

Whoever would overthrow  
the liberty of a nation must begin  
by subduing the freeness of speech.

— Benjamin Franklin

## Urban Land Institute maps out State St. revival plan

*Plan would divide  
commercial strip  
into three districts: retail,  
arts and education*

State St. was once one of Chicago's core central shopping districts, and today that great street is having trouble keeping storefronts filled and shoppers on the block.

State St. was established in 1831 when the Illinois legislature officially authorized a State Road connecting Vincennes to Chicago. The name State St. came from this road, which ran along the eastern boundary of Chicago.

During the early 1800s, what we now call the corner of State and Wacker was the last outpost for shopping for the thousands of emigrants coming from the east going to government lands in Nebraska, Kansas and the Dakotas. As a result, State St. became a dynamic, economically strong commercial artery of Chicago.

In the late 1960s, Potter Palmer, an American businessman, took a gamble on the street to raise its profile and prestige. He convinced the thriving department store, Field, Leiter & Co. (Marshall Fields), to move to the corner of State and Washington streets.

In 1972, State St. became the focus of the city and business community, which decided to build the State Street Mall, an urban transit mall, to counter the suburbia exodus.

The history of State St. - good and bad - over its next 190 years



State St. circa 1987.

Photo courtesy Chicago Loop Alliance

is, as they say, history. One constant was always change, to meet current trends and demands.

Now a team of real estate experts and urban planners are putting their heads together hoping to rejuvenate State St. again. Like other parts of Chicago, State St. has seen an exodus of retailers in light of the government-imposed pandemic lockdown, the stubborn trend of people working from home, and over the last three years, a general concern over security in a downtown Chicago now beset with violent criminal behavior.

The Urban Land Institute [ULI]

hosted a public forum Aug. 16 to debate ways to help downtown regain its vibrancy and cultivating a vision for returning State St. to a "playful, engaging and welcoming space," according to a preview published in Crain's Chicago.

Foot traffic in the Central Loop area pales in comparison to pre-pandemic days, and a slew of retailers have shuttered their doors amid an increase of online shopping, and shoplifting.

Ever since the riots and looting in 2020, crime has been on everyone's mind. Between 2019 and

REVIVAL see p. 12

## CPS first in line for 400-miles of new high-speed fiber network

*New network  
installed by 2026*

BY BOB KITSOS

When Chicago Public School [CPS] students returned to their classrooms on Monday some may have noticed new teachers, repainted classrooms and improvements in the school's gym or auditorium. However, in Edgewater, two more subtle changes were noticed: for mom's bringing kids to school, a dramatic loss of street parking; for others, computers whose internet connections are running much faster.

Chicago has undertaken a massive broadband overhaul with 400 miles of new fiber-optic cables connecting its 513 elementary and high schools. The CPS school district expects 81 schools to be connected by October and the remainder to be completed by 2026.



In Edgewater's Rosemont and Glenwood neighborhood, preparations are being made to install the high-speed fiber network for CPS elementary and high schools; 81 schools are expected to be connected by October.

Photo by Joanne Kitsos

"CPS has prioritized network improvements to ensure students and teachers can access educational tools, connect and collaborate with peers in the classroom and around the world, and access

important resources and support," said Sylvia Barragan, press secretary for CPS. "The current improvements will allow us to sup-

FIBER see p. 4



Russ Long (inset) was attacked outside the Cartier store, 630 N. Michigan, on June 29.

## Man attacked on Magnificent Mile dies, but Chicago police let the suspect walk away and didn't file a report for four days

BY CWBCHICAGO

Minutes after a River North man was attacked and gravely wounded on the Magnificent Mile this summer, witnesses directed Chicago police officers to the attacker about a block away. The cops detained the suspect and summoned a transport vehicle to take him to the station. But for some reason, the police decided to let the suspect go. And they didn't even file a report about what happened, according to law enforcement sources.

Two weeks later, still hospitalized, the victim died, very likely due to the trauma he received during the attack, sources familiar with the case say. The medical examiner's findings are pending.

Now, the Chicago Police Dept. has launched an internal investigation to determine why its officers failed to document a violent daytime attack on one of the city's most famous corridors and why they let the suspected attacker go free.

Russ Long, friends say, was a caring, grounded, witty man.

He loved his high-rise home, overlooking the river from near the Wabash Bridge. A long-time employee at Northern Trust, former coworkers remember him as sharp, reliable.

At about 3:45 p.m. June 29, Long was walking on the 600 block of N. Michigan Ave. Exactly what happened on the sidewalk outside the Cartier store is a mystery. Asked about Long's case last week, a CPD spokesperson said only that a 53-year-old man suffered blunt trauma to the head. He was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in critical condition.

About 15 minutes after the attack, a CPD unit radioed that the offender was in custody outside a shopping mall in the 500 block of N. Michigan.

"Yeah, the [witnesses] walked up on us, and he walked right up to the [squad] car," one officer radioed.

"Alrighty," the dispatcher replied. "I got you guys holding that offender at 520 N. Michigan."

ATTACKED see p. 12

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# Food will always be the hidden path to home



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Have you had enough summer rain?

Recently I was at Greek Islands restaurant on Halsted St., among Konstantinos Koutsogiorgas' authentic reproduction of seafaring life among the island folk of the Aegean. Crystal waters and savory vittles from the mouthwatering Mediterranean. He's made sure that his restaurant serves the finest Greek food.

The building at Halsted and Adams streets features a large panoramic view of "windows to Greektown." The sound of the rain hitting that surface was almost deafening as it rolled off the roof panels like standing in a waterfall. Especially in the bar.

As usual my entry to Chicago's best Greek restaurant is saluted by Stefano Naoun, the major domo of food and social commotion. He always escorts me to my table. I consider this high honor for the dignified authentic boss-man.

Small talk with Stefano and Luis Gonzales, his second in command, always enhances the harmony of Greek life here. Petros, Greek waiter to the stars will take care of me. He has the best mustache in town. And he invited me to visit Greece with him, where he says his Mamma will cook for me.

After setting up shop at my table, I ordered a bowl of Avgolemono soup to warm up, and a glass of Moschofilero. This Greek white wine is the find of the summer. Perfect texture for the homemade bread I break apart. This time I had the luscious sesame seed loaf toasted, better to hold the Skordalia, the richly refined potato garlic spread.

At this point in August it seems like summer has slipped away, roll-

ing by too fast. Need some cold sliced beets with garlic and oil to slow it down.

In the meantime there's always a Greek Salad with exquisite Feta Cheese, and plenty of extra olives. They are the very flavor of Greece itself.

When I was a small child I climbed a chair to pop a few black olives in my mouth thinking they were grapes. I went into shock when salty acidity and not sugary sweetness filled my mouth. It took a long time to cultivate a taste for olives.

But that's what scuttling around the Aegean Sea with a copy of Homer's original "Odyssey" is for. To read the ancient text in the original Greek tells you your learning clock is still working.

I'm so glad we learned to read Greek in prep school. You can dive off the highest mast of any ship, in any summer, once you choose to let this classic literary tale into your life.

I order a roasted lamb shank with Greek spaghetti. This traditional dish always registers in the eyes of other hungry diners, frightening tiny dogs and children.

The lamb shank always arrives with a special crumbled Greek version of Pecorino Romano Cheese. It rounds out the platter with Greek string beans the perfect side.

It takes an Irishman to appreciate the full grandeur of Greek food. So many of the ingredients are the very same found in an Irish kitchen, from the chicken soup to the roast shank cut of lamb. It isn't so much that the foods are different, but that the climate around it changes everything. Why do you think Greek yachtsmen are sailing in colorful Speedos, while the Irish variety are bundled up in Aran knit sweaters and three layers of waterproof gear? Climate changes everything. Even in summer.

History tells us sun enwraps everything in Greece. From foolish monarchs to grazing sheep, village cheesemongers to vintners crushing grapes. The salty sea winds lift the growth of olives and their oozing liquid in the press. Shaping the secrets of life, loaf by loaf, of crusty bread for dipping.

That's the same sun that turns



The Greek Island Restaurant building at Halsted and Adams streets features a large panoramic view of "windows to Greektown."

ocean waters into mirrors, reflecting the glory of fisherman and heroics of Greek Democracy. I think I can even hear the sun when I listen to Greek music play. Beyond Zorba.



Petros

That's why I am so engaged by Greek culture. You really can feel the sun in the wine, cheese and song. Just the way the Irish like it. Though the limited exposure of the sun strangles the quality of our local madness.

No Irish wines, though I suspect a few of you have heard of a black beverage that my late pal Desmond Guinness's family added to the grace of Irish living 300 years ago. It's perfect with an Irish rack of lamb or great ribs of Irish beef. Or a whole salmon.

Our Irish penance, if you will, remains the daily expectation of open precipitation off the Western sea. Daily rain. Creating an umbrella-rich nation of great cheeses and song, crusty bread dripping

in Irish fresh churned butter. And legs of lamb to rival the Greeks. Well-rolled in fresh rosemary, sea salt and a toss of red wine. Then, when Irish pipes are played we hear the echo of the sound of fictitious suns.

It's funny the way that certain recipes or meals fill the dining table with the familiar faces of the past.

My grandmother always had a house filled with guests. No one in their right mind refused her invitation. None more so than for her glorious holiday turkeys. Golden roasted and stuffed with a vintage sage and onion bread dressing handmade for two centuries. Never too dry or too wet.

There were always mounds of mashed potatoes, Tipperary style, with unsalted Irish butter and shallots. But she'd always roast a few potatoes in the turkey pan for me. I loved them with mashed turnips alongside. She was a true cook in the grand Irish style.

The gravy was always worthy of the bird and offered an elegant display of refined saucing.

Much like my experience of Greek food, our regular menus growing up were always fragrant, organic, guest-centric and abundant. I still cherish my grandmother's homemade apple tarts that could rival any French chef.

I am reminded of a brilliant scene in "The Odyssey" when Telemachus welcomes the stranger—Athena disguised as Mentor—to share

the household's "lavish" banquet, one of many such feasts it holds.

"A maid brought water soon in a graceful golden pitcher and over a silver basin tipped it out so they might rinse their hands, then pulled a gleaming table to their side. A staid housekeeper brought on bread to serve them, appetizers aplenty too, lavish with her bounty. A carver lifted platters of meat toward them, meats of every sort, and set beside them golden cups and time and again a page came round and poured them wine." (Book 1, lines 160–168)

So as the summer rain falls, pull your chair closer to the table. Tuck in as the storms release their fury. All I know is let the rains descend from heaven. Keep the fires burning. Light more candles. Fill the soup bowls and the salad plates. Savor the olives. Food will always be the hidden path to home and the reminder of how to iron out the unplanned wrinkles in our lives.

**MILLENNIUM MOMENTUM:** In Maggie Daley Park, Mayor **Brandon Johnson** stood on the stage at the Pritzker Pavilion before the CSO played. That's the first I've seen him. The Teachers Union must be keeping a tight leash on him.

**TAXES:** Property taxes are on the rise in most of Cook County, but the suburbs have it worse than the city. The residential property owners hit hardest were in the south and southwest suburbs, where the average bill went up 127% to \$4,917 from \$2,170 in 20 years. How is that possible? Business owners in the north and northwest suburbs saw 134% property tax hikes, to \$28,710 from \$12,282, during the same period. Commercial property tax hikes in the south and southwest suburbs were not far behind. City folks say it's a trade off for living amongst all the crime.

**ANOTHER COLUMN:** This

**FOOD** see p. 8

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# Alderman says community was not consulted over troubled migrant shelter

## No word on phase-out of narcotics, prostitution hot spot

Last week Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] posted a report on the migrant shelter situation at the Inn of Chicago, 162 E. Ohio St. That report follows here.

My office is aware of the chronic issues that are taking place in the area of this shelter, and we are in regular communication with city agencies including the Chicago Police Dept. [CPD] and the Mayor's Office to address them.

I would like to give residents a report of measures my office has taken so far:

Members of my staff personally surveyed the interior of the Inn of Chicago site on July 21 and communicated serious concerns to city officials including illegal street vendors, narcotics sales, public consumption of alcohol, prostitution, aggressive panhandling, theft from local businesses, and loitering in the public way.

My office has coordinated daily service from the Dept. of Streets and Sanitation to clean the adjacent alleys, sidewalks, and streets to address chronic littering.

We have logged dozens of service re-

quests with city departments to investigate code violations including the formal request to have the immediate area designated as a narcotics hotspot with the Commander of the CPD's 18th District.

I encourage residents to report real-time violations to 911 whenever they witness them. A report to 911 not only is a request for emergency attention, but it also creates a record that can be used for further analysis.

As your Alderman and a former President of the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents, I am aware of the challenges that face our neighborhood. I am dedicated to proactively addressing issues at their source.

However, it is important that I am transparent and forthcoming about the facts and details of the crisis, so my constituents and all Chicagoans are aware of the limitations that my office is restricted by when responding to this crisis.

The residents, community groups, aldermen, and businesses of the Streeterville neighborhood were never consulted by the previous administration in advance of the placement of the migrant shelter at 162 E. Ohio St.

To date, a timeline of the phasing out of the shelter has never been presented to the community nor my office – creating a feeling of anxiety for all parties as emergency funding remains very limited and migrants are left languishing with no concrete next steps.

***I am therefore encouraging all residents to contact their federal representatives and voice their concerns over the issue of migrants being located at the Inn of Chicago.***

Notice of Violations are given to those who violate city ordinance but when those individuals have no documentation (or are not compelled to provide it), our city's enforcement officials are left powerless in curbing criminal behavior that is taking place.

Unfortunately, I and our city agencies and departments find ourselves in a situation of working to solve a problem that is so highly complex that straightforward solutions are not always available to us.

While we are working diligently to offer

humanitarian assistance to migrants, we are unable to do asylum and visa processing, or authorize any individual to work lawfully in the United States.

I am therefore encouraging all residents to contact their federal representatives and voice their concerns over the issue of migrants being located at the Inn of Chicago. As a local municipality, we are not equipped to offer the wrap-around services that these individuals require and are left with trying to "fill the gap" with non-profits and the generosity of neighbors.

The U.S. Constitution assigns border control and immigration as a federal responsibility. Your United States representatives include Sen. Richard Durbin (312-353-4952), 230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3892, Chicago, IL 60612; Sen. Tammy Duckworth (312-886-3506), 230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60612; Rep. Mike Quigley (773-267-5926) 1925 N. Clybourn Ave. Suite 402, Chicago, IL 60614; Rep. Jan Schakowsky (773-506-7100) 4500 Oakton St., Skokie, IL 60076, and Rep. Danny Davis (773-533-7520), 2815 W. Fifth Ave., Chicago, IL. 60612.

# Troubled Palmer House Hilton may be sold in pieces

## Retail space up for auction Sept. 6

Significant post-pandemic problems continue to trouble downtown landmarks in the news that the shops at the base of Chicago's historic Palmer House Hilton hotel, 17 E. Monroe St., will be auctioned off in September.

It is the last resort for owner Thor Equities, who has been struggling with the world famous hotel's lender and receiver over the pace of their foreclosure. About 60,000 square feet of retail space will be put on the auction block on Sept. 6.

That retail space inside the property is scheduled to be sold to the highest bidder in a Cook County Sheriff's sale after New York-based Thor allegedly defaulted on a \$62 million loan, according to court records.

Wilmington Trust filed a foreclosure suit in 2021 against Thor Equities on behalf of a lender to the property, which includes the retail space and a parking garage. The suit alleged that Thor hadn't made any mortgage payments since May 2020.

The 1,635-room hotel itself, owned by a separate Thor entity than the retail space, became the subject of one of the city's largest foreclosure lawsuits over a year ago after Thor defaulted on its \$333.2 million mortgage. It is one of over two dozen downtown hotels struggling to remain profitable, after

losing much of their convention and tourism business as a result of the 2020-21 government-imposed pandemic economic lockdown.

***The 1,635-room hotel itself became the subject of one of the city's largest foreclosure lawsuits after Thor defaulted on its \$333.2 million mortgage.***

A judge entered a \$427.8 million foreclosure judgment against Thor's hotel landlord entity a year ago, though the sale of that portion of the property has not yet been scheduled. The stall is likely because no buyer may want to take on the task of managing such a large hotel property that is currently losing money.

The hotel is also reportedly at the center of a fight over much smaller amounts of money that Thor, the lender and the property's court-appointed receiver say each is owed. In February, Thor asked the court to direct the case to be resolved with a settlement, raising the issue that the receiver had not paid for the use of a portion of the office space shared with the hotel.

According to TheRealDeal.com, all of the parties to the action are now reportedly at an impasse over proceeding with the sale

of the entire hotel property.

In July, CHMWarnick's Chad Crandell, the court-appointed receiver operating the hotel, filed a new lawsuit against the Thor-led ventures that own the hotel over issues relating to an adjacent building attached to the hotel that houses its air conditioning, phone and internet services. Reportedly, when Thor acquired the property, the firm divided the hotel, retail space and annex into three separate parcels and executed a reciprocal easement agreement to provide for access and usage rights amongst them.

The agreement also permitted the annex's use of hotel facilities and obligated the annex owner to pay for their usage, per the complaint, which contends that Thor continues to use those services but stopped

paying for them in March 2020.

Reporter Rachael Herzog said that Thor is owed almost \$900,000 under the terms of the licensing agreement and threatened to remove hotel property including mechanical facilities from the annex, a threat that would "cripple the hotel and materially harm its value and operations," according to the receiver's suit. The complaint also contends that the licensing agreement Thor cites expired in 2018.

The plaintiffs are asking a judge to rule that the licensing agreement doesn't supersede the reciprocal easement agreement and that Thor has no right to the payment. The servicer and receiver are also arguing that they are owed \$210,000 for the use of the hotel's utilities.

## City plans 150 more miles of vehicle obstacles for 2024

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation has announced plans to extend the City's bike lane network by 150 miles in 2024, and 85% of those installations will be secured by concrete transportation

obstacles. In addition to the new privileged bike lane installations, the city hopes to upgrade existing protected bike lanes by replacing plastic bollards with concrete vehicle obstacles.



### Flub A Dub is the champ!

The ongoing battle on who serves the best hot dog in Chicago is as old as time.

Last month local hot dog stands went head-to-head throughout three Vienna Beef pregame parties, and the results are in on who serves the best hot dog in Chicago.

Lakeview East's very own Flub A Dub Chub's Hotdog & Burger Emporium was crowned the Hot Dog King of Chicago on July 28.

The encased meats emporium at 3021 N. Broadway won against Lola's Coney Island, Cozzi Corner Hot Dogs & Beef, and George's Hot Dogs. The competition was held at Impact Field stadium located in Rosemont.

Flub A Dub Chub's Hotdog & Burger Emporium has been serving up award winning grub since 2008. Other than hot dogs, they have burgers, sandwiches, shakes, and chicken tenders. They even sell vegan dogs so Chicago veg-heads don't have to miss out.

### FIBER from p. 1

port the ever-increasing demand for bandwidth as schools continue to increase the number of devices and leverage technology-intensive programs."

For those bringing kids to North Edgewater's schools, they will see that many streets are now blocked off due to the digging and trenching required for this project, and additionally that Clark St. and its intersecting streets have been severely degraded by a plethora of concrete vehicle obstacles that were installed over the summer.

The streets and sidewalks of Edgewater are being ripped up again as Crosstown Fiber, LLC, - a telecommunications company - lays dark fiber throughout the city over the next three years for CPS, but then also throughout the larger community.

The company said it plans to leverage a redundant underground ring network "across all corners of Chicago" to enable connectivity over what it asserts are unique routes between data centers and other facilities.

### Crosstown Fiber expects to make the initial three ring-backbone available by the end of this year, hoping in time to compete with the likes of Comcast, AT&T and RCN.

Crosstown Fiber expects to make the initial three ring-backbone available by the end of this year, hoping in time to compete with the likes of Comcast, AT&T and RCN.

While the network initially is for schools, Crosstown Fiber also has its eyes on large corporations, hyperscalers and other data center operators, small cell wireless carriers, content providers, and government agencies.

The company plans to offer customers access to a large number of service providers as well as customer control of the network, high security, optional redundancy capability, and lower costs than other communications alternatives.

The project is funded primarily by taxpayers. The approximately \$80 million network project is supported by an estimated \$75 million in federal subsidies from the E-Rate program. This program provides discounts on the internet and other telecommunications services for schools and libraries.

During a phone call last week, staff at Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth's 48th Ward office confirmed the Edgewater portion of the work is expected to run through Sept. 30.



The 1400 block of Highland Ave. is being prepped for the state-of-the-art fiber network to increase internet speeds in Chicago Public Schools. Fiber-optic cables are not subject to electrical interference, which greatly increases the transmission distance. Photo by Joanne Kitsos

### Facts and figures

Over 1,200,000 feet of ductwork has been installed and 600,000 feet of fiber have been pulled. CPS now has end-to-end connectivity between the 11 core hub sites across the city allowing CPS to increase bandwidth and provide a cost-effective, scalable and more resilient network.

Barragan said, "We are in the process of completing the final connections to the first schools and CPS will begin transitioning additional schools to the new network over the coming months. When the current project is completed, high schools will have a 10x increase in bandwidth while elementary schools will see a 20x increase."

"I'm excited to launch this new venture and bring a new level of connectivity to Chicago," Crosstown Fiber Founder, President, and CEO Michael Underdown told Cabling Magazine. "Our unique, underground network is the ideal fit for customers who need multiple, diverse fiber routes to maintain business uptime, with high capacity and availability to scale with their unique and evolving needs. We bring the optimal solutions to our customers by leveraging our deep expertise with partners who provide uncompromised products and services."

On the North Side, Crosstown has blocked roads and sidewalks in Edgewater as they dig trench-

es to run these fiber optic lines through and under streets and sidewalk.

Workers on site confirmed that the work initiated north of Devon Ave. and would zig-zag through the area and end - for now - someplace around Catalpa St.

Nearby residents contacted this newspaper when workers first painted markings on streets and

### What is dark fiber?

Dark fiber means that the fiber cable is "unlit." Unlike lit fiber, dark fiber isn't managed by the network provider. Instead, organizations lease dark fiber from ISPs and manage them privately. Dark fiber is a secure and private network customized to meet the specific needs of a particular customer.

sidewalks, then again when no parking signs went up, as they started digging. "I'm particularly not happy that my section of sidewalk, that I paid 50/50 with the city to lay in new cement back in the late 90's. There was also some tree limb damage," said Alaina May of Highland Ave.

And inspection of the work site shows the removal of sidewalk sections, and trenches cut and dug roughly two-feet by four-feet into the middle of the sidewalk.

Neighbors reported that no notification of the work was sent out by the city, and no prior warning was given as to the large disruptive project. "Where was our voice in all of this?," asked May.

While the work will spread citywide over the next few years, right now the project will affect the 6400 Block of N. Greenview, 1500 Block of W. Devon, 1500 Block of W. Highland, 6300 Block of N. Glenwood, 1400 Block of W. Rosemont, and the 1400 Block of W. Thome.

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According to cab-driver lore, due to poor planning and the inane idea of simultaneously shutting down both the Kennedy Expy. and Lake Shore Dr., there are better, non-expressway, alternative routes from the West Side to the North and Northwest sides of town.

# Chicago: tops in bad traffic due to poor planning



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Illinois may have the second highest real estate taxes in the nation, but now Chicago is ranked No. 1 of all U.S. cities for bad traffic, congestion and road delays.

A new report by INRIX, a global traffic scorecard, found that in 2022 Chicago-area drivers logged an annual average of 155 wasted hours sitting in traffic—a whopping 50% gain over 2021.

The poor planning and the inane idea of simultaneously shutting down both the Kennedy Expy. and Lake Shore Dr. this spring and summer probably put us over the top.

Add a dash of NASCAR madness to the mix—with a special Streets and Sanitation award for welding down the manhole covers on streets surrounding Grant Park—it is easy to see how the city won this dubious title.

The cherry and chopped nuts on top of this delectable dish is the city's master plan to install new sewer lines everywhere on the North Side, repave miles of neighborhood streets, and erect snazzy new protected bicycle lanes complete with concrete curbside lane-blockers as obstacles for emergency vehicles and everyone else too.

Driving in Chicago today is utter chaos. City planners have turned us into animals. This writer, son of a lifetime Chicago cabdriver, offers the following auto-transportation tips for weary Windy City residents and commuters:

- Avoid the Dan Ryan Expy., especially south of the intersection with the Stevenson Expy. Ironically, the southern end of the Dan Ryan should officially be designated as a NASCAR driver-training site, a road where cars with black-tinted windows race at more than 100 mph even in the slow lane.

- If you enter the Kennedy from the Jane Byrne Interchange, or spaghetti bowl, never venture north bound into the Ohio St. Tunnel on the Kennedy unless you want to be trapped for a half hour while breathing truck exhaust fumes.

- In rush hour, always avoid the north bound Lake Shore Dr. construction zones after 6 p.m.

A few weeks ago, this writer was trapped for a half an hour between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. when city crews shrank the road from four lanes to one lane at Fullerton Ave. with orange cones and flashing lights.

Traffic was at a total standstill for 15 minutes. One driver with a bursting bladder actually exited his vehicle, strolled into Lincoln Park and relieved himself behind a tree before returning to his car. (Guys, keep an empty wide mouth beverage bottle - with its cap - in the car. You know why.)

According to cab-driver lore, here are the best non-expressway alternative routes from the West Side to the North and Northwest sides of town.

- To avoid wasting 2.5 hours in bumper-to-bumper traffic inching along congested expressways from Rush University Hospital at Harrison and Ashland to the North and Northwest sides, try this secret cab-driver route called the "Northwest Passage."

Take Ashland north to Grand Ave. Turn west and take Grand to Kedzie Blvd. Turn north and take Kedzie to Milwaukee Ave. at the statue in Logan Square. Continue north on Milwaukee until you reach Addison St. near Schurz High School. To avoid the Metra railroad overpass construction (now in its second year) over Milwaukee, make a left turn on Addison and go west to Central.

Continue going north on Central from 3600 north to Caldwell.

Make a left on Caldwell to Devon Ave. (6000 north), where the speed limit is 40 mph, and go north to Milwaukee Ave. Turn right on Milwaukee and go northwest to the city limits and the quiet suburb of Niles.

- Try to avoid Metra-train roadblocks. During the rush hour, you will encounter commuter-rail delays with seven-car express trains passing every 15 minutes, rumbling across the Metra tracks at Caldwell. Never take this route at 11:30 a.m., or 5:30 p.m. weekdays, because that is when the 100-car Metra industrial-strength freight train crosses the tracks at the intersection of Peterson-Caldwell and Devon.

- While traffic on Milwaukee can move well going north, don't automatically assume that other diagonal streets such as Lincoln and Elston avenues will always be smooth sailing.

Traffic experts say Chicago's angle-streets stop-lights can be twice as long, depending on the number of turn lanes. Time the angle-street lights, especially at those six-corner intersections such as Lincoln, Halsted and Fullerton, or Elston, Western and Devon.

Western, Lincoln and Lawrence avenues intersection is a nightmare, avoid it at all costs. Same goes for the newly mangled Belmont, Ashland and Lincoln intersection. Hard to believe we paid good tax money to screw up these two intersections. Say prayers for the poor retailers in those two areas.

- If you love sitting in traffic with tranquil views of Lake Michigan, then the famed "Northwest Passage" is not your best shortcut to Chicago's Northwest Side. Lake Shore Dr. is your only option.

- Take LSD—not the drug, the highway—north to Hollywood. Be prepared for a long traffic light at Sheridan Rd., and slow going on Hollywood to Ridge up to Clark St.

Beware of another traffic snare (where Metra is building a new

station) near Ravenswood and Ridge as you get on Peterson and head west. That moves along relatively quickly through the neighborhoods of North Lincoln Square, Hollywood Park, Peterson Park and Sauganash.

- When you cross the Edens Expy. just west of Cicero Ave., sneak a peak at the bumper-to-bumper traffic in both directions, and have a good laugh. You just beat the city's bad traffic plan. Continue west on Peterson to Central, and pray you missed that 100-car freight train.

Congratulations! You now are a member of the "Windy City Beat Bad Traffic Club."

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

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# Police Beat...

## Teen robber with pellet gun ran away when woman pulled out a real gun

A 15-year-old boy who pointed a pellet gun at a woman during a robbery attempt in Uptown ran away when his would-be victim pulled out a real firearm, Chicago police say.

It happened around 12:31 p.m. Aug. 15 in the 5000 block of N. Winthrop, not far from the Argyle Red Line CTA station.

Police said a group approached a 37-year-old woman on the street, and one of them pulled out a gun and demanded her property.

But the woman had another idea. She pulled out her own firearm, and the group ran away, police said.

Cops took the 15-year-old into custody a few minutes later and confiscated his pellet gun.

Charges are pending.

## Thief steals car from White Sox star's girlfriend near Wrigley Field

Car thieves stole a BMW from a White Sox player's girlfriend when she stopped to get gas on her way to last week's Crosstown Classic game at Wrigley Field, according to a source.

The 23-year-old's tank was nearly empty, so she stopped to fill up her BMW M3 at the BP station, 841 W. Irving Park, around 3 p.m. Aug. 15.

A Chicago police spokesperson confirmed that a man hopped out of a black Jeep and jumped into a woman's car while she was pumping gas. In keeping with CPD policy, they did not identify the woman or reveal her connection to the White Sox.

The spokesperson said the woman's gray BMW was last seen heading south on Broadway, followed by the black Jeep he arrived in.

Chicago police found the woman's make-up, ID, baseball tickets, and the BMW's key fob in a garbage can behind the 1500 block of W. Roscoe about an hour later. The car, however, has not been located.

The spokesperson described the thief as a Black male in his 20s who wore a ski mask and all-black clothing. He did not use force or threaten the woman, meaning the crime will be classified as an auto theft, not a carjacking.

We are not identifying the woman or the White Sox player because we do not identify crime victims without their permission.

Auto thefts are up 107% citywide compared to last year and up 228% compared to 2019, according to CPD's latest statistical report. In the Town Hall 19th District, where the woman's car was stolen, auto thefts are up 67% from last year and 200% from 2019.

## Two guns found in car after driver is shot dead in West Ridge

Chicago police are investigating the murder of a 22-year-old man who was shot while driving in West Ridge Aug. 17.

The man was driving in the 2600 block of W. Glenlake when the gunman approached and fired shots into his car, a CPD media statement said.

The victim crashed their Honda Civic into several parked cars and died from multiple gunshot wounds at the scene.

Investigators found two handguns inside the victim's vehicle, according to the media statement.

An officer who reviewed video footage said it appeared that the gunman was standing near the intersection of Glenlake and Talman

before the victim arrived. He then stepped out and began firing as the victim's car approached.

Witnesses said the shooter ran from the scene, but no description of him was available.

## Teen carjacked driver on Andersonville, Uptown border

A 15-year-old boy was one of the armed carjackers who took a driver's vehicle on the border of Anderson and Uptown last month, Chicago police say.

The driver, 30, told police he was carjacked while parking in the 1300 block of W. Foster around 1:15 a.m. July 16.

A stolen Hyundai Elantra pulled up near his car, and several people got out, including two armed with handguns, a CPD spokesperson said. They robbed the man and drove away with his 2019 Volkswagen Jetta, last seen heading east down an alley.

The CPD spokesperson said the Hyundai was reported stolen on October 28 from the 700 block of E. 82nd St. Cops found it abandoned in the 1200 block of W. Winnemac shortly after the carjacking, according to a CPD report.

Cops arrested the 15-year-old last Wednesday in the 1200 block of S. Throop. He is charged with aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm.

## Robberies reported at Navy Pier, Buckingham Fountain

Chicago police are investigating separate, unrelated robberies that occurred Aug. 16 at two of the city's most famous landmarks: Navy Pier and Buckingham Fountain.

In the first incident, a 22-year-old man who offered a laptop for sale online arranged to meet a prospective buyer at Navy Pier, a site he selected because he wanted to complete the transaction in a safe, public place. He was half right.

Police said the man was outside when the prospective buyer arrived with three other men in a white car, possibly a Chevy Malibu, around 3:15 p.m. The men ordered the victim to get in their vehicle, but he refused, according to CPD.

At that point, the man who was supposed to purchase the laptop got out of the car, put a gun to his back, and took the computer. He then returned to the car, and all four men drove away, heading west from Navy Pier.

Later, around 11:05 p.m., a pedicab driver was punched in the face and robbed at Buckingham Fountain.

Police said the 58-year-old man was parked in his cab when two men and two women walked up and requested a ride. For some reason, an argument began, and one of the offenders hit the pedicab driver in the face and took his property, a CPD spokesperson said. The foursome fled in a white vehicle.

According to the spokesperson, no one is in custody for either robbery.

## Suburban man jumped on Chicago police cruiser with a stolen firearm tucked in his undies

A suburban man who jumped on top of a Chicago police squad car while officers were investigating a shooting in the Loop last weekend had a loaded, stolen firearm tucked in his underwear, prosecutors say.



Michal Walkosz-Kleta

Officers were using marked squad cars to block access to the area as they investigated the shooting of a security guard during a carjacking attempt in the 100 block of W. Van Buren around 4 a.m. on Sunday.

As cops worked the scene, Michal Walkosz-Kleta, 19, of Hickory Hills, "jumped on top of [an officer's]

marked squad car" in the 400 block of S. Clark, according to a CPD arrest report.

Walkosz-Kleta went on to open the driver's door of a squad car where cops were storing a firearm that was recovered during the shooting investigation, the report said. Officers immediately arrested him.

"A custodial search revealed that offender had a Springfield XDS 45 [caliber] semi-automatic handgun fully loaded ... within his groin area beneath his undiepants," an officer wrote in the report.

Police determined that the gun found in Walkosz-Kleta's undies had been reported stolen in Hazel Crest on May 25, the report said.

Prosecutors charged him with two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, possession of a stolen firearm, and criminal trespass to a vehicle. Officers said he had no connection to the shooting they were investigating.

Judge Charles Beach ordered him to pay a \$6,000 bail deposit to go home on electronic monitoring.

## Armed holdups persist, but the robbers may be changing the script

There are some indications that the prolific robbery crews that have been ripping across Chicago in near-daily holdup sprees are changing up their game.

On Aug. 17, a crew hit several times in Roscoe Village, North Center, and Ravenswood, neighborhoods that the robbery teams have not focused on in the past.

There were also a handful of one-off robberies throughout Aug. 17 and 18 that fit the style of the robbery crews without turning into a string of successive crimes.

The one spree that did break out on Thursday began with the mugging of a 63-year-old woman in the 2100 block of W. Grace in North Center at 11:35 p.m.

Police said a white sedan pulled up, two men got out of the car with rifles, and took her property.

They pulled off a similar robbery six minutes later in the 3400 block of N. Leavitt in Roscoe Village. Police said a 42-year-old man was targeted there.

At 11:43, the same scenario unfolded in the 1700 block of W. Berneau, police said. The victim was a 61-year-old man.

Finally, at 11:53 p.m., two people standing outside Four Moon Tavern, 1847 W. Roscoe, were robbed. Police said a white sedan pulled up and two men got out—one with a rifle and the other with a handgun. The victims, a 43-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman, were not injured.

Most of the victims described the robbers as slender, young Black males who stood 5'-6" to 5'-8" tall. They wore ski masks and dark clothing.

Other holdups that occurred from Thursday night to Friday morning include:

- The robbery of a man in the 4400 block of N. Sawyer by a gunman who exited a black vehicle around 9 p.m.

- A man was punched and robbed by three men who got out of a silver Mitsubishi SUV in the 700 block of S. Clinton at 10:15 p.m. The SUV, which had been carjacked at gunpoint earlier, was found abandoned about 90 minutes later in the 1900 block of S. Drake.

- A woman was surrounded by four armed men who took her property near Orchard and North Ave. in Lincoln Park shortly after 11 p.m.

- A woman was robbed of her keys, phone, and wallet in the 5000 block of N. Wolcott at 11:10 p.m. The robbers, who covered the woman's mouth and threatened to kill her, also took the woman's Subaru Forester, which was recovered in the 5600 block of W. Grand on Friday morning.

- Four people robbed a man in the 2300 block of W. Chicago Ave. at 12:05 a.m. Friday. The victim believed one robber was a woman who brandished

a handgun, and the other three were men, including one who had a rifle, a CPD report said. They were masked and escaped in a silver SUV with a broken rear side window.

## Man caught crawling into River North woman's apartment window has been arrested eight times since March

An Old Town man who's been arrested eight times this year faces burglary charges after he allegedly tried to crawl into a River North woman's apartment window, according to Chicago police records.



Leon Jumpp

The 29-year-old woman noticed that someone was pushing on her window air conditioning unit in the 600 block of N. Dearborn around 8 a.m. Aug. 6, a CPD report said. She looked over and saw Leon Jumpp's face and hands in her apartment.

CPD's report said the woman's 34-year-old boyfriend ran outside and detained Jumpp, 40, until police arrived. Officers who searched Jumpp allegedly found mail belonging to other people, a California driver's license in another person's name, and several debit and credit cards belonging to others.

He's charged with residential burglary, unlawful possession of a debit or credit card, misdemeanor theft, and misdemeanor unlawful possession of an ID card.

Judge Ankur Srivastava set bail at \$50,000, meaning Jumpp must pay a \$5,000 deposit to go home on electronic monitoring.

One week before Jumpp was arrested on the burglary allegations, he was charged with breaking into a man's car in the 400 block of W. Division, according to police records.

Maintenance workers saw him rummaging through a Mercedes Benz in a residential parking garage and notified the car's owner, an arrest report said. The owner, a 29-year-old man, followed Jumpp out of the garage and "guided him right into the police station lobby" at 1160 N. Larrabee, according to the report.

Cops arrested Jumpp in the station lobby and allegedly recovered multiple keys, credit cards, and an ID card during a custodial search. Charged with misdemeanor criminal trespass to a vehicle and trespassing, he walked out of the station on a recognizance bond that afternoon.

According to CPD and court files, Jumpp has been arrested and charged six other times this year.

On March 6, he was charged with retail theft from Nordstrom Rack on E. Chicago Ave. He was released from the station on a recognizance bond.

One day later, Jumpp was charged with retail theft at Target, 1200 N. Larrabee. He pleaded guilty in that case.

Court records show that he pleaded guilty in both cases on March 22 in exchange for 30-day sentences from Judge Donald Panarese. Time served offset the sentences.

On May 18, he was charged with shoplifting from Unique thrift store, 3748 N. Elston, and walked out of the police station on a recognizance bond that evening.

Five days later, he was arrested and charged with shoplifting and assault at Dick's Sporting Goods, 1538 N. Clybourn, the records show.

He pleaded guilty to all charges on May 26 and received sentences of five and ten days from Judge Panarese. Both sentences were satisfied by time served.

Four days later, on May 30, Jumpp was charged with shoplifting from a Forest Glen grocery store, theft of lost or mislaid property, and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, court

records show. He pleaded guilty to the assault charge on June 30 and received a sentence of 12 months probation from Judge Daniel Gallagher.

Court records show he was charged with trespassing again on July 11, but prosecutors dropped the matter on July 27.

And, three days after that, he was allegedly found rummaging through the man's Mercedes on Division St. He's due back in court on that matter on Aug. 31.

## Robbers raid Prada store near Mag Mile; nearby DIOR and MCM stores also robbed this month

A group of men implied they had firearms as they raided the shelves of the Prada store on Oak St. on Sunday afternoon. It is the third time this month that a top-shelf retailer has been flat-out robbed on or near the Magnificent Mile. Another three stores in the area have been burglarized.

A Chicago police officer was just steps away as the robbery went down at 30 E. Oak around 12:56 p.m. He hopped on his radio to call for backup as the crew escaped in a blue Toyota Camry. But the robbers were quicker than the cops, and they got away.

Up to seven men, all wearing masks and gloves, barged into the store and gathered merchandise from the shelves. An officer at the scene said the crew got away with about \$50,000 worth of goods, based on the store's initial estimate.

CPD officers radioed that they saw the getaway car heading south on Lake Shore Dr. near Grant Park a few minutes after the robbery. They did not pursue the vehicle.

The group was described as young Black men wearing hoodies: one yellow, two brown, and the rest of an unknown color.

On Tuesday afternoon, two men displayed handguns as they robbed MCM, a luxury leather goods and clothing retailer at 540 N. Michigan. One man pointed a gun at the store's security guard while the other man collected merchandise from the displays.

An officer at the scene said store employees believed three handbags and three backpacks with a combined value of just under \$8,000 were taken.

On Aug. 5, an armed man forced his way through the back door of the DIOR boutique, 931 N. Rush, after closing time. Employees were still inside the business when the man broke in, pointed a gun at them, and fled with merchandise, police said.

Prosecutors have charged Anthony Bowens, 53, with that crime.

Just hours after the DIOR robbery, up to eight men broke into Bottega Veneta, a luxe leather goods store at 800 N. Michigan. The retailer specializes in high-end leather goods like purses and shoes. Handbags at the store can retail for more than \$4,000 each.

On Aug. 19, a smash-and-grab burglary crew broke through the front glass of MAC Cosmetics, located two doors down from the MCM store, and stole merchandise.

Police said seven or eight men entered the store by smashing a front window. Once inside, they gathered shoes and clothing, then fled in two vehicles.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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# Covert cops arrest 10, recover 'dozens' of stolen phones at Lollapalooza

BY CWBCHICAGO

A covert Chicago police task force arrested ten adults and seized dozens of stolen phones during this year's Lollapalooza festival, according to CPD records reviewed by this reporter. And, consistent with other years, most of the alleged phone thieves live in other states.

Phone thefts have been a huge problem at Lollapalooza and other large events where people crowd closely together, especially on dance floors. In Boystown, Pride Fest has been targeted by phone theft crews for years. So has the area's Market Days festival — with large signs posted to warn partygoers about pickpockets.

CPD deployed undercover cops and surveillance cameras to fight theft crews this year, according to a stack of arrest reports we reviewed.

The operation scored its first three arrests just a few hours after the first act hit the stage on Thursday afternoon, August 3. Covert cops saw four people



Mugshots: William F. Agudelo, Christian C. Cespes, David S. Cuervo, Diana Jaqueline Garcia Diaz, Moreno A. Jefferson, Johan S. Lopez, Karen Lozano, Maicol D Munoz, Duvan C. Ortiz, and Kevin A. Zamudio-Barnagan. Courtesy Chicago Police Dept.

walk up behind concertgoers as ACRAZE performed and then "quickly walk away" from the area, a report said.

Officers tracked the group to the 800 block of S. Columbus, where they placed "several" phones into a black shoulder bag held by Kevin Zamudio-Barnagan, 24, of Queens, NY, according to an arrest report. Also arrested at the scene were David Cuervo,

19, of Long Island, NY, and Johan Lopez, 27, of Chicago.

All three were charged with misdemeanor theft and released on their own recognizance.

There was a repeat performance of sorts 24 hours later.

As ARMNHMR performed, undercover cops saw Maicol Munoz, 25, of College Point, NY, approach concertgoers from behind and "walk quickly away," an

arrest report said. Once again, the cops followed her to the 800 block of S. Columbus and watched as she placed "several" phones into a bag held by Karen Lozano, 32, of Orlando, according to the report.

Neither Lozano nor Munoz had Lollapalooza wristbands, so they were charged with trespassing in addition to misdemeanor theft, the report said. They were also released on their own recognizance.

That night, Chicago police arrested Christian Cespes, 43, of College Point, NY, in the 300 block of S. Columbus. According to his arrest report, a security guard flagged cops down to help a woman whose phone had been stolen.

Officers found the phone in Cespes' possession, along with six more phones, the arrest report said. Cespes "did not have an explanation as to why he has the phones that did not belong to him," an officer wrote.

He was charged with three counts of theft of lost or mislaid property and released on his own recognizance.

The task force arrested four more people on Saturday night. Apparently acting on a tip, police set up surveillance near Harrison and State and watched as the group walked up, pulled "several" phones from their pockets, and placed them into a black bag before crawling into a Chevy Malibu with California plates, a CPD arrest report said.

Police stopped the Malibu immediately and recovered a black bag containing "dozens of

cellular phones," according to the report.

William Agudelo, 31, and Moreno Jefferson, 32, both of Los Angeles and Duvan Ortiz, 27, and Diana Jaqueline Garcia Diaz, 41, both of Bristol, NJ, were each charged with misdemeanor theft of lost or mislaid property. They were released on their own recognizance.

The accused probably don't have much to worry about. Prosecutors dropped charges against most people who faced similar allegations in 2021.

Last week, the city announced that 14 people were arrested during this year's Lollapalooza. But a closer review of records shows Chicago police arrested 20 adults.

In addition to people accused of phone theft, two men and a woman were arrested for separate battery incidents; three men and a woman were charged with trespassing for charging an admission gate; and two men were charged with theft when they tried to enter the grounds using four-day artist passes that didn't scan properly at the entrance, according to police reports. And one man was charged with manufacture-delivery of cannabis for allegedly soliciting his wares as the Lolla crowd made its way to the CTA one night.

Police arrested 19 people at last year's event and 20 during the 2021 festival. The most arrests made at any Lollapalooza since we started tracking the data in 2014 was 40 in 2019.

## Cops watch armed robbery in progress, but supervisor orders not to chase criminals; at least 11 people robbed in spree

BY CWBCHICAGO

As yet another armed robbery spree unfolded Aug. 16, Chicago police officers saw armed men robbing victims on the North Side, but their supervisor ordered them not to pursue the offenders, who drove away and committed even more crimes.

The blood-boiling decision is sure to raise questions about the legitimacy of claims made by public officials that CPD has a concrete, collaborative and robust plan to end a months-long surge in armed robberies.

Last Wednesday's spree began around 2:15 a.m. in the 2400 block of N. Ashland. A man and woman told police that two armed men got out of a gray SUV and robbed them at gunpoint, Chicago police said. Cops later determined that the getaway car was a Dodge Durango stolen from the 6900 block of N. Clark on Aug. 15, according to a source.

About 10 minutes later, another robbery occurred in the 5200 block of N. Damen. A surveillance camera operator in the local police district quickly spotted the Durango traveling in the area.

As they watched the Durango on video, the officers said they were watching them commit another robbery live on video in the 6500 block of N. Western.

"I can see them right now," the officer radioed. "They got long

guns. There's a unit on scene."

That's right. A squad car pulled up on the scene as the robbery was unfolding. This is starting to sound promising, isn't it?

That patrol unit tried to pull the Durango over as they snaked through the North Side. Officers said four men were inside the SUV with their faces covered, bearing at least one rifle.

But not long after the unit started to chase the SUV loaded with armed, masked men who had just robbed someone as Chicago police officers watched, a CPD sergeant ordered the squad car to terminate their efforts to stop the Durango.

Chicago has paid out tens of millions of dollars for lives lost and injuries caused by pursuits that ended with crashes. The police department's written policy explicitly states that no officer will ever be punished for not chasing a suspect. And CPD supervisors have become so skittish about the possibility of something going wrong they've even ordered cops to stop pursuing a car suspected of carrying wanted murderers.

Of course, there's a trade-off when the city discourages pursuits to save money and reduce the possibility of injury to third parties. That trade-off is that armed, violent people are not apprehended, and they continue to commit crimes.

That's precisely what happened.

At 2:53 a.m., about 20 minutes after cops were ordered to let the Durango go, four people were robbed at gunpoint by a group of men who got out of a dark gray SUV, possibly a Dodge Durango, in the 1600 block of W. Ogden, a CPD spokesperson said.

The victims, a couple in their 20s and another couple in their 30s, were outside when the SUV pulled up, and all four men displayed guns while demanding their property. Police later found one of the victims' phones in a trash can outside a Bucktown

SPREE see p. 9

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**FOOD** from p. 2

columnist is pleased to announce that beginning this September, I will also be writing a column called "An Irish Complex" in the Irish American News published here in Chicago. The colorful tabloid focuses on events and analysis here and in the Irish Republic. Of course, I will continue this weekly column here.

**ARCHITECTURE:** The American Institute of Architects announced that **Cynthia Weese, FAIA**, Principal of Weese Langley Weese Architects, will receive the 2023 AIA Chicago Lifetime Achievement Award. Weese will be given the award at Designight 2023 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park on Thursday, Sept. 28.

**MAGIC ON THE RUNWAY:** Bravo to Service Club for yet another eye-boggling and sense-soothing fashion extravaganza on the gilded runway at the Peninsula Hotel. 2023 marked the 133rd time the fashion parade was unleashed. Of course everyone was there. Shaking and shimmering. Congratulations to Co-Chairs **Jean Coatar Antonio, Sharyl Mackey** and **Tracey Tarantino DiBuono** (ZZAZZ Productions' Impresario this year). A stunning day to help those who need it most. **Mrs. Potter Palmer** would be so proud. Thanks **Paula Borg, Jennifer Sutton Brieva, Kathy O'Malley Piccone, Liz Teasley, U.S. Marines, Lauren Lein Cavanaugh, Contessa Bottega, Sherrill Bodine, Sheree Schimmer** and **Candace Jordan**.

**FEDERAL BENCH:** RL was bubbling with intelligent celebs after **Keri L. Holleb Hotaling** was sworn-in as a federal magistrate by Chief Judge **Rebecca Pallmeyer**. Judge Hotaling is wise and rational. A graduate of the Univ. of Virginia and a long worker bee in the Illinois Attorney General's office, most recently as Deputy Attorney General. She lunched with her proud family. She will do great things.

**NIGHT MINISTRY:** Chicago native and Human Services leader **Carol J. Sharp** has been named President and CEO of The Night Ministry, an agency that provides human connection, housing support and health care to those who are unhoused or experiencing poverty. Chosen after a national search, Sharp brings a deep passion for serving marginalized communities.

**NOTRE DAME NEWS:** To celebrate their 10-year wedding anniversary, the Board of Election's **Bill Kresse '80** and his wife, **Erin**, traveled to Glendalough (St. Kevin's Kitchen) National Park in County Wicklow, Ireland, Holy Ground on which to renew their wedding vows with friends and a Notre Dame flag handy to wave in the sun.

**DEATH:** On Oct. 6 and 7, The White City: An Audible Exhibition on HH Holmes, Murderer will be performed by A Theater in the Dark. It is the first staged reading of playwright **Rick Kinnebrew's** captivating examination of one of the late 19th century's most notorious characters. Directed by **Corey Bradberry** and presented in the style of classic radio dramas of the 1930s and 1940s, the production

combines the written word, human voices, original music, and rich soundscapes ranging from the Ferris wheel to the gallows where **HH Holmes** was executed. Kinnebrew tries to take guests inside Holmes's mind to understand why so many people fell under his spell, and why



Erin and Bill Kresse.

we are still fascinated by his story 130 years later.

**NO PARKING:** It's move-in week at Loyola Univ. Chicago. The Rogers Park college is preparing for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, and the kids are moving in this week, approximately 3,000 first-year students for a total of 5,100 new and returning students to on-campus housing. Watch out for moms in minivans unloading.

**SAVANNAH:** Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth** announced that Chicago will be first to experience the new musical *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*—

based on **John Berendt's** iconic non-fiction book—next summer. With a book by MacArthur "Genius" Grantee **Taylor Mac** and music and lyrics by Tony Award winner **Jason Robert Brown**, the world-premiere production will be directed by Tony Award winner **Rob Ashford**, with choreography by **Tanya Birl** and sets by **Christopher Oram**.

**20 YEARS:** **Zurich Esposito** and **Brian McCormick** are getting more desert sun these days but we all still feel the love that twenty years together means. Are there two more warm and loving Chicagoans around? Best wishes gentlemen. You pump us up.

**PUMP ROOM REVISITED:** RL became a magic Pump Room on a very busy day when some of Chicago's most notable celebs gathered to honor the Maestro, **Stanley Paul**, he of historic Pump Room stories. The "Class A" luncheon guests included **Myra Reilly, Beba Roche, Mamie Walton, Linda Heisler, Sean Eshaghy, Susan Regenstein** and **Denise Allen**.

**WHO'S WHERE:** Newsy **Anne Kavanaugh** at the **Bruce Springsteen** party at Wrigley, as was reporter emeritus **Andy** and **Mary Shaw** for the second time in 38 years... **Rose O'Neill** lunching in a very crowded RL with our old pal Hon. **Nick Michaels**, formerly Vice Consul of Ireland in Chicago, now adding just a few gray hairs to his diplomatic resumé... **Brian White** at **Harper Lee's** "To Kill a Mockingbird," one of the great American works of literature, I read it every Summer... The **Moll Siblings** have been excelling at

their Italian, **Kenny, Keely** and **Charlie** have battled the Sardinian sun, wind, sand and waves and put the curious island on the map, school soon... **Laura Clark Wasserman**, former hostess at RL, so sweet, married **Brien Wasserman** last year, is with their extended family visiting Sweden and seeing Paris... Love **Chuck Jordan's** new pooch... Condolences to **Brian Wolff** on the death of his father, **Mark Wolff**, while **Dan Kirk** acknowledges the strength and stability of mother-in-law **Rhonda Wolff** to everyone during the funeral... **Jeanne Marie Wrenn** and **Declan Wrenn** leading their posse back to Wrigley for the E-Street Band... **Jay Barksdale** made his way to Citi Field for the first time, home of the NY Mets... **Kathy O'Malley Piccone** introducing **Julia Jacobs** and **Leah Chive** to **Steve Lombardo**... Looks like the after party at Gibson's following the Service Club Show was a huge hit... **Rose Gomez** and friends jumping the trampoline in Switzerland... **Eddie Burke Jr.** and wife, the model, **Jacquie**, back in town for a visit... **Jane Justic** back in Naples while her grandchildren are out on Lake Champlain... **Shelley Howard, Fernando Asturrizaga, Larry Wright, Ron March, Jay Barksdale** and **Dennis Donn** official Thursday at Gibson's... **Eamonn Cummings** and **Mark, Mitch** and **Mo** toast Mike Tobin's birthday... **Michael Kutza's** book "Starstruck" is a runaway best seller... Thanks **Todd S. Davis** for keeping an eye on the neighborhood... **John Buchbinder** is with **Kyle Mason** and **Alejandro Lalor** at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, WI, shopping for a small airplane that can make it to Argentina.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Bishop **John Manz** was gifted with an exciting sense of pastoral leadership, fine-tuned among the immigrant, the disposed, the assimilating and hard-working. He was an auxiliary bishop, a helper to the Cardinal Archbishop. Much of what he spoke was in the language of the special people served. Death came early. At 77. After 52 years a priest. He will always be young. Filled with grace and a sense of discipleship. Friends and family carried him to his grave. Heartbroken with Cardinal Cupic. If you ever met him you remembered. He always wore his cherished Mexican cowboy boots.

Everybody dies. There's no avoiding it, and I do not believe for one second that butter is the cause of anyone's death. Over-eating may be, but not butter, please. I just feel bad for people who make that mistake.

-- Nora Ephron

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Mayor, do your job**

Sydney Moore's letter [Aug. 9] saying they can't be the only resident fed up with Mayor Brandon Johnson's defense and coddling of mobs taking over our city has the support of everyone like me who didn't vote for him.

I blame Mayor Johnson [as a previous public official working for the Cook County Board], teachers, and community leaders for not doing something before Lori Lightfoot got in office, and the mobs came downtown "wilding." Now the mobs are much more violent and have guns.

I feel Mayor Johnson is no different than former Mayor Lightfoot was on what to do about carjackings, crime on the Red Line, and looting at high-end stores.

**Own it, apologize, then resign**

On behalf of the Illinois Press Assoc., I write to join the chorus of journalism associations around the nation that are outraged by the actions of the Marion, KS, Chief of Police Gideon Cody for the raid of the newspaper owner Eric Meyer's home and office of the Marion County Record.

These actions, and the unfortunate death of Marion County Record co-owner Joan Meyer caused me to recall the story of Elijah Lovejoy, also a victim of an effort to silence an American newspaper. If you have not yet done so, I urge you to learn this bit of American history. Mr. Lovejoy was murdered by a pro-slavery mob, while defending his anti-slavery newspaper in Alton, IL in 1837. The mob tossed Lovejoy's printing press into the Mississippi River. In 1915 that press was unearthed during a dredging of the river and now sits in the office of the Alton Telegraph as a reminder to all. A monument to Lovejoy was erected in the city.

While the actions of the police leading

**Read a newspaper or two**

After reading the Aug. 16 column by Thomas O'Gorman about crime in Chicago and what his Grandma would do about it I am questioning if I need to change my lifestyle. Every morning I read the two daily papers, the Tribune and the Sun-Times. I have looked forward to reading them for decades.

But now O'Gorman writes that both of these long-surviving, respected, award-winning institutions are marching hand in hand with the criminals, especially the younger ones, who are committing

Nothing has changed except that he wants a mansion tax when he should be addressing the mobs, crime, the homeless and cleaning up the city.

He should also do something about migrants, like not accepting anymore. The ones committing crimes outside the hotel on Ohio St. should be rounded up and sent to Washington D.C., and let President Biden deal with them by sending them back across the border. Chicago has enough crime without importing more migrants to commit crimes.

Mayor Johnson, do your job.

*Judy Justin  
Near North Side*

up to the Marion County Record raid are of grave concern, their inability or unwillingness to explain their actions compounds the aggravation. Obtaining, and conducting a search of a newsroom and the publisher's home should be unthinkable. It is overboard, chilling, an intrusion into news-gathering.

And to think this was brought about — as best we can tell — by the newspaper being advised of a public record of a driving conviction of a local resident. Under what theory is possession of a public court record a crime?

Cody and staff should apologize to Mr. Meyer and his staff, the newspaper, and the community for their egregious actions. They can't fix this, they can't hide from it.

The police can just own it, apologize and then resign.

*Donald Craven  
President, CEO, Illinois Press Assoc.*

so many street crimes. Who would have thought?

And for proof he cites his grandma who would have, if she was still alive, lectured them with some old Irish sayings. My goodness.

But no, I will keep reading these papers as they report and comment on the news. But I wonder if the columnist is maybe preparing us for AI.

*Fred Case  
Lake View*

a gray Infiniti sedan that was stolen Tuesday in the 1100 block of W. Farwell—less than a mile from where the Durango was taken.

First, they robbed a tourist in the 300 block of S. Michigan in the Loop. Four men armed with guns took her phone, wallet, and keys. They drove away in the Infiniti, then came back and forced her to reveal her PINs, a police report said.

One or possibly two more robberies were reported to 911 around 5:30 a.m., but the Central 1st District had no officers available to handle the calls, which sat unassigned for over an hour. When an officer finally became available to respond, any victims were gone.

But, while the police department may have run out of resources, the robbers were still hard at work.

They pistol-whipped and robbed a woman in the 1700 block of W. Chicago Ave. around 5:30 a.m., then fled in the stolen Infiniti sedan, a report said. Like before, they were all masked up, and one had a rifle. They got the victim's purse and phone.

Chicago police officers found the Durango abandoned in the 1600 block of S. Christiana around 8:15 a.m. Aug. 16.

No arrests have been announced.

In some potentially good news, an inter-agency task force arrested two people on

**Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Oz Park**

The Wizard of Oz is returning to the site of its birth when the Chicago Park District hosts Movies At The Park, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, in Oz Park.

There's no place like home, and Oz Park is the former home of Frank Baum, who penned the classic story of Dorothy, Toto, their pals and opposition. This is a good time to revisit the timeless classic and the park named in the movie's honor.

In 1976, the park was named to honor Lyman Frank Baum (1856-1919), the writer of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1900), who moved to Chicago in 1891. A few years later, he began to write children's books, and while living in Chicago he produced the fantasy text that would go down in literary and cinematic history.

While the area today is quite popular, in the late 1950s the site of Oz Park was in sub-standard shape, filled with empty building lots and adjacent to ghetto properties. In the 1960s, the Lincoln Park Conservation Assoc. approached the City in efforts to improve the community, and the neighborhood was soon designated as the Lincoln Park Urban Renewal Area. The urban renewal plan identified a 13-acre site for a new park, and in 1975, the Chicago Park District acquired the land for Oz Park.

Before the movie starts, check out Oz Park as it celebrates "The Wizard of Oz" theme. "Dorothy's Playlot" is filled with play equipment for the little ones to climb, swing, and run. In the "Emerald Garden," families can enjoy a leisurely afternoon among the beautiful flowers. Take a stroll through the park and you'll find statues of the Tin Man, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion, and everyone's favorite, Dorothy and Toto.

In the early 1990s, the Oz Park Advisory Council and the Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce commissioned artist John Kearney to create a Tin Man sculpture, installed in Oct. 1995.

The Advisory Council followed up by raising funds for the Cowardly Lion, in-



Scarecrow by John Kearney.

stalled in May 2001; the 7 foot, 800 lbs. cast bronze Scarecrow, installed in June 2005 and in Spring 2007 Dorothy and Toto joined their friends in the park.

Other elements which celebrate Oz Park's theme, include the "Emerald Garden" and "Dorothy's Playlot." The playlot not only relates to the park's name but also to that of its donor, Dorothy Melamerson, a retired local schoolteacher whose savings have paid for a number of park improvements in the Lincoln Park neighborhood.

**Wakanda Forever at Pottawatomie Park this Friday**

Pottawatomie Park, 7340 N. Rogers, is hosting a free Friday movie and family night that will start at 6 p.m. Friday Aug. 25, and will feature music dancing,

Cirques Experience's Magic of Connectivity and the movie Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. The movie will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 16 after they pursued a stolen Hyundai Tucson used in at least one robbery attempt on Aug. 15.

In that case, two men jumped out of the Hyundai and pulled a gun on an off-duty police officer near a car dealership in the 5300 block of W. Irving Park around 2:40 p.m. The cop ran into the dealership because he didn't have his gun.

But bringing robbery charges is much

easier if suspects are arrested quickly after the crime, according to cops we've spoken with. That's because the suspects might still be wearing the same clothes as the robbers or could still have weapons or robbery proceeds with them. And it's easier to link them to the robbery if they're in the getaway car minutes after the crime instead of several hours later.

**SPREE from p. 7**

bank.

The cops described the crew as four Black males, all wearing black masks and black hoodies. One wore blue shoes, another had black Jordans and ripped jeans, and another wore black Yeezys. And, tellingly, one of their weapons was a rifle or long gun.

Just before 4 a.m., another robbery occurred in the 2600 block of N. Milwaukee. A 31-year-old man was walking when a black sedan stopped, and four men got out while displaying two firearms, the police spokesperson said.

Minutes later, Chicago cops spotted the Durango again. They were in the 1400 block of N. Milwaukee in Wicker Park this time. The officers radioed that they believed they interrupted the crew as they were trying to commit another robbery near Wolcott and Milwaukee. According to their radio transmissions, those officers followed the Durango for a short distance but did not try to pull it over.

Another string of robberies began around 4:45 a.m. It involved up to six masked men wearing dark hoodies and armed with multiple weapons, including at least one rifle or long gun. But instead of traveling in a Durango, a source said they got around in



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## Nope, we are wrong last week, the Melas fountain remains broken

Despite what we reported last week, the Nicholas J. Melas Centennial Fountain has not been repaired, and is not flowing again. It is still broken, dry and under repair - for almost three years now, since 2020.

We found a story that was too good to fact check, and that proved short-sighted of us, and we were wrong. We apologize.

The fountain at 400 N. McClurg Ct. was named after the former president of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago [MWRD]. We reported last week that it would be turned back on again at noon on Tuesday.

It wasn't.

The MWRD says the fountain will not be fixed until sometime in 2024. The ubiquitous 'supply chain issues' excuse means fountain parts are hard to get these days.

Elizabeth Melas, the daughter of Nicholas J. Melas, called this newspaper after seeing our report in last week's Skyline

Newspaper. Far from flowing down its signature granite steps and jetting over the river, Ms. Melas is instead seeking support to pressure the MWRD to get the fountain up and running again, in honor of her late father's 100th birthday.

The Chicago River, arguably, may be the biggest reason why Chicago was established and grew up to be a great American city. Reversing the river's flow to keep our pollution from flowing into Lake Michigan was an engineering feat that is still being bragged about today.

That MWRD engineers today, after three years, are incapable of, or unwilling to fixing the fountain should be embarrassing to all Chicago citizens.

The Chicago River allowed for travel and commerce between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley waterways. Our location and the river helped turn Chicago into the transportation heart of North

America. Before 1900, the natural flow emptied into Lake Michigan. However, the polluted waters sickened residents with numerous waterborne diseases.

That engineering feat is why The Nicholas J. Melas Centennial Fountain and Plaza was constructed... to commemorate the 100th anniversary of this man-made achievement.

Nicholas J. Melas was first elected to the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago in 1962 and he was re-elected five times, serving for 30 years. He served the last 18 years as President of the Board.

The fountain and plaza were designed by Lohan Associates, headed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's grandson Dirk Lohan. When it was working, every hour on the hour, a water cannon on the fountain used to shoot an 80-foot arc of water from the north to the south bank.

### REVIVAL from p. 1

2022, there was a 48% increase in property crimes in Chicago, according to a study by the Brookings Institute, while vehicle thefts are up a whopping 107% citywide compared to last year, and up 228% compared to 2019.

The city center and central business district sees 1,680 violent crimes and 12,292 property crimes per 100,000 people.

Armed robberies have spiraled upward too in just the last few months. Last month Chicago Police said there are even groups of bikers on Divvy bikes who threatens their victims before stealing their belongings. In one case, the criminals even stole a victim's car.

Indeed, the city's surge in criminal activity, and an overall lack of will to prosecute violent criminal behavior, is the primary reason why former Mayor Lori Lightfoot lost her second election bid.

Billionaire Ken Griffin cited violence as one of the reasons for moving his Citadel business to Miami, while the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's CEO Terry Duffy openly expressed his concerns after his wife was carjacked in broad daylight.

Adding to the depressed economic activity downtown is the remote-work era that has caused office vacancies to skyrocket. Fewer downtown workers means less business for local shops, theaters, restaurants and clubs. The result: a plethora of empty storefronts, empty theater seats, and a less lively downtown.

Chicago is the Midwest's commercial center, and it is struggling with the slow return of workers. The region's office attendance is about half of pre-pandemic levels, according to security firm Kastle Systems. While the departure of major companies like Boeing, Tyson Foods and Citadel leaves a tough void to fill.

Guggenheim Partners, a large downtown financial employer, has kept its office largely shut, while the Chicago Board of Options Exchange and Allstate aren't mandating that all workers return to the office. Others, like Salesforce Inc. and Meta Platforms Inc., are giving up space they had already leased, with those two vacating almost 240,000 square feet of space.

Things aren't looking up for the downtown commercial real estate market. The city's office-vacancy rate reaching a record 22.4% in the first quarter 2023, rising higher to 23.4% in quarter two, according to Alison Young, a global real estate advisor. That softness is driving down real estate values and driving up foreclosures and bankruptcies. Leasing activity throughout the city remains 44% lower than pre-pandemic averages. For leasing that is getting done, the average term lengths are growing but are still behind historical norms. Concession packages offered to entice much of this activity has stretched the spread be-

tween base rents and net effective rents.

According to real estate firm CBRE Group, in the first quarter of 2023, Chicago fared the second-worst nationwide among 11 major US cities in an index of office leasing activity, ahead of only San Francisco. Tenants leaving their current space or downsizing due to hybrid work or recent layoffs added 1.5 million square feet of sublease space in downtown Chicago in the first three months of this year. That's enough space to house about 15,000 to 20,000 people.

"Something dramatic needs to be done," Andy Gloor, chief executive officer of Sterling Bay, told Bloomberg News. "Chicago is not going to be able to thrive without a dynamic central business district."

To revitalize State St. and other once-vibrant commercial corridors, ULI suggests that vacant or poorly-performing properties should be repurposed in a way that leans more on Chicago's cultural scene, rather than household retailers.

For State St., the 12-member ULI panel formed the idea of dividing a nine-block stretch through the Loop from Wacker to Ida B. Wells drives into three districts, each designed to attract large crowds for different reasons.

The area north of Washington St. would be revamped as a new Chicago Downtown Arts District that hosts events and festivals. To achieve this, curbs along a portion of the street would need to be removed.

The center third, between Washington and Monroe streets, would serve as the retail anchor, with stretches of specific themes like culinary, youth or fashion. Planters along this section of State St. would be replaced with seating areas to encourage people to stay longer or dine while they shop. Another idea that the panel suggested is to redesign retail canopies and CTA stairwells, putting a bigger spotlight on storefronts to turn the corridor into a destination rather than a thoroughfare.

The area south of Monroe — where vacancies are especially high and two towers are at risk of demolition — will likely be the most challenging part of State St. to revitalize. The panel aims to transform this southern portion into a "civic and educational district," with space inside the Harold Washington Library designated as a community center. The goal is to capitalize on the concentration of students attending nearby institutions, like DePaul and Roosevelt universities.

*Therealdeal.com contributed to this story*



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### ATTACKED from p. 1

But CPD arrest records show that the suspect was never taken into the station. Other records indicate that the police department didn't even document the attack until four days later, on July 2.

Citing an active Bureau of Internal Affairs investigation, a Chicago police executive declined to answer questions for this story.

#### Delayed report

People familiar with the situation said a police officer went to the hospital after Long was taken in, but they left without filing a report because he could not speak. Long, badly injured, was intubated and sedated.

At least three people tried to file a report with CPD over the next four days; each was met with a different reason why the police department could not take a report from them, said a person familiar with the requests.

Eventually, on July 2, a friend of Long's called 911 from his hospital bedside and asked for an officer to come to Northwestern to take a report. The call taker again refused to send an officer because Long could not speak, but eventually relented and dispatched a car.

Finally, four days after the attack, CPD began the process of documenting and investigating what happened to Long. Area Three detectives started pursuing the case immediately, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Ten days later, at 7:19 a.m. July 12, Long died at Northwestern.

Several individuals inside and outside of CPD told us that, upon receiving the report, the CPD immediately realized something went wrong on the day of the attack. Two said the attack occurred when cops were changing shifts, but they did not know if that played a role in the matter.

Multiple sources said Chicago police know the identity of the man who was detained and released after the attack. The department is "quite familiar" with him, said one.

Investigators will determine how to proceed after the medical examiner's findings are complete.

#### Battery cases

CPD has had other challenges with murder cases that began with victims suffering head injuries in assaults.

In January 2022, a California man hit his head on the pavement after someone assaulted him outside a bar near Wrigley Field. Sergio Ontiveros, 51, succumbed to head and brain injuries eight days later.

Officers in the Town Hall (19th) Police District's surveillance operations center located footage that showed an apparent fight breaking out and Ontiveros being pushed to the ground, according to CPD radio traffic. After Ontiveros was down, other people came by, picked through his pockets, and left the area before the cops arrived.

While the Cook County medical examiner's office ruled Ontiveros' death a homicide within weeks, CPD didn't switch its classification of the case from aggravated battery to murder for another 15 months, records show.

Ontiveros is the father of one of Motown legend Smokey Robinson's granddaughters.

In an infamous example, the nephew of former Mayor Richard Daley was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for punching a man who fell and struck his head on a curb during a fight near the Division Street nightlife district in 2004.

The case was swept under the rug until the Sun-Times published an exposé in 2011. A Cook County judge soon named a special prosecutor, former U.S. Attorney Dan Webb, to investigate the matter, and Richard "RJ" Vanecko pleaded guilty three years later.