



Development proposal for S. Wabash gets hearing Thursday



Artist rendering of the proposed high-rise at 525 S. Wabash Ave.

Image courtesy of BKV Group

The Chicago Plan Commission [CPC] will host a virtual meeting 10 a.m. Aug. 19 to review proposed applications for a large development at 525 S. Wabash.

The project now consists of two towers, a 24-story and a 36-story tower connected by a commercial and parking base, totaling 777 residential units, 405 hotel rooms,

41,000 square feet of commercial space, amenity space, and 151 accessory parking spaces.

The development falls within the Private-Use Zone of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection District. The application for inclusion was submitted by Eterra Plus LLC.

This project was previously set to be heard by CPC in February 2021, until the developer withdrew their application.

The Developer has since secured approval to operate the hotel on the site, and have slightly modified their proposal as a result. The other parts of the proposal remain unchanged from the previous version, however, the north tower is 1 floor taller, and a little thinner as a result of the new operator.

Six juveniles released same day of arrests for downtown crime spree

Attack left woman critically injured

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police arrested six juveniles in the Loop Aug. 16 after two waves of street robberies swept the downtown area. According to a source, the crew is also responsible for critically injuring a woman who was severely beaten during a robbery attempt in the Loop Aug. 15.

On Monday police warned the public again about the young thugs. Why would police issue a warning about a roving gang of violent robbers if they arrested them earlier in the day?

Because four of them were

released without being charged pending further investigation, according to a source.

Two were held on minor charges but none of them is charged with any of the robberies, even though Monday's victims identified some of them and at least three attacks were recorded by CPD surveillance cameras.

Police received a steady stream of calls on Sunday afternoon and evening from people who said a group of young people were attacking and robbing people around the Loop and, later, Streeterville and River North. According to CPD reports:

- Three teens punched, kicked, and pushed a man inside a fast food restaurant on the 100 block

of N. Michigan around 3:35 p.m. before taking his backpack and running away.

- Around 5:15 p.m., a group of teenagers threw a 28-year-old man to the ground and took his phone on the 600 block of S. Michigan.

- A group of about six teens, including one in a NASA sweater, battered and tried to take bags from passers-by along State St. in the Loop between 5:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

- Shortly after 7 p.m., a group of teenagers jumped and robbed a man on the corner of Rush and Grand. A witness recorded the attack on her phone, but the victim

ROBBERIES see p. 12

Public Schools target Aug. 30 open, but might be missing 100,000 students

BY PATRICK ANDRIESEN

The Chicago Board of Education [BOE] approved a \$9.3 billion budget that hires 2,000 new, permanent staff using temporary COVID-19 federal aid. There are also concerns about whether 100,000 students will return.

Chicago Public Schools [CPS] is intending to hire 2,000 new permanent employees using temporary federal COVID-19 aid, setting up a "fiscal cliff" when those funds run out, the board president warned.

The school district also faces the prospect 100,000 local students won't rejoin the school district when classes resume Aug. 30, interim CPS CEO Jose Torres said.

BOE members recently approved a \$9.3 billion budget for CPS. The 2021-2022 budget calls for nearly \$1 billion in additional spending that school leaders said will help return to in-person learning, including giving raises to educators and increasing staff sizes.

The budget allocated pandemic funds to hire more than 2,000 new support staff and student support positions during the coming year following mounting pressure from the Chicago Teachers Union to put a full-time nurse as well as a social worker in each of more than 600 Chicago schools, according to an analysis conducted by the nonpartisan watchdog The Civic Federation. It notes this hiring comes atop 890 jobs being

added in the past decade despite the district enrollment dropping by nearly 63,500 students.

"While the size of the budget continues to grow, the number of students in CPS continues to shrink. These issues need to be addressed through a comprehensive long-term plan," Civic Federation President Laurence Msall told board members.

Personnel costs jumped by 40% during the decade, the analysis stated. That's an extra \$1.4 billion in pension, salary and benefit expenses while staff numbers were relatively steady and student numbers dropped.

The BOE president warned against using temporary COVID-

SCHOOLS see p. 12



City Panel approves \$600M extension to Near North TIF

The long-shuttered Near North Career Metropolitan High School was demolished with the help of property tax funds set aside for the redevelopment of the area. Construction, which is ongoing, is part of the Chicago Housing Authority's plan to redevelop the former site of the Cabrini-Green public housing buildings.

Photo courtesy Davon Clark and Jesus J. Montero

Will City Hall follow through on promises made when Cabrini-Green was ordered demolished over 20 years ago?

BY ALEJANDRA CANCELO
AND SIRI CHILUKURI
Better Government Association

Chicago's decades-long effort to redevelop the former site of the Cabrini-Green public housing development came one small step closer to finishing Aug. 10 after an advisory panel voted to spend another \$600 million on the neighborhood over the next 12 years.

The Chicago Community Development Commission — a mayoral panel that advises the City Council — voted unanimously to extend the life of a 1997 special Tax Increment Financing [TIF] district on the Near North Side that was established to redevelop the neighborhood.

The plan to finish the project now goes to the full City Council for what some city officials hope is final approval in October. All totaled, the full amount of tax dollars the city has pledged is nearly \$1 billion.

"CHA cannot do it alone. These TIF dollars are key," said Cmsr. Maurice D. Cox, of the Dept. of Planning and Development. "If we are ever going to reach the beloved community that was the promise of this initiative, it's through the extension."

If approved by the City Council, the extension of the Near North TIF District, is expected to generate \$600 million more in property tax revenue on top of the \$350 million it already generated since it was established in 1997 to help finance the plan to redevelop the area.

The new windfall renews the debate about who has won and lost on the massive redevelopment, especially when so much public tax money has been diverted away from schools, police and libraries.

Former Mayor Richard M. Daley ordered federal Cabrini-Green housing projects razed after years of national news headlines reporting on the areas'

staggering poverty and crime problems. Cabrini-Green had become the symbol of the nation's failing public housing policy and Chicago's inability to properly secure and maintain residential real estate. The buildings had fallen into disrepair as federal housing policy shifted and CHA was unable to keep up with leaky roofs, broken elevators and other maintenance issues.

For years, as the neighborhoods surrounding Cabrini-Green gentrified, civic leaders called for the transformation of the area, which is just a mile to the north and slightly west of downtown, The Gold Coast and Near North Side.

On Aug. 10, several owners of condominiums near the neighborhood urged the mayoral panel to conserve the empty parcels of land as green space instead of building more mixed-income housing. Ald. Walter Burnett, [27th], said those empty parcels will be used to keep promises to build mixed-income housing the city made to Cabrini-Green residents displaced by the project.

"I'm in full support of this," he said. Burnett grew up in Cabrini-Green.

"This is not only going to support the residents of Cabrini-Green, or the former CHA residents. It's going to benefit the residents who need affordable housing, but also is going to benefit those residents who already own over there because nothing has happened over here that did not enhance their property values," he said.

Over the last two decades, the area was redeveloped with market rate condos, new school buildings, parks and high-end retail stores and restaurants. The property values grew exponentially, as did the property taxes. Through the TIF, the city set aside the increased revenue to continue financing the redevelopment. The Near North TIF has grown to become the fourth largest by revenue among the nearly 140 TIF districts throughout the city.

Through the TIF, property tax funds are collected and used to

TIF see p. 12

Laying waste to the concept of public safety in Chicago



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Chicago has always delighted in our Prairie reputation for elegance and sound finance.

Are we not always bragging about our 'Magnificent Mile,' The Board of Trade and Mercantile Exchange?

Our center-of-the-country character, enhanced by the genius of the Union Stock Yards whose meat packers changed the way America ate. Not to mention our no-fuss attitude about life. Our grand vistas of shoreless water. Inventive science that changed the flow of the Chicago River so we could send our pollution downstream. Or our initiatives that helped rebuild the city 150 years ago following the devastation of the Great Fire. As potent as "Big Al" Capone or Michael Jordan.

We cannot forget our refined, soaring architectural splendor, the product of architects who basically reinvented urban design when it went up on the ashes of the past.

All of this is just the beginning of conversations that teeter on boasting. Chicagoans get comfortable with bragging. Not hard surrounded as we are with so much beauty and splendor. We are the jewel of American know-how and design.

But the conversations have altered. As if we've been hit by a two-by-four. Here's why: Just one look at the following news headlines this past month, raises the alarm.

"Two wounded in Little Village shooting, including a 16-year-old boy; 17-year-old wounded in Roseland shooting. Lawndale

shooting leaves three wounded. Three wounded in Morgan Park shooting. Man fatally shot in South Loop. Mass shooting in Old Town. Man found shot to death on Southwest Side. Four injured, three critically in West Side shooting. Man fatally shot while riding through Humboldt Park. One killed, one injured in Dan Ryan shooting near 33rd St. Four-year old girl and teen wounded in West Garfield Park shooting. Person stabbed to death in West Garfield Park. Five wounded, including two security guards in South Side club shooting. Chicago's violent night: CPD officer killed, another wounded. Two mass shootings. Multiple triple shootings."

The recent murder of a Chicago Police Officer, Ella French, 29, almost seems inevitable after the slaughter most of us now have to face in Chicago with the current administration of Mayor Lightfingers.

Hey Mayor, retailers are leaving the 'Magnificent Mile' in record numbers. Maybe it's time for another street name change?

Even though she's on record saying she doesn't work weekends, the mayor actually was in Chicago during the recent weekend bloodbath. Not a strategic policy.

Could you imagine Mayors Cermak, Kelly, Kennelly, Daley, Byrne, Washington, Daley or Emanuel, high-tailing it out of town every weekend as the bullets fly in each and every neighborhood? Or how they'd respond to 73 Chicagoans being shot on one summer's weekend? As it was, when the mayor arrived at the hospital, where Officer French was taken Saturday night, rank and file Chicago cops turned their backs on her.

No one in America is talking about Chicago basketball. Or the Chicago Symphony, the Cubs' new "Wrigleyville" uniforms, or the Obama portraits in the Art Institute. Nor the Bears floating a move to Arlington Heights.



Chicago Police raise the flag in honor of fallen officer Ella French (right).



The liability of newspaper headlines is that they often numb the public, reducing human tragedy to a sound bite or clever phrase.

The real drama and impact of any journalistic alert distills the larger content of the dangerous mayhem. You don't feel the chill of death. The coldness of human evil. The searing emptiness of a violent act. The irrational stench of cruel intentions and emotional despair of life leaving the vibrant heroics of a real human being defending the city we love, or the people we cherish.

I spent a decade of my life compiling the stories, statistics and lost facts surrounding the deaths of Chicago Police in the line of duty. Tracing the never before collected details surrounding the deaths of the CPD's men and women on the job. Pounding the beat. On the case, circa 1853-2006.

Over the course of a decade we examined the incredible sacrifices of 534 sworn officers of the law. We started with very meager factual evidence. We sifted through Chicago newspapers and legends to discover lost heroes and the details of their sacrifice. From Irish immigrant Constable James Quinn, murdered in 1853, to Mexican immigrant Officer Eric Solario, murdered in 2006, the research also revealed a far richer history of Chicago. One told through the events and the minute evidence of heartbreaking police homicides. Also recording Chicago's struggled settlement, in light of these crimes, as the capi-

tal of the American heartland.

Our work, published in 2006, was entitled "End of Watch, Chicago Police Killed in the Line of Duty, 1853-2006." Over 400 pages, weighing more than three pounds. Dimensions that are symbolic of the story they recount.

I shared the investigation, and authorship, with my then City Hall boss, Ald. Edward M. Burke, himself a former Chicago policeman, along with a long line of bright college interns who were skilled in their ability to maneuver through needed historical research.

One unforeseen reality of our research was the way that living with the stories of these Chicago police deaths brought many heroes to life for us. Often more than a century after their sacrifice. They became not just statistics or figures from our local history, but actual human companions on our journey. Real people, men and women of courage and fortitude. Most often driven by a sense of justice to help civilize their city and its growing neighborhoods.

We built emotional bonds with these individuals. Hung their photos in our offices. Visited some of their graves. Rescued many from oblivion. Their lives spoke deeply to us about their love for the city, their families, their understanding of America's promise.

Many were part of Chicago's vast population of immigrant settlers. They set out learn this city's language and culture, to stabilize and protect the place in which they made a new home.

There is nothing like cruel, cold death to match the lunacy and misguided leadership in ham-stringing law enforcement from their ability to properly do their job. When police are prevented from even the pursuit of law-breakers for political or public relations purposes, it is time to acknowledge failure. No wonder so many police officers are leaving their posts. In record numbers. When the boss no longer has your back, you have little choice but to quit. Retire. Hang up your holster. Turn in your badge.

Many Chicagoans fear that many of Lightfingers' policies are instigated by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. They've wrapped their actions in the misconceived guise of social justice or racial justice.

And they have laid waste to the concept of public safety in Chicago.

The alleged shooter of Officer French was arrested in 2020 for felony theft and battery. He received two years probation which is still in effect. Hope States Attorney Kim Foxx is pleased. What a crime.

Speaking publicly about the recent killing, both Mayor Lightfoot and the Police Superintendent actually got the slain officer's name wrong. The mayor referred to Officer French as Officer Franks. And the Superintendent, twice referred to her as Officer Ella Fitzgerald. No joke. But what's in a name?

The judgement of history is yet to be written. We will always have our lakeshore vistas and form following function skyline. But in

haunting detail that macabre finger of history is already writing a shameful story of unlicensed incompetence for Chicago political leadership in the Summer of 2021.

GOAL: Anthony James Esposito - "Tony O" has left us, dying Aug. 10 following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

The Canadian-American hockey goaltender played 16 seasons in the NHL, 15 of those for the Chicago Blackhawks. He was one of the most important and popular figures in the history of the franchise, and in the history of Chicago sports. "It was Esposito's style, charisma and heart that endeared him most to hockey fans not only



Tony Esposito

SAFETY see p. 6

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Artist's vision finally comes to life

Tree sculpture nearly a quarter-century in the making



Heart of the 'Hood
by Felicia Dechter

In 1997, in Austria, Bulgarian-born artist Plamen Yordanov was attending a sculptor symposium when he had a vision. He imagined a sculpture made of wood, one that looked as if it was part of a log cabin or something of the sort. He created a rendering, and for the next 24 years, it remained just a dream.

Fast forward to 2021 and nearly a quarter-century later. Yordanov is finally seeing that long-ago idea come to fruition. He is creating a 16' tall by about 2.5' wide wooden sculpture, named "Column," in Loyola Park. But what's really cool is that it's being carved out of what was a dead Locust tree.

"I have to work with what I have here," said Yordanov, who also has a second sculpture, "Light Infinity," being installed at the DePaul Univ. building at Fullerton, Lincoln and Halsted this week. "It's not like having a project fabricated. I have to make the best of the tree."

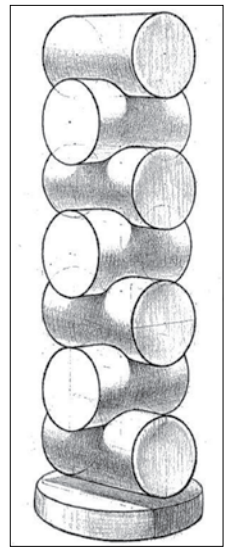
Yordanov seems to be doing an excellent job of that. With his wife, Iuliana Foghis by his side, he has been at Morse Ave. and the lakefront every day, creating what will most certainly be a wonderful wooden masterpiece. The work in progress is causing quite a stir among neighbors and park-goers, who've been stopping by on a regular basis to see what all the fuss is about. And it's great to see a dead tree being turned into something amazing instead of being removed, rotting or burned.

The Bulgarian-born Yordanov immigrated to Chicago in 1999, after a German artist he had met in Denmark emailed him to come here for a project she was involved in. After arriving, he started working with stainless steel and bronze and if you look him up online, you can see his work is pretty incredible. Perhaps that's why it can not only be found here, but also around the world.

His Loyola Park sculpture was selected to be a part of the Chicago Tree Project, which was started summer of 2014 when the Chicago Park District was faced with what to do with the thousands of trees infected with the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. The park district approached Chicago



(L) Sculptor Plamen Yordanov and his wife, Iuliana Foghis. (C) Yordanov's "Pearl Infinity," is scheduled to be installed this week in Lincoln Park. (R) A rendering of Yordanov's "Column," a tree sculpture being constructed in Loyola Park.



Sculpture International---a cooperative of Chicago sculptors who work on adding more public art from local artists to the city -- and they teamed up and created the program to give dying trees a second life. (Whoever thought of it was brilliant!)

Each day, I've seen Yordanov and Foghis down at the site, not only hard at work in the hot sun but also taking the time out of what they're doing to chat with curious passersby. He uses a chain saw and shaves or whittles away at the tree, and she makes food, hangs out, and helps with whatever he needs. Although Yordanov is the sculptor, Foghis is his right hand man. Or in this case, right hand woman.

There are so many people walking by wanting to know everything that it's a wonder Yordanov gets anything done. Column is scheduled to be finished end of August, early September.

Then perhaps the pair will be able to get back to the other things they've branched out to, one amazing project in particular. Their non-profit, 2008-founded Englewood-based Plamen Art Foundation, which Foghis is the director of, is in the midst of restoring a 12,000-square-foot old church that they're hoping to transform into an art and cultural hub in the Englewood community.

"It's a big sanctuary with a balcony," said Foghis. "It needs a roof, needs all kinds of work, walls, pretty much everything."

There, they'd use local talents and hold lectures that would give a voice to the city's artists. There would be art classes for kids. Yordanov would share his experience, of which he has much. There would be concerts, art exhibits, arts programming, and more.

"It's a beautiful interior," said Foghis. "The front stained-glass, the high ceilings,

the acoustics... it would be nice to restore it and start these programs."

It sure would be, considering Englewood is known as one of the city's most dangerous neighborhoods and has been given the moniker, Murder Capital of Chicago.

The idea is, "to do art, not guns," said Foghis.

The goal is to raise \$500,000 "to get funding from someone from somewhere," said Foghis. So far, they've had no luck with funding help from the city, even though they've applied for neighborhood opportunity funds. And they said 6th Ward Ald. Roderick Sawyer has totally blown them off even after they were promised a meeting.

(Maybe they can try D.C., where free, freshly printed money is flowing like a river.)

They say their project would provide economic investment and development as well as community beautification for the Englewood. They want to transform the lives of young people through creative expression. That is their mission and they're determined to make it happen. We sure hope it does. Sounds like a much-needed spot for the crime-ravaged Englewood community.

But they could use some help if anybody out there has any ideas. (Hello Sen. Duckworth, Sen. Durbin???) "We've hit a wall," said Yordanov. "We need advice on how to do this."

"We don't have connections," said Foghis. "It's sad, but it's really just us so far."

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Protect Chicago Music series announces Sept. 4 free concert

The third Protect Chicago Music Series concert, ¡Súbelo!, featuring MOLOTOV and other Hispanic performers at Harrison Park, 1824 S. Wood St., on Saturday, Sep. 4, from 1 p.m.- 9 p.m., will be open to Chicago residents age 18 and up with a ticket who are fully vaccinated.

A partnership between the Chicago departments of Public Health, Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the Chicago Park District and Pilsen Fest, ¡Súbelo! will feature free live music, food from local restaurants and artisan vendors.

Chicagoans interested in attending can register now at chicago.gov/PCMS. Registrations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. There will be a limited number of tickets available, and individuals are strongly encouraged to register early.

"Events like [this] music series give us the chance to thank and celebrate vaccinated Chicagoans." Being vaccinated "is the best way to be protected against COVID-19 and to protect your family and community," said CDPH Cmsr. Allison Arwady, M.D.

Attendees must have received the final dose of a two-dose vaccine or a single-dose vaccine on or before Saturday, Aug. 21 to be eligible to attend. Bring your Eventbrite ticket, photo ID, and proof of vaccination to gain access to the event. To locate a vaccination site or special event near you, visit chicago.gov/COVID-vax.



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Reopening of Hot Tix, and the return of half-price tickets

72 E. Randolph now open; Block 37 to open Oct. 1

The League of Chicago Theatres has announced the reopening of its Hot Tix locations and the return of half-price tickets, available online and in-person, signaling the long-awaited reopening of the robust Chicago theatre industry.

Since theatres ceased in-person productions on March 13, 2020, Hot Tix has been a comprehensive resource for all theatre productions, both online and in-person, regardless of available discounts. Starting Aug. 1, HotTix.org returned to its regular activity of only offering half-price tickets.

The Hot Tix location at 72 E. Randolph, across from the Chicago Cultural Center, is now open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. The location at Block 37, 108 N. State St., will reopen on Oct. 1.

"With the reopening of theatres, we are again able to offer half-price tickets to one of the League's most popular services for its members and the ticket-buying public," said League of

Chicago Theatres Executive Director Deb Clapp. "Hot Tix is a unique discount option in that all profits support the theatre industry through the programs, initiatives and grants generated from the League. It's an affordable way for audiences to return to the theatre while supporting theatre and theatre practitioners in our area."

The following productions are a small selection of shows currently available for half-price on HotTix.org or coming soon:

Goodman Theatre's critically acclaimed production of School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play by Jocelyn Bioh, directed by Lilli-Anne Brown runs through Aug. 29.


Drunk Shakespeare's cast of five classically trained actors meet as the "The Drunk Shakespeare Society" to perform a Shakespeare play in the Loop at The Lion Theatre.

Music Theater Works tells the sunny tale of Mamma Mia! through the music of Abba at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, starting Aug. 19.

Marriott Theatre's Artist Lounge Series includes Higher

Professional development series

Aug 19 - Sept 19, 2021



The Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Professional Development Program Series has been restructured in response to the critical needs of the community. It now aims to support free programs that increase access to training, education and opportunities for emerging artists and small businesses. This year, grants were awarded to 23 professional development providers. Events during Chicago in Tune include:

- Aug. 19 at 6 p.m., Aug. 21 at 2-4:30 pm, Aug. 28 at 12 pm, Aug. 30 at 3 pm, Aug. 31 at 3 pm and Sept. 4 at 2 p.m.: Mind, Body, Soul and Music: Musician Seminars — presented by South Side Jazz Coalition (SouthSideJazzCoalition.org)
- Aug. 21 at 3-9 p.m.: Still Rising: A Forum for Queer Women DJs, Producers and Their Allies — presented by Lora Branch (LoraBranch.com)
- Sept. 9 at 7 p.m.: What You Need to Know About Releasing Music — presented by Next Showcase Chicago (NextShowcaseUSA.com)
- Sept. 14 at 7-8:30 p.m.: Club Creative — presented by 2112/Center for Creative Entrepreneurship (2112inc.com)

and Higher: A Rock 'n Soul Party with Chester Gregory (Aug. 14 and 15), My Happiness: Michelle Lauto Sings Connie Francis (Aug. 21 and 22) and Elvis My Way: Brandon Bennet (Aug. 28 and 29).

All available half-price tickets are listed and on sale at HotTix.org. Additional shows and tickets will be added as theatre venues reopen in the coming months.

Tickets go on sale Aug. 23 for Porchlight's 27th season

Lakeview's Porchlight Music Theatre has announced its return to live performance with its 27th season that includes the 2021 - 2022 Mainstage, Porchlight Revisits and New Faces Sing Broadway seasons.

One highlight will be the staging of Pump Boys & Dinettes, one of the longest running shows in Chicago theatre history. It is a country fried good time filled with toe-tapping music on guitar, piano, bass and a kitchen utensil or two, it will run Oct. 30 - Dec. 12.

"Being raised in Waynesboro, VA, I relate to Pump Boys and Dinettes in a whole different way. The connection of community and values really strikes a chord with me. Times have changed and people have changed, but not the

sense of community," said Pump Boys & Dinettes Director Daryl Brooks. "When Porchlight asked me to direct Pump Boys, I realized that it was time to show off the diversity [of the] the music. At every turn, this show will be a slice of comfort and excitement, just like a piece of my grandma's lemon meringue pie!"

Blues in the Night, starring Tony Award-nominee Felicia P. Fields, will be staged in early 2022. It shares the story of three women's highs and lows of romance through the iconic Blues artists ever including Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Harold Arlen and others, Jan. 15 - Feb. 27, 2022.

"I am grateful to work with Porchlight Music Theatre as the director/choreographer of Blues in the Night," said Director/Choreographer Kenny Ingram. "We approach this production with realism and look forward to taking audiences on a joyful ride that includes two parts of the 'Night.'"

There is that 11 p.m. side when



Eli's Cheesecake President Marc Schulman and Porchlight Music Theatre's Executive Director Jeannie Lukow at Seneca Park, August 10, for Broadway In Your Backyard from Porchlight Music Theatre.

you want to throw your hands up, give a shout and learn a lesson and then that 4 a.m. side when the truth hits you so bad in your guts you almost cannot move and you may only want to cry. We want audiences to feel all of these emotions and let them figure out 'Which side of the night are they on?'"

"Night" will be followed by Spring Awakening, the winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Porchlight's production of this coming of age tale over 130 years in the making will run April 23 - May 29, 2022.

"It's always a joy to be back

at my artistic home, Porchlight Music Theatre," said Spring Awakening director Brenda Didier. "I especially love that Spring Awakening will premiere in spring, a time of rebirth and discovery. Spring Awakening has been an important work since its 19th century debut and received its own rebirth as a brilliant piece of music theatre. I can't wait for the show's many fans and new audiences to experience our take on its powerful music and themes."

Single tickets and a variety of subscription options for the Mainstage and Porchlight Revisits are on sale beginning Monday, Aug. 23 at 12 p.m. at Porchlight-MusicTheatre.org or by phone at 773.777.9884.

Now in its 27th season, Porchlight's production history includes more than 70 mainstage works with 15 Chicago premieres and five world premieres.

Aloha Stammtisch Aug. 20

The Dank Haus German-American Cultural Center is hosting their Aloha Stammtisch 7:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, on the 6th floor at 4740 N. Western Ave.

This month they are featuring acclaimed Elvis impersonator, Michael St. Angel, as the King of Rock-N-Roll. Food and drink will be available for purchase. For more information call 773-561-9181.

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Feigenholtz's work never stopped during lockdown

BY PATRICK BUTLER

In about an hour, State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz [6th] covered a variety of thorny issues ranging from how Springfield kept working as best it could during the pandemic lockdown, to questions on what comes next, now that life as we once knew it is slowly returning.

During a recent Lake View Kiwanis Club luncheon at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont Ave., the longtime Lake View representative shared everything from a description of her new office digs (which she compared to Dinkle's Bakery) to how she and her fellow lawmakers at one point were working nearly round-the-clock trying to keep things going as normal as possible.

Add to that the recent boundary changes, which gave her district a host of new issues including dealing with the needs of half-a-dozen additional public schools she inherited from her predecessor, former Senate President John Cullerton, who recently retired his law practice and "bequeathed" his longtime-job to Feigenholtz.

Issues ranged from helping local businesses from going under to doing what they could to help "gig" workers who hold freelance jobs and often don't often have a steady stream of income.

Much of their time, however, was focused not only on small businesses, but big interests like the huge hit the restaurant, enter-

tainment and large-scale hotel industries downtown took under the forced economic shutdown, and dealing with the rioting and looting downtown and on the North Side in 2020.

For it is the hotels and restaurants that support 600,000 jobs a year, with the state collecting \$400 million annually just from the hotel taxes.

Then there were also the needs of community organizations. For a variety of reasons Feigenholtz said many needed to be more linked than ever to community help organizations – especially charitable organizations who deal with the poor, like food pantry Common Pantry and the Little Sisters of the Poor, who have been working in the area for nearly two centuries – and were now working harder than ever, after half of the city's workers were tossed onto unemployment due to Gov. Pritzker's edict.

In May, Common Pantry announced the purchase of a new property that will help continue their fight against food insecurity. "Owning a building of our own is transformative for Common Pantry, which has been a mainstay, ingrained in the fabric of the Northcenter neighborhood for decades,"



State Senators Ann Gillespie, Sara Feigenholtz [center] and Mattie Hunter celebrate House Bill 2621.

"One of Illinois' biggest challenges has always been affordable housing, which was amplified during the pandemic," Sara Feigenholtz said.

said Executive Director Margaret O'Connor. "We are grateful to our community for all the support we've received over the years, and to our local and state elected officials for making this incredible step forward a reality for us."

Acquisition of the property, located at 3900-3910 N. Lincoln Ave., was made possible in part with assistance from grants from the State of Illinois. The project had the support of State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz, and State Rep. Ann Williams.

For a while there was money headed from Washington to temporarily help families who'd suddenly found themselves in

desperate straits, the money was a long way from many of the families who may have had their rents covered – at least temporarily.

Even the emergency housing money being sent from Washington to keep the often-middle class ending up on the street didn't go directly to the tenants, but the landlords, who struggled under the weight of those not paying their rent. "They were afraid many of the tenants would spend the money themselves," she said.

"One of Illinois' biggest challenges has always been affordable housing, which was amplified during the pandemic," Feigenholtz said. "Housing was our top priority this legislative session. Finding a way to provide incentives to local mom-and-pop landlords and new developments

to keep rent affordable for future and existing tenants was the goal of this legislation."

House Bill 2621 combines measures from affordable housing initiatives was introduced and co-sponsored this year by Feigenholtz.

The law creates the COVID-19 Affordable Housing Grant Program, which directs \$75 million to multifamily development costs to keep rent affordable for low-income households.

And the "cleanup" job for lawmakers at every level in Springfield is still far from finished, she added.

State hopes \$10 million grant program brings back tourists

State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz [6th] and the Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity announced a new \$10 million grants program aimed at revitalizing Chicago's hard-hit tourism industry by bringing back new and returning tourism attractions and festivals. The Tourism Attractions and Festivals Grant program is made possible with support of federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act bailout, and intended to help reinvigorate tourism and to put the industry on a path to economic recovery from the government-imposed pandemic lockdown.

Eligible applicants include units of local government, municipalities, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, or local promotions groups. The funds may be utilized for capital projects, equipment, training, transportation, housing, receptions, entertainment, photography, temporary housing, and interpretive programs, like exhibits and installations - to further develop new attractions and events to attract visitors.

"Travel and tourism play a vital role in our economy, fueling hundreds of

thousands of jobs and driving significant economic activity across our communities every year," said Sen. Sara Feigenholtz, Chair of the Senate's Tourism and Hospitality Committee. "This new program will provide a needed opportunity for communities to showcase the amazing festivals and attractions we have right here in Illinois. Our restaurants, hotels and small businesses are ready to safely welcome visitors back."

Tourism and festival business entities can submit for grants of up to \$1 million that may be used to establish and enhance tourism attractions or festivals planned for 2021-22. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are depleted with awards made quarterly and the department will have the ability to fund applications most closely aligned to eligibility criteria approved for immediate funding. A technical assistance webinar will be held 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, to explain application requirements, program eligibility and program guidelines. To review the plan, visit <https://bit.ly/3fRxKgN>.



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Letter to the Editor

Spare the adulation, Picasso was a pig

Please spare me the adulation of Pablo Picasso by Thomas O’Gorman [Aug. 11].

Picasso is far from being a human that should be glowingly praised. He was an abusive, controlling misogynist of the utmost degree. The art (good) needs to be separated from the artist (bad).

“Women,” Picasso once proclaimed, “are machines for suffering.” He is also famously quoted for saying “to make a dove, you must first wring its neck.”

Picasso said women were “either goddesses or doormats” and the moment they became ill or ceased to inspire his creativity he lost interest and moved on, leaving behind women traumatized, some suicidal (and a few were successful in that).

When his first wife became ill, he neglected her and found a 17-year-old whom he hid away in a secret apartment.

His own granddaughter, Marina Picasso, described his brutal nature with women stating that “after he had spent many nights extracting their essence, once they were bled dry, he would dispose of them.”

He was compulsively unfaithful and pitted his wives and mistresses against each other. Picasso encouraged them to fight over him physically and remarked later that it was one of his favorite memories.

He frequented brothels, having been introduced to them by his father at age 13 or 14. He married a 27-year-old when he was 79.

He callously betrayed and tortured lovers, even branding the cheek of Francoise Gilot with a lit cigarette. When Gilot did successfully leave Picasso, he told every art dealer he knew not to buy her work.

That’s not love, that’s abuse.

Sydney Moore
Andersonville

SAFETY from p. 2

in Chicago but across the NHL,” said NHL commissioner **Gary Bettman**. Indeed.

CHICAGO’S VERY OWN: **Jack Rosenberg**, legendary sports producer for **Harry Caray**, **Jack Brickhouse**, **Lloyd Pettit**, **Vince Lloyd**, **Lou Boudreau**, et al on WGN-9 and WGN 720-AM for more than 40 years, is being officially honored by the city of Chicago. The southeast corner of E. Illinois St. and Cityfront Plaza Dr. near Tribune Tower will be designated “Jack Rosenberg Way.” Well deserved. Thanks, **Scott Seaman**.

IT WAS HEAVEN: The Chicago White Sox game at the Field of Dreams was one for the history books. **Jose Abreu** hit the first ever MLB home run in the state of Iowa.

NBC NEWS: Longtime Chicago food media personality **Steve Dolinsky** (a.k.a., Hungry Hound), will soon return to the dining beat, signing on as a food reporter at NBC’s WMAQ-5.

MAYBE NEXT YEAR: The Taylor St./Little Italy Festival has been cancelled for 2021 due to the meteoric rise in COVID-19 cases. So has the Lakeview East Festival of the Arts.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD: Like swallows in Capistrano, the food trucks have returned to Daley Plaza.

EVENING ON DIVISION: A revered Gold Coast favorite, Evening on Astor, will now become Evening on Division, for 2021. Wednesday, Sept. 8, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Food will be available for purchase from many of the well-known Division St. merchants. Get tables now.

SWEET: **Zurich Esposito** and **Bryan McCormick’s** nephew, **Kevin McCormick’s** Good Ambler Bakery at 216 N. Peoria St. in the West Loop takes the cake. Named Best New Bakery in Chicago.

MANGE MANGE: If there ever was a simple family-style Italian restaurant in Chicago it’s Tufano’s. That’s the Little Italy

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Jose Abreu



April Schwartz with Paul R Iacono and Julie Barrish.



Guy Fieri and Joe DiBuono.



Myra and John Reilly.



Julie Harron and Lena Svensson Helms.



Vonita Reescer’s birthday bash, hosted by Sherry Lea Fox.



Julie Newmar



Helmut Jahn

eatery on Vernon Park place, near Taylor St., down the block from Our Lady of Pompeii. Best marinara sauce in town. Only they call it “gravy.” Still Family-run with son, **Joe DiBuono**. Tufano’s just appeared in a brand new episode on **Guy Fieri’s** @foodnetwork Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.

SERVICE CLUB: Once again the Service Club’s Day on the Terrace Fashion Lunch was a splendid success. **Jean Coatar Antonious**, **Tracey Tarantino DiBuono** and **Sharyl Mackey** were remarkable co-chairs.

THAT’S A WRAP: **Amelia Thompson**, who just wrapped shooting a couple of short films in NYC and getting cast for others, is the great granddaughter of the late **Mayor Richard J. Daley** and his wonderful wife, **Eleanor (Sis) Daley**. Papa **Peter Q. Thompson** is beaming. Bravo.

CATWOMAN: Chicagoan **Christopher Clinton Conway** is a neighbor of actress **Julie Newmar**, meeting her 19 years ago, the day escrow closed, on his pink stucco bungalow on Rosewood Ave. in LA. Catwoman just turned 88.

THIS COLUMN: So delight-



Ann Gerber

ed my predecessor, **Ann Gerber**, was feted recently in the Chicago Trib as Chicago’s gossip queen. She was a dear. All the way to the end. Adored and lovely.

WHO’S WHERE: Wishing White Sox announcer **Jason Benetti** a quick recovery... **Deidre Canty** honcho at the Galway Arms on Clark St. returning from the ‘Old Sod’...Christie’s **Steve Zick** in Overland Park, KS, where his uncle **Archbishop James Kelleher** celebrated his 90th birthday... **Janet** and **Rodger Owen** in Narragansett, RI, at the Dunes Club with **John** and **Beatriz Duque Struck**... **Edmund Lester** in Arches National Park in Moab, UT... **Heather Farley** enjoyed a great day at Wrigley Field with **Michelle Dorbecker Talbott**... **Eileen Howard-Weinberg** with **Maria Brightly**, **Margaret Berg**, **Maria Lampros**, **Kiki Furla**, **Julie Karagianis**, at Gibson’s Steakhouse... **Mark Kolasa** spreading the word about

the spectacular Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary... **Julie Harron** and **Lena Svensson Helms** at the original Immersive Vincent Van Gogh Exhibit... **Sherry Lea Fox** hosted the most fun surprise birthday gathering for gal pal **Vonita Reescer** at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill with A-list guests in attendance... **Jack Goggin** seen at Manitowish Waters, WI, farmers market buying mixed berry pie and beefsteak tomatoes... talented writer **Joe Mallon** telling his virtual reality story live at Beat Kitchen on Belmont... Service Club’s Development Committee dining at Steak 48... **Judge Rhoda Sweeney** hanging with granddaughter **Caroline** in Laguna, CA... **Mazel Tov** Mother of the Bride, **April Schwartz**, looking elegant at wedding of **Elana Schwartz** and **Ari Friedman** with **Julie Barrish** and **Paul R Iacona** in attendance at the Old Post Office... **Tera** and **Jon McGreal** road tripped to historic Harper’s Ferry, WVA... **John Doerr**, formerly City Hall’s honcho at Intergovernmental Affairs, spooling pasta at Tufano’s greeting old friends.

ARCHITECTURE: Make time to see the **Helmut Jahn** exhibit at Chicago Architecture Center. It is so important and so well done.

The pressure is unreal. Most of the goalkeepers, they feel the pressure. The only ones that don’t worry are the ones too dumb to know what’s happening to them. - **Tony Esposito** tog515@gmail.com

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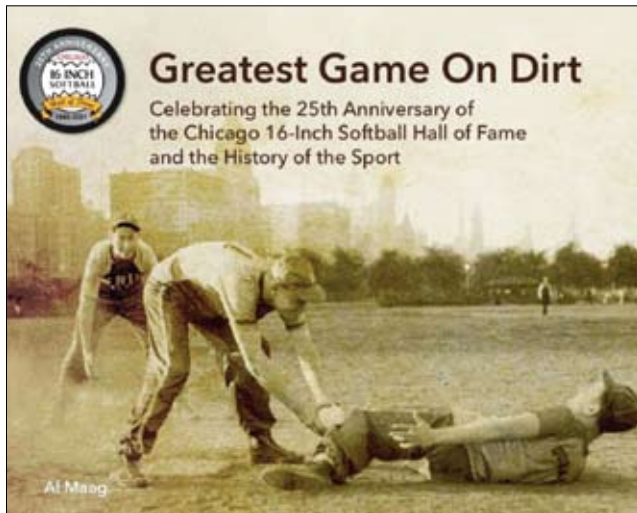
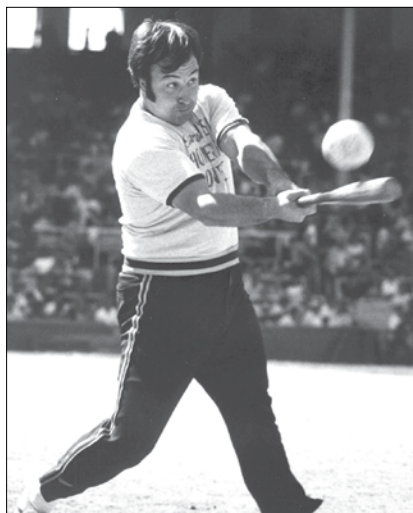
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(L) Willie Simpson of the Bobcats softball team. (C) Book cover of "Greatest Game On Dirt." (R) The Chicago Daily News softball team at Billy Goat Tavern.

'Greatest Game on Dirt' celebrates the history of softball



The Home Field

By Don DeBat

Ask any South Sider what makes Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood famous and, he or she will tell you it's Irish mayors and 16" softball players. But don't be surprised if the ball players are mentioned ahead of the politicians.

So, it is with great enthusiasm that this writer—a proud 1999 HOF inductee—was happy to review the recently published book, the "Greatest Game On Dirt," a 132-page text and picture book celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Chicago 16" Hall of Fame and the nearly 134-year history of the sport.

Softball historian, author and HOF founder Al Maag truly covers every aspect of the Windy City's game from the infield to the outfield from 1887 to the present.

Chicago softball's birth occurred on Thanksgiving Day in 1887 when the first game was played indoors on the wooded floor of a gymnasium at the Farragut Boat Club at 31st St. and Lake Park Ave. on the South Side while fans awaited the progress of the Harvard-Yale football game via ticker tape.

George W. Hancock drew a baseball diamond on the gym floor, tied up the laces around a boxing glove to form a sphere and the players swatted it with a broomstick. Hancock, a Chicago reporter, outlined a rough set of rules, and for the remainder of the evening the members played "Indoor Baseball." The game caught on and by the end of the winter the Farragut team was playing indoor baseball with dozens of other clubs.

"Indoor Baseball was played in dance halls, armories and gymnasias with a ball that measured 16" or 18" in circumference

with a thin bat, and—important—without gloves," wrote Chicago Sun-Times sports columnist and historian Bill Gleason in 1981. "Because the playing areas were tiny, the ball had to be soft and squishy so it would not carry. Indoor was a scientific game, a pitcher-catcher-bunter-slash hitter game."

"From watching a ticker tape for the results of a college football game on Thanksgiving Day in 1887 to streaming live coverage of games in the 21st Century, 16" softball established itself as Chicago's iconic game and fabric of our culture," Maag wrote.

Chicago softball's birth occurred on Thanksgiving Day in 1887 when the first game was played indoors on the wooded floor of a gymnasium at the Farragut Boat Club at 31st St. and Lake Park Ave. on the South Side

By the 1920s, slow-pitch softball moved outdoors and developed into a popular urban sport—the perfect game for the blue-collar ethnic inner-city neighborhoods of the city. To play the game, all a kid needed was a bat and a softball, sometimes called the "mush ball," especially when well-worn. And no glove was needed.

And, that was—and still is—the beauty of Chicago's game, which flourished on makeshift diamonds in the streets and cobble-stone alleys, vacant lots, school yards, parking lots, prairies and under the "el" tracks from Rogers Park to Mount Greenwood long before it ascended to the green



The 1949 Windy City champs with Moose Skowron and Nicky Branman.

grass of city and suburban public parks.

The "Greatest Game On Dirt" focuses on key players, teams, media, and organizers that shaped the game and made it what it is today. Chapters also target non-profits, gloves versus no gloves, Black legends, women in the game, corporate ball and umpires.

Maag's comprehensive research also provides the following essential facts every true Chicagoan should know:

• **Celebrities played softball.** Mayor Richard J. Daley played second base during his school days at De La Salle Institute. Other celebs include actors Gary Sinese, Bill Murray, Jim Belushi, Dennis Farina and Joe Mantegna.

Professional athletes, including George Halas, Bill "Moose" Skowron, Sweetwater Clifton, Phil Cavaretta, Lou Boudreau, Ernie Banks, Ron Santo, Gary Fencik, Jim McMahon, Bobby Douglas, Gale Sayers, Jim Grabowski, Jeff Hornacek, Michael Jordan and Bobby Hull played the game. Media players included Mike Royko, Tim Weigel, Bob Sirott, Mike Conklin, Dan Cahill and this writer.

• **1930s Golden Age.** A 16" tournament sponsored by the Chicago American newspaper in 1930 drew hundreds of teams over a five-week period with the finals played at Wrigley Field. At the 1933-1934 Century of Progress exposition in Chicago, the Grant Park National Invitational Tournament drew 55 top teams and 350,000 spectators.

• **Windy City League stories.** Moose Skowron, who starred in 1949 for Jimmy DiVito's mob-sponsored Nut House Café team, told Maag that his 1955 New York Yankees team couldn't beat a good Chicago softball team.

• **Bobcats vs. Sobies.** In the late 1960s and 1970s, the greatest rivalry in 16" softball sparked the "renaissance" of Chicago softball, or the second "Golden Age." The Bobcats were led by pitcher-manager Eddie Zolna, and stars Willie (The Whistler) Simpson, home-run hitter Ron Olesiak and dump-hitting specialist Jake Jacobi. Starting in 1969, the Dr. Carlucci-sponsored Bobcats would win their first of five

SOFTBALL see p. 10

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Police Beat...

Man bit off motorist's nipple during road rage clash on Lake Shore Dr.

A Chicago man battered an off-duty CPD officer and bit the nipple off the cop's buddy during a road rage incident Aug. 8 on Lake Shore Dr., prosecutors said.

Kyle Clark, 35, also had a gun in his car, according to the allegations. But you're probably more interested in hearing about the nipple.



Kyle Clark

Prosecutors said the off-duty cop and the other victim, both 38-year-old men, were heading north on Lake Shore Dr. when a black Volkswagen Jetta sideswiped them near Jackson Street around 11:40 p.m.

The men pulled up next to the Jetta and ordered Clark to pull over so they could file a crash report and the off-duty cop identified himself as a Chicago police officer.

Clark and the cop both got out of their cars, and Clark punched the cop twice in the face, according to prosecutors. When the other victim tried to help the off-duty cop, Clark bit the man's nipple and tore it completely off, prosecutors said.

On-duty officers arrived and took Clark into custody after a brief struggle, according to the allegations. The victim who allegedly lost his nipple was taken to a nearby hospital to have the wound closed with stitches.

Prosecutors said Clark has been convicted three times for aggravated battery of peace officers — twice in 2012 and once in 2006. His private defense attorney said he has one child.

He is charged with aggravated battery of a peace officer, aggravated battery causing great bodily harm, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, and leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

Judge Charles Beach set bail at \$100,000 and said Clark must go onto electronic monitoring if he posts the 10% deposit bond to get out of jail.

Mass shooting in Old Town linked to recent rideshare carjackings

A shooting that left four people injured in Old Town Aug. 9 has been linked to two armed carjackings of rideshare drivers that unfolded Aug. 6 on the Magnificent Mile and in West Town, according to a source.

Four gunmen stepped out of a dark gray or black BMW and opened fire on the 1300 block of N. Hudson on Aug. 9. Officers in the area reported hearing shots fired around 3:45 p.m. and quickly found a shooting

victim. Cops then found three more victims nearby. A 63-year-old man was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center with a gunshot wound to his buttocks, two 16-year-old boys were taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital with gunshot wounds to their legs, and a 14-year-old boy was taken to Lurie Children's Hospital with a gunshot wound to his foot, according to a CPD statement. All of the victims' conditions have been stabilized, the statement said.

Police are working to determine if the 14-year-old is also one of the shooters. CPD surveillance cameras showed four people getting out of the BMW to shoot, but only three appeared to return to the car afterward.

The BMW, which has Iowa license plates, was reportedly hijacked from an Uber driver around 3 a.m. The driver and his passenger were on the 1000 block of N. Hermitage when a white sedan pulled alongside them, and three men got out with guns, according to a CPD report.

The report said the hijackers forced the driver and passenger from the Uber and fled north on Hermitage in the 2014 BMW. The white car followed them.

Then, at 4:48 a.m., three men approached another Uber driver as he waited in his car for another assignment on the corner of Michigan and Ontario on the Mag Mile. One of the men displayed a gun, and the group took control of the victim's black Lexus, which headed west on Ontario, police said. It was accompanied by the BMW bearing Iowa plates that was taken in West Town.

In a community alert about the carjackings, police said the hijackers were three Black males between the ages of 16- and 30-years-old and one Black male who's 16- to 18-years-old. Area Three detectives are investigating the shooting and carjackings.

Financier sentenced to three+ years for swindling millions

A Chicago financial adviser has been sentenced to three and a half years in federal prison for swindling more than \$3 million from clients, including a man who received compensation from the State of Illinois in a wrongful conviction settlement.

Marcus E. Boggs represented to clients and his employer, an investment advisory firm, that he would use client funds to buy and sell securities. In reality, Boggs spent more than \$3 million of his clients' funds over a 10-year period to pay his personal credit cards and the mortgage on his residence. His credit card purchases included international vacations, expensive dinners at restaurants, and rent for multiple apartments that Boggs leased in Chicago.

One of the defrauded clients was wrongfully imprisoned for several years after being convicted of a 1991 sexual assault, kidnapping, and murder of a teenage girl. After DNA testing exonerated the client and led to his release from prison, he received approximately \$5 million from the State of Illinois and retained Boggs to manage and invest some of the money. Boggs instead stole approximately \$800,000 of the client's funds.

Boggs, 51, of Chicago, pleaded guilty earlier this year to a charge

of wire fraud. In addition to the 36-month prison sentence, U.S. District Judge Mary M. Rowland on Thursday ordered Boggs to pay more than \$3.08 million in restitution to the victims.

Homeless man stabbed in neck while sleeping on Red Line in Loop

Police are investigating another knife attack aboard the CTA train system after a man was stabbed in the neck while sleeping on the Red Line downtown Aug. 12. It's the second stabbing on the Red Line in two days and is at least the fourth stabbing on the train system this month.

The latest attack conjures up memories of last summer when a man was charged with stabbing homeless men as they slept on the Red Line and in Grant Park. A suspect in those attacks is jailed on murder charges.

Police said a 52-year-old man was sleeping on a southbound Red Line when someone stabbed him twice in the neck near the Monroe station around 4:31 a.m. Officers applied pressure to the man's stab wounds to slow blood loss until EMS arrived. An officer at the scene said the victim appeared to be homeless.

Fire department personnel transported the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where his condition stabilized, according to police.

On Aug. 12, a 43-year-old man was stabbed on a Red Line train near Fullerton after getting involved in an argument with another passenger, police said. That victim, who was stabbed in the chin, became uncooperative with the police investigation. He was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in fair condition, according to CPD.

Man, 78, carjacked in Lincoln Park

Two armed men carjacked a 78-year-old man in Lincoln Park Aug. 12, police said. Meanwhile, CBS2 reports that a 15-year-old who was caught driving a car that was taken at gunpoint from a Bucktown woman earlier this week was released from custody after just two hours.

In the Lincoln Park hijacking, CPD spokesperson Karie James said the elderly victim was sitting in his car on the 2700 block of N. Cannon Dr. around 5:05 a.m. when two men displayed a handgun and ordered him to get out. He complied, and they drove away with his black Lexus, which was followed by a black SUV that carried accomplices, according to a police report. The victim was not injured.

The primary suspect was described as a Black male who's about 20-years-old and 5'-8" to 6' tall with short dreadlocks. A CPD license plate reader detected the stolen car traveling on the 700 block of S. California in Lawndale shortly after the carjacking.

Another carjacking was reported in the Fulton River District on Aug. 10. Two men took a woman's blue Hyundai Santa Fe at gunpoint in front of her home on the 500 block of N. Peoria around 9:30 p.m.

The suspects are two Black men in their 20s who are thin and wore masks, black hoodies, and dark pants. The stolen car was last seen heading west on Grand.

Meanwhile, CBS2 reports that police arrested a 15-year-old boy who was driving a 2017 Infiniti QX70 that a group of hijackers took at gunpoint from a woman in Bucktown on Aug. 9.

Three offenders confronted the 50-year-old woman moments after she pulled into her garage, demanded her keys and cellphone at gunpoint, and then drove away.

Police pulled the car over on the 3900 block of W. Van Buren around 10:50 p.m. Aug. 10 and arrested the teen driver. Another person who was in the car ran away from police.

The 15-year-old was released to his

guardian two hours later, the station reported. "The second person got away, and from what the police tell me, they are absolutely not allowed to pursue on foot or in cars."

"I get it that they're young," the woman said, "but they're also bold enough to put a gun against my head."

Paroled burglar viciously attacked and raped woman during 3-hour ordeal

Six months after DeQuan Mayfield was released early from prison for his third, fourth, and fifth burglary convictions, he crawled through a Humboldt Park apartment window around 4 a.m. on July 12 and confronted a woman in the bedroom, prosecutors said Aug. 11.

The 23-year-old woman was lying naked in bed, prosecutors said. She asked if she could put some clothes on.



DeQuan Mayfield

ing this for years. It's how I make money."

For the next three hours, Mayfield repeatedly raped, beat, choked, and threatened to kill the woman in an ordeal that ended only when she managed to escape after he said he was going to set her on fire, prosecutors said.

During a bail hearing, veteran Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy told Judge Arthur Willis that Mayfield and the woman don't know each other. They wound up in the same residential building on the 2800 block of W. Division by happenstance — she was housesitting for a friend and Mayfield was a guest in a separate apartment downstairs.

As the woman watched TV in bed early in the morning, Mayfield allegedly pushed a window unit air conditioner out of place and climbed through a front bedroom window of the upstairs apartment. He confronted the woman and refused to let her put on clothes as she asked.

Instead, Mayfield allegedly grabbed her by her ponytail and led her room to room looking for things to steal.

In the bedroom, he put on a condom and forced her to perform oral sex at knifepoint, Murphy said. If she "did a good job," Mayfield allegedly told the woman, he would refrain from killing her. He then moved her to a couch and raped her, according to the allegations.

Moving to a child's unoccupied bedroom, Mayfield put a pair of the youngster's underwear on the woman's head and threatened to come back and hurt the child "if she wasn't good," Murphy said.

In the main bedroom, Mayfield raped the woman two more times before taking her to a bathroom where he forced her to shower.

Mayfield allegedly threw bleach on the woman and made her brush her teeth and gargle mouthwash in an apparent attempt to destroy DNA evidence.

Then, he held a large kitchen knife to the woman's throat and told her to drink the bleach, Murphy said. At that point, the woman managed to grab mace from her purse. She sprayed Mayfield and wrestled him for control of the kitchen knife.

As they struggled, Mayfield's ski mask came off and the woman saw his face, Murphy said. The fight continued. Mayfield punched the woman in her face repeatedly, choked her with both hands, and wrapped a cord

around her neck to stop her breathing. She went limp. Mayfield allegedly dragged her to the living room with the cord around her neck.

There, Mayfield covered the woman with a bleach-soaked towel and a blanket, Murphy said.

"I don't care if you're faking," Mayfield allegedly told the woman. "I'm gonna burn your body, and you're gonna die."

When Mayfield walked to the back of the apartment, the woman got up and bolted out the front door. Surveillance videos allegedly show Mayfield in the alley as the woman grabbed an extra key from under her car and then sped away to a hospital for help. She had red lines on her neck, bloody eyes, and bruises across her body, Murphy said.

Chicago police, who found a cord and a bleach-soaked towel in the building's front yard, issued a community alert about the attack a few days later.

Detectives learned that Mayfield had been a houseguest in the downstairs apartment on the night of the attack. After seeing his criminal history — a recently-paroled, five-time convicted burglar who was convicted of criminal sexual assault as a juvenile — investigators decided to include his picture in a photo lineup that they presented to the victim. She picked him out as the attacker. She allegedly picked Mayfield out again during a live line-up after police arrested him this week.

Mayfield's defense attorney said he has been working as a security guard for the past month, and he has a bachelor's degree in fashion from Columbia College. He's also on medication for psychiatric conditions, the attorney said.

Prosecutors charged Mayfield with attempted first-degree murder and aggravated criminal sexual assault. Judge Arthur Willis ordered him held without bail. Willis also ordered him held without bail at the request of the Illinois Dept. of Corrections, which will be considering revocation of Mayfield's parole.

Man who fired gun outside Grand Red Line was carrying 38 bags of crack, \$2,357 cash

The man who fired shots outside the Grand Red Line station Aug. 10 was carrying 38 bags of crack, more than two ounces of pot, \$2,357 cash, and a handgun when cops arrested him a few blocks away, said prosecutors.

A judge ordered Kyle Fortner, 34, held without bail.

Police responded to calls of shots fired on the first block of E. Grand around 4:30 p.m. and met with several witnesses, including a security guard who provided a photograph of the man who fired the gun.



Kyle Fortner

Officers searched the area for the man in the photo and spotted Fortner on the 200 block of E. Illinois about five minutes later. Cops searched Fortner's backpack and allegedly found a loaded handgun and eight bags of pot that weighed 66 grams — a little more than two ounces. Fortner was also carrying 38 baggies of crack and the cash on his person, prosecutors said.

The security guard confirmed police found the right guy, according to prosecutors, and surveillance video allegedly shows Fortner firing

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The first rule of Carjacking Club: never talk about Carjacking Club

The second rule of Carjacking Club...

As the city nears 1,000th carjacking, CPD decides to stop talking about it

BY CWBCHICAGO

Much like the well-known “seven stages of grief,” Chicago’s leaders go through a series of predictable phases when there is a crime problem: Denial, announce a plan, falsely claim the plan is working and then silence.

We have now reached the “silence” phase of Chicago’s carjacking problem.

Between April and July, CPD issued monthly press releases in which police brass claimed that carjacking cases were “continuing” to decline month after month — even though carjacking cases were actually increasing month after month.

The first rule of Carjacking Club is, never talk about Carjacking Club. The second rule of Carjacking Club is... Club? What Club?

By August, CPD decided not to mention carjackings in its monthly media statement. Silence. Let’s just not talk about “it.”

And there’s a good reason they don’t want to mention it. Carjackings are up 45% over last year’s record-setting pace. The city has had just shy of 1,000 carjackings so far this year. And the pace is picking up. Police logged 52 carjackings through the first eight days of August. That’s up from 44 during the same days last year.

The latest cases were reported early Monday in Wicker Park and Sunday evening in Old Town.

More recently, a 52-year-old Uber driver was sitting in his car near the Damen Blue Line station when three men got out of a black sedan, and two of them forced him from his vehicle at gunpoint, according to a CPD statement. Two offenders drove away with

the victim’s 2018 Hyundai, and the third followed in the vehicle they arrived in, according to police.

Carjackings are up 45% over last year’s record-setting pace.

The carjackers were described as three Black males who wore white face masks. The car they used might be a Nissan Sentra, according to a CPD report.

Around 9:20 p.m. Sunday, a man told police he was carjacked of his white 2008 Chrysler Sebring on the 1400 block of N. Sedgwick. The victim told police four men in their mid-20s, three of whom had guns, were last seen heading west on Blackhawk in his car.

No arrests have been made in the latest cases.

Man on parole for 3rd gun case charged with brandishing firearm during LSD road rage

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man on parole for his third gun conviction was arrested near Montrose Harbor after he allegedly pointed a handgun at a driver on Lake Shore Dr. during a road rage incident Aug. 8. Police tracked the man down by using CPD’s extensive network of lakefront cameras and license plate readers.

Prosecutors said a driver called 911 to report that the passenger of a white Chevy flashed a gun at them after a driving dispute near Lake Shore Dr. and Balbo. And the driver allegedly gave the 911 operator the other car’s license plate number. Officers began tracking the car via the city’s surveillance network and allegedly found it traveling near Montrose Harbor around 6:15 p.m.

Officers from the Lakeview-based Town Hall District were dispatched to look for the car. They found it on the 4700 block of N. Simonds a few minutes later and ordered the driver and passenger to get out, prosecutors said.



Angel Esparza

Cops allegedly found a loaded handgun with a laser sight behind the car’s glove box. Officers arrested the passenger, Angel Esparza, 30. CPD surveillance footage showed him flashing the gun from a car during the road rage incident.

Esparza was paroled in Sept. 2020 after serving half of a five-

year sentence that he received for being a felon in possession of a firearm in 2018. He previously received three years for being a felon in possession of a firearm in 2016. Before that, he received a three-year sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm in 2014. He also has a 2009 conviction for possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Prosecutors charged Esparza with unlawful use of a weapon for the Lake Shore Dr. incident. They said they might eventually charge him with Class X armed habitual criminal.

Judge Charles Beach set Esparza’s bail at \$100,000. He also ordered Esparza held without bail while the state considers revocation of his parole, which is scheduled to end next month.

Cops close in on robbery and carjacking team as 17-year-old charged

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police hope they’re getting close to shutting down an armed robbery and carjacking crew that has been targeting victims in a series of sprees this month. The optimism comes after cops arrested a 17-year-old who was carrying proceeds from a Lincoln Park robbery when he bailed out of an SUV that was carjacked in the West Loop Aug. 9.

An armed robbery crew using a car that’s been linked to a series of hijackings took a man’s Chevy Traverse at gunpoint on the 1300 block of W. Ohio around 2:38 p.m. Aug. 9. Around 3:30 p.m., cops spotted the car in Lawndale and the 17-year-old bailed out, a source said. Cops arrested him, but the rest of the crew escaped in the stolen SUV.

When officers searched the teen, they discovered that he was carrying property taken when a group of armed men robbed two people on the 1500 block of W. Montana around 12:01 a.m. Monday, according to police.

He is charged with vehicular hijacking and theft of lost or mis-

laid property. No additional information is available about the boy because he is a juvenile.

However, police issued a community alert Aug 9 to warn about a series of carjackings and robberies in Lakeview, Lincoln Park, and Logan Square that is being carried out by armed men.

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SEA Blue Prostate Cancer event on for Sept. 26

Raises funds for those affected by Prostate cancer

Registration is now open for the 2021 SEA Blue Prostate Cancer Walk/Run at www.seablueprostatewalk.org. SEA Blue, the largest and longest running prostate cancer event in Chicago, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the lakefront in Lincoln Park.

SEA Blue is a celebration of those who have risen to the challenge to fight prostate cancer, of the lives that have been lost to the disease, and of the people we will help to combat it in the future through support, education, advocacy and awareness. People affected by all stages of the disease band together and build camaraderie through togetherness, tears and triumph.

“Last year was a virtual event, so we are so excited to gather in person to raise funds to help those affected by prostate cancer,” said Terri Likowski, program director for event presenter, Us TOO

International.

In addition to a 5K run and celebration walk, this year’s effort will include live music, free lunch, and snacks. The event will be emceed by prostate cancer survivor and former WGN-TV news anchor Steve Sanders. In addition to the in-person event, SEA Blue welcomes participation from those not in the Chicago area through virtual fundraising or by setting up small, satellite events, such as a walk and run, a picnic, or other activity. There is no registration fee for this year’s event, but you must register to attend.

“There is an urgent need for prostate cancer support, education, advocacy, and awareness here in Chicagoland and across the country,” said Likowski. “This year alone, nearly 250,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Additionally, every 15 minutes a man will die from this disease,” she added. Money raised will help fund the work of Us TOO International (www.ustoo.org), a nonprofit organization which offers educational resources and support services to the prostate cancer community at no charge. UroPartners is once again co-presenter of SEA Blue.

To register or donate, visit www.seablueprostatewalk.org. For more information, call 630-795-1002 or email seablueinfo@ustoo.org.

Free admission at History Museum Aug. 24–28

Round up the crew and visit the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., where admission is free to all from Tuesday, Aug. 24, through Saturday, Aug. 28.

For more information visit <https://www.chicagohistory.org/>.

Glitterati on the Gold Coast, Sheffield

Visit the homes of Chicago’s rich and famous with a two-hour Gold Coast walking tour Sunday Aug. 22.

Gaze at ornate architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan, step onto a rare wood-block alleyway, and take in Chicago’s early mansions, including the Archbishop’s Residence.

On Aug. 28, CHM will host a walking tour of the Sheffield neighborhood in Lincoln Park.

Explore the history of the Sheffield/DePaul neighborhood, and stroll past Victorian architecture and sites of Hollywood films. The tour wraps up at Kelly’s Pub.

The cost of walking tours is \$22.50, and not included in the free admission.

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
ECAPITAL LOAN FUND II LP, A TEXAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
Plaintiff,
-v-
NAVIGANT DEVELOPMENT, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 1419 NORTH WELLS, LLC, ANTHONY J. TOMASKA, UNKNOWN OWNERS OR LESSEES, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
2020 CH 07195
1419-1423 N. WELLS STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60610
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 12, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on September 15, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 1419-1423 N. WELLS STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60610
Property Index No. 17-04-205-022-0000; 17-04-205-051-0000; 17-04-205-067-0000
The real estate is improved with a commercial property.

“PLEASE NOTE: Only part of the property identified by the property index numbers is being sold which includes the parking area/walkway portions of each parcel as specifically identified in the above legal descriptions. No building is included. The judgment amount was \$1,067,471.91.

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

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), 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, John Lipinsky, CLINGEN CALLOW & MCLEAN, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2300 CABOT DRIVE, STE 500, Lisle, IL, 60532 (630) 871-2600.

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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

John Lipinsky
CLINGEN CALLOW & MCLEAN, LLC
2300 CABOT DRIVE, STE 500
Lisle IL, 60532
630-871-2600
E-Mail: Lipinsky@ccmlawyer.com
Attorney Code, 39631
Case Number: 2020 CH 07195
TJSC#: 41-1227

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.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
LIMA ONE CAPITAL LLC;
Plaintiff,
vs.

ROBIN HONG SOON KIM; CITY OF CHICAGO; CHRISTOPHER TURNER; CTC BUSINESS GROUP LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendants,
21 CH 357
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 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. 20-27-418-042-0000.
Commonly known as 7750 South Rhodes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60613.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Anselmo Lindberg & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563-1890, (630) 453-6960. F20110034
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com

Real Estate For Sale

13173060

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CSMC 2018-RPL6 TRUST
Plaintiff,
-v-
IOANA A. MINGHIAT, SKYVIEW CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Defendants
20 CH 02877
2729 W TOUHY AVE APT 2D
CHICAGO, IL 60645
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 8, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on September 9, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 2729 W TOUHY AVE APT 2D, CHICAGO, IL 60645
Property Index No. 10-36-200-046-1007
The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$192,898.53.

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

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), 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, HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 401788.

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.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

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Fax #: 217-422-1754
E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Attorney File No. 401788
Attorney Code, 40387
Case Number: 20 CH 02877
TJSC#: 41-917

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Case # 20 CH 02877

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VISION from p. 3

What’s not sad, however, is what happened at the church property recently. Three years ago, a valuable, \$70,000 sculpture was stolen from there ... it’s where Yordanov has his studio. “Light Infinity,” a 300-lb., three-dimensional piece made of brass and stained glass had been chosen for a competition but before that could happen, it disappeared. About three weeks ago though, the sculpture miraculously reappeared out of the blue with a note stating that a Good Samaritan had brought it back.

“It was unexpected,” said Yordanov. “I couldn’t believe it.”

“It was a nice surprise,” chimed in Foghis.

Meanwhile, back in Rogers Park, Yordanov said the Column sculpture will have “positive aesthetics for on-lookers.” Yet, “Until it’s finished, it’s just a wish and a good will and no more,” he said.

“It’s a joy for us when people appreciate it,” said Foghis. “He wants the art to give the same joy he feels.”

Judging by the smiles on people’s faces when they check out the work in progress, I’d say that’s already a mission

SOFTBALL from p. 7

straight titles. Eventually they would win 12 world softball titles.

The Sobies, a gritty ethnic team from Berwyn, featured stars such as curve-ball pitcher John Bereckis, a Chicago cop, his brother, clutch-hitting shortstop Bill Bereckis, speedy center fielder Eddie (Champ) Surma, lanky first-baseman John Hornacek, and tough as nails short center fielder Tony Reibel. The legendary Sobies were world champions from 1966 through 1968. The entire team is in the HOF.

• **Royko at Trebes.** When it comes to strange softball stories surrounding bad umpire calls, nothing tops the near riot that occurred on summer evening in 1980 at Trebes Park, a tiny one-diamond field at Webster and Racine in the DePaul neighborhood.

The game pitted the arch-rival neighborhood saloon team, The Chessmen, versus Royko’s Raiders, a team comprised of Mike Royko, the Chicago Sun-Times columnist, newspaper reporters, and several fine Clarendon Park stars.

The saloon crowd gathered along the fences to cheer the hard-hitting, beer-drinking Chessmen, and generally boo Royko and his Raiders, featuring Windy City star Jerry Jess, home-run sluggers Don (Garbo) Garbarino and Dennis (Muscles) Pettke.

Recoiling from several bad calls by the weak-eyed, but

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

the gun into the air. Three shell casings were found at the scene.

Prosecutors said Fortner admitted to shooting the gun into the air. His defense attorney said Fortner told police that “people were coming at him,” and he shot the gun to scare them away.

“Mr. Fortner stood on a busy street corner right in the middle of River North and fired a weapon into the air,” Judge Charles Beach said to summarize the state’s allegations, noting that the incident happened at “just about rush hour in that area.”

Fortner, who has two previous felony convictions, is charged with Class X armed violence and felony charges of aggravated discharge of a firearm, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, manufacture-delivery of cannabis, and possession of a controlled substance. He also had an active arrest warrant at the time of the alleged shooting for a misdemeanor battery case that he hadn’t shown up in court for since sometime in 2019.

“He has not returned to court for almost two years on that case,” Beach noted.

“Coronavirus been around, too, sir. What about that?” Fortner interjected, apparently overlooking that his alleged failures to show up in court pre-date the COVID pandemic. Fortner went on to speak openly about the new charges, too.

“I never had 66 grams of nothing on me and my person,” Fortner said. “I don’t know about none of this. This is the first case in the history of my 34 years that I had a pistol in my....”

At that point, Judge Beach and Fortner’s defense attorney cut him off to save him from making further statements that prosecutors could use against him down the road.

Man tried to kill woman during eight-minute random attack inside Lincoln Park store

A man who was AWOL in a felony stolen motor vehicle case followed a 61-year-old woman into a Lincoln Park store and tried to kill her with his bare hands Aug. 10, prosecutors said. Kenyante Jackson is the 34th person accused of killing, trying to kill, or shooting someone in Chicago this year while on felony bond.

Prosecutors said the victim, who had never seen Jackson before in her life, was walking to a bus stop on the 2700 block of N. Clark when she noticed him standing in front of a CTA bus, blocking its path. As she continued walking, the woman noticed Jackson was walking next to her, and he picked up speed when she tried to out-pace him, according to prosecutors.

The woman decided to go inside a clothing store on the 2700

accomplished.

Now if we could only say the same thing about that once-beautiful old church sitting in Englewood, waiting for some TLC and to be restored to its former glory.

Satisfaction at Horner Park... It wasn’t quite Mick and Keith, but the Rolling Stones tribute band Hot Rocks set ablaze Horner Park at Montrose and California last weekend.

It was a couple hours of sheer Stones music bliss and as a lifelong Stones fan who has seen them in concert at least 25 times, I can report that frontman Eddie Bloom definitely has the Jagger’s moves.

After seeing Bloom dance and prance and sing through the crowd, I later told him he reminded me of a young Mick. Then a shocker -- Bloom is 78-years-old and a month older than Jagger! His dancing was spot-on Mick and his voice was solid.

The band also rocked.

In case you missed this fun show, Hot Rocks is playing Friday night at Firewater Saloon, 6689 N. Oliphant Ave. in Edison Park. It’s a little out of the ‘hood but definitely well worth the drive for any Stones lover.

Recoiling from several bad calls by the weak-eyed, but well-meaning veteran umpire, Royko exploded with a shower of verbal abuse after his team lost a close game. A near riot occurred after Royko called the Chessmen “a bunch of riff raff.”

well-meaning veteran umpire, Royko exploded with a shower of verbal abuse after his team lost a close game. A near riot occurred after Royko called the Chessmen “a bunch of riff raff.”

When the famed columnist criticized the umpire’s work, he sprinted to his nearby auto trunk and produced a pistol. Royko and his Raiders fled the park. The next day, Royko’s column described the game in detail, and the following season, Al DiPisa, the Chessman’s manager, renamed the team Riff Raff.

To purchase Greatest Game On Dirt go to: <http://16inchsoftballhof.com/shop>.

For more housing and softball news, visit www.don-debat.biz. Don DeBat, a 1999 Chicago Softball Hall of Fame inductee, is co-author of “Escaping Condo Jail,” the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

block of N. Clark to get away from him. But Jackson allegedly followed her inside and yelled that he was going to kill her.

With several employees and witnesses watching, Jackson put his arm around the woman’s neck and slammed her into a wall, prosecutors said. Still choking the woman, Jackson allegedly dragged her behind the store’s counter by her neck. They fell into a display, then slammed onto the ground, where Jackson wrapped his legs around the woman as he continued choking her with his arm, prosecutors said.

When a metal bar fell from a nearby shelf, Jackson grabbed the bar and pressed it against the woman’s throat as the woman struggled to get away, according to prosecutors.

The attack, which was recorded by surveillance cameras, lasted eight minutes, prosecutors said Thursday. A witness eventually pried Jackson’s arms and legs from around the woman, allowing her to escape, according to the allegations. The witness then held Jackson down until police arrived.

Prosecutors charged Jackson with attempted first-degree murder and aggravated battery of a victim over the age of 60.

Last September, Jackson posted a \$200 deposit to get out of jail after prosecutors charged him with driving a car that had been stolen from a woman at a West Loop hotel, records show. A warrant was issued for his arrest in May after he stopped showing up for court in the case.

Also in May, Jackson was charged with misdemeanor battery after he allegedly kicked down an apartment door in Rogers Park and battered the person who lives inside. Prosecutors subsequently dropped the case.

He has two previous adult felony convictions for robbery and a juvenile conviction for burglary, prosecutors said.

Assistant Public Defender Genevieve O’Toole said Jackson vehemently denies that he tried to kill the woman Tuesday. In fact, O’Toole said, Jackson claims he was sleeping on a bus stop bench when police arrested him.

Judge Charles Beach ordered him held without bail for the alleged attack and also held without bail in the stolen motor vehicle case. Jackson’s next court date for the attempted murder case is Aug. 18.

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SCHOOLS *from p. 1*

19 funds to fill permanent jobs in the upcoming school year.

“It’s basic math that if we take those federal dollars, and we use those federal dollars to create full-time positions at high numbers, that within a couple of years, when those federal dollars are gone, we will not have the funds to pay for those positions,” Board President Miguel del Valle said. “The fact is, there is a cliff in a few years. ... And for this board, or any board, to not understand that and face up to it I think is a mistake.”

CPS administrators outlined a district-wide campaign to “reengage” 100,000 students at risk of not returning this school year. They said the campaign began in mid-July as district representatives began conducting house visits to about 18,000 students, while calls to parents of about 75,000 students started the following week.

CPS has also partnered with community groups in the most impacted areas to im-

prove back-to-school and COVID-19 vaccination outreach.

“My primary goal is engaging 100,000 students who are at risk of not re-enrolling at CPS because of multiple factors, and opening schools safely for five days a week of face-to-face instruction beginning on Aug. 30,” Torres said.

The renewed effort to reengage Chicago students has been a priority for CPS leaders since enrollment plummeted by 14,500 students last fall. That was the district’s largest single-year drop in more than two decades.

The 2021-2022 CPS budget includes \$7.8 billion in operating expenses, \$707 million for building repairs and technology improvements, and \$763 million for the district’s long-term debt payments.

The increased spending was subsidized with \$1.06 billion in federal pandemic relief payments. CPS expects to receive \$2.6 billion in coronavirus emergency funds by 2024. After that, the math is not in favor of CPS.

TIF *from p. 1*

support land assembly and demolition efforts, rehabilitation costs, public works improvements, job training initiatives, and relocation assistance. Those tax dollars are taken from the other legitimate public taxing bodies, and then those diverted dollars must be made up by higher taxes placed on properties located outside of TIF zones.

Already 23 years old, the TIF district was scheduled to sunset this year, which would mean the property tax money created in the area would begin flowing back to the general funds of the various taxing bodies.

Last year, the Lightfoot administration quietly pushed through the Illinois legisla-

ture permission to extend the TIF, which is generally bounded by North Ave. on the north, Orleans and Wells streets to the east, Chicago Ave. to the south and Halsted St. and the North Branch of the Chicago River to the west.

City officials said the money will help to finally finish the city’s long-delayed plans to reshape the area. In 2015, the agency released a three-phase plan to redevelop empty parcels with up to 2,830 residences by 2025.

Former residents of Cabrini-Green have been fighting several city administrations for more than 25 years to keep Daley’s promise to replace homes of low-income families displaced in the controversial Cabrini-Green razing.

ROBBERIES *from p. 1*

was gone when police arrived.

- A group of about eight teenagers reportedly threw rocks and battered people on the 400 block of N. McClurg around 7:10 p.m. The teens were seen entering an apartment building on the 400 block of E. Ontario a short time later.

The mayhem returned 1:03 a.m. Aug. 16 when a group of eight or nine juveniles struck a man in the head and stole his phone and book bag on the corner of Jackson and State in the Loop. The crew then shifted their focus to a woman who was waiting for a bus nearby.

The teens walked up to the woman, displayed a gun, struck her in her head, and stole her property at a bus stop on the 400 block of S. State, said Karie James, a CPD spokesperson. The victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, but her condition was not known.

About 10 minutes later, six teens — including one wearing a NASA sweater — pushed a man off of his Divvy bike at Adams and Wells, according to a CPD report. The offenders took the victim’s property and the bike.

Police rounded up five teens in the area who were identified by some or all of the victims. Among the arrestees is a teen wearing a NASA sweater, according to a source. A BB gun pistol was recovered from one of them.

While police were arresting the five, another teen rode past them on a Divvy bike. Cops recognized him as part of the group that brutally beat a woman during a robbery in the Loop on Aug. 15. Officers caught up with him and took him into custody, too. Other members of the group were wearing clothing that is identical to the clothes worn by Saturday’s attackers, a source said.

Around 11:30 p.m. Aug. 15, a group of about seven teenagers approached a 23-year-old woman and a 26-year-old man as

they walked near State and Jackson and ordered them to turn over their valuables, Officer Alexis Interrante said.

The woman tried to run away, but the group chased after her and severely beat her in the intersection of State and Jackson, according to a CPD report and a source. Interrante said the teens kicked and punched both victims in their bodies and heads before leaving empty-handed.

The group, which was seen on Divvy bikes before the attack, fled to 87th St. on the CTA Red Line, a source said.

The male victim flagged down a passing Uber driver who took them to the Wit Hotel, 201 N. State, where they contacted police.

CPD officers transported the woman to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in a squad car. According to a police report, the woman was in critical condition with head injuries and severe facial swelling. The man declined medical attention, Interrante said. The CPD report said he lives in Florida.

A police spokesperson did not yet have information about the ages of the juveniles who were arrested Monday or the charges they may face.

Shots fired in Streeterville

Moments before the group of teens were seen running into the Streeterville high-rise on Sunday evening, two men fired shots on Lake Shore Dr. just a couple of blocks away. There is no known link between the incidents.

At 6:48 p.m., a lifeguard at Ohio St. Beach and an off-duty cop reported hearing shots fired on the Drive. Responding officers met with several witnesses who reported seeing two men firing guns near Erie. According to a report, police found shell casings in the northbound and southbound lanes directly east of the W Lakeshore Hotel, 644 N. Lake Shore Dr. Witnesses said the men ran west into Streeterville after firing their weapons. No injuries were reported, and no arrests have been made.