



## After high-profile shootings, one alderman proposes parking restrictions, another wants to shut down a bar

BY CWBCHICAGO

Aldermen representing Lincoln Park and River North are taking action after last weekend's high-profile shootings in their wards.

Timmy Knudsen [43rd] is rolling out parking restrictions for the street where five people were shot near Lincoln Park Zoo.

In River North, Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] wants the city to hold a nightclub "accountable" for a shooting in which dozens of shots were fired during an apparent ambush attack caught on video.



Ald. Timmy Knudsen (left) and Ald. Brendan Reilly.

### Lincoln Parking

Around 4:40 a.m. June 17, five people were shot when a group of people that gathered to party and drink near Lincoln Park Zoo were shot during a fight in the 1900

block of N. Stockton, officials have said. No arrests have been announced.

On Friday, Knudsen told his constituents in an email that his office and police "are pushing deterrents to this type of behavior." The only "deterrent" he

mentioned was a plan to restrict parking on Stockton Dr. to residents only.

Knudsen's proposed ordinance would limit parking in the 1700 through 1900 blocks of Stockton to residents bearing a zoned parking permit from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

"In discussions with the police, this will give them a direct tool to stop the trend of people gathering on Stockton Drive late at night in a way that has led to criminal behavior," Knudsen wrote. He did not say when the restrictions might take effect.

Last week we reported that no patrol car was assigned to the police beat where the shooting happened on Saturday morning, nor were beat cars active in adjoining beats. That's a problem that must be addressed if

**SHOOTINGS** see p. 12

## Chicago hotels continue to struggle hiring and retaining workers



Entryway of JW Marriott Hotel in Chicago.

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
*Center Square*

As the local hotel industry continues to rebound from the crippling government-imposed economic lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, worker shortages remain a challenge. Staffing is expected to remain a challenge for many U.S. hotels in 2023, as the industry continues to grow its workforce back to pre-pandemic levels.

The hotel industry is making a push to hire more workers in Illinois and nationwide. The Illinois General Assembly tried to address the issue by passing a hotel workforce development program in the state budget. Lawmakers also passed a bill that ties Illinois' travel per diem for state employees to the federal rate in an effort to boost hotels.

Due to the current staffing shortage, it has become increas-

ingly difficult to attract worthy applicants for hotels and other hospitality industry jobs. American Hotel and Lodging Assoc. [AHLA]. President and CEO Chip Rogers said hotel employment is down 250,000 jobs since Feb. 2020. Those jobs pay between \$14.50 to \$28 hourly.

"A massive shortage," said Rogers. "We poll our members on a quarterly basis and the most recent information we got back from our membership shows that 82% of hotels have openings right now and about a third have so many openings that its impairing their ability to fully service the demand that they have."

Additionally, a AHLA affiliate recently launched the Workforce and Immigration Initiative. The effort is aimed at urging Congress to address workforce shortages with bipartisan solutions to incorporate more immigrants into the American economy. Chicago-

ans can expect that many of the recently arrived migrant refugees will soon be working in many of the local hotels, whether they're documented or not.

The labor shortage has created an entirely new vendor class for the hotel and lodging industry, the 'on-demand' workforce. Staffing for the constantly-changing hotel business is difficult, it can be

***Due to the current staffing shortage, it has become increasingly difficult to attract worthy applicants for hotels and other hospitality industry jobs.***

extremely challenging to keep up with demand. Now many professionals turn to hotel staffing agencies for support. These temporary labor agencies facilitate the hotel staffing process by matching qualified workers with relevant open positions.

They bring in professional cooks, administrative staff, banquet event organizers, and various other personnel members of a fully functioning hotel.

To help hotels fill open jobs and raise awareness of the hotel industry's career pathways, the AHLA Foundation's "A Place to Stay" campaign is now active in 20 cities, including Chicago.

Rogers said Illinois lawmakers

**HOTELS** see p. 12



G.P. Green House, LLC, has filed for a Special Use Application to operate an Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at 620 N. Fairbanks Ct. in Streeterville.

## Effort underway to keep pot shop out of Streeterville

Some of the residents of Streeterville are fed with all the shenanigans, criminal activity, shootings and other troubles that plague their neighborhood these days, and think expanding drug availability in the community would only make things worse.

Now with a new casino landing nearby at 600 N. Wabash, neighbors are drawing the line in a local petition drive to oppose another Cannabis dispensary moving into the neighborhood.

G.P. Green House LLC has filed a Special Use application to operate an Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at 620 N. Fairbanks Ct.

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] has raised concerns about this pro-

posal, and are collecting signatures to stop it.

They say that due to heavy existing traffic, emergency vehicle routes, nearby schools, and potential safety concerns for pedestrians and residents they'd like to stop plans to bring more pot to the block.

"For our neighbors that want access to cannabis there are four dispensaries within walking distance so this would have no real impact on access to cannabis," the organization said in a June 21 message to the community.

The proposed dispensary will likely have a hearing this summer at the Zoning Board of Appeals for their application. Hoping that

**POT SHOP** see p. 12

## Plan Commission approves new music venue at North / Elston with zero parking

***'The Outset' will fill space of shuttered Club Koncrete***

A new music venue named The Outset will take the space vacated by Club Koncrete. The new club will be replacing the former dance club that was forced to close after a deadly fight in Dec. 2015 which lead to the death of a 21-year-old woman.

According to their proposal, the new club will not be providing any off-street parking for customers or their employees.

The Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] has approved plans for a new music and entertainment venue at 1675 N. Elston. Located in the North Branch Industrial Corridor, the existing two-story masonry building on the site will get rehabbed by developer 1675 Holdings LLC who bought the property in 2018 with the intention of re-envisioning the site as a new venue space.

The fatal shooting happened outside Koncrete just before 4 a.m. after a fight between a group of men broke out inside Koncrete, which was hosting a private party that attracted about 250 people.

After the club's owner kicked the men out of the club, the fight spilled out into the streets and gunfire erupted.

Just a couple of days later, the

club was forced to close after Ald. Brian Hopkin [2nd], and city concluded that the club was a "threat [to] public welfare."

Owner Carey Weiman had run a club at that location since 1990. Before Koncrete, the club was called Krush. Before Krush, it was called The Prop House.

The new entertainment venue will retain the existing two-story masonry building while adding a new facade and mural facing Elston St.

Outside, a large outdoor patio will feature landscaping, a water feature, and a food truck parked along the back of the property. This outdoor space will be screened from the street with a black steel fence.

According to the plan, no employee or customer parking will be provided. All plan calls for are 17 bike parking spaces.

To allow for the project, the developer is seeking to rezone the property from M3-3 to C2-1 with an overall Planned Development designation. With CPC approval, the \$2 million development can move onto City Hall to receive its final approvals from the Committee on Zoning and full City Council.

# A true Parisian literary feast, all that was missing was Gertrude Stein and Sylvia Beach



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

What's your favorite holiday? Christmas? Or maybe Thanksgiving, with stuffing-rich golden turkey and sweet cranberries?

Or perhaps Easter? With a whole glazed ham, studded with cloves? Passover? With savory matzo ball soup and roast lamb?

Or your birthday? With your favorite butter cream cake with your name proudly etched across the creamy frosting?

Well, my second favorite holiday of the year is "Bloomsday." Halfway through the mighty month.

This year Bloomsday crept up on me. Must have been the cold snap. I wasn't quite ready for it. I was, however, quick, though late, in my response.

Few Americans outside of academia are ever ready for Bloomsday. A commemoration and celebration of the life of Irish writer James Joyce, observed annually in Dublin and elsewhere on June 16, the day his 1922 novel *Ulysses* takes place in 1904.

Literary students regard reading "*Ulysses*" as one of academic passage.

Bloomsday is also well-known in law schools as well, as the book

was once banned in America (until 1932) for its sexual content. And its judicial redemption remains one for the law books. "This book is not pornographic," the lawyers argued.

"*Ulysses*" is the tale of 24 consecutive hours in the life of the book's hero, Leopold Bloom, who calls himself the "wandering Jew of Dublin."

All the action takes place in one day. And commemorates the date, historically, upon which Joyce, the novelist, first went out with the love of his life, Nora Barnacle. It is a story meant to never forget the day in excruciating detail. Every last second of it.

But it doesn't tell the real story of Joyce and Nora's "stepping-out" and meeting up. Rather, Bloomsday discloses a complex episode of Dublin life occurring on that date. It's what everyone else was doing, the great unwashed working class blokes of Dublin and what they were thinking.

It's told through the storyline of Leopold's life. Every conceivable detail, from frying a kidney at breakfast for his wife, Molly Bloom, to going to the Catholic funeral of a friend, Paddy Dignan. As well as all the descriptive details marking the day's unfolding of small events and sweet moments.

It's an urban road map through the streets and lanes of old Dublin. From drinking in pubs with friends to the actions of the voluptuously saucy Molly and her cheating antics. All Leopold's wanderings, good and bad, from one minute to the next. And the curious loyalties and betrayals of countless citizens of Dublin.

Joyce was encouraged to pub-

lish the novel in 1922 by the American book merchant Sylvia Beach, the founder of Shakespeare and Co. in Paris. She took responsibility to have the literary text printed in the Paris of the 1920s when it was the refuge of literary-type Americans. Her refined roster of American ex-patriot scribblers is today a catalogue of world-class writers. Not just impoverished crypto coffee-drinkers.

Joyce and his family spent most of their lives living in Paris. Creating a lush circle of ex-pats who gathered around literary types like Gertrude Stein, young Hemingway, Sherwood Anderson, Ezra Pound, F.Scott Fitzgerald, Henry Miller. Stein referred to them as "the Lost Generation."

The post-World War I era saw many creative and inventive Americans and others, like Joyce, reinventing language, syntax and literary form. Radical literary form abounded with writers creating fiction in the cafes of the French capitol. In "*Ulysses*" Joyce introduces readers to a new, modernist style of writing that was dense, complex, difficult to digest and most of all, difficult to understand. Joyce and Miss Stein were a "Do not invite."

Thanks to Beach June 16 remains a bright literary moment for fans of Joyce and modernist writing. No one being more faithful to him than his Nora Barnacle, a once young girl from Galway. She roamed with Joyce and their children, Giorgio and Lucia, all over the footpaths of their Irish exile. Joyce dug deep into the troubled Dublin family of his youth, his elegant Jesuit education there, and his troubled readers who longed to understand what his writing meant.

At home, we are told, the Joyces spoke family Italian wherever they lived. Joyce being an English instructor for Berlitz early in his marriage living in Trieste. And French in the days of their Left Bank life. Son, Giorgio, was close to his family and managed to produce a beloved grandchild for his tightly wrapped Irish/Parisian family. Daughter, Lucia, was also literary, and a classical dancer. She



James Joyce portrait by Stephen Bennett.

often assisted her father in his literary enterprise. But she also spent much time in mental institutions in attempts to heal her troubled state of psychological health.

Life for the Joyces was often disorganized, but became fraught with danger and chaos in 1940 as the Germans made their way to Paris in the aftermath of the failed French defense of their nation in World War II.

Lucia remained in a mental hospital on the beach near Normandy, once thought safe, hoping the Germans would overlook her mental handicap. She did survive her perilous residency in Normandy. The rest of the family relocated in Switzerland where James died in 1941. The family buried their father in Zurich.

Once I caught up to my second favorite holiday in 2023, I decided to have a Joycean Day. I was the first person to enter Ralph Lauren for lunch at 10:45 a.m. with my Modern Library edition of "*Ulysses*," signed, in hand. I ordered some superb French Champagne. Joyce would be proud of me. Then I had the first of the cold homemade Gazpacho. Chef Ryan stopped by my table and we discussed my Bloomsday luncheon entrée.

Once I knew the ingredients were available, I resurrected some

past delights well known at the Ritz in Paris.

A crunchy potato latke with some very wet scrambled eggs on top. Lobster meat tossed in warm herb butter and layered on the eggs. Some creamy Hollandaise Sauce added to the dish finished with chopped chives.

We are thinking of actually giving this dish a name. How about Skyline Eggs? Lobster O'Gorman? Eggs Ulysses? Bloomsday Omelet? We have a year to think about it. But I will re-order them for supper soon.

All of this was washed down with more Champagne and some summery Strawberry Rhubarb pie for dessert.

This was a true Parisian literary feast for June 16. All that was missing was Gertrude Stein and Sylvia Beach.

Delight would have sparkled in the bright blue eyes of Joyce and Nora Barnacle. Something we might find in their love for each other and the city of their exile, "Paris rawly waking, crude sunlight on her lemon streets."



Janice Berghoff

**JANICE BERGHOFF:** This column mourns the death of the lovely and gracious Janice Berghoff of the famed Chicago restaurant family. For 63 years she was

the elegant and talented wife of **Herman Berghoff**. The family has been this city's loving companion since the era of the Columbian Exposition of 1893. The tradition of their Old World German cuisine is a grand part of Chicago's history. Our thoughts and prayers go out to

LITERARY see p. 8

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# City consultant for Bally's Casino deal had financial ties to casino

Casting a shadow of doubt over a new land-based casino coming to the River North community is news that a consultant used by former mayor Lori Lightfoot during her selection process is now under scrutiny for having financial ties to the winning bidder, Bally's.

The consulting firm Nomura Securities International was hired by the Lightfoot administration to solicit casino operators to make their pitches to the city and evaluate their proposals, and also stood to be paid back as a lender to a British company Bally's was working to buy, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

While the gaming company pursued a deal to build a \$1.7 billion entertainment complex on the Freedom Center Printing Plant in River West, the consultant was also involved in a separate \$2.6 billion deal in which Bally's bought an online British gaming company called Gamesys. Bally's had to reimburse Gamesys' two lenders \$220 million as part of the deal, and one of those lenders was Nomura.

Nomura, whose CEO is Kentaro Okuda, was able to forgo the city's normal procurement process and worked behind the scenes with Lightfoot's administration for at least nine months.

Eventually, it scored a \$1.5 million deal with City Hall for its efforts to bring the first casino to Chicago, the outlet reported.

Lightfoot's staff told the Sun-Times that Nomura "held no substantive role" in choosing Bally's plan over competing bidders like Hard Rock Casino and Rivers Casino.

A Bally's spokesperson said that while Nomura was one of the lenders tied to the Gamesys acquisition, the casino company never borrowed funds from Nomura Holdings and there's no existing relationship between the two entities.

# NBGC annual Cubs night cookout July 31

The Neighborhood Boys and Girls Clubs [NBGC] will be hosting their annual evening of fun and philanthropy at the NBGC annual Cubs Night cookout and baseball game, beginning 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 31. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

For just \$50, guests will be part of an event that supports a worthy the Boys & Girls Club at 2501 W. Irving Park Rd.

A ticket not only gets guests ac-

cess to the baseball game, but also includes a cookout, free parking, and a convenient shuttle service to transport guests to and from the event. Parking located behind the NBGC athletic fields, 3900 N. Rockwell, and the shuttle departs from the Cubs Remote Parking Lot at 3900 N. Rockwell. For tickets or more information visit [www.nbgc.org/cubs-night-2023.html](http://www.nbgc.org/cubs-night-2023.html), or call 773-463-4161.

# City tows 400+ cars from Pride Parade route

With Gay Pride flags flying, and banners, posters and other visuals seemingly impossible to miss, some North Siders seemed to not get the hint to move their cars off Halsted St. in Boystown in time for Sunday's Gay Pride Parade.

That's when the Saturday night Pride Parade Towing Fest kicked off as trucks swarmed into the parade route and towed over 400 cars off the main roads along the route.

Some of the car owners claim the city hung the "no parking" signs without enough advance notice, but unless one just arrived in town recently, knowing the route of Chicago's mostly highly promoted parade is Urban Living 101 on the North Side.

On June 19, the city announced that towing of cars along the parade route would begin at 4

a.m. June 25, while street closures for the parade's staging areas would occur at 5 a.m., and that there would be no parking along the route from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Those towed lost a good part of their Sunday fetching cars, and paid a \$175 fee to retrieve their relocated vehicles.

Unknown is when the city's Dept. of Streets and Sanitation actually posted the "no parking" signs on area utility poles, but life in Chicago requires an innate understanding that big events generally mean no parking.

# Man arrested as fights break out in late-night Boystown crowd

CWBCHICAGO

Pride Parade weekend got off to a raucous start in Boystown, with widespread fights reported as hundreds of revelers gathered in and on Halsted St. early Saturday. One man was arrested and charged with a felony for allegedly battering a cop who was trying to break up a fight.

Crowds grew through the night, with celebrants dancing and twerking on the Boystown strip. But it went sideways around 2:40 a.m. when the fun turned into fights.

Officers at the scene reported "hundreds of people" lining both sides of Halsted St. near Roscoe St. Chicago police supervisors called in extra resources from the Town Hall District to contain the problems.

"When we pulled up, they were saying, 'Get the cops! Get the cops!'" one officer radioed.

The fighting continued, with a storefront window being broken out in the 3400 block of N. Halsted. For a while, the crowd blocked traffic and danced on cars, witnesses told this reporter.

No serious injuries were re-

ported.

Police arrested 28-year-old Andrew Vlk during the dust-ups. During his bail hearing on June 24, prosecutors said Vlk pushed a bike officer twice as the cop tried to stop two women from fighting outside a bar.

Vlk repeatedly kicked the officer in the legs as he was placed in a squad car, prosecutors said, adding that he "appeared intoxicated throughout" the incident.

His public defender said during the hearing that he lives with his

**FIGHTS** see p. 10



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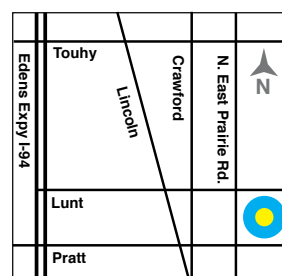
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# Apartment rents in Chicago are rising fast



## The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicago apartment dwellers are seeing some of the fastest rental price increases in the nation this spring and summer, reports a new market study.

A typical one-bedroom unit in downtown Chicago now leases for a hefty median rent \$1,840 a month—the second most expensive city in the state of Illinois, according to Zumper’s Chicago Metro Area Report.

Renters who are thinking of heading to the suburbs for some financial relief should look at the Zumper numbers. Compared with the city, rents actually are more expensive in some Chicago suburbs.

The most expensive town to rent an apartment in the state is west suburban Lombard, which posted a one-bedroom median rent of \$2,030, up a whopping 37.2% since last year.

Arlington Heights ranked third in Illinois with a one-bedroom median rent of \$1,840. State-wide, Illinois’ one-bedroom median rent was \$1,335.

“The reality is that multifamily apartment rents are rising everywhere—and fast,” said the Zumper report.

One way for renters to save some bucks is to lease a compact apartment in downtown Chicago, which is known for offering some of the tiniest newly built-apart-

ments in the nation, reports RentCafé.com, a nationwide apartment search website, and part of the Yardi network.

“In the Windy City, a monthly rent of \$1,500 will only lease you an average of 502 square feet of apartment space—the equivalent of a studio or one-bedroom unit,” the Rent Café report said. Nationally, a monthly rent of \$1,500 will lease you an average of 782

square feet of apartment space. ring of neighborhoods outside downtown, noted Ron DeVries, senior managing director of Integra Realty Resources, a consulting and appraisal firm.

For example, in North Lincoln Square, apartment hunters will find a nicely renovated one-bedroom unit in a walk-up building priced at \$1,350 a month. Two-bedroom layouts with off-street parking included is renting for \$1,450.

However, rents in some off-the-lake North Side neighborhoods also have risen 11% to 13% in the past year because of sharply higher real estate taxes, Realtors say.

**Currently, Chicago is the 15th most popular rental apartment city in the U.S., according to Rent Café. In May, renters found Chicago more appealing than such major cities as Washington, D.C., Boston, Seattle, Charlotte or Houston.**

square feet of apartment space. Currently, Chicago is the 15th most popular rental apartment city in the U.S., according to Rent Café. In May, renters found Chicago more appealing than such major cities as Washington, D.C., Boston, Seattle, Charlotte or Houston.

The Home Front column found the following assortment of available rentals in lakefront neighborhoods on Apartment List:

- Near North Side: Some 1,711 apartments currently are listed for rent on the Gold Coast, Streeterville, and Near North Side.

- Twenty-nine units are available at The Sinclair, 1201 N. LaSalle St. Studios with 505 square feet go for \$2,220. One-bedroom floor plans with 625 square feet rent for \$2,806. Two-bedroom layouts with 1,185 square feet are priced at \$5,436.

- Lincoln Park: There are 285 units currently listed for rent in the neighborhood.

- At the Belden Stratford, 2300 N. Lincoln Park West, renters can choose from 109 available units in the renovated former hotel. Studios with 556 square feet go for \$2,610. One-bedroom units with 683 square feet rent for \$2,818. Deluxe 2-bedroom layouts with 1,043 square feet lease for \$5,112 a month.

- For renters who can’t afford luxury apartments downtown, or in lakefront neighborhoods such as Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and Edgewater, some nice units are located in the first

### Renter wage gap

The big problem for Chicago renters in 2023 is that wages are not rising fast enough for many tenants to afford the median-rent apartment, according to a new report from Housing Action and the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

To afford a typical two-bedroom apartment in Chicago a renter who works 40-hours a week needs to earn \$27.69 per hour, or \$57,600 per year. To afford a one-bedroom unit, a tenant who works a 40-hour week would need to earn \$24.13 per hour, or \$50,190 per year.

The minimum hourly wage in Chicago increases every year and is set to rise another 40¢ on July 1, reaching \$15.80 an hour for non-tipped workers at the city’s largest employers.

The report said the average fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Chicago currently is \$1,255 per month, while two-bedroom layouts lease for an average of \$1,440.

### Rent control fails in Springfield

The annual battle by the left wing of the Democratic Party to bring apartment rent control to Illinois has failed again. This year, seven separate pieces of legislation, all aiming to legalize rent control in some form, were proposed in the Illinois House of Representatives.

Of these, only the following two bills made it out of committee:

- HB 3104, sponsored by State Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid (21st District), proposes exempting manufactured housing from the rent control ban. The bill would enable local municipalities to enact rent-control restrictions for this property type.

- HB 2727, sponsored by State Rep. Anna Moeller (43rd District), would limit rent increases in mobile home parks to 3% per year, plus limited additional amounts specifically required for necessary property maintenance and repairs.

Neither of these bills was passed before the March 24th deadline, and have both been sent back to the Rules Committee.

*For more housing news, visit [www.dondebat.biz](http://www.dondebat.biz). Don DeBat is co-author of “Escaping Condo Jail,” the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit [www.escapingcondojail.com](http://www.escapingcondojail.com).*

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## Play ball, 16-inch softball July 1 at Willye B. White Park

Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] is hosting a 16-inch softball game at Willye B. White Park, 1610 W. Howard St.

No registration is required for this free community event, open to all ages.

To sign up to play call 773-338-5796 or write to [office@49thward.org](mailto:office@49thward.org).

## Go fish, Park District Fishing Program starts June 29

Fishermen and women can join the Chicago Park District [CPD] on the Riverwalk to learn about what makes the Chicago River a suddenly hot fishing spot.

CPD fishing will take place Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting June 29 at “The Jetty” (between Wacker and Wells St.).

This program offers visitors the opportunity to catch a fish, hold a beaver skull, and learn about the ecosystem of the river hidden beneath the surface. Visitors will take part in outdoor education

activities and learn about the role the river has played in Chicago’s history and future.

New this year is the “Shed Aquarium” an onsite storage facility with interactive offerings, a fish tank, microscope, and interactive worm station. CPD’s team of educators will be on-site every Thursday through Sunday rain or shine through Aug. 27, and Saturday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Sept. 2 through Oct. 15, offering riverfront visitors in hands-on, spontaneous fishing activities.

# \$67M loss in Streeterville apartment sale has gotten landlords' attention



340 E. North Water St.  
Image courtesy @properties Chicagoland

Downtown landlords are looking warily at a deal that just closed in Streeterville as the seller sold it at a \$67 million loss.

Invesco sold the North Water Apartment building, 340 E. N. Water St., to Crescent Heights for \$173 million, after buying it for \$240 million in 2016. They first put the building up for sale last fall.

The loss in value for the 398-unit Streeterville multifamily complex likely has sent chills down the spines of downtown property owners who must now wonder what their own local real estate portfolios are worth?

While that's the most paid for a downtown apartment building since Dec. 2021, according to Alby Gallun of Crain's Chicago, the price represents a 28% drop in

value.

Chicago's downtown commercial real estate owners have been hiding their empty spaces in leases for properties that no longer have people occupying those spaces. The work from home trend has emptied out a lot of space and at some level that softening of the market can be seen in the loss taken at 340 E. N. Water St. Add in rising short-term interest rates and you have a recipe for falling prices.

Buying low and selling high is the goal, but trying to sell at a profit now is rough as interest rates on loans have risen over the last year. Rental properties must throw off more cash to help pay for those higher loan costs. Plus, landlords try not to sell their properties when prices are falling. The result has been a softening of demand for big apartment buildings in Chicago, as investors wait to see where the market bottom is.

Chicago's bad reputation is also starting to catch up. Crain's reports that brokers and landlords tell them that "many out-of-town investors have "redlined" Chicago, wary of the risk of rising property taxes, the city's struggles in addressing crime and the progressive agenda of new Mayor Brandon Johnson. Fewer investors chasing deals in Chicago means less competition — and lower prices — for buildings on the market.

In one of the few big downtown deals this year, Lake & Wells, a 42-story tower in the Loop, sold for \$98 million in April, down \$25 million from its \$123 million construction cost in 2008.

But rents are still rising downtown and demand remains robust. Occupancy rates remain high downtown too. Crain's reports that North Water Apartments is 95.2% oc-

cupied, with its effective rent at \$3.98 per square foot, down from \$4.05 per square foot a year ago. Monthly rents range from \$2,255 per month for a studio apartment to

***In one of the few big downtown deals this year, Lake & Wells, a 42-story tower in the Loop, sold for \$98 million in April, down \$25 million from its \$123 million construction cost in 2008.***

more than \$8,000 for a three-bedroom unit. Developed by Chicago-based investment firm DRW Holdings, the 50-story building also includes a 500-room Loews Hotel. The hotel was not included in the sale.

At \$173 million, the building's sale price is the most paid for a downtown Chicago apartment property since Dec. 2021, when the Tides, a 608-unit building in the Lakeshore East development, sold for \$209 million.

# Carjackings reported in Wrigleyville, Boystown

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are investigating two carjackings reported in Wrigleyville and Boystown, including one that played out as crowds left the annual Chicago Pride Parade.

That hijacking occurred in the 3500 block of N. Clark around 5 p.m. June 25, police said. The 48-year-old victim told police he returned to his car and found a man in the driver's seat displaying a firearm.

Police said the hijacker was last seen driving the man's 2008 Audi eastbound, the wrong way, on Roscoe St. No description of the hijacker was available.

About three hours later, the victim found the car abandoned on the outbound ramp of the Kennedy Expy. at Division St.

Then, another driver was carjacked at Halsted St. and Buckingham Plc. around 4:45 a.m. June 26. A CPD spokesperson said the police report was not finalized as

**CARJACKINGS** see p. 10

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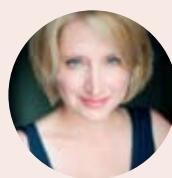
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# Serial rapist who posed as Uber driver pleads guilty to more cases, won't be released until 2070

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Glenview man accused of sexually assaulting women he picked up while posing as an Uber driver outside Chicago nightclubs has pleaded guilty to more cases.

Musaab Afandi, 39, is now scheduled to be paroled in Sept. 2070 at the age of 86.

Prosecutors said that Afandi was never an Uber driver, but he posed as one to lure women into his car near bars in Wrigleyville and River North. He drove his victims to locations in Skokie and Chicago's North Side to sexually assault them.

A jury convicted Afandi in one of the Skokie cases last year, resulting in a 45-year sentence from Judge Anjana Hansen. His attorneys filed an appeal.

This month, Afandi decided to plead guilty in three more cases. Prosecutors agreed to drop two others.

In one of the newly-resolved cases, Afandi was accused of luring a woman into his fake rideshare outside Old Crow Smokehouse, 3506 N. Clark, in Wrigleyville, on Jan. 15, 2017.



Musaab Afandi

Rather than taking the woman to her destination, he allegedly pulled over on the 3800 block of N. Ravenswood and sexually assaulted the 25-year-old woman in his car, prosecutors said.

Hansen sentenced him to six years for aggravated criminal sexual assault, to be served at 85%.

On Dec. 11, 2016, Afandi picked up a 27-year-old woman from a bar on the 200 block of W. Chicago Ave.

That victim told police she took a taxi from the bar and woke up

in the back seat as Afandi raped her. Investigators later found photographs and video of the woman on Afandi's phone, prosecutors said.

Hansen sentenced him to six years in that case and another six years for an additional sexual assault in Skokie. Those sentences will also be served at 85%.

Prosecutors dropped two of the cases Afandi faced. In one, he was accused of picking up a 21-year-old woman outside Mullens, a now-razed tavern that used to stand at 3527 N. Clark in Wrigleyville.

They said he drove her to the 600 block of W. Grace and sexually assaulted her in the back seat of his car. Prosecutors claimed that DNA linked Afandi to the case.

The other dropped case involved a sexual assault in the 4300 block of N. Clarendon, according to Chicago police records.

## Look up! Illinois expands use of surveillance drones

*New law allows event surveillance, building inspections, search and rescue*

BY ANDREW ADAMS  
Capitol News Illinois

Next time you attend a parade, look up into the sky, there might be an eye in the sky.

A new law signed by Gov. JB Pritzker on June 16 expands local police departments' authority to use drones to surveil certain events, respond to certain 911 calls, inspect buildings and participate in public relations events.

House Bill 3902 passed 56-1 in the Senate and 84-7 in the House with three members voting "present." The law drew some concerns from civil liberties groups which ultimately led to added privacy protections and disclosure requirements.

The push to expand when police drone authority originated after a 2019 mass shooting at the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, according to the bill's House sponsor, Rep. Barbara Hernandez. She and others received renewed calls after a 2022 shooting at a July 4th parade in Highland Park last year.

"I hope people are safe and that this can prevent anything else from happening," Hernandez said.

Kenny Winslow, executive director of the Illinois Assoc. of Chiefs of Police, supported the measure and is already planning to offer training on the new law to police departments. He said drone technology could save lives and expects more departments to use them moving forward.

But he added that the protections contained in the bill – including requirements that police post notices if they are surveilling an event and keep a record of flight paths – were an important part of the final product.

"We're trying to be as transparent with the public as we can," Winslow said.

The ACLU of Illinois – a civil rights organization that has long been a voice of opposition to unrestricted drone use by police departments – took a neutral stance on the bill. ACLU staff were key architects of a 2013 state law referred to as the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act that placed significant restrictions on police drone use.

"Our concern is that this kind of technology can be used in fairly invasive ways that intrude on our constitutional and privacy rights," said ACLU attorney Liza Roberson-Young.

These concerns led to some key protections in the bill, including limitations on what circumstances warrant the use of drones and how long the information collected by drones can be stored.

"We wouldn't want this to be a first step to a slippery slope to chipping away at the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act,"

Roberson-Young said.

Under the new law, drones may only be used at outdoor, government-hosted events. These include events such as parades, walks, races, concerts or food festivals. These events must meet minimum size requirements depending on the size of the municipality in which they are hosted in order for police to use drones.

The law explicitly bars drones from being used to monitor "any political protest, march, demonstration, or other assembly protected by the First Amendment."

The law also allows police to use drones when responding to 911 calls to find victims, to assist with health or safety needs or to coordinate emergency personnel.

The information collected using drones, which could include video, images, sounds or other data, may only be stored tempo-

DRONES see p. 10

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## Letter to the Editor

### How can the City attract and retain patrol officers?

Your recent article bemoaning the lack of police in Chicago only goes so far. The more important question by far is: How can the City attract and retain patrol officers? Because several police hiring fairs last year at the Humboldt campus of the City Colleges of Chicago attracted very few applicants: a few such events were attended in the single digits.

[When I was a police officer] there were hours upon hours of boredom, as we drove around waiting to see if anything was about to happen while we hovered at the edge of leaping into action (and punctuated by moments of sheer terror or adrenaline), there was interminable traffic control where it seemed my arms must surely fall off.

There were bitter cold nights watching Bulls fans' cars, and sweltering days spent waiting for the Cubs people to get tired enough to quit the North Side so we would be released.

There was the man who didn't care that his big dogs were getting out of his yard and menacing passersby, forcing me to shoot one; he would then complain that we had shot his dog because he was Black, which was ludicrous and impossible to know at the time I fired because there was no person out with those dogs. (The dog was saved by the emergency veterinarians, the owner not ticketed because our supervisor was concerned about the optics.)

One never knew if the next assignment held a maggot-riddled human corpse (an assignment I handled), a dead child (which I saw), a screaming woman putting her hands in my hair (twice), shots fired at the police (many instances). We took each job as it came, investigating when witnesses cooperated, making an arrest or two at the victims' behest, or simply filing a report once finished.

My husband (another career cop) and I saw a number of people get promoted who should never have been supervisors and some few who shouldn't have been

hired in the first place. This demoralized us, but didn't stop us from doing our jobs.

When I joined the force in 1982, some recruits had been pushed by their families, usually men, to carry on the tradition, but most of us were signing up to help people.

Retired four years now, I don't even know if that is still a factor, or if financial concerns are now paramount for the men and women behind the badge. Money has always been important, of course, because we have to feed our families. But is there anything that can counter the narrative that warns "Being the po-po [sic] will get you killed, or corrupted then jailed?"

So far I don't hear a unified answer.

There have been and are many fine human beings, humans like we all are, who wear the badge, and, as we often say, bleed blue. They went, and go, to work every day, not knowing if they will go home at the end of their shifts, a terrible uncertainty which wears down one's spirit.

Maja Ramirez

Have something on your mind about your community? Write a Letter To The Editor at [insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com](mailto:insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com)

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LITERARY from p. 2

the Berghoff Family.

**RALPH LAUREN BAR & GRILL:** Oh my, the mighty **Thomas Keller**, proprietor grandee of the French Laundry in Napa, CA, (one of America's greatest) stopped by RL last week on a very busy evening with no reservation. He was a real gent and totally understood that the restaurant was filled to the brim, didn't balk when all they had was the small tables in the bar area. He embraced one. And had a great night.

Thrilled that RL Barman extraordinaire **Daniel Segar** is now a supervisor in the dining room where his movie star good looks and chic style of dress has brought him to public attention. But his fan club is not surprised, they know he is as kind and generous as he is talented. He's a pro.

**Peter Axelsen**, top RL waiter, and fabulous painter with two MFA's from Univ. of Iowa, just reached the 20 year mark as a RL team giant. Peter is a pal and a pro. His touch is everywhere inside the dining room and he holds the celebrity and local stars in check. Glad to see that A-list waiter **John Reindt** has returned full-time after a hiatus.

Chef **Ryan Pitts** is RL's magician in the kitchen. Such a steady, smooth hand creating and sustaining the fabulous cuisine. It restores me. Just like the strawberry rhubarb pie.

A new class of busser has arrived for the summer with schools in recess. **Bjorn**, from Minnesota, and **Christopher** from our local scene. Make them welcome when you stop in. No one better than Chicagoan **Dennis Pila**, who always has things in control. They are hard workers and usually save the day for all RL emergencies.

**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** Finally. There's something official and worthy of a great man and a world-honored city. **Riccardo Muti** will be the CSO Music "Director Emeritus for Life." There is no farewell. He will remain a lasting part of Chicago History. Stirring musical poetry with us, an indelible part of our City's character and classical glory. The very best of the age's giants to cross the ocean.

**EXPLORE:** Explore Kenilworth and the legacies of **Joseph Sears** and **George W. Maher** on Sunday, July 30. This tour will explore the idyllic North Shore community of Kenilworth and the legacies of its founder, Sears, and most prominent architect, Maher. The event will include a two-hour walking tour through the community, viewing the work of Maher and his contemporaries. Maher's own home (a private residence) will be open for touring, as will a striking mid-century modern home designed by architect **Walter Sobel** in 1952. A special treat will be the opportunity to step inside the Sears log cabin playhouse, originally constructed in the 1880s behind Sears's home at 1815 S. Prairie Ave., and later moved to its present site. Call 312-326-1480 to get a ticket.

**IOWA TRAVELS:** If you're passing anywhere near Spencer, IA, be sure to stop at Weasy's Lounge & Grill for stuffed pork loin. Cooked to perfection.

**LALO, L-A-L-O, LALO:** Karen Zupko reported on a memorable night. **Gene Pokorny**, tuba player, was featured in a **Lalo Schifrin** composition. A concerto for Tuba

and Orchestra. You know Lalo—he composed the theme to Mission Impossible. Maestro **Riccardo Muti** and **Gene Schifrin** had a great response.

**CREAMY LIKE WARM CHOCOLATE:** **Barb Bailey's** voice lit up the room at Marchesa like a sparkling tiara reflecting the delight of audiences. She pulls a comfy warmth over everyone, sends you dreaming among the stars and little chills also run through the room. Keep a brandy handy. And a hankie. A true showman. Easy to listen too, she revives us like **Ella Fitzgerald** did. Keep it up dear. There's no one like you.

**WHO'S WHERE:** Big Chicago welcome to **Gina Murphy**, celebrated Dublin restaurateur, whose hit eatery at 6 Merriion Row, "Hugo's," is always the talk of the town... the London steakhouse, Hawksmore, is expected to open at 500 N. LaSalle St., in what was once Michael Jordan's back in the 1990s... Happy to welcome **Brian Moore** to Chicago from Ireland. A young Irish lad with the gift for taking care of hungry restaurant-goers, inherited from Uncle **Matt Moore**, Chicago Cuts owner... **Diane Abt** at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia discovering a brilliant **Henri Matisse**, "Seated Riffian"... Actress **Joan Cusack's** Chicago shop, Judy Maxwell Home at 1349 N. Wells, is a summer shopping must... **Maria Pappas** took to the streets around the Water Tower armed with reason and intelligence... **Lois Dal Santo** baking cookies with her granddaughter... **Takara Beatha-Gudell** creating some fabulous fresh jewelry that is modern and dazzles... **Shelley Howard**, **Abigail Hart**, Maestro **Stanley Paul**, **Lana Tadeyeske Wos** and **Frank Reda** holding court on Wells St. guaranteeing that summer has begun... The ladies are back at their Monday Night thinkfest, **Wynniss Mackie**, **Sherrill Bodine**, **Bobbi Panter** and **Melissa Babcock**... **Isabel Taylor**, **Sam Taylor**, **Pennie Taylor** and **Eamonn Cummins** tuning up at the Red Head... **Desiree Glapion Rogers** doing her high profile boards like JP Morgan Chase in NYC and CultureCon in LA with a birthday in the middle... **Sue** and **Peter McGahan** back from Hilton Head, SC, in time to get into their kilts for the Highland Games... Italian actress and goddess, **Sophia Loren**, 88, was seen attending a film festival on the Riviera with son, **Edoardo Ponti**.

**GARDEN ART EXHIBIT:** Join me, **Tom O'Gorman**, in our garden and studio on Saturday and Sunday, July 1 - 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1059 N. Winchester St., near Damen and Division (corner house at Winchester and Thomas). Use our driveway. 312-735-8101. Great discounts. Large inventory. Go to my instagram page to see the full collection.

**HOLY UFOS:** Is some unholy alliance from the past about to be revealed? Did the Vatican get some extra-terrestrial materials captured by **Benito Mussolini's** Air Force during the papacy of **Pope Pius**? Did they hand over some genuine space alien materials, released to the U.S. after WWII?

Think you're escaping and run into yourself. Longest way round is the shortest way home. — James Joyce

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Peter Axelsen



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## Mariupol photo exhibit at the Treasurer's office



Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Mariupol was the 10th-largest city in Ukraine, with an estimated population of 425,681 people. During the Russian siege, the Red Cross described the situation in Mariupol as "apocalyptic."

The Cook County Treasurer's office is hosting a new photography exhibition called "MARIUPOL: Life on the edge of the apocalypse," at their downtown offices running through Aug. 25.

The photos depict images of the Ukrainian city, before and after the Russian invasion. The office expects to have dozens of photos on display, as part of the first time this exhibit is on display in North America.

Historically, the city of Mariupol was a center for trade and manufacturing and has played a key role in the development of higher education and many businesses while also serving as a coastal resort on the Sea of Azov.

Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, it was the 10th-largest city in Ukraine, with an estimated population of 425,681 people in Jan. 2022

During the Russian siege, the Red Cross described the situation in Mariupol as "apocalyptic." Ukrainian officials reported that approximately 25,000 civilians had been killed and that at least 95% of the city had been destroyed during the fighting, primarily by large-scale Russian bombardments.

The exhibition will be on display in the Cook County Treasurer's Office, 118 N. Clark St., Room 112.

The exhibit will feature 80

works by famous Mariupol photographers: Victor Dedov, Olena Sugak, Sergiy Makarov, Alina Komarova and Lev Sandalov.

Their photos depict the most diverse stages of the life of a Ukrainian city with Greek roots before the war and its barbaric destruction by the Russian army.

### Free music at St. James

The St. James Friday Night Music Series features free concerts, showcasing a broad spectrum of established and emerging musicians in a sacred sanctuary setting, 2050 N. Fremont, starting at 7 p.m. Friday, July 7, with Chicago Summer Opera - Opera Glamor.

Guests may grab a pew seat and enjoy the music in the dimming light of the towering Kinsella stained glass windows as dusk falls.

Bring your own drinks and snacks for a courtyard reception following the event to socialize with musicians and fellow concertgoers.



### Park Dist. offers free 'Go Grind' events Four-day instructional skateboarding camps available for teens

The Chicago Park District and Chicago Action Sports are hosting skateboarding camps and events this summer and autumn for skaters of all ages. The 'Go Grind' program features four-day camps available at six park locations throughout the summer. Camps are free to participate in and registration is now open for teens ages 10 to 15 years old.

In addition, 14 weekly 'Go Grind' Friday Night Events will take place at Grant Park, and are open to skaters of all ages.

"Skateboarding has become a mainstay in Chicago households, parks, and popular culture," said Chicago Park District CEO Rosa Escareño. "We are so proud to give young skaters the resources to engage in this challenging [and] thrilling sport."

'Go Grind' Camps run at six Chicago Park District Skate Parks. Camps are open to skaters 10 to 15 years of age, and registration is required. Camps are free, and registration closes when all

spots are occupied. Equipment will be available for those who do not have their own. To register, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/go-grind](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/go-grind).

On the North Side, camps will be held at the Logan Park Skate Park- 2430 W. Logan Blvd., from July 18, through July 20, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and July 22, noon to 3 p.m.; Wilson Park Skate Park- Wilson Ave. and N. Lake Shore Dr., from July 25, through July 27, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and July 29, from noon to 3 p.m.; Grant Park Skate Park- 1135 S. Michigan Ave., from Aug. 1, through Aug. 3, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Aug. 5, from noon to 3 p.m.

Each 'Go Grind' Friday Night event at Grant Park Skate Park will take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Friday from July 14, through Oct. 13, on the south end of Grant Park at 1135 S. Michigan Ave. For more information, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/go-grind](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/go-grind).

### Independence Day celebrated at Chicago History Museum

Celebrate Independence Day at the Chicago History Museum with a keynote speech by Illinois Civics Hub director Mary Ellen Daneels with music from the Americana Concert Band and family-friendly festivities.

Events will start at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 4, 1601 N. Clark

St. with patriotic music, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, and a children's parade led by what's billed as "The World's Tallest Uncle Sam."

This is the 64th year the museum will be celebrating the birth of America. All Illinois residents get free admission on this day.

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**POLICE BEAT** from p. 6

But the number of cases seen so far this year, 524 as of last June 17, is more than double the number at this point in 2019.

Police received 50 carjacking reports during the first 17 days of this month, down from 84 during the same period last year.

Vehicular hijacking cases began to fade last summer as the “Kia Boy” phenomenon arrived in Chicago.

Using a simple technique shared widely on social media, thieves can steal many Kia and Hyundai models with little more than a USB plug.

Auto theft reports skyrocketed immediately, and there are no signs that the problem will end soon. Car theft reports are up 133% this year compared to the same time last year and up 235% compared to 2019, according to CPD’s latest CompStat data.

**Armed men claim at least eight victims in overnight robbery, carjacking spree**

At least eight people were robbed late Friday and early Saturday by men who displayed multiple firearms, according to Chicago police reports. It’s unclear if the same group is responsible for all of the crimes.

The holdups began a little after 10 p.m. when a red sedan pulled up an alley in the 1800 block of W. Grand. A woman reported that five or six men emerged from a red vehicle, displayed guns, and took her purse and backpack. They tried to take her car, too, but weren’t able to steal it, she reported.

But an Uber driver working a couple of blocks away wasn’t so lucky a few minutes later.

He was in the 1900 block of W. Ohio when two gunmen wearing ski masks took control of his gray 2020 Infiniti and drove away, according to a

police report. The 43-year-old victim told police that two other cars, possibly including a red sedan, followed the hijackers east on Ohio St.

Around 11:50 p.m., four men traveling in a red or silver sedan pulled a gun on a woman near the corner of Franklin St. and Institute Plc. on the Near North Side. The men, whose faces were covered by bandanas, took her bag and car keys but did not take her vehicle, a police report said.

At 12:05 a.m., they struck again in the 1000 block of N. Milwaukee.

Then, just after midnight, five men wearing ski masks jumped out of a red car and robbed a victim near Milwaukee Ave. and Paulina St. in Wicker Park.

A CPD spokesperson said a 39-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman were outside when five men wearing ski masks stepped out of a car and robbed them at gunpoint. One of the offenders pistol-whipped the male victim, but he declined medical attention, according to the spokesperson.

The victims said all the men had guns and escaped in a red sedan with their wallets, phones, and a handbag, a report said.

Finally, around 1:40 a.m., three masked men robbed a woman and her companion at gunpoint near Belden Ave. and Sawyer Ave. in Logan Square. They took the victims’ valuables and fled in a white SUV.

An officer at the scene said the robbers were Black men between 20 and 25 years old wearing dark clothing and face coverings. Victims in the earlier robberies offered similar descriptions, according to police reports. The red sedan may be a Hyundai Elantra.

— *Compiled by CWBChicago.com*

**DRONES** from p. 7

rarily and must be deleted within 24 hours after a parade or other special event and within 30 days for most other uses. There are some exceptions where police may retain that information, such as if there is reasonable suspicion that the information contains evidence of criminal activity, if the information is relevant to an ongoing investigation or if it will be used for future training.

The Illinois Attorney General’s office can investigate police departments’ patterns and practices of drone use and compel their compliance by seeking a court order. Departments can lose drone authority for at least six months the first time they are found to violate the law and up to one year for subsequent violations.

In an interview, Hernandez encouraged people to reach out to the attorney general if they find police violating the new regulations.

“I hope people get to see that there are clear instructions in the law to prevent people from violating privacy,” Hernandez said.

The law also explicitly bans police from equipping drones with weapons, such as firearms, chemical irritants or lasers.

The law also places significant restrictions on the use of facial recognition technology in conjunction with drones, barring police from using it during a flight and only allowing it to counter a high risk of a terrorist incident based on U.S. Department of Homeland Security intelligence or to prevent “imminent harm to life or to forestall the imminent escape of a suspect of the destruction of evidence.”

But some in the digital rights world say that the law still leaves the door open for police to use other surveillance technologies that encroach on people’s civil liberties.

Beryl Lipton is a law enforcement technology and surveillance researcher at the Electronic Frontier Foundation [EFF], a digital rights advocacy group. EFF was not engaged in the process of drafting HB 3902.

“It’s good that they have protections on facial recognition technology, but there are other biometric technologies that could be used,” Lipton said, pointing to gait analysis as one example.

Although Lipton said that her organization has concerns any time police use drones, she added that there are good reasons for drones to be used in some circumstances.

Ultimately, however, Lipton said that local governments should be involved in determining appropriate use of police technologies for their communities.

“There should be a municipal, local conversation about surveillance,” Lipton said.

The law went into effect immediately after Pritzker’s signature.

**FIGHTS** from p. 3

fiancé, has three children, and works as a truck driver.

Judge Susana Ortiz set bail at \$2,000. He must post 10% of that to get out of jail.

The Pride Parade has sparked fewer arrests in recent years. Chicago police arrested 26 people during and after the parade last year. Most of those arrests occurred during the after-hours street party that followed the parade.

**CARJACKINGS** from p. 5

of mid-morning. According to preliminary information from the scene, a male driver was carjacked at gunpoint for his gold Ford Focus. It was last seen heading west on Buckingham.

The hijacker was described as a Black male wearing a hat who stood 5’-6” to 5’-10” tall. He was armed with a blue steel handgun.

Carjacking reports citywide are down 30% compared to last year. But the number of cases seen so far this year, 524 as of June 24, is more than double the number at this point in 2019.

Police received 50 carjacking reports during the first 17 days of this month, down from 84 during the same period last year.

North Township Real Estate For Sale		
<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>282828 -----</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BMO HARRIS BANK NA; Plaintiff, vs. CHARLES S. ODDO; AMY C. ODDO; RBC MORTGAGE COMPANY; WELLS FARGO BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; THE BRISTOL CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 22 CH 7689 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 17-03-217-015-1019; 17-03-217-015-1334. Commonly known as 57 E. Delaware Place Unit 1206 and Parking Space P155, Chicago, IL 60611. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo &amp; Associates, P.A., 1771 West Dielh Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6925, 6180-181122 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com <b>13222632</b></p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CITIZENS BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, vs. KAREN M. PETERSON, KAREN M. PETERSON</p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>AS TRUSTEE OF THE KAREN M. PETERSON DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED 12/15/2014, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2022 CH 11725 1810 N LINCOLN PARK W UNIT 2 CHICAGO, IL 60614 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 19, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 31, 2023, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1810 N LINCOLN PARK W UNIT 2, CHICAGO, IL 60614 Property Index No. 14-33-407-050-1002 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of 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),</p> <p>212121 -----</p> <p>141414 -----</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</b></p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS &amp; ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS &amp; ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-06892 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2022 CH 11725 TJSJC#: 43-1768 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 CH 11725 <b>13222940</b></p> <p>212121 -----</p> <p>141414 -----</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. 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Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale		
<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>282828 -----</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR BANTAM FUNDING TRUST 2018-1 Plaintiff, vs. MARTIN ESQUIVEL, JESUCITA VALENCIA A/K/A JESUCITA ESQUIVEL Defendants 2019 CH 09952 1634 WEST MORSE AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 24, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 26, 2023, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1634 WEST MORSE AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-31-218-036-0000 The real estate is improved with a townhouse. The judgment amount was \$248,462.11. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied</p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>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.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact JOHNSON, BLUMBERG &amp; ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 30 N.</p> <p>212121 -----</p> <p>141414 -----</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</b></p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 22 9617. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSON, BLUMBERG &amp; ASSOCIATES, LLC 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650 Chicago IL, 60602 312-541-9710 E-Mail: lileadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. 22 9617 Attorney Code. 40342 Case Number: 2019 CH 09952 TJSJC#: 43-1774 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2019 CH 09952 <b>13222836</b></p> <p>212121 -----</p> <p>141414 -----</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</b></p>

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale		
<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ALI E. LOPEZ, 5100 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, THOMAS P. QUINN, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALI E. LOPEZ (DECEASED) Defendants 2022 CH 00975 5100 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD APT 509 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 April 18, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on August 1, 2023, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 5100 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD APT 509, CHICAGO, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-08-402-013-1119; 14-08-402-013-1133 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of 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.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS &amp; ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS &amp; ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-00610 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2022 CH 00975 TJSJC#: 43-1648 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 CH 00975 <b>13223496</b></p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, vs. GIULIO PALMA, CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A CERTAIN TRUST AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 1, 2014 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 8002363886 Defendants 2022 CH 08250 3851 NORTH HERMITAGE AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60613 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 9, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 24, 2023, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 3851 NORTH HERMITAGE AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-19-214-003-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$1,059,050.17. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation</p> <p>212121 -----</p> <p>141414 -----</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</b></p>	<p><b>Real Estate For Sale</b></p> <p>FOR information, contact MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 22-011557. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 Chicago IL, 60601 312-651-6700 E-Mail: AMPS@manleydeas.com Attorney File No. 22-011557 Attorney Code. 46928 Case Number: 2022 CH 08250 TJSJC#: 43-2433 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 CH 08250 <b>13223006</b></p> <p>282828 -----</p> <p>212121 -----</p> <p>141414 -----</p> <p><b>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</b></p>

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## Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, Registration Number: Y23010655 on June 6, 2023 Under the Assumed Business Name of BARKER N BUBBLES GROOMING SPA with the business located at: 4755 N CLARK ST, CHICAGO, IL 60640  
The true ad real full name(s) and residence address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is:  
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## Miscellaneous

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East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St., 773-247-3000, is opening lockers:  
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1D1382 (Cortez, Caltra)  
3F3613 (Ingersol, Donna)  
3F3662 (Lewandowski, Brett)  
3F3629 (McCaskill, Tiffany)  
3C3242 (Sherron, Sven)  
1C2062 (Wilbourn, Nicolas)  
3F3599 (Williams, Leroy)  
3D3358 (Young, Patrick)  
for public sale of miscellaneous items.  
This sale is to be held on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 2:00 pm.  
Cash only.

## Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage located at 730 West Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-876-2000, is opening lockers:  
6350X- Garces, Alexander  
6520L- Gerber, Hillary (Hawkins Way Capital LLC)  
6810L- Gerber, Hillary (Hawkins Way Capital LLC)  
7130F- Gerber, Hillary (Hawkins Way Capital LLC)  
7140F- Gerber, Hillary (Hawkins Way Capital LLC)  
8201SM- Hodges Ronan, Kamia  
4080B- Johnson, Bradford  
6820L- Mantu, Musa  
4045D- Prestemon, Nick  
6240W- Sender, Scott  
for public sale.  
This sale is to be held on Tuesday July 25, 2023, at 2:00PM.  
Cash payments only.

## Notice of Public Sale

East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312/644-2000), is opening lockers:  
2702X (Alfred Mayo)  
1631A (Marvin Wright)  
6916X (Christy Webb)  
3523X and 6619X (Edward Lahood)  
4524X (Elbert Hatley)  
8219A and 7161SM (The Wine Guide, LLC.)  
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**PUBLICATION SUMMONS**  
Case No: 23-CV-003385

Plaintiff,  
v.

STEVEN D. WRIGHT  
8608 S. King Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60619,

Defendant.  
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
To each person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after June 21, 2023, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is 901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233 and to the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 735 N. Water Street, Ste. 205, Milwaukee, 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

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By: Electronically signed by Michael A. Sosnay  
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**POT SHOP** from p. 1

City Hall gets the message, SOAR is circulating an online petition opposing this proposed dispensary location.

"[SOAR] and a large number of residents are opposed to the application proposed for the location above Timothy O'Toole's," said David Kostelansky, President of the Lake Shore Park Advisory Council. "[It is] across from Northwestern Memorial Hospital, next to residences, large pre-school programs and more. The community successfully opposed a similar application on the other end of the same block so I'm not sure why this is in consideration."

But Kostelansky can guess why they want to go there: traffic to Navy Pier and from downtown events. "Contrary to their statement that the majority of the business would be neighbors, that isn't factual." The Lake Shore PAC is also planning on presenting the petition for neighbors to sign.

One major cause of concern for area neighbors is the proximity to children. The City Ordinance prohibits licensed dope dealing from being within 500-feet of a "primary, elementary, junior or senior high school," public or private. The state of Illinois calls for 1,000-feet distance.

Studies show that brain damage can occur at early ages from cannabis use. "I can share with you the concern [that] children at an early age are picking up gummies," said Kostelansky. "There are four large [pre-school and daycare] centers immediately around the proposed location with as



620 N. Fairbanks Court.

many as 400 children in one of them."

Communities throughout Chicago are concerned about pot stores popping up near churches and schools with young children. Just like with tobacco, the goal of all drug dealers is to get the customers hooked while they're young. And City Hall has proven to have little real oversight or concern about dope dealing being located near parks, daycare, pre-school and school-age children. In Chicago, children witness, and are exposed to legal and illegal drug sales.

The city's inability to deal with the rising quality of life crimes and overt criminal activity in the area is an obvious concern.

And area residents do not think that adding another dispensary would decrease crime. "The security staff will not be on the street after closing and one could ques-

tion how much during business hours," said Kostelansky. They point to the 7-Eleven crime corridor for illegal drug sales in the area. After a series of 7-Eleven robberies, the convenience stores began sharing their camera feeds with CPD and Northwestern Security. But video of crimes after they've already occurred is backward looking and does not prevent future criminal activity.

That Cook County refuses to charge, bring to trial and jail known habitual criminals only exacerbates those concerns among the law-abiding.

Add in the massive congestion on Fairbanks and Ontario St. This corridor is currently one of the worst for traffic congestion in the city, a corridor that also serves

***The city's inability to deal with the rising quality of life crimes and overt criminal activity in the area is an obvious concern.***

as an ambulance route for emergency vehicles trying to get to and from Northwestern Hospital, Lurie Children's Hospital, and the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.

The block also supports public and private bus routes, and handles traffic from hospital visitors and staff, as well as residents and tourists visiting the neighborhood. It is not uncommon for accidents and backups to occur in the area, especially when vehicles block lanes to drop off or pick up on Fairbanks, Ohio, and Ontario streets. Double parking and truck parking

are extremely heavy in the community.

G.P. Green House estimated 200 customers per day would be visiting their pot shop, however other nearby dispensary proposals, such as 212 E. Ontario, estimated 400-600 customers per day in 2022. G.P. Green House claims they will suggest no drop-offs on Fairbanks or Ontario, but area residents know that the problem is already very bad.

Next up to bring more traffic are two new hotels opening on Ontario within two blocks of the proposed dispensary, and the Bally's Casino.

"They state that they have arranged for drop-off and dedicated parking at the corner of Ohio and Fairbanks," said Kostelansky, but he notes that the drop-off is actually paid street parking. "The lot on that corner is owned by a non-profit, almost always packed and is within the downtown cannabis exclusion zone. It's hard to believe that a part of their operation is allowed within the exclusion zone."

The proposed location is also directly across the street from several Northwestern hospital buildings and research centers. It is a block north of the Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's Hospital. These health-related institutions all have zero tolerance drug rules related to cannabis.

"Many of us don't object to medical cannabis sales in appropriate locations," said Kostelansky. But "this is recreational sales, and in an unacceptable location."

**HOTELS** from p. 1

did well in approving legislation to protect hotel workers, which allows hotels to refuse service or remove customers who engage in abusive behavior toward hotel employees.

"We've been pushing legislation across the country called the 'Be Nice Bill,'" Rogers said. "Sometimes guests can get out of hand and hotel employees should not have to put up with that."

Illinois was seventh in the nation last year in hotel wages, salaries and compensation at over \$2.6 billion.

Rogers notes since the pandemic, average hotel wages have increased faster than average wages throughout the general economy.

"To continue supporting millions of good-paying jobs and generating billions in tax revenue in communities across the nation, hotels need to hire more people," said Rogers.

**SHOOTINGS** from p. 1

the proposed parking restrictions are to be enforced.

**'Deleterious impact'**

Reilly pulled no punches in a series of letters and an email last week.

"Based on preliminary findings, the victim of the shooting was a patron of Blüm [nightclub], and the shooter(s) came downtown to seek him out," Reilly wrote in a letter to neighbors.

A Chicago police detective at the scene of the daytime shooting in the 300 block of W. Erie said "upwards to 50" shell casings were at the scene. While police initially believed that they arrested one of the shooters shortly after the crime, prosecutors did not accuse him of participating in the shooting.

Surveillance video first posted by CWB-Chicago showed four gunmen emerge from a parked car and open fire on the victim.

***"River North residents should not be forced to endure the deleterious impact that these problem liquor establishments are having on our community. Enough is enough," Ald. Brendan Reilly fumed.***

The footage showed he tried to run away, but one of the gunmen chased him down Erie St. and shot him in the head.

The victim, 27, was seriously injured.

"The shooting ... placed potentially dozens of lives at risk. I live just a few blocks away and know this happened at a time of day when many residents are out on the neighborhood streets. It is a miracle more people weren't injured or killed," Reilly wrote.

"I have asked the local police commander and liquor commissioner to investigate the nightclub Blüm and, if witness reports are substantiated, initiate the license revocation process to shut them down," he continued.

The alderman pointed out that there was

a shooting outside the nightclub in 2021 when it operated as Clutch Bar.

"River North residents should not be forced to endure the deleterious impact that these problem liquor establishments are having on our community. Enough is enough," Reilly fumed.

He said he asked the 18th District commander to increase police presence on Erie St. and at a nearby park where people have been gathering for nighttime parties. The 18th District extends north into Lincoln Park and includes part of Knudsen's ward where the five people were shot.

Reilly also shared a letter he wrote to the Local Liquor Control Commissioner this week. In it, he "strongly" urged the commissioner to "immediately close" Blüm.

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