

Newberry Plaza battle heading to court

BY RONALD ROENIGK

They finally did it. After much conversation, bickering and battling over the fate of about 10,000 square feet of commercial space at 1030 N. State St., a group of residents at Newberry Plaza is taking their concerns to court.

Yes, individual members of the Newberry Plaza Condominium Association Board [NPCA] are officially being sued for Breach of Duty.

And to heighten the stakes, the Association is also in the middle of their 2021 NPCA Board elections.

They get underway today, Wednesday, July 14.

When this newspaper last looked in on the issue, residents who called themselves the Newberry Plaza Community Coalition [NPCC] were vigorously opposing a pending deal to transfer

part of their buildings' common areas to an outside interest.

Since sometime in 2018, NPCA president and Newberry unit-owner Christian Pezzuto had been working with outside interests - 11 East Partners and Gensler Design

The redevelopment plan would have allowed 11 East Partners to take over the common area pursuant to a 99-year lease in exchange for \$1.

- to put together a redevelopment project that would increase commercial space mostly along the State St. side of the building, by decreasing Newberry Plaza residential common element space, and diminishing the very plaza the building was named after.

The plan would have allowed 11 East Partners to take over the

common area pursuant to a 99-year lease in exchange for \$1.

Over the two years, cruel, bitter criticism and animosity created divisions between neighbors, with accusations that derogatory, sexist and insulting public comments were made between NPCA and NPCC members.

In 2020 a vote was called over the issue, a proxy battle broke out, and the faction favoring the development deal did not meet the 75% threshold to move forward with the deal during a vote undertaken in Sept. 2020. But despite coming up short, the group pressed ahead, and that was when the lawyers were called in.

A complaint was filed July 6 in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Twelve Summons were issued and now members of the Board will have to make a court appearance.

NEWBERRY see p. 12

Gun recovered, charges filed after Gold Coast car crash

BY CWBCHICAGO

The occupants of a car that sped from police and crashed in the Gold Coast July 7 are now facing felony charges. Police tried to pull the car over for a traffic violation, but the driver sped away, headed down a dead-end street, then turned the car around and drove directly at the CPD unit, Assistant State's Attorney Darryl Auguste said.

When the car slammed into a light pole on the 1500 block of N. State, both occupants got out and ran, according to Auguste and a

police report. Cops quickly caught the driver, Gregory Williams, but his passenger, Trevontae Alexander, hopped over a fence while carrying a fanny pack across his chest.

Unfortunately for Alexander, he couldn't figure out how to get out of the yard, and the police arrested him there. Police found a loaded handgun and two loaded ammunition magazines in the fanny pack.

Williams is charged with aggravated fleeing, leaving the scene, and driving without insurance and is also being held on a

warrant for attempted forgery out of DuPage County. According to court records, he's 25 and has previous convictions for home invasion and fleeing - eluding.

Alexander is charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon. He is 26, and has adult felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. He was also convicted of burglary as a juvenile, prosecutors said.

Judge David Navarro set bail for each man at \$50,000. They will need to post \$5,000 individually to get out of jail.

Lawson House undergoing \$122 million, 30-month rehab

Ordinance means 406 units of affordable housing preserved at Lawson Y building

An ordinance introduced in City Council June 25 would issue up to \$17,587,937 in Multi-Family Housing Loan Funds and \$4,697,656 in 9% tax credits to finance the preservation of 406 units of affordable housing for a minimum of 50 years at Lawson House, 30 W. Chicago Ave., the former site of the Lawson YMCA.

The Art Deco 22-story, limestone-clad building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was originally constructed in 1931 by the YMCA of Chicago with 583 units. The building was acquired by Lawson Partners, LLC from the YMCA for \$1 in December 2014 to preserve

it as affordable housing for low-income residents.

All of the units are studios and affordable to tenants with incomes at 60% of the area median income (AMI) or below. The rehab cost will come out to over \$300,000 per unit.

After rehabilitation, each unit will be equipped with private kitchens and bathrooms. Existing building amenities, including the community and laundry rooms, will be retained and plans for the remaining historic gymnasium will become an exercise/fitness room.

Current tenants can choose to be temporarily relocated during the estimated 30-month construction period or choose to be permanently relocated elsewhere based on the terms of the Uniform Relocation Act.

The total project cost is approximately \$122,435,082. In addition to the \$17,587,937 in Multi-Family Housing Loan Funds and \$4,697,656 in 9% tax credits from the City, the complicated rehabilitation is being financed with an approximately \$79,375,316 bridge loan from JPMorgan Chase, a \$17,200,000 Risk Sharing Loan from IHDA, a subordinate \$1,757,682 loan and \$2,443,760 in Donation Tax Credits also from IHDA, and \$14,579,232 in Historic TaxCredits from the National Park Service.



Artist rendering of a proposed new 39-story high-rise at Maple and LaSalle streets.

Year-long fight over Gold Coast high-rise is coming to head

Only 124 parking spaces for 303-unit building?

The latest big idea for housing without parking is being proposed by Fifield Cos. who wants to build a new 39-story high-rise with 303 residential units and only 124 parking spaces at 125 W. Maple St. and 1017-1039 N. LaSalle St.

They made their pitch to Near North Side neighbors during a virtual meeting after this newspaper's deadline on Monday night.

The plan reportedly goes on Thursday's Chicago Plan Commission agenda.

The proposal was revised down from an earlier 43-story, 406-unit plan that was unveiled a year ago, but it's taller than a 29-story proposal Fifield showed to residents of a neighboring condo building.

According to the Chicago Tribune's Ryan Ori, residents of the 34-story Gold Coast Galleria, 111 W. Maple, rallied against Fifield's proposal even before the

FIGHT see p. 12

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Vive la France, and vive la chopped garlic sizzling in olive oil



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

There's no way around it. We owe a lot to the creators of Boeuf Bourguignon, gratin dauphinois (potatoes au gratin), duck l'orange, vichyssoise. L'escargot, pate de foie gras, coq au vin, cassoulet, soupe a l'oignon, chocolate soufflé, salade nicoise, bouillabaisse, the baguette and croissant.

Little did French cooks know when they were inventing 'gastronomique' history that their concoction of meats and wines and herbs would become a land bridge, a taste pont, between two great nations of the world. France and our own USA. A trail of succulent flavors deeply woven into our taste memory.

Kitchen diplomacy at its best. Over the long U.S. history, nothing as been more complicated and irascible than our relationship to the French. Periods of world greatness are hard to let go, no less compete with.

The French have a history of global significance that is gilded in its cultural inheritance. Historic inventiveness, social awareness, artistic authority and political effectiveness.

That's a lot to compete with. French Rulers from Pepin, Charlamagne, Charles the Bald, all the Kings Louis, Robespierre, Napoleon, de Gaulle, Pompidou, Chirac to Macron, have worked with passion to make the French arc of governance widely felt. Like the goings-on of family, if



A Marquis de Lafayette statue on the campus of Lafayette College in Easton, PA, the only college in America to bear his name in.

you will. Full of equal measures of bloodshed and suffering, intelligent thought and brutal foolishness, high poetry, literary excellence and demeaning ignorance of learning. Impossible philosophies and exhaustive pleasures.

But somehow the methodic elegance of French thought permitted them the limberness of reason that allows the opportunity of harvesting the rationality of their thoughts and large ideas.

The evolution of French reflection carried them beyond simple everyday manners and courtly behavior. It filled them with the possibility of understanding the world in which they excelled at living.

Out of such moments the Rights of Man emerged presenting a fresh logic and understanding of how human beings best flourished. With it a humanistic manner of thinking adapted to the scientific world - the French were becoming essential.

Long centuries of neglected wisdom emerged to liberate the French and enhance specula-

tion about life's meaning and purpose. Fresh discoveries in science and navigation and the method of learning emboldened the French. Their passion for exploration opened up the Americas for them.

No land more valuable for them than the vast reaches of Louisiana along the vital important waterways of the Mississippi River and the Gulf.

France's colonial experience in America was vastly different from England's. Much of that due to the philosophies and historic understandings of their sense of governance. It's no wonder that France was attracted to the cause of independence among the American colonies of Britain. French support for the cause was as emotional as it was political.

America still counts French friends among the heroes of our Revolution. Bright and facile military leaders whose personal courage was a great gift to the emerging American Republic.

No one more significant than the French nobleman, Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette. Known everywhere in America simply as "Lafayette." He was just a teenager when he rose to America's defense.

He convinced the Continental Army to commission him a major general at the Revolution's start, behind the back of French monarch Louis XVI. He brought brains and nobility to the Revolution's success. His friendship with the nation's founding leaders was something he carried back to his own country as they began their march to revolutionary history.

Lafayette, a co-author of the Rights of Man, is buried in a small cemetery in the Picpus neighborhood in Paris. It is reserved as a burial site for those whose families died on the guillotine. Lafayette's wife's family was their entry ticket. Lafayette's grave is a central feature.

The soil under which he rests is said to have come from the soil at Bunker Hill, a strategic battle in America's Revolution.

He is one of only six foreign nationals to be given U.S. citizenship by Congress. Every year on July 4th the American ambassador to France visits the grave with U.S. Marines. The U.S. flag is raised at the grave and the American National Anthem is played. These events at Picpus have been observed since the First World War. The flag was permitted to fly unencumbered even during the German occupation of World War II. There are no dry eyes in Picpus when America's anthem is sung. So strong are the ties that still attach us to the young bub-



Ida B. Wells monument (L) and sculptor Richard Hunt.

bling aristocrat.

Opera lovers will note that the Picpus Cemetery is also the burial site of the Carmelite Nuns whose story during the French Revolution is told in the opera, Dialogues of the Carmelites, by Francois Poulenc. A haunting work of great mystery.

I always think of the Marquis de Lafayette when eating good French toast. My mother made remarkable French toast and we always spoke of things French when it appeared on the breakfast table.

Think old-fashioned homemade slices of bread, no crusts, slightly dried out, given a good swim in rich egg batter with cream. Sauteed always in an iron skillet with unsalted butter at low heat, custardy and golden with fresh ground nutmeg. And though many love maple syrup, our favorite was a fresh blueberry compote with cardamon, cinnamon and lemon zest added.

Marquis de Lafayette kept his head during the French Revolt. I think of him today, Le quatorze juillet, Bastille Day, as Americans call it. A day ripe for remembering the things that unite us to the French. For government that makes sense and speaks for the people. For the value of human lives, all of which matter. The long arm of history that has linked our mutual survival at Bunker Hill and on Normandy's beaches and all the strategic places in between.

For opera, ballet, and the Statue of Liberty.

For the Art Institute's Chagall window and all its Impressionists and post-Impressionists that are housed there in the largest collection outside of Paris.

And for the aroma of chopped garlic sizzling away in olive oil. And the vittles of elegance and taste that keep us well-fed. Vive

la Revolution.

NEW SCULPTURE: Newly installed **Ida B. Wells** Monument by world-renowned, Chicago-based sculptor **Richard Hunt**, at 37th and Langley in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago. Remember and be inspired by **Michelle Duster's** great-grandmother -- the woman -- and all she contributed to make this country what it could be.

SAY THEIR NAMES: The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation paid tribute to five fallen Chicago Police officers July 8 by adding their names to the memorial wall at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. At a solemn ceremony attended by family members of the fallen officers, CPD officials and supporters, the names of Chicago Police **Sgt. Patrick Beckham**, **Sgt. Frank**

COUP see p. 10

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Fax: (773) 465-9800
E: insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com

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'The war on guns'

Streets of Chicago are under siege, time for action



The Home Front
By Don DeBat

The streets of Chicago are under siege.

A column covering real estate may be an odd place to find crime fighting advice, but nothing reduces real estate values quite like a shoot-out in your

front yard.

Every night the 10 p.m. TV news lists the previous night's shootings and murders on the streets of Chicago.

Over the July 4 holiday weekend over 100 people were shot, including 11 children... 17 people died. And it will likely happen again this weekend.

Chicago Police Comr. David O. Brown blames the court system for not dealing harshly with the gun felons. Meanwhile, Cook County States Attorney Kim Foxx blames the cops and refuses to prosecute. Mayor Lori Lightfoot wrings her hands, curses or calls everyone names, and then begs President Joe Biden for federal help to control illegal guns.

This writer thinks it is time to take a stand to begin to solve the runaway violence plaguing Chicago. Time to put our broad shoulders back to work making our streets safe again.

Fact: The killers are mostly gang members and drug dealers fighting over gang turf for illegal drug sales, mostly on the South Side and West Side of the city.

Fact: There may be more than 100,000 gang members, many of which are involved in these gun and murder crimes. The Chicago Police Dept. knows their names, addresses, family members and associates because they have long criminal records. So how hard would it be to start with a comprehensive gun-search crack-down with this list?

Here are some suggestions on how to fight "The War on Guns" and how to get



(L) President Biden meeting Mayor Lightfoot and Toni Preckwinkle at O'Hare Airport. (R) Chicago Police Comr. David O. Brown. Photos courtesy of WGN News



illegal weapons and deadly killers off the streets of Chicago:

- **Establish Marshall Law.** Let's be honest, many Chicago streets are combat zones. It's time for Gov. J.B. Pritzker and President Biden to order the National Guard to set up road blocks in Chicago's problem neighborhoods to do searches and seizures for illegal guns, and arrest gang members on outstanding warrants and parole violations.

Chicago police try to stem the tide, but Cook County Courts free many of the shooters as quickly as they're brought in.

Chicago police try to stem the tide, but Cook County Courts free many of the shooters as quickly as they're brought in.

The federal government can set up quasi military occupation camps in gang neighborhoods so troops can go on night combat patrols to ferret out the gang bangers who are out shooting in the neighborhoods. This really is anti-terrorist work.

Some of these gang members are so bold they may take up the challenge and shoot it out with federal troops. Big mistake for them, especially if the feds bring in ar-

mored personnel carriers and heavy weapons. Some may die. Arrest and prosecute gang bangers to the fullest measure of the law. It's the feds, so few would be freed the same day.

- **House-to-house weapons searches in known offenders' homes.** Remember, this is a war on illegal guns and those who possess them. It's really a military operation like fighting terrorists. If illegal weapons are found in "hot" neighborhoods they need to be confiscated. Illegal gun owners need to be prosecuted to the fullest measure of the law.

Drugs and cash will also likely be found in these properties, increasing the criminal penalties. The real estate also should be confiscated. Surely drones can be used to track what buildings shooters are entering and exiting.

- **Target gun trafficking.** Launch a federal crackdown on suburban gun shops and those in nearby states which are selling thousands of weapons to gangs. Is this a federal crime? Is it illegal to sell weapons inter-state to gangs? If not, let's go to Washington, D.C. and pass new legislation. Hello, Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Congressmen from Illinois.

Yes, we know, many of the illegal gun merchants are working out of cars. Is there a way to covertly place GPS tracking devices on their vehicles to follow them on their sales routes?

- **Demand neighborhood intelligence co-operation.** We always see many of the same people complaining in the news about shootings and killings of innocent children who happen to be in the path of those gang bullets. Since they suffer the most, now it's the neighborhood groups' turn to really help identify the shooters. They likely know who their worst gang-member offender neighbors are.

The city should offer "Gang-Banger Identification" rewards for anonymous tips. Why not "Finger a Gang-Banger" for \$1,000 cash reward, or more, and save lives?

- **Much tougher weapons penalties.** If a person has been arrested on weapons charges multiple times, he or she is a habitual offender and a three-time loser, and should be incarcerated without parole. Many of these people are murderers and killers of innocent people and do not de-

WAR see p. 4

Supreme Court ends Lincoln Park investor's quest to curb eminent domain laws

Fred Eychaner had already settled with Chicago over his River West property, but he wanted measures overturned nationwide

BY JENNIFER WATERS
The Real Deal

A Chicago businessman's effort to curb eminent domain laws across the country ended June 1 when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear his case involving a 15-year lawsuit against Chicago.

On the last day of its term, the high court refused to hear Fred Eychaner's case, which stemmed from the city's 2005 decision to hand his River West property over to Blommer Chocolate Co.

Eychaner, a longtime resident of Lincoln Park, has owned a variety of North Side businesses and also the design and architecture exhibition space Wrightwood 659, at 659 W. Wrightwood Ave.

Blommer wanted to expand its candy-making factory and needed Eychaner's vacant parcel at 460-468 N. Jefferson St. Blommer had offered \$825,000 for the property that at the time was surrounded mostly by former meat-packing warehouses.

When the two failed to reach an agreement, the city swept in with its power of eminent domain and seized the property

for Blommer, arguing it "may become a blighted area."

Eychaner, who founded Newsweb printing company (now Topweb) at Clybourn and Fullerton avenues, sued the city in 2006, charging that allegations of speculative decay abused the "public use" requirement.

In 2019, he was awarded \$7.1 million for the property, which now sits on the edge of bustling Fulton Market. But he wanted the high court to overturn a controversial 2005 ruling, *Kelo v. City of New London*, that allowed governments to take over property in a push to revitalize an area.

Three judges were willing to hear it — Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh — but a fourth was needed for it to get on the agenda.

In his three-page dissenting opinion, Thomas called the 2005 decision a "mistake" that did a "disservice" to the Constitution. He also noted Chicago "decided to use the coercive power of the government to give the company a valuable parcel of not-yet-blighted-land."

Bloomer, whose sweet chocolatey smells have drifted over the city for 80 years, is now owned by Fuji Oil Holdings. The Japanese company closed on the family-owned firm in early 2020.

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median income.

Proof of citizenship is not required, and assistance is not a public charge.

For application help contact the Northside Community Development Corporation at 773-262-2290 ext. 34 or ilrpp@northsidecr.org. Apply at ilrpp.ihda.org. For more information call 866-454-3571 or visit ihda.org.

New scholarship offer at City Colleges

The City Colleges of Chicago and Crown Family Philanthropies hope to help Chicago Public Schools' 2020 graduates ACE their future with a new scholarship.

Whether transferring to a four-year college or those who want to gain the knowledge and skill set needed to start a career, City Colleges is here to help.

Through the Advancing Chicago's Education (ACE) Scholarship, students can receive \$1,000 and a free laptop to keep by taking classes this Fall

To be eligible, students must be a CPS 2020 high school graduate, or be a first-time college student (no college credits earned after

high school graduation).

Students must enroll and stay enrolled in at least six credit hours during the Fall semester and meet with a City Colleges advisor at least once during the term.

Candidates may email ace@ccc.edu with questions, or contact the City Colleges Enrollment Specialists, Alex Harris (aharris353@ccc.edu) or Mercedes Diaz (mdiaz364@ccc.edu).

City Colleges offers a wide range of in-demand programs and degrees, as well as the tutoring, advising, internship and apprenticeship programs, and other support services.

Job fair for veterans coming to Soldier Field

The Chicago Veterans Job Fair will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at Soldier Field, 1410 Museum Campus Drive.

The event is free to transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses, and dependents.

"Our mission is to empower veterans with career opportunities," RecruitMilitary CEO Tim Best said, adding, "The return of our face-to-face events allows us to serve our community of 1.5 million job seekers in the most effective way possible."

Since March 2020, RecruitMilitary has served more than 80,000 job seekers and 3,500 employers in a virtual format. Now, the organization has modernized the way career fairs work by implementing new technologies that keep job seekers and employers informed and supported with tools for success before, during and after an in-person event.

For more information visit recruitmilitary.com.

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Southport Lanes closing after 99 years

BY PATRICK BUTLER

The government-forced COVID-19 economic lockdown took another victim, this time it was one of the most venerable small businesses in Lakeview.

After nearly a century, Southport Lanes has shut down forever.

Owner Steve Soble didn't want it that way, but according to his spokesman, Lacey Irby, the numbers just weren't in his favor.

Business had been down 75% compared to the previous year – before the coronavirus hit most of the world. Even a \$75,000 State Business Rescue grant wasn't enough to keep the business afloat.

So even though Southport Lanes managed to survive the 1918 Spanish Flu that infected about one-third of the world's population and killed up to 100 million people worldwide, and outlasted prohibition, too, it couldn't outlast the COVID.

"You can't fight the numbers and it was pretty obvious we were wasting our time, but we did get 98 years, we had a good run," Soble told a reporter. They closed permanently after pouring its last beer on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020.

Not only a good run, but a colorful run by all accounts.

Built around 1900 as a "tied house" by the Schlitz Brewery (which originally meant the bar owner could only buy from the tied house brewery, guaranteeing the brewery a loyal retail "customer."), Southport Lanes was originally dubbed the "Nook." In 1922, laws were changed to ban brewers from being tavern and bar owners, so when the "Nook" got its independence, it was re-christened Southport Lanes in honor of the four bowling lanes that were soon installed.

The four maple wood lanes turned out to be a major draw for Southport Lanes, for bowling and the pins that were hand set by actual pinboys in the back.

The exterior of this two-story orange brick building is impressive, especially with its enormous Schlitz globe logo in bass relief on the building's north side, still found on Schlitz bottles today.

Over the years, however, there was a lot more than bowling going on at the "Nook." Over time there developed plenty of "nook" going on upstairs and downstairs with the entertainment ranging from female companionship to the gambling games of your



When Southport Lanes gained its independence from being a tied house in 1922, it was re-christened Southport Lanes in honor of the four bowling lanes that were soon installed. *Photos courtesy Chicago Bar Project*

choice.

A previous owner told Soble "there was a secret room where legend had it, Mayor Anton Cermak would hold a weekly poker game."

Steve Soble savors the night the entire Chicago Cubs team came to Southport Lanes to celebrate their World Series victory back in 2016.

According to the Chicago Bar Project, Southport Lane's owner had to subtly advertise the delights to be found upstairs. He did this by having M.K. Siegner paint murals on the walls depicting nymphs frolicking in negligees. These murals can still be seen, both in the front room and above the bowling pins. Additional murals of these nymphs, sans clothing, could be found along the staircase and in the second floor bedrooms but those have since been painted over.

And there are still dark stories making the rounds about how

Nazi Bund supporters reportedly met frequently in a downstairs room in the years before America entered World War II.

In short, there was apparently everything from the naughty to the outright reprehensible.

By all accounts, however, most customers were just scarfing down mugs of Schlitz or trying to make strikes in the bowling alley downstairs.

Looking back, Soble savors events like the time he hosted actor Al Pacino while he was in town shooting "Glengarry Glen Ross."

And especially the night the entire Chicago Cubs team came in to celebrate their World Series victory back in 2016.

Unfortunately, everything but the memories and the mementos ranging from pool balls and cues, restaurant furniture, an antique Bell Telephone booth, the actual bar and two historic murals, along with the actual bar, will be available for purchase during the liquidation starting July 20.

And Soble would also like to see his clientele drop in one last time for a drink.

WAR from p. 3

serve to walk the streets of Chicago. The police know who they are. Hello, Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court, are you listening?

• **Offer an olive branch.** Let's suppose there are a few gang members who have a heart and see the writing on the wall, and want to get out of the killing lifestyle.

We need to find a job for every gang member who turns in his gun. The pay should be higher than the \$15 minimum wage. Many are seasoned drug sales

experts. They could be hired to market and sell marijuana at legal pot shops across the city—or even electronics at Best Buy.

For those gang members who aspire for higher employment, offer free GED courses, college scholarships, or military service with guaranteed government school training to become engineers, journalists and professionals. (No, on second thought, skip journalist. They're now making less than minimum wage.)

Now that the U.S. military has left Afghanistan, Uncle Sam needs those seasoned troops to protect America. This is a higher

calling. Pay these professionals to take an oath of allegiance to America, and promise to work for the government for at least 10 years. Pay these veterans \$100,000 a year, and give them a full military pension. They will all retire millionaires.

If these out-of-the-box suggestions sound harsh, they need to be. It's a war. Gung-Ho!

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.

Dan O'Donnell Way christened at Armitage and Bissell streets

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Some 300 people (who was counting?) including at least two aldermen, other public officials, community leaders, contractors, neighbors, and the Irish Consul General gathered at Armitage and Bissell streets Saturday, July 10, to officially designate that intersection Dan O'Donnell Way.

Social distancing? Not a chance, hugs - long ones - were much en vogue on that sunny day.

It was a party Dan O'Donnell would have appreciated. He knew it was coming up, and had already partaken in a City Hall ceremony in 2020. Sadly, he died suddenly in February while on vacation in Florida.

But the show did go on, and it was standing room only. When the bagpipes played before and after the ceremony, many guests reached for tissues, explaining (faking) that some dust had gotten in an eye. It was a sweet remembrance for a gem of a man.

Dan O'Donnell changed the climate around Armitage Ave. enough to help transform the neighborhood from local gangland turf to a thriving, gentrifying area.

O'Donnell, a community activist and local Kiwanis leader, almost single-handedly organized a program enabling an estimated 16,000 Irish students a summertime visit to the U.S. after seeing a handful of Irish kids sitting on their luggage across the street from his store.

While he was at it, he also managed to help (and lead) the local Lake View Kiwanis Club which raised funds for dozens of local organizations ranging from grade schools, food pantries, to reading programs and the Salvation Army.

He also changed the climate around Armitage Ave. enough to help transform the neighborhood from local gangland turf to a thriving, gentrifying area. He knew everybody on the block and tens of thousands of people throughout Chicago. Not every neighborhood had a Dan O'Donnell, but every neighborhood needed a Dan O'Donnell.

Before the neighborhood gentrified "If you had four cars parked on the street in the morning, it was a lot," said his son Brian who was a speaker during the ceremony, adding that "if you had a nice car, chances are it would have been up on milk crates by morning."

O'Donnell's wife, Kathy, recalled that when they first moved into the neighborhood back in 1969, "Everyone was afraid of the gangs." When Dan, who was trying



On July 10 family and friends gathered to officially designate the intersection of Armitage and Bissell streets 'Dan O'Donnell Way.'

Photo by Frank Crescenzi



The O'Donnell Family helped make the intersection what it is today, and now there's proof.

Photo courtesy Jane Canepa



Dan O'Donnell. Photo by Frank Crescenzi

to spruce up the block, asked one of the gang-bangers what they were doing removing the street paving bricks on the block, he told Dan he needed to use the bricks as a drop location for drugs, and to conceal the money they were collecting."

Not surprisingly, Dan left the bricks alone thereafter.

Of course, Dan couldn't do everything all alone, said Ron Roenigk, Inside Publications' owner and an active Kiwanian, especially around Peanut Day, a longtime Kiwanis tradition.

"Whenever he called you, you knew he needed some help and you never said no to the Godfather," Roenigk said. "He was the source of many stories for this newspaper, and not the scandalous ones either. He found many a good cause to take up."

Sometimes it appeared Dan was working too hard. Like when his wife asked

two Kiwanis officers to get her husband to slow down. Impossible.

But he also had time for his family, said Brian, recalling how fortunate he was to have been able to work with his dad since he was six or seven-years-old in the hardware store - watching as Lincoln Park was transformed.

Kevin Byrne, Chicago's Irish Consul, noted that Chicago has always been welcoming people from Ireland for generations, but it's so unusual that for all these Irish kids, their welcome came by one man - and that's Dan O'Donnell."

Over the years, Byrne estimated, Dan O'Donnell has probably made it possible for 16,000 Irish kids to come visit here

over the years.

"I hope you realize we are honoring a man who literally transformed this neighborhood. (The neighborhood) would not be here if it weren't for Dan O'Donnell. Dan's spirit can continue living on through his works. Remember his great spirit," said Ald. Michele Smith [43rd].

The O'Donnell family had applied months ago to put up an honorary street sign honoring Dan. "Too bad he wasn't around to see this," said family friends Bob and Maureen Schubert as they left after the ceremonies.

"But he did," said a woman about two rows behind. "He was here in spirit."

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Osterman gives two thumbs up to TimeLine Theater plans

Ald. Harry Osterman [48th] just gave two thumbs up for a proposed zoning change on Broadway. And the assembled crowds said they liked it even better than Cats.

In June the alderman hosted a final review meeting for TimeLine Theatre's request for a zoning change and Public Place of Amusement license for their new facility at 5033-5035 N. Broadway.

Following overwhelming support from community members and local organizations, Osterman announced he would support their request.

TimeLine plans to build two intimate and flexible black box theaters of 250 and 150 seats.

"My office has been working closely with TimeLine since 2016 to help them find a home in our community. Their location near Argyle on Broadway will serve as a northern anchor to the Uptown Entertainment District and will bring many hungry guests to Asia on Argyle," said Osterman.

The new theater will be just a few blocks from historic venues like the Green Mill, Aragon Ballroom, Riviera Theatre and the maybe-to-be-renovated Uptown Theatre, as well as Black Ensemble Theater, Baton Show Lounge and Double Door at the Wilson Avenue Theater.

TimeLine's management team says they have started connecting with the Uptown community, and say they hope to work with students and faculty at nearby Goudy and McCutcheon schools.

According to their plan, their first initiative is their Community Connection Project [CCP]. The plan to partner with their



TimeLine Theater plans to build two intimate and flexible black box theaters of 250 and 150 seats at 5033-5035 N. Broadway.

new architects HGA "to pilot a series of community engagement activities with existing audiences; Living History students, teachers, and parents; Uptown neighbors, businesses, and organizations; and other current and potential constituencies." They hope the CCP will strengthen TimeLine's relationships with people across the community, and ensure that a broad range of people have a say in making their new theater a place where all people can feel a sense of belonging.

For 24 years the TimeLine has presented 82 productions including 10 world premieres and 38 Chicago premieres in the former Lakeview location, 615 W. Wellington Ave. They also launched the Living History Education Program (now in its 15th year) of bringing the company's mission

to life for students in Chicago Public Schools.

In Dec. of 2018 TimeLine completed the purchase of property located on Broadway. The property, which encompasses a five-story, 45,120-square-foot warehouse building plus a vacant lot near the corner of Broadway and Argyle, is planned as the site of a renovated facility to house our future operations and to support and expand TimeLine's mission of presenting plays inspired by history that connect to today's social and political issues.

Two Lincoln Square park projects get TIF funds

In City Council on June 25 Ronan Park, at 3000 W. Argyle St., was allocated \$3.5 million for community garden improvements, a new riverfront plaza, a new performance pavilion, and related landscape improvements. The cost of the project will be entirely funded by property taxes collected via Tax Increment Financing.

River Park, 5100 N. Francisco Ave. in Lincoln Square, will be get \$750,000 in tax funds from Tax Increment Financing to support park boathouse improvements. The upgrades will enhance boat storage and water access for Park District paddling program participants. Project costs will be entirely funded with TIF.

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Letters to the Editor

My hero Pat Butler

My reporter hero, Patrick Butler, has cranked out yet another great feature article, this one, Community Clinic provides care to local uninsured, free from fear of big bills, in the July 7 issue. Butler knows how to write them, crafting a good story out of facts.

In this article too he celebrates decent people doing decent things -- by the end the reader learns, "The overall mostly-volunteer staff includes 25 physicians, and

more than 200 nurses and behavioral health care students."

Thanks again, Butler, for your good reasons to read the Inside-Booster! Of course, we all enjoy in some weird way the creepy middle pages about crime, but it helps keep our minds balanced to read about something decent going on in the neighborhood.

Betty Lindsey Geilen
Lakeview

Were they ever here at all?

Regarding Don DeBat's June 30 article, "Lane Tech Indian retired," on the removal of the "Shooting the Stars" statue, along with Felicia Dechter's July 7 article, "A road by any other name ...," which addressed the shame of changing the name of Lake Shore Dr. to Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Lake Shore Dr.

I cannot agree with these writers more. And I too take offense at the name changing and statue removal.

And we all know Native Americans were here first, long before DuSable.

I can't help but wonder whether the people who are for the remov-

al of these non-offensive pieces of art, the statue and the WPA murals, realize that in removing all traces of anything Native American, they are essentially erasing Native American existence. It's as if they were never here.

Just like removing the woman's image from the Land O Lakes butter packaging... once again, we got rid of the Indian but we kept the land.

The land of the stinky onion, no less!

Sydney Moore
Andersonville

How crude of you!

Thomas O'Gorman's articles [June 23] are designed to get attention, and once again you have succeeded, taking on the urban robbers.

It is grievous that you brought in the "vegan crowd" that is far more deserving than your crude comments about the "lactose intolerant, almond milk brigade and kale mob."

I am one of those people who haven't touched animal products for 35 years and guess what? I am not a "cardiac patient."

I have not had a flu or cold in 35 years and do not use novocain when I have teeth extracted. I walk 5 to 10 miles per week and I am over 80 years old.

Perhaps if you consider some of the "vegan ways," (walking), building up your heart muscles, you could walk to the doctor's office and have the last laugh at Uber.

Reheated plate of vegan swill? (Dictionary definition: garbage mixed with liquid used for feeding animals, especially pigs.) How crude of you!

Instead of attacking the citizens for the present state of affairs, address the politicians who allowed this to happen. Remind the citizens to be more selective on their next trip to the ballot box.

Ava Barcelone
Andersonville

Ten more questions about the Lincoln Square parking lot deal

Dear Ald. Martin,

Regarding your plans to give the Lincoln Square parking lot away for \$1 to an out-of-state developer...

1. How much is the development slated to cost?
2. How much of their own money are The Community Builders [TCB] and their directors and partners putting up?
3. How much profit do they expect to get back?
4. Will TCB put in writing that they shall not seek, nor accept any more public monies, Tax Increment Financing funds, Tax Credits, government subsidies nor management fees?
5. Will TCB release all emails, letters and memos, unredacted, between themselves and Mayor Lightfoot, aldermen Martin and Pawar, any City of Chicago, Cook County or State of Illinois commissioners, attorneys or employees?

6. Will TCB release all communications, unredacted, to or concerning the parking spots and/or LAZ Parking?
7. Will TCB put in writing, that they will replace all the parking spots at 4715 N. Western Ave. with one and a half spots for every spot lost within one city block?
8. Will TCB release cost estimates for the other dozen or so locations listed* by Inside Publications?
9. Why was TCB chosen in the first place?
10. Is there another city lot I can have for free?

Michael Sullivan

* Editor's note: In one of Mr. Sullivan's earlier letters to the editor he listed 20 alternate nearby locations for the project proposed for 4715 N. Western Ave.

Write a Letter To The Editor at:
insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com

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Eyewitness recounts beating of senior citizen at Edgewater intersection

BY STEVE LARSEN

On the night of June 17, three African American males in their 20s slapped a man in front of the McDonald's restaurant at 6231 N. Broadway. They almost knocked him off the bench and onto the patio floor.

Small groups of customers sat at the half-dozen tables in front of the McDonald's, shocked at what had happened. This unprovoked attack on a Caucasian senior citizen was witnessed by others who saw the three men run off, laughing, and head toward the CTA Red Line station on Granville.

Thinking the three thugs had left the neighborhood, the group in front of the McDonald's dispersed, going their separate ways. No reason for the attack had been given.

Onlookers yelled and tried to stop the beating. The second man was punching the senior as the third man provided menacing backup.

The senior gentleman proceeded to the corner of Broadway and Granville, in front of Ann Sather restaurant, 1147 W. Granville.

The three men returned, and they had a long walking cane with them. They saw the senior there, and the first man started beating him over the head with the cane. He did this 10 or 20 times, until the cane broke.

The cane sliced open the senior's neck. There was a great deal of blood gushing from this head wound.

A crowd of half a dozen people was on the corner, screaming for the men to stop attacking the senior.

One courageous man actually picked up the first attacker – the most violent one – and carried him out into the street to diffuse the situation.

Onlookers yelled and tried to stop the beating. The second man was punching the senior as the third man provided menacing backup.

The first attacker was able to get loose and run back to start hitting the senior again. People yelled, people called the police, and people tried to get between the three attackers and the senior citizen, who eventually ran out onto Broadway. Drivers honked and yelled at the attackers, but they kept chasing the senior, who out of desperation ran across the street and into the CVS store, 6150 N. Broadway.

He entered the store running, yelling for the employees to call the police. They called 911 as the three attackers followed the senior into the store and intensified their attack, knocking him down, punching him, and kicking him until he could no longer get up off the floor. The store was full of customers and employees.

The video was running, people took photos of the attackers, however, when they entered the CVS, they put on masks.

One man, who had followed the three thugs into the store, grabbed the last one and pulled him out of the store.

The youngest and smallest, this attacker turned around and screamed at the gentleman, "Do you know who I am? You are a dead man!" The man continued to pull this thug out into the parking lot.

Soon, the police sirens could be heard, and all three attackers walked calmly and slowly back down to the CTA station, in no hurry to leave the neighborhood.

Several police officers, and a pair of paramedics, arrived at the scene. They asked the standard questions, and provided the usual safety procedures commonly taken at a crime scene once the attackers have left and there is no longer any danger.

Two police officers stopped at the corner of Broadway and Granville. The man who had carried the thug out into the street told officers several times that the three men walking past them and down the sidewalk on Granville toward the Red Line station were the ones who had committed the attack.

The officers ignored him.

Instead, the officers went across the street to the CVS and became part of the chaos and confusion in the store.

There too, they asked the standard questions and offered their help.

The paramedics took the senior citizen to the hospital.

Suspect #1 is 5'-9" tall and 160 lbs., about 25-years-old with small squares in hair design, wearing a black jacket, and jeans. Suspect #2 is 5'-6" tall and 150 lbs., about 25-years-old, wearing a black hoodie and jeans. Suspect #3 is 5'-6" tall and 130 lbs., about

20-years-old wearing a bright yellow hoodie and jeans.

Two nights later, two of the three attackers returned to the McDonald's and saw the senior citizen sitting there. They wanted to know where one of their shoes had gone, it being lost when they ran off and they wanted to get paid to buy a new pair of shoes.

Wanted for assault against member of Loyola community

Suspect #1 African American, 5'-9" tall, 160 lbs., about 25-years-old with small squares in hair design, wearing a black jacket and jeans.

Suspect #2 African American, 5'-6" tall, 150 lbs., about 25-years-old, wearing a black hoodie and jeans.

Suspect #3 African American, 5'-6" tall, 130 lbs., about 20-years-old wearing a bright yellow hoodie and jeans.

Call Det. Covelli at 312-744-8261 Case #JE269963

The senior immediately called 911, reported the men being there again, and after the two men left, waited for the police to arrive.

The police said they had searched the area of Broadway and Granville, and east toward the CTA station, the Red Line platform, and nearby alleys. They told the senior to avoid the neighborhood and call 911 if he saw any of the attackers again.

Police said there was nothing they could do but show up when called.

The victim, who holds a Ph.D.

from Loyola Univ., is a well-known neighbor and community member.

If anyone has any information about the attack, the three suspects, or any other news to share on the topic, call Detective Covelli at 312-744-8261. He can also be contacted at timothy.covelli@chicagopolice.gov. Reference case #JE269963.

Flyers with the basic information and facts of the attack are available at stevlarson4503@yahoo.com.

We must get these three violent men off the streets. Chicago seems to be turning into a very violent city – no matter the neighborhood.

Some people are afraid to try to diffuse or stop an attack, others are fearful of being retaliated against if they get involved in

a campaign to get some people behind bars, and still others are reluctant to be interviewed for stories – even though they are eyewitnesses.

Once the sun goes down, are we all on our own?



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Police Beat...

Private school art teacher charged with sexually abusing two students for years

A veteran art instructor at a Near North Side private school was charged July 6 with sexually abusing two of his students over a period of years beginning in 2010. Oscar Luis Martinez, 68, taught the girls at school and in his home during weekly private art lessons, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.



Oscar Luis Martinez

Martinez abused one girl between 2010 and 2018 when she was 10- to 17-years-old, according to Murphy. The girl told investigators that Martinez commented about her body and began talking about sex and giving her massages when she was 13, Murphy said. The prosecutor also detailed allegations of inappropriate touching over the course of years.

The girl declined money to pose nude for Martinez when she was 14, Murphy said, but she allegedly agreed to pose in a bra and underwear while he took pictures. Martinez used the photos to create a nude painting of the girl, Murphy alleged.

Murphy said the girl's mother saw the painting about a year later, but the girl denied that she was the person in the painting. The mother then confronted Martinez, who allegedly said he wouldn't show the painting until she turned 18.

When the girl was 16, Martinez made "multiple" requests to have sex with the girl, but she declined, Murphy said.

The girl outcried to another girl in May 2020. The other girl is the second alleged victim. According to Murphy, that girl described similar conduct and said Martinez created a nude painting of her after she posed in a bra and leggings at the age of 17.

Both alleged victims filed police reports in January of this year, and CPD detectives launched an investigation. That same month, Martinez posted one victim's nude painting on Facebook, Murphy said.

Martinez was arrested on July 4 to face two felony counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse. Murphy said investigators have been speaking with a third former student about similar allegations, but no charges have been filed in that matter.

Private defense attorney Hal Garfinkel said Martinez is a prominent artist who taught at Chicago Grammar School, 900 N. Franklin, for 15 years until COVID arrived last year. Martinez, who is divorced and has two children, has no criminal background, Garfinkel said.

Judge Susana Ortiz set bail at \$25,000 and ordered Martinez to avoid contact with anyone under the age of 18. She said he must go onto electronic monitoring if he posts the mandatory \$2,500 deposit.

Martinez is listed as "artist in residence" on the school's website.

Group robs man at gunpoint after asking for change in Old Town

Police are investigating after a group of young attackers jumped and robbed a man at gunpoint in Old Town July 7.

The 22-year-old was walking on the 1900 block of N. Mohawk when the group stopped him to ask for change around 11:10 p.m., according to a CPD report. One of the offenders then put a gun to the man's forehead and demanded his wallet and phone.

After the victim complied, the offenders punched him in the face twice and ran away southbound. Police said the victim declined medical attention.

He described the robbers as three Black males who all appeared to be younger than 16-years-old. One of them was reportedly heavyset and wore a purple hoodie.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Uptown man accused of trying to sexually assault neighbor during home invasion faces new allegations

An Uptown man who was charged in December with trying to sexually assault his neighbor during a home invasion also tried to sexually assault a woman in an Uptown bar three days later, prosecutors said July 7.

Boney Patel, 31, now faces additional charges of attempted criminal sexual assault by force and unlawful



Boney Patel

restraint in connection with a Dec. 23 incident at Holiday Club, 4000 N. Sheridan. Patel, a patent attorney who is not currently authorized to practice in Illinois, has been struggling with a mental health condition that set in early last year, said his private defense attorney.

Prosecutors in late December accused Patel of groping five women over the course of several days before Christmas until his 25-year-old neighbor finally had him arrested for allegedly forcing his way into her home and throwing her on the bed in a violent attack.

The neighbor initially declined to press charges for the alleged home invasion because she feared Patel would retaliate, prosecutors said. But she changed her mind later and agreed to pursue charges.

Man shot in Rogers Park

Police are investigating after a 20-year-old man was shot in Rogers Park July 7. The victim is in good condition.

According to police, the man was outside on the 6500 block of N. Ashland around 10:29 p.m. when he heard gunfire and realized he had been shot in the right leg. The man told investigators that he thought the gunman fired from a passing car.

Officers found a significant number of shell casings in the street, and six parked cars were struck by bullets, according to CPD records. Bullets also flew through an apartment window and the front glass of a nearby business.

Paramedics transported the victim to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston for treatment.

He is the 13th person shot in Rogers Park this year and the ninth shooting victim in two months. By comparison, the neighborhood had 12 shooting victims at this point last year and five to date in 2019.

Probation for 2 men charged with robbery after good Samaritan intervened at Southport Brown Line

Two men who faced felony charges after good Samaritans intervened in a robbery aboard a Brown Line train at Southport last year have been sentenced to probation.

Jakolbi Lard, 19, and Meleh Jackson, 20, each pleaded guilty to one count of robbery, and prosecutors agreed to drop aggravated battery charges in exchange for three years probation, records show. Judge William Raines oversaw the case.

Shortly after 7 p.m. Jan. 16, 2020, Lard took a 55-year-old man's phone on the train and then battered a witness who came to the victim's aid, police said at the time. Then, he allegedly battered the victim when the man tried to get his phone back.

Cops arrived to find the victim and a witness detaining Lard on the platform.

Detectives tracked Jackson down two days later. He was supposed to be on electronic monitoring for a pending domestic violence case at the time of the robbery, records show. He was also on probation for theft in a case that began as a robbery charge.

According to a contemporaneous Chicago Tribune report, Lard's father, Charles, was the oldest of 21 people killed in the E2 nightclub tragedy in 2003.

Lard and Jackson aren't the only people to wind up in Judge Raines' court because a good Samaritan got involved.

Just days after they were arrested, four men chased down Trevon Young and pinned him to the ground after they allegedly saw him snatch a woman's phone at a bus stop outside City Hall.

Cops found the woman's phone in Young's possession along with another phone that had been reported stolen by a South Side woman.

He has now pleaded guilty to theft in exchange for 18 months probation from Raines, records show.

Man shot while driving in Edgewater

An 18-year-old man was shot while driving in Edgewater July 7, police said. He is in good condition, but no arrests have been made.

The man was driving eastbound on Hollywood near Winthrop when someone opened fire on him from a black Volkswagen SUV that pulled up on his driver's side, according to a CPD report. One round struck the victim in his lower back. Police found shell casings at the scene.

Several bullet holes were also seen in the rear driver's side of his car as it sat outside Weiss Hospital shortly after the shooting. He reportedly drove himself there for treatment after the incident.

Wednesday's shooting is the second for the immediate area since Oct. 17. In the previous incident, a 38-year-old man was critically wounded in an apparent road rage shooting, police said. A witness told police that the two vehicles' occupants appeared to be engaged in a dispute as they traveled northbound on Lake Shore Dr. a few minutes before the shooting. No one was ever charged in the case.

According to city records, two shootings have been reported in Edgewater this year, which is the same number seen in the neighborhood at this point last year and 2019.

The other shooting in 2021 took place on the 1100 block of W. Granville at 3:45 a.m. on March 7. A 35-year-old man told police he was sitting in a parked car when the gunman walked up and opened fire, striking him in the left leg. No one has been charged with that crime.

Man's accused of stealing entire Amazon delivery van in Uptown

A Chicago man didn't just steal a package, on July 6 he stole the whole darn Amazon truck in Uptown, prosecutors said during a bond court hearing.

According to a police report, the delivery driver hopped off his Amazon cargo van to make a delivery in the 1400 block of W. Leland around 10:45 a.m. He returned just in time to see the van disappear down the block. Prosecutors said he left it running.



Lanel Lomack

Police searched the area and saw the truck stuck in heavy traffic nearby. They trailed the vehicle and found it abandoned in an alley on the 5300 block of N. Sheridan a few minutes later.

Armed robbery crew sweeps through Chinatown and River North

An armed robbery crew swept through Chinatown on July 3, taking just 10 minutes to rob at least four people in three separate hold-ups, according to Chicago police. Then, they headed to River North and pulled off two more armed heists.

As if all of that isn't bad enough, a CPD report indicates that a backpack they took from one of the Chinatown victims contained a handgun.

The robberies followed a similar pattern, according to an alert issued by Area Three detectives on July 7. Two or three men confronted the victims and demanded all of their valuables while displaying at least one handgun.

Three men robbed a man and woman of their wallets, cash, and keys on the 200 block of W. Alexander at 8:45 p.m. The offenders tried to drive away with the couple's rental car, but they abandoned that effort for some reason and fled in a red SUV.

Two men used a handgun to rob a woman in a parking lot on the 2100 block of S. Archer at 8:50 p.m. They got away with a purse, two phones, and a wallet. At 8:55 p.m., two men robbed a woman at gunpoint on the 2300 block of S. Wentworth. A third offender remained in a red SUV nearby.

The crew then moved downtown to commit two more hold-ups. Four men robbed a woman and her boyfriend at gunpoint in front of a hotel on the 100 block of W. Grand at 10:35 p.m. And three men approached two victims who were in a car on the 200 block of W. Kinzie and robbed them at gunpoint at 10:47 p.m.

According to the community alert, the suspects are Black males between 18- and 30-years-old who wore dark hoodies and face masks.

Teen found dead in Chicago River

A young woman's body was recovered from the Chicago River just south of North Ave. at 1177 N. Elston Ave. on July 11.

Officers were called to the 1100 block of N. Cherry Ave. around 10:15 a.m. and pulled the body from the water, according to a police statement.

The 18-year-old woman was unresponsive, and the woman was pronounced dead at 11:22 a.m.

Detectives were investigating the woman's death. It isn't clear whether foul play was suspected or if it had been ruled out. The case was classified as a death investigation. A forensic investigator is expected to perform an autopsy. The cause now is undetermined.

Officers stopped Lanel Lomack, 57, as he walked down a nearby street. Cops recognized him as the person who was driving the van through traffic, prosecutors said. The Amazon driver allegedly identified him as the thief, too.

Prosecutors said Lomack made "partial admissions," but he allegedly insisted that he didn't steal anything from inside the van. He is now charged with felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Chicago police records show Lomack was arrested for shoplifting eight times in about four months during 2017. He received a six-year sentence for felony theft in 2013 and four years for burglary in 2018. His parole in the burglary case ended in January.

Judge David Navarro set his bail at \$5,000, meaning Lomack will need to post \$500 to get out of jail.

Commercial burglaries in Uptown

Police report two recent burglaries in Uptown. In these incidents, the offenders break the front glass door of the establishment with a brick or blunt instrument. One of the offenders enters the premises, while the other offender remains outside as a lookout. In one of the burglaries, the second offender eventually also enters the premises, taking items from the premises.

These crimes occurred on the 4700 block of N. Sheridan Rd. in the overnight hours of June 16 and July 9.

The offenders are described as one male, White, 30-37 years old; 6'-2" to 6'-4" in height, 160-175 lbs, wearing a baseball hat, black top; and one male, African American, 30-37 years old; 6'-3" to 6'-5" in height, 230-255 lbs, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt.

Lakeview woman robbed, carjacked outside her home

A Lakeview woman was robbed and carjacked at gunpoint after parking near her home July 9, police said. Carjackings were also reported in West Rogers Park and Bucktown July 8. The latest reports are part of a steady increase in carjackings that's unfolding even as the Chicago Police Dept. falsely claims that hijacking reports are on the decline.

In the latest incident, a 22-year-old woman parked her BMW 320i and walked toward her home on the 1600 block of W. Grace around 11:57 p.m., said Officer Michael Carroll, a CPD spokesperson.

A gunman confronted the woman at her front gate and demanded her keys and valuables. She complied, handing over her phone, money, bag, and the car's keys. He then drove away with her vehicle, which is white, has Ohio license plates, and features an Arizona State Univ. sticker on the back. The woman was not injured, Carroll said.

The carjacker is a Black male in his early 20's who stands 6' to 6'1" tall and weighs 160 to 180 lbs. The hijacker wore a black flat-rim baseball cap, a black sweatshirt with red and white words on the front, black jeans, and a "tube-like" face covering that has yellow and black coloring.

In West Rogers Park, a suburban man was carjacked by a group of offenders on July 8, according to a CPD report. The 25-year-old Schiller Park resident was at a gas station near Devon and Ridge when four or

Nazi salute, threats, pepper-spray, attempt to set Pride flag ablaze doesn't qualify as hate crime

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Rogers Park man who allegedly tried to burn a store's Pride flag while firing off "homophobic slurs and [a] Nazi salute" and then threatened to kill the store's employees, didn't commit a hate crime, Chicago police concluded. And it's not the first time the accused man has been charged with threatening and battering people in stores and on the streets.

Police arrested Thomas Chavira, 29, around 11:18 a.m. June 26 at Leather 64TEN, 6410 N. Clark, after store employees reported that he tried to light their rainbow flag ablaze on what's traditionally Chicago's Pride Weekend.

A store employee told police they saw Chavira trying to set their outdoor Pride flag on fire with a bottle of liquid and a Bic lighter around 11 a.m. When the clerk intervened, Chavira executed a Nazi salute and called the man homophobic slurs, the report said. Another store employee came out to splash water on the flag. That's when Chavira allegedly blasted pepper spray toward the employees, ages 57 and 32, but the irritant missed them, CPD's report said.

When Chavira learned that



Chicago Police arrested Thomas Chavira, 29, around 11:18 a.m. June 26 at leather 64ten, 6410 N. Clark St., after store employees reported that he tried to light their rainbow flag ablaze on what's traditionally Chicago's Pride Weekend.

police had been called, he tried to get away on his scooter, but a store employee took control of the bike and wheeled it into the back of the store to prevent his escape, according to police. Chavira allegedly followed him and tried to pepper spray the employee again.

Once again, the spray missed its mark. Chavira made a gun gesture with his hand and said something like, "I'm going to kill you, f*ggot," according to the arrest report.

Police officers said Chavira was wearing a body camera that was in record mode when they ar-

rested him. Cops also seized an empty bottle of rubbing alcohol, a Bic lighter, a can of pepper spray, a blue "America First" baseball hat, a brown wallet with a swastika design, and a dark gray bag with a "Nazi skull logo" design," according to CPD inventory records.

Patrol officers notified CPD detectives about the incident, but an investigator concluded, "the elements of a hate crime are not present," according to police records. A spokesperson for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office said police did not consult

with them about the case.

Chavira is charged with two counts of misdemeanor assault.

Just a month before the incident, Chavira pleaded guilty to simple battery for pepper-spraying a Domino's Pizza worker just two blocks from where the Pride flag incident was reported.

On Feb. 17, an employee of the pizza shop at 6607 N. Clark asked Chavira to put on a COVID mask. Instead, Chavira went behind the counter, pulled the 23-year-old worker's mask down, and pepper-sprayed him, according to a police report.

Judge Donald Panarese sentenced Chavira to six months conditional discharges on May 20.

Chavira was also arrested in Boystown on November 8, 2019, according to court records. In that case, he was accused of yelling racial slurs and allowing his dog to menace people on the 3300 block of N. Halsted. The charges were dropped when the victims failed to show up in court, records

show.

Speaking of dogs, Chavira was convicted of animal cruelty and aggravated assault of a police officer in Sept. 2015. In that case, police responded to a call of two men and a dog blocking the entrance to a courtyard building while one of the men brandished a gun. The men yelled expletives at arriving police officers and fled into an apartment with the dog, police said.

Cops knocked on the apartment door, but the men refused to come out, and the officers decided to leave.

As they did, they heard the sound of a handgun's slide being racked inside the apartment and a man's voice saying, "I'm gonna get them when they come out," according to a CPD report.

The officers, fearing they would be shot if they stepped into the courtyard, returned to the apartment and convinced Chavira to open the door after 20 minutes, they said. When the cops asked him to place his pit bull back inside the apartment, Chavira allegedly kicked it twice in the stomach and said, "get in there, stupid."

Police believe the other man fled out the apartment's back door with the gun they allegedly heard being racked.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

five men took his phone, money, and tan 2001 GMC Yukon around 3 a.m.

There is a shred of good news to report from Bucktown, though: A group of would-be carjackers who tried to take a man's vehicle as he unloaded it near his home got away empty-handed because the man didn't have his keys with him.

According to a CPD report, the victim was removing things from his car on the 2100 block of N. Leavitt when a black Volvo pulled up, and four men got out to demand control of the vehicle. But they were out of luck. He didn't have the keys, and a couple of neighbors began yelling at the carjackers to leave the man alone. They did, speeding away in the car they arrived in.

Chicago police data, which is quarantined for a week before being released to the public, show nine carjackings reported in the first two days of July. That compares to three during the opening days of the month in 2020.

There were 132 carjackings last month, compared to 114 in June 2020; 111 in May compared to 96 in May 2020; 99 in April, up from 64 during the same month last year; and 82 in March, up from 57 a year before.

From Jan. 1 through July 2, Chicago police took 774 carjacking reports, compared to 475 during the same time last year.

Shotgun was used in Sunday morning Loop shooting

A 40-year-old man is recovering after someone shot him with a shotgun in a downtown alley July 11, according to a CPD report. The offender remains at large.

The victim was reportedly standing in an alley behind a parking garage on the 400 block of Wabash when someone shot him in the left leg with a shotgun around 7:29 a.m. Police said the gunman headed south on foot after the shooting.

Paramedics transported the victim

to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where his condition stabilized.

Police did not release a description of the offender. CPD records show the victim has been frequently arrested across the city for minor violations like simple battery and retail theft.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Sunday's victim is the 14th person shot in the Loop so far this year. The neighborhood had recorded seven shooting victims at this point last year and three as of July 11, 2019.

Retail thefts on Near North Side

Police are warning businesses of the Near North Side of recently reported retail theft incidents. In each incident, multiple offenders enter the business during afternoon hours, grab purses on display tables, and flee the store to a waiting vehicle. The offenders are recorded on surveillance video in each of the reported incidents.

Incidents include one on the 100 block of E. Delaware Plc., Tuesday, June 8; the 700 block of N. Michigan Ave., Sunday, June 13, and on the 0-100 block of E. Grand Ave., Saturday, July 3.

The offenders are described as 2-4 male, African Americans, 5'-10" to 6'-3" tall, 165-185 lbs., 20-25 years of age, wearing various colored hooded sweatshirts.

Anyone with information on these crimes may contact

Bureau of Detectives – Area 3 at 312-744-8263 and refer to JE258558, JE264513, and JE288531.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Established group aims for new members to help build biz climate in Streeterville

A new club has formed in Streeterville as part of part of an established one.

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] Business and Professional Club [SBPC] are committing to building community relations that will help strengthen relationships with the local business climate.

"Streeterville is known to attract some of the best and brightest professionals," the group said in a written statement. "We invite Streeterville professionals and businesses to join us and participate in establishing important community connections as we move forward together as Chicago is now open for business."

Club chair Sandra Djordjevic plans to host networking events once a month, affording busy professionals and graduate students the opportunity to mix together in a fun, friendly and often experiential environment.

The inaugural get-together will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, at Spirits & Spice, 835 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 8005. The event will include networking, a whisky and wine tasting, and food from Harry Caray's Restaurant.

Guests will also receive 10% off any in-store purchases.

For more information call 312-280-2596.



Diane O'Connell with Scott Grainger, Joe Angel, Pamela Miles and John Miller.



Gale Fischer, Carole Rudoy, Barbara Feldman, Linda Robin, Ellen Glass, Ruth Weisbach, Patti Stone and Barb Paget.



Bobbie Panter, Melissa Babcock and Sherrill Bodine.



Kristan Doll Drutchas at the helm with friends.



Lynn Graham and Col. Paul Malarik.

COUP from p. 2

McGraw, officers Charles Hibsch, Officer Philip T. Romano and Andrew Walsh were unveiled for the first time.

SHALOM: Thoughts and prayers to long-time Chicago Tribune Architecture critic **Blair Kamin** and Family on the death of his dear mother, **Virginia Kamin** in New Jersey. She was a woman of learning and wide ability who helped shaped the many talents of others.

MENDING FENCES: U.S. Secretary of State **Anthony Blinken** at the Vatican trying to reset friendly ties to Washington after the fiasco of **Trump's Mike Pompeo**.

DANCE: Chicago Dancers United's annual fundraiser, Dance for Life, takes place 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. For the first time in the event's history, admission is free. Go dance.

CHICAGO MUSIC: Southport Records, don't miss this launch event. **Joanie Pallatto's** "My Original Plan" CD Release Party Sunday, July 18, 4 to 6 p.m., \$10 Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway, 773-878-5552.

CLOSURE: After 37 years Spiaggia, the Mag Mile's high-end Italian restaurant of speculative history and menu is closing. **FLOTUS Michelle Obama's** favorite is done.

PATRIOT BOLD: **Donald H. Rumsfeld** has died. At 88. An American patriot and statesman, a servant of the nation. And once represented the Land of Lincoln in Congress. A Prairie politician. A Gold Coast neighbor as a longtime resident of N. State Pkwy. A child of the North Shore. Gilded in responsibility. All of which he worked for. A Winnetka childhood. New Trier High School. The ivy halls of Princeton Univ. but on an ROTC scholarship. When civility and doing the right thing mattered before the

twisted generations of television fantasy made large portions of the nation foolish, unread and unspeakable. A two-time Secretary of Defense, he was reasoned and intelligent and stood tall for the America he cherished. Remember he was in his Pentagon office when the jet crashed into it on 9/11, and he ran toward the fire, now away from it. Many disagreed with his decisions in wartime, but no one ever doubted his commitment to protecting the dignity of the American nation. Rumsfeld needs to ripen in the arc of history. He will. Look around, we don't often get well-brewed public servants anymore.

AIC: Sashaying among The Obama Portraits, **Stephanie Leese Emrich** shows proof, yet again, that all roads lead to Chicago. Only fitting that the first of

the five-city tour of these magnificent portraits starts right here at the Art Institute.

BIRDIES AND PARS: Fun day at Bryn Mawr Country Club for ladies card guest day for **Gale Fischer, Carole Rudoy, Barbara Feldman, Linda Robin, Ellen Glass, Ruth Weisbach, Patti Stone and Barb Paget**.

SEARCH OVER: After a national search Remy Bumpo Theatre Company has found a new artistic director, **Marti Lyons**. "Remy Bumpo and I share a passion for language-based work whether extant, new or adaptive. We also share a love for both ensemble-based work as well as new collaborations," says Lyons.

POST PANDEMIC: Al Menotti's wonderful dinner gathering hosted by **Bobbi Panter** and **Matthew Arnoux** was orchestrated to introduce new friends, **Sebastian Steve Albergo** and **Larry Meacham**, to old friends **Myra and John Reilly, Sherrill Bodine, and Wynnis Mackie**. A warm and delicious evening of fun, laughter, and celebration.

WHO'S WHERE: **Brian White** and **Jim Kinney** in Nantucket, MA, for a bash **Peter Mark** was tossing... **Bridget Flanagan** off to Ireland to be with family... **Lucia Adams** in Cantigny at Colonel McCormick's War Museum... **Emmett Whealan** at Greater Bass Lake, WI... **Sherry Lea Fox, Kathy O'Malley Piccone, Julie Barrish, Stacey McClane and Mary Lasky** with **Nina Mariano** raising a ruckus at Maple and Ash... **Rhonda J. Liesenfelt** at the Tower Club, Ft. Lauderdale, FL... tidying up Chicago's greenery, master gardener **Christie Weber**... **Kristan Doll Drutchas** at the helm, under sail, canvas full stretched hunting the sea for wind... **Eileen Howard Weinberg, Maria Lampros, Maria Brightly, Kiki Furla**

First Thursday Club at it again but missing **Julie Karagania, Kristine Farra and Libby McCarten Andrews**... Chicago Yacht Club 75th Annual Fleet Review on deck with

Peggy Snorf, Vern Broders, Francina Harrington, Janet Owen, Rodger Owen... Brian White's cousin **Ethan Pond** stopped by with daughter **Indre** for a drink in Nantucket... **Hector Gustavo Cardenas**

and **Marius Morkvenus** at the Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens, Greece ... Bondgirl **Diane O'Connell** giving the redone Four Seasons another chance with **Scott Grainger, Joe Angel, John Miller and Pamela Miles**... retired Chicago attorney **Terry Newman** visiting from California and noshing at Gibson's Steakhouse... **Col. Paul Malarik** and **Lynn Graham** hosting a fabulous crab cake and oysters lunch for this columnist... famed orchestra leader **Michael Lerich**, a nephew of this column's late **Ann Gerber**, lunching and sharing stories of his beloved auntie... **Sean Eshaghy** oohing and ahing, watching the fireworks at the Saddle and Cycle Club... Corboy & Demetrio Co-founder **Thomas Demetrio** was ranked the #1 attorney in Illinois for the 5th year in a row by Illinois Super Lawyers... **Paula Fogarty**, formerly Irish Georgian Society, now leading the Savannah Jazz as Executive Director... **Honey West** and **Chuck Larkin** brought the house down at the Southport Festival last week. Don't forget their free cabaret at Venus Cabaret Theater, 3741 N. Southport Ave.

COUNTRY LIFE: The Art Institute's **Nora Anne Gainer** glamping in Aurora, WV, injured her with ankle. Medical attention STAT from her sister and bro in law **Dr. Mary Gainer** and **Dr. Peter Wentzel**, beloved MDs for the rural locale.

I went to a restaurant that serves 'breakfast at any time.' So I ordered French Toast during the Renaissance.

--Steven Wright
tog515@gmail.com

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Unearthing remains of Streeteville's former Curtiss Candy Co. - home of the "Baby Ruth" candy bar

BY ERIC NORDSTROM
Urban Remains

The excavating machines showed signs of life as they began opening a formerly vacant parcel of ground located just west of the Ogden Slip in Streeteville, in preparation for yet another high-rise - the 42-story "optima."

Shortly after they dug into the earth, I was drawn to the job site with strong suspicions that massive amounts of building material once pushed deep into the ground as "fill" would once more see the light of day.

Thus, I wasn't surprised to discover several piles of wood timbers, concrete and stone slabs and a steampunkesque assemblage of twisted and heavily corroded pipes, gauges, casters, carts, tie-rods, grates and a giant spring. I couldn't resist taking the latter back to the shop, along with a few granite pavers, to photograph.

Though I haven't had much time to research in detail the evolution of the urban landscape surrounding the dig site, based on a few historic aerial photographs showing the slip and the warehouses north of the river, I can say with complete certainty that the heavily weathered materials extracted thus far are remnants belonging to the Curtiss Candy Co. factory complex, home of such sweets as the "Baby Ruth" and "Butterfinger" candy bars.



Just west of the Ogden Slip in Streeteville, piles of wood timbers, concrete and stone slabs were discovered. These are remnants of the Curtiss Candy Co., home of the Baby Ruth candy bar. By 1928, Baby Ruth was the top selling candy bar in the country.



The Curtiss Candy Co. was one of several large manufacturers who grew a booming post-war candy industry in Chicago. Otto Schnering founded the business in 1916, after graduating from the Univ. of Chicago with a degree in philosophy and taking the odd job of piano selling. The 24-year old native Chicagoan began producing candy with a five gallon kettle and a stove in the back of a hardware store at 3256 N. Halsted St.

When he upgraded to a larger office, it was still a cramped space on the second floor of a building at 3222 N. Halsted St., with just four employees—all women—on staff.

With demand seemingly doubling by the day, the Curtis Candy Co. ballooned rap-

idly to more than 125 workers in 1919 and Schnering relocated the business to a new three-story, 37,000 sq. foot plant in Lakeview at 750 W. Briar Place.

The name "Curtiss" was his mother's maiden name, chosen to make the company sound more "American" at a time when anti-German sentiment was strong.

After several years of experimenting, the factory's first successful product -- Kandy Kake -- was refashioned in 1921 as the Baby Ruth bar, made to compete with the "Oh Henry!" bar as a candy priced .05¢ less, and marketed by the phrase "everything you want for a Nickel."

By 1919, Otto expanded his factory into the Streeteville area, just north of the adjacent Chicago River and west of Lake Michigan. By 1928, Curtiss Candy produced a billion candy bars per year within its three Chicago factories operated by 3,500 employees.

In the 1940's, having weathered the

depression and war, Schnering eventually expanded into agricultural side businesses (namely champion cattle breeding and poultry raising). Schnering bought farmland near Cary, IL, as it was said that he wanted to repay the farming community and dairy farmers who had been supplying milk, eggs, and cream for his candy business through the years. He oversaw an impressive operation that entailed care of thousands of animals by hundreds of employees on his estate, shaping the area into a mini-city or company town at Curtiss Farms.

After his death in the early 1950's, the company was run by his family for a time and then bought out by Standard Brands, eventually coming to be owned by Nestle.

The general characteristic of the unearthed remains paint a heavily fragmented, but at the same time, somewhat cohesive portrait of the candy factory that resided there, both in terms of the massive load-bearing wood posts, concrete floors, type of brick, "fireproof" windows, and so on.

As more material is excavated during potholing in preparation for digging the pilings that will anchor the new development firmly into the bedrock, I will be monitoring their progress, hoping more remnants pertaining to the candy factory surface to lend further insight into a demolished candy factory that likely was never documented over the course of its existence.

For over 10 years Eric Nordstrom and Urban Remains has dealt exclusively in the reclamation of American architectural artifacts, antiques, and other oddities. Visit www.urbanremainschicago.com.

NEWBERRY from p. 1

The NPCC is being represented by Brian L. Golan of Golan Christie Taglia LLP, 70 W. Madison St. The Plaintiffs named are Michelle Meyer, George Metropoulos, Richard Reifler, individually and on behalf of the NPCA.

The named defendants are Christian Pezzuto, Patricia Fernholz, Jake Malishkevich, Neno Nevo, Kimberly Bowman, Harvey Goldman, Alexandre Stoykov, Jennifer Schultz, Edward Silha, Jerald Ziegler and Brian Butters.

Through much of 2019 and 2020, members of NPCC have been demanding answers about the deal, but say the NPCA was stonewalling them, and refusing to answer questions. They've wanted to know why this plan is being advanced and who benefits from the deal? The NPCC believed that at \$1,000 per square foot, over \$10 million in real estate value was being taken from the Association in plain sight.

The complaint states that plaintiffs brought this action as a result of the "egregious breaches of fiduciary duty committed by certain members of the Board of

Directors to proceed with an extensive redevelopment plan for several common areas at Newberry Plaza, all in violation of the Condominium Declaration, By-Laws, and the Illinois Condominium Act." The core issue of the fight are over accusations that on Jan. 14, the defendants "illegally signed a 99-year lease, to hand over, over 10,000 square feet of common element square footage -- square footage we own, as owners, to become revenue generating commercial square footage for 11 East Partners, for a total value of \$1??" says Meyer in a memo sent to this newspaper. They think this real estate "which we own, is worth millions of dollars."

The plaintiffs have requested that the Court enter an order in their favor, and enter a preliminary and permanent injunction that cease any further action on the project or any construction at Newberry Plaza not properly approved by the NPCA.

In the meantime, Pezzuto has reportedly sold his unit and resigned from the NPCA Board. Defendant Malishkevich moved out of the building and may or may not still own a unit in the building. Board member Ziegler is not running for re-election.

FIGHT from p. 1

first public meeting, saying that a 20' alley separating the two towers is not enough.

"This is the only proposed high-rise development I've worked with where height wasn't the dominant issue. It isn't the height at all that's the operative dimension," Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] told Ori.

But the pushback from neighbors did not have to do only with the traffic additional traffic a building like that generates, or the lack of parking. It was also about views.

Gold Coast Galleria unit owners fear that the proximity will block their sunlight and views, reduce their property values, as well as add to traffic congestion and parking woes along LaSalle Dr.

The latest version of the plan keeps the 20't distance for the bottom nine floors of the proposed tower, which would be for parking and a private terrace. Above that, the setback would reportedly become 40'.

The alderman says that blocked views are not a consideration in zoning decisions.

Fifield is proposing to rezone the site from RM-5 (Residential Multi-Unit District) to a DX-7 (Downtown Mixed-Use District) and then to a Residential-Business Planned Development.

Galleria residents also are unhappy that Fifield is seeking increased zoning density by acquiring air rights from the neighboring Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, which eventually plans to build a community center alongside the proposed apartment tower.

Fifield plans to buy and demolish a smaller condo building now on the site of its proposed tower.

When Fifield proposed lowering the height of its tower last year, Galleria residents said it still was too tall because of insufficient separation between the towers, suggesting they might back a plan with 60 to 80' of separation.

Ald. Hopkins said he held Monday's meeting to solicit input from other neighborhood residents who don't live in the Galleria tower.


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