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— Yogi Berra

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

insideonline.com

Oh, rats, more sightings in the city

Your home is where their food is

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY BOB KITSOS

A dire email came into this newspaper's offices in August from an Andersonville resident asking this newspaper to help out Andersonville. "Rats are everywhere, people are furious. No city response. Even my building has a bunch of holes, they are running around in yards, alleys streets."

"The landscaper for our building couldn't come today for more rat control, he had to go to 6200 N. Kenmore for 100 rat holes, can you do something about it? Everyone's having problems."

Further north, another email note was received here at the office claiming, "My neighborhood around Lunt and Ashland Ave. is infested with rats. My neighbors and I tried to destroy them for months in vain, we need help from the city."

Yes, Chicago residents are reporting many more residential sightings of rodents during the past few months. With fewer restaurant dumpsters to feast on during the pandemic lockdown,



An open invitation to the rodent colony are overflowing dumpsters and trash on the ground. According to the Dept. of Streets and Sanitation, exposed garbage is the primary reason rodents proliferate.

the local rats must now hang out where the food is... in residential dumpsters and backyards.

Not long after City Hall closed down bars and restaurants on the North Side, rats started coming out of hiding.

But "It doesn't mean that there's a lot more rats," said Deputy Cmsr. of the Bureau of Rodent Control Josie Cruz. "There are more people at home and they're seeing them and they're calling."

The number of complaints

made to the city have skyrocketed this spring, up 46% for the month of May, according to records released by the Dept. of Streets and Sanitation [DSS]. Cruz said she wants people to call 311 if there is a sighting and said her department responds to every call.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, rats can carry salmonella, and breathing dust containing rat fe-

RATS see p. 12

North Side public safety forum Sept. 23

Due to the increase in quality of life and violent crimes on the North Side, a virtual Public Safety Forum will be held 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23

Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] is hosting the forum to try and quell fears over increased criminal activity in Lincoln Park, Old Town, and on the Near North Side.

"Our Police Commanders have worked closely with us throughout the summer to ensure that the 43rd Ward and areas immediately surrounding it will have adequate protective resources," said Smith.

Cmdrs. Jill Stevens [18th District] Chris Papaioannou [19th District] and other speakers will discuss the current state of affairs, progress under the City's new public safety strategy, crime statistics, and general safety advice.

Those who would like to join

in on the virtual meeting or offer questions should write to yourvoice@ward43.org.

The plan calls for enhanced use of technology by the police [CPD] and data analytics focused on

City Hall is working to integrate a faster approach to geographic lockdowns, to deploy new and enhanced ways to shut down targeted areas - including parts of the Central Business District.

around-the-clock review of open source social media activity that might indicate plans for committing violence.

It also calls for a rapid and agile deployment of CPD officers from inside and out of area experiencing violent criminal activity. Resources are also being used such as vehicles from Streets and Sanitation, Dept. of Transportation,

County Sheriff's office, and the Water Dept. to block streets and bridges and maintain control of the area through tactics such as traffic control.

City Hall is also working to integrate a faster approach to geographic lockdowns, to deploy new and enhanced ways to shut down targeted areas - including parts of the Central Business District. These tactics include blocking and disabling vehicles as well as creating new hardened cityscapes (such as bollards and improved concrete structures) to limit movement.

Ald. Smith has dedicated some of the discretionary "menu" funds that each alderman controls to purchase additional cameras at key locations in her community. "Some cameras have already

SAFETY see p. 12



The location of the future DuSable Park at 400 N. Lake Shore Dr.
Photo courtesy of Alchetron

New park and open space projects get tax support

A new park and a pair of open space projects will be supported by more than \$5.4 million in Open Space Impact taxes approved by City Council Sept. 9.

The program allocates development taxes collected from residential construction projects to park spaces.

One recipient will be the long-ignored DuSable Park, 400 N. Lake Shore Dr.

The long-delayed DuSable Park on the Near North Side will be supported through \$5 million in Open Space Impact Fees. Located at the mouth of the Chicago River, the three-acre park has already been cleaned up, but is still not open to the public. It's next use will be as a staging area for construction materials needed for an adjacent high-rise project being built by Related Midwest.

Once the high-rise project has been completed, DuSable Park may finally be opened to the public and include green space and landscaping, lighting, a plaza, seating areas and historical markers honoring Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, who became the area's first non-indigenous settler when he lived along the river in the 1780s.

The remainder of the \$15 million-project will be financed by developer Related Midwest, since their use of it as a staging lot for construction will likely badly damage the property.

The expansion of the Montrose Metra Community Gardens, 4400 block of N. Ravenswood Ave., will be financed through \$91,000 in Open Space Impact taxes,

SUPPORT see p. 12

COVID testing Sunday in the Gold Coast

The city is hosting a free COVID-19 testing event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday Sept. 20, in the Gold Coast at the parking lot located at 1254 N. State Pkwy.

Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] is sponsoring the testing event, in conjunction with Roseland Community Hospital. He claims that your insurance company - if you have insurance - will be billed for the testing.

This is a timed, reservation-only event, and people need a ticket that will be verified upon arrival.

Reservations will only be accepted through Eventbrite, to participate, register at <https://september2020covidtest.eventbrite.com>. For more information call 312-643-2299 or write care of Ward02@cityofchicago.org.

Fabulous Rose Marie O'Neill's life lesson: bet the jockey, not the horse



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

My aching knee is having quite the recovery. After five days in bed with the knee raised and heavily ACE-banded, I am enjoying full use of the leg.

There's still some residual discomfort, but at least I'm moving around.

But I've watched so much Britbox that I now have a central London accent. Upper class, of course.

If you subscribe to Britbox, don't miss Rob Lowe's newest role on the telly, "Wild Bill." He's joined the Lincolnshire Police and commands the whole department following his wife's death and being fired from the Miami police.

He's bringing 21st century policing to Britain. Lots of head-butting. It's really well done.

While doctoring the knee, one of my newspaper colleagues said I should get some CBD ointment for my residual knee pain from Merz Apothecary on Lincoln Ave. in Lincoln Square. Chicago's oldest apothecary. Instead, I told my sister about it, she said my bro-in-law used some BALMX CBD, made from hemp, and had a lot left. So they brought it down to me. Now my house smells like

a college dorm. Looks like Vicks. Smells like pot. I'm rubbing this analgesic into the knee four times a day. So far, no munchies. Some relief.

What a strange journey I'm on. But I need to remind myself, it's never wrong to reach out to nature. You will always be healed. The arthritis has, ironically, disappeared from my right hand. An unintended result.

As I write this, I have a large soup pot on the stove with a chicken in it, conjuring up some outrageous soup.

I'm not sure what to call it.

Originally, I was going to split the whole chicken in half and roast it in olive oil, fresh herbs and lots of garlic cloves. But when I heard the rain pelting the house as I awoke, I knew only a great

chicken soup could lift the chill. I've tossed in red onion, oyster mushrooms, Baby Bella mushrooms, celery, shredded cabbage, bundles of fresh herbs tied by their stems. Thyme, rosemary and sage. A teaspoon of cayenne pepper. A tablespoon of allspice. Two big tablespoons of smoked paprika. No salt. And some wonderful fresh English peas.

Three hours so far on a low, rolling boil. I always taste it at the two-hour mark. Spicy. Savory. Engaging for a Sunday supper. Should I do noodles or dump-

lings?

I swear it almost tastes medicinal. That's how restorative chicken soup should taste.

Such soup was meant to spread itself across the shelf life of the holiday. Reviving. Soup is the meal. I have some of that incredible homemade bread from Club Lucky in the freezer. Perfect to sop up the exotic brew. It's important to listen to your taste buds and let them lead you. More Mother Nature.

I never tire of discovering life lessons from my friendship with the fabulous Rose Marie O'Neill. Such lessons raise the heart when you least expect it.

Over the years Rose and I have added thousands of miles to our air travel around the world. We seem to always be intertwined in some project of historic Irish significance. Festivals for the O'Neill Clan in Rome, or Paris, or in their ancestral home at Shane's Castle.

Many mornings you could clock us in at Dublin Airport boarding the 5:30 a.m. flights to cities of celebration. Most just an hour or two away. The two of us have tracked a lot of history and art, and have discovered some remarkable eateries. Often with Rose entertaining Ireland's diplomats in those capitols.

We've had great adventures, but nothing beats the horse racing we have seen across Ireland and throughout Europe.

Rose knows her horseflesh. She's the daughter of a skilled longtime breeder. She has easy ways around any track. Knows where to step in the paddock. She's always been lucky with the horses. But that's because she has the secret: "I don't bet the horses. I bet the jockeys."

Whether in Florida or at the famed Galway Races, or at the Curragh, Rose does her home-

work and handicaps the riders. She did so for the recent Kentucky Derby and was a big winner. Her money was on "Attraction." But she would only talk about "Johnny Valesquez," Attraction's jockey.

We watched the race at Erie Cafe. We loved it. Rose had bets with three nephews who now must pay up.

But what a brilliant concept. Bet the jockey. Not the horse. I've been stewing on that. Mulling it over and over in my mind. Maybe it's a lesson we can all carry away with us in our "Lockdown" summer

of 2020. Maybe we're looking at things askew. We need a heavy dose of nature.

Maybe betting the jockey is a way for us toward better survival, or at least more tranquil living.

Life isn't such a long shot. Or unsure bet. Maybe it's like rubbing CBD on your sore knee, only to discover that the arthritis in your hand has eased.

Maybe betting the jockey is a way to refocus our vision. Or to listen to our taste buds. And create the perfect autumnal soup. Could it be an encouragement to a "back to basics refresher?" Maybe it's a way to reinvent ourselves during this time of pandemic. Maybe it means taking a hint from Miss Marple, another of my favorite detective stars on Britbox. From her rose-covered cottage in the village of St. Mary Meade, I think she'd understand the de-

we must all salute owner **Kenny Munic**, and his father **Herman**, a singular Chicago man of business. He, too, is iconic. Farewell pal. Well done!

GUEST HOSTING: Maria Pappas says, "Hey, tune in to 1690 AM," the County Treasurer is guest hosting again. But the real money news is that due to the boom in home re-financing, her office has handed back a record \$51.2 million in duplicate property tax payments from your Second Installment. Her Stop Taxpayer



Maria Pappas

Over-Payment System (STOPS) automatically returns a duplicate tax payment. More than 13,324 duplicate payments were prevented, a record since STOPS was launched in 2009. For the entire year, STOPS has prevented 17,771 tax overpayments totaling \$87.2 million. Both figures are records. If there

was an overpayment on your property taxes going back 20 years, apply for a refund by visiting cookcountytreasurer.com and select the purple box labeled "Your Property Tax Overview." Just enter your address.

SHINING A LIGHT:

The uproar at the American Institute of Architects [AIA] over the board's treatment of its highly respected executive vice president

LESSON see p. 8

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Ronny's Steakhouse.

light in alterations to the pain of everyday arthritis. And delight in the savory zest of the homemade soup. And I am almost certain she'd never waste a shilling on her knowledge of a horse in any race. But she'd find contentment in a study of what makes jockeys tick or successful in a nail biting finish to a race. Once she was able to analyze that, she'd bet the jockey of her choice with ease. Maybe that's all any of us can do.

CHICAGO CRIME: Our mostly peaceful last week ended with 14 killed and 58 shot. The 40% increase in deaths from the same week in 2019 is a bit higher than the 38% increase pace we are on for this year over last year. Our aim must be getting better with all the practice.



Herman Munic

SAD NEWS: Ronny's Steakhouse, 100 W Randolph St., was iconic. Wasn't the Pump Room, but it was as much a part of Chicago as the Michigan Ave. Bridge. For 57 years Ronny's placed custom steak in front of hungry customers. I walked by Ronny's in the State of Illinois Build-

ing often on my way to City Hall. Not every restaurant can boast it was designed by **Helmut Jahn**. Sadly, I never ate at Ronny's. But

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Cookies for a cause

**River North family
providing sweets
for the sweet**



**Heart
of the
'Hood**

by Felicia Dechter

Who feels like baking some cookies?

Since April, that's what River North resident Cindy Rudman and her kids, Natalie, 19, and Corey, 16, have been doing. Rudman has turned a charitable endeavor into a family affair, baking batches of cookies to add TLC to meals for the needy through Fight2Feed, a nonprofit organization that rescues food and cooks nutritious meals for underserved folks throughout the city.

Fight2Feed [F2F], which Rudman said has provided 41,000 meals since March, is on a mission to put an end to hunger and reduce food waste, starting with our own communities.

"They make a great, healthy meal," Rudman said. "They like to include a sweet, but have no

capacity to do it."

So this spring, when Rudman saw the group's call for cookies on a Lakeview social media post, "This is kind of cool," she thought. She had recently given up her Lakeview-based business of making personalized gifts, wanting to be free to visit her daughter in college and spend time with her ailing parents. Rudman had always gone with her mom to deliver meals at the Jewish holidays, and she currently volunteers at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Lakeview, so she was used to helping out.

Besides that, both Rudman's teens love to bake. Her son, Corey, has a passion for cooking and is also a Diller Teen Fellow, and through that fellowship he was asked to do something for his community. Corey enlisted some of the other fellowship families to get involved in the baking as part of their projects as well.

"The kids have really enjoyed it," said Rudman of her children.

After George Floyd was killed, Rudman wanted to do something for that cause too, she said. Yet, "I'm not a crowd person," she said, avoiding protests, etc. "But that day we baked 250 cookies. The need for feeding people doesn't go away."

Last week, Rudman delivered close to 600 cookies -- with a

little help from her friends. She reached out on social media and has a promise of 1,800 additional, which will be delivered to different groups along with their meals.

But more are always needed, especially with the holidays coming up. The only requirements are no nuts and that you bake two batches of cookies. Of course, if baking is not your thing, there are other ways to help Fight2Feed such as donating, becoming an ambassador, or chairing a committee.

F2F was founded in March 2014, said its founder/CEO, Jiwon McCartney. The year before that, McCartney had also started the live cooking competition Culinary Fight Club, now a National Cooking Competition series in 29 states.

"The group of attendees at the first few events were friends and colleagues that I enjoyed being around," said McCartney. "It was a positive social outlet for me and I wanted to do something positive with my friends. Not able to find a volunteer opportunity that met our needs -- busy executives and those of us in the hospitality industry -- I decided to create a board and founded F2F -- to feed those who are in need of a hot meal."

"It was suiting we chose hunger as most of us were in the hospi-



Cindy Rudman and her son Corey have been whipping up batches of homemade chocolate chip cookies to add TLC to meals for the needy.

tal industry," said McCartney. "We wanted to keep it simple with the focus on actively supporting those in need."

These days, F2F volunteers are in the kitchen an average of four to five days a week, rescuing food and sharing meals with organizations including Cornerstone Community Outreach in Uptown, the Streeterville-based Chicago Help Initiative, Parkside Academy for Frontline Foods, First Saint Paul's Catholic Charities and tent

communities throughout the city. They average 800 to 1,500 meals a week.

"Food is a basic human need," said McCartney. "If we can't do a simple thing like feed those who cannot feed themselves, what hope do we have to better our lives otherwise?"

Reportedly one in seven people in the U.S. face hunger every year. The rate among children is even higher, with one in five going hungry at some point during the year. And wasted food is the single largest component in American landfills, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Now more than ever is the time to come together and not only take care of ourselves but each other and our communities," said McCartney. F2F "shares meals with anyone that is hungry -- above and beyond our hungry friends living in the street."

The facilities F2F serves lack comfort foods however, said McCartney. Thus, the call for cookies.

"Cookies that are made with care by our network of safe volunteers give our meals an extra personal touch and a treat that reminds us all of home," said McCartney. "Food is memories and if nothing else, we are giving our

COOKIES see p. 4

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Despite turbulent market, Chicago sales post 5% gain



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

The Windy City's real estate market in the summer of 2020 was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, protests, marches for black lives, riots and looting from Michigan Ave. to the suburbs.

Despite the turbulent season, Chicago's August existing-home sales skyrocketed to a strong 3,154 properties closed—the highest level for the year and up 5% over the same month last year, reported a new survey by RE/MAX Next.

Another trend sparking housing sales activity is record low home-loan interest rates.

On Sept. 10, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage plummeted to an averaged 2.86%, the lowest rate in the survey's history which dates back to 1971. Dur-

ing the month of August, the average mortgage rate nationwide has been below 3%. A year ago, the 30-year fixed rate averaged 3.56%.

The RE/MAX Next August market survey also reported the following surprising findings:

- Pending under contract home sales in Chicago are at their highest level in two years.
- The inventory of new listings reached its highest level since 2018.
- The current median price for a sold home in Chicago is \$335,500—the highest price in two years.

"Chicago as a whole saw a strong end-of-summer, but it does not paint a true picture of the market," noted Mike Opyd, broker/owner of RE/MAX NEXT.

"The downtown Loop—plus immediate surrounding neighborhoods including Streeterville, the New East Side, South Loop, and River North—have been flooded with new inventory resulting in widespread price corrections," Opyd said. "Buyers are taking their time making decisions because they have many options from which to choose."

Apparently, the increase in



Many sellers today are opting to leave downtown Chicago for the suburbs and/or to sell their in-town properties because of health concerns related to the pandemic and the race riots in the Loop and Near North Side.

home and condominium inventory in the once-hot downtown neighborhoods is a direct result of Chicago's rocky summer and the failure of Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Chicago police to control the streets.

"Many sellers are opting to leave downtown for the suburbs and/or to sell their in-town properties because of the turmoil the Loop areas have recently endured," Opyd said.

However, one major downtown broker, who had a half-dozen luxury listings, said he did not show a single property over the summer.

Meanwhile, the market for homes in safe neighborhoods around the city, and nearby suburbs have largely been thriving. "The outlying city neighborhood and suburban for-sale home inventory has offset the slower Loop market, resulting in a cumulative increase in the average sales price of Chicagoland," Opyd said.

Record-low rates spark demand

"Record-low mortgage rates have ignited robust purchase demand activity, which nationwide is up 25% from a year ago and has been growing at double-digit rates

for four consecutive months," noted Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist.

"However, heading into autumn it will be difficult to sustain the growth momentum in nationwide purchases because the lack of supply is already exhibiting a constraint on sales activity," Khater predicted.

Rent debt a growing problem

A survey by Apartment List reported that 31% of renters nationwide began September owing rent for previous months. However, among those with accumulated pandemic rent debt, nearly half owe less than \$1,000.

Renters are making significant financial sacrifices to try to stay afloat. Among renters that have fallen behind on their payments, 30% report running up credit-card debt, 31% have had to sell off assets, and 16% have dipped into their retirement savings.

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.

COOKIES from p. 3

friends in need some good memories to share during these unprecedented times. And who doesn't love a good home baked chocolate chip cookie?!"

For the last three years, F2F has had a partnership with Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly, 355 N. Ashland Ave. The organization serves Little Brothers' monthly birthday celebration meals, and also brings the food to developing menus, prep, cook and serve a four course meal once a month. "With the pandemic, they have graciously allowed the use of their kitchen to F2F to serve our community in need," said McCartney.

The pandemic. How much it has changed all of our lives. But Rud-

man said she has found baking cookies to be a, "good diversion," from what's going on in the world.

"I love it," she said. "The beauty about this is that everybody can do it, everyone can have a hand in it. It's definitely a feel-good."

"You get the joy of baking but then you don't eat them," added Rudman. "Whatever you make, it's like a little piece of love in that box."

If you'd like to bake some cookies, please email Rudman at cindy@noteworthynotes.com.

Good neighbors... Many thanks to Dwayne, Robert, and Jersey at Lincoln Towing for helping out artist Sheila Swann in a crisis.

Yes, that's right, we are thanking Lincoln Towing! They earned it.



(Above) Tom Tresser was a leader in the Lincoln Park soccer field fight. Here he is, center, at a press event held April 2008 in Lincoln Park.

(Right) Bailey, a Horse of Honor painted by Inside Publications' art director Sheila Swann, is back where he belongs on the 4800 block of N. Clark Street.



The towing team was Johnny-on-the-spot to assist Swann with protecting Bailey, the Horse of Honor she so beautifully painted, which graces the neighborhood at 4872 N. Clark St.

Bailey the horse honors a fallen Chicago police officer, Michael Bailey. And after another Horse of Honor located at Children's Memorial Hospital was destroyed by rioters, Swann realized her Bailey was now at risk too.

When it became apparent that Bailey could possibly be harmed, the Lincoln Towing folks went above and beyond to help relocate the horse into their 'paddock', where he spent the Summer, and

Swann is extremely grateful for their generosity and support.

Go ahead, make my day... I'm not one to toot my own horn and usually, when someone contacts me about something I've written, I respond and pretty much keep it to myself. But when I received the following email last week it really made my day so I wanted to share it.

"Felicia -
I hope you are well and safe in these crazy times!"

As I just passed my 68th birthday I found myself reflecting on the last 12 years of public work and I realized it was all because of YOU!

Yes, your column so long ago on the Chicago Park District doing a skanky deal with the Latin School changed my life.

Everything I've done in civics and education from that time has flowed from the consequences of reading that piece and then going to work to STOP or unwind the deal you reported on.

We actually did do exactly that - against all odds (see www.we-savedlincolnpark.org).

So much has happened since then.

I was a leader in the effort to chase the 2016 Olympics from Chicago. I've done over 200 public meetings all over the city since then. I founded America's first co-working space for civic engagement and social justice. I've been attacking TIFs and have worked with teacher's unions and activists all over the country on the economic injustice aspects of TIFs. I've taught over 40 open enrollment civic workshops. I've posted presentations on SlideShare that have been viewed over 210,000 times.

All that (and more) because you wrote a piece...Thank you!
Stay safe, sane, and strong."

Tom Tresser
VP, COO, Co-Founder
CivicLab Chicago



3110 N Sheridan Road, Unit 702 1st OFFERING

Spacious 1BR plus a Den, corner unit contemporary (2017) bathroom, Brazilian Cherry floors in the living space. Kitchen has a breakfast bar, Stainless Steel appliances, oak cabinets and granite counter-tops. Secured assigned Parking included in price.

2800 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 308

Immaculate modern one bedroom with a view of the park! Large open concept, hardwood floors throughout, walk-in closet, master bedroom, and fantastic storage space. Building features 24-hour door staff, fitness center, outdoor pool, rooftop deck and party room.

3550 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 2211

This condo features beautiful gray wood floors throughout, a cook's kitchen with white shaker soft-close cabinets, white & gray tile backsplash, LED under-cabinet lighting, undermount sink & a full range of stainless steel appliances, along with a breakfast bar. Gorgeous bathroom with new floor & wall tile & vanity.



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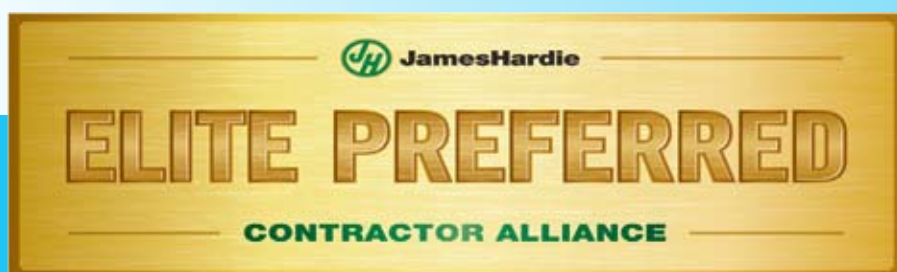
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Pandemic amplifies mental health struggles in already vulnerable young athletes

BY DAN MOBERGER
Medill News Service

At 5:30 p.m. on a muggy July day, parents dropped off their teenage daughters at Fleet Fields, a parking lot converted to basketball courts on the west bank of the Chicago River near Lincoln Park and Bucktown. Flanked by industrial-looking brick buildings on three sides, the blacktop has afforded an attractive, open-air training grounds for Flow Basketball Academy during the pandemic.

The thermometer read 83 degrees when practice began, and wispy clouds decorated the otherwise clear blue sky, leaving the sun an unimpeded lane to the young athletes. Not long after coach and co-owner Korie Hlede started running the team through drills, sweat beaded up on the brows and arms of players. None of them wore a mask.

An hour later, most of these players climbed back into the passenger seats of their parents' cars, their still-heavy breaths circulating near a loved one. They did it and continued to do it throughout the Summer because a key part of their lives vanished from March to June, and they were desperate to get it back.

"A lot of my teammates have hoops in their alleys, but I don't have an alley," said Charlotte O'Toole, a rising high school senior who plays on the 17U Flow team. "I literally could not shoot for two months, which was really, really hard and so discouraging for my mental health. You feel like you're losing something."

High school and college athletes already battle a range of stress factors: extreme pressure to succeed, improving but still insufficient mental health awareness, inadequate and underutilized counseling, and sports-centric personalities that don't allow for an identity without athletics.

Now, because of inactivity and infrequent social interaction and separation from the sports they love, the pandemic has exacerbated those mental health issues and exposed flaws in the way they are treated.

The country already wrestles with a mental health crisis. Adolescents are particularly at risk for a major depression episode—characterized by two or more weeks of depressive symptoms. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found an estimated 3.2 million, or 13.3% of, Americans aged 12 to 17 in the U.S. had at least one major depressive episode in 2017.

Then, throughout May, a team of researchers at the Univ. of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health surveyed 3,243 adolescent athletes to study the effects school closures and sports cancellations had on participants. Compared to historical data, the findings showed an increase in symptoms of depression.

The study also found decreases in physical, psychosocial and overall health. Dr. Tim McGuine and his research team determined the decline in quality of life had to be, in part, due to the lack of sports and sports-related social interactions.

"Sports is a great way to form an identity, although there are a lot of pitfalls with that," said Dr. John Mayer, a Chicago-based psychologist and president of the International Sports Professionals Assoc.

Mayer said athletes are lost without sports. Many develop substance abuse, among other unhealthy coping mechanisms.

"You see that in these adults who are populating the stands," Mayer said. "They're 50 years old, and they're wearing their letterman jacket from when they were in high school. That identity is still in them and sometimes never supplanted by another identity, which is really sad."



Players on the 17U Flow Academy AAU basketball team practice at Fleet Fields in Bucktown. Flow suspended play from mid-March to late June because of the pandemic but resumed upon Phase 4 reopening and participated in several tournaments this summer.

Photo courtesy Dan Moberger/MEDILL

tity, which is really sad."

Dr. Jayne Raquepaw, a Houston-based psychologist who specializes in treating athletes, said some patients pay her \$175-per-hour fee because they're not enjoying their sport anymore but are too invested to give it up. The pressure of earning a scholarship adversely affects their enjoyment of the game, and the pandemic only worsened the issue.

"They are still vying for scholarships in spite of play being shut down," Raquepaw said. "They are still very much concerned about their careers."

Flow athletes traveled to tournaments throughout the summer. At one in Indianapolis in early July, their first tournament back since reopening, parents and players ignored mask and distancing mandates, according to several Flow players. Despite concern over that lack of adherence to safety protocols, Flow participated in multiple tournaments this summer.

Nicole Mann, mother of Natalie Mann, a rising senior on the Flow 17U team, called the tournaments "nerve-racking."

"Basketball is a passion for her, so we're willing to take that risk," Nicole said. "We're being pretty careful in most other areas of our life. We're choosing to take a risk in that one because it's a high priority."

Jeff Levin, a Massachusetts-based life coach who works with teams and individual athletes,

said "pressure" does not properly describe what many young athletes feel. He uses the phrase "outcome fever." Counting NCAA and junior college athletes, approximately 6.7% of high school athletes go on to play in college.

"You have tutors by the time you're 12, and your parents have selected the sport you're going to be great at," said Levin, a former clinical social worker and therapist. "It's very important in the new parenting playbook that you are great at stuff, so gone is the age-old opportunity to find out who you really are and pursue what you really want as a child."

A parent of one of Raquepaw's patients, a junior in high school, physically chased down a recruiter during a basketball game last Winter. She said the patient was distressed by the pressure, as well as the embarrassment.

"There are certain parents who are just over-the-top overbearing," Raquepaw said. "There are still parents out there who do put too much pressure on [their children]."

Part of the blame, according to Raquepaw, also falls on coaches, but she acknowledged coaches may not have time to balance individual players' psyches and putting together a winning squad.

At the beginning of every season, Robert Brost, boys basketball coach at Bolingbrook High School in suburban Chicago, said he tries to ease pressure on

his players during a meeting with their families.

"Everyone lost their minds when we lost two in a row," said Brost, whose squad went 26-6 last season. "I always say, 'We are going to lose some games that we shouldn't. We're going to play bad sometimes. Your kid is going to have games where he scores 25, and he's going to have games where he scores 0, so you've got to be ready for all of those, and then you've got to love him just the same.'"

Brost said his coaching style has evolved in recent years. He now schedules one-on-one meetings, with both athletes and parents, that focus on academics and personal issues, not just basketball. During the pandemic, Brost has remained in touch with players, but said Zoom calls do not encourage the same emotional sharing that he elicits in person. He also acknowledged a lack of mental health training for high school coaches.

"We all have to take psychology of sport, but those are more about motivating athletes and getting them to do what you want them to do, rather than dealing with the issues that they have," he said.

Required training for coaches differs around the country. The National Federation of State High School Associations offers certification programs, but they are not always required, and none of the course topics are specific to mental health, although there is a subsection on "health and well-being."

Without extensive mental health training for coaches, the burden falls on school psychologists and counselors. According to 2016 research by the Univ. of New Hampshire's Carson School of Public Policy, less than 20% percent of school districts meet the American School Counselor Association's recommended student-to-counselor ratio. The recommendation is 250:1, but the nationwide median ratio is 411:1.

John Morrissey, baseball coach at Middlesex School in Concord, MA, said his son Owen struggled during his freshman season on the team, which resulted in anxiety and depression. Morrissey hired Levin to work with Owen, then later to work with the whole team. Levin piloted one in-person group session before the pandemic forced the consultations online. The team lost its season.

Parents of many Middlesex students hire counselors or psychologists because the school only employs one counselor for 400 students, according to Morrissey. For students who can't afford a private school like Middlesex, where tuition costs \$65,940 a year for boarding students, life coach or psychologist rates may not fit into the budget.

At Evanston Township High School, Joyce Anderson has a unique job title: college-bound student-athlete advisor. She said she has not seen her job descrip-

STRUGGLES see p. 10

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Cops investigate day-long Sunday crime spree

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are investigating a series of armed robberies, auto theft, and a “shots fired” incident that were reported from Lakeview to the Lower West Side on Sept. 13. At least eight crimes were reported involving similarly-described vehicles and similar methods of operation.

The crime spree began at 9:35 a.m. on the 3200 block of N. Southport in Lakeview. There, a 48-year-old woman was unloading groceries from her car when a man asked for directions, then pulled out a handgun and demanded the keys to both of her vehicles, said Officer Michelle Tannehill, a CPD spokesperson.

The woman turned them over, and the robbers fled in her gray 2019 Subaru, Tannehill said.

At 10 a.m., a 40-year-old man reported that he was making a delivery on the 2900 block of N. Mildred when someone got into his vehicle and drove away, according to Tannehill. A witness saw the offender get out of a black

sedan before stealing the victim’s car.

Then, at 10:20 a.m., two men stole a silver Jeep Cherokee that a 25-year-old woman left idling while she ran into Starbucks, 3649 N. Clark, according to a CPD report. Her Jeep, which has a vanity license plate beginning with NOLL and distinctive stickers on the rear, would later be observed at other crime scenes. Once again, the offenders arrived in a black sedan. A black Jeep Cherokee was also seen in the immediate area.

More potentially-connected incidents popped up a couple of hours later on the Lower West Side, according to CPD reports.

Around 12:50 p.m., a man reported that someone fired shots from a black Jeep Cherokee as he drove near 19th Street and Oakley Avenue. The victim was not injured, but he said the Jeep was accompanied by a gray vehicle.

At about the same time, a gunman approached another victim on the street, presented a handgun, and asked for money on the 2300 block of W. 19th Street,

according to a CPD report. The victim said he ran away, and the offender chased him for a short time. He said the offenders used two Jeep Cherokees — one black, the other silver.

The West Town neighborhood appears to have been targeted by the crew next.

Two 27-year-old women were walking on the 1500 block of W. Fry when a group of offenders approached them from behind and robbed them at 1:20 p.m., Tannehill said. The offenders then got into a black Jeep Cherokee and fled northbound through an alley. An officer at the scene broadcast a description of the vehicles that included the vanity license plate that was taken in the Starbucks auto theft earlier.

Moments later, a 31-year-old woman was walking on the 1600 block of W. Cortez when a man got out of dark-colored Jeep Cherokee and demanded her valuables at gunpoint, according to Tannehill. The victim told police that

SPREE see p. 10

Investigators clear cop of post-Pride Parade excessive force claim

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago’s police oversight agency has exonerated a cop who was accused of using excessive force as he and other officers broke up a brawl following the 2018 Pride Parade. Part of the incident was captured on video that spread widely on social media at the time.

The Civilian Office of Police Accountability [COPA] recently concluded that Officer Brandon Dewitt’s actions at the scene were “lawful and proper” and “within Department policy,” the agency’s Chief of Investigative Operations, Andrea Kersten, wrote in a summary report.

Kersten also said the woman who filed the complaint against Dewitt made some allegations that were “inconsistent with 3rd party video footage.”

COPA launched its investigation after this reporter broke news of the allegations.

When the incident unfolded around 9:30 p.m. June 24, 2018, Dewitt and other officers were in their fifth hour of trying to maintain order along Belmont Ave. where large, lingering crowds sparked a series of fights following the parade.

That’s when passersby directed Dewitt’s team to a large brawl outside Big City Tap, 1010 W. Belmont, according to a CPD report.

As officers approached, they saw 18-year-old Breah Bedford striking the bar’s owner with “what appeared to be a long white metal object,” according to CPD’s documentation. The bar’s owner

was holding Bedford’s friend, 20-year-old Simone Jones, to the ground at the time, police said.

Dewitt “grabbed [Bedford’s] arms and pulled her away, resulting in [her] falling to the ground and having a seizure,” Kersten said in COPA’s summary report.

But when Bedford complained to COPA, she alleged that Dewitt “without provocation cuffed his arm around her neck and slammed her to the ground... According to [Bedford], she was not trying to fight anyone,” Kersten wrote.

Bedford’s “statement is inconsistent with 3rd party video footage, which captures [her] swinging at another individual when Officer Dewitt initiated contact with [her],” COPA concluded.

The “long white metal object” that police allegedly saw Bedford using to strike the bar’s manager was “actually plastic beads,” the agency concluded. But during a deposition, Bedford claimed that she used her cloth bra to hit the manager, according to COPA.

“When confronted with the video showing her striking [the

manager] with an object in her hand, [Bedford] said she did not know what the object was,” Kersten wrote.

Kersten also said Bedford refused to identify other people who were in her group “citing that the information was confidential.”

Bedford “described a history of non-epileptic seizures” during her COPA deposition, according to the agency.

“While [Bedford] denied being an active participant in the fight, 3rd party video footage depicts [her] actively engaging in a fight and Officer Dewitt’s subsequent use of force [was] to separate her from the person she was striking,” Kersten concluded.

Both Bedford and Jones were found not guilty of misdemeanor battery during bench trials by Judge Anthony Calabrese in Dec. 2018.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit that Bedford and Jones filed last year against Dewitt, five other cops, the city, Big City Tap, and the bar’s owner is making its way through federal court.



N. LSD study proposals may soon be released

The city and state’s N. Lake Shore Dr. project team has reached a milestone in the study process as they prepare to recommend a narrowed range of alternatives to be carried forward to the next stage of analysis.

Two of the big goals of the plan will be coming to the portions of the roadway adjacent to the Gold Coast and Uptown.

East of the Gold Coast they want to add shoreline at Oak St. beach to protect the land and trails from flooding and storm surges by extending the shoreline east into Lake Michigan. That would add a minimum of 59 new acres of parkland at the famous north point of the Oak St. “S” curve.

In the area from Foster south to Montrose avenues they’d like to grade separate east-west access paths from the main north-south bike path to minimize conflicts throughout the corridor at access points.

They’d like to provide a 12’ wide bike path throughout the length of corridor, and a 20’ wide pedestrian path throughout the length of corridor (14’ paved path with 3’ crushed limestone shoulders).

They would also like to increase the number of accesses to the lakefront, from the existing 22 to 28 proposed accesses, which is approximately one every quarter-mile or less.

They are also talking about closing - or perhaps re-locating - one of the exits between Montrose and Lawrence Ave.

No costs or pricing were noted for any of these changes or expansions.

Those who wish to comment are encouraged to visit northlake-shoredrive.org/contact.

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Local Jewish center to offer 11 outdoor Shofar-blowing services

A group of volunteers from Chabad East Lakeview will offer 11 free outdoor Shofar blowing services Sunday to help the local Jewish population safely celebrate Rosh Hashanah during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Services will take place at 1 p.m. outside of Chabad East, 615 W. Wellington Ave.; 1:30 p.m. in Lincoln Park near the intersection of N. Lake Shore Dr. and W. Wellington Ave.; 2:15 p.m. at the “five corners” of W. Wellington Ave., N. Southport Ave. and N. Lincoln Ave.; 2:45 p.m. at the intersection of N. Lincoln Ave., N. Marshfield Ave. and W. School St.; 3:15 p.m. at Sheil Park, 3505 N. Southport Ave.; 3:45 p.m. at

Gallagher Way, 3635 N. Clark St.; 4:15 p.m. outside of Gill Park, 825 W. Sheridan Rd.; 4:45 p.m. outside of the Best Western at 3434 N. Broadway; 5:10 p.m. on Melrose St. outside of The Netelhorst School, 3252 N. Broadway; 5:45 p.m. at the Boat Park playground where W. Roscoe St. meets Belmont Harbor at Lake Michigan; and 6:40 p.m. where W. Belmont Ave. meets Belmont Harbor at Lake Michigan.

Chabad East also will host two indoor services Sunday.

Anyone who is unable to attend any of the scheduled services can arrange for an at-home Shofar blowing by calling 773-495-7127.

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LESSON from p. 2

Zurich Esposito continues. Amazingly, a Change.org petition demanding Esposito's reinstatement has received some 661 signatures. Many, ironically, from the bosses of the firms employing the board members whose secret shenanigans first set this fiasco in motion. Meanwhile, Esposito's support has reached national attention. And the conversation is taking a serious turn in asking critical questions about the character and truthful intentions of the board members themselves. Seems they really miscalculated in their attack on Esposito. And stalling by the board's attorney to adequately address concerns of AIA membership is painting the board into a corner of misjudgment. Esposito's attorney, Nancy Temple, has encountered nothing but pure malarkey from the board's attorney who has obfuscated at every turn. Including



Lil Ann Zisook, Carole Rudoy, Ruthie Weisbach, Gloria Kaufman, Ilene Greenfeld, Linda Robin, Cookie Stagman and Hanna Golub.

playing the COVID-19 card when accused of hiding from making adequate responses to concerns. Can't make this stuff up.

SERVICE CLUB NEWS: Myra Reilly and Cathy Bell Barthomomay sharing a beautiful day with Service Club member Marguerite Hark viewing the virtual Spring into Fall luncheon. Proud to be a part of an organization that does so much for so many. And huge congrats to Sherrill Bodine and The Club on yet another successful virtual event, “A White House Floral Affair”(produced by ZZAZZ Productions)! Co-chaired by Barthomomay, Annette Findling and Michelle Baker, the event featured White House floral designer Laura Dowling.

TOO CUTE: Pam Santoro Capitanini “One of a kind Derby Hats” with Kimberly Filan and Laurette Micah and the gang.

TIME - LESS STYLE: Carrie Lannon at Ping Tom Park in Chinatown, exploring murals by artist Anna Murphy, who has created three gorgeous scenes painted under a rusty bridge

at the 18th Street park. The medium is acrylic paint with gold leafing. Magical.

BIRTHDAY CHEER: Practicing careful restrictions, friends had their masks on and practiced social distancing at lunch at Bryn Mawr Country Club, recently,

celebrating Lil Ann Zisook and Carole Rudoy's birthdays. Ruthie Weisbach, Gloria Kaufman, Ilene Greenfeld, Linda Robin, Cookie Stagman and Hanna Golub joined their treasured special birthday pals.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Marius Morkvenas and Hector Gustavo Cardenas in Istanbul, humming along to the prayer calls, in a hotel that has a view of the shimmering Bosphorus all the way to Ephesus. And asking the question during travel, are people beginning to like the deserted airports?

NEW WORK: Artist David Cook's latest work, “Sagamore,” 18” x 22” oil on canvas, is a real show stopper. Bravo.

SUMMER RE-UNION: Attorney Dan Balanoff doing a siblings breakfast in the West Loop with Asa Balanoff Naiditch before she returns to London. Loves spending time with sister and splitting a crumpet.

WHIPLASH: Yes, that was Tracey Tarantino Di Buono, proving she hasn't lost her skill at roller skating and her command of the summer streets.

The video is cool.

CLOSE UP: Col Paul Malarik III lounging in the comfort of the past in the living room of the Fortnightly Club of Chicago. Remembering February 14, 1976. “I was there when everything in the Pump Room was sold. Ambassador East hasn't been the same since!”

TAKE FIVE: Sherry Lea Fox is at Las Ventanas al Paraiso, in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. She says, “All my paths lead to paradise. Home away from home.”

SILVER LINING: Mark Roscoe is with Sandy Goldberg, first day of shooting a music video for the incomparable, Opal Staples, premiering her new single, “I Believe.” The song will be featured at a Silver Lining Foundation gala on Oct. 3. With Kathy Warner Taglia, Valeri Madvek, Danella Rudman, Barbara Douglas and



Mark Roscoe is with Dr. Sandy Goldberg, first day of shooting a music video for the incomparable, Opal Staples.

picturesque nation beside Italy, for their celebration marking the historic 1,719th anniversary of their nationhood.

WEDDING BELLS: Maestro Rich Daniels is with wife, Kathy Daniels, and the expanding family. Daughter Emily Daniels said “yes” to Conor McDonald when he asked her to marry him (after quietly checking in with mom and dad). The family is happy to welcome Conor to the family and delighted Emily will be part of Jim and Erin McDonald's family.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM: Candace Jordan with Melissa Forman and Susan Abrams, excited to report that the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center's virtual soirée was a huge success. Candace hosted this inspiring night live from Frost Studios. The Museum team



Cathy Bell Bartholomay, Myra Reilly and Marguerite Hark.

worked tirelessly to make this night come together perfectly.

REFRESHED VENUE: William and Erin Kresse started their holiday weekend celebration at the gorgeous new back patio venue at Harry Caray's

Italian Steakhouse. Great expansion, Grant DePorter. Holy Cow. Beautiful setting with a beautiful date.

ILLINI: Stephanie Leese Emrich's labor of love, pursuing her Master of Science, balanced with ServiceSpeaks, keeps her hopping. After exploring many options U of I's Recreation, Sport & Tourism degree won out. In-depth study of the role of museums, the Olympics, leisure activities grand and small, in enhancing the quality of life. A dream come true.

THE DUNES: Jim Kinney and Brian White spent a lovely weekend doing nothing in Indiana with Brian Hollander and Susie Kealy. Much needed chilling out was accomplished. They always make me socially exhausted.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. -- Aristotle

tog515@gmail.com

Police Beat...

Career burglar busted by Lakeview neighborhood watch group

A career burglar met his match this week when a Lakeview neighborhood watch group helped police track him down, according to prosecutors.

It all started on Aug. 27 when a homeowner discovered that someone stole bikes and alcohol from their garage on the 1400 block of W. Melrose.

The victim shared surveillance photos of the intruder on a Slack channel that's maintained by BARR Neighbors Association, a group of neighbors who fund private security patrols in the area between Barry, Ashland, Roscoe, and Racine streets.



Miguel Sanchez

Another member of the group recognized the man as Miguel Sanchez from other burglaries in the area, prosecutors said Friday. The homeowner filed a police report and shared Sanchez's name with a local beat officer who passed the information along to a burglary detective who handled previous cases involving Sanchez, according to the state's allegations.

Police arrested Sanchez, 49, last week. Prosecutors charged him with felony burglary. Sanchez allegedly identified himself in the surveillance photos that the homeowner shared.

Judge Charles Beach set bail for Sanchez at \$10,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a \$1,000 deposit bond. Before he can do that, though, Sanchez will need to clear up a potential parole violation with the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Prosecutors said Sanchez is on parole for theft. He previously served 30 months for two thefts in 2018. In 2009, he received concurrent 14-year and 10-year sentences for a pair of residential burglaries.

Since 2017, members of BARR Neighbors have pooled money to finance nightly security patrols by off-duty police officers "to serve as eyes and ears" for residents, according to a spokesperson. The officers do not leave their patrol car, but they can respond to crimes and provide information to on-duty officers, the representative said.

Burglars stealing ATMs from North Side stores

A group of men with a banged-up minivan are stealing ATMs and cash register funds from businesses in Lakeview, Roscoe Village and Uptown, police say. The crew has struck at least three times since Aug. 25, and they may have done it again on Sept. 3.

Police said the men are using force to open businesses' front doors, then hauling away cash machines and any money that's in the shop's registers.

Detectives tied three cases to the pattern, one on the 2100 block of W. Belmont at 3:40 a.m. Aug. 25, another at Red Hot Ranch, 3057 N. Ashland, 2:46 a.m. Aug. 29. The offenders tried but failed to get the restaurant's ATM, according to

a CPD report. They did get a small amount of money from the till.

Finally one on the 800 block of W. Irving Park, around 3 a.m. Aug. 29. A police report identified the business as Uptown Smoke Zone.

Surveillance video shows the team using an older-model, damaged gray minivan with a missing hubcap.

Patrol officers spotted the van in Uptown around 2:10 a.m. Thursday after someone damaged the storefront and took a cash register from GNS Market, 4092 N. Broadway. But the vehicle got away.

In the community alert, police described the suspects only as Black males between 18- and 30-years-old.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding pattern P20-3-167.

Driver carjacked in North Center

Two men carjacked a driver at gunpoint while the victim waited for a passenger in the North Center neighborhood on Sept. 11, police said. No arrests have been made.

The driver, a 50-year-old man, pulled over in the 3800 block of N. Oakley to wait for a passenger when the men walked up to his side window and pointed a gun at him around 11:40 p.m., said Officer Michelle Tannehill, a CPD spokesperson.

The men demanded his car, and the victim complied. Taken was a silver 2007 Lexus sedan with a license plate that begins with Q4306.

According to the victim, the carjackers are two Black men in their late teens or early 20's. They wore face masks, and their gun had a laser sight attached, he said.

Customer robbed inside Lincoln Park 7-Eleven store

A customer was robbed by two men while he shopped at a Lincoln Park convenience store Sept. 12, police said. And when the store clerk intervened, the offenders beat him, too.

According to police, two robbers battered and robbed a 29-year-old man inside the 7-Eleven at 2004 N. Halsted around 12:30 a.m. They took the man's backpack, which contained Beats headphones and a laptop, according to a CPD report.

Then, the offenders battered the store's 59-year-old clerk when he tried to lock the front doors during the robbery, CPD spokesperson said. Both victims declined medical attention.

The robbers managed to get out of the store and fled southbound on Halsted, according to the victims. They described the offenders as: a Hispanic man with black hair and a gray beard who's about 40-years-old, and a slightly younger Hispanic man who has a design shaved into his hair.

One offender reportedly wore a white shirt with black pants while the other wore a red shirt and red pants.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Man reports being shot on LSD near Navy Pier

Police are checking into a 26-year-old man's claim that he was shot while riding in a car on Lake Shore Dr. near Navy Pier Sept. 11.

The man walked into Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound to his right knee around 11 a.m.

He later told police that he was traveling on the 500 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. when he heard gunfire and felt pain in his leg around 10:30 a.m., according to Officer Michelle Tannehill, a CPD spokesperson.

There were no 911 calls of shots fired in that area around that time, according to dispatch records.

The man was discharged from the hospital by mid-afternoon.

Man fired 14 rounds during bogus "hostage situation" downtown

A Chicago man fired 10 rounds through the wall of a short-term rental apartment during a SWAT stand-off Sept. 10 that began when he falsely told friends in a video chat that armed men were holding him at gunpoint, according to prosecutors.

Edward Cook, 33, is charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon, aggravated discharge of a firearm, and filing a false report.

Two of Cook's friends raced to an apartment building on the 1400 block of S. Wabash after he told them



Edward Cook

he was being held hostage via Facebook Messenger around 10:30 a.m., Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said.

Upon arrival, the friends flagged down police to report that up to six armed men were holding Cook hostage on the sixth floor. Patrol officers subsequently called in a SWAT team.

The SWAT officers heard gunfire inside Cook's unit at least twice while they stood outside in the hallway, Murphy said.

Around 12:30 p.m., Cook opened his door and surrendered. Police found a 9-mm handgun on the living room floor and ten gunshots that flew into a neighboring unit, striking the shower, toilet, mirror, and hallway, according to Murphy. Cook allegedly fired a total of 14 rounds during the incident and he does not have a license to possess a firearm in Illinois. No one was injured.

Cops did not find anyone else in the apartment. Cook's friends said they did not see anyone else on his video messages, either. And no one escaped the building while SWAT had it locked down, Murphy said.

Emily Bock, Cook's public defender, said the case is a matter of self-defense.

Judge Charles Beach set bail at \$250,000. Cook will need to post a \$25,000 deposit bond and go onto electronic monitoring if he wants to get out of jail before trial, Beach said.

Murphy said Cook had been living in the apartment for about three weeks after it was rented by a third party.

Police identify series of robberies at North Side bank ATMs

Police are trying to track down a two-man robbery and theft crew that is targeting victims at bank ATMs on the city's North Side, according to a source. Detectives have not publicly warned about the crime pattern yet.

Typically, one or two men approach victims – usually women – as they use ATMs outside bank branches. One possible case was reported Saturday on the Far North Side at Chase Bank, 6350 N. McCormick, in the North Park neighborhood.

That's when a man took money from an elderly woman as she used the branch's ATM. He then escorted the woman into the bank and tried to get her to withdraw more money from a teller. When a bank security guard intervened and asked the woman why the man was with her, she said she didn't know, according to a police report.

A similar crime unfolded at a Chase Bank branch in Lincoln Square on July 25. Two men forced the victim to withdraw cash from an ATM at 1809 W. Lawrence and then forced her to withdraw additional funds from a teller inside the bank, a police spokesperson said at the time. The offend-



Left to right- Gary Norman, Charles Moore, and Anthony Morris

Three arrested, gun recovered at memorial service for crash victims

Three men are facing felony charges after one of them was found carrying a handgun at a memorial service in Rogers Park for two men who died in a fiery car crash on Lake Shore Dr. on Sept. 6.

Jatwaun Smith, 22, and Leroy Francis, 25, died after their car collided with a barrier and burst into flames near the S-curve at 1000 N. Lake Shore Dr., according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.

Both men were "middle to high-ranking" gang members based in the Rogers Park neighborhood, according to a police department source. Cops found a loaded handgun and a 30-round ammunition magazine at the crash site.

When friends and family members of the two men gathered for a memorial service that Sunday evening in the 7700 block of N. Paulina, police kept an eye on things via a nearby CPD surveillance camera, prosecutors said.

Around 5:20 p.m., the camera team allegedly saw Charles Moore, 21, concealing a firearm in his waistband. Patrol officers went to the scene and found a loaded 9-millimeter handgun with an extended ammunition magazine in Moore's waistband during a search, according to prosecutors.

Moore is charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon. Judge Charles Beach ruled that he could get out of jail on electronic monitoring by posting a \$500 deposit bond.

Two other men who allegedly tried to intervene in Moore's arrest are charged with battering police and resisting arrest.

Gary Norman Jr., 26, punched an officer twice in the face and injured two other cops who tried to arrest him,

ers took about \$4,000 — the same amount that was reportedly sought in the North Park incident.

In a slightly different scenario on Aug. 6, two robbers forced a man to withdraw money from an ATM at Chase Bank, 3335 N. Ashland, in Lakeview. The 25-year-old man was depositing a check when the men approached him around 8:20 p.m., according to police. No suspect descriptions were available in the case.

Saturday's offender was a tall Black male who wore a green jacket with a blue cap, according to witness descriptions.

The Lincoln Square incident involved two Black males: One was well-built, stood about 6' tall, and had a trimmed beard. The other weighed about 275 lbs. They have been seen using a white Jeep and an unspecified red vehicle, according to witnesses.

Robbery of concealed carry holder linked to armed hold-up team

The armed robbery of a concealed-carry holder in Streeterville Sept. 5 is part of a broader crime pattern, police said in a community alert late Sept. 8.

Detectives have now linked at least four armed robberies to the men who held up the concealed gun licensee and took her firearm as she sat on the 400 block of N. New St. around 3:45 a.m. Sept. 5.

The crime pattern involves two men who walk up to victims and begin a conversation before one of them pulls out a handgun and announces

prosecutors said. He's charged with three felony counts of aggravated battery of a police officer and three counts of resisting police.

His attorney said the crash victims were Norman's close friends.

Anthony Morris, 20, allegedly kicked an officer who was trying to arrest Norman. Prosecutors charged him with aggravated battery of a police officer and resisting police.

Morris' defense attorney, Andrea Bonds, said the "incident escalated by police presence" and she read part of a statement that Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] released after the arrests were made: "I wish that people could gather to mourn and not have to worry about police coming to arrest anyone."

Bonds omitted the next sentence of the alderman's statement: "I also wish that people could gather to mourn and that no one would show up carrying weapons."

Beach ruled that Morris can go home on an 11 p.m. to 1 p.m. curfew by posting a \$500 deposit bond.

Norman was ordered held without bail on a parole violation warrant. State records show Norman was released from prison early after serving half of a one-year sentence for resisting police last year. Beach set bail for Norman in the new case at \$100,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he can clear up the parole violation and post a \$10,000 deposit bond.

The medical examiner ruled that Smith died from thermal- and crash-related injuries, but the office has not yet released a cause of death for Francis.

a robbery, police said. Detectives linked four cases to the team since Aug. 24: Around 9:15 a.m. Aug. 24, the men confronted a woman in front of a home on the 1800 block of N. Dayton in Lincoln Park. The team struck again on the 800 block of N. Michigan during the evening of Aug. 27, according to the alert. But CPD records indicate the robbery actually took place nearby on the 800 block of N. Mies van der Rohe at 8:30 p.m. that night. That same night, they robbed a victim on the 600 block of N. Kingsbury around 10:30 p.m.

In the Sept. 5 robbery, a 23-year-old woman was legally carrying a concealed handgun as she sat on a bench when armed men robbed her of her pistol and other prop-

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Downtown Illinois Secretary of State facilities closed

Chicago's downtown Illinois Secretary of State offices at the James R. Thompson Center and Chicago Loop Express located at 69 W. Washington are temporarily closed.

Those who need state services may visit the facility at 5401 N. Elston Ave., but should expect long lines.

The state warns resident that they must be prepared to wait outside in various types of weather due to social distancing, which limits the number of people inside a facility at one time.

All driver's licenses, ID cards, vehicle registration, restricted driving permits and monitoring device driving permits that are currently expired or set to expire by Sept. 30 have been extended until Nov. 1.

Secretary of State and State Treasurer have waived E-check payment processing for vehicle sticker renewal, duplicate driver's license/ID card and driver's license renewal.

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security pushed back the REAL ID deadline one year to Oct. 1, 2021. Current Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports, military bases and secure federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2021.

Furthermore, the expiration date for valid driver's licenses held by Illinois drivers who are 75 years of age or older has been extended for a period of one year past the licenses' current 2020 expiration date. As a result, drivers age 75 and older with a 2020 driver's license expiration date do not need to visit a facility to renew their driver's license until shortly before their birthday in 2021.

*A healthy male adult bore
consumes each year one and a half times
his own weight in other people*

Do a bird a favor, turn off the lights at night

Fall migration is a dangerous time for birds, especially when trying to navigate the cities they fly over.

One of the best ways to reduce bird mortality is to turn lights off in high rise buildings at night, when many species are moving.

The Chicago Audubon Society is now promoting a new Lights Out program in Chicago. Throughout the migratory seasons — the fall season started in July for shore birds and will likely run through early November — Lakefront and downtown buildings cut down on their decorative lighting and follow other guidelines, including extinguishing or dimming lobby lighting, and minimizing lighting in all perimeter rooms.

The western shore of Lake Michigan is a super-highway of sorts for migratory birds. And birds don't really understand about large cities with large buildings with windows and glass, ... and so birds will smack into them. It's a big problem for the birds. The light attacks them and their crashes into the windows disrupt their migration, many times resulting in death and injuries. Research has shown that birds



Join light reduction efforts to make Chicago a safer place for migrating birds.

in the Loop have served as an example to the nation as they estimate these actions save 10,000 birds' lives annually by participating in the Lights Out program. In addition to saving migratory birds, building owners have realized direct benefits, including decreased energy and maintenance costs.

Over 250 species migrate through Chicago every year, about eight million individuals in all. Many birds killed by Chicago buildings are small migrants from the tropics — warblers, thrushes, tanagers and others.

Property owners and managers can take action right away by following the Lights Out guidelines. To enroll in the Lights Out program and receive support, call the Chicago Audubon Society at 773-539-6793.

just do not see glass.

The goal is to reduce the total light emitted from the building from 11 p.m. until sunrise during migratory seasons in late November.

Since 1995, Chicago's tall buildings

TIF funds proposed for two CTA repairs

A pair of Chicago Transit Authority [CTA] infrastructure improvements in the Loop would be assisted with up to \$9.1 million in Tax Increment Financing [TIF] under a proposal introduced Sept. 9 to City Council by Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

The rehabilitation of the CTA elevated tracks at the east and west approach positions to the Lake Street Bridge over the Chicago River would be supported with \$7 million in TIF financing. The work would include new rails, switch points, signal systems, and related elements. The

project would be coordinated with the Chicago Department of Transportation's (CDOT) planned replacement of the movable bridge, which carries the CTA's Pink and Green lines.

The balance of the \$8.2 million renewal project would be funded by the CTA. The bridge was originally constructed in 1916 and last renovated in 1995.

Improvements to the Monroe St. subway between Arcade and Marble places would be financed entirely with \$2.1 million in TIF funds.

RATS from p. 1

ces or urine can cause a bacterial infection and worsen asthma symptoms, especially in children.

Cruz cited other reasons for the increased number of calls to report rodents. She said more people are cooking at home and that means increased trash levels. People also are cultivating vegetable gardens, which is another food source for the rodents. "Bird feeders also are a problem with food falling on the ground and attracting rodents," she said. "Another big problem is people failing to pick up after their dogs."

Our furry neighbors prefer fresh food, but will eat many things such as pet food, dog feces, garbage and plants. If food is scarce, the strongest rats may even eat their own weakest and young.

Rose Pest Solutions at 1809 W. North Ave. said call volume is 20% higher than last year, especially in the city. Janelle Iaccino, a company spokesperson, said, "The lack of available food sources for rats due to the closing of restaurants and snack shops is a major contributing factor to the increase in rat sightings. With more people at home, residential containers are filling up and folks are noticing more rodent activity."

In places where rats have been depending on the easy handouts, when that disappears they don't know what to do. But hungry rats are very good at sniffing out new sources of food. So as humans around town have changed their behaviors due to the threat of the pandemic, the rats did too. They are masters of adaptation.

Indeed hungry rats can wander quite a distance and end up in a different neighborhood completely that had no rats prior to COVID-19 coming to town. And their powerful teeth can make short work of a barriers like doors, plastics, or fabrics

Iaccino said they remind customers to place trash in sealed containers, keep dumpsters closed and pick up pet waste. Inside the home, she cautions people to keep pet food in sealed containers and seal gaps around windows and doors.

But it's not only near trash bins and alleyways that rodent sightings have been reported. Rats are seeking not only new food sources, but they're also seeking new nesting sites. And they've found them in car engines of vehicles that have not been driven while people are staying at home. Rats are chewing through wiring, causing significant damage to car engines, according to Car and Driver magazine.

City tackles the issue

One of the city's most effective way to combat rodents is to ensure that all trash is placed in dumpsters or bins with lids. As many residents use heavy duty carts with tight-fitting lids to contain garbage, they are able to cut off one of the main sources of food in a rat's diet when they cover these receptacles.

The city is taking action against owners whose property is attracting rodents. DSS issues "rat stoppage" tickets to property owners who allow exterior building conditions to harbor rats. Owners who receive rat stoppage tickets are required to take corrective action within 15 days; failure to comply enables the city to perform this work and bill the owner for any costs incurred.

Dan Luna, Chief-of-Staff for Ald. Harry Osterman [48th] advised ward residents to report any broken garbage carts or overflowing dumpsters to the office for repair and replacement and to always pick up after their dogs. "Our ward superintendent is the best in the city and he's definitely on top of this," said Luna.

And this may be a great time to hunt rats too, since rats with empty bellies will be more likely to take food from baited traps.

SAFETY from p. 1

been installed, but the commanders of the 18th and 19th Districts will be telling us the best locations for the additional cameras. We are confident this will be accomplished quickly," she said.

The CPD's Community Policing team will try to work with community leaders to keep the city safe from looting, destruction and other criminal activity. The city will conduct weekly operations meetings, including weekly intelligence-sharing meetings with business associations and owners to share observations, improve coordination, and better prepare for potential incidents.

Perhaps the biggest problem is a lack of any robust legal actions against known troublemakers and criminals by Cook County courts and the State's Attorney's Office. The FBI and CPD have formed a special detective task force for looting cases, and those captured by the FBI may be charged in federal court, where they would face the consequences of being tried for violent crimes.

Many local aldermen are now critical of State's Attorney Kim Foxx, for her lax effort on prosecuting violent crimes. But with the election on the horizon, the State's Attorney has now offered assistance in ensuring CPD is able to bring appropriate charges that get past felony review and are fully prosecuted. Forty-three of the 44 cases presented to her office last week were charged as felonies.

SUPPORT from p. 1

which will reimburse the NeighborSpace Land Trust for the installation of raised beds, fencing, signage, and benches along a Metra railroad embankment. The balance of the \$96,000 project is being financed through private donations.

The A.N. Pritzker School, 2009 W. Schiller St., will be reimbursed \$400,000 in Open Space Impact taxes for the second phase of its outdoor school improvement project. The fees will pay for a new playground with rubber surfacing, new pathways, landscaping, and water fountains. The balance of the \$540,000 project will be paid by a state grant. The project's \$1.4 million first phase included \$100,000 in tax support for basketball courts, a running track, a multi-sport turf field, and a drainage system.



DEPAUL'S COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLEDGE

As a community that respects the dignity of all people, we are committed to taking care of ourselves and taking care of our DePaul community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pledge to do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our campus community. We invite you to join us in keeping Chicago safe and healthy.

Learn more about how we're pledging to keep our community safe by visiting go.depaul.edu/healthpledge.