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You'd never think of taking a cab if you had to walk a mile down Chicago's Michigan Avenue. But in a bad city you take a cab just to go around the corner.

— Helmut Jahn

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

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Another mob hits Loop Saturday evening

BY CWBCHICAGO

For the fourth evening in two weeks, large groups of teens and young adults overran parts of the Loop and Millennium Park on May 8, according to police and social media accounts.

Several fights were reported, passersby were battered, a shoplifting mob struck a Walgreens, and police arrested at least one person who was openly carrying a gun. Police officers took several juveniles and at least two adults into custody.

"If you all got kids downtown, please get them, y'all," one woman said on Snapchat while driving in the area. "They running through the streets. Had to come save one of them. Like, come on you all. Its so f*cked up...Like seriously, like, it's no f*cking joke."

Saturday's incident began when a group of teens and young adults began fighting in Millennium Park near "The Bean" around 6:37 p.m.

"It has begun," one officer said upon hearing about the brawl.

At 6:45 p.m., a CPD bulletin informed police and city leaders that "approximately 100 teens has gathered in the area of Millennium Park. Park District security is closing the area near The Bean. The group is blocking traffic and fighting."

One social media video from around that time shows a couple of men running and jumping barricades on the edge of the park near Michigan Ave. People can be heard screaming in the background. One man falls to the ground and is quickly detained by police for unknown reasons.

A group of about six young males and females beat a man as they rode a northbound Red Line CTA train near Harrison at 7:10 p.m. The victim exited at Jackson and filed a report with officers who were stationed at street level.

Another group of teens conducted a shoplifting raid at Wal-

greens, 2 N. State, around 8 p.m. The Chicago Tribune reported that a Walgreens employee who answered the phone "said looters were inside the store about 8 p.m."

Around the same time, a tourist from suburban Minneapolis recorded a fight outside Primark, 35 N. State, from his room at the Staypineapple Chicago hotel. Another fight outside Target, 1 S. State, resulted in an arrest and an ambulance dispatch, according to city records. A police supervisor warned cops not to leave their CPD vehicles unattended to minimize the risk of them being damaged.

Then, shortly after 9 p.m., a covert police unit reported seeing someone walk directly past them with a gun in his hand as they sat in an undercover vehicle near Madison and Wabash.

"This kid has a gun in his hand," the officer radioed. "He's

MOB see p. 8

"We're holding on by a thread, Kim"

Prosecutor pens letter as top Foxx deputy is forced out

BY CWBCHICAGO

One day after Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx forced her top deputy out of the office after a 26-year-career, a veteran prosecutor is speaking out.

"Take responsibility, madam State's Attorney," the assistant state's attorney said in an open letter provided to this reporter. "We're holding on by a thread." The prosecutor's full letter is published below.

Jennifer Coleman, named Foxx's second-in-command late last year, was unceremoniously shown the door May 5 after Foxx's office investigated how a misleading summary of the events leading to the police shooting of 13-year-old Adam Toledo made it into a bond court presentation last month.

While explaining allegations against Ruben Roman, the 21-year-old who allegedly gave Toledo the handgun he was seen holding a split-second before a police officer shot him, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy gave a step-by-step explanation of the shooting that left many with the

impression that Toledo had a gun in his hand when he was shot.

When the city released videos of the shooting days later, it appeared that Toledo tossed the gun behind a fence and then turned toward the officer with empty hands raised, all in less than a second.

Foxx put Murphy on a leave of absence after the videos were released. Foxx's spokesperson said Murphy "failed to fully inform himself before speaking in court... and this has been addressed with the individual involved."

But the internal investigation showed Murphy was never given access to all of the information Foxx's office had about the shooting because it was held by a "walled-off" group of prosecutors who investigate shootings that involve police officers. Murphy has now returned to work.

Despite Foxx's original statements about Murphy, he apparently didn't "fail" to inform himself — Foxx's own policies prevented him from accessing information. Coleman, Murphy's supervisor, did have access to the

full spectrum of information, but she did not review his bond court presentation in advance, according to the investigation.

And, the investigation found, just hours before Murphy was to announce allegations against Roman, Coleman told Murphy to add a charge of child endangerment to the state's allegations. The new charge required Murphy to include information about the shooting in his courtroom presentation at the last minute.

In light of the investigation's findings, it's not clear why Foxx's spokesperson blamed Murphy for a so-called failure or why anything needed to be "addressed" with him. Nor is it clear why Foxx and other leaders were seemingly unaware that he was walled-off from information by their own design.

Now, here is the open letter this reporter received from an assistant state's attorney after Foxx announced Coleman's departure May 5. It is being published anonymously because the state's attorney's office does not allow

KIM see p. 8



The Latin School has installed two, approximately 40 by 118 by eight-foot big top-type tents in Lincoln Park, which are being used to serve student meals. They are scheduled to come down on June 4.

Photo by Felicia Dechter

Big Tops in Lincoln Park keeping Latin School students safe

What's the big deal? They're temporary!

BY FELICIA DECHTER

OK, I thought. I can't really argue as these are some valid points. After all, in 1909 the Illinois Supreme Court handed Montgomery Ward a victory in his nearly 30 year fight to preserve another lakefront park, Grant Park. Although the decision only affected a narrow strip of land adjoining Michigan Ave. "Forever Open, Clear and Free" has become a rallying call for lakefront protection efforts.

Some say that the two, approximately 40 by 118 by eight-foot Big Top-type tents, which are scheduled to come down June 4, are a "terrible eyesore," and are set up in an area well-used by people.

Rats may be attracted to the tents and homeless persons may shelter in them during the rain.

"Latin is always trying to take over that part of the park," said a resident of the nearby 1550 N. State Pkwy. "No neighbors were informed or asked. I was furious when it went up," said the neighbor. "The kids evidently wanted a picnic in the park for \$40,000, which is just for the tent, not security. They should have given that money to kids on the West Side."

"They have so much money they think they can do what they want and it's annoying."

BIG TOPS see p. 5

Oak St. blockages due to demolition

At the end of May, a critical section of Oak St. will be partially blocked due to the demolition of 113 E. Oak St. During the first week of the project, work hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Work hours for the remainder of the demolition will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Throughout the project, 50-

feet of the sidewalk in front of the building will be blocked off. The sidewalk will reopen each night after work is completed.

Also 100-feet of the curb lane in front of 113 E. Oak St. will also be blocked off.

The demolition is expected to be completed by mid-July.



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Does Latin School's white privilege really matter?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Some people were surprised when they woke up last Wednesday and looked out their windows onto Lincoln Park. Especially if you're lucky enough to inhabit Benjamin Marshall's wedding cake building on the park, otherwise known as 1550 N. State Pkwy. Each day residents look out on the green space before them, and understand why they are spending a king's ransom to do so.

Discovering two enormous tents set up across the street in the park next to the Chicago History Museum is enough to admit you to an intensive care unit, especially when you find out that the tents, each costing \$40,000 to put in place, will be the new dining hall for neighbors down the street, the Latin School. (Here we go again.)

The tents, ripe in the open lake air, are supposed to safeguard the privileged pupils there, as they have their cucumber sandwiches at noon with a cup of Earl Grey tea or a hearty bowl of bullion, like they were on the lido deck of the Queen Mary.

Nearby Gold Coast residents were quick to react, speed-dialing their aldermen ... and this colum-

Helmut Jahn (1940-2021) was a lover of stories. He told some good humdingers. His best stemmed from his student days at IIT. Like the time he and some classmates drove out to explore Farnsworth, the classic modernist box house designed by their teacher, the great internationalist, Mies van der Rohe, amid the forests of the Illinois Prairie.

Because people were living in the home, they went commando-style, stocking hats and all, crawling the last few hundred yards on their bellies in the wee hours of the night. Hoping for a few moments to savor the shining impact of unfettered creativity.

But the news from suburban Campton Hills could not be worse. One of Chicago's most erudite architects, Helmut Jahn, whose works dot the face of Chicago like Teutonic boxing bruises that never heal, has died. Rather, has been killed in a freak suburban bicycle collision with two cars on a country road.

A reminder that biking on public roads is fraught with danger, with or without a helmet on Helmut.

"Helmut had an exceptional career both for its length and for the consistent quality of the

nist. Recalling in graphic detail the last public parkland assault by Latin School when they attempted to pay for a soccer field under construction by the Park District,

work," Reed Kroloff, dean of IIT's College of Architecture, told the Chicago Tribune. "At his height, he was one of the most influential architects in the world. Not only formally, but technically. He engaged early on with building-skin technologies that were very advanced. He created buildings of every variety."

Many liked Helmut and admired his work, complicated modernist buildings that were always cold. Like the Thompson Center, the State of Illinois Building on LaSalle St. near Randolph St.

For years Helmut sat behind me and my little posse at Orchestra Hall for the symphony in the big muscular music days of Sir Georg Solti. We always had lots of chat, and an instant rapport whenever we met, especially about the music. Talking to him was like watching two Lina Wertmuller films at once, while a Woody Allen favorite was playing in the background. Something majestic and singular was being created in the mix of seeming confusion.

Helmut was quietly proud of his musical passion, easy to catch sight of in his designs. And starkly alive in his finished forms.

Just seats away from both of us was the Chicago Tribune's arts critic, Claudia Cassidy. Sitting at the end of his row. Acidic. Bold.

and trying to take it over. Their insistence on selecting for themselves the full schedule of prime time usage for Latin School home games and practices killed the plan.

Needless to say, the project was scrapped in light of local outrage.

So when a Gold Coast resident sees Latin School's circus tents go up, it's not too outrageous to remember the past sins of privilege. Annual tuition of over \$36,000 buys a lot of privilege.

This newspaper's readers are haunted by the repetitious shenanigans that seem to be such an easy part of the Latin School's character.

Surely it is haunting, the school parents' inclination to always run for their checkbooks when faced with an unfavorable critique. When the canapé isn't quite top drawer, when someone's lineage is called into question or there's a hole in someone's hand-knit sock.

Or when a Chicago Park District finds itself, once again, the object of the prep school's intimate affections.

But surely Latin School families, have, hopefully, learned their lesson. You know, when everyone's papa or mama is a lawyer, an investment banker, National Security Advisor or ambassador to a foreign port, the first reaction to a need is to pull a string. Find an old college roommate or some old frat bro on a board. Or someone you rowed with at Yale. One or two phone calls and lunch at the Saddle & Cycle is enough to overtake a soccer field or a public park as if it were your own. Keeping the public, the neighbors, and

Never mincing her words. Brutal. Cassidy never offering apology for her commentary. She was the voice for old Chicago. Many night's, Cassidy would expound past symphony reviews, irritating the nearby assembled masses.

It was a wonderful accidental fate that both the Jahns and my group treasured. I loved the madness of it all.

I also used to run into Helmut at Mon Ami Gabi in the Belden Stratford. We shared a passion for the vittles of the French. Conversations always included a rundown of foods eaten.

But one night while waiting for our cars to arrive we spoke of the Thompson Center. I told him I looked out on it from my City Hall Office, and that I oddly liked it. I said that I "got it." Meaning that his modernist take on our state capitol in Springfield was really the "whole dome" effect he had achieved. He replied sounding sadly defeated with, "Nobody likes it."

How prophetic that he should die just as Gov. Pritzker signs the Thompson Center's death warrant...

I really felt heartbroken Chica-

go wasn't as architecturally sophisticated as it liked to think it was. I guess we all had different pathways to "modern." Looking at modern design and working in it are two different things. I'd learned that much walking through the Thompson Center when it was raining cats and dogs outside, and water was pouring in the countless seams of the building's modern skins. It was a sieve. All part of Chicago's favorite sport, "architectural controversy."

In spite of all that, Helmut Jahn has left behind a worthy architectural legacy, just a tad "brutal" and "Jetson's." His architectural pathway was always streaked with brilliance. From his German post-war childhood in Nuremberg to his finding the living Mies in the Architecture Dept. at IIT in the mid 1960s. How macabre his beautiful life of picturesque living and passion for flamboyant hats should end in the tragic mishap of a fatal suburban bike crash. Quite a humdinger.

for "Juvie Hall" these days. You know, rough and tumble, crusts on the bread of an uncut sandwich. No mint for the iced tea. Let's get Latin School to expand

PRIVILEGE see p. 6

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Chicago softball mourns the loss of great saloon sponsor

Plus: Did pandemic kill 16" softball in the city?



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

One of the great truths of playing softball in Chicago is that all "real men" who play the sport go to the saloon to hoist a beer or two after the game. Or three. Or six...

One of the great challenges for die-hard Chicago-style 16" softball players is finding the strength to play a game the next day after trying to recover from a jumbo hang-over created by a saloon victory party the night before.

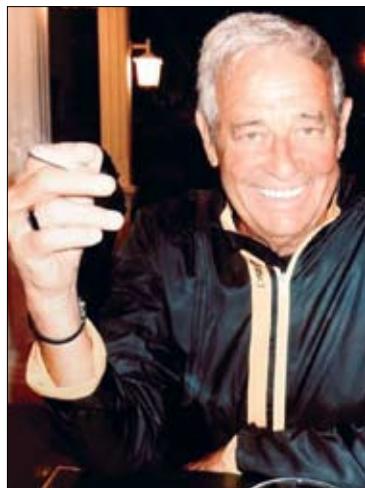
Some players say they hit better hung-over because they are so relaxed. However, no one fields or pitches better when they are hung-over. If a player says he does, he is lying.

Often, after a great win, or a memorable loss, the pitchers of beer are enhanced with lemon bullets, shots of Irish whiskey, snappers of brandy, and "Polish Depth Charges"—shots of whiskey dropped into beer steins.

This writer—a proud 16" Softball Hall of Fame inductee in 1999—played more than 2,000 games and probably consumed 20,000 libations over 47 years. But who's counting?

So, my teammates and I experienced a wave of great sadness upon learning of the recent passing of saloonkeeper Jerry Ranalli, 83, a legendary storyteller and one of Chicago's great softball sponsors.

Mr. Ranalli is generally credited as the inventor of not only the sports-bar concept, but the outdoor garden café at Ranalli's restaurant and bar on Lincoln Ave. in Old Town.



(Left) Jerry Ranalli. (Right) In the early 1980s, the Solidarity softball team was sponsored by a group of Lincoln Ave. saloons. Players included (left to right) Don DeBat, Dean Karouzos, Dave Sortal, Joe Oleksey, Connie Jazcor and Don (Garbo) Garbarino.

sponsor heaven. Rompza, owner of the Burwood Tap at Burling and Wrightwood, asked: "Why is your team named Solidarity?"

The answer was the team identified with the anti-communist Solidarity political movement in Poland. The Trebes Park and Oz Park rosters were filled with proud Polish-American players with names like Glen Placek, Rob Placek, Mike Skowronski, Steve Wysocki, Tony Dudek, Joe Oleksy, Connie Jazcor and Bob Gorzynski.

Mr. Ranalli is generally credited as the inventor of not only the sports-bar concept, but the outdoor garden café at Ranalli's restaurant and bar on Lincoln Ave. in Old Town.

Toss in Ukrainian-American stars Paul Sortal and Dave Sortal, and a manager whose grandparents immigrated from Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) in 1900. Let's not forget the great long-ball hitter, Don (Garbo) Garbarino (Italian-American) and Dean Karouzos, the handsome Greek.

Solidarity was viewed as an Eastern European softball power house, especially around Kosciuszko Park in the predominantly Polish neighborhood.

Crazy things also happened when your softball sponsor was Jimmy Rittenberg, a great friend of Mr. Ranalli. Always an innovator, Rittenberg developed "Juke Box Saturday Night" rock 'n' roll/sports saloon on Lincoln Ave. in Lincoln Park in the early 1980s.

Outside, the landmark saloon signage included a hot red 1957 Chevy front end sticking out the second floor of the bar building's facade. With Solidarity playing at nearby Oz Park, it made sense to hold the post-game festivities, in-

cluding Jitter Bug and Twist contests, while platters were spun by the disc jockey sitting inside a '57 Chevy convertible at Juke Box Saturday Night.

The Solidarity softball team guzzled beer while dancing to the beat of "Louie, Louie," the Beach Boys, Chubby Checker and "At The Hop" all night.

Of course, we all were wearing those really cool silver "Juke Box Saturday Night" jackets with the bar's logo printed on the back and Solidarity on the front. Fashionable Rittenberg also ordered that the team wear buttoned Izod shirts with collars in his dance club. The dancing girls always wanted to take the jackets and us home.

Some nights, sweating, beer-spattered teammates—still in full uniform—continued pub crawling on Lincoln Ave. until 4 a.m. This is why so many players quit the game at 40 years of age, because the alternative was divorce.

In 1988, when Rompza purchased the old Grover's Oyster Bar on Irving Park Road, just east of Western, and renamed it Chicago Joe's Saloon, he made sure to offer softball team sponsorships to his teams, including Solidarity, which recently had won a championship in the tough Kosciuszko Park league, at Diversey and Pulaski, and now was expanding under a new name—Risk.

In 2017, the sports-bar restaurant was still sponsoring the Risk softball team, which was aging like fine wine under the name Vintage Risk. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, Vintage Risk won six championships at Trebes Park and Horner Park. Teammates held their victory parties washing down buckets of hot chicken wings with pitchers of beer in Chicago Joe's outdoor garden.

All this proves a good softball sponsor can last even longer than a good marriage.

But suddenly that marriage is

ill. While suburban leagues are starting up play in May, here in the city the Chicago Park District has not yet allowed team play in the parks. The CPD leagues are supposed to start in June and July. But after last season was cancelled, and everyone got used to working from home, some leagues are wondering if all the old teams will return this year?

Nobody really knows yet if the players are just hiding and biding their time, or if some have lost interest. And if half the workers in the Loop stay at home to work, maybe leagues outside the city center will prosper while in-city leagues will contract. Time will tell.

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. DeBat also is writing "Chicago's Game," a book on 16" softball.

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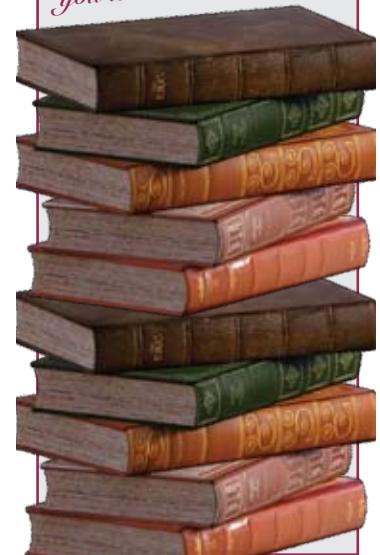
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Police Beat...

Charges files after woman dragged by car during robbery at Home Depot

Prosecutors charged an 18-year-old man on May 5 with dragging a woman with his car as he grabbed the strap of her purse during a robbery on the parking lot of Home Depot in March.

Cortel King was on juvenile parole for vehicular invasion and possession of a stolen motor vehicle and on bond for an adult charge of criminal trespass to a vehicle when he robbed the woman, Assistant State's Attorney Lorraine Scaduto said.

Within days of the robbery, and in violation of his parole, King moved to Arizona to live with his brother because, his defense attorney said, his mother wanted him to get away from the "danger of the city." Scaduto suggested that he went to Arizona to escape prosecution.

Shortly after noon on March 1, a 64-year-old woman was walking on the Home Depot lot at 1232 W. North Ave. when a man reached out of a passing car to grab her purse with both hands. The driver of the car continued driving, dragging the woman by her purse, causing the strap to break, and slamming the victim to the pavement, according to Scaduto.

It was unclear if King is accused of being the driver, the person who grabbed the victim's purse, or both. Home Depot security footage shows one man in the car wore a red sweatshirt and the other wore a yellow sweatshirt.

Investigators later found video footage that shows King buying a baseball hat at Lincolnwood Town Center with one of the woman's stolen credit cards, Scaduto said. He's wearing a red sweatshirt and is accompanied by a man in a yellow sweatshirt in the footage, she said.

A short time later, he used the woman's card to make purchases at a gas station while wearing a red sweatshirt and the hat he bought minutes earlier, Scaduto said. Police used video from the gas station to identify King by his face and a "Rugrats" tattoo on his neck, Scaduto

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said.

King subsequently moved to Arizona, where he allegedly crossed paths with cops within a matter of days. They took him into custody on an arrest warrant in a different case, and he was extradited to Chicago on March 25. In it, King's accused of stealing a woman's car in Evanston.

Police identified him because he stared into the camera of a FaceTime conversation that was active on the victim's phone, which she left in the car, according to prosecutors. He also allegedly sent that victim an Instagram follow request.

During the booking process in March, authorities logged two new tattoos that King got on his neck since his last arrest in December — including the Rugrats ink. Police later connected the new tattoo information to the Home Depot case.

In addition to being on juvenile parole for two felonies, King also has a juvenile adjudication for aggravated robbery and an adult misdemeanor conviction for attempted identity theft for using a credit card that was stolen during a vehicular invasion, Scaduto said.

Prosecutors charged King with robbery of a victim over the age of 60, aggravated battery causing great bodily harm to a victim over the age of 60, and unlawful possession of a credit card.

His public defender pleaded with Judge Arthur Willis to deny the state's request to have King held without bail.

"There's still a chance to be able to help this young gentleman go forward," the attorney said. "Keeping him incarcerated isn't the way to help this young man go forward."

Willis, noting that King "already fled the state once," denied her request and held him without bail.

Scaduto said the Home Depot victim suffered severe bruising to her face, a broken rib, and a broken collarbone. The woman's shoulder injury cannot be fixed with surgery and she continues to undergo physical therapy to regain movement of her shoulder, according to Scaduto.

From porterhouse to big house, man jailed after leaving gun at Gibson's

Dinner at one of Chicago's most iconic steakhouses ended with a trip to Cook County jail for a man who mistakenly left a handbag at the restaurant — with a loaded gun inside, according to prosecutors.

If this sounds vaguely familiar, it may be because this is the second time in two years that customers of Gibson's Bar & Steakhouse have been arrested after the restaurant's employees allegedly found their guns.

Prosecutors said Darwin Walls, 29, forgot to take his fanny pack when he left the restaurant after dinner Sunday night. An employee who found the bag looked inside to see if it contained any identification or other information to help them locate the owner. They allegedly found a gun instead.

Walls returned to the restaurant to claim his bag around 11 p.m. An employee was already summoning police to take possession of the gun, according to prosecutors and CPD dispatch records.

Cops arrived just in time to see Walls leaving in a car driven by a woman. Officers broadcast a description of their Audi on police radio, and cops pulled it over near Balbo and Lake Shore Dr.

Police found Walls hiding in the car's trunk. He was allegedly carrying 38 ecstasy pills and \$4,830 cash.

Prosecutors, who said the restaurant's security camera footage shows Walls with the bag, charged him with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

With district staffing levels decimated, CPD taps detectives to sit on street corners

Non-emergency call center now closed between 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

While the Chicago Police Dept. publicly says patrol officers are the backbone of its operation, city records show local police districts across the city have lost 18% of their officers since David Brown became CPD superintendent in April 2020.

Staffing challenges recently forced the CPD to shutter overnight operations for the unit that takes police reports over the phone, this reporter has learned. And some detectives, who should be conducting investigations to solve crimes, will soon be deployed to sit on street corners in uniform, according to a CPD email issued last week.

All of that comes as the unions representing both sergeants and lieutenants recently sent letters to Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Brown to warn that their supervisory force is significantly lower than budgeted.

Districts decimated

Since Brown joined CPD, 19 of the department's 22 police districts — including all of its most violent — have lost at least 12% of their cops, according to records provided by Chicago's Office of the Inspector General.

The reduction in beat-level cops is partly the result of CPD losing 5% of officers over the past year to retirements and younger officers leaving for other opportunities, city records show. Another 1,000 cops who used to report to work in neighborhoods have been transferred to new citywide units that Brown created to handle hotspots and participate in community relations activities like shoveling snow and filling potholes.

On the North Side, CPD's Lakeview-based Town Hall district has shed 16% of its officers under Brown, leaving it with a total force of 327 officers. That's among the lowest numbers recorded since we began tracking Town Hall's police headcount in 2013.

Six years ago, Lakeview Ald. Tom Tunney [44th] voted in favor of the city's record-breaking property

and possession of a controlled substance. They said Walls is on probation for a controlled substance charge and has previous felony convictions for aggravated battery and a gun offense.

Judge Arthur Willis set his bail at \$45,000 on the new charges and \$5,000 for violating probation. Willis ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a 10% deposit.

CTA train system has more robberies this year than many pre-COVID years, arrests are up too

CTA train passengers are being robbed this year at a rate far higher than many recent years — and that's even though ridership is down sharply during the COVID pandemic. But better collaboration between police and the transit agency is leading to more arrests, too.

Through April 30, Chicago police logged 94 robberies on CTA trains, platforms, and stations citywide, according to city data. That's equal to or more than the number of cases recorded during many recent years with normal ridership levels. There were 125 incidents during the period last year, 119 in 2019, and 105 in 2013.

Most recently, a 35-year-old man was punched in the head and robbed by an offender who approached him

tax hike in exchange for a promise to maintain a headcount of at least 376 cops at Town Hall. When the CPD failed to meet its promise, and manpower slipped to 352 officers in Feb. 2018, Tunney said he was "alarmed." Now, the district's force is 25 cops shy of even that number.

But the reality for most districts is even worse than the numbers appear. CPD brass continues to send units away from neighborhood patrol to sit on Michigan Ave., State St., and other downtown locations to maintain visibility since last year's riots and looting.

Call center cuts

For years, CPD has tried to keep more cops on the streets by taking reports for non-violent and non-emergency crimes like burglaries and thefts over the phone.

But a memo from Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications, provided to this reporter by a source, says the police call center is no longer operating on overnight hours. So, when someone wants to file a report for non-emergency crimes between 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m., the city will dispatch a squad car to do it, the memo said.

Of course, with district-level staffing down by double-digits in nearly all areas of the city, it may take a long time for a unit to become available.

According to the OEMC memo, the CPD's "Alternative Response Section" began shutting down overnight as of Thursday, April 29. A CPD spokesperson confirmed the email's content.

"Residents are encouraged to file non-emergency reports online or in-person at any of CPD's 22 district stations," the spokesperson said.

Detectives sitting on corners

On May 5, some detective supervisors were informed of "a new anti-violence initiative" that the department is rolling out: All five of CPD's detective divisions will assign eight detectives to work in uniform as an "incident response team" on morning and evening shifts, the email said.

According to the message, the response teams "will be activated any-

time a district has multiple shooting incidents or whatever other criteria is decided."

But the detectives won't be going to the scene to investigate the shootings. Instead, they will be assigned to sit in a fixed position or on a street corner, sometimes with a "city asset" such as a salt truck or CTA supervisor, the memo said.

Detectives assigned to homicide units and gang investigations won't be used for corner-sitting, according to the plan. We have also learned that detectives have recently been used to patrol Safe Passage routes when the local districts didn't have enough cops to do it themselves.

April 2021 staffing levels:

District 24 Rogers Park: 256

District 20 Lincoln: 217

District 19 Town Hall: 327

District 18 Near North: 357

"They're higher salary and should be investigating crimes," a source said. Instead, some detectives are watching kids cross streets and may soon be spending an inordinate amount of time with a salt truck.

There's an indication in the email that CPD brass expects some pushback on their plan to have detectives sit on street corners. The message ends with an all-caps warning:

"EVERYONE MUST KEEP THEIR UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT READY AND AVAILABLE. IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR SOME PEOPLE TO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT AND MAKE ANOTHER PERSON RESPOND IN THEIR PLACE."

The city's five detective units picked up marked vehicles for response teams on May 6 and they will run drills over the weekend "to see how long it takes to deploy and arrive on post," the memo said.

court Friday. He was arrested at the Jackson Red Line platform April 28 after police surveillance camera operators recognized him from an earlier attack.

Man shot in Lincoln Square during apparent road rage incident overnight

A 19-year-old is recovering after a motorist shot him during an apparent road rage incident in Lincoln Square May 6.

The victim was traveling as a passenger in a northbound car when his driver got into an argument with another driver on the 4400 block of N. Western around 1:40 a.m., police said. After the cars almost collided, the other driver fired one shot that went through the victim's passenger door and into his right knee, according to CPD.

Police said the victim's driver took him to Weiss Memorial Hospital, where he was listed in fair condition. Neither the driver nor the victim have histories of contact with Chicago police, the department said.

CPD described the gunman only as a Hispanic man who drove a black BMW. Area Three detectives are investigating.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Judge unloads on man who fled from cops

'You're never gonna win on the street'

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Cook County judge unleashed on a man who appeared before him April 27 on allegations of battering a cop during a traffic stop and speeding away from the scene. And the lecture he handed down should be required reading for anyone who steps foot in a car.

Judge John Lyke was almost finished with a routine and uneventful felony bond court session when a 25-year-old man was brought before him on multiple counts of aggravated battery to police and resisting arrest.

A prosecutor told Lyke that two cops pulled the man over for running a red light and asked him to step out of his car. Instead, the

man allegedly rolled his window up on one of the officer's arms and drove off as the cop's partner shattered the window to free the first cop.

The man later punched a police sergeant at the station lock-up, prosecutors said.

"I gave [the first officer] all of my credentials. After that, she asked me to get out," the man said after being warned not to speak about his case in open court. "She went into my vehicle. I felt very scared... I got scared and that's why I fled."

"I'm going to stop you from just truly burying yourself," Lyke



Judge John F. Lyke Jr.

interjected on the Zoom hearing. "I'm going to mute you now."

And then it was on.

"Let me explain something to you and a lot of people," Lyke began.

"I understand your fear, trust me. I get it," said Lyke, who is Black. "However the United States Supreme Court as well as the Illinois Supreme Court have said if a police officer asks you to get out of the car — irrespective of if you think it's right or wrong — YOU GOTTA GET OUT."

"Here I am. I'm a judge and I probably know the law better than 99.9% of the people on this plan-

et and if an officer stops me for whatever reason, asks me for my ID and I give it to him and my insurance — and in fact it happened to me about a month ago — you know what I did? I gave him my license and my insurance. He ran it. He came back. He said, 'Sir step out of the car.'"

"You know what I did? I didn't start questioning him — 'Hey! Whatchu doing? What am I doing here?' Nah. I got myself out of the car."

"Walk to the back," the cop told Lyke.

"You know what I did? I walked to the back."

"You know what he did? He searched me. Was that a legal search? Hmm. I don't know," Lyke said with more than a little skepticism in his voice. "I don't know what he had on his mind. But I didn't resist it. He searched

me and says, 'Mr. Lyke, alright, have a good day.'"

"Did I kick and scream? No. Did I start quizzing him, 'Why you want me to get out of the car?' No. Because I know the Supreme Court said, [if police] say get out the car, YOU GOTTA GET OUT."

"You're never gonna win on the street. Never. You gotta come to court. And if you think the officer's wrong, that's where you air your grievances out. Not on the street. Because only bad things can happen."

"Luckily for both of you — the officers as well as you — nothing truly that bad happened where someone got seriously hurt."

Lyke then set bail for the man, who has no criminal record, at \$1,000 and ordered him to report regularly to a pre-trial services officer.

BIG TOPS from p. 1

No, I do believe that Latin is really just trying to keep their students safe during this seemingly never-ending pandemic. The tents, which are open-sided and inside have sparse wood tables with a chair at each end, were set up May 1 to provide a temporary lunchroom until the end of the school year, according to Landy Daniels, Latin's communications project manager.

Daniels said that on May 3, Latin's middle and upper school students returned to a full in-person school day for the first time this year. Previously they were in a hybrid model and the majority of students did not eat lunch on campus.

"The tents provide us with additional space to ensure that students are able to be socially-distanced at six feet apart while eating, in accordance with Chicago Dept. of Public Health guidance," said Daniels.

Although some say they were not informed, on April 29, an email was sent out by Latin's director of operations, Chanel King, to the North Dearborn Assoc., the Constellation Condo Assoc., 43rd Ward Ald. Michele Smith's office and 2nd Ward Ald. Brian Hopkins' office, to notify all of the above of the tents being erected.

"I want to make you aware that Latin School of Chicago has worked with the Chicago Park District for permission to install two (12 meters x 36 meters x 2.4 meters) tents in Lincoln Park directly across the street from the Constellation building," stated the email, which I thought was a little weird using meters rather than feet. "Our middle and upper school students will be returning to school in person for the full school day, and these tents will be used for eating lunch and other student activities."

The tents will stay in place until June 4, the email said. They will be monitored by a security officer 24/7 to ensure that they are only being used by the Latin community. Latin will monitor and dispose of all garbage and collect it regularly, the email stated.

Good to know! Garbage taken

care of, no rats hopefully. Check. Security guard on duty so no homeless people. Check. (Heck, be grateful for that. I have homeless people, in tents, living in my park, Loyola Park).

Now about that view obstruction ...

You probably know that views are not protected in Chicago. They are respected, but not legally protected. But besides that, we're in the midst of a pandemic and there are thousands and thousands of people dying daily around the globe and I'm hearing about the short-term blocking of a view as opposed to keeping kids safe from COVID?

Get real. Talk about elite!

I found myself totally conflicted. I'm usually the one sticking up for the Davids of this world, not the Goliaths. But to me, keeping the Latin students safe -- and physically in school -- is what's really important here.

I moseyed down to the Big Tops at about 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning to see what all the fuss was about. I wanted to hear what the regular folks like the dog walkers and joggers thought, those who were neighbors but perhaps not personally affected by the tents.

I posed the question: Do the tents bother you? I explained why they were there.

"No not at all," said a Dearborn Pkwy neighbor out for a morning stroll.

"The kids need to be in school, let's flex a little everybody," said a woman jogging by.

"Not at all," said a guy walking his dog. "I figured it's better than anybody else here."

Eighty-something Eugene Finnegan said he wouldn't mind seeing the tents stay in the park, for a spot of shade and a lovely place to sit.

"They don't bother me, I was intrigued by it," said Finnegan. "It's not a bad idea to leave those tents up for shade during the summer." Finnegan said he was "more annoyed," at the fencing surrounding the Chicago History Museum, which is undergoing a \$10-million plus plaza renovation along with building an interactive history trail.

"It's a little bit of a land grab," Finnegan said of the Latin tents. "But it's clearly temporary."

A source close to Ald. Smith said Latin does not feel safe with students eating indoors and congregating. The source said Smith

was alerted that the CPD had granted the permit to Latin, which is actually in the 42nd Ward.

(However the tents are erected across the street, which happens to be the 43rd Ward). The source said Ald. Smith was notified but not consulted and that discussions were held between Latin and the park district.

So what's really the big deal? After all, "You gotta do what you gotta do," said a neighbor who just returned home from out of town and was unbothered thus far by the tents. "Hopefully, they (students) won't be overly loud during the day."

Now here's the only thing I'm still wondering a bit about, the cost. That's because Latin did not answer that question nor did the CPD. A neighbor threw out that \$40K figure. But remember, park district board commissioner Laird Koldyke has a long, warm and fuzzy relationship with Latin as his kids attended the school. Hopefully, they paid fair market price like everyone else.

To make sure of that, on Tuesday we submitted a Freedom of

Information Act request for all of the details.

And no worries, folks, we'll be keeping an eye on the tents to make sure they don't suddenly grow walls or stay longer than they're supposed to or anything like that.

Oh but wait, we don't have to, because watchful neighbors will be doing it for us.

Ain't too proud to beg... today, the CPD board will be voting on whether or not to install safety rings on the lakefront. As someone who lives spitting distance from the beach and has seen so much tragedy happen in the water, I implore the board to please, Vote Yes!

We have the ability to set an example for other lakefront cities while protecting our residents and those who come to Chicago and take a dip in Lake Michigan not realizing how treacherous it can become. The safety rings can help save a life. Maybe even your life.

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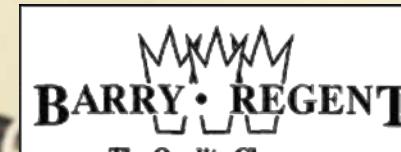
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PRIVILEGE from p. 2

their students' horizons. They already had the intensive course in shenanigans, taught by the sharpest pencils in the box.

CPS CEO ABCs: After just three years, Janice Jackson, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, has announced that she's done. Why really?

A. Warfare between Chicago Teachers Union and the Mayors' Office, supercharged with an elected school board dominated by the CTU.

B. Mayor Lightfoot's destructive meddling in everything.

C. The pandemic need for repair.

So much of this is personal for the mayor. Beyond repair. What do Vegas odds-makers say the odds are CPS schools open this fall?

Watch for other important school folk to leave their jobs.

WGN RADIO SCOOP: Lovely Anna Devlantes had a great surprise on her WGN radio show with special guest **Mark Giangreco**, the embattled and abused Chicago sports news legend dismissed from his post at ABC7. No-one in Chicago will forget the shabby treatment he received. Or the low-valued reasons he was so poorly treated. "Eventually," he said, "I'm going to have to move on and get over it." Always the gent.



Marc Giangreco

NEW FOUR SEASONS: The renovations are complete, the Four Seasons has reopened. And it ain't pretty. The Grand Opening was a bust. The space has been wrecked. Old timers, the Gold Coast crowd who used it like their local are appalled. They say it's all granite. Cold. Efficient. Devoid of Charm. Too bright. Made people's eyes hurt. Low tables. Low chairs. Like children's furniture. It was empty of customers. All the warmth is gone. Anything "comfy" has been re-

Steve Lombardo and Hugo Ralli.

moved. You could say it's objectively beautiful, but so sadly unattractive. Form over function. It's dumped the "hang-out" place mentality. People will be disappointed. The bar area, once so welcoming and a part of the neighborhood, is gone. The people who loved going there were locals. Regulars. The hotel fired all the employees last year. All the old bar tenders are gone. People will remember this travesty. Shame.

BULLSBALL: Lauri Markkanen was out after being downed by COVID-19 at the start of the season. Then out with an injury. Now he wants to start. He delivered an ultimatum to the Chicago Bulls last week — start him, or he walks. "I still believe I'm a starter and nothing has changed in that way," he said.

AMERICAN ART: Sugar Rautbord reports Jean-Michel Basquiat's "In This Case" (1983) will be on auction with a low estimate of \$50 million at Christie's 21st-century Tuesday night sale in NYC.

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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

121212

050505

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION
FMV RL II LLC, Plaintiff,

vs.
BRANDON MEDOW AS EXECUTOR OF ESTATE OF ROSS MEDOW, UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES, OR DEVISEES OF ROSS MEDOW, IVY MEDOW, BRANDON MEDOW, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PHOEBE MEDOW, ATLANTIC MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT CORP., CITY OF CHICAGO, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 20 CH 5444
Property Address: 1958 W. Morse Ave. Unit C
Chicago, IL 60626
NOTICE OF SALE
Sheriff's Sale No.: 210015
PUBLIC NOTICE is given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the Court in the above cause on April 14, 2021, the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will sell the property described be-

low to satisfy said judgment, as follows:

(a) The name and address of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is Adam Rome, Greiman, Rome & Griesmeyer, LLC, 205 West Randolph St., Ste. 2300, Chicago, IL 60606. The telephone number is 312-428-2743.

(b) The common address and legal description of the real estate to be sold is as follows:

PIN: 11-31-214-054-0000

Commonly Known As: 1958 W. Morse, Unit C, Chicago IL

(c) A description of the improvements of the real estate: single family condominium unit.

(d) The real estate may not be inspected prior to sale.

(e) The time and place of the sale is as follows: May 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, LL06, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

(f) The terms of the sale are "as is" for certified funds, requiring that the successful bidder deposit ten percent of the bid at the time of sale and the balance with the sheriff or associate judge within twenty-four (24) hours of the sale, plus interest at the statutory judgment rate and any unpaid portion of the sale price from the date of sale to the date of payment.

(g) Title will be conveyed subject to all general real

estate taxes which are or shall become a lien upon the real estate, but if not yet due, that may become due and payable, special assessments, applicable rights of redemption, encumbrances, easements and restrictions of record, if any.

Respectfully Submitted,

FMV RL II LLC

By:

Adam B. Rome One of its Attorneys

Greiman, Rome & Griesmeyer, LLC

205 West Randolph St., Ste. 2300

Chicago, Illinois 60606

T: (312) 428-2750/F: (312) 322-2781

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INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Steve Lombardo and Hugo Ralli.



John Valazquez



Jim Kinney, Brian White, Kate Horne Rutledge.

DERBY NEWS: At last week's 147th running of the Kentucky Derby, eagle-eyed horsewoman **Rose O'Neill** won big time following her own advice, "Bet the jockey, not the horse." That's wisdom. She had her money on **John Valazquez**, the 49-year-old Puerto Rican jockey. He came in first on **Medina Spirit**.

JOAN D'RONE: To all friends of **Frank and Joan D'Rone**, Chicago recently lost Joanie. On behalf of her family, her friends are inviting you to a Celebration of Life Memorial on Sunday, May 16, from 1 - 5pm at Le Piano, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave. To reserve, email barb.bailey1@gmail.com. Singers and musicians are welcome to perform! Or just tell a story.

GOODBYE, MR. BOB: **Jan Hobson**, who once operated the swanky Chicago cabaret known as the Raccoon Club, says that "**Mr. Bob**," a very popular member of the ensemble there, succumbed to COVID-19 a couple of weeks ago. They featured music of the '20s and '30s in their lively review back in the 1980s. Mr. Bob's classical zaniness and polished musical abilities were all part of his handsome stage persona. His pals are bereft as his sophisticated humor is silenced.

SERVICE CLUB: Spring Hat Luncheon: Friday, May 21, at The Woman's Athletic Club. For reservations call 312-220-9600.

MICHAELANGELO'S CHAPEL: Exhibition now at Oakbrook Center, **Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel**: The Exhibit, a 60-90 minute experience, \$20 per ticket.

ANGELUS DOMINUM: **Cathy Welter Mondelli** letting go of her longtime treasure, a large statue of an angel. She gifted it to St. Bartholomew's Church on the North-

west Side, her childhood parish where it will give great comfort to many during this time of pandemic.

ART NEWS: Artist **Adam Handler** fresh from Paris exhibit is having his 3rd solo exhibition at **Madelyn Jordan Fine Art** in Scarsdale, NY.

WHO'S WHERE: At the Monarch Hotel Dallas **Rhonda J. Liesenfeld** and **Ruslan Meshkov** for the Emerald Ballroom Dance Competition... designer **Lauren Lein Cavenaugh** getting fashion ideas literally tiptoeing through the tulips at Richardson Adventure Farm with



Mr. Bob

members of the Service Club... **Countess Bottega** getting fresh supplies of the most elegant nature, so stop by... attorney **Dan Balanoff** celebrating May Day with a morning of service, cleaning up the neighborhood along Taylor St. in Little Italy. Alone we can do so little but together we can do so much... Congrats to **Hadley Hindman**, an official Honors grad from Montana State U. making mom and pop, **Don DeForest** and **Marian Hindman** filled with pride, and so is auntie **Leslie Hindman**... **Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** all dolled up for **Kate Horne Rutledge's** birthday and join **Peter Mark**, offering a tribute to the **Duke of Edinburgh**, at their Warriors and Dames, Society of Colonial Warriors Summer Court 2021... **Sherrill Bodine**, **Sherry Lea Fox**, **Melissa Babcock**, **Bobbie Panter** and **Wynnis Mackie** gathered at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill ... **Steve Lombardo** and **Hugo Ralli** toast Gibson's Steakhouse on its 32nd year.

Horses make a landscape look beautiful. --Alice Walker

tog515@gmail.com

North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

121212

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CTT

v.-

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF MAURICE S. MARKS, DECEASED, JOSEPHINE SMITH, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MAURICE S. MARKS, DECEASED, JOSEPHINE MARKS SMITH AKA JOSEPHINE SMITH, BONNIE KAY SPILLER, DONALD TRENT MARKS, KENNETH R. MARKS, DEBORAH K. MARKS, DOROTHY BRADFORD, WAYNE E. HENDERSON, LAMONT H. HENDERSON, ROOSEVELT MARKS, JR., AUSTIN MARKS, SHELEETA MARKS, JAMES D. SUPRAL, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF GREGORY MARKS, DECEASED, YETTA R. PORTER, THE NORTH TOWN VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, CITY OF CHICAGO, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

Defendants

19 CH 3073

1317 NORTH BURLING STREET, UNIT B

CHICAGO, IL 60610

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 9, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on June 10, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 1317 NORTH BURLING STREET, UNIT B, CHICAGO, IL 60610

Property Index No. 17-04-113-100-1038

The real estate is improved with a condominium.

The judgment amount was \$264,661.74.

Real Estate For Sale

050505

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagor acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose right in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)(1).

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

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.)

Real Estate For Sale

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Old Town Art Fair is on for 2021

One of the most respected art fairs in Chicago is back on for this summer.

The Old Town Art Fair [OTAF] takes place on Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13, in the heart of Old Town Triangle Historic District.

The center of the OTAF is at 1763 N. North Park Ave. A suggested donation of \$12 per person is encouraged; children enter free.

There will be over 200 nationally acclaimed artists, an estimated 10,000 art lovers, a garden walk, live music, food court and children's area. The fair in-

cludes 2D and 3D mixed media, drawings, paintings, photography, printmaking, ceramics, metal, stone and more. Each year, every artist is selected by an independent jury of art professionals from the Chicago area, and nearly half of the exhibiting artists will be new to the Fair.

Gates open Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday until 6 p.m., rain or shine.

There is another parallel festival just south of there as well, the Wells Street Art Festival, south of North Ave. on Wells St.

KIM from p. 1

its employees to speak freely to the media. We have confirmed the author's employment as a current Cook County Assistant State's Attorney.

The open letter:

The People of Cook County should be concerned. Kim Foxx's poor leadership has led to dark days within the State's Attorney's Office (SAO). What the public doesn't see is the misery and melancholy that Kim Foxx has created in those that carry out the day to day functions of the SAO. Morale is practically non-existent. Staff are dropping like flies. The Assistant State's Attorneys (ASA) of Cook County feel unsupported, unappreciated, and unnoticed.

When Foxx was elected, she held a mandatory meeting at 26th Street for all prosecutors. There, she gave examples of mistakes that she had made, reminding us that she understood what it was like to work in the trenches. She told us she supported us. She told us she was one of us. She told us she had our back. She lied.

When James "Jim" Murphy was put on leave, our hearts collectively ached and a palpable stress could be felt throughout the Office. Anxiety collectively rose amongst the ranks.

You see, it's not just that Jim is a well-respected and dedicated prosecutor, who was the backbone of the entire central bond court operation during this crippling pandemic. It's that Jim could have been any one of us.

Each ASA in the Office, at some point, has to work bond court. We all know how it works. It's organized chaos. States Attorneys have just a handful of hours to work up the backgrounds and create proffers of hundreds of defendants who come flying through bond court. We have to run back and forth between the clerk's office to file violations of bond and probation, call up the Sheriffs to clarify why we have a surprise arrest report sitting in front of us when there are no new charges for this defendant.

It's so busy that we don't eat breakfast or lunch. We limit how much coffee we drink because there's no time for a bathroom break. In order to get through the work, we rely on the words of others. Of our fellow ASAs, of the police who called felony review, of those who authored draft reports. Jim could have been any one of us. It could have just as easily been me who was put on leave. And, despite what she once promised us, Kim doesn't have our backs.

Almost every ASA in the Office came to this job for the same reason. To do good. We put in overtime without any additional compensation. We sacrifice time with our families and friends in favor of trial preparation. We are drowning in student loan debt.

We didn't take our law degree to the public sector to gain fortune or fame; we did it because our work is a calling. Seeking justice is woven into our muscle fibers and

our hearts are in this job. We love what we do. But we cannot do our best work without competent leadership.

When we see Jennifer Coleman resign, we get angry. Upset. Disappointed. It shakes the confidence in the Office. And it's not just Coleman. Foxx demoted Peter "Guy" Lisuzzo, a beloved prosecutor, without an explanation to her workforce. She recently lost Alan Spellberg, oft considered amongst the smartest and most esteemed prosecutors within the ranks of the SAO.

When Foxx was elected, she held a mandatory meeting at 26th Street for all prosecutors. There, she gave examples of mistakes that she had made, reminding us that she understood what it was like to work in the trenches. She told us she supported us. She told us she was one of us. She told us she had our back. She lied.

To the detriment of the People of the State of Illinois, too many experienced and valuable state's attorneys have left or been forced to resign. Their knowledge, respect, and value is irreplaceable. The Office is being gutted and morale is at an all-time low.

This Office belongs to Kim Foxx. She is the leader and it's time she fully accepts that role. Take responsibility, madam State's Attorney. A workforce without strong leadership yields poor productivity, turnover, and mistakes. You, Kim Foxx, need to be held accountable. For Toledo. For Smollett. For all the other times when you let your prosecutors, your people, down. Make a change before your Office collapses underneath you. We're holding on by a thread, Kim.

Side note: As the Jussie Smollett hate crime case was unfolding, Spellberg wrote a memo that warned senior staff members that Foxx could not simply appoint another attorney to oversee the case after she recused herself. Had his advice been followed, Foxx's office could have avoided years of public scrutiny, the appointment of a special prosecutor to review her office's handling of the case, and other embarrassments.

The author of the letter published above is not the same assistant state's attorney who wrote a scathing open letter to Foxx during the Smollett scandal in 2019.

MOB from p. 1

running thru the alley." Other officers arrested the person and seized a handgun moments later.

The activity slowed as rain moved into the area, but dust-ups continued to be reported until after 10 p.m.

Similar "large group" incidents also unfolded on Saturday, May 1 and on April 27.