

If life had a second edition,
how I would correct the proofs.

— John Clare

SKYLINE

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

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Ald. Hopkins rejects zoning for proposed Old Town pot shop

After seeing the results of an impromptu community survey over a proposed pot shop in Old Town, Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] has decided against supporting a request to change zoning for the site.

“While popular opinion is not the only factor I consider when evaluating zoning change requests, the clear survey result combined with the numerous comments received by my office made it apparent that I must deny this zoning change request,” announce Hopkins in his commu-

nity newsletter.

The property at 1542-44 N. Wells was brought forward by developer GLP Old Town, LLC, which had requested a change from the existing B3-5 zoning district to a C1-5 zoning district, in order to build a residential building with ground-floor retail. That space would allow the applicant to also move forward with an application for Zoning Board of Appeals approval to open a cannabis dispensary in the ground-floor space.

The alderman’s office co-host-

ed a virtual community meeting with Old Town Residents and Merchants Association on June 15 for the developer to present their proposal publicly and allow for neighbors to weigh in. The Associations conducted a subsequent community survey that received 234 responses... 24.79% of respondents indicated they were in favor of the proposal, 69.66% indicated they were opposed to the proposal, and 5.98% were neutral.



Sardar holding flags in Lake Shore Park.

Photo courtesy of Lake Shore Park Advisory Council

9/11, police, firemen, soldiers honored by flags at Lake Shore Park

For the anniversary of 9/11 the Lake Shore Park Advisory Council put up 15 flags around the inside of the track at Lake Shore Park in honor of those who died for our country.

The 15 flags honor all those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, the 13 soldiers killed in the Afghanistan withdrawal, and our police and fire responders who died in the line of duty.

This year they specifically honored police officer Andrés Vásquez Lasso killed in Chicago in 2023 and firefighters Jermaine Pelt and Jan Tchoryk died in the line of duty 2023. As a part of their 9/11 Patriots Day remembrance the volunteers asked those who passed by to observe a moment of silence in honor of the

individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on 9/11, and for First Responders.

The man holding the flags is Sardar who told us, “I am from Uzbekistan. In our nation, it is the duty of the youth to help the elderly. It’s been 11 months since I came to the United States and I’m glad to be here. I am glad to meet you.” He and his family were visiting from Ohio where they had immigrated to. The family saw that the volunteers were installing the flags and he, proud of the English he had learned, offered to help. He was very proud to hold the American flag after assembled.

Chicago police warn about armed robbers they were ordered to stop chasing; some victims waited hours for CPD to show up

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police issued a community alert Sept. 10 to warn about a robbery spree that hit the downtown area and West Town on Sept. 9. But the alert doesn’t reveal a couple of important details: Chicago police officers who spotted the robbers’ getaway car were quickly ordered to terminate their pursuit of the suspects, and two of the victims waited up to four hours for cops to respond to their 911 call.

The alert linked four robberies to a pair of men, who first struck in the 200 block of W. Erie around 3:30 a.m. A man called 911 to report that he and a friend were robbed at gunpoint. But Chicago police had no units available in the Near North 18th District, and that call for help sat in a stack of pending “jobs” for four hours and three minutes before a dispatcher finally assigned it to an officer, dispatch records show.

CPD says the same men robbed another man in the 2300 block of

W. Walnut at 5:20 a.m. That victim reported that a newer white Nissan pulled up, and the passenger got out to rob him at gunpoint while an accomplice stayed in the car.

About 20 minutes later, a Whole Foods employee was robbed outside the 1550 N. Kingsbury location, according to a police report. That call would have sat without a response, too, except a 911 caller classified it as an “active

WAITING see p. 11

Community group advocates for improved safety at Bally’s temporary casino

BY RIVER NORTH RESIDENT’S ASSOC.

In late August, a meeting was held to brief local community and business organizations on the status of the temporary casino facility being constructed in the historic Medinah Temple building on Wabash, between Ontario and Ohio in River North.

City officials representing the Mayor’s office, the 42nd and 2nd Wards, the departments of Planning and Development, Transportation, Chicago Police, and the Office of Emergency Management and Communication were present, along with several representatives of Bally’s Corp, the casino operator.

Representatives from River North Residents Assoc. [RNRA], Streeterville Organization of Active Residents, Magnificent Mile Assoc., Greater River North



Now that Bally’s Casino has completed its practice sessions, real gambling operations are now underway.

Business Assoc., and Neighbors of River West were also in attendance.

During the meeting, many is-

SAFETY see p. 12

Third man charged in Prada store robbery, See page 9

DePaul says they’re staying put in Wintrust Arena

After our Sept. 6 story on the planned new update to the DePaul Univ. athletic facilities on their Lincoln Park campus, we speculated over the fate of the school’s ties to the Wintrust Arena, and whether any future basketball games might return to campus.

DePaul’s Courtney Day reached out to us this week to assure us that DePaul’s intent is to continue to utilize the Wintrust Area adjacent to McCormick Place.

“DePaul’s men’s and women’s basketball programs have no plans to leave Wintrust Arena or reduce their commitment to the venue,” said Day. “In fact, DePaul recently just moved its women’s basketball program from its on-campus, Lincoln Park arena to Wintrust Arena. Wintrust Arena is a state-of-the-art facility that

nationally rivals most college basketball arenas and is a significant competitive advantage for our athletics programs.”

Day noted that the facility campaign that was announced on Aug. 31 encompasses renovations to their existing facility, in addition to the creation of a separate practice facility. “Wintrust Arena serves as a state-of-the-art facility for game day and pre-game practices; however, its non-DePaul event calendar, and the logistics of daily transportation to Wintrust Arena are not feasible for regular practice when considering academic commitments on the Lincoln Park Campus. Additionally, all student-athlete support services are located on the Lincoln Park Campus,” said Day.



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Sometimes it's good to be first



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

"I was born close to a saw mill, was early left an orphan, christened in a millpond, graduated at a log school house, and at 14 fancied I could do any thing I turned my hand to, and that nothing was impossible..."

—William B. Ogden

Chicago has been rich in the characters and personalities who have held public office. Candidates could be short as a barstool. Or long as a Sunday sermon. They could be as hilarious as a naughty ditty. Or as solemn as a decade of the rosary.

But real vote getters always had to be larger than life.

How else could the voter imagine a candidate fit for the public position in the office they sought? They needed to eclipse the political dramas in which they slid. Or rise above the embattled terrain into which they had fallen. Otherwise they're just whistling in church. Upsetting all the angels.

Since 1837 when Chicago voters elected their first mayor, William Butler Ogden, the public display of such candidates has always stretched the contours of the ballot box.

Mayoral elections here have always been an exercise, like set-

ting the table. Discovering what's missing before a guest could eat. What staple, condiment or piece of cutlery was missing in order to necessitate quick replacement, with enough time to question what Chicagoans really needed in order to survive.

Discovering a plan of progress for living here truly helped, sandwiched as it is between the flat dry landscape of the Prairie and the vast waters of our great inland sea, Lake Michigan.

So from a steak knife to a tea cup we'd always need reason and intellect just to fill in the space.

Ogden needed no roadmap to outline the hot spots of Chicago's geography and practical living with all those complicated areas around the nation's most primitive city. What this city most needed fixing up or repaired in those early days.

Chicago was a brand new city with a unique relationship, defined by law, for interaction with the State of Illinois. Political questions became the solutions to what things we must ask for.

With a star relationship defined by statute, Chicago could request assistance from the state in offering a safe and harmonious approach with everything from plank sidewalks to swing bridges. Or the need for man-made canals, and the establishment of a national rail system all centered here.

You had to think with the times.

Ogden was a New Yorker by birth and sentiment. He was a young man when his father's early death catapulted him into a life of real estate and rail commerce. His re-location from rural New York to Chicago was initially to more easily protect family property here. And to advance the commercial viability of creating a transcontinental rail system.

Though Ogden served just one

term in the mayor's office, he would go on to serve with distinction in the Chicago City Council. He represented the 6th Ward and then the 9th Ward as constituencies expanded. Throughout his career as a Chicago politico, he enhanced the stability of Chicago's economic life with intensity. Recognizing his larger-than-life role in the city's fledgling commercial beginnings. It would set his course for the future.

Among his most dynamic accomplishments were the drafting of the City's Charter and the establishment of the Board of Trade. But he kept a keen eye on the details of everyday life from the quality of the city's water, to the need for bridges, sidewalks and paved roads. Often using his own financial success to expand the urban infrastructure.

His long career representing railways paid off when he became President of the Union Pacific Railroad. That bridged the dream of establishing a national rail system to the future. Mapping it through Chicago, coast to coast.

His career was strengthened by his political muscle and enhanced by his clarity of vision. His long service as a trustee of the Chicago Land Company was responsible for the purchase of land at the North bend of the Chicago River. The channel was called by many "Ogden's Canal." The land island around which it flows is known, still, as Goose Island.

Some years ago while in New York, I traveled out to Woodlawn Cemetery, in the Bronx. A massive burial ground of American heroes. There I spent more than an hour with cemetery personnel searching for Chicago's

first Mayor's grave. When we did find it, it turned out to be a massive above ground tomb of elegance and perfect location. I thought of the transforming intelligence Mayor Ogden displayed while living and working living in Chicago. A builder. A booster. So I placed a Chicago flag I'd carried with me from Chicago City Hall upon his tomb. And sang a familiar Chicago tune. Sometimes it's good to be first.

M E A CULPA: 1959 is an image far off in our rear view mirror now, but ringing loudly in my ears as Sox fans take us to task.

Apologies to all White Sox fans for our error thinking the pennant game that year was played in Bridgeport at Comiskey Park, instead of in Cleveland Municipal Stadium. We were actually trying to trick Mr. Reinsdorf. Thought he'd let the team stay put for old times sake if he thought the Sox won that pennant game in Chicago.

And yes, we realize that **Minnie Miñoso** played for Cleveland in 1959, not Chicago. He had been traded and thus never played in the 1959 World Series.

So we regret our error. Or maybe back then, **Grandma O'Connor** just spiked our Kool-Aid.

GET IN LINE: On Sept. 6, Ald. **Bill Conway** [34th] hosted a community meeting at the Merit School of Music to share details and answer questions about the City's plan to rent the Parthenon Guest House at 310 S. Halsted St. in Greektown for migrant housing. He has not been shy about showing his frustration with the short notice and lack of detail given on this plan by the 'experts' in the Mayor's office. The 'Pay-No-Mind' complaint line forms out the Mayor's office, to the

left, down the stairs, and five blocks down Lasalle St. Winning friends is not high on their agenda. The answer to Conway? 'Go get in line.' And no cutting in line, Bill, a dozen Chicago neighborhoods are already ahead of you. The Mayor's office said that new arrivals will move in beginning Sept. 15.

Meanwhile, backup units rushed to The Near West 12th District police station on Sept. 5 after migrants "revolted" when officers tried to arrest another migrant for assault, according to an officer

who was at the scene. Seems migrants living in the 12th District station do not get along with a group of migrants who set up camp in a nearby lot. We're in the best of hands.

BRIGHT WINDS: **Bill Pinkney** measured distance in leagues, in the lingo of those who sail the salted waves. The sea will always reshape your living, if you let it in. It will alter the proportions of your earthly life if you will. Captain Pinkney knew the call of the seas and proved its literary reality every time he crossed a finish line with the true history of his people filling his sails. He also knew the amazing friendship and comfort of a singular woman of grace, **Ina Pinkney** who equally filled his spinnaker. To all who grieve for this man of the sea, know the comfort that he died at the helm.

MISSING MAIL: Is your building missing mail? Might want to see what's in **Kalea Blanke's** possession. Prosecutors just charged her with swiping mail all over the



Ina and Bill Pinkney.



Mayor William Butler Ogden



Ald. Bill Conway

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City seeking outside contractors to manage migrant crush

Must manage housing, food, physical, behavioral health for homeless at city-owned, leased or licensed facilities

The images have become surreal and the ridiculous is now the norm in Chicago migrants, including toddlers, sleeping inside and outside police stations while waiting for space in a homeless shelter.

The mayor and other city officials say that clearing the police stations of homeless migrants is a top priority, but as more continue to arrive, the city appears unable to keep up. Some of the homeless migrants have holed up in police stations for months.

The Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services [DFSS] has now put out a call for help in managing the migrant refugees arriving in Chicago. They are seeking help running their own facilities, as well as outside facilities.

They are now seeking applications for the operation of emergency shelters for homeless new migrant arrivals. DFSS is

soliciting proposals from agencies who can operate shelters at specific City-owned, City-leased, or licensed facilities that are currently being operated as shelters.

For most of this year the city has been desperately seeking places to place the homeless migrants, without doing much planning or working with communities who are targets for turning public spaces into pop-up shelters. Sites like police stations, libraries, schools, airports and parks have been converted into makeshift shelters, and plans to house asylum-seekers in vacant schools have generated fervent local backlash in communities across the city.

City officials have struggled to cope with the large numbers of migrants flooding into town, and the police precincts that are now being used as emergency shelters are now at capacity. In a city built out of arriving immigrants, it's odd that a new batch would now so befuddle city officials.

The sight of dozens of migrants sleeping on police district floors all across town has become ubiquitous and remains wholly inappropriate. John Catanzara, president

of the Fraternal Order of Police, said he's fed up with having Chicago police officers "babysit" migrants at districts. "This is not what the police are supposed to be doing. It is not what police stations were meant for."

Shelter programs will provide a safe, accessible place to stay for the migrants, hoping to move them into stable housing. They are seeking organizations to provide a safe shelter environment for the homeless that they can operate and staff 24/7.

These shelters must also provide three meals a day for each resident, provide services for building maintenance and safety (e.g., janitorial and snow removal services), coordinate support and resettlement services, provide on-site services and linkages to support physical and behavioral health, provide access to case management, and coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center for shelter oversight and reporting.

Anticipated funding per award will be based on a bed rate of \$22-35 per night, and the city hopes to link to 15 service providers. Respondents may apply to operate more than one shelter facility.

Applications are due on noon Tuesday, Sept. 26. On Monday, DFSS started offering site visits at all facilities.

For more information call: 312-744-4357.

For those who have not done business with the City of Chicago before, registration in iSupplier is the first step to getting a contract.

New anti-scooter signs coming to Sheridan

Scooters have come to menace Chicago and other large urban areas. Fed up with the bad rules of the road skills of scooter users, Paris, France, has voted to ban rental e-scooters from its streets. Many in the industry fear the move in Paris, where free-floating scooters initially took off in 2018, will have ripple effects in other cities.

Here on the North Side, new signs are coming to Sheridan Rd. to remind bike and scooter users that it is illegal to ride bicycles on the sidewalk. Biking and scooter use on sidewalks is a safety hazard for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

In Chicago, adults and children who are 12 years and older are not permitted to ride their bicycles on the sidewalk unless it is clearly marked as a designated bike route or as a means to enter the nearest street or a bicycle sharing station. The consequence for illegally riding your bike or scooter on the sidewalk is a fine ranging from \$50 to \$200.

The city is asking those who witness reckless scootering and biking, or any other related safety hazards, to report these incidents to 311 and your local alderman.

Chicago could learn a lesson from Paris, which has been one of the most heavily regulated e-scooter markets worldwide. Yet, despite limiting scooter top speeds to as slow as 10 kilometers per hour (about 6 miles per hour) and requiring riders to use dedicated parking areas or pay fines, Paris has become the first city to completely reverse its policy on offering contracts to shared micromobility companies.

CMSA continues to shine, ranking #1 Charter school in the state

BY MATT MEDINA

Chicago Math and Science Academy [CMSA] in Rogers Park continues to impress, recently being ranked the #1 Charter school in Illinois. Also making its mark ranking an impressive Top #5 in nonselective high schools and #14 throughout all high schools in the city.

The rankings were released by the U.S. News and World Report, a well known media company. U.S. News is famous for its yearly school rankings across the United States, which involve the monitoring and comparison of factors like enrollment and test scores. CMSA has now made the prestigious rankings list 8 years in a row.

CMSA is a middle and high school that makes its home at 7212 N. Clark St., serving roughly 600 students. The school, which was founded in 2004, is a charter Chicago public institution. A school known for having a keen focus on Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math [STEM]. As well as being an institution that is home to a notably large minority enrollment rate of 92%.

CMSA's principal, Angela Huls, released the news with a statement celebrating the accomplishments of the school. "The fact that we remain on this prestigious list of schools when other schools are still struggling

post-pandemic is a testament to our teachers, our staff, and our families who work hard to make sure that our students succeed year after year," said Huls.

Charter schools are still publicly funded through taxpayer dollars, and are a part of the Chicago Public Schools system. However, Charter schools do have more flexibility in administration decisions, independent of normal school district standards. CMSA has a notable distinction as a "non-selective" enrollment school, meaning it is open to all students within its district boundaries. Only using a lottery system for students when its admissions become exceeded.

The top three ranked schools in Chicago were Jones College Prep, Northside College Prep, and Walter Payton College Prep. All schools that are typically fighting for the top positions year in and year out. As well as being "selective" enrollment schools, which gives these institutions an edge in picking their crop of students vying for admission each year. CMSA does not share this luxury, making their ranking among these peers all the more impressive.

Notable schools on the North Side that were closely ranked with CMSA were Lane Technical High School, Lincoln Park High School, and Von Steuben High School.

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Edgewater Home Tour features interiors of Magnolia Glen on Sept. 24

The Edgewater Historical Society is hosting their Edgewater home tour featuring the interiors of homes in Magnolia Glen noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.

The tour starts at 1268 W. Early Ave., and tickets cost \$25 per person. For tickets visit www.edgewaterhistory.org.

Magnolia Glen is bounded by Thorndale to the north, Ridge Ave. to the south, Broadway on the east and Glenwood and Senn High School on the west.

Police hosting affinity conversation Oct. 4

The 24th District Chicago police are hosting an Affinity Conversation at St. Jerome Church, 1709 W. Lunt, starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The district invites community members to share ideas and concerns on the ongoing new arrivals crisis and how the city can better collaborate with social service partners to help newly arriving refugee migrants.

For more information, email Officer Roca at christina.roca@chicagopolice.org.

chicagopolice.org.

For those seeking help with the English language, the Howard and Evanston Community Center will be re-launching a couple of classes later this month, including a virtual “English for Work” class on Tuesdays and Thursdays over Zoom from 6-8 p.m. Interested individuals must register by contacting Moon Parker via phone at 312-764-7644 or by email at mparker@howardarea.org.

Hefty apartment rent hikes forecast for 2024



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicago apartment dwellers likely will see hefty rent increases in early 2024, according to a new national forecast.

For the first time in 20 years, Chicago’s apartment rent growth over the past three quarters is the highest of major rental markets in the nation, reports CoStar Analytics.

Chicago’s annual rent increases are up 3.6%—three times higher than the national average of 1.2% in 2023. This is the highest rent growth in the Windy City since the average spiked at 7.9% in the first quarter of 2022, CoStar Analytics said.

Boston, with a 3.4% rent increase this year is second in the nation, followed by Philadelphia with 2.6% in 2023.

“With only 13,000 new units in the under-construction pipeline—an inventory expansion of only 2.3%—Chicago rents are likely to continue to rise,” the CoStar forecast predicted.

The national average for inventory growth via new construction is 5.2%, while the top 20 urban rental markets surveyed nationwide are expanding at a 6.8% clip.

Another Chicagoland rental survey by Essex Realty Group, polled 22,000 apartment owners and found average spring 2023 rent increases of 3.4% on renewals, and a hefty 6.4% hike on new leases.

Landlords reported an average vacancy rate just above 1%, and low turnover. “Owners are forecasting a turnover rate of 20% in 2023, far lower than prior years,” the Essex Realty survey noted.



Landlords also are bullish on the future of the Chicago rental apartment market. Some 61% of owners say they anticipate acquiring more Chicago properties over the next three to five years, while only 14% said they anticipate selling their buildings.

Landlords also are bullish on the future of the Chicago rental apartment market. “Some 61% of owners say they anticipate acquiring more Chicago properties over the next three to five years, while only 14% said they anticipate selling their buildings,” Essex Realty reported.

“With limited new inventory competition, three-star properties—which dominate Chicago’s apartment landscape—can maintain their rent growth ascendancy established almost a year ago,” the CoStar report predicted.

The CoStar multifamily rent growth forecast calls for three-star properties to dominate the market at least through the second quarter of 2024. In the CoStar survey apartments are rated on a one-point to five-point scale.

Although deconversion of aging and financially squeezed condominium buildings into refurbished rental apartments has been a hot market over the past few years, experts say this trend has slowed because developers are having trouble obtaining acquisition financing. Mortgage rates have doubled over the past year, and interest charges on investment capital are floating between 10% and 13%.

A major deconversion planned for a 467-unit high-rise condo at 10 E. Ontario in River North has been delayed for more than two years because the potential East Coast investment buyer is having trouble financing the purchase.

Some home-sellers bloodied too

Even with the Chicago area now leading all large U.S. cities in home price growth, Chicago home sellers still have a better chance of losing money on their deals than almost anywhere else, according to Crain’s Chicago and Redfin.com.

Redfin data covering the three months ending July 31 revealed

that 6.5% of home sales in the Chicago area resulted in losses for sellers, while the national average was lower at 3%, Crain’s reported.

Chicago ranked third among 50 major metropolitan areas in Redfin’s study for the highest proportion of money-losing home sales. The cities with more sellers losing money were San Francisco at 12.3% and Detroit at 6.9%. Notably, among the 10 largest U.S. metro areas, Chicago was the only one where more than 5% of sellers experienced losses.

Our condo market appears to be the hardest hit, influenced by factors such as the slow return-to-work movement, reduced downtown attractions like theaters and concerns about crime in downtown neighborhoods.

Examples of recent condo sales losses in Chicago include a Waldorf Astoria condo that sold for \$2.5 million, \$600,000 below the 2010 purchase price, and a condo at 600 N. Lake Shore Dr. that sold for nearly \$1.25 million, resulting in an \$88,500 loss for the sellers who bought it in 2012.

Despite these losses, the majority of sellers still profit when selling their properties. However, the trend of losses in the downtown condo market has persisted since 2020.

The broader challenges facing the North Side housing market include high property taxes and a stagnant or declining population, which reduces demand for homes. The U.S. Census reported a population decline of approximately 176,000 people in the Chicago metro area between 2020 and 2022.

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

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Is leftover RPM TIF cash going south? Watch 'the gap'

CTA's Red Line extension gets \$1.973B Federal grant

The Federal Transit Administration [FTA] on Sept. 8 announced \$1.973 billion in new funding for Red Line Extension [RLE] Project. A CTA release says this taxpayer funding is a "major milestone" that will advance the project into the next phase of the federal "New Starts" program.

The grant would be the largest transit infrastructure grant awarded to CTA in the agency's history. But it is far from enough to pay for the entire project, leaving Chicago taxpayers wondering where the balance of funds will come from.

For comparison, on the North Side, the Red Purple Modernization [RPM] project costs were at first estimated to be \$1.993 billion to rebuild the 9.6-mile corridor

between the Belmont and Linden stations. It has since risen to \$2.1 billion.

The new RLE funds will help extend the Red Line on the Far South Side from 95th to 130th. But the \$1.973 billion federal grant for the \$3.6 billion project leaves about \$1.627 billion left for state and local taxpayers to find.

Late last year the City Council Finance Committee proposed a new Transit TIF financing district to help fund the south RLE, that was approved by the committee in a nearly unanimous vote. The transit TIF would raise an estimated \$959 million to help pay for the \$3.6 billion extension. That still leaves another \$668 million unaccounted for.

To help fund the RPM, a new Tax Increment Financing District was created on Chicago's North Side. That TIF zone is

one-half mile wide (one-quarter mile wide on each side of the Red Line tracks) and runs from Devon Ave. south to North Ave. That RPM TIF (#180) is now expected to throw off a great deal of excess cash during its 35-year life, far beyond the total needed to pay for the North Side work.

Geographically speaking, TIF #180 is the largest TIF district in Chicago, and covers some of the most highly assessed real estate in the city. In 2020 the TIF #180 created about \$140.3 million in revenue. In 2021 it was \$190.1 million. TIF #180 increased its haul by almost \$50 million in one year.

The RPM TIF has turned into a massive cash cow, it is now the highest grossing TIF in all of Chicago. Over its 35-year life, it should create at least three times more in gross revenue than it needs to pay for the

RPM project. One of the critical features of a TIF district is that the city is supposed to reinvest funds collected within the TIF back into the geographic zone from which it came. The concept is that a 'blighted' area needs intense re-investment to help it recover quicker.

Last Friday this newspaper contacted the CTA to see if the excess cash from the North Side RPM TIF #180 might be ported to the South Side to help pay for the remaining \$668 million for the RLE.

We wrote emails and left a voicemail for Felicia Matthews, with CTA Media Relations, and one person did respond, though no new information has yet been offered.

The question North Side property taxpayers should be interested in, and should

RPM TIF see p. 10

After students robbed in weekend crime spree, DePaul acknowledges 'sad reality' of Chicago crime

BY CWBCHICAGO

After several DePaul Univ. students were targeted in a robbery spree across the school's Lincoln Park campus, university officials issued a statement on Saturday acknowledging the "sad reality" of criminal activity in Chicago.

"Chicago continues to face ongoing challenges with criminal activity across the city. We must acknowledge this sad reality and respond accordingly," President Robert L. Manuel wrote. His message came hours after several of the school's students fell victim to a robbery crew that swept through campus beginning around 1:15 a.m. Sept. 9.

Three women, two 20-year-olds and a 19-year-old, were walking in the 2200 block of N. Sheffield when three men emerged from an alley. They battered and robbed the victims, taking wallets, phones, and purses, before escaping in a red SUV. An officer at the scene said the suspects were three Black men in their mid-20s. One had facial hair, and another wore an orange winter cap.

At about the same time, two 19-year-old women were robbed in the 900 block of W. Fullerton near the Fullerton CTA station.

Yet another woman was robbed as she tried to enter her residence, a DePaul-affiliated apartment complex in the 1200 block of W. Fullerton. Officers said a red SUV was involved in that robbery, too.

A fourth holdup was reported in the 1700 block of N. Clybourn, but it's unclear if that victim has any links to DePaul.

One of the DePaul students went to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center to treat minor injuries.

In the school's statement, Manuel said DePaul's public safety office is on "heightened alert" in light of Saturday's incidents.

"We are grateful for the strong relationship we have with the police and our elected officials," he said. "We will continue to proactively work with them."

Here is Manuel's full statement as posted on the university's website:

Earlier this morning, the university issued two public safety alerts to report that three robberies and a battery had occurred on our Lincoln Park Campus between 1 and 1:30 a.m. Unfortunately, all three crimes involved our students, and Public Safety responded immediately to provide medical care and support. We are deeply upset our students had this alarming experience on our campus, and we wanted to update you on the action steps the university is taking with the City of Chicago and inside our own institution.

As reported in the public safety alerts, the incidents happened within minutes of each other between 1 and 1:30 a.m. in three separate locations on our Lincoln Park Campus: the walkway next to the Fullerton El Station, the corner of Belden and Sheffield, and the corner of Kenmore and Fullerton. We believe the same offenders were responsible for all three incidents. In all three cases on our campus, the offenders approached our students and demanded their belongings. One of the offenders also hit a student in the face. Again, uni-

versity staff are working with the students involved to make sure they are receiving care and support.

As immediate action steps, DePaul will increase its public safety presence on both campuses with additional security officers. We also have filed our concerns with the mayor, police commander and elected officials.

Chicago continues to face ongoing challenges with criminal activity across the city. We must acknowledge this sad reality and respond accordingly. Public Safety remains on heightened alert and is actively working with the Chicago Police Department to address these most recent

incidents. We are grateful for the strong relationship we have with the police and our elected officials. We will continue to proactively work with them.

We know how happy our students are to be back on campus for a new school year, and we share your excitement. At the same time, we must emphasize the importance of paying attention to your surroundings and using DePaul's safety resources – especially after dark:

- The safety escort service is available on the Lincoln Park Campus from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., seven days a week. If you are*

REALITY see p. 10

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Police Beat...

Home invaders pistol-whip, rob Lakeview man

A Lakeview man was pistol-whipped, punched, and robbed by two people who forced their way into his home on Sept. 4, according to Chicago police.

The two offenders apparently followed the man from near the Sheridan Red Line station around 2 a.m. As they walked, one of the robbers pointed a gun at the victim's head and ordered him to go into his home with both offenders, a CPD spokesperson said.

Inside the apartment, the robbers hit the 23-year-old victim in the head with a firearm and fists before taking his belongings and cash, according to CPD. Police brought a Chicago Fire Dept. ambulance to the scene to treat the victim for minor injuries.

According to initial information, the two suspects are a Black man standing 6'-2" to 6'-4" tall and a heavyset Black female who's about 5'-6" tall.

Area Three detectives are handling the investigation.

Man tried to carjack driver at gunpoint four months after getting probation in gun case

Wilobo Abdu caught a big break after Chicago police accused him of possessing a handgun with an automatic fire switch in Rogers Park two years ago. The judge sentenced him to first-time weapon offender probation. If he completed the two-year probation successfully, the charge would be dismissed, and he wouldn't have a felony conviction on his record.

The clean slate he could have earned is now in jeopardy. Prosecutors say he



Wilobo Abdu

tried to carjack a man at gunpoint in West Ridge four months after he accepted the probation deal.

On May 23, 2021, a Chicago police surveillance camera operator said they saw a man walking with a handgun near Jonquil Terrace and Paulina St. in Rogers Park. In Abdu's arrest report, police called the intersection a "high gang and narcotics area."

The report said patrol officers went to the intersection, stopped Abdu, 21, and found a 40-caliber Glock handgun with an extended magazine, laser sight, and automatic fire switch.

According to court records, he pleaded guilty to aggravated unlawful use of a weapon on March 2, and received first-time weapon offender probation from Judge Kenneth Wadas. Prosecutors dropped the machine gun charges in the deal.

Four months later, around 1 a.m. on July 11, someone tried to carjack a 47-year-old man in the 2300 block of W. Devon. The victim reported that a man armed with a gun tried to open his car door but failed to gain control of the vehicle.

Now, prosecutors say the would-be hijacker was Wilbo Abdu. He's charged with attempted vehicular hijacking with a firearm, unlawful vehicular invasion, and multiple counts of attempted robbery with a firearm and unlawful restraint.

Judge Ankur Srivastava ordered him to pay a \$10,000 bail deposit to be released from jail. But Srivastava also held him without bail for violating the terms of his probation, so

Abdu won't be able to go home unless Judge Wadas decides to reduce the no-bail hold.

Court records show prosecutors also charged Abdu with a felon gun charge in Oct. 2020, but they dropped the case 10 days later.

Chicago man who carjacked driver while on parole for carjacking gets a new 10-year sentence

A four-time convicted felon who carjacked a driver in Uptown last year while on parole for another carjacking case has been sentenced to 10 years.



Alfredo Gutierrez

That brings his felony conviction total to five.

"Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!" Gutierrez allegedly barked in Spanish as he hijacked the driver outside Dunkin', 4559 N. Broadway, in Uptown last September.

The 60-year-old driver handed Gutierrez some change from inside his 2011 Mitsubishi truck, but Gutierrez became angry with the victim's offering. He ordered the victim to give him everything, including his jacket, wallet, and keys, as Gutierrez pulled a gun from a thermal backpack, prosecutors said. The victim complied, then ran away when Gutierrez threatened to shoot him.

As the victim ran for help, Gutierrez crashed the Mitsubishi into another vehicle and sped away.

When Chicago cops found the car on the Far South Side later that day, Gutierrez was behind the wheel, wearing the same clothes as the carjacker, prosecutors said. The police said they also found a fake gun inside a thermal backpack inside the vehicle.

Less than a year before the carjacking, in Nov. 2021, Gutierrez received a six-year sentence for a vehicular hijacking he committed three years earlier. After receiving the state's standard 50% sentence reduction and credit for time spent in jail before pleading guilty, he didn't spend a single day in prison, according to Illinois Dept. of Corrections records.

Similarly, his 10-year sentence for the Uptown carjacking will be halved for good behavior. He also earned 259 days of credit while in jail. His parole date is set for Sept. 17, 2027.

Man shot at driver after road rage incident on Kennedy Expy.

A suburban Chicago man is charged with attempted murder after allegedly shooting at a driver during a road rage incident on the Kennedy Expy. on Sept. 3.

According to an Illinois State Police investigative report, a 47-year-old woman was driving on the outbound Kennedy near Division St. when she got into a conflict with another driver around 1:57 a.m.

The woman said she continued driving, then heard about eight gunshots and saw a man shooting at her from a white sedan that a woman was driving, the report said. She exited at Belmont and called for help.

State troopers said they found seven bullet holes along the passenger side of the woman's car and another bullet hole on the tailgate.

Investigators used license plate readers to identify the gunman's vehicle and located it a short time later on the outbound Dan Ryan near 63rd St., the ISP report said.

Troopers pulled the car over and detained its three occupants—two women and 28-year-old William Wesley of Chicago Heights. The police report said investigators impounded the woman's car and recovered six 9-millimeter shell casings. It said Wes-

ley admitted to firing several rounds at the woman's car.

Judge Maryam Ahmad held Wesley without bail on one count of attempted murder.

His felony background includes a robbery and three burglaries in 2014, according to Cook County court records.

Man charged with trying to rob 17-year-old at bank ATM in downtown Chicago

There's an old scam that goes like this: A fraudster asks a victim to help him cash a check at an ATM. They give the victim a check for, say, \$500, which the victim deposits. Then, the scam artists ask for just \$400 or \$450 back from the victim, telling them to keep the rest as their "thanks" for helping. Of course, the check eventually bounces, and the victim is out of cash.

Keep that in mind as we tell you about a man who is charged with trying to rob a 17-year-old boy at a bank ATM in the Loop on Sept. 4.



Eric Elem

Before cops arrived, CPD surveillance officers pulled up the feed from a nearby camera and confirmed that someone was being held against their will inside the ATM lobby.

When officers got to the bank, they found a woman and a 17-year-old boy inside the ATM, along with 25-year-old Eric Elem, a CPD report said. The cops motioned for Elem to open the door, but he refused, according to the report.

But the 17-year-old managed to open the door for the officers, who entered and asked Elem to "chill," the report continued. They say he didn't chill at all. He tried to run away, wrestled with a cop on the ground, and ignored the officers' orders, according to the report. The police eventually tazed Elem and took him into custody.

The teenager then explained that he was inside the vestibule when Elem entered and asked him to deposit a check, the police report said. Officials said Elem eventually "forced" the boy to deposit the check and ordered him to withdraw \$400.

But the kid's bank account didn't have \$400 in it, and he explained that he had no way to pay Elem the \$400 he wanted, according to the police. Elem held the boy inside the vestibule against his will, ordering him to hand over \$400 or "I will hurt you," the report said.

Prosecutors charged Elem with attempted robbery and misdemeanor counts of resisting police and obstructing identification.

Judge Kelly McCarthy ordered him to pay a \$4,000 bail deposit to get out of jail on electronic monitoring.

Court records show he was convicted of felony unlawful use of a weapon and escape from electronic monitoring in 2019.

Businesses robbed at closing time in Lincoln Square

Chicago police are investigating after three businesses were robbed at closing time Sept. 6, all within about 10 minutes of each other.

In Lincoln Square, a man robbed two businesses located about a half-block apart around 11:24 p.m.

First, a woman was closing Kimberli Sushi & Thai Cuisine, 2547 W. Lawrence, when a robber walked in and demanded money from the register, according to a CPD media statement. The offender, who did not display a weapon, fled on foot.

At about the same time, a man entered The Green Post, 4749 N. Rockwell, as a 33-year-old male employee was shutting down the bar, police said.

The robber walked up to the counter and demanded money from the register. He did not display a weapon and fled on foot, according to CPD.

Police did not release a description of the suspect.

As those robberies were happening, two armed men entered West Town Wine & Spirits, 2501 W. North Ave., and demanded money from a woman behind the counter, police said. They took the cash and fled.

An officer at the scene described them as two Black males wearing black hoodies. One is about 5'-5" tall, and the other is about 5'-11".

In addition to the business holdups, two street robberies were reported shortly after midnight.

Two masked, armed men robbed a man near the intersection of Jersey and Ardmore in North Park around 12:05 a.m. They fled in a black four-door vehicle, possibly a Nissan.

About 10 minutes later, two masked men pointed guns at a woman and took her purse in the 1800 block of W. Rice in West Town. They fled in a black sedan with tinted windows.

Man stabbed, critically injured near Belmont CTA Red Line station

A man is in critical condition after another man stabbed him multiple times during an argument near the Belmont CTA station in Lakeview on Sept. 6, Chicago police said. The stabbing occurred in an alley directly behind the offices of Ald. Bennett Lawson [44th].

Police said the 36-year-old victim and another man got into an argument in the 3200 block of N. Sheffield around 2:18 a.m., and the offender stabbed the victim with a knife.

After being stabbed, the victim fled from the alley and collapsed under the CTA tracks on Belmont Ave., according to witnesses. CPD said he is in critical condition at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center with stab wounds throughout the body.

One witness recognized the victim as a homeless man who is frequently seen in the area.

Police searched the area for a suspect described as a Black man in his 20s who stands 6' to 6'-2" tall. According to an officer at the scene, he was wearing a black hoodie and blue jeans and was last seen heading north in the alley along the CTA tracks. So far, no arrests have been announced.

Man shot, critically injured in Lincoln Park

A man is in critical condition after someone shot him on a Lincoln Park street on Sept. 4, Chicago police said.

Officers responding to calls of shots fired in the 500 block of W. Wrightwood around 10:59 p.m. found the 24-year-old "laying on the street yelling in pain," according to a CPD media statement. He suffered two gunshot wounds to his left leg and one to his right leg.

Witnesses reported hearing an argument or yelling between two men before the shots were fired just east of Clark St., but police offered no motive for the shooting.

Officers searched the area for a man who ran from the area, described as Black, about 6'-4" tall, bald, and shirtless, but no arrests have been made.

Ten people have been shot in Lincoln Park this year, including five injured during a single incident near the zoo on June 17.

The neighborhood had four shooting victims for all of last year.

At this point in 2021, there were 13 shooting victims, including eight who were shot when someone opened fire on a party near Clark St. and LaSalle Dr.

Lincoln Park had four shooting victims at this point in 2020 and 12 as of this date in 2019. The latter year

included two mass shootings: four shot near the lakefront at Fullerton and seven shot in a separate event near the same location.

Sweet plea deal for 11-time convicted felon accused of three Chicago restaurant burglaries

An 11-time convicted felon accused of burglarizing three Chicago restaurants last year cut a deal with prosecutors that reduced all three burglary charges to criminal damage to property, court records show. He's now a 14-time convicted felon.



Larry Banks

As a result of the deal, Larry Banks, 50, received three concurrent two-year sentences from Judge Lauren Edidin, and he was sent to Stateville Correctional Center on Aug. 24. According to Illinois Dept. of Corrections records, he walked out the same day after receiving credit for time spent in Cook County jail and a 50% sentence reduction for good behavior.

The outcome is much more favorable for Banks than when he was convicted of burglarizing a restaurant in the 4800 block of N. Broadway in 2011. He got 14 years for that one.

He got out of prison in May 2018 after serving half the time. Just seven months later, prosecutors charged him with burglarizing Little India restaurant, 1109 W. Bryn Mawr. Police said fingerprints left inside the restaurant came back to Banks.

Court records show Banks fought the case for nearly three years, serving as his own attorney for at least some of the time. Prosecutors dropped the case on Jan. 6, 2022.

The very next month, prosecutors accused him of burglarizing three more restaurants in Feb. 2022.

Area Three detectives issued a community alert about a series of overnight break-ins at Uptown businesses that began on Feb. 13 last year. The burglar broke windows with bricks or his feet and stole money from the cash registers, often at Asian restaurants.

During Bank's bail hearing last year, prosecutors said surveillance videos showed Banks burglarizing three of those restaurants.

Late on February 17, Banks and another burglar broke two glass doors to enter DaNang Kitchen, 1019½ W. Argyle, prosecutors said. They got away with \$50 in coins.

A few hours later, Banks and another person used an object, possibly a rock, to break the glass door at China Cafe, 4818 N. Sheridan, according to the initial charges. They got away with about \$100.

And on Feb. 21, 2022, Banks broke the front door of Imm Rice & Beyond, 4949 N. Broadway, with a rock and forced the register open, taking cash, a prosecutor alleged.

The prosecutor last year said surveillance videos showed Banks carrying a drawstring bag with a 2020 census logo during all three break-ins. He had an identical bag when police arrested him, officials said.

Before catching the 14-year sentence in 2011, Banks had been sentenced to two terms of 30 months for theft in 2009; 18 months for damage to school property in 2009; three years for narcotics in 2007; two years for narcotics in 2005; 4-1/2 years for theft from a person in 2002; four years for burglary in 1999; seven years for narcotics in 1996; 28 months for narcotics in 1995; and five years for narcotics in 1992.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Woman use forged master keys to burglarize mailrooms across the North Side

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Chicago woman is charged with breaking into six apartment and condo buildings, mainly on the North Side, to steal mail using forged U.S. Postal Service master keys.

Prosecutors also charged Kalea Blanke, 33, with identity theft because she was allegedly carrying credit cards in the names of six different people when Chicago cops arrested her.

According to court records, Blanke is charged with burglarizing residential mailrooms in the 4000 block of N. Damen in North Center on May 17, 2022; the 4700 block of N. Racine in Uptown on Nov. 12, 2022; the 600 block of W. Drummond in Lincoln Park on Jan. 24; the 4100 block of N. Sheridan in Uptown on March 9; the 2600 block of N. Clybourn in Lincoln Park on March 29, and in the 800 block of S. Wells in the Loop on June 22.

She's also accused of prying a card reader machine from the wall of an apartment building laundry room in the 700 block of W. Bittersweet on April 14.

Chicago cops who arrested her in a South Side garage last month said they found a postal service master key, also known as an "arrow key," lying in plain sight. When they searched her, police found five wrenches "filed into what appears to be various stages of arrow keys," a CPD report said.

Judge William Fahy released her on her own recognizance but

ordered her to stay on electronic monitoring.

Mail theft surge

Mail theft by crews using stolen postal service master keys has become so widespread that the U.S. Postal Service has advised people not to put mail into its blue mailboxes after the last collection time.

Mail thieves might occasionally score a valuable package or an envelope containing a birthday gift card from someone's grandma. But experts say the real value comes from identity theft and check fraud mills, which use information from stolen mail to steal people's identities and checks.

Armed men have frequently robbed mail carriers of their "arrow keys" in Chicago. Some keys are stolen from the postal service in less violent ways. Some counterfeit keys have also popped up.

Highly organized identity theft and fraud organizations use stolen postal service master keys, called "arrow keys," to steal large volumes of mail from public mailboxes and residential building mailrooms.

In May, a joint operation involving postal inspectors and Chicago police netted an arrest after investigators allegedly saw a man use an arrow key to steal mail from one of the postal service's ubiquitous blue mailboxes in the West Loop.

And in March, another man

was charged with possessing two forged postal service master keys, also known as "arrow keys," during a traffic stop on the North Side. Prosecutors said the man also had a trove of financial information, including W2 forms and checks.

Prosecutors charged another man in February with burglarizing the mailroom of a single Lakeview apartment building 14 times in nine weeks. Patrick Slagel allegedly admitted to being a "jogger," the slang term for people who collect bulk mail in theft scams, and to using postal service master keys that were either provided by relatives of USPS employees or were bought or stolen.

Alex Petik, 35, was charged this spring with burglarizing a mailroom in the 4800 block of N. Bell four times. Two days after the last break-in, one of the residents learned that someone was trying to open multiple credit card accounts in their name.

A backpack he was carrying when police arrested him in April allegedly contained a Russian passport, two fake IDs with his photo but other people's personal information, four credit cards with different names, five checks issued to various businesses and individuals, and 14.2 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine.



Kalea Blanke



Chicago police responded to a call of an explosion at the Chase Bank, 5134 N. Clark. The explosion turned out to be smoke bombs tossed into the building while it was being attacked by a mob of radical activists.

Mob of vandals smash windows, tag, smoke bomb North Side Chase Bank, AT&T facility

BY CWBCHICAGO

Board-up crews were hard at work Sunday morning, installing plywood over the shattered windows of a Chase Bank branch in Andersonville. Around the sides of the building and a block-long AT&T facility next door are strings of graffiti protesting everything from cops to capitalism to Hollywood.

Chicago police first responded to a call of an explosion at the bank, 5134 N. Clark, around 10:40 p.m. Sept. 9. The "explosion" turned out to be a smoke bomb that a group of vandals tossed through one of the bank's many broken windows.

Witnesses reported between 15 and 30 people, all appearing

to be in their teens or early 20s, breaking the windows and painting the buildings. The group was last seen running east from Clark St. No arrests were made.

In a community alert issued after this story was originally published, Chicago police said between 10 and 15 men and women between the ages of 18 and 25 were involved. The group wore dark hoodies, dark pants, and ski masks, the alert said.

It also stated that the group entered both businesses and "defaced the doors and walls with the use of spray paint."

Information can be shared with Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263. Refer to crime pattern #P23-3-064.

Two arrested for felonies at street 'takeover' downtown

BY CWBCHICAGO

Takeovers of Chicago streets by drag racers, stunt drivers, and crowds of spectators were all the rage in 2022. They're still happening, although less frequently and with more arrests than in the past.

On Sept. 4, two men were jailed after Chicago cops arrested them at a street takeover downtown. Officials say one of them had a gun, and the other, who was convicted in 2021 of striking and killing a 2-year-old in a car crash, is charged with possessing a stolen motor vehicle.

CPD's "car caravan and drag racing team" went to the 800 block of S. Jefferson to handle a so-called car "sideshow" around 10 p.m. on Labor Day. Among the cars gathered in the area was a 2014 Chevy Impala with "extensive decorative decals," an officer later wrote in an arrest report.

Because the car didn't have front or back plates—a common tactic participants use to avoid being identified by police and city surveillance systems—the cops ordered the driver to stop, the report said.

The officers placed spike strips in front of the car's rear tires and warned the driver, Marcus Douglas, 42, of Crown Point, not to try to drive away or his tires would be deflated, according to the report.

Nonetheless, Douglas did move the car forward, and his tires went flat. The police arrested him for fleeing and eluding. While searching Douglas, police found a loaded handgun, the



Mugshots of Marcus Douglas (L) and Freddie Jones.

arrest report said. He's charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon by a person with a previous gun conviction. Judge Kelly McCarthy released him on a \$500 bail deposit.

About two minutes later, just a few steps away, officers arrested Freddie Jones, 28. Police charged him with receiving or possessing a stolen motor vehicle, driving on a suspended license, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle, according to CPD records.

Jones pleaded guilty in 2021 to reckless homicide with a motor vehicle. The charge stemmed from a June 2018 car crash in Bronzeville that left a 2-year-old child dead, according to contemporaneous reporting by the

Sun-Times.

Jones had just passed a written exam and was days from taking the physical exam to become a Chicago police officer when he crashed into another car near 49th St. and Martin Luther King Dr., the newspaper reported.

Officials claimed Jones ran a red light at 55 mph and slammed into a woman's car as it crossed the intersection, sending it into a light pole. Skylar Dixon, a 2-year-old girl in the woman's car, died three days later. A boy in the vehicle remained in critical condition for a week. And the woman who was driving was seriously injured.

Jones, who was not hurt, stayed at the scene and helped the woman and children get out of their crashed car. Prosecutors said at the time that Jones' license had been suspended three times for traffic infractions.

In 2021, Jones pleaded guilty to reckless homicide with a motor vehicle in exchange for a three-year sentence from Judge Neera Walsh, which was satisfied by the time he spent on electronic monitoring before trial, according to court records.

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Taste of Uptown is Sept. 27

The 7th Annual Taste of Uptown will be held 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27. The event celebrates Uptown's culinary diversity with two distinct trails to follow. The event is hosted by the Uptown Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by visiting <https://secure2.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/2152?ccid=2719>, or call 773-878-1184. The ticket includes all tastings on each des-

ignated route.

This restaurant crawl will feature small bites and samplings from Uptown eateries. Participants will receive an event passport and stroll from restaurant to restaurant along Uptown's business corridors, trying samples at various locations.

The Plate route will travel Wilson, Broadway and Montrose; while the Bowl route will travel Broadway and Argyle.



Jeremy Jordan



Diana Ross



Scott Turow

Chicago Stories Sept. 21 at History Museum

The Chicago History Museum and WTTW will be hosting a free in-person presentation 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, at the museum, 1601 N. Clark St., for the preview of the Fall 2023 season of Chicago Stories, the only weekly documentary program dedicated to uncovering the history, diversity, and breadth of human experience that shaped Chicago.

This season of Chicago Stories is composed of eight one-hour documentaries: Angels Too Soon: The School Fire of '58, Pullman and the Railroad Rebellion, Jane Addams: Together We Rise, The Rise and Fall of the

Mail Order Giants, The Race to Reverse the River, The Boss and the Bulldozer, The Outrage of Danny Sotomayor, and Candy Capital.

At this event, WTTW's Geoffrey Baer will moderate a lively conversation that goes behind the scenes of producing the series with Stacy Robinson, producer of The Boss and the Bulldozer; Eddie Griffin, producer of The Race to Reverse the River and Candy Capital; and Dan Andries, producer of The Outrage of Danny Sotomayor.

The new season premieres on all WTTW on Friday, Sept. 22, and each episode will include a companion website that goes deeper into the story.

While the event is free, reservations are required. Visit <https://interactive.wttw.com/events/>.



Shaun Rajah



Lady Katherine Fitzgerald and Dominick West



Eric Rook

FIRST from p. 2

North Side. Chicago cops arrested her in a South Side garage last month.

IRISH COUNTRY LIFE: More than 1,000 students, fans and friends recently descended upon Glin Castle, in County Limerick, Ireland, for the open house tour organized by proprietor **Lady Katherine Fitzgerald**. Her husband, actor **Dominick West**, was by her side at the Fitzgerald ancestral home along the banks of the River Shannon. Dominick plays Prince Charles in "The Crown." Also on hand was Christie's Chicago boss **Steven Zick**. He's an avid Irish Georgian Society member, the organization founded by the late **Desmond Guinness** to protect Ireland's 18th century country houses and treasures. Lady Katherine's father, **Desmond Fitzgerald**, the late 22nd, and final, Knight of Glin was the Irish Society's president. He was also a great Chicago fan and often visited and spoke here. A frequent dinner guest at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill.

ROSH HASHANAH: The evening of Friday, September 15th thru sundown Sunday, September 17 is Rosh Hashanah, a holy time for our Jewish friends, blessing and peace on this sacred moment. Happy New Year.

ON STAGE: Steppenwolf Theatre Co. will present Broadway star **Jeremy Jordan** in his Chicago debut, performing two shows only on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theater, 1650 N. Halsted St. The award-winning actor/musician will showcase a wide array of vocal styles across all genres of Broadway and pop music, with **Benjamin Rauhala** at the piano. Songs and tales from his storied career will include selections from Newsies, Smash, The Last 5 Years, Little Shop of Horrors, Waitress, and many more.

BLUE MOON: Did anyone else listen to "Song to the Moon," from **Anton Dvorak's** opera "Rusalka?" It was perfection.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Attor-

ney **Brendan O'Connor** has sent word from Istanbul, once known as Constantinople, present-day Turkey, that he is seeing the culture of the Turks up close, having just been at the Haggia Sophia. Roaming the great mosques and temples of ancient history. Brendan has a classical mind worthy of the sights he sees.

AHOY, THERE: **Sherrill Bodine** has been at sea aboard the RMS Queen Mary 2, crossing the Caribbean from East to West through the Panama Canal. I remember how beautiful the original Queen Mary was. Sherrill's meals looked superb and they looked to have plenty of bubbly on hand for Southern sailing.

WHO'S WHERE: Caio... **Dan Kirk** crossing the viccola of the Eternal City dining a la recommendation of chef **Art Smith**, joining **Stephanie Stathos Munger** and friends at Santa Lucia, a true Roman ristorante... Honorary Mayor **Shelley Howard** dining with his dearest **Selma Wardenaar** on her sweet day... Architecture smarty **Blair Kamin** doing "Bike the Drive"... **Eric Rook** just back from Ireland with his siblings still basking in the "Guinness glow" on his birthday... **Eamonn Cummings** energized by Chuck's Lakeshore Inn in Fontana, WI... Former White House powerhouse **Samuel Skinner** and wife, **Honey Jacobs Skinner**, with sons, **Samuel Jacobs Skinner** and **William Curran Skinner**, have been on familiar soil in Ireland with nine irons packed... **Dr. Rose Gomez** enjoying the snow-packed alpine mountain terrain with guest **Sandra Ging** in Interlaken, Switzerland... **Cynthia Olson**, **Brian White**, **Jim Kinney**, **Janet** and **Rodger Owen** and **Peggy Snorf** gathered at the Chicago Yacht Club to celebrate **Paul K's** birthday... Galway Arms **Dierdre Canty** back from Ireland with photos of last week's Blue Moon taken in oceanfront Ballydehob... All are mourning the death of gameshow host, **Bob Barker** at 99 years... **Diana Ross** headlined UChicago / Ingalls Hospitals 50th anniversary

gala Sept. 9 at the Tinley Park Convention Center... Legal Eagle and prolific novelist **Scott Turow** is a retired partner at Dentons US LLP, and splits his time between Naples, FL, Evanston, and Salem, WI, presently working on a new novel... **Denise Jagiella Adducci** at Fenway in Boston watching the Red Sox play the Dodgers with **Frankie Taylor Jagiella** and **Joe**... Eating homemade limoncello gelato on the Amalfi Coast of Italia, none other than The Langham Hotel's **Shaun Rajah**, Chicago's most refined hotelier... **Thad Wong** and **Emily Sachs Wong** in Three Oaks, MI... **Erin Waitz** and **Stephanie Rubin Compton** running free in London and ready to fly off to Budapest and exotic adventure.

AMBASSADOR: Former U.N. Ambassador **Bill Richardson** always saw America in the focus of the long view. When your nation-building is that broad you are very close to what the founders envisioned. You're close to the truth of establishment. Protecting the wide display. True in Congress. True in the government. True in the Oval Office. True in the Governor's Manse. And true on the floor of the United Nations. A place not many win in. But such achievements always have the moral comfort of righteousness. Richardson was an American patriot whose living came wrapped in such truth. It sealed his love for the nation and its people. It will stand the test of time.

GARDEN ART SALE: Join me, **Tom O'Gorman**, in our garden and studio on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1059 N. Winchester St., near Damen and Division (corner house at Winchester and Thomas). Use our driveway. 312-735-8101. Great discounts. Large inventory. Go to my instagram page to see the full collection, thomasogormanart.

No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all the credit for doing it.

-- Andrew Carnegie

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Gregory J. Lindeman
 Founder/Owner

Dearborn Street Bridge project delayed

Local commuters are extremely frustrated that the Dearborn Bridge project has taken much longer than anticipated to complete. But there is light at the end of the bridge as the city hopes the project will finally be completed by the end of October.

This project is being conducted by the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] as an in-house construction effort, not by private contractors.

The excuse that CDOT is using to blame for the slow progress, is the same excuse that every delayed government project is using these days: that they are due to equip-

ment/material procurement problems and emergency repairs in other parts of town. While not noting what those emergencies were, CDOT says emergency work pulled their workers away from the Dearborn Bridge project.

The following is an updated timeline:

- 9/18/23-9/29/23: Full roadway and sidewalk closure for testing and balancing
- 10/2/23-10/18/23: Bike lane and NW ADA bump-out installation
- 10/19/23-10/27/23: NE ADA bump-out installation

Third man charged in Prada store robbery, two men have already gone to prison

BY CWBCHICAGO

Prosecutors this week charged a man with participating in the Jan. 2022 robbery of the Prada store in downtown Chicago, a crime for which two other men have already gone to prison. Officials said the crew got away with merchandise worth \$46,000.

Leonard Spears, 27, is charged with one count of robbery in connection with the Jan. 12, 2022, shoplifting mob raid at the store, 30 E. Oak. Court records show he was sentenced to a year in prison for a felony gun case just four months before the robbery.



Leonard Spears

Kahdaffie Green, 24, had been out of prison for less than a week when he participated in the Prada heist. He received a 42-month sentence for the crime earlier this year and was paroled in July.

Tony Simmons, 21, recently received a five-year sentence for robbing the Prada store and participating in similar crimes. He is scheduled to be paroled next July. He

was on parole for a juvenile armed robbery case at the time of the Prada robbery, according to officials.

Prosecutors said the men rolled up to the Prada store in two stolen cars around 2:30 p.m. A security guard allowed Green to enter, and the others barged in behind him. They pushed a sector guard against the wall and ran out with armloads of purses, prosecutors have said. The crew rammed a clothing rack into the security officer as they escaped. He fell to the floor and injured his wrist.

Chicago police detectives tracked the stolen vehicles' movements before and after the robbery, eventually locating video of Green at a convenience store in North Center about 30 minutes before the Prada heist, prosecutors said.

Investigators also found surveillance footage that allegedly showed the group arriving at an apartment complex in the Riverdale neighborhood 50 minutes after the robbery. They were seen removing the Prada merchandise from the cars and entering a nearby building.

Judge Susana Ortiz last week ordered Spears to pay a \$2,500 bail deposit to get out of jail on the robbery charge.

Letters to the Editor

Too many cars

Regular readers of the News-Star will have noticed in recent issues increasing grumbling from the paper about so-called 'privileged bikers' whose protected bike lanes are supposedly making it harder for drivers to find parking spaces.

It's not good for a newspaper to promote an atmosphere of conflict between bikers and drivers. In reality virtually all interactions between bikers and drivers are totally peaceful and mutually cooperative. They're both just trying to get through their day, and people in Chicago generally try to give one another a break.

Second, drivers might want to remind

themselves that if those bikers weren't on bikes, they would probably be driving cars, which occupy way more space and create more obstruction, pollution, and heat.

Stand on any corner and watch the cars go past: it seems like 80% of them have one occupant only, burning a non-renewable resource, leaving less for everyone else.

The reason there is too much traffic and not enough parking is because there are too many cars, not too many bikes.

THS907
Rogers Park

Parking money benefits North Side Chicago Machine

Parking seems to be a hot topic on the North Side.

Cars can be parked. Bicycles can be parked. One could even park one's self on a barstool and enjoy a cold, frosty beverage.

But let's not forget about campaign cash. It can be parked too. [Mandatory Kindergarten Bill story of Sept. 6.]

Michael Madigan taught the Chicago Machine how to park cash.

Take dirty money from a labor union, shady developer, power company or anyone else and give it to a "bright and clean looking" fellow. That person could then pass it around and it's suddenly clean, not so dirty.

A wealthy attorney who sues the City and wants to open up a store to sell narcotics near schools gave money to "Friends of Matt Martin." Ald. Martin then gave the money his "blessing" and passed it out.

Sort of like Al Ronan went from being a legislator to being a lobbyist. Or when Mike Madigan "parked" money in Greg Harris' campaign fund. And Greg shared

his good fortune with others.

Whom did Matt Martin share his donations with?

It's right there on the Illinois State Board of Elections website. But I'll save you some searching. Which Chicago Machine hacks took money and will be happy to let others sell narcotics near schools?

The 47th Ward Regular Democratic Organization, \$8535. The Neighbors of Angela Clay, \$610. The Friends of Brandon Johnson, \$1000. The Neighbors for Andre [Vasquez], \$500. Maria [Hadden] for the 49th Ward, \$500. The Citizens for Bridget Degnan, \$500. And The Friends of Josina Morita, \$250.

Four alderpeople, a county commissioner and other officials all took dirty money "cleaned" by The Friends of Matt Martin. I just hope no children get hurt or killed in the crossfire with all these narcotics and all this "parking."

Mike Sullivan
Avondale

The Chopping Block's Lincoln Square location changes hands

Premiere recreational cooking school sold to Executive Chef

After 26 years of teaching people how to cook, The Chopping Block is changing ownership.

Founder and Chef Shelley Young officially sold the Lincoln Square business to Executive Chef Lisa Counts on Aug. 31.

Young moved to Union Pier, MI, a few years ago, and built a 4400 square foot cooking studio in Southwest Michigan, where she plans to focus a lot of her attention in the future. She opened the first location of The Chopping Block in Lincoln Park in 1997. The Lincoln Square location in 2003 and then a Merchandise Mart location in 2005.

Young says Counts is the perfect person to turn the business over to. "She has been at the helm of managing the facilities for the past eight years. Over the past year, Lisa has led The Chopping Block's Lincoln Square location through a tremendous amount of change. I can honestly say there is no Lincoln Square without Lisa Counts," said Young.

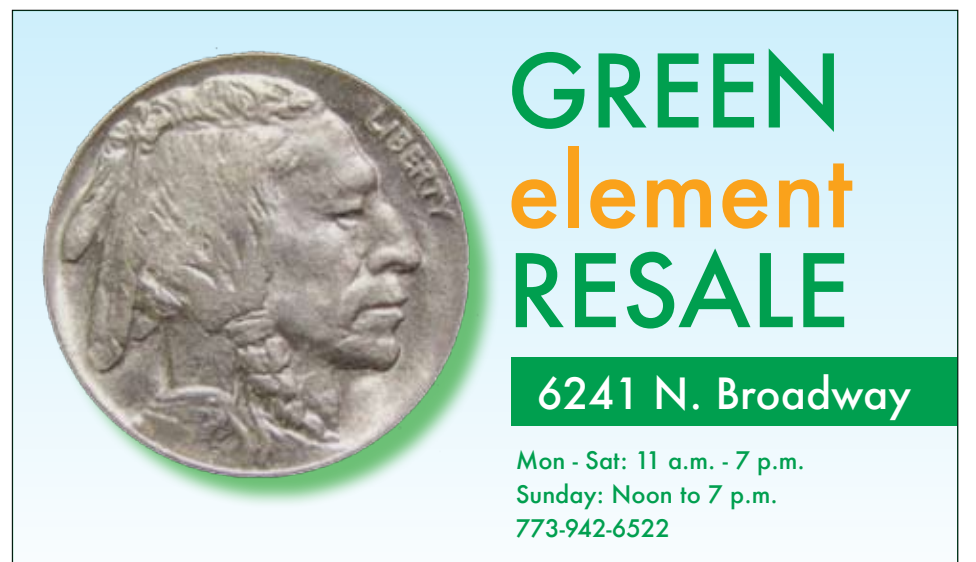
The Chopping Block grew to be the busiest recreational cooking school in the country, offering between 350 to 450 classes and events a month, during the business'

peak prior to the pandemic. Counts is now the owner and she will own and make decisions for all day-to-day operations for The Chopping Block at Lincoln Square. (Young closed the Lincoln Park location in 2005 and the Merchandise Mart location in 2022.)

The Chopping Block has not only survived the pandemic, but it is thriving again – classes are well attended, and more private events are being hosted at the Lincoln Square location now than before the government-imposed pandemic lockdown.

Young will continue to own Tenka, Inc. which owns The Chopping Block's trademark and brand. Her goal is to have more time to devote to new ventures, including producing the first-ever Oaktobfest this fall in Three Oaks, MI.

"Michigan is one of the most diverse agricultural areas in the U.S. and home to more than 300 micro growing climates. Its proximity to Chicago and position next to Lake Michigan make it a tourist destination and second home hub for Chicagoans," said Young. Next she plans to work both in conjunction with The Chopping Block and on her own.



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We'll pause along our tour route to learn about the heroes, villains, victims and legends that rest amongst the monuments and greenery that abound. Wear comfy shoes and bring a water bottle. **Enter the cemetery through the ornate gatehouse entrance at 5800 N. Ravenswood.**

Chuck Betzold is a local historian, having organized and led running tours for Fleet Feet Sports for over 15 years. He also leads tours at Bohemian National Cemetery where he serves on their Board of Directors. Chuck was also a docent at Tribune Tower, where he was a graphic artist for the Chicago Tribune for over 30 years.

Suggested Donation \$10.00



RAVENSWOOD-LAKE VIEW HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Fall 2023 Lecture Series

Corrections:

Permit Parking hours were wrong

In the Aug. 30 New Star newspaper we reported on the new Residents Only Permit Parking Zone [RPP] going in adjacent to Rosehill Cemetery.

We got the hours of enforcement wrong in that story.

The hours for this RPP are not 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. as reported.

The new RPP will operate from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m., or overnight for those seeking to park by their homes at night. For those who already had existing RPP the hours will remain the same, except for 24 hour RPP, which will be eliminated.

We apologize to our readers for getting it wrong.

It was an away game

Noted sports historian, and broadcaster Thomas Shaer was the first of several to alert us that Tom O’Gorman had a factual error in the opening paragraph of his Sept. 6 column. O’Gorman stated that he watched the 1959 White Sox pennant-clinching

game, televised from Comiskey Park, “... 20 blocks away” from his grandmother’s house.

“The game was not played in Chicago. It took place in Cleveland. Newsreel film of it has been shown thousands of times but no copy (kinescope or otherwise) of the WGN-TV telecast exists. However, the audio of Jack Brickhouse’s TV play-by-play does exist and has been played a lot on radio over the years. I have a copy; the play was a 6-unassisted-3 double play by Luis Aparacio,” reported Shaer.

“It is true that Comiskey Park was fairly close to Tom’s grandma’s house but there was no game there that night (Sept. 22, 1959). In fact, it was an oddity in that the game in Cleveland was the only one the White Sox played there that month - it must have been a rescheduling of a rained out contest. The White Sox played 13 of their last 16 games on the road that season but still maintained their comfortable lead in the American League,” said Shaer.

RPM TIF from p. 5

be asking CTA and city officials, is whether they plan to port RPM money south to the RLE. An oddity of TIF districts is that money can be shifted from one district to another, if they touch each other at any point. Meaning if everything were connected, the South Side expansion might capture property tax revenue from relatively prosperous North Side neighborhoods, where the TIF #180 district includes 16,704 parcels of land, and redistribute that cash to the Far South Side.

The Gap

The key trigger point for observers to watch now might be a small gap in the TIF porting map... stick with us here as we play the ‘Funny Bones’ game. Following from north to south, the #180 RPM TIF is connected to the #30 TIF. The #30 TIF is

connected to the #94 TIF. Then there is a gap along the Chicago River near Grand Ave. Perhaps a couple hundred feet separates the Chicago/Kingsbury TIF #94 from TIF #104 in River West... which connects to TIF #172, which connects to TIF #147, which connects to TIF #186, which connects to TIF #72... which brings us to the doorstep of the RLE project and its TIF.

Tellingly, a small triangle portion of TIF #94 has already jumped over the Chicago River near Chicago Ave. bridging the east and west banks.

Yes, we know, it sounds pretty crazy. But this being Chicago, observers should keep an eye on that gap between Chicago and Grand avenues, and if it suddenly somehow becomes part of a new TIF district, then North Side property tax payers paying into the RPM TIF #180 should grab your wallets. That #94/#104 gap is now

the only non-TIF dam blocking a river of property tax money from flowing south.

“Reversing decades of disinvestment starts with providing accessible transportation for all residents of this city,” said Mayor Brandon Johnson. “We will continue to work with stakeholders, the state, and federal government to ensure this project is moving full steam ahead.”

For now, the FTA has notified CTA that their grant moves the project closer to a groundbreaking. CTA can now begin the Engineering phase of the project, which includes further design and engineering needed to build the project.

The Engineering phase of the project is expected to continue into 2024 and anticipates a funding award by the end of 2024 subject to federal review and approvals.

REALITY from p. 5

out after dark, using this service is the best way to stay safe.

• During the week, the inter-campus shuttle is available between the Lincoln Park and Loop campuses from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

• To travel to residential destinations just outside the boundaries of Lincoln Park, use the Vinnie Van service.

• Note the location of phones and the blue emergency call boxes on campus, and don’t ever be afraid to use them.

• Stay alert, trust your instincts, and travel in groups after dark.

• Report any criminal activity or suspicious individuals to Public Safety at 773-325-7777 (Lincoln Park) or 312-362-8400 (Loop).

Keeping our university community safe always remains a top priority, and please know we take incidents like this extremely seriously. As we shared last week, campus safety is one of our initiatives for the year ahead. This Thursday, Sept. 14, the university will host a Campus Safety Summit at noon in the Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120. We highly encourage you to join the conversation and help us identify how we can support each other.

In addition to the Campus Safety Summit, Student Affairs is planning a series of educational sessions, and more information will be shared as soon as it is available.

Chicago police have issued a community alert that links the three DePaul-area robberies to a group of three or four men.

The alert said the men approached women on the street and demanded their property, saying, “Give me everything” or “Give me all you got.” They punch any victims who refuse to cooperate in the head and body, police said.

CPD said the crew struck three times on Saturday: at 1 a.m. in the 2200 block of N. Sheffield; at 1:20 a.m. in the 900 block of W. Fullerton; and at 1:30 a.m. in the 1200 block of W Fullerton.

They described the group as Black men between 20 and 26 years old, standing 5’-6” to 5’-8” tall. Each wore black face masks and black hoodies.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives about crime pattern P23-3-065 at 312-744-8263.

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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 NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff, -v- BYRON J. CRUZ-CEDEÑO, THE 5739-5745 N. RIDGE CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION Defendants 2023 CH 02229 5745 N RIDGE AVE APT 1W CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 6, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on October 13, 2023, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 5745 N RIDGE AVE APT 1W, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-317-037-1015 The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602, Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. Case # 2023 CH 02229 **13228999**

Real Estate For Sale

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@ilcslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-23-00720 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2023 CH 02229 TJS/C#: 43-2399 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2023 CH 02229 **13228999**

Real Estate For Sale

by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602, Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 22-09634IL_787888 Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 22 CH 04691 TJS/C#: 43-2903 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 22 CH 04691 **13228548**

North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR CWHQE HOME EQUITY LOAN ASSET BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006 Plaintiff, vs. JOHN RIES; KATHLEEN M. RIESL; THE PRIVATE RESIDENCES AT ONTARIO PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 23 CH 2427 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, October 17, 2023 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 17-10-111-014-1322; 17-10-111-014-1538. Commonly known as 10 East Ontario Street, Unit 2002 and P-S817, Chicago, IL 60611. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff’s Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455. W23-0006 XOME INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13228629**

Real Estate For 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 Monday, October 2, 2023 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate: PARCEL A: UNIT 501 AND PARKING SPACE UNIT P-439 IN PARK PLACE CHICAGO CONDOMINIUM AS DELINEATED AND DEFINED ON THE PLAT OF SURVEY OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE: PARCEL 1: THAT PART OF BLOCK 3 IN ASSESSOR’S DIVISION OF THE KINGSBURY TRACT, IN THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, LYING EASTERLY OF THE EAST DOCK LINE OF THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE CHICAGO RIVER, LYING SOUTHWESTERLY OF THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF KINGSBURY STREET, LYING SOUTH AND SOUTHEASTERLY OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF KINGSBURY STREET AND A LINE 3.0 FEET NORTH OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE CENTER LINE OF ONTARIO STREET (AS NOW LAID OUT) EXTENDED WEST; THENCE WEST ALONG A LINE 3.0 FEET NORTH OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE CENTER LINE OF ONTARIO STREET (AS NOW LAID OUT) EXTENDED WEST 163.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO A POINT IN SAID DOCK LINE OF SAID NORTH BRANCH OF THE CHICAGO RIVER, WHICH IS 70.80 FEET SOUTHEASTERLY (MEASURED ALONG SAID DOCK LINE) FROM THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF SAID DOCK LINE WITH SAID LINE SO DRAWN 3.0 FEET NORTH OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE CENTER OF ONTARIO STREET (AS NOW LAID OUT) WHICH IS 163.0 FEET WEST FROM THE INTERSEC-

Real Estate For Sale

TION OF SAID LINE WITH THE WEST LINE OF KINGSBURY STREET; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY TO A POINT IN THE DOCK LINE OF THE EAST BANK OF THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE CHICAGO RIVER WHICH IS 70.8 FEET SOUTHEASTERLY FROM INTERSECTION OF DOCK LINE, SAID RIVER WITH THE SAID LINE DRAWN 3.0 FEET NORTH OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE CENTER LINE OF ONTARIO STREET; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID DOCK LINE OF SAID EAST BANK OF SAID RIVER, 9.80 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID LAND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED FROM HUGH MCBIRNEY AND ISABELLE M. MCBIRNEY, HIS WIFE, TO PERCIVAL W. CLEMENT, DATED NOVEMBER 22, 1899, RECORDED IN VOLUME 6925 PAGE 164 OF LAND RECORDS IN THE RECORDER’S OFFICE OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, WHICH SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT “A” TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM RECORDED AUGUST 21, 2002 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 0202921139, AND AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, TOGETHER WITH ITS UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS PARCEL B: EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL A AFORESAID, AS CONTAINED IN THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS RECORDED AUGUST 21, 2002 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 0202921138, SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND COVENANTS OF RECORD, IF ANY... P.I.N. 17091260221011. Commonly known as 600 N. Kingsbury St., Chicago, IL 60610. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6925. 1491-191517 ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13227761**

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WAITING from p. 1

shooter” incident because they understood that a gunman was inside the store, CPD radio transmissions show.

There was no active shooter, but the urgency of the initial report resulted in cars being mustered up for a response.

One of those units spotted the robbers' newer white Nissan bearing a stolen license plate heading toward the Ontario feeder ramp in River North around 5:50 a.m. Officers said they engaged the vehicle in a pursuit, but a CPD sergeant ordered them to terminate that effort.

In the recording of the call, in the comments after the termination is given an officer jokes that someone should call the “real police” at the Illinois State Police, an agency that is known to vigorously chase violent offenders that the Chicago Police Dept. won't.

As it turns out, officers spotted the suspects about a minute after they robbed another victim in

the 400 block of W. Locust. That victim's 911 call was not assigned to a car for 66 minutes.

CPD's alert said the suspects were two Black males between 16 and 20 years old who stood 5'-6" to 5'-8" tall. They wore black facemasks and black hoodies.

Tips about the crimes can be shared with Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263. Refer to crime pattern #P23-3-066.

Waiting for police

At least three other robbery victims also waited hours for police to respond to their calls for help downtown on Saturday morning. They were all tourists staying at hotels in the Loop.

First, two 22-year-old women were outside Miller's Pub, 134 S. Wabash, when they were approached by a group of between eight and 10 people around 2 a.m. A police spokesperson said the group physically attacked the victims, striking them in their faces and bodies and causing them to fall to the ground. The

group then robbed the women of their valuables and fled.

Chicago police dispatch records show that the local CPD District was in “backlog” status at the time, meaning no police units were available to respond to the victims' call for help. Nearly two hours after the attack, police met with the victims at their hotel in the Loop.

A CPD spokesperson said another man was attacked in River North between 2 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. He was in the 400 block of N. State when five men attacked and robbed him of cash, jewelry, and a phone.

He first called for help from his hotel in the Loop around 4 a.m., but the case was not assigned to an officer for more than three hours. Police eventually met with the man at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he took himself for treatment of his injuries.

Staffing levels in the two Chicago Police Districts that patrol downtown are down sharp-

ly from the pre-pandemic era, according to the Chicago Office of Inspector General.

The Central 1st District, roughly covering the area between the Chicago River, 31st St. and the lake, had 243 cops on staff last month. That's essentially flat compared to August last year but down 26% from the 329 it had in Aug. 2019.

North of the river, the Near North 18th District is also flat compared to 2022 but down about 25% from Aug. 2019, with 291 officers assigned last month versus 389. Near North officers patrol the area between the river, Fullerton, and the lake.

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 continue committing crimes.

Last month, a man robbed three convenience stores at gunpoint on the North Side. Chicago police found him as he drove away from the third holdup and followed him for a while. But they terminated their efforts when he struck another car and entered Lake Shore Dr.

CPD officers also saw two different armed robberies in progress last month. They were ordered to stop pursuing one carload of offenders. The officers never initiated a pursuit of the second group.

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The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention. — John Burroughs

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New appraisal puts Aon Center landlord underwater

One of the Loop's most noteworthy skyscrapers is now worth less than the loan attached to it.

That's right, the net equity held by most North Side property owners now tops that of one of our town's signature buildings.

The 83-story Aon Center, 200 E. Randolph St., is one of an architecture lovers most beloved buildings in a town full of beloved trophy buildings. While its height remains the same, fiscally it is today half the building it once was.

A recent assessment has it valued at \$414 million, down 47% from the \$780 million it was worth when a \$536 million loan secured by the property was issued in 2018 to 601W, according to a report from credit ratings agency Morningstar.

Reporter Rachel Herzog of TheRealDeal.com says that the building's dropping valuation is the latest twist in the New York-based landlord's fight to hold onto the 2.8 million-square-foot office tower. 601W bought the Aon Center in 2015 for \$712

million.

601W is the owner of some of Chicago's other trophy properties, including the Old Post Office at 433 W. Van Buren St., the Civic Opera Building on Wacker Dr., and One South Wacker.

The special servicer for the loan - which was originated by JP Morgan before the debt was sold off to investors in commercial mortgage-backed securities - approved a four-year extension this summer of the loan's July maturity date.

The extra time was granted after the landlord said it was unprepared to repay the debt and came up short with payments owed earlier this year to its mezzanine lenders in the deal, which provided a total of \$142 million to the borrower at the time the larger mortgage loan was issued five years ago, says Herzog.

The building's namesake tenant, insurer Aon, also negotiated terms for extending its lease as part of pushing out the maturity, adding two years while downsizing by

25% to about 300,000 square feet from the 400,000 it previously occupied.

Special servicer LNR Partners started overseeing a \$43 million tranche of the Aon Center debt package in February. LNR said they defaulted on the debt by inking a lease with Blue Cross Blue Shield Assoc. without the lender's approval.

That kicked off a dispute between the lender and landlord over the tenant improvement allowance, which was resolved when the lender agreed to cover a \$1.5 million tenant improvement reserve for the building in return for a personal guarantee from the firm's leadership for the balance of the \$4.6 million tenant improvement allowance, according to Morningstar.

601W had asked for an extension in March, when the firm fell short of covering expenses and mezzanine debt service due to property tax payments, according to a report from special servicer SitusAMC to Morningstar.



The Aon Center, 200 E. Randolph St., is one of an architecture lovers most beloved buildings in a town full of beloved trophy buildings.

Landlord gets \$20M from temporary Bally's casino

While most of the reporting on the new temporary casino opening in River North has been about the opposition nearby neighbors and Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] brought forward, the state's stress test last week and the soft opening over the weekend, missing perhaps in all that coverage is the success of one prominent River North property owner who hit the jackpot with the opening.

A longtime River North developer who long ago invested in the area has scored a big win with Bally's taking over the landmark property he owned in Medinah Temple. Yes, Albert Friedman has won again.

The North Side real estate investor known as the "mayor of River North,"

struck a \$20 million deal with the casino operator for the use of the historic building as a temporary gambling hall while Bally's builds its permanent, \$1.7 billion entertainment complex at the Chicago Tribune printing plant in River West.

The Chicago Sun-Times reports that Bally's will pay \$16.5 million in total rent over a four-year term and \$330,000 in management fees, plus all the property tax, which has exceeded \$1.1 million a year.

The politically connected Friedman has leased properties to influential figures in business and politics, including three mayors: Brandon Johnson, Lori Lightfoot, and Rahm Emanuel.

Friedman has played his cards right,

if Bally's chooses to extend the lease for an additional two years he stands to gain an extra \$9.6 million in rent and management fees, with Bally's continuing to cover the property taxes, according to the Sun-Times.

The decision to use the Medinah Temple as the temporary casino location came as a surprise to some, as Bally's had initially expressed a preference to build one on the Tribune property, adjacent to the site of the permanent complex. However, city officials cited complications related to the replacement of the Chicago Ave. bridge as a reason for Bally's to go with Medinah.

The temple is a 111-year-old building previously used by the Shriners fraternal

organization and was part of Bloomington's Home Store for a while, but has now been accessorized with 750 slot machines and 50 table games.

Last week Bally's underwent a state-mandated stress test to obtain a temporary operating permit, with expectations of generating monthly profits ranging from \$3.5 million to \$5 million through the end of the year and potentially up to \$60 million with a full year of gambling in 2024.

City officials are hopeful that the temporary casino will bring in up to \$55 million in annual tax revenue, with the permanent casino projected to generate nearly \$200 million a year upon its expected opening in 2026.

SAFETY from p. 1

issues of concern to the community were raised, including public safety, vehicular and pedestrian traffic management, liquor service, and parking. RNRA has prepared a brief summary of the information provided by Bally's and City Officials. It can be found at this address: <https://rnrrachicago.org/chicago-casino/>.

Practice gaming sessions, required by the Illinois Gaming Board [IGB] prior to the issuance of a final operating permit, were

conducted on Sept. 6 and 7. During these sessions, all aspects of facility operations were monitored to ensure that all legal and regulatory requirements, including gaming activities, security, and food and beverage service, were satisfied. Bally's Casino completed its practice sessions before state regulators last weekend, and real gambling operations are now underway.

Since the City Council voted to proceed with the Bally's casino development in May 2022, RNRA has endeavored to identify and advocate for adjustments to

the plan with the goal of reducing harmful impacts to the surrounding communities, the citizens of Chicago, and the natural environment. The full nine-pages of recommendations can be accessed at <https://rnrrachicago.org/casino-improvement-recommendations/>.

On July 25, RNRA sent a letter to aldermen Reilly, Burnett, and Hopkins, 18th District Cmdr. Michael Barz, and Deputy Chief Jon Hein, recommending several measures to improve public safety and reduce public disruption in the neighbor-

hoods surrounding the temporary and permanent facilities. RNRA appreciates the willingness of Bally's representatives and administration officials to engage in meaningful dialogue about the impact of these casinos on the host communities and plans to meet with both parties in the near future to discuss these matters.

Currently, RNRA's casino-related advocacy is focused on issues with the greatest impact on public safety, quality-of-life, and infrastructure.

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