

Harmony makes small things grow,
lack of it makes great things decay.

— Sallust

SKYLINE

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

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Streeterville Farmers Market kicks off June 1

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] Farmers Market returns to MCA Plaza on Tuesday, June 1, and will run weekly from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 220 E. Chicago Ave., through October rain-or-shine.

The Market offers a variety of farm fresh fruits and vegetables, cut and potted flowers and herbs, baked goods, cheeses, drinks and more. Ready-to-eat lunch options are available as well, including Gayle's Grilled Cheese and Gotta Bee Crepes.

While the location is convenient for residents and people who work in and around Streeterville, the farmers and vendors travel from all over the Chicagoland area to offer their products.



The Market plans to follow all the required State and City guidelines for social distancing, sanitation and contactless payment this year. All vendors and visitors (over the age of 2) must wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth at all times. For more information visit www.soarchicago.org/soarfarmersmarket or call 312-397-3833.



Clean up time in the city's parks

Story on page 7

Man robbed at knifepoint on Red Line downtown

A Mag Mile hotel employee was robbed at knifepoint on a Red Line CTA train downtown May 12, according to a CPD report. The victim was not injured. Later, another man was reportedly cut with a knife during an argument at another downtown Red Line station.

The report said the victim was on the Red Line at Grand when the offender demanded his property at knifepoint around 6:40 p.m. He went to the hotel where he works and sought help after the hold-up. CPD did not release the victim's age or any descrip-

tion of the robber.

Then, around 12:28 a.m. Thursday, a 30-year-old man was cut on the hand during an argument with another man on the Lake St. platform, police said. Fire department personnel treated the victim at the scene but he declined to cooperate with police, according to a CPD statement.

Crimes involving knives and robberies were both up sharply this year along the Red Line even though ridership declined due to the effects of the COVID pandemic.

Spybar owner facing drug distribution charges after federal agents, sheriffs raid his home

BY CWBCHICAGO

The owner of a River North dance club faces multiple narcotics distribution charges after accepting an international parcel that contained over two pounds of a popular club drug, leading investigators to find even more controlled substances inside his home, prosecutors said May 14.

Dino Gardiakos, the owner of Spybar, 646 N. Franklin, must surrender his passport, post \$25,000 cash to get out of jail, and prove that any money used for bail will not come from narcotics activity, Judge Susana Ortiz ruled.

Federal customs agents inter-

cepted a suspicious package from the United Kingdom addressed to Gardiakos and found 2-1/4 pounds of ketamine inside, Assistant State's Attorney Brian Burkhardt said during a bond hearing Friday.

The agents resealed the box and arranged to have it delivered to Gardiakos' home in West Town May 14 by agents from the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

At Gardiakos' home, a man who identified himself as "Michael" accepted the package and told the delivery person that Gardiakos, the addressed recipient, was the

only person who lives there, Burkhardt said. Agents soon received

an alert that someone opened the box, and they immediately executed an anticipatory search warrant on



Dino Gardiakos

Gardiakos' home that a judge approved earlier.

The search of Gardiakos' home turned up \$240,000 worth of drugs, including more than 11

SPYBAR see p. 12

Chicago-area media host joint fundraiser through June 11

Collaboration includes 41 community media, legacy and emerging outlets

Forty-three independent Chicago-area media outlets - including this newspaper - have joined forces to raise funds in a month-long campaign. The for-profit and nonprofit organizations represent a wide cross-section of community media in the city and nearby suburbs.

The public can give at savechicagomedia.org through June 11. The website offers the option to donate one amount to be split evenly among all of the outlets, or donors can select one or more outlets to give a specific amount.

This is the second annual Chicago Independent Media Alliance [CIMA] joint fundraiser.

The 2020 campaign, put together in three weeks, raised more than \$160,000 for 43 members, including \$60,000 in matching funds from local foundations. More than 1,000 individuals donated, with two-thirds opting to support all outlets. One of the positive side effects of the effort was new visibility and amplification of a wide range of media voices.

"There are multiple obstacles facing independent media," said Yazmin Dominguez, CIMA project coordinator. "The impact of COVID-19, decreases in advertising and additional problems have hurt local media. Community media outlets are not getting the

resources they need and are thus facing the real possibility of closure. This includes media serving African American, Latinx, Asian American, immigrant, LGBTQ, and other Chicago communities." The campaign was organized and is coordinated by CIMA, a project launched in 2019 by the Chicago Reader. Our 68 partners in the alliance include traditional print newspapers, independently produced podcasts, dynamic video production studios, and nonprofit newsrooms focusing on key issues that affect the fabric of the city. The campaign hashtag is

FUNDRAISER see p. 12

Loop hotel developers sued ex-attorneys too late for role in alleged corrupt rezoning

BY DAN CHURNEY
Cook County Record

An appeals court has tossed out the window a lawsuit by the would-be developers of a Loop hotel, who alleged their attorneys improperly advised another client how to thwart the project through spot zoning. The appellate justices said the developers waited too long to lodge their malpractice action.

The ruling dashed the effort by developer Brian Scheinblum and his company, Chicago Hotel Partners, to press a \$120 million suit against the Chicago firm of Schain Banks Kenny & Schwartz.

The ruling was penned by Justice Maureen Connors, with con-

currence from Justices Sheldon Harris and Sharon Oden Johnson, of the Illinois First District Appellate Court. The decision was filed under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 23, which may limit its use as precedent.

In 2015, Scheinblum hired the firm to help bring about his plan to install an eight-floor hotel in the 38-story Pittsfield Building, at 55 E. Washington St. By Dec. 2015, income-generating tenants had been removed and demolition began to prepare for renovation.

At the same time, a lawyer with Schain Banks, Anthony Casaccio, started advising Adam D. Lynd, who wanted to buy a stake in the Pittsfield. Casaccio allegedly told Lynd how to stop the hotel

by having the building "downzoned," Scheinblum claimed. Lynd then approached Chicago Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd], donated to Reilly's election campaign, and the City Council ended up rezoning the Pittsfield in March 2016, which stopped the hotel project "dead in its tracks," according to Scheinblum.

Lynd wished the building to be entirely residential, court papers said.

Scheinblum said he dealt primarily with attorneys Marty Schwartz and Tyler Manic at Schain Banks, but retained the entire firm to work on his behalf. He sued the firm in May 2019 in

SUED see p. 12

Mayor did not create Chicago's problems, she just can't resolve them



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Can you feel it? The slow drip, drip, drip of the big melt. The great warm-up against the bone chill wrought by COVID-19?

The methodical rewind of the past 12 months, as the ground begins to drink up the last frozen evidence of the winter's pandemic that stretches back to Spring 2020.

Is it actually dissolving in the stare of history? Can we really uncover our faces, demystifying ourselves once more? Mingling with loved ones, rejecting our embrace of the Stockholm Syndrome and home confinement?

If you have received your two jobs you are ready to venture out for a burger and a martini.

But I've got to take it slow at first, don't want to rush into things. Like crowds. Grocery shopping. You can't isolate for a year and then get dropped into a shoulder-to-shoulder gathering.

I'll need the open spaces for a while. Free to roam or sit some things out. The pandemic has given me some fresh perspective, and not bad in every case. I feel a little sensitive to noise and commotion.

Maintaining a sense of calm is critical. Even though I've done

my share of pub-crawling in the streets of London over the years, I find nothing appealing observing photos of the thirsty crowds jamming streets in Hammer-smith, Piccadilly, Sloane Square. Or Pimlico. I'm not that desperate for warm beer.

I've got 14 months of pondering under my belt, and among the things I'm distraught over is the city. Our city.

I feel badly at the political chaos Chicago finds itself in at the moment. That's what I'm fretting about as pandemic melts. The shabby quality of life and humor in town. The threadbare ideas and camouflaged good intentions exposing our weaknesses and defenses.

I've been charting the seriousness of the times we live in. Chicago hasn't been this vulnerable since the Great Fire of 1871. Back then, post-fire, many folk, business bosses and politicians alike were out of their minds looking at their charred hometown. But Chicago's highly reasoned and inventive men of business knew that fretting would only squander chances of surviving the fire damage.

Crying about conditions was a waste of time and money. They knew they had but one objective: get the bankers of the East to support the rebuilding of the nation's second city. They knew it would thrive.

Taking a chance on the future was the name of the game. Reconnecting telegraph lines and railway lines would first enable Chicago to engage the nation. Start talking again, seeing the critical people. Larger-than-life men of Chicago business would have to connect personally with family and commercial allies back east to fashion a plan of rescue.

Marshall Field, Potter Palmer,



Dr. Jackie Jackson



Candace Jordan, Maria Pappas and Shelley Rosen.



Bob Wallace

Philip Danforth Armour, the McCormicks, the Swifts all needed to lobby America to develop a strategy for survival. The time has come for Chicago to do this again.

Maybe the melting ice of the pandemic is just what we need to call us to action.

Have we had enough of the Chicago Police Dept. being battered and abused by fringe elements of Chicagoans with questionable loyalties and inaccurate versions of the truth?

Have we watched long enough as the Chicago Police are hamstrung by the mayor to pursue law breakers?

Can we slow the retirements and resignations of long-time skilled police veterans who no longer want to serve the current mayor?

Is anyone fed up with the disunity and factionalism in the City Council between the Mayor (President of the Council) and the 50 seated alderman?

Does anyone find the unusually high number of resignations in the city's executive branch a disturbing daily reality?

How long can the President of the County Board (Tony Preckwinckle) and the Mayor wage silent but deadly warfare before it takes its ultimate toll on the city?

Has the Mayor's suspicious nature and mistrustful persona damaged the ability of City Hall management to grow real municipal leaders?

Is Chicago's reputation for urban responsibility finished? Is its welcome in national dialogues for further strength and stability not vanished in the ineptitude of the current mayoral administration?

Have hopes for rebuilding urban unity in Chicago been eclipsed by the stale mayoral response and the dependence on shallow truth?

What's with the news blackouts and the manipulation of facts in the press? They expand the public's worst fears about the true level of violence and crime in Chicago.

Don't they sandbag the Mayor's real agenda for progress and economic stimulation? Has the Mayor's unwillingness to engage in honest dialogue with business leaders, restaurant owners and academic administrators not created a dystopian reality around her that shows little hope for change?

Have we reached our breaking point yet?

There are no easy answers in the lives of the nation's largest cities in 2021. Mayor Lori Lightfoot did not create Chicago's problems. She just can't resolve them. Her biases and life experiences prevent her from rational and intelligent responses that are healthy and wise.

Just look at the record of mayoral performance. The city is looted, abused, infected, unsafe, unhealthy, without harmony, amity or its traditional sense of neighborhood.

Perhaps pandemic has made some Chicagoans brave, revived, or angry. Maybe we can finally take off our face masks. And find out what we're made of. I hope so. "This isn't a tea party at Rosary College," my mother used to say. "It's a fist fight at a hockey game."

NEWSMAKER: Bob Wallace, the long-time CBS Chanel 2 reporter, died at his Lake Forest home last week at 80 from COVID-19. From 1970 to 1991, Chicagoans watched Wallace carry them along on news stories and intriguing "behind the scenes adventures." He was a good sport and will be missed.

DR. JACKSON: Congratulations to **Jacqueline Brown Jackson (Mrs. Jesse Jackson)** who will receive an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the Jacksons' alma mater, North Carolina A&T State Univ. Mrs. Jackson, who has been married to **Rev. Jackson** for 50 years, has been a tireless leader for human and civil

rights. She remains now a brighter light to all who seek peace and understanding in Chicago and around the world.

FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA: Cook County Treasurer **Maria Pappas** and columnist **Candace Jordan** gave away 500 roses on the Mag Mile on Mothers' Day. But check out the floral display that will remain all month in the nearby CTA riders' kiosk. All due to the partnership of French Advertising Company, JCDecaux, and Chicago's own Luxe Bloom founder, **Shelley Rosen**. And wasn't that Pappas asking the only tough questions to a scheming developer at a community meeting in Lincoln Square last week? The meeting was a total put up job, and she wasn't buying it.

JUDICIARY: Supporters across Chicago are happy it's official, attorney **Dan Ballanoff** is running for judge of the Circuit Court. Finally some good news.

IDA HAENDEL: My City Hall days found me fortunate to have many interns to assist researching and confecting projects, especially the Chicago's history of which

PROBLEMS see p. 10

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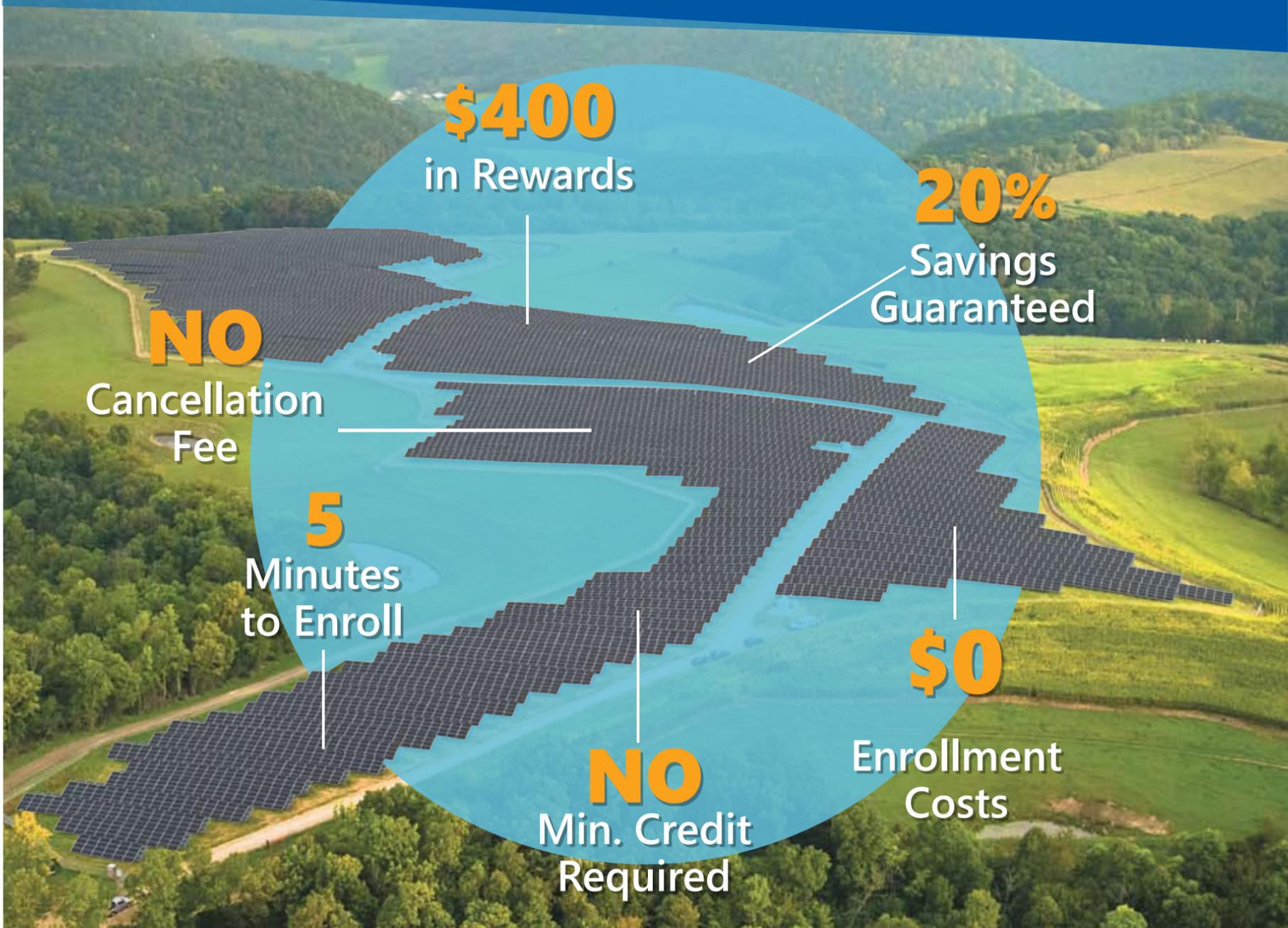
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The Home Front
By Don DeBat

Chicago's spring existing-home market on the city's North Side truly is the wackiest housing observers have seen in decades.

"It's a strong seller's market on the North Side with multiple offers the rule, but buyers should be careful not to overpay because of the low-inventory bubble," advised John Irwin, broker with Baird & Warner.

"On the Near North Side, home sales and units under contract have rebounded nicely, however inventory levels are still growing at alarming rates—up 44.1% in April in the Loop, Streeterville, Gold Coast and River North," noted Irwin, author of the May 2021 Market Analysis for Chicago's North Side.

Apparently, Near North home and condominium sellers are still worried about last year's looting and civil unrest downtown, and the negative impact of the COVID-19 virus on high-rise living.

On the positive side, overall existing home and condo inventory was up 19.2% in April on the entire North Side.

However, prospective buyers seeking a residence in Lincoln Park and North Center will have to shop hard. The inventory level in Lincoln Park declined 7.2% in April, and it plummeted 22.8% in North Center.

The Baird & Warner analysis posted the following median price points in April:

- Near North Side. The median price was \$435,000, up 4.8% from April of 2020.
- Lincoln Park. The median price spiked 10% in April to \$577,750, compared with a year ago.
- Lake View. The median price fell 1.3% to \$440,500 from April of 2020.
- North Center. The median price was \$5,000, up 3.9% from the same month a year ago.

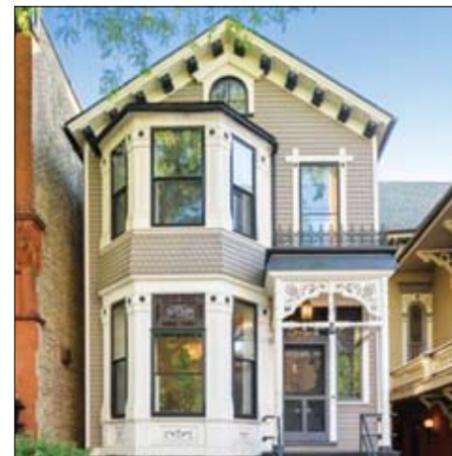
Mortgage rates fall again

Affordable home-loan rates in recent weeks also buoyed the market. Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported on May 13 that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans nationwide slipped to 2.94%, down from 2.96% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-loan average was 3.28%.

Fifteen-year fixed mortgages averaged 2.26%, down from 2.30% a week earlier. A year ago, the 15-year fixed loan average was 2.72%.

The Freddie Mac survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully amortizing home purchase loans for borrowers who put 20% down and have excellent credit.

In Chicago on May 13, Rate Rabbit



The median price for a home in Lincoln Park spiked 10% in April to \$577,750, compared with a year ago.

Home Loans was quoting 2.849% on a 30-year fixed mortgage with a down payment of 20% and a loan fee of \$1,900, reported Rate Seeker.com.

Gateway Capital Mortgage was quoting 2.877% on 30-year loans and 2.125% on 15-year loans with a 5% down payment. The loan fee was \$595.

"Since the most recent peak in April, mortgage rates have declined nearly a quarter of one percentage point and have remained under 3% for the past month," noted Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist.

"Low rates offer homeowners an opportunity to lower their monthly payment by refinancing and our most recent research shows that many borrowers, especially Black and Hispanic borrowers, who could benefit from refinancing still aren't pursuing the option."

While the low mortgage-rate environment has been a boon to the housing market, Khater predicted it may not last long.

"Consumer inflation recently has accelerated at its fastest pace in more than 12 years and may lead to higher mortgage rates in the summer," Khater warned.

Grants for roof and porch repairs

Is your roof or porch in need of repair? You may qualify to receive a grant from the City of Chicago to fix it. Income-eligible Chicago property owners can apply for the City's Roof and Porch Repair Program and be entered in a lottery to receive one-time service on their home.

Applications will be accepted on one day only, tomorrow – Thursday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Those who would like to take advantage of this program may visit www.chicago.gov/roofandporch or call 311 to be placed on the list. Applicants will be selected via lottery.

Households earning 80% or below the area median income may be eligible to participate in the program.

A random lottery drawing will take place for registered participants in July, and those selected will be formally notified by mail. For more information call 312-744-3653.

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





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The Illinois Rental Payment Program (ILRPP) can provide up to \$25,000 in emergency rental assistance.



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- Eligible households may receive up to 15 months of assistance from June 2020 through August 2021.
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- The grant is paid directly to housing provider.
- For program information, visit IHDA.org.
- Housing providers and tenants can submit a joint application starting on May 17th at ILRPP.IHDA.org

For questions, application assistance or even a blank paper application, please call, email or visit Northside Community Development Corporation.

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Letters to the Editor

Get out of our students' hair

The “debate” about and policing of black and natural hair in schools began long before March, 2021. This is when four-year-old Jett Hawkins’ mother received a call from Providence St. Mel saying her son’s braids violated a school dress code that also bans dreadlocks and other natural hairstyles. We’ve seen the oppression of black hair all across the country.

In 2017, Black students at a charter school outside Boston were given detention and suspensions – and even removed from sports teams – for wearing braids.

In 2016 Kentucky High Schools also had a Natural Hair Ban which explicitly stated that no “hairstyle that is extreme, distracting, or at-

ention-getting will be permitted. No dreadlocks, cornrows, twists, mohawks, and no jewelry will be worn in hair.”

The policing of students’ hair is unacceptable. At our schools, we prioritize the student, foster a welcoming learning environment, value their experience, and celebrate them and their hair. This is why we are proud to support SB817, written by Sen. Mike Simmons, which bans discrimination in schools against hairstyles traditionally associated with race and ethnicity.

Our schools serve children from all over the world, speaking more than three dozen languages. We want them to live and breathe their story and culture - to know what it means to live in the land

of the free.

At our schools, we know that hair is a birthright and a part of the body, just like a fingernail. If students can paint and cut their nails, they should be able to wear their hair in whatever style, color, or length they choose.

As principals, we believe that all students should feel they belong and can thrive in the classroom as they are. The time for debate is up. It’s time for action. It’s time to pass SB 817.

Mary Beck - Senn High School Principal

Chad Thomas - Sullivan High School

Jennifer Sutton - Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center

TCB keeps changing their tune

No, Elon Musk is not starting an IPO. Neither is a Chicago sports GM sabotaging his team’s chances. And Ald. Matt Martin is not taking the money.

When an alderman of Chicago does something fatheaded, that is usually the only reason. So many alderman have gone to jail for taking money, it is a running gag. Based on the crime stat number, it can be argued that per capita, City Council may be the most corrupt institution in Chicago.

But every time the topic of saving the Lincoln Square park-

ing lot arises, that phrase comes up: “Why would the alderman do something so dumb? He’s not taking money, is he?”

Well, we hope not. But there sure is a lot of taxpayer money in the balance aimed at only one out-of-state developer.

With two huge recently closed bank buildings near Lawrence and Western, why not put the housing there?

Two reasons come to mind:

One, those property owners will not give away their properties for free to The Community Builders

[TCB]. Only a politician would be that foolish with assets.

Second, it appears the alderman hates Lincoln Square and its founders. He hates the Germans. Hates the Greeks. Hates the Serbians, Bulgarians and Romanians. He hates the Danes, Swiss and Luxembourgers.

He wants to erase all evidence of the European culture that built the neighborhood. And to achieve that end he’s willing to put at risk all the small independent businesses and cultural institutions that made Lincoln Square what it is today.

Imagine if it was the Puerto Rican Day or Bud Billiken parades he was threatening instead of the German-American Festival? He would have never attempted such a brazen thing.

The developer will not replace all the parking spots. They never do. Considering all the secrecy that’s been the one constant of this crooked deal, who would trust them? That is the history of Chicago’s City Council. Promise the stars; Deliver dirt. And in 15 years they’re outta here with millions in profits.

Ald. Martin wants to give the parking lot away for \$1, along with millions of dollars of subsidies, tax credits and management fees every year to his friends. And he is not going to let small business owners stand in his way. That is why his hand-picked, out-of-town developer, TCB, keeps changing their tune. First it was for the poor. Then it was for diversity, density, low-income, now it is for artists. Offer something for everyone to get what you want.

Is this alderman following the great Chicago tradition of Tom Keane, Ed Burke and Rod Blagojevich? Dan Rostenkowski, Bruce Farley, Marty Tuchow, and Eddie Rosewell?

Jean Baptiste Point du Sable was Chicago’s first non-Native American settler. He was cheated out of his land by the second non-Native American settler. And he was cheated by the third. Are we going to let a recent arrival from Arizona and his Boston-based developers cheat us and destroy Lincoln Square?

Michael Sullivan



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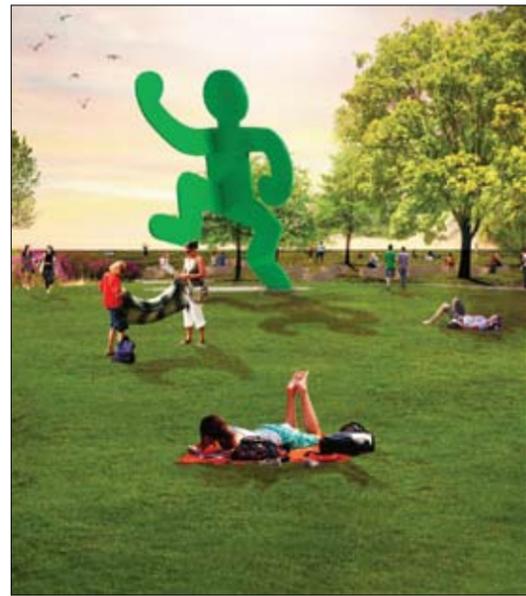
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(Left and center) Chicagoans love their parks! Come help clean up starting June 1. Register now. (Right) Sculpture view from Celebration Lawn of AIDS Garden. Sculpture Credit: Keith Haring Foundation. Photos by Chicago Parks Foundation

Clean up time in the city's parks



Heart of the 'Hood
by Felicia Dechter

Willa Iglitzen Lang is on a mission. As executive director of the Chicago Parks Foundation [CPF], she wants to make sure our parks are beautified and spiffy for throngs of summertime visitors.

That's why the nonprofit CPF has launched the second season of its citywide volunteer effort, Pitch In for the Parks! The family-friendly event kicks off June 1 and will help keep the city's 600-plus public parks clean.

"The Chicago Park District [CPD] is incredibly busy trying to keep the parks clean," said Lang, a River North resident. "Tax dollars just can't do everything that we ask the parks to do for us.

"People want a good way to take ownership and improve their neighborhood," added Lang. "We show them how. With Pitch In, we give them all the tools to make it happen."

CPF launched in 2013 as the nonprofit partner of the CPD. The foundation was founded because the CPD was strapped for funds and couldn't hire seasonal workers to keep the parks clean, said Lang.

"We felt that every great city should have partner parks," said Lang. "We were established as a public/private partnership with the CPD for fundraising and trying to raise money for the parks. We didn't want a handout, but wanted to come in and provide services to the community."

The organization brings community ideas to action, raising funds and awareness for park projects all across our city. It also serves as a fiscal partner to 70-plus local Park Advisory Councils.

One of its other projects is the AIDS Garden being built at the Belmont Rocks, where ground will be broken June 1 and 2 with a scheduled Fall completion. Already up is the Keith Haring Foundation's 30' tall sculpture in the park, and soon to come is the Gingko Grove of Reflection walking path and a Unity Garden tended by community gardeners, Lang said.

"It was created so no one will ever forget," said Lang. "It's an example of who we are. We're fundraisers but we also take on legacy projects."

Pitch In for the Parks!, was created last year in response to COVID-19. It is open to anyone who wants to host a clean-up group or join an existing event from the interactive map on the CPF website. Community groups, corporate teams and individual vol-



(L) Willa Iglitzen Lang, executive director of Chicago Parks Foundation. (R) Gingko Grove view from Unity Garden in the AIDS Garden.



Photo and image by Chicago Parks Foundation

unteers can participate in adopting a park with others in their neighborhood. CPF is providing masks, gloves, garbage bags, all put in a bucket, Lang said. All ages are welcome, she said.

The parks are already great, but CPF

"It has been a hard year and people need something to do," said Willa Iglitzen Lang. "It's positive and it's immediate gratification in a time when we've had so little control over our lives."

wants to help the community connect with them, said Lang. "Every park has a different community and different needs," she said. "But one thing every park could use is extra hands in keeping them clean."

Registration is now open on an ongoing enrollment basis but needed as soon as possible so supplies can be gauged. Park clean-ups start June 1 and last through October. Volunteers can sign up at chicagoparksfoundation.org/volunteer, which includes an interactive map and a list of Chicago parks.

"It has been a hard year and people need something to do," said Lang. "It's positive and it's immediate gratification in a time when we've had so little control over our lives."

The clean-up idea was the brainchild of former park district president Bryan Traubert, a Lakeview resident and former National Park Foundation chairman who currently sits on the CPF board. (He also, according to social media, is married to Penny Pritzker).

Last year's inaugural initiative brought in 2,000 volunteers for 350 park clean-ups.

This year, so far 90 volunteer groups have signed up for the season—many of which are participating in reoccurring sessions—adding up to a total of 300-plus clean-up events citywide. Some unique organizations are on board to help including the Chicago Mustang Club, the British School and Chicago Cares. "So it really

runs the gamut," said Lang.

CPF expects the count to keep growing as the park advisory councils, local businesses and community organizations continue to step up and adopt parks this month and beyond.

This year is different, said Lang, in that last year people signed up for a one time only clean up. But now, some are committing to a specific park for an entire season, she said.

"Everybody can do a little something," said Lang. "Maybe you can't donate but feel like doing something. Parks improve our quality of life. The Chicago Parks Foundation's goal is to encourage park lovers and users to become park givers and stewards."

Lang mentioned that many park district employees are working in areas that they're specifically trained for. For example, perhaps they're an employee working with children and they need to be fingerprinted. A lot of thought goes into things we don't even think about within the park district I

guess.

Pitch In, is a way to get some fresh air and hopefully sunshine, enjoy your park, lead by example, and maybe even get a little peace. Our green spaces are enjoyed by so many and this past year especially, we have experienced the value and impact the parks have on our lives, said Lang.

The initiative brings people together during a time when we've been so isolated, Lang said. It's an opportunity to come together and make our parks better. And Lang really appreciated us spreading the word, she said.

So please, head on down to your local park and lend a helping hand.

"You are welcome, we need you, and this is something you can do today," said Lang.



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Police Beat...

Catalytic converter thieves targeting Prius and pick-ups on Far North Side, cops say

The community alert about catalytic converter thieves from Chicago police follows recent similar alerts for Lakeview and the Northwest Side, Lincoln Park and Old Town.

Thieves were seen sawing parts off cars in Lincoln Park again around 6 a.m. May 11. A witness said two men were under a white convertible with a saw on the 2400 block of N. Cannon around 6 a.m. No arrests were made. Just 10 days ago, we reported on a thief sawing a catalytic converter off a car on Broadway near Belmont as the sun rose. Other thefts were reported nearby the same morning.

According to the new alert from Area Three detectives, police said a theft crew is targeting Toyota Prius and pick-up trucks during overnight hours in Rogers Park, Edgewater, and West Ridge. In one case, a witness saw four men working together to steal the valuable car parts while driving in a Jeep and a sedan, the alert said.

An automotive website reported earlier this year that Toyota Prius is "particularly attractive" to thieves because the cars run cleaner than most vehicles, so the precious metals in their converters are less depleted than standard cars. Pick-up trucks and SUVs have long been popular targets because they are easier for thieves to crawl under.

Police publicly linked six thefts during April to the crew, but more cases are likely involved. CPD said they struck in Edgewater on the 5200 block of N. Kenmore between April 6 and 8 and the 1100 block of W. Balmoral around 5:30 a.m. April 28.

In Rogers Park, thefts occurred in the 7500 block of N. Kenmore at 11:30 p.m. on April 9; the 1600 block of W. Wallen between April 12 and 17; and the 7500 block of N. Western around 6 a.m. on April 30.

One case occurred in West Ridge on the 7400 block of N. Washtenaw between April 7 and April 9, according to the alert.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding community alert P21-3-062.

Ravenswood man fatally shot in Rogers Park

Christian Schroeder of Ravenswood was fatally shot May 11 while sitting in a parked car in West Rogers Park.

The 29-year-old victim was sitting in the passenger seat of a vehicle parked on the 6000 block of N. California when someone walked up and fired on him at about 6:50 p.m. said Chicago police.

Schroeder was struck in the neck

and taken to Saint Francis Hospital in Evanston, where he was later pronounced dead.

No one was in custody, police said.

No arrest made after man inappropriately touches women at North-Clybourn CTA station



Two women reported being sexually abused by the same man at a North Side CTA station within an hour on May 10, but neither woman filed a police report, and the man has not been detained.

This writer witnessed one of the assaults as it unfolded on a staircase to the northbound platform at North-Clybourn around 12:52 p.m. As he approached the top of the stairs, a woman began screaming for help from below.

Within a split-second, a man emerged from the staircase, walked swiftly past him, and headed to the southbound platform. The woman, who was standing halfway down the stairs with her property strewn on the steps, yelled, "He touched me!"

As she headed up to the CTA employee booth at street level, our writer went to the southbound platform to take pictures of the offender — who appears to have a mental health condition — so responding officers could quickly share a description via radio.

But the police were never called.

"I have some pix for the police," the writer told the victim and a CTA worker.

"She don't want the police," the transit employee said as the victim cried and nursed an injured finger.

Officers were never called — at least not until the man inappropriately touched another woman on the southbound platform about 45 minutes later.

CPD spokesperson Karie James confirmed that officers were called to the North-Clybourn station at 1:38 p.m. after receiving reports of a "male walking around [the] CTA platform touching females inappropriately." According to dispatch records, a description of the offender matched the man's appearance in the first incident.

Police responded, but they didn't find the man and the call was "coded out" without a report, James said.

A law enforcement source said the man is known to police and has been linked to similar incidents, but many victims don't stick around to file reports. When reports have been filed, police have been unable to locate him.

3-year sentence for Loop mugging of 76-year-old

A suburban man has pleaded guilty to knocking a 76-year-old man to the ground and robbing him at a Loop ATM in Oct. 2019 in exchange for a three-year prison sentence. With credit for time served before pleading and a 50% sentence reduction for good behavior, Michael Zuffa walked out of Stateville Correctional Center on the same day he arrived, records show.

Around 12:30 p.m. Oct. 14, 2019, the senior citizen was withdrawing money from an outdoor ATM at 70 W. Randolph when Zuffa forced his hand away from the machine, knocked him to the ground, and robbed him of \$300 cash, prosecutors said.



Michael Zuffa

But a good Samaritan saw the whole thing and followed Zuffa. The witness told police he saw Zuffa shed a green sweatshirt and board a CTA bus a few blocks away. Cops caught up with the bus, arrested Zuffa, and recovered \$280 in \$20 bills from him, according to a CPD report.

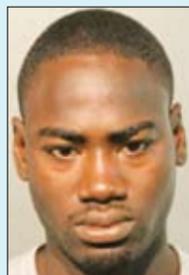
The victim, who lives in Lincoln Park, could not identify Zuffa, but the witness did that for him, prosecutors said. Cops also recovered a green sweatshirt from the bus stop on Madison St. Police gave the \$280 cash that Zuffa was carrying to the alleged robbery victim.

Zuffa pleaded guilty to one count of robbery in exchange for a three-year sentence. According to Illinois Dept. of Corrections records, he arrived at Stateville on April 19 and walked out later the same day. He'll be on parole until April 19, 2023.

Burglar busted while lounging on victim's couch with wallets, property

On May 7 police arrested a burglar as he took time out to lounge on the victim's sofa in Wrigleyville, prosecutors say. It's at least the third time the accused man, Jeff Sarfo, has been charged with committing felonies in Wrigleyville.

He went to prison for robbing a victim at the Addison Red Line CTA station in 2012. And here received another three-year sentence for robbing a couple outside their Wrigleyville home in 2017, although he was only in an actual prison for three days in that case.



Jeff Sarfo

Around 10:45 p.m. May 7, a Wrigleyville resident saw a man climb the stairs of a porch and try to open a third-floor apartment door on the 3700 block of N. Fremont. When it didn't open, the man climbed down and entered a second-floor unit through its unlocked back door. The witness called 911.

Police arrived quickly and found Sarfo, 26, sitting on a couch inside the second-floor unit, prosecutors said. He allegedly had two wallets belonging to the apartment's owner in his pocket and other property from the residence in a bag.

The alleged victim told police he doesn't know Sarfo and never gave him permission to be in his apartment, prosecutors said. Sarfo is charged with two counts of burglary.

Judge Mary Marubio, noting that the burglaries allegedly took place when Sarfo knew people might be home, ordered him held in lieu of \$50,000 bail. He'll need to post \$5,000 and go onto electronic monitoring to get out of jail before trial.

Sarfo has been sentenced to prison four times, according to state records: the 2012 Addison Red Line robbery, a 2012 gun conviction, a 2015 aggravated fleeing case, and a 2017 robbery of a Wrigleyville couple.

Around 5:10 a.m. on Sept. 10, 2017, Sarfo approached a Lakeview couple outside of their home in the 1200 block of W. Waveland, pulled out a handgun, and took their valuables, prosecutors alleged at the time. He eventually received a three-year sentence in the case. After receiving credit for time served awaiting trial and a 50% sentence reduction for good behavior, Sarfo left prison three days after he arrived.

While on bail in the robbery case, Sarfo was accused of having a gun at his feet during a traffic stop and then dropping bullets in the back seat of the arresting officers' patrol car.

Because of his background, Sarfo

faces enhanced Class X felony sentencing in the new burglary case, prosecutors said during his bond court hearing. If he's convicted, he faces a sentence of six- to 30-years.

Shots fired on Loop CTA platform



Police are investigating after someone fired a gun during a fight on the Jackson Blue Line station mezzanine on May 11. No one was shot, but police did find a shell casing at the scene.

Detectives released images of two men that police said are wanted in connection with the incident, which reportedly began as a fight near the station escalators around 2:17 p.m. At some point during the fight, one of the men fired a gun.

One of the photos released by police shows the men fighting on the station's platform, too. Police searched the train tunnel for one of the suspects but came up empty-handed. Exactly where the other man went is not clear.

Cops who reviewed CTA surveillance video told other officers that the man wearing a gray hoodie and ripped jeans in the photos appeared to leave the area with the other man's shoes and backpack.

Anyone who recognizes the men can contact CPD investigators at 312-745-4443. The case number is JE-226793.

Edgewater man planted fake pipe bomb near Bryn Mawr Red Line

An Edgewater man created a fake pipe bomb from a cardboard tube and plastic caps, then placed it near the Bryn Mawr Red Line CTA station last weekend, causing a massive police response and disruptions to CTA train and bus service, prosecutors said Sunday.



James Clark

Assistant State's Attorney Meredith Rudolphi said.

James Clark, 57, is charged with felony false threat of terrorism. Judge Susana Ortiz ordered him held in lieu of \$50,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a \$5,000 deposit bond. Ortiz also told Clark not to possess explosives or materials that could be used to create bombs.

Shortly before 11 a.m. on May 8, a witness flagged down police and directed them to a suspicious object near a bus stop next to the Bryn Mawr station, 1120 W. Bryn Mawr, Rudolphi said. The object, a cylinder wrapped in duct tape with plastic caps on both ends and a wick sticking out of one side, was later determined to be fake — but not before police sealed off the area and CTA passengers were rerouted while a bomb squad investigated.

Three offenders beat, carjack man in Uptown

A 59-year-old suburban man was beaten on an Uptown street May 15 by three hijackers who drove away with his car, police said. No arrests have been made.

The offenders attacked the man near his car in the 600 block of W. Buena around 1:30 p.m., Officer Anthony Spicuzza said. They took his keys and

drove away with his gold 2004 Toyota Avalon, which was last seen westbound on Buena. Paramedics took the victim to Weiss Memorial Hospital for treatment. He was initially reported in good condition, Spicuzza said.

According to a CPD report, the carjacks are three Black males between 16- and 20-years-old. One wore a white shirt or coat with black pants, white shoes, and a green COVID mask. The second suspect, who was shorter, wore a black jacket, black pants, and black shoes. And the third offender is described as tall and skinny with dreadlocks. According to the report, he wore a black jacket, black pants, and a white COVID mask.

At least two other carjackings have been reported on the North and Far North Sides in the past three days.

Armed hijackers took a woman's car in Lakeview May 12, then managed to slip away from police after ditching the car on the city's West Side less than an hour later.

In that case, two men displayed a handgun and demanded the woman's valuables and her car as she stepped out of the 2014 Audi Q5 around 7:30 p.m. on the 3800 block of N. Pine Grove, police said. Some people who saw the incident said accomplices might have followed the offenders in a white Volkswagen.

Then, around 11 p.m. May 13, a 28-year-old man was parking near Arthur and Greenview in Rogers Park when a gunman walked up and demanded his keys at gunpoint, according to police. Police said the victim complied with the hijacker's demands, and the offender drove away with his silver 2015 Honda CX-5. It was last seen heading westbound on Arthur Ave.

Uptown teen shot

A 17-year-old boy is in good condition after being shot in Uptown May 15, police said. The victim told police he was in an alley near the 4500 block of N. Broadway around 11 a.m. when he heard gunfire and realized he had been shot, according to a CPD report and police media statement.

The teen arrived at Thorek Hospital about an hour later to be treated for a gunshot wound to his left thumb, the police report said.

Police did not receive any calls of shots fired in the area around the time of the shooting. Officers searched the area and were seen examining a possible crime scene in the 4400 block of N. Clifton on Saturday afternoon. Area Three detectives are investigating.

He is the third person shot in Uptown this year. On April 27, a 40-year-old man was shot in the arm behind the Uptown Theater. Then, around noon on May 1, a 28-year-old man was shot near Argyle and Kenmore. No charges have been filed in either case.

Shots fired on Thorndale

On May 14, near Thorndale and Broadway, individuals in a car fired a series of shots into the Broadway Armory parking lot, 5917 N. Broadway. At the time of the incident, there were individuals in the armory parking lot who returned fire at the car driving on Thorndale. No one was injured, although several cars were damaged. Police continue to review video footage from the area and interview witnesses. One of the cars involved may have also been involved in another shooting incident later that night in Rogers Park.

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Robbery, burglary investigations sit idle again as CPD puts detectives on “street corner duty”

BY CWBCHICAGO

Detectives made little progress over the weekend in their investigation of a woman who was beaten with a pipe and robbed while walking in Lakeview May 14. That’s because the detectives who should be investigating the attack were in uniform, sitting in a squad car on a street corner to increase police visibility in Lawndale, according to a CPD source.

Most other robbery and burglary detectives from CPD’s five area divisions were also ordered to hang out on street corners rather than investigate crimes from Friday through Sunday.

“Their burglary and robbery cases aren’t being investigated thoroughly because they are posted up on some corner for the entire shift,” an officer told this reporter. It was the second weekend in a row that police leaders ordered legions of detectives to spend weekend shifts sitting in cars rather than investigating crimes. The first instance occurred on May 7.

The union that represents Chi-

cago’s rank-and-file police officers is urging detectives to protect themselves from accusations of non-productivity by filing memos every time they are taken away from investigations to camp out in a car under the new tactic.

“Aspects of this investigation have been delayed due to the involuntary assignment,” a sample memo from the union reads. Among the duties the draft document says will be affected by reassignment are “residential canvasses, video canvasses, interviews, follow-up calls, evidence identification, evidence preservation, evidence submissions, policy review, report writing, [and] warrant writing.”

In fact we’ve learned leaders of the Lakeview-based Town Hall District on Friday night sent patrol officers to search the neighborhood near the pipe attack for evidence because there were no detectives to do it.

Last week, we shared many of the questions our readers raised about the tactic with CPD leadership. After three phone calls over five days, the department on Fri-

day declined to answer the questions:

- The department has already reassigned over 1,000 patrol officers from districts to citywide anti-violence units. Why can’t they sit on street corners instead of taking detectives away from investigations?
- How many of the city’s detectives are assigned to sit on street corners?
- What is the purpose of this tactic?
- What, exactly, do the detectives do when they are assigned to street corner duty?
- How will using detectives in this fashion affect their case clearance rate and prosecution of offenders?

Now, CPD leaders haven’t gone completely bonkers. Detectives who handle homicides are not required to participate in street corner duty. But that doesn’t mean murder investigations aren’t being affected. You see, when street cops make an arrest that requires a detective’s involvement on weekends, a homicide detective has to handle it because the investigators who’d usually do the job

are sitting in a car somewhere, according to multiple sources.

So, how is the strategy of having detectives babysit street corners going?

According to crime stats maintained independently at HeyJack-ass.com, there were 32 people shot, six fatally, when the plan debuted on Mother’s Day weekend. That’s more shooting victims than the same weekend in any year going back to 2014, the first year that HJ began compiling records. This weekend’s totals are 52 shot, seven fatally. Once again, that’s the most for the same weekend since HJ records began in 2014.

Meanwhile, cops across the city are getting ready for long hours and limited time off as summer arrives. Starting Friday, officers will work 12-hour shifts through June 1. They’ll be given one day

off during the 12-day stretch.

On another topic, the president of the union that represents CPD’s sergeants last week said that he never received a response to an April 30 letter he sent to Mayor Lori Lightfoot and CPD Supt. David Brown warning that the department is operating with an “unprecedented shortage of the supervisory ranks,” especially sergeants.

CPD hasn’t promoted any officers to sergeant in over a year, Chicago Police Sergeant’s Association President James Calvino told Lightfoot and Brown in the letter. District sergeants are often supervising more than 20 cops at a time on the street, Calvino said. The federal consent decree that CPD is working to comply with requires a ratio of 10-to-1, according to Calvino.

Eight displaced by suspicious Lincoln Park fire that followed argument, gun arrest

Eight people and two dogs were displaced by a suspicious house fire in Lincoln Park May 14. Investigators are trying to determine if the blaze was intentionally set and, if it was, if the fire is connected to an earlier incident at the same address.

Officers initially responded to the 2400 block of N. Clybourn around 12:40 a.m. after a 30-year-old man reported that an acquaintance put a gun to his head during an argument inside an apartment, CPD spokesperson Sally Bown said. Police arrested a 29-year-old man at the scene.

Then, at 2:51 a.m., a fire broke out at the same address. No injuries were reported, but the damage forced six adults, two children, and two animals from their homes, Bown said. The Red Cross was helping the victims find new housing.

CFD’s Office of Fire Investigation, which believes the blaze started on the rear porch of an apartment building then spread to a neighboring structure, asked CPD’s Bomb and Arson Unit to take over the case, she said. Officially, the cause of the fire remains undetermined.

CPD warn of knock-out scams as locals return to bars, clubs

BY CWBCHICAGO

Bars and restaurants across the North Side may soon be free from COVID operating restrictions with bigger crowds and last call stretching into the early morning hours. And the scammers, thieves, and other criminals who thrive on the city’s nightlife scene will be back, too.

In preparation for that, Chicago police and a major consumer protection group are preparing to launch a campaign to warn bar-goers about organized thieves who drug people in nightlife hotspots and then take their money, jewelry, and other valuables.

Last October Cook County prosecutors accused two Milwaukee women of stealing over \$85,000 and stealing identities of at least 10 men after meeting the alleged victims in downtown bars and drugging them.

Then again in March another woman, also from Milwaukee, was charged with doing the same thing to men she met at bars in River North, Old Town, the Rivers Casino, and elsewhere. Investigators say she has links to the first two women.

And just a couple of weeks ago, Florida prosecutors charged a woman with running an identical enterprise that targeted men at bars across Miami-Dade County. According to a source, the women charged in Chicago frequented South Florida.

While each crime’s specifics vary, the women charged in Chicago typically offered each victim alcohol laced with a knock-out drug that rendered the men unconscious almost immediately,

according to a Cook County prosecutor.

CPD surveillance cameras allegedly recorded footage of the first two women literally carrying an unconscious nightclub employee from a River North bar to their car, where they proceeded to remove his valuables. Chicago police and deputy marshals, who had the women under surveillance for days, arrested them at the scene.

“I was at a bar in the Gold Coast, and I ordered a drink from the bar. It was my first drink of the night, and the next thing I know, I was standing inside a gas station in River North at 10 a.m. the next morning,” one victim wrote.

After the women were taken into custody, police found “many small vials of alcohol opened and filled to the top” in their car, prosecutors said. Investigators found traces of an antipsychotic on the rims of some bottles, according to court records.

Some of their victims regained consciousness while lying on the side of roads. Others awakened inside their own homes, while one was found at the Lake Forest oasis off Interstate 94, prosecutors said. After we wrote about the scams in October, more than a half-dozen men wrote in to say the women also targeted them.

“I was at a bar in the Gold Coast, and I ordered a drink from the bar. It was my first drink of the night, and the next thing I know, I was standing inside a gas station in River North at 10 a.m. the next morning,” one of them wrote.

This man said he also had his phone, cash, watch, credit and

debit cards taken. His shirt was gone, too.

“I looked in my bank account and credit card account, and they drained them.”

In October, the third woman was accused of meeting a man at a bar at Rivers Casino and then rendezvousing with him at his Lincoln Park home.

The alleged victim told police he doesn’t know what happened after he walked Davisha Traylor into his home because he thinks some kind of drug knocked him out. When he woke up, his iPhone and credit cards were missing, and someone had been using his Uber account to ride around.

Surveillance video shows Traylor entering the man’s home, prosecutors said, and no one else went inside between the time he arrived and the time he noticed his things missing.

Police also found surveillance video of Traylor racking up \$1,661 in charges on the man’s credit cards at a Milwaukee-area Walmart and other stores, prosecutors said. The alleged victim identified her in a photo line-up.

At the time of the Rivers Casino incident, Traylor was on bond for another set of identity theft cases that involved men she allegedly met at bars in River North, Old Town, and elsewhere in 2018 and 2020.

She had been jailed awaiting trial until COVID struck. That’s when a judge let her out, fearing she might catch the disease inside Cook County jail. But COVID fears didn’t keep her from bellying up to a casino bar and robbing strangers in their homes, according to prosecutors.

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Authors share stories about mental illness in families May 27

Historically, open discussions of mental illness have been difficult, often taboo. Brave and honest storytelling attempts to break those barriers so that we might learn how lives are affected by diseases of the mind.

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Friends of the Edgewater Library and the Edgewater Branch are offering a program that reflects this year's theme of "You Are Not Alone." The discussion will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27.



Florence Reiss Kraut

In the program, "Out of the Darkness: Stories About Mental Health in Families," two authors will shed light on this topic through their writings -- one in fiction, one through memoir. Florence Reiss Kraut, author of "How to Make a Life" (historical fiction), and Marlena Maduro Baraf, author of "At the Narrow Waist of the World," share their stories about how mental illness affects family relationships.



Marlena Maduro Baraf

"How to Make a Life" is a sweeping saga that follows four generations of a family who must learn to accept each other's differences — or risk cutting ties with the very people who anchor their place in the world.

"At the Narrow Waist of the World: a memoir" is a mother-daughter story about mental illness and healing. It's a story about forgiveness and acceptance and about leaving home, looking back, and finding it again.

To register for this free program on the Zoom platform, visit foelchicago.org or chipublib.org. Both books discussed in the program are available at the library.

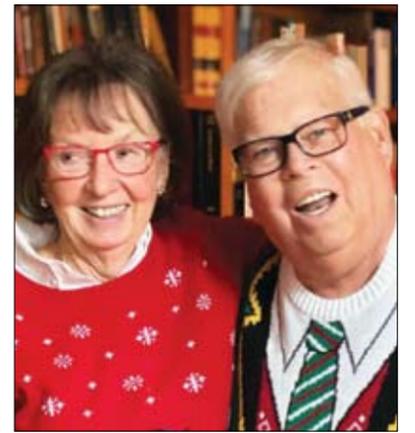
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Iris Apfel



Kimberly Gleeson, Rhonda J Liesenfelt, Sherrill Bodine, Myra Reilly, Bobbi Panter, Duc Ho and David Nguyen.



Vi and Vince Daley.

PROBLEMS from p. 2

we wrote so much. Ours was a think tank office on the building's mezzanine level. "3M" I used to joke and say it was like the English Dept. at Wellesley.

But I did insist my interns learn not only about writing and history, but also of politics and some dynamics about art. No one helped that happen more than the world's most treasured violinist. A Polish prodigy born in 1928 in Chlem. Jewish. Brilliant like Mozart. A star by four years of age. The great **Ida Haendel**. I hope you know of her. I made sure that my interns listened frequently to Haendel's breathtaking violin performances. None finer than her recording of **Fritz Kreisler's** Praeludium and Allegro, assisted on the piano by **Vladimir Ashkenazey**. Fills my eyes with tears, still.



Ida Haendel

A large portion of her post-World War II life was in Miami, loving the sun. I learned recently that she died last July. Eclipsed by COVID's pandemic. Certainly not mourned properly. So I have been playing her works on YouTube of late, especially the Praeludium. She lifts me out of my chair. What a character she was. Look her up. What an artist. An enormous legacy accompanies her long life of violin works, including the divine **David Garrett**.

MORE MONEY: Last week **Maria Pappas'** office returned \$2.7 million to homeowners who called the "Black and Latino Houses Matter" live phone bank she

hosted with ABC 7 Chicago. In March she and ABC7 Chicago returned \$12.5 million to homeowners, raising the total amount to nearly \$15.2 million. Staff from the Treasurer's Office, fluent in Spanish, Polish, Chinese and English helped homeowners find refunds, apply for property tax exemptions and avoid the annual Tax Sale of delinquent taxes. All houses matter, but she launched the 'Black and Latino Houses Matter' initiative because the Tax Sale disproportionately impacts people of color in the county. "Over 75% of all properties are located in Black and Latino communities," says **Samantha Chatman**, consumer investigative reporter with ABC 7's I-Team.

BASQUIAT: A painting of a skull by American artist **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, "In This Case" (1983), sold for \$93.1 million at Christie's in New York on May 11. It's the artist's second-most expensive work to sell at auction.

COUNTRY DAY NEWS: **Bill and Kathy Bell Bartholomey** delivering needed supplies to the food pantry at North Shore Country Day School.

WHO'S WHERE: Our friend, **Iris Apfel**, New York's most evocative socialite known for her fashion sense and true NYC character, as well as stunning eyewear, is getting set to turn 100. This I don't want to miss... congrats to **Duffy Bowman**, a descendant of Chicago's great literary **Bowmans**, getting set to enroll in the writer's program at the Univ. of Iowa. The apple doesn't fall far... Happy 54th wedding anniversary to a swell couple, former 43rd Ward Alderman **Vi Daley** and her husband, **Vince Daley**, they spread the love ...Chicago Art Community mourns the passing of the innovative Chicago artist, **Karl Wirsum**, 1939-2021... A Happy Orthodox Easter family get-together for **Kristine Farra**, **Leah Farro**, **Jad Farro** and grandma **Jacqueline Tebcherany**, everyone looking so chic... **Mark Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** munching giant burgers at Kuma's Corner... **B.J. Murray** reminds us that May is Lyme Disease awareness month... Happy Birthday to sweet **Karen Larkin Johnson**, hope there was a Grand Beach bash... **Ken and Dana Librot Doolley** are tres excited for son, **Nathan**, who has committed to the Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, and the Men's Rowing Team... **Paula Fogarty**, in historic Savannah, GA, with the famed American designer **Carlton Varney** for Savannah Antiques and

Architecture Weekend... former FOX32 newsy **Anne Kavanagh** lunching at the Gage and luxuriating in the high-end menu... surrounded by epic beauty **Stephanie Leese Emrich** and **Jeffrey Emrich** reaching for the stars, all five of them, at the stunning Langham Hotel and then Afternoon Tea at the Drake Hotel with lovely mom, the Art Institute's **Georgia Leese**... newspaper boss **David Caldwell** in the Forbidden City of Beijing, but eating well having crispy duck pancakes and spring rolls washed down with a naughty Australian Chardonnay... **Zurich Esposito** entertaining **Courtney Biggert Caverly** in Palm Springs... famed restaurateur **Gordon Sinclair** dining with **Abra and Jim Wilkin** and **Leslie "Bunny" Douglas** at BOCA (**Chef Lee Wolen**)**Julie Barrish** and **Frances Renk** enjoying an impromptu lunch... **Kimberly Gleeson**, **Sherrill Bodine**, **Bobbi Panter**, **Myra Reilly** and **Rhonda J. Liesenfelt** with a stop by from the effervescent **Duc Ho** and **David Nguyen**, a great night of friendship, fun, french fries and secrets and Veuve... former **Mayor Rahm Emanuel** nominated as **President Joe Biden's** choice for Ambassador to Japan, "Ganbarou."

AFTERNOON TEA: **Denise Tomasello's** niece, **Alexa Ricci**, has opened Ricci Teas, a fresh and innovative loose leaf tea enterprise. If you're like me, you're always looking for high quality tea in the U.S.A. I'm excited by this new tea. Check out www.riccitea.com.

CHICAGO JAZZ: Sitting in the Sinatra Booth last Saturday night at LePiano Jazz Club, the fabulous gal pals, **Sherrill Bodine**, **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh**, **Bethany Florek** and **Andrew Florek**, soaking up live jazz with host **Chad Willetts**. The food was divine - and the jazz was off the chain. The "Blondettes" will be back.

NOTRE DAME NEWS: **Pope Francis** has asked **Archbishop Charles Brown**, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, to bestow the Cardinal's Red Hat and ring on Philippine **Cardinal Jose Advincula** who was ill with COVID-19 when others were receiving theirs in Rome. That's a nice little honor for Brown who is an American, a young New Yorker and also a "Domer," a grad of the Univ. of Notre Dame, South Bend.

TOPO TUESDAY: **Shelley Howard** opens the proceedings with **Dr. Glenn**, Chicago's renowned **D.J. Robert Murphy** and **Mary Constable** at Old Town's Topo Gigio, where reports say the food is better than ever. YUM.

COMING SOON: Have they really uncovered a lost **Caravaggio** in Madrid?

MASTERPIECE: Break out your bathing suits and bonnets, "Sanditon" is returning to Masterpiece for two new seasons. **Jane Austen** lives. Total surprise to all. Apparently there will be no more Sydney. Sadly, actor **Theo James** has no plans to return. It is the author's last work and remains unfinished.

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it. - Mark Twain

tog515@gmail.com

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WELLS FARGO USA HOLDINGS, INC. Plaintiff, -v- BARBARA M ANDREWS A/K/A BARBARA ANDREWS, 4515-17 N. ASHLAND CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 18 CH 05506 4515 NORTH ASHLAND AVENUE, UNIT #2S CHICAGO, IL 60640 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 24, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on June 29, 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 4515 NORTH ASHLAND AVENUE, UNIT #2S, CHICAGO, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-17-112-039-1002 The real estate is improved with a brown brick, three story condominium, no garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, 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/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other

Real Estate For Sale

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The Forgotten Chicago Cubs of 1970

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Bill Bike has always loved baseball. For a number of years, he was an active member of a local softball team when he wasn't busy writing material for the Univ. of Chicago Dental College or hammering out his own books ranging from a "A History of the Near West Side," to "Winning Political Campaigns" as well as the tomes he poured out during his 24 years with the U of C.

He has also kept busy with his other job as senior vice president of Central Park Communications and Associate Editor of the newspaper Gazette Chicago.

Along the way, incidentally, Bike has accumulated more than 50 awards in journalism, and communications, among them are three Lisagor Awards, the top honor in Chicago journalism.

So it should come as no surprise he would also get around to a baseball book – which he describes as "a labor of love" he's been thinking about for years.

The result – "The Forgotten 1970 Chicago Cubs: Go and Glow," just released by the Histo-

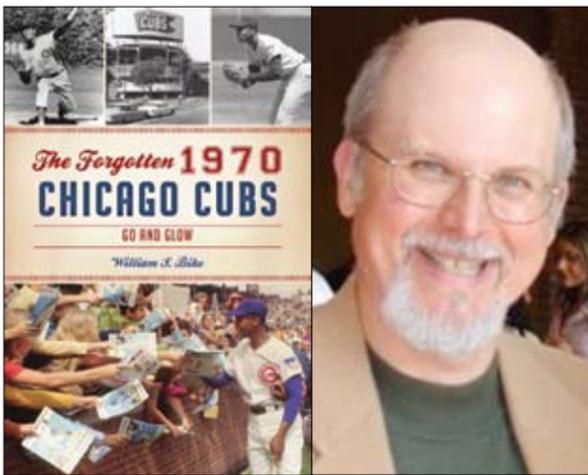
ry Press/Arcadia Publishing focuses on the days when the Cubs came closer to winning a World Series than at any time from 1945 to 2016 when the Lovable Losers finally hit pay dirt.

Cubs fans always will remember the beloved 1969 team. Yet the 1970 Cubs are, in many ways, more interesting. That was the year when the Cubs added "interesting characters like Joe Pepitone and Milt Pappas to the legendary nucleus of Billy Williams, Ron Santo and Ernie Banks," Bike said.

That was the season when Ernie Banks hit his 500th home run, Bike recalled.

For Banks, that 500th homer on May 12 sealed his "sure entry into the Hall of Fame, not that there was any doubt Ernie would make it," Bike said.

It was also the year the Cubs made some changes that helped bring back the fans who had been



The Forgotten 1970 Chicago Cubs and author Bill Bike.

melting away for quite awhile.

Although Cub broadcasters had been singing the praises of the "Friendly Confines" and "Beautiful Wrigley Field" for years, the atmosphere had been getting less friendly or beautiful for years, Bike noted.

"People had started taking to walking and dancing on the flat tops of the outfield walls and actually jumping on the field," Bike noted, recalling that one woman even ran out on the field to kiss New York Mets third basemen

Wayne Garrett, provoking a fan to toss a smoke bomb. Another spectator climbed over the centerfield scoreboard and the spectators stomped off the field at the game's end.

Things had gotten even worse during the first home stand of the season when spectators began pelting the field with garbage after the game was over, Bike said.

Many blamed that kind of mayhem on changes in American society and the growing anger that didn't get any better as the Vietnam War escalated, Bike recalled. People became rowdier and Wrigley Field patrons were no exception.

"Wrigley was at a crossroads. Management of several of the older ballparks around both leagues often gave up and let the drunks and rowdies take over. But not the Wrigley Family," Bike said.

The management installed a wire "basket" in front of the bleacher seats "not only to keep

garbage off the field, but to keep the fans in the bleachers," Bike added. The Cubs also cemented concrete triangle caps on the outfield walls so people would no longer walk and dance on them, or use them as a jumping-off point for overrunning the field," Bike noted in the book.

The family also put in gentlemanly coat and tie ushers – with extra security, he added.

Other major league owners soon started putting in improvements of their own, eventually changing the whole atmosphere.

The Forgotten 1970 Chicago Cubs were indeed on their way to being able to "Go and Glow."

Describing his book in a nutshell, Bike noted "my book is both fun and analytical. You'll feel the heat of the pennant race, smell the popcorn and hot dogs and hear the crack of the bat in Wrigley Field in 1970.

SUED from p. 1

Cook County Circuit Court, alleging breach of fiduciary duty.

In July 2020, Cook County Judge Diane Shelley dismissed the case, finding Scheinblum initiated his suit beyond the two-year statute of limitations.

On appeal, Scheinblum and his company pointed out they and three partners – Pittsfield Hotel Holdings, Pittsfield Development and Pittsfield Residential II – sued the city of Chicago in March 2017 in Chicago federal court over the rezoning, claiming it was an instance of improper spot zoning.

In Oct. 2017 through discovery in the federal case, Scheinblum obtained a Dec. 2015 email Casaccio sent Lynd advising Lynd on the downzoning. Plaintiffs contended they could not have known of their alleged injury at the hands of Schain Banks before seeing the email.

Having learned of the alleged harm in Oct. 2017, plaintiffs said their suit in May 2019 slipped in under the deadline.

Schain Banks countered plaintiffs' federal suit against the city showed plaintiffs were at least aware they were injured when the ordinance passed in March 2016, and certainly by the time they launched the city suit in March 2017. In addition, Schain Banks said public records were available early on, which, if plaintiffs had inquired, would have revealed Lynd's involvement.

Justice Connors agreed with Schain Banks and the lower court decision.

"The record shows that plaintiffs knew of their injury and that it was wrongfully caused by March 2017, but they did not file their complaint until over two years later in May 2019. [The complaint] demonstrates they knew they were injured in March 2016 when the downzoning ordinance was passed," Connors concluded.

The federal suit against the city of Chicago remains pending.

SPYBAR from p. 1

pounds of cannabis, nearly nine pounds of THC concentrate, one pound of Psilocybin mushrooms, and another quarter-pound of ketamine, Burkhardt said. Agents and deputies also recovered \$25,000 cash, narcotics packaging materials, a scale, ledgers, and other materials related to narcotics distribution in the home, according to Burkhardt.

Gardiakos, 41, has owned Spybar for 16 years, his public defender said.

Friday's developments are the latest chapter in the long-running

dance club's book of recent problems.

The city closed Spybar in February 2018 after authorities learned that it operated without a state liquor license for 20 months. But club management worked through those problems and reopened weeks later.

Now, on the very day that Chicago leaders are allowing businesses like Spybar that have late-hour liquor licenses to once again stay open until 4 a.m., the club's owner is sitting in Cook County jail.

Gardiakos is due back in court on June 4.

FUNDRAISER from p. 1

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