more.

Unless you are the President of the United States or the Queen of England.

But since neither of them go out to snag you a morning coffee at the office, the real sources and demonstration of power are much closer to home.

Everyone was a big shot in the public sphere at a 'power-table' black tie dinner I attended some years ago. One dinner guest had just completed building a huge multi-million dollar home in Lincoln Park, but he was unable to move in because he had no tele-

phone system yet installed. Also at the table was the president of the phone company.

After some initial pleasantries, it was suggested that the phone executive use his power to get the young business man up and running with phones. It was all set. Smooth sailing with the big cheese phone company exec aboard.

Only problem he was so high up he didn't have a clue how to make it happen. Someone said my friend would be better off with a phone company lineman, who actually knew how everything should work and look.

Apparently with power, no matter how well meaning, there's such a thing as overkill. Too much power. Any precinct captain in Chicago could tell you that.

Power for Chicagoans is really about how you get something done, changed, altered, removed or rezoned. That's why whenever I see a list claiming to be of the most powerful people in town, I yawn. They may have a significant position in their place of employment. But can they really make things happen? Can they close a street? Fix a ticket? Appoint a judge? Get a museum to open on the one day of week they are closed?

Can they really park in a no parking zone or get a table at Gibson's on a very crowded night without a reservation or the usual wait?

In real life, power is defined not so much by possession of the codes for the use of nuclear muscle, but by some things far more mundane. In Chicago we call that "clout."

Clout was always about the ability to accomplish a positive outcome by the amount of someone's political influence. In Chicago clout really became a way of life. Always in relationship to the ability to hold on to votes. It affected how elections turned out. Who kept their public office or who lost out in the reach for power.

It all translated to the ability of local politicians to secure employ-

ment for others. Getting people placed on the public payroll. In a city as large as Chicago, that was significant. Those who worked for the established political organizations in the city were often people who enjoyed the benefits of public employment themselves. Those were the people who served as the vast army of political operatives that helped get out the vote and get the vote. The failsafe system of staying in office.

Political power and influence wasn't just something coveted by a chosen few. In Chicago it was shared at many levels by everyday people in everyday life. It also ensured that citizens of Chicago enjoyed a certain social support to which they could turn in times of trouble. Relying on local politicians to assist in times of need. When they were in need of food for the family. Defense in a court case, settling a claim with a nasty neighbor or nosey landlord, or helping to resolve domestic troubles with children or a spouse.

Clout was a system that offered support and connection to local political leaders. Their interest in anyone's needs was often enough to ensure a favorable resolution of any dilemma. And that was no small thing 100 years ago in an urban metropolis filled with vast numbers of arriving immigrants who needed no end of assistance from a place to live to a place to work. A vast network of political influence stretched across the face of the city to help anyone who might need it. But always in relation to the most precious of treasures: An individual's vote.

The system is often portrayed tied to the political career of longtime Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley. But the pieces of that puzzle were already long in play when he rose to power. It just well-ripened under him. And also disintegrated as well. In the 1970s a series of significant court case judgements, known as the Shaker Decrees, ruled that employment in the public sector could not be used for political purposes.

Thus removing the heart of the system of clout.

Officially clout was dead.

But it was no a quick death. It would take time to dismantle such a system of power. And, it should be acknowledged, a task not easy to render, since the system of clout is, in many ways, a very natural human phenomenon.

Politics has greatly changed in the past decades, even in Chicago. Our understanding of political power and influence has been in a change mode. As the old guard leaves of-

fice - either by the ballot box or jail time - nothing is like it was. But also gone for many is that sense of power at all levels of city life. I've been thinking that maybe one of the positive outgrowths of the government-imposed lockdown

is that we have had to rely on a fresh set of strengths and positive endeavors to make life work. Using a new set of strengths that are the outgrowth of a more refined sense of political goals. A wider sense of social and civic responsibility. A more imaginative sense of being a Chicagoan. A more sophisticated sense of American patriotism. I hope so. As we face an uncertain future, we're going to need it. Maybe, actually, we have more power than we thought.

BOOKED IT: Barnes and Noble Gold Coast at State and Elm has closed closed for good. A sad day for the literary.

PAX TIBI: With the recent

death of **Arlene Bennett** at 93, the Mary Lawrence Chapter of the Jewish Children's Bureau, Misericordia, the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue, the Univ. of Chicago Women's Board, the Ravinia Festival Assoc., the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Weizmann Institute of Science and Hubbard Street Dance, Chicago has lost a treasured friend and generous confident. Her beloved husband was real estate developer **Marshall Bennett**, her soulmate of 70 years, who preceded her in death by just

18 months. A memorial will be planned for later in the year.

EMPIRE FINALE: The series Empire concluded after six years and six seasons of production in Chicago. Chicago musician, Maestro **Rich Daniels**, was intimately involved in its music. He's grateful to many locals who made it such a great experience. Among them **Danny Strong, Lee Daniels, Sanaa Hamri, Dennis Hammer, Richard S. Lederer, Michael McEnerney, Michael Nehs, Max**

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Juli Litzkow, whose gorgeous silk scarves also make soft, beautiful, and fashionable face masks. Designs include butterfly and flowers from Touhy Beach and a custom order for a Texan's ranch and dogs

Vivienne Valencia and her parents celebrated her third birthday last week with a drive-by parade led by Minnie.

Rogers Park artist brings color and beauty to silk



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

When Juli Litzkow received an acrylic paint set for her 12th birthday, it kicked off, “a significant starting time of devoting and studying painting,” said the now 50-year-old Rogers Park-based artist.

“From that day on, I put time and thought outside of painting time into creating art,” said Litzkow, who also made her own clothing, and knitted and crocheted.

And create art she does. Lovely art. In the form of hand-painted silk scarves.

After coming across some of Litzkow's work, I knew I wanted to write about her. Her scarves are a bold, beautiful breath of fresh air, filled with vibrancy. They're a reminder that beauty and nature still abound, even if we're not able to get outside and enjoy them as much as we'd like to.

“I feel so rich to be able to create silks and live by all the life and beauty of this area with the most precious family and friends and community that despite what the bank or checkbook says that I am far from starving,” said Litzkow, who attended the School of the Art Institute. “I'm deeply satisfied yet driven to pursue excellence.”

She's also the kind of gal who prefers to commute via walking and biking, and it's then, during that time, that Litzkow is thinking and observing and often doing the prerequisite ‘mental work’ of an art piece, before ever making a mark on paper or fabric.

“I'm watching color and light... the changes of light as time passes,” said Litzkow, who before the pandemic was an assistant Early Childhood Aftercare teacher and all grades substitute at the Waldorf School. “I seem very connected to place, weather and mood. These elements greatly influence my painting. I'm in awe of the precise scientific order of nature yet the infinite combinations that never repeat within that order. The moment-by-moment and day-by-day sunrises and all day for that matter.”

“Night. How many colors the Chicago sky is... Pink! Oranges!” she exclaimed. “Deepest midnight that graduates to pure aqua. The lake. I see my silks as paintings

first,” she said. “They can be used and are used as wall hangings and table displays as well as scarves.”

The silk can be complete on a wall and there will be some movement in it, said Litzkow. Yet, “When the silk is worn the gesture and movement of the person wearing it will complete the work of art,” said Litzkow. “There is an element in art called 4/D... Time and space. The wearer brings that into the silk as they move through time reflecting light and movement.”

Each piece is unique and purposefully designed to be worn with many variations as each corner is unique and will sport a different color or scale in order to have lots of variety within one silk, said Litzkow.

In order to make them more economically accessible, Litzkow is working on some smaller silks that can be used as a hair tie or tied around a handbag or around the neck. Supplies have posed a challenge, as most come from China and world events have caused price increases. The others have shipping fees from California.

“My goal has been to simply be able to sustain my studio with the art itself,” said Litzkow. “So far that has happened. Many times I've been about to give up and an order comes in just on time.”

Last August, Litzkow and her husband and two sons moved back to East Rogers Park. They had lived in Washington D.C. for a while before her husband ac-

cepted a transfer back here, and they found themselves living in North Center. But after moving back to lakefront living, Litzkow said she feels at home again.

“I cannot rave enough about being back, I immediately loved being up here in Rogers Park because of all of the many cultures and economic classes in a small area living together. There is a strong presence of art, theater, and music here besides the many culture languages and accents.”

“Loyola brings a youthful presence and the many nursing and care facilities bring a certain awareness as well,” added Litzkow. “I also love the lake and water in general as well as nature and outdoors. I love the activity of the buzzing city and also the deep dark and quiet of nature.”

She says Rogers Park satisfies these sensibilities. Litzkow, who met her husband on Pratt Beach, says she loves the neighborhood feel. “I often run into old friends here and even make new acquaintances.”

Litzkow's work can be seen and purchased at Shanastastudios on Etsy and upon the reopening of non-essential businesses, you can find her at these locations in Evanston: Evanston Made (evanstonmade.org); Artem, 1627 Sherman Ave.; As You Like It Hair Salon and Gallery, 827 Chicago Ave. and at Evanston Family Chiropractor, Dr Sean Curry, 705 Main St.

She can also arrange to show inventory by appointment or vir-

tual appointments. Custom orders to fit the clients ideas, custom logo perhaps, pet, color, special outfit or occasion ... etc. size, fabric type and price point are possible. Contact her at julilitzkow@gmail.com.

I love a parade... and apparently, so do West Ridge residents Kristina Leiva and Alejandro Valencia who recently held a totally awesome drive-by parade for their daughter, Vivienne Valencia's third birthday. Neighbors and attendees cheered Vivienne from afar while Minnie Mouse led the fun, which was provided by Happy Kids Chicago.

Sister act... Thanks to Rogers Parker Rebekah Philippart, and her sister, Sarah Philippart, who have been busy sewing masks and so far, have sewn about 150 for a bunch of various folks. The pair has a “very small operation,” that they're running, outside of full time work/parenting. “They've gone to a variety of people including frontline, child protection, social workers, teachers, students, correctional workers, nurses and also some low income folks I know or who have been referred,” said Rebekah.

If there's anyone out there who has some extra fabric lying around, the sisters could really use it. The best fabric is cotton broadcloth. They're also in need of bias tape and thread. Please contact me at write12@comcast.net if you have any to spare.

Shout out... to North Sider David Rothstein, owner of the downtown-based David Rothstein Music, and his girlfriend, DeeAnn Pacut-Perri. The couple recently did a random act of kindness by delivering bags of bagels



Got fabric? Sisters Rebekah and Sarah Philippart could really use it for their mask making.

and cream cheese from New York Bagel and Bialy to some lucky recipients.

What made what they did so special is that they drove all the way out to Arlington Heights to deliver one of the care packages to my best friend Pearl, who has been in a nursing home for almost a year now with an aggressive, malignant brain tumor. The bagels were a welcome treat. And David and DeeAnn had no idea that what they did would appear in writing, they did it out of the kindness of their hearts. It was a much-appreciated gesture and I thank them very much.

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Police Beat...

Man charged with having 55 lbs. of pot outside Trump Tower

A California man is facing felony charges after Chicago police allegedly found him in possession of more than 50 pounds of marijuana outside Trump Tower last month.

Police said they saw Imanol Martinez, 30, engaged in “behaviors and actions consistent with narcotics activity” outside the tower’s Wabash entrance around 2:30 p.m. March 25. So, they struck up a conversation.

Martinez was carrying so much pot, police said, they could smell it emanating from a duffle bag that he carried on his shoulder. When officers asked Martinez about the unique smell, he allegedly said he was carrying “CBD.”

He gave cops permission to inspect the bag, which police said contained a heat-sealed bag that contained slightly more than a pound of suspected cannabis worth \$8,000.

But the big score came after Martinez allegedly gave police permission to search a nearby parked car.

That’s where officers say they found another 51 heat-sealed bags of pot weighing 54 pounds. Retail value, according to court records? \$394,944.

Prosecutors charged Martinez with felony possession of more than 5,000 grams of cannabis and felony possession of more than 500 grams of cannabis. Judge Charles Beach released him on a recognizance bond.

COVID party crashed

A late-night party in a River North luxury high-rise came to a quick conclusion after residents from across the neighborhood reported hearing explosions around 12:30 a.m. April 20.

One resident identified the source of the problem for police: Party-goers in a unit at 505 N. State St. were throwing large fireworks off of a balcony, they said. Helpfully, the party apartment had distinctive blue Christmas lights in the window, the caller said.

Police identified the apartment and dispersed a large number of party-goers who were allegedly in violation of the Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s COVID-19 executive orders.

After the crowd was cleared out, “officers discovered a backpack containing suspect narcotics and money which was taken for inventory,” a police spokesperson said. Cops were not immediately able to determine who owned the cash and narcotics, so no arrests were immediately made.

A police spokesperson declined to say how much money and drugs were allegedly recovered.

The fireworks were powerful enough to generate 911 calls from people as far away as Kinzie and Wells streets, according to police dispatch records. One caller said the explosions appeared to be similar to police “flash-bang” devices.

“I really thought a bomb had gone off,” one River North resident told this reporter. “Big, loud explosion.”

Detectives are continuing to investigate the narcotics stash.

Drive-by shooting in Edgewater

A 19-year-old man was shot five times by a drive-by gunman in the Edgewater neighborhood April 21, police said. No one is in custody.

The victim was standing on the 6000 block of N. Winthrop when he looked up and saw a man shooting at him from a white sedan around 4:08 p.m., according to a CPD statement.

Police said the victim “sustained five gunshot wounds throughout the body,” but was nonetheless listed in good condition at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Another report indicated the man was shot twice in his right hand, twice in his left wrist, and once on his left side.

A witness reported seeing a black male wearing a blue hoodie firing from the passenger seat of a white Volkswagen that bore Wisconsin plates. The car was last seen heading southbound on Winthrop, police said.

Area North detectives are investigating.

Armed carjacking reported outside Lakeview hotel

Police are investigating an armed carjacking that unfolded outside a Lakeview hotel April 23. No arrests have been made.

Four men told police they were sitting in a car outside the Willows Hotel, 555 W. Surf, when three masked offenders pulled up in another vehicle around 1:15 a.m., according to a CPD spokesperson.

The offenders pointed at least one handgun at the victims and ordered them out of their black 2019 Cadillac XTS. The carjackers then drove away with the Cadillac as well as a black Infiniti that they arrived in, according to the men.

Police license plate reader technology detected the stolen vehicle traveling near the United Center about 45 minutes after the carjacking, but no arrests have been made.

Man attacked with hammer in Rogers Park

A 31-year-old man was robbed and struck in the head — possibly with a hammer — in Rogers Park April 23, police said. No arrests have been made.

The victim told police he was walking in the 7500 block of N. Clark when two offenders approached him and demanded money around 4:45 a.m., CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. They then struck the victim in the back of the head with a weapon that he believed to be a hammer.

After getting the man’s wallet, phone, and \$100 cash, the offenders fled southbound on Clark in a black

truck, Bartoli said.

The victim went to the nearby Howard CTA station to get help. An ambulance transported the man to St. Francis Hospital where he was listed in good condition.

He described the offenders as two black males who stand about 6-feet tall. One wore a brown hoodie, dark pants and dark boots. The other wore a blue hoodie, dark pants and dark boots, Bartoli said.

Man on parole for robbery charged with robbing off-duty cop in Loop

A South Side man who’s on parole for robbery and burglary is charged with trying to carjack an off-duty cop in the Loop April 23.

Police said Isaias Saucedo-Ugalde, 21, approached the officer in a parking garage on the 700 block of S. Wabash shortly after 7 p.m. After following the victim to his car, Saucedo-Ugalde allegedly tapped the cop on his shoulder while holding his other hand under his sweater



Isaias Saucedo-Ugalde

to imply that he had a gun, according to a CPD media statement.

“I have a gun,” Saucedo-Ugalde allegedly said. “I will shoot you.” Then, he demanded the victim’s car keys.

The officer tossed his keys on the ground and tackled Saucedo-Ugalde when he bent over to pick them up, according to a police report.

Prosecutors charged Saucedo-Ugalde with felony attempted robbery. According to state records, Saucedo-Ugalde was released from prison in July 2019 after he served half of a four-year sentence he received for aggravated robbery. He was also serving a concurrent three-year term for burglary.

Police records indicate that Saucedo-Ugalde pretended to have a gun during the previous robbery, too.

Lakeview home burglar spots surveillance camera... 5 seconds too late

Home surveillance cameras captured images of a burglar as he scoured a Lakeview home for burglaries April 22. The bumbling burglar spotted one of the cameras — but not before it captured crystal clear images of his face.

You can see the “oh sh*t” look in his eyes as he extends a gloved hand to block the camera lens.

The burglary on the 600 block of W. Oakdale is the latest in a series of break-ins that police reportedly believe the suspect has committed in the neighborhood and nearby Lincoln Park.

If you happen to see this gentleman in the neighborhood, a call to 911 may be in order.

Charges filed in home invasion, sexual assault

Charges have been filed in connection with a home invasion last month in which a woman awoke to find a man lying on top of her in bed. The accused man is on probation for burglary for another case in which he allegedly broke into another woman’s apartment and tried to have sex with her, according to court records.

Investigators tracked down Joven Cuyugan, 36, through DNA recovered from a baseball hat that was left at the scene of the March incident, according to prosecutors.

Cuyugan entered the victim’s bedroom on the 3000 block of N. Spaulding around 1 a.m. March 2 and crawled on top of her as she slept, police said. He groped the woman through her bedding and covered her

Man, outraged over missing SSI payment, set Thompson Center fire

A Chicago man poured gasoline along the north end of the Thompson Center and set it ablaze April 23 because he had not received his Social Security (SSI) check, prosecutors said.

Lawrence Reed, 44, is accused of starting the fire at 2:15 p.m., as Gov. JB Pritzker was preparing to hold his daily COVID-19 press conference inside the building. Prosecutors did not indicate that Pritzker was targeted or that Reed knew the governor may have been present.

Reed first entered the Thompson Center around 11 a.m. via CTA, according to allegations made in bond court Saturday. He approached a CTA worker at the Clark-Lake station kiosk and asked for his SSI check. He left the station, returned around 12:30 p.m. and again asked the same employee for his SSI check.

He allegedly returned a third time at 2:10 p.m. with two red containers. Witnesses reported seeing him walk along the north wall of the Thompson Center while pouring a liquid from the containers. Fire investigators later determined the liquid was gasoline, according to prosecutors.

An assistant state’s attorney said Saturday that Reed set the liquid on fire while people were plainly visible inside the building.

A Chicago police commander assigned to Pritzker’s security detail saw the flames when he stopped for a nearby red light. The officer caught

up with Reed on Wacker Dr. and took him into custody, according to a police report. A lighter was allegedly found in Reed’s jacket pocket.

Prosecutors said Reed admitted to starting the fire because he had not received his SSI payment. Two witnesses allegedly identified him as the person who set the fire.



Lawrence Reed

according to prosecutors.

Reed is on probation for two criminal damage to property convictions, prosecutors said. He has seven felony and 11 misdemeanor convictions as well as two pending misdemeanor cases, according to the state. He is also awaiting trial for allegedly punching two women in the face at random in the Loop on Feb. 28.

His defense attorney said Reed is unable to work, relies on SSI, and has four children.

Prosecutors charged Reed with felony aggravated arson. Judge Arthur Willis ordered him held without bail.

crimes can contact Area North detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding pattern P20-3-092.

Shots fired outside River North “COVID hotel”

Shots were fired April 26 near a downtown hotel that the city is using to house COVID-19 patients during the coronavirus outbreak, according to police.

Officers who responded to calls of shots fired on the 100 block of W. Huron around 2:15 a.m. found spent shell casings on the block, but no injuries were reported. The Hotel Felix, which is being used to quarantine COVID-19 victims, is located just steps away from where the casings were recovered.

Witnesses reported seeing men run from the scene on foot and a gray sedan speeding from the area after the shots were fired.

Police interviewed a man in the Hotel Felix lobby who was wearing clothes that closely resembled those worn by a person that a witness saw run from the shooting scene. The man was not arrested. However, court records show he was charged last May with illegally possessing a handgun in the south suburbs.

Lincoln Park, Old Town robberies

Recently reported commercial burglaries have occurred in Old Town and Lincoln Park. In each incident, the

offender(s) forces entry into commercial burglaries by breaking the front glass door and entering. Once inside, the offender(s) removes property and leaves the area.

Incidents include one on the 200 block of W. Evergreen Ave., April 7, during the morning

hours; the 2300 block of N. Clark St., April 14, during the morning hours; 700 block of N. State St., April 18, during the morning hours, and on the 300 block of W. North Ave., April 20, during the evening hours.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Residential design could change with millions working from home



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

A decade or two ago, architects and home builders were wringing their hands and wondering if the formal dining room and traditional little-used living room were endangered species in modern single-family home floor plans.

More and more American families were choosing to barbeque, dine casually and socialize around an island in an expanded, open concept family room/kitchen. The forgotten formal dining room was only being used for holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The living room became a dusty museum for showcasing heirlooms, family photos and rare books.

In 2020, with the coronavirus forcing millions of people to shelter at home and work from their residences, experts say the private home office is rising in stature like never before, especially among white-collar workers.



For unmasked fresh air, homes with private outdoor space will rise in value.

The use of "Zoom" for video conferencing skyrocketed to more than 200 million office workers a day from only 10 million before the virus struck. Microsoft Teams users logged 2.7 billion meeting minutes in one day, a 200% increase from 900 million minutes in mid-March.

To help market his for-sale house, this writer dismantled his coveted "editor's den and library" when his Realtor wisely suggested staging the former basement office as a fourth bedroom for families with children.

The boom in home-office use created by the virus also could provide a future boost to Chicago's residential housing market, observed Don Benson, broker with Jameson Sotheby International

Real Estate in Lincoln Park.

"Imagine an executive with two young children working from home in his two-bedroom condo during the coronavirus quarantine," Benson asked: "Guess who will be in the market next spring for a duplex townhome or single-family home with plenty of private home-office space and separate play space for the kids?"

The virus also could have an impact on future high-rise condominium sales. When your elevator and lobby are virus vectors what is life like now residing in a cramped high-rise apartment with no private outdoor space? And when cabin fever hits, there's the worry of being forced to ride in a cramped elevator where "social distancing" of six feet would

only allow one passenger at a time. The wait would be long.

Home-design features

Here are other design and amenity features sparked by the "hunker-down" syndrome that Realtors say could be greatly valued by home purchasers after the virus threat is over:

- Home-entertainment systems. With more and more people staying at home, there will be expanded demand for residences equipped with a media room or home theater, complete with big-screen TV and surround sound.

"Imagine an executive with two young children working from home in his two-bedroom condo during the coronavirus quarantine." Sara Benson asked: "Guess who will be in the market next spring for a duplex townhome or single-family home with plenty of private home-office space and separate play space for the kids?"

- SMART-home technology. All devices in the home should be connected to the Internet—computers, smart phones, clocks, thermostats, lights, speakers, doorbell, security video cameras, appliances—to name a few. All of these are key components of home automation.

- Private outdoor space. For unmasked fresh air, homes with big back yards, decks, porches and balconies will rise in value.

- More food and water storage. A second stock-up refrigerator and a free-standing freezer would be greatly valued. So would a rainwater collection system.

- Enhanced power systems. Buyers will shop for homes with a separate whole-house generator, and solar energy systems will be popular.

Office design changes

Business office design also will change. With millions of American workers now laboring efficiently from home, corporations are gaining insight into the value

DESIGN see p. 6

Evictions may be on hold but only for now

While there is a moratorium on evictions in Cook County during the shelter-in-place order, in many cases landlords can still file eviction paperwork in anticipation of Circuit Court reopening.

BY ELISA SHOENBERGER
Loop North News

While Cook County has put a moratorium on evictions during the shelter-in-place order, many are uncertain about what that means for tenants and landlords in the near and distant future.

With over 500,000 unemployment claims filed in Illinois from March 1 to April 4, and more claims filed each week, many renters are concerned about paying their rent for the next few months. Thanks to a moratorium ordered by Chief Judge Timothy Evans, tenants who are unable to pay their rent are not facing evictions in the near future.

Right now, the sheriff's office is not enforcing eviction orders, nor is it forcing people out of properties where evictions have been ordered by the court. The office is not giving notice of forthcoming evictions to tenants. Courts are closed, for now, until May 18.

Any court dates for eviction cases during that time have been postponed, explains Charles Drennen, founder and managing attorney of Chicago Tenants Rights Law. However, Drennen points out that landlords are still able to file paperwork for evic-

tions because e-filing is available.

Once the courts reopen, Drennen predicts that court calls that were postponed will be staggered so there will not be a flood of court cases on any single day. In other words, court calls canceled in mid-March will be rescheduled first and cases later in April will be scheduled later. New cases will likely have their court calls pushed out accordingly as the court system deals with an unprecedented period of closure.

There are exceptions, thanks to the CARES Act passed at the end of March. While landlords can still file eviction cases in many situations, the CARES Act stipulates that landlords cannot begin eviction proceedings or charge fees and penalties for non-payment of rent against tenants of certain types of residences — such as Section-8 or residences with federally-backed mortgage loans — for 120 days.

Drennen's understanding is that this means landlords with quali-

fying properties cannot even post a five-day notice or e-file in Cook County.

There are resources for tenants to help facilitate rental payments, such as the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and COVID-

Once the courts reopen, Charles Drennen predicts that court calls that were postponed will be staggered so there will not be a flood of court cases on any single day.

19 Hardship and Help Mutual Aid programs. But it's important to remember that landlords are also facing a crisis. Many landlords rely on rental income for income and/or paying their mortgages. Foreclosure causes all sorts of complications for landlords and tenants alike.

While the number of eviction cases may be slow now, Drennen

EVICTIONS see p. 6

Bike the Drive cancelled

Following the recommendations set forth by local and federal officials, event promoters have cancelled the annual Bike the Drive event, which was scheduled for May 24.

Every year some 20,000 bikers having full reign of Lakeshore Drive as part of a fundraiser for the Active Transportation Alliance. For more information on refunds of application fees call 312-427-3325.

Chicago Maifest cancelled

Maifest Chicago 2020 has been cancelled. The organizers of the festival have plans to return in 2021.

Maifest is an annual fundraiser for the DANKHaus German Cultural Center in Lincoln Square.

Revenue from the event helped to support programming for the community cultural center. Traditionally the festival brings in \$75,000 per year.

The DANK Haus has lost over \$140,000 due to closures and cancellations through May.

With Maifest being canceled and no direct source of revenue, the DANKHaus says they are now "officially in crisis mode."

For more information call 773-561-9181.

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POWER from p. 2

Taylor, Christine Day, Jennifer Ross, Kai Alexander, Liza Micelli, Dina Micelli, Jimmy Carter, Mel Washington and his production partner **Jeff Morrow**.

KUDOS: Rush Univ. Hospital well-prepared and operating during the pandemic in Chicago led by a superb medical staff and “planning ahead” hospital executives and philanthropist **Susan Crown**, chair of Rush Uni. Medical Center and of the Rush system.

NO, THANK YOU!: So says generous supporter of our newspapers, **R. Feldmann**. “Thank you for your wonderful and truthful newspapers ... like a refreshing breeze of reality,” says Feldmann.

LAKEFRONT ART: **Carrie Lannon** is at the lakefront. She says public art now replaces her gallery/museum hopping. Carrie calls our attention to “Hedge-row” by artist **Lucy Slivinski**, who often incorporates recycled and found objects into her work. Lucy was commissioned as part of “Artists and Automobiles,” an art project related to the automotive industry. Artists were asked to use salvaged auto parts as the inspiration and primary material for their works. Lucy is a world-renowned sculptor, installation artist and lighting designer. It’s in Grant Park across from Buckingham Fountain.

PAX TIBI: **Betsy Wyeth**, wife, model and muse of the American painter **Andrew Wyeth** died at home in Chadds Ford, PA, after a period of declining health at the age of 98, concluding a stunning

era in American art.

ART CONTINUES: Glad to see photo of noted Chicago artist **Adam Holzrichter** at work in his studio in the Flat Iron Building. A sign of hope. Art still thrives.

BENJAMIN MARSHALL: Wonderful real estate pro **Janet Owen** reminds us to be sure to watch the new, well done and engaging video about Chicago architect **Benjamin Marshall**, created by the Benjamin Marshall Society. It has already premiered on Youtube. You’ll recognize many friends and familiar Chicago faces and a lot of iconic Gold Coast buildings. Janet has brokered some fabulous Marshall properties over the years. No other architect comes near Marshall’s Chicago elegance.

CHECK OUT THE TRIB: My buddy **Tom Farley**, AKA Mr. Manners, and a frequent TODAY show authority on behavior, just had his weekly column picked up by the Chicago Tribune. Wednesdays. Check it out. He’s a wise guy.

NO BULL: **Ernest Hemingway** move over. Spain has cancelled the running of the bulls in Pamplona.

NICHT FEST: Bavaria last Tuesday cancelled the iconic Oktoberfest for the first time since World War II.

SPELL L-O-C-K-D-O-W-N: The National Spelling Bee has been cancelled for the first time since 1945.

BANKRUPTCY: Can it be true that Nieman Marcus is facing terrible financial troubles? Bankruptcy looms.

SHELTERING IN PLACE: What’s new among Chicago So-

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Tom Farley



Adam Holzrichter



Betsy James Wyeth

ciety? **Sugar Rautbord** reminds us that society music man **Peter Duchin** has just been released from ICU where he has been on a respirator for the past three weeks with coronavirus and is recovering but asking for prayers... **Jim Kinney** made lobster with boiled potatoes and corn on the cob. This was the meal **Brian White** made for him on their first dinner date 18 years ago. He says, “The world is topsy turvy but we take comfort in having a beautiful repast.”... still newlyweds **Thomas P. Cavanaugh** and Chicago fashion designer **Lauren Lein** savoring some fine apple cider picked up on their last trip through Saginaw, MI, at Phillip’s Orchard and Cider Mill... **Frances Renk** cooking up fillets Korean style from Costco with Vigo Mexican rice... **Myra** and **John Reilly** creating their famous Chicken Parmesan adding a splash of Vermouth recommended by this column... **Janet** and **Roger Owen** doing ‘White Tie Cocktails’ with the **Rob Strucks**, so much fun having Zoom to connect... it’s true **Sherrill Bodine** has been zooming, too, resulting in she and husband **John Bodines’** first Friday night Zoom

Cocktail Party. She broke out the special glassware that says, “Hello Bubbles, Goodbye Troubles”... **Diane O’Connell** uses all the fixins’ she has for a great shrimp scampi... **Jim Houlihan**, former Cook County Assessor, wrote to say he made this column’s recipe for Irish Soda Bread and it was delish, slathered in butter... that’s good news, as **Anne Kavanagh** is making it too... **Bill** and **Erin Kreese** celebrating their ninth anniversary and looking back with fondness at past anniversaries so different now from the “quarantined” kind... showbiz newsy and this column’s former columnist, **Bill Zwecker**, in Palm Springs, CA, enjoying his visit from NBC’s **Sadie Newton** and their desert walk through the Marrakesh Club’s golf course... ... Antique-maven **Sophia du Brul** creating a five-star dinner of sturgeon filet with a caper and olive sauce accompanied by squid ink spaghetti... **Barb Bailey** lining up her musicians for her solo show in December... She may have been masked in black, but she’s still a beauty on the street, columnist **Candace Jordan** picking up Sunday dinner at Gibson’s on Rush St... Gold Coasters **Lynn Graham** and her cousin, **Michael Rambert**, staged a small spring picnic on a neighborhood terrace, feeding on a roast chicken, chilled asparagus, French baguette and a bottle of Dom Perignon, saved for just such an occasion. “In times of trouble, use the good stuff,” she said.

BOOK BEAT: **Sugar Rautbord** is recommending Vaclav Havel’s “Letters from Prison, 1979-1982,” for reading during our social distancing. Do you have something you’re reading

and loving? Let us know.

ANNIVERSARY LOOMING: Gibson’s **Kathy O’Malley Piccone** reminded us recently that the steakhouse is about to celebrate its 31st anniversary. Where does the time go. Imagine all the beef that has passed through those doors? Recently Gibson’s has been feeding first responders at the Rosemont Public Safety Dept. where Gibson’s has a suburban location, honoring their commitment to the public... Kathy is also part of a fresh program with **Sherry Lea Fox** and designer **Sylvia Wilczynska** called “Purchase a Mask - Donate a Mask.” Designer face masks of three-ply bamboo cotton supporting local businesses during the COVID-19 shutdown. For every mask you purchase a second mask will be made for you to donate to a charity, healthcare organization, etc., of your choice.

YOU GO GIRL: Former Chicagoan **Oprah Winfrey** has donated \$10 million to COVID-19 relief-Gotta Feed Americans.

Government is not reason and it is not eloquence. It is force! Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action. The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the republican model of government, are justly considered deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

— *George Washington*
tog515@gmail.com

DESIGN from p. 5

of traditional office space and what it should look like after the virus is under control.

If working remotely from home is productive, experts say it could drastically reshape how offices are designed. The change could put a dent in demand for office space in the future. Typical downtown Chicago offices today feature about 175 square feet of space per employee, down from 250 square feet a decade ago. New open floor plans could push the space-per-person down to a cramped 125 square feet.

A 2017 Federal Reserve analy-

sis found that the share of the American workforce that predominantly works from home had nearly tripled since 2000 to just over 3%, according to Crain’s Chicago Business.

After the virus is under control, this number may continue to grow just because corporations see profits in workers using their own home office, instead of filling up high-rent commercial space downtown. Companies may cut expensive travel and real estate budgets in favor of investing in state-of-the-art technology and home office set-ups, experts say.

Home-loan rates still a bargain

On April 23rd, Freddie Mac’s Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgages nationwide averaged 3.33%, up from 3.31% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-rate average was 4.20%.

“Mortgage rates have stabi-

lized over the last few weeks as the market searches for direction in the fog of economic data,” said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s Chief Economist.

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.

EVICTIONS from p. 5

believes there will be a pickup in cases once the courts reopen. For tenants in financial distress, Drennen recommends they remain in communication with their landlord to hopefully come to a resolution without going through the expense and hassle of eviction when the courts reopen.

For the most part, Drennen says, “the laws haven’t changed, the rules of the game have.”

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR JPMORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST 2006-CH1, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-CH1; Plaintiff, vs. SONIA E. AGUILAR AKA SONIA E. GONZALEZ AKA SONIA E. GONZALEZ AGUILAR; JOSE V. AGUILAR; Defendants, 19 CH 2689

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 11-31-414-004-0000. Commonly known as 1759 West Albion Ave., 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 Mr. Anthony Porto at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever & Platt, L.L.C., 150 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601, (312) 236-0077. SPS000053-19FC1 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com

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**North Township
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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC; Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF FLORENCE BRAUDY CARL SANDBURG VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION NO. 2; ANDREW BRAUDY, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS AN INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF FLORENCE MARY BRAUDY; MICHAEL BRAUDY; ESTATE OF FLORENCE MARY BRAUDY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 17 CH 11777

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, June 9, 2020 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 17-04-207-086-1022. Commonly known as 1460 North Sandburg Terrace, Apartment 2501, Chicago, IL 60610.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, (312) 360-9455. W17-0668 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com

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The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance. — Alan Watts

Landmark Status proposed for Near North Side Multiple Property District

Fifteen Near North Side residential buildings constructed shortly after the Great Chicago Fire would be preserved as an official Chicago Landmark District under a proposal submitted to City Council April 22.

The proposed Near North Side Multiple Property District includes a noncontiguous group of single-family homes, row houses, and apartment buildings that represent the early redevelopment of the Near North Side after it was largely decimated by fire in 1871.

Generally bounded by Grand and Chicago avenues, La Salle Dr., and Fairbanks Ct., the properties are among the area's last examples of post-fire construction that haven't been replaced by new construction or parking lots.

The buildings represent Italianate designs, as well as Second Empire, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. Their architects include Treat and Foltz, which designed a range of high-quality homes, factories and schools; Burling & Whitehouse, which designed many post-fire buildings; and prolific architect Henry Ives Cobb, who also occupied one of the structures as his personal residence.

Individual property addresses include: 642 N. Dearborn St., 17 E. Erie St., 14 W. Erie St., 110 W. Grand Ave., 671 N. State St., 1 E. Huron St., 9 E. Huron St., 10 E. Huron St., 16 W. Ontario St., 18 W. Ontario St., 212 and 222 E. Ontario St., 716 N. Rush St., and 42, 44 and 46 E. Superior St.

The district received a final recommendation for landmark status by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in February. The designation would protect the exterior elevations of all the buildings from significant alteration or demolition.

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HEALTH from p. 1

ing the current government imposed ‘shelter-at-home’ crisis.

Other tips for getting through the current crisis also came from Dr. Carri Hill, a clinical psychologist of Jewish Child and Family Services and Alexa James, executive director of NAMI Chicago, which advocates for clients and trains mental health workers.

At the moment, one of the biggest problems NAMI faces these days is helping people who have lost their health insurance by suddenly becoming unemployed due to the shut down of the economy, James said. “We can guide people through our help line. We’re using our network for things like this.”

Responding to several similar questions about how to handle “bad days” that just aren’t going as expected, Mahmoud admitted “there’s no real answer for this,” but said he personally tries to have “radical acceptance” as well as “some of the restless-

ness that comes from being cooped up” at home or in an office. “I also try to exercise on a daily basis.”

He added he has also come to enjoy walking his dog several times a day, which he used to consider a chore at times.

Other concerns came from callers asking Hill how to cope with the frustrations of what seems to be a wasted day. “Be kind to yourself. I don’t think we should have any room for that kind of self-criticism right now,” Hill said. “I think part of it is just being able to accept your feelings and not allow them to overwhelm you. To another caller (presumably a woman), Hill suggested “writing a letter to someone, and maybe wash your hair and put on some mascara.”

But at the very least, the three therapists agreed, it’s important to maintain contact with as many friends, family and colleagues as possible.

And keep as much structure to your day as possible, Dr. Mahmoud urged.

BALLOT from p. 1

tempting to have their names placed on the general election ballot,” Judge Pallmeyer wrote in her opinion.

For only this election cycle, petition signatures may be collected remotely, Pallmeyer ordered. Candidates may mail voters a petition or share a digital file online or by email. Voters then are able to print it out, sign it and either send a hard copy to the candidate through the mail or electronically in an emailed attachment or as a photograph.

Voters can also electronically sign the forms from their smartphone, with a computer mouse or using a laptop’s trackpad.

The deadline for candidates to submit signatures to the Board of Elections was pushed by Pallmeyer to Aug. 7, more than six weeks after the deadline established by law.

Also, number of signatures that candidates with third parties are required to gather was cut by 90%.

Independents or those in a “new” party needed at least 25,000 signatures to run for president or a seat in the U.S. Senate. Under Pallmeyer’s terms, the minimum required number signatures is 2,500.

In addition, Libertarian and Green candidates who were successfully placed on Illinois’ general election ballot either in 2016 or 2018 immediately qualify for inclusion on the 2020 ballot.

According to the State Board of Elections, the parties are able to nominate a candidate to run for president and the U.S. Senate. Also, Green Party candidates are able to choose a candidate to run in the 5th and 12th Congressional district races.

“The court is satisfied that the ... order will ameliorate (the parties’) difficulty meeting the statutory signature requirement due to the COVID-19 restrictions,” Pallmeyer wrote in her opinion, “...while accommodating the state’s legitimate interest in ensuring that only parties with a measurable modicum of public support will gain access to the 2020 general election ballot.”

The judge, in her opinion, added “numerous states” reduced the signature requirement for candidates, including Michigan, New York and Massachusetts.

A compromise ruling

The final decision is not one that the political parties, nor the state, requested as the lawsuit proceedings began.

The Libertarian and Green parties wanted Illinois’ signature collection mandates to be waived or suspended this general election cycle. And if that was not possible, they wanted the state to develop fair, reasonable rules for candidates to meet petition signature requirements during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Although we appreciate the extraordinary and challenging circumstances from which this case arises, the fact is that it’s the state’s obligation to provide a procedure, a constitutional procedure, by which candidates can demonstrate that they have the modicum of support necessary to qualify for the ballot,” Oliver Hall, the parties’ attorney and founder of the Center for Competitive Democracy, said in a court hearing, according to a transcript.

Attorneys for Pritzker and the elections board initially proposed allowing electronic petition submissions of hand-written

Illinois has 10th lowest rate of depression

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Over the past five years, Illinois has had the 10th lowest rate of depression (16.8%) as well as the nation’s 19th best rate of access to mental health care, according to Nathan Barber, a staffer at Lending Tree, described as “an online loan marketplace.”

According to their report, an estimated 500,000 million Americans suffer from depression and even more with seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a form of depression that usually occurs during winter months, possibly because of a lack of sunlight.

Among other key findings of the report were that Illinois’ depression rate increased by 5.99% from 2014 to 2018 and not surprisingly – that states with the highest rates of access to mental health care saw an increase in depression rates.

Among the key findings, Barber noted, were that as Illinois suffered an increase in depression cases, the highest average depression increases were reported in Alaska,

Louisiana and Tennessee.

Texas, which reported a 13% increase in depression rates, was rated the worst state for mental health care access.

On the other hand, the lowest rates of depression were in California, New Jersey and Hawaii, according to the report. Massachusetts, which had the second best access to psychiatric care, enjoyed a 16% increase in depression.

Of an estimated 17 million Americans suffering from depression many inherited the problem through genetics, while others are afflicted by stress, poor diet or substance abuse.

To manage depression, experts warn, access to proper mental health care is essential.

According to the Lending Tree’s findings, over 24 million adults with a mental illness have not received any mental health treatment, while nine million reported trying without success to find proper treatment. Another five million are living uninsured.

signatures, maintaining the June 22 deadline and reducing the number of signatures by 50%.

The Board of Elections was “very concerned” about pushing that deadline to Aug. 7, its representative Michael Kasper said, according to a court transcript.

“That bumps up against the other statutory deadlines and the deadlines imposed to get military ballots out under federal law,” he said.

Representatives of all parties said the judge’s decision addresses their concerns.

“In general, we think Judge Pallmeyer’s order is a well-reasoned and fair resolution of the difficult issues raised by this case, and that it provides the plaintiffs with substantial relief,” Hall said in a statement.

A spokesperson for the State Board of Elections said its directors “think the order serves the best interests of all parties involved.”

A spokesperson for the attorney general’s office, which represented Pritzker, said the opinion is being reviewed and options

evaluated. A spokesperson for the governor’s office said Pritzker “supports an open and fair electoral process.”

“In light of the fact that the period for these candidates to gather signatures is occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor supports the court’s order allowing candidates additional means to obtain actual signatures for their ballot petitions, such as through email, and additional time in which to submit those petitions,” the spokesperson said in an email.

One aspect absent from Pallemeyer’s order is a mandate that the State Board of Elections notifies voters of the ballot requirement changes — namely that voters will be contacted by candidates to electronically sign their petitions.

Sam Cahnman, an attorney representing an independent candidate for president who joined the lawsuit later, said the elections board should “at a minimum post a big alert on the opening page of their website, alerting readers to the new rules ordered by the court.”

WOODEN from p. 1

eral years ago.

Much older cities like New York were considered too crowded to conveniently accommodate alleys, while newer burbs like Los Angeles and Denver wanted plenty of driveway space and winding roads, McClendon added.

Chicago, on the other hand, was just getting born at a time when many families had horses they could stable in the back, without having to pass through the front of the building carrying hay and manure, McLendon explained.

And there were certainly far less savory reasons as well, Chicago History Museum staffer Julius Jones said during a Nov., 2019, interview.

“Not only did a lot of trash get dumped, but a lot of human waste got dumped as well. Alleys sort of became places where the more sordid or dirtier aspects of the urban experience were done,” Jones explained.

At the same time, the back alleys often served as convenient locations for any variety of thieves, knaves and what the Victorians would have called “Soiled Doves.”

Genteelism was sometimes hard in coming even to the future Gold Coast.

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