

In life, as in chess, forethought wins.

— Charles Buxton

VOL. 119, NO. 38

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

[insideonline.com](https://insideonline.com)



Work has begun in Lincoln Park as developers begin to insert a huge six story building into the middle of what once was The Second Church of Christ Scientist. Already gone to dust and sky, (as is evident in this photo) is the beautiful domed ceiling that was once the architectural centerpiece of this 120 year old Church. *Photo by Jim Matusik*

## Michigan Ave. bridge repairs

The expansion joints on the Michigan Ave. bridge are under repair now at the intersection with Wacker Dr. as well as just north of the Chicago River.

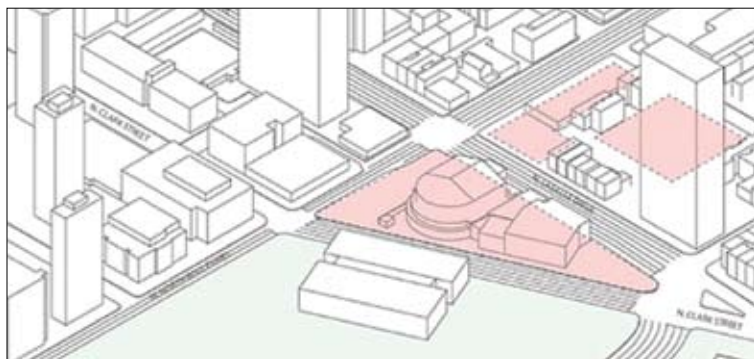
The project will be ongoing now through Oct. 6, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The project consists of replacing expansion joint glands at six joints just north of the river and

replacing the expansion joint system for the joint at the south end of the Michigan and Wacker intersection.

A one-lane rolling closure will be in place each night during construction hours and will be put out and picked up each day. Both sidewalks will remain open to traffic at all times.

## Cannabis Assoc. backs Ald. Hopkins pot ordinance, page 3



The site (in pink) of the proposed development for property along North Ave. between Wells and LaSalle in Old Town will be discussed Sept. 26.

## Virtual community meeting Sept. 26 on North, LaSalle, Clark development

There will be a virtual community meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, regarding a proposed development for property along North Ave. between Wells and LaSalle in Old Town.

The plan includes several properties in the Old Town neighborhood owned by Fern Hill, a Chicago-based developer, and The Moody Church. Several large notable neighborhood properties are included in and around the intersection of North Ave. and LaSalle Dr., including the former Treasure Island Grocery Store space on Wells St.

The meeting is being hosted by the 2nd Ward Office, and reservations are being taken at [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/registration/WN\\_wg56OvzLRpWYAUG-9ax1oQ#registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/registration/WN_wg56OvzLRpWYAUG-9ax1oQ#registration). Those

who need help registering for the meeting may contact the ward office at [ward02@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward02@cityofchicago.org) or 312-643-2299.

After a multi-year process and previous conceptual conversations and presentations, this Zoom meeting will allow for developer, Fern Hill, to present a specific proposal. Founded in 2018, Fern Hill is a privately-held real estate development and investment firm.

The Moody Church has served as a longstanding member of the Old Town community with 150-year roots. The Church has called their current Sanctuary home since 1925. The Moody Church has over 2,100 active members with representation across the city.

## 'Noise pollution' enforcement cameras proposed for areas south of North Ave.

Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] last week introduced an ordinance into City Council to establish an Automated Muffler Noise Enforcement Pilot Program.

If it is passed by the full City Council, the ordinance (Section 9-76-140 (a), Chapter 9-109 of the code) allows the City to procure cameras and recording equipment with the ability to issue automated citations that would be mailed to the owners of vehicles and motorcycles with modified mufflers or

removed exhaust systems.

These cameras will be installed within the pilot area bounded by North and Ashland avenues, I-55 and Lake Michigan. The ordinance would take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

The bills sponsors say they're following the guidance of the World Health Organization [WHO] which claims that traffic noise is the "second worst environmental stressor affecting human health." The WHO's study

claims that noise pollution accounts "for more than 1 million healthy years of life lost annually."

Those violating the noise ordinance would be captured on cameras mounted to city light poles, and other locations, and get tickets sent to them in the mail.

The proposal was co-sponsored by North Side aldermen Brian Hopkins [2nd], and Timmy Knudson [43rd].

## The party's over, late night moratorium coming to Old Town

### Party scene may see crackdown

Old Town residents and city officials may be about to turn on the lights and call an end to the late night party scene in Old Town if Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] gets his way.

The North Side alderman wants to stop the city from issuing any new 4 a.m. liquor licenses on Wells St, a long-time center of entertainment.

On Sept. 14, Ald. Hopkins introduced a pair of ordinances to City Council that could stop any

expansion of late night liquor service. The proposal expresses his and his constituents frustrations over the police's inability to handle the growing troubles.

But troubles are not new to Old Town. For decades the area was a destination for Midwestern youth seeking entertainment and a counter culture. During the 1950s it was the first place that saw a blooming gay community, and during the 1960s and 70s the neighborhood was the center of hippie and yuppie counter culture. It had several head shops and pot shops back in the day. But that

scene recently has gotten ugly, with violence and shootings occurring too frequently.

If the new ordinances are adopted, the laws would establish a liquor moratorium on Wells St. from W. Schiller St. to North Ave. The alderman wants no more late night liquor licenses issued on this stretch. Hopkins said all existing liquor license holders would be grandfathered in, but that he would oppose any new establishments getting late-night licenses. The ordinances calls for a full

**MORATORIUM** see p. 12

## Small business targeted by alderman files suit

### La Spata charged with political retaliation in violation of the First Amendment

BY RONALD ROENIGK

Pushed to the point of insolvency over political persecution, one small business is fighting back by filing a lawsuit against the City of Chicago and Ald. Daniel La Spata [1st].

The complaint was filed Sept. 14 by the owners of The Irish Nobleman Pub, 1367 W. Erie St., and cites a case of political retaliation in violation of the First Amendment, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in violation of Plaintiffs' right to free speech.

The popular pub, restaurant and ice cream stand is seeking a writ of mandamus directing the City to issue the necessary approval and permits for its extended outdoor dining area. Without mandamus relief, The Irish Nobleman says it will be irreparably harmed.

Also joining the case is The Bar Shop, 921 W. Armitage Ave., which wants to redress state law claims for interference with prospective economic advantage.

The case revolves around an act of brazen Chicago Machine politics, as the pub owner, Declan Morgan, supported the opposition candidate in the last aldermanic election.

**After La Spata won a narrow election victory in March, he set his sights on getting revenge on those who supported the losing candidate, Sam Royko. In The Irish Nobleman's case, that was through La Spata's overt politicization of the city's Expanded Outdoor Dining [EOD] licensing process.**

After La Spata won a narrow election victory in March, he set his sights on getting revenge on those who supported the losing candidate, Sam Royko. In The Irish Nobleman's case, that was through La Spata's overt politicization of the city's Expanded Outdoor Dining [EOD] licensing

process.

In 2023, the alderman put a brick on co-owners Candace and Declan Morgan's EOD license application, despite assurances from City Hall that their application had been approved. As of this writing, they still have not been issued an EOD, and the outdoor dining season is almost over.

The Morgans say their business is being targeted for holding fundraisers for Sam Royko and Proco 'Joe' Moreno. Both were running against La Spata for the 1st Ward seat.

The Irish Nobleman has and was granted an extended Patio Permit (EOD Permit DOT1260845) on Aug. 28, 2020, which The Irish Nobleman has maintained without any violations or infractions through 2022, despite the 1st Ward office sending city inspectors into the business 27 times in the last year as part of La Spata's political harassment campaign.

The Morgans say the politicization of the licensing process by La Spata has already cost them \$250,000 in sales this year. In an agreement with new Mayor Brandon Johnson, aldermen are now

**SUIT** see p. 12



# In the sunset of autumn



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

A Chicago pickle of a night. Some warm days of autumn are too good to last. All the quadrants of weather seem to ripen almost at once. Climate spontaneity reaches new records, and the promise of the season is almost beyond imaging. Temperatures are tinged with spring conditions, urging the use of sweaters, jeans and quality cottons.

Favorite flip-flops are still in the summer picture though.

Collegiate hoodies boast Ivy League travels. Exotic teas find themselves brewed on ice and "al fresco" dining still fills the horizon in trusted summer salad sandwiches of the lobster, chicken or egg variety.

This is weather made for Chicago's lakefront. Enhancing picnics, BBQs and late season sails on Great Lake waters. Splashing boats and sailors still left in the water. And the unforgettable pleasure of eating your homemade bread and butter pickles from a jar. Don't let them intimidate you. Grab a mason jar. Make some Chicago pickles.

You'll need 3 lbs of pickling cucumbers. Thin skinned, no waxy ones. One pound of onions, 3 cups apple cider vinegar, one cup sugar. Quarter cup pickling salt, 2 quarts ice or very cold water is good for

rinsing pickles.

Now concoct a pickling brine in large pot with sugar, tablespoon of mustard seed, tablespoon of celery seed, tablespoon of ground turmeric, tablespoon of peppercorns and, 3 cups of vinegar.

Just bring to a boil. Then add sliced onions and pickle slices to the boiling mixture. Ten minutes. Then take the pickles and onions out. Place in large bowl and rinse them well with ice water. Rinse thoroughly.

Return pickles and onions to a low boil while you get the sterilized jars ready. Now just fill the jars with the pickles, onions and the boiled brine mixture. Make sure you leave about a two inch space in the top of the jar.

Let pickles stand for four weeks. This recipe is more about canning than cooking. Eat these pickles all winter with cheese or sandwiches. They're delicious.

The Rush St. Triangle itself is in a pickle during these autumn days, filled curb to curb and table

to table with hungry diners. Munching on lazy lunches that will fill pleasant memories when winter snows dust the Gold Coast neighborhood. The streetscape will be glistening in frosty conditions and icicles. But nothing will be more memorable than the warmth of those homemade pickles.

Rainy weather till now darkened the conditions of post-Labor Day festivities, but in my world that's weather made for painting, pickles, and the brisk surprised conditions that make for the perfect climate for paint brush, tubes of paint and fresh-stretched canvas.

One afternoon I was riddled with paint. Hungry, andnd extra-kookie from settling into studio work all day long. So I needed to find a place to solve all my work stress. Mon Ami Gabi, with its French cuisine, was just the location. I arrived early to make sure I had a table, to beat the crowd.

It was warm and breezy, and very urbane along Lincoln Park West in

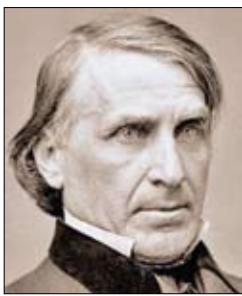


Enjoy the pleasure of eating homemade bread and butter pickles from a jar. Don't let them intimidate you. Grab a mason jar, and let's make some Chicago pickles.

front of the Belden Stratford Hotel, Mon Ami Gabi's long home.

I, truthfully, always hear animal roars resounding for real outside. Lions and tigers are within breathing distance. Maybe just in the mating season. But it makes me think of the Paris Zoo. The one that famed Maxim's cooked and served during the Imperial German siege of the French capitol in 1870, during the Franco-Prussian War.

Fancy French folk dined on tiger, zebra and giraffe back then. U.S. Ambassador to France, Chicagoan Elihu B. Washburne, was President Ulysses S. Grant's man in the embattled city. He endured much suffering and starvation while in Paris. And terrible



Elihu B. Washburne

anger from the local Frenchies who believed he had private food sources.

Not true. Paris took its toll. Even pickles looked good.

When Mon Ami said they'd seat me at 4:30 or 5, I jumped at the chance. A quick clean up of paints and brushes, donned layers of outer clothing to keep me warm. But I still took a scarf along on my French adventure.

Restaurant staff led by Kevin were charming and helpful seating me in the early bird special dining room. Just one female diner already munching.

I needed to treat myself back to feeling good. So I skipped a Grey Goose martini and drank a glass of classic French champagne served in a coupe glass. Filled to the

brim, I warned myself not to gulp or guzzle.

Server Eric, busboy Xavier and bartender Henry were all very welcoming.

The French butter on the crunchy baguette guaranteed the authenticity of my meal. The pickled radish made me laugh thinking of my father, Mossy. He loved red radishes. We always had them. I disliked them intensely. And it was decades before I'd put a slice of radish in my mouth.

Since it was lakefront chilly I ordered the French Onion soup. Extra hot, I requested. And soon I was bathing in the sweet, flavorful French warmth of the crusty, cheesy cauldron of soup.

I also ordered another coupe of champagne. Why not. I was pleased at my artistic work load, including my new column, "An Irish Complex," published now in the Irish American News. So more bubbly was appropriate.

Since I ordered the steak pomme frites, rare, with Roquefort, I knew I'd want some Cote du Rhone as a sidekick.

Anyway, I was taking some notes as I usually do, when the women seated near me started chit-chatting. Lovely, witty, intelligent women of the world. A chocolate mousse lover declaring Mon Ami's the best.

After polishing off my steak, mousse would be next. Perfect, like the steak, with the Cote du Rhone.

Restaurant officials all kindly stopped to say hello and kibbutz about the food or wine. Of course I can hold my own with them, I'm a foodie. Then I was sorry not to have called up Sugar Rautbord to join me. Our cookery book is going well. More to add but nearing an end.

I hope you will treat yourself to a nice lunch or dinner soon. Sip the bubbly at a place you love. Eat steak and chocolate mousse. And if you're like me you will be energized to start another canvas. In the sunset of Chicago autumn. A tasty pickle of a night.

**LYRIC OPERA:** Anthony Freud, 65, the CEO of Chicago's Lyric Opera, announced that he is leaving his post at the end of the season, two years early. He truly helped to assist the Lyric in remapping its international exposure and giving dynamic leadership being an indispensable artistic and cultural force in Chicago.



Anthony Freud

**A WIN:** A settlement, in his favor, of the lawsuit he filed in 2018 against his landlord for alleged retaliation for news stories he wrote and published.

**Steven Dahlman**, a sometimes reporter for this newspaper, just won his self-defended legal court battle. After renting an apartment at Marina City for five years, **Michael Michalak** abruptly decided to not renew his lease a few days after he met with the building's condo board president, **Ellen Chessick**. Chessick was mentioned in news stories about Restaurant.com, a troubled company at the time that she co-owned with her husband, attorney **Kenneth Chessick**. The courts found them in violation of the City of Chicago

**AUTUMN** see p. 8

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## Former 19th Dist. police station now a migrant center

Due to an increase in the number of newly arrived migrants illegally crossing over America's southern border, the City of Chicago has decided to reopen the 19th Police District, 2452 W. Belmont Ave., and use it as a migrant arrival center.

Refugee asylum seekers and migrants have been allowed to shelter in police stations across the city, on the orders of former mayor Lori Lightfoot, and Mayor Brandon Johnson. It is not immediately known if migrants are already in the former police station, how many people will be staying at the station, or for how long.

The work of city government on the migrant crisis has lacked clarity and transparency for some time, and city officials have been placing migrants in communities with zero or little advance notice to nearby residents.

City officials are working to house the migrants while an estimated 64,000 Chicagoans are without permanent housing. The city reports that more than 15,200 migrants have arrived in Chicago in the

last year.

The 19th District police station on Western Ave. was closed by former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and combined with the 23rd District in a new facility on Addison St. in Lakeview East.

The city is now seeking volunteers to support the new arrivals, to help provide meals and assistance.

Both the 10th and 19th precincts are seeking support. For those who will be living at the 19th district the city is looking for help providing bedding, three meals a day, and other basic needs like laundry, showers, transit and communication support.

Those who would like to volunteer to help may contact the LakeView Lutheran Church, Saint Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, The Salvation Army, Centro Romero, and the Offices of the 44th, 46th, and 47th wards. Volunteers for the 19th Precinct shelter should plan for sustained support as new temporary shelters are opened in the area.

## Cannabis Assoc. backs Ald. Hopkins ordinance over regulation of pot products, but illegal sales still thrive

Illinois has some of the highest prices for legal marijuana in America today, and those high prices have kept traditional illegal sales strong. Some estimates show there is as much as \$2 billion in illegal pot sales now going on in Illinois, much of it taking place in Chicago.

Your neighborhood back alley dope dealers have thrived by undercutting the sky-high prices found at dispensaries, who are weighed down by fixed labor and overhead costs, high taxation and arduous licensing processes many times tied to politics.

Now, the pot industry is backing new regulations being pushed in City Hall by one North Side alderman.

The Cannabis Business Assoc. of Illinois [CBAI] has released a statement supporting Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] and an ordinance he is pushing through the Public Safety Committee to reestablish stronger safeguards for the regulation of pot products.

(The CBAI is a statewide non-profit association that serves as the voice of Illinois' cannabis industry insiders.)

Due to the high costs placed on marijuana sales, the local industry today has a strong black market, with sellers bringing in high powered pot from nearby low-cost,

out of state growers.

Dope dealers in the black market do not charge any of the myriad taxes added to the cost of retail pot, so they have a built in advantage. Much of the illegal weed in Illinois is coming from Michigan, Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon and California, who all now reportedly have a glut of supply, driving down prices.

Oklahoma and Michigan have no cap on growers licenses. In Oklahoma, estimates are that there are two plants being produced for every one resident in the state. "You can get an ounce of flower for \$15 down there, and people are losing their companies, their homes, their livelihoods because of the oversaturation," marijuana grower Tyler Dutcher told The Big Rapids News, in Michigan.

While regulators may try to deny it, competition among cannabis growers in border states is increasing. In 2021, the number of municipalities allowing marijuana businesses jumped to 118 from 87 in Michigan alone, while the number of licensed businesses jumped by nearly 150 to 1,238. Between 2020 and 2022, the number of growers nearly quadrupled to 1,250, and more than a third of those are

**ORDINANCE** see p. 10



## Update on RPM TIF funds

Last week this newspaper reported on plans to extend the Red Line Extension [RLE] south from 95th to 130th streets.

In that coverage we questioned where an additional \$400 million in needed funds for the RLE project might come from, and whether it would be taken from the highly profitable RPM TIF on the North Side.

We went to press before the CTA was able to respond to our question, but the CTA has since weighed in.

Catherine Hosinski, a spokesperson for the CTA, tells us that there are presently no plans to use RPM Transit TIF funds for the RLE project. She says that the “remaining funds needed for the RLE project will [come from] a mix of local and federal sources including the dedicated RLE Transit TIF, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funding and other sources, including CTA bonds.”

She said that the CTA is unable at this point “to provide specifics as we are still waiting to learn how much the project will receive from some of these funding sources.”

She also clarified that the current estimated funding gap is closer to \$400 million, “as CTA has already received and spent some funding as part of the project planning process.” This newspaper had estimated the funding gap at \$688 million.

We also asked Hosinski if she had any idea how or where excess tax collections from the RPM TIF might be reallocated within, or outside of the RPM TIF zone (one-half mile wide, running from Devon Ave. south to North Ave.). She has not yet responded to that question.

**One of the critical features of a TIF district is that the city is supposed to reinvest funds collected within the TIF district back into the geographic zone from which it came.**

The RPM TIF is the largest TIF district in Chicago, and covers some of the most highly assessed real estate in the city. In 2020 the RPM TIF created about \$140.3 million in revenue. In 2021 it was \$190.1 million, an increase of 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 district back into the geographic zone from which it came.

As the RPM TIF is fully within this newspaper’s coverage area, trust that this newspaper will continue to ask public officials what will become of these taxpayer dollars, as the total amount of excess cash the RPM TIF will generate should rise to billion or more dollars.

## Mortgage rates 7%-plus squeeze North Side home sales



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Those 7%-plus mortgage interest rates—a 22-year high nationwide—really shot a torpedo into the confidence of Chicago home buyers in August.

Just when home buyers were getting adjusted to 6.5% mortgage interest rates, the Federal Reserve Board pushed the button to nudge the rates into the 7%-plus range.

All this negative home-loan news had a downward impact on home sales in the key North Side neighborhoods of Near North, Gold Coast, Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center, reported Baird & Warner’s Chicago September Market Analysis, authored by John Irwin and Jackie Lafferty.

The Baird & Warner report, titled “Push Forward vs. Push Back” outlined the tug-of-war going on in today’s North Side residential resale real estate market. Here are a few of the report highlights:

• **Interest rates:** Apparently, nervous would-be home buyers are at a crossroads because of mortgage-rate creep.

On Sept. 14, benchmark 30-year fixed home loan rates rose to an average of 7.18% nationwide from 7.12% a week earlier, reported the Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey. A year ago at this time, lenders were charging an average of 6.02% on a 30-year fixed mortgage.

The 15-year fixed loan average on September 14th was 6.51%, down from 6.52% a week earlier. A year ago, lenders were charging 5.21% on 15-year fixed mortgages.

“Mortgage rates inched back up last week and remained anchored north of 7%,” said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s chief economist. “The re-acceleration of inflation and strength in the economy is keeping mortgage rates elevated.”

• **Home sales:** August was the 18th consecutive month of home sales activity decline in the key half dozen neighborhoods analyzed by Baird & Warner—Gold Coast, Near North, Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center. However, the good news is the reported home sales declines were only 6.7%—the single digit—drop was the lowest since April 2022.



It’s mostly negative home-loan news now with high interest rates creating a downward impact on home sales on North Side neighborhoods like Near North, Gold Coast, Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center.

• **Price appreciation:** More good news. For the fifth consecutive month home resale prices increased. The uptick in August was 3.2% compared with Aug. 2022. Year-to-date median prices are running 0.6% head of 2022. “Despite multiple offers, low market times and a shortage of inventory, prices are fairly stable,” Irwin noted.

• **Transfer tax:** Treading heavy political waters, Mayor Brandon Johnson is beginning to realize he has to compromise with powerful real estate interests on the controversial “Mansion Tax.”

**Treading heavy political waters, Mayor Brandon Johnson is beginning to realize he has to compromise with powerful real estate interests on the controversial “Mansion Tax.”**

The mayor has proposed lowering the transfer tax on homes priced under \$1-million. However, the tax proposal would significantly increase the tax on homes priced between \$1-million and \$2-million. Homes priced at more than \$2-million would be hammered with a quadruple transfer tax. This could cause an exodus of wealthy home buyers to the suburbs.

• **Crime:** The city of Chicago reports that violent crime is decreasing, but the perceptions of home buyers are the opposite. Many say they are opting to move to the suburbs to avoid carjacks, muggings and street crime.

### Mortgage-hunting advice

Freddie Mac’s Khater advised would-be home buyers to shop around for the best interest-rate quote. “Freddie Mac research

suggests home buyers can save \$600 to \$1,200 a year by applying for mortgages at multiple lenders,” he said.

For example, on September 14 First Bank of Hegewisch was quoting 6.723% on a 30-year fixed mortgage for borrowers who place a 20% down payment, and pay a loan fee of \$615, according to RateSeeker.com.

On Sept. 14, Mutual of Omaha was quoting 6.944% on 30-year fixed mortgages with 20% down and a loan fee of \$850. The rate on 15-year fixed loan was 6.5% with a 5% down payment and a fee of \$850.

### Zoning for former Hasted St. theater conversion approved

Last week the Chicago City Council approved the \$53 million mixed-use development planned at 1649 N. Halsted St., in my old childhood neighborhood. Led by Draper and Kramer, the project will replace the shuttered Royal George Theater and adjacent four-story parking garage.

The former theater space is now considered obsolete. It was marketed to other theater companies including to Steppenwolf across the street, and ultimately its size and configuration made it unsuitable as a theater.

Holding 131 rental apartments, the site will only offer 34 off-street parking spaces for residents, commercial tenants and their employees. That means neighbors can expect a large volume of car-share vehicles, and daily food and package deliveries vehicles will be double parking all over the area, clogging Halsted St. for years to come.

This part of Halsted St. is already very narrow, and handicapped by bike lanes. The nearby North/Halsted/Clybourn intersection is highly congested, and if just two Amazon-style trucks double park in the north and southbound lanes, traffic will be severely impeded.

The lack of parking provided in a high density building like this does not mean vehicles do not service the building, it just means the vehicles drawn to this building will have no off-street location to load and unload their passengers and packages.

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

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# OEIG report: Illinois State employees involved in PPP loan fraud

BY MATT MEDINA

The Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Park District, Cook County, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and now the State of Illinois... is there any sector of Illinois government that didn't have staff involved in a Payroll Protection Plan scam?

The Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor [OEIG] released a report last week detailing a Paycheck Protection Program [PPP] fraud investigation. The report unveiled 177 Illinois State employees that took roughly \$4.5 million dollars in loans, based on falsified information.

Illinois Ethics Matters, through the OEIG, released the results of a large-scale PPP Loan investigation that began in 2022. PPP loans were initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were intended to be used for providing relief to small businesses facing hardship from government-imposed lockdowns. The loans were eligible for forgiveness through the government if a business used the funds for qualifying expenses.

The problem? Now federal, state, and local jurisdictions across the country are scrambling to uncover the mismanagement of this program. Some individuals and businesses were able to apply for PPP loans under faulty information, instead using it as a "grant" for their business. The investigation focused particularly on businesses that made over \$100k a year, which would typically receive \$20k or more in loans.

The OEIG initiated the investigation after matching a high number of loan applicants to Illinois state employees.

The OEIG originally started their investigation with 438 total employees, having since then referred 177 of these cases to a law enforcement agency. Roughly \$4.5 million in PPP loans is connected to the referred cases. Of the 177 employees, 132

were from the Dept. of Human Resources, 25 from Children and Family Services, eight from Healthcare and Family Services, four from Employment Security, three each from Public Health and Veteran Affairs, and one each from Revenue and Natural resources. No specific names and/or business involved in the investigation have yet been released.

*Of the 177 employees, 132 were from the Dept. of Human Resources, 25 from Children and Family Services, eight from Healthcare and Family Services, four from Employment Security, three each from Public Health and Veteran Affairs, and one each from Revenue and Natural resources.*

The PPP money scam was hardly the largest pandemic theft in Illinois. Investigators believe billions in benefits were wrongly taken from the Illinois Dept. of Employment Security [IDES] during the pandemic. An Illinois Auditor General's report revealed that the IDES overpaid benefits by more than \$5 billion during the pandemic between 2020 and 2022.

Many are calling the PPP the largest fraud in U.S. history, a nationwide theft of hundreds of billions of dollars in taxpayer money intended to help those harmed by the coronavirus pandemic and government shutdown.

The prevalence of COVID relief fraud has been known for some time, but the enormous scope and part government employees played in the scam are only now becoming clear. Most of the losses are considered unrecoverable.

# Treasurers' office helped North Side couple get \$2,447 property tax refund

BY MARIA PAPPAS

Many Cook County homeowners are losing thousands of dollars in savings because they are not taking advantage of property tax breaks.

My office recently helped an older couple on the North Side receive \$2,447 in refunds. They didn't know they were eligible to receive a tax break under the Senior Citizen Exemption [SCE]. That is a surprisingly common occurrence.

Edmundo and Mirta Figueroa called in to a weekly radio show I host. They have been married for many years and own a home in Avondale.

Edmundo is retired after working as an engineer for Chicago Public Schools [CPS]. He met his future wife in the 1980s when they worked together at a city school.

They received a Homeowner's Exemption on their property, but until recently were unaware they should also have been receiving a SCE. Homeowners are eligible for the SCE if they are 65 years or older and occupy their property as their primary residence.

Edmundo didn't know he and his wife could apply for the benefit as soon as Mirta turned 65.

"She was a senior citizen for three years before I was, so we got those three years back," Edmundo told me. "She's 70, I'm 66."

Our office can help homeowners receive refunds for up to four years of missed exemptions for homeowners, senior citizens, people with disabilities and disabled veterans. However, if the county owes refunds because a property owner overpaid, tax-

payers can seek refunds going back 20 years after the date they overpaid.

We helped Edmundo and Mirta receive refunds for missed SCE for a total of four years, 2018 through 2021. The amounts were \$545 for 2021, \$602 for 2020, \$639 for 2019 and \$659 for 2018 for a grand total of \$2,447.



Maria Pappas

I asked Edmundo what he planned to do with the money.

"I'm going to save it and buy something good for me and her," he said.

Edmundo told me he earned \$2.71 an hour when he started

working for CPS in the 1980s. He learned about the potential refund while watching TV in December when my office held a phone bank with ABC7 reporter Samantha Chatman.

Homeowners can visit our website at [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) and click on the purple box that says, "Your Property Tax Overview" on the home page. Visitors can search using their address or Property Index Number. Results will display a picture of their home and show whether taxpayers have overpaid taxes or missed exemptions that could qualify them for refunds.

To learn how we've helped homeowners like Edmundo and Mirta receive refunds, tune in to "Black Houses Matter" on WVON-AM 1690 every Monday from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

## Letter to the Editor

### East Berlin on the Lake

In an unanticipated turn of events, Mayor Brandon Johnson and city leadership channeled their inner Erich Honecker and Stasi Comrades this past Saturday evening (Sept 15th) with the complete walling off of Chicago.

Johnson's Wall was enacted using the iron and steel of the city's Salt Trucks; effectively shutting the city off from vehicular traffic. Regardless of ethnic background or socioeconomic status, from those who

were celebrating Mexican Independence Day, workers from every walk of life, tourists and residents were smacked across the face with the iron fist of Chicago's new regime.

Who knew Chairman Johnson would obtain his totalitarian bona fides so quickly?

Tom Wisniewski  
Gold Coast

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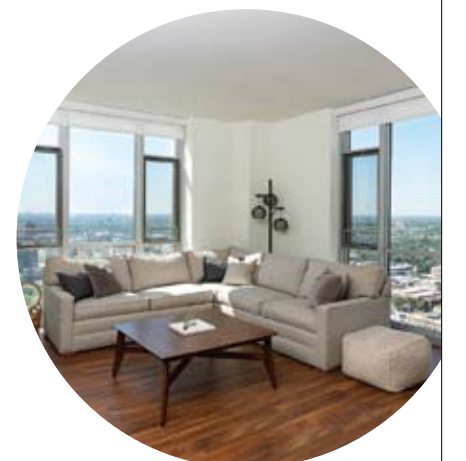
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# Police Beat...

## Five men attack, rob woman near Lincoln Park Zoo

A woman was physically attacked and robbed by five men near the Lincoln Park Zoo on Sept. 13, Chicago police said. The offenders remain on the loose.

It happened around 9:35 p.m. in the 2100 block of N. Lincoln Park West, the street that runs along the west edge of the park from Fullerton.

A 25-year-old woman was outside when a gold sedan pulled up, and about five robbers stepped out of the car. They struck her in the face, took her valuables, and then headed south in the vehicle, according to a police spokesperson.

Police said the group did not display weapons or imply that they were armed.

After the attack, the woman sought help at a nearby restaurant. Officers who responded to the call said the robbers were Black males between 17 and 19 years old who wore ski masks. Their car is an older model with tinted windows, front bumper damage, and dents around the vehicle.

Area Three detectives are handling the investigation.

On Sept. 9, several DePaul Univ. students were assaulted and robbed during a crime spree on and near the school's Lincoln Park campus.

Later that day, the school's president acknowledged the "sad reality" of crime in Chicago.

"Chicago continues to face ongoing challenges with criminal activity across the city. We must acknowledge this sad reality and respond accordingly," said President Robert L. Manuel to his school community.

Manuel said the school had "filed our concerns with the mayor, police commander and elected officials."

## Man gets eight years for robbing high school students at knife point on CTA train downtown



Trenton Tidwell

A Chicago man has been sentenced to eight years for robbing two high school students at knife point on a CTA train in 2021. A judge handed him a consecutive three years for battering a Cook County correctional officer while he was in jail awaiting trial.

Trenton Tidwell, 22, pleaded guilty to armed robbery and aggravated battery of a peace officer in exchange for the sentences from Judge Steven Watkins. Tidwell faced several other charges, including multiple counts of battering other correctional officers, but prosecutors dropped those in the plea deal.

The robbery victims were heading home from De La Salle Institute in Bronzeville when Tidwell asked them for money on an inbound Green Line train around 5:30 p.m. Sept. 10, 2021, prosecutors said. The students declined, and Tidwell went to a different car, only to return and order the teens to hand over their wallets and phones at knife point, according to the allegations.

One of the victims dropped their wallet on the train floor, and both victims ran from the train into the

Roosevelt station when Tidwell bent over to pick it up, prosecutors said.

CTA surveillance video recorded the robbery and allegedly showed Tidwell discarding pieces of clothing as he fled at Roosevelt.

Detectives released two images of the suspect from the CTA footage to media outlets in a "seeking to identify" bulletin on Sept. 14. Someone recognized Tidwell from those photos and contacted the police. Both victims picked Tidwell out of photo lineups, prosecutors said.

## Attempted murder charges filed after two stabbed in West Rogers Park

A man faces charges after being accused of stabbing two people during a fight in West Rogers Park, according to Chicago police.



Boris Vasilic

Vasilic, 41, is scheduled to appear in bond court Saturday afternoon on two counts of attempted first-degree murder.

Police initially responded to a fight in progress near Dollar Tree, 2825 W. Devon, around 10:10 a.m. Sept. 14. Before they arrived, 911 callers began reporting that people had been stabbed.

The victims went to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston for treatment. Police said they are both men, ages 32 and 35.

Officers arrested Vasilic near his home in the 6300 block of N. Francisco about 30 minutes later. CPD did not offer a motive for the stabbing or provide details about what prompted the fight.

## Smoke shop employee stabbed during afternoon robbery in Uptown

A smoke shop employee was stabbed during a robbery in Uptown on Sept. 16, but the offender remains on the loose.

Citing preliminary information, a Chicago police spokesperson said a male offender approached three men in the 4500 block of N. Sheridan around 4:54 p.m. and demanded their property.

He pulled out a sharp object and stabbed one of the victims, a 25-year-old man, in the abdomen, the spokesperson said. He was initially listed in good condition at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. The other two victims, ages 18 and 25, were not injured.

Police used crime scene tape to cordon off Uptown Smokes, 4527 N. Sheridan. A witness said the robbery occurred at the store, and the robber had stolen from the business.

Officers searched the area for a suspect, described as a Hispanic man wearing a green camouflage hat, a black face mask, sunglasses, a black sweater, and blue and black shoes. As of Saturday evening, though, no arrests had been made, according to the CPD spokesperson.

## Shot fired during Old Town robbery, driver carjacked in River North

A group of people who robbed two victims in Old Town on Sept. 15 fired a shot during one of the holdups, according to a Chicago police report. CPD is also investigating a carjacking that occurred overnight in River North.

The hijacking took place in the 400 block of N. State around 3:08 a.m. Saturday, a Chicago police spokesperson said. Four men walked up to a couple on the street and demanded their property while implying they had weapons and threatening to shoot them.

One of the robbers punched the man and woman and took their valuables. The crew then drove away with

the victims' gray 2011 Mitsubishi Lancer, according to police.

No suspect descriptions were released.

In Old Town, two people were robbed in separate incidents just a few moments apart around 12:18 p.m.

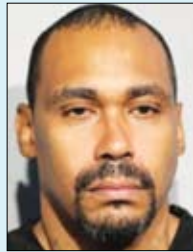
Three offenders approached a man in the 300 block of W. Old Town Ct. and demanded his property at gunpoint, a CPD report said. One of the robbers fired a gun during the holdup, but no injuries were reported.

Moments later, the group robbed a woman in the 400 block of W. Goethe. She told police she thought she heard a gunshot before three people took her purse at gunpoint as she walked from a nearby grocery store.

The Old Town suspects are two Black males and a Black female. They all appeared to be between 15 and 17 years old. One wore a green hoodie, another wore a gray hoodie, and the female had red coloring in her braids, according to officers who responded to the calls.

## Man on parole for robbing six businesses robbed two more in Lincoln Square

Chicago police say the man who robbed two North Side businesses at closing time last week is Williamomo Peray, a 44-year-old man on parole after getting an 18-year sentence in 2014 for robbing six businesses in the city.



Williamomo Peray

Officers arrested Peray near his home in the 5300 block of N. Lincoln on Sept. 12.

He is charged with robbing an unidentified business in the 5700 block of N. California on Sept. 11 and robbing two businesses located about a half-block apart Sept. 6, according to a CPD media statement.

At about 11:24 p.m. that night, a woman was closing Kimberli Sushi & Thai Cuisine, 2547 W. Lawrence, when a robber walked in and demanded money from the register, according to police. The offender, who did not display a weapon, fled on foot.

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

Illinois Dept. of Corrections records show Peray is currently on parole, having been released from custody on July 8, 2022.

He was given six concurrent 18-year sentences in 2014 for robbing convenience stores, a restaurant, and other businesses between Nov. 2013 and Jan. 2014, according to records in his court files. During those robberies, he was on parole from a seven-year sentence he received for robbing a Logan Square dry cleaner in 2010. At the time of the Logan Square robbery, he was on parole for an eight-year sentence he received for aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in 2005. And at the time of the aggravated unlawful use of a weapon case, he was on parole for a 2004 burglary.

He received probation for two other burglaries in 2000.

## Loop shooting victim identified as downtown high school administrator

New details have emerged about the moments leading up to the fatal shooting of a charter school administrator inside a downtown Chicago high-rise condo building on Sept. 14.

Abnerd Joseph, 32, was shot several times and died shortly after 8 p.m., according to the Cook County medical examiner's office, which ruled his death a homicide. When used by the

medical examiner, the term "homicide" means that a person's life was taken by another person. It does not necessarily mean that the act was criminal.

Joseph was assistant principal of culture at the Intrinsic Schools' downtown campus at 79 W. Monroe, according to the schools website.

Police initially received a report of a trespassing in progress at the building, 60 E. Monroe, around 7:30 p.m., but that was quickly followed by reports of shots fired and a person shot on the 48th floor.

An officer found Joseph lying in the hallway with multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in critical condition and was subsequently pronounced dead.

A CPD report documenting the shooting said Joseph had been knocking on doors to condo units and trying to enter some residences. It said Joseph hit the building's doorman and a tenant who tried to de-escalate the situation.

At that point, a 45-year-old building resident instructed Joseph to stop assaulting people and informed Joseph that he had a firearm, the report said. Joseph "charged" at the man, who fired several shots.

Investigators said they found six shell casings at the scene.

After the shooting, the 45-year-old called 911 and identified himself as a concealed carry holder. Police took him to Area Three headquarters for questioning. No charges have been filed as of Friday afternoon.

Joseph's biography on the Intrinsic School site says he joined the downtown campus in the summer of 2022.

"His main areas of focus are school climate, student discipline, school-wide transitions and procedures, and student safety," the site says. "Abnerd has five years of experience as an assistant principal, and comes to Intrinsic from KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools."

The site quotes Joseph as saying he felt the school's Loop location "is a beautiful way to expose our students to what the City of Chicago truly has to offer. I believe every student can achieve at high levels regardless of previous circumstances that otherwise hinder them."

## Twenty years for shooting man in a dispute over 'stupid dice game'

A California man has been sentenced to 20 years for fatally shooting a man on the North Side during a dispute about a dice game.

"A stupid dice game," Cook County Judge John Lyke remarked upon hearing the allegations during Salik Berberena's initial bail hearing in Nov. 2020. "A stupid dice game. I know most people say, well, it's not about the dice game, it's about respect. That's even more stupid."

A grand jury indicted Berberena on multiple counts of first-degree murder. Still, he ultimately struck a deal that allowed him to plead guilty to a reduced count of second-degree murder, court records show.



Salik Berberena

Howard handed him the 20-year sentence. It will be reduced by 50% for good behavior and offset by the 1,008 days he spent in Cook County jail before pleading. His parole date is set for Oct. 10, 2030.

Prosecutors said Berberena was arrested for a different murder in 2007, but the state's attorney's office declined to pursue the case because witnesses refused to cooperate.

On July 11, 2020, 27-year-old Jovante King drove to the 2800 block of N. Leavitt with his brother and a friend to defuse the dice game dispute after receiving a series of anonymous

threatening messages, prosecutors said. When the group arrived, a man and a woman warned King to leave the area because he was in danger.

That's when Berberena walked up and put a gun to King's head, the state said. King repeatedly pushed the gun away from his head and tried to calm the situation with his words. But Berberena pulled the trigger, fatally shooting King in the head, according to prosecutors.

When King's brother began to yell, "Get up bro," Berberena allegedly replied, "he's not getting up."

The brother grabbed a gun in King's car and got out of the vehicle. Berberena then began shooting toward the brother as he fled, prosecutors said. King died the next day.

The murder was captured on surveillance video, prosecutors said, but the footage is not clear enough to identify the gunman. Berberena was allegedly identified as the killer by four witnesses.

According to prosecutors, Berberena became uncooperative during a line-up at the Area Three detective division by refusing to stand and pulling his hoodie over his head.

## DePaul student among several targeted in North Side robbery spree

A DePaul student and his girlfriend were maced and robbed near the school's Lincoln Park campus, part of a 45-minute crime spree that swept across the North Side of Chicago Sept. 17. Two more robberies were also reported—one in Wicker Park and West Town.

The North Side spree began around 1:19 a.m. when the DePaul student and his girlfriend, both 21, were robbed in the 1200 block of W. Belden.

A CPD spokesperson said the victims were on the sidewalk when five men pulled up in a gray SUV. According to the spokesperson, the men grabbed the woman's property and then pepper-sprayed both victims when the boyfriend intervened.

After punching the boyfriend, the group returned to the car and fled.

Police did not identify the male victim as a DePaul student, but a source confirmed his status at the school.

Three more robberies unfolded soon after the Lincoln Park mugging:

A woman was pushed to the ground and robbed outside a bar in the 1800 block of W. Addison around 1:35 a.m. Witnesses said four or five robbers jumped out of a silver SUV to take the woman's purse and other valuables.

Moments later, a man was robbed by three men who took his wallet and keys in the 3200 block of N. Ravenswood. The group traveled in a silver SUV.

At around 2 a.m., a man was robbed by three offenders who exited a silver SUV at the Shell station, 3600 N. Ashland.

The victims generally described the suspects as Black males between 18 and 20 years old, wearing masks and black clothing.

Two robberies were reported on the Near West Side between 1:20 and 1:30 a.m. Sunday.

Four masked men exited a silver sedan, pushed a woman to the ground, and robbed her in the 1400 block of W. Ohio. A few minutes later, five masked men battered and robbed a woman near the intersection of Julian and Wood in Wicker Park.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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In social media video frames of Mexican Independence Day activities in the Loop, men put out burning debris in the street; other men ride on the back of a moving Chicago Fire Department truck; and others enjoy the view as their driver does a burnout.  
Photos courtesy Snapchat

## At least eleven face felony charges, six guns recovered as Mexican Independence Day revelers flood city center

BY CWBCHICAGO

At least 11 people are facing felony charges in connection with Mexican Independence Day festivities over the weekend. Chicago police officers recovered at least six firearms downtown, and two drivers are charged with trying to run down cops working the celebrations.

City officials tried to seal off the downtown area by blocking access with police cars and salt and garbage trucks. But their efforts seemed to only inconvenience downtown residents, tourists, and working folks trying to get to their jobs.

Two people were stabbed during a fight in the 300 block of N. State near Wacker Dr. around 12:20 a.m. Sunday. Police said a 19-year-old man was stabbed in the back and a 15-year-old boy suffered a laceration on his torso. No arrests have been made.

### Guns and cars and felony charges

Saturday's party ended early for 27-year-old Jose Cordova as he drove a carload of celebrants who were allegedly hanging out of and sitting on his car in the 700 block of N. LaSalle around 8:50 p.m.

Some of the people in (or on)

his car "yelled profanities" at cops in a nearby squad car, and those officers quickly noticed that Cordova's vehicle didn't have a front license plate, Assistant State's Attorney Danielle Levin said.

The officers who pulled him over said they saw a woman in his car kick something with her feet. Asked if there were any guns in the car, she told the cops there was one in the glove compartment and another under the seat, and they both belonged to Cordova, Levin explained.

Cordova, who has a valid Firearm Owner's ID [FOID] card but does not have a concealed carry license [CCL], was ordered to pay a \$100 bail deposit to get out of jail by Judge Maryam Ahmad.

Two men were arrested on Wacker Dr. near the Wabash Bridge. One man allegedly had a gun in the driver's door of his car around 10:24 p.m., while the other had a firearm tucked in his waistband about 30 minutes later, according to Levin.

Chicago police officers who were trying to disperse a large crowd from the 400 block of W. Wacker around 12:30 a.m. Sunday allegedly saw David Garcia, 27, lighting fireworks. When they approached him, Garcia pulled out an "L-shaped object" and tossed it down toward the Chi-

cago River.

The gun fell short of the water, and police allegedly recovered a handgun and loaded ammunition magazine from the riverwalk below Garcia. According to Levin, Garcia also has a valid FOID but no concealed carry license.

Judge Ahmad ordered him to pay a \$2,000 bail deposit but permitted him to return to DeKalb to stay with his wife and kids while the case is pending.

Around 12:20 a.m., officers went to investigate a car that was doing burnouts and spinning donuts at the intersection of Lake and LaSalle. Jovanny Arzola, 18, was a passenger in the Audi, Levin said, and cops allegedly saw a gun on the floor of the car between his legs. It was not loaded, though.

Ahmad released him on his own recognizance and told him he could return to Indiana to await trial.

About 20 minutes later, cops saw a large crowd that, based on neck and face tattoos, they suspected was composed of gang members. The officers said they saw an "L-shaped object" weigh-

REVELERS see p. 10

## Cook County Sheriff: car thefts, violent crime remain elevated

BY CWBCHICAGO

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart says the county continues to struggle with car thefts and violent crime at levels higher than pre-pandemic levels.

U.S. Rep. Sean Casten hosted a virtual town hall meeting Sept. 12 where county residents could call and ask questions.

As Casten's guest, Dart was asked what is being done to slow crime in the county.

"These are complex issues with all sorts of different rationales behind how we got there, what can work and what can't work," Dart said. "There needs to be an understanding of A, what the facts are, and B, that this is complex with multiple facets to the whole thing."

Dart said there have been improvements over the past few years when looking at violent crime.

"Have there been improvements in a lot of different areas of crime? There have been," Dart said. "Shootings throughout the country, specifically in Chicago, are down. Have they reached pre-2019 levels? No."

Last month, the Illinois Supreme Court upheld the state's ban on certain semi-automatic firearms in Illinois. However, Dart said guns are still more prevalent than ever before.

"The wild availability of guns is incredible," Dart said. "I've never seen it, from my days as a

prosecutor till now. It used to be rare to pull someone over and find a gun, but now it's flipped. Now, it's rare when we don't find a gun in a car."

**"If you took all the carjackings in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, the big ones, put them all together, and we had more [carjackings] than any of them collectively last year," said Tom Dart.**

Carjackings have also increased in the county over the past few years. Dart said they slowed in 2023, but with how many they were seeing each year, the numbers had no choice but to go down.

"If you took all the carjackings in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, the big ones, put them all together, and we had more [carjackings] than any of them collectively last year," Dart said.

Motor vehicle thefts are up 94%, and burglaries are up 29% year to date. Robberies are up 24% year to date, according to Chicago Police stats. Shootings are down 12% year to date.

Dart became sheriff of Illinois' largest county in 2006 and previously spent time in the Illinois General Assembly.

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## Dine Out On Broadway returns this weekend

North Sider diners can experience outdoor dining this weekend with Dine Out On Broadway, featuring a selection of over 25 restaurants spanning from Belmont to Wellington. Dine Out is taking place Sept. 22 - 24, starting at 4 p.m. Friday, all day on Saturday and Sunday.

This Dine Out event will mark the grand finale of this summer's series.

## Networking Extravaganza Oct. 11

Twelve Chicagoland chambers of commerce are hosting a networking extravaganza 5:30 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 11, at Kings Dining and Entertainment, 1500 N. Clybourn Ave.

There will be professionals and trades people from the north, south and west sides of Chicago at this one-of-a-kind multi-chamber event. Appetizers and refreshing drinks throughout the night.

The chambers of commerce participating include Andersonville, Lakeview Roscoe Village, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square Ravenswood, Logan Square, Six Corners, Uptown and Wicker Park-Bucktown chambers. The Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Assoc., Old Town Merchants and Residents Assoc., Pulaski Elston Business Assoc., and Rogers Park Business Alliance will also be there. Tickets range from \$25 to \$35. For more information call 8805200, or visit [www.lincoln-parkchamber.com/event/networking-extravaganza-2023/](http://www.lincoln-parkchamber.com/event/networking-extravaganza-2023/).

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The Dal Santos sisters.



Stephanos Naoum and Luis Gonzales.



Zurich Esposito

### AUTUMN from p. 2

Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, and ruled in Steven's favor. And they said it couldn't be done. The settlement amount covers all expenses incurred moving out and relocating unexpectedly. He tells us, "I have spent less than \$500, representing myself but receiving expert advice from my longtime attorney, **Thomas Rosenwein**." Congrats Steven.

**BOX OF CHOCOLATE:** Thanks to the lovely **Donna** from the City News Cafe on Cicero north of Irving Park for the homemade chocolate truffles. Donna is also selling homemade artistic postcards to raise money for Ukrainian refugees. Try the gourmet coffees, teas, baked goods as well as the truffles when you pick up your copy of the Booster, News-Star or Skyline newspapers at the place to be for periodical readers.

**THE RECORDING:** The top residential brokerage team at @ Properties Christie's International Real Estate has seen a wave of layoffs and resignations after a recording surfaced of a call between team leader **Leigh Marcus** and his second in command, **Graham Bailey**. The call was captured by customer relationship management software. It was leaked by staffers, and revealed Marcus suggesting the termination of a staff member who had previously taken unpaid maternity leave, and making offensive remarks about preventing her from becoming pregnant again. It caused widespread outrage. The Christmas bonus will be lighter this year. Since the release of the recording, 16 people are now missing from the



Patrick Kenny



Elvis impersonator.

team. Marcus justified the layoffs by citing the downturn in the residential real estate market.

**FAREWELL PAT:** Rogers Parker **Patrick Kenny** died last week at 76. He was a stalwart of the community, involved in parish activities at St. Ignatius and at Saint Ita, deeply involved in the CAPS program and a constant presence at events in the neighborhood. He spent 34 years in the Chicago Public Schools, first at Cooley Vocational High School, then at Sayre Elementary, Parker Elementary, and retired from Bunche Elementary. Pat was a well-respected teacher and principal. A vibrant and happy man. Those words don't come close to conveying the energy he brought to the community.

**GOOSE ISLAND:** Demolition has begun at 901 N. Halsted St. on Goose Island for Halsted Pointe, a multi-phase, mixed-use development by Onni Group. The development will replace the existing Greyhound bus terminal and introduce the island's first high-rise skyscraper. Many more skyscrapers to come.

**WAC AT 125:** The beginning of the Women's Athletic Club's sesquicentennial (125th) anniversary celebration last year and the conclusion this past weekend. What a wonderful year for Chicago and one of our most delightful and elegant historic clubs. **Peggy Snorf** doing the anniversary honors.

**PEACE AND HEALING:** Deepest sympathies to **Bob Dobnick** whose husband **Chadwick Godfrey** died last week to the shock and surprise of friends. Chadwick was a hilarious and kind Texan who entered Bob's life when he needed him most. We were lucky enough to get to know them at Kiki's French Bistro where they joyously held court. **Kiki** and **Denise** were good friends to them. And the fabulous French cuisine was the glue that held many of us together. All our prayers and love to Bob whose high-end career made Chicago a center for taste and style. The Irish poet **W.B. Yeats** said it

best, "Think where man's glory most begins and ends. And say my glory was I had such friends."

**UNITED AIRLINES:** United's non-denial denial on a planned headquarters move to Denver, at the TD Cowen Global Transportation Conference, airline CFO **Gerald Laderman** said there are "no imminent plans" to move their headquarters, noting that the airline has "a long-term lease at Willis Tower. We've been there for decades in Chicago. Denver is like Houston. We have lots of facilities in Houston."

**CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE:** Friday, September 22 FLAIR - Fashion Show & Luncheon Presented by The Chicago Lighthouse. The Event Chairs are **Sherill Bodine**, **Sheree Schimmer** and **Sherry Lea Fox**. Location, at The Ritz Carlton Chicago.

**GREEK FOOD FOR YOU:** Purchase delicious Loukoumades, Greek fries, cooked spinach pies and cooked cheese pies to support the Ladies Educational Society at St. George, noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, at St. George Greek Orthodox Church 2701 N. Sheffield, 2nd Floor. Pre-orders and pre-payments are encouraged. Call Mary Diamantakos at 773-965-1901 for more info.

**HO HO HO:** Hostess, the maker of Twinkies and Ho Hos, is being purchased by J.M. Smucker in a \$5.6 billion deal. Love those things.

**WHO'S WHERE:** **Zurich Esposito** and **Brian McCormick** White Lotus-ing in Sicily all the ancient and modern... the **Dal Santo sisters**, meandering the North of Italy where **Lois**, **Victoria** and **Colleen** will begin an intensive Italian language institute soon but in the meantime can twirl the pasta al dente... **Cynthia Olson** returned to her beloved Venice and celebrated a birthday among the populi of her water-streets and majestic Gritti Palace Hotel... **Karen Conti**, WGN Radio law-lady, just returned from exploring Croatia, Bosnia, and Montenegro, from the

beautiful mountains and Adriatic Sea, to the Game of Thrones film sets... **Bill Zwecker** enjoying early fall visit at The American Hotel in Sag Harbor... **J William Curran** getting good sun in Sitges, Barcelona, Spain... **Eamonn Cummins** at Joe's on Weed Street with **Jack Smith** and his Pop, **Chuck Smith**... **Chanteuse Ireen Mojica** at RL for a bit of a birthday bash with **Barb Bailey**, **Denise Tomasello**, **Laura Lein Cavanaugh** and **Jeanne Paul** - all charming Salerno Cookies... Attorney **Brendan O'Connor** traveling with his wonderful parents, **Jerry** and **Christina O'Connor**, to Budapest along the Danube in Hungary... Mayor **Shelley Howard** down on the corner again at Gibson's with **Jim**, **Jay**, **Dennis** and **Larry**.

**GREEK ELVIS:** Strange. Last Sunday I thought I caught sight of **Elvis Presley** on his way to the men's lavatory at Greek Islands. I was correct. It wasn't the Meliatis White Wine talking, but an actual impersonator of the King come to sing at an engagement dinner that looked like "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" number four. Elvis had a line of wild proportions lining up for autographs and snaps. Execs **Stephanos Naoum** and **Luis Gonzalez** were delighted for the celebrity sighting.

**@PROPERTIES:** Chicago's best Dad, **Thad Wong**, a founder of @Properties, said the best part of the Bears game was the rickshaw ride all the way home with son, **Palmer Wong**. "Day was perfect," he said. "Company was magical, but the Bears are the worst. I'm sure I'll be back." I'm just glad he can gobble up all that ice cream with daughter, **Ella Sunshine**, in Washington, D.C. at Van Leeuwen.

**ISLESBORO MAINE OYSTERS:** These oysters are poppin' right now. They're just starting to bulk up their feeding for winter; their flavor is changing slightly, their growth is crazy... It's not often I shuck at a party and think, "when I go home, I'm going to eat some of my oysters," but last week I 100% did just that and they were so good.

**BEGORRA!:** Well, we're half way to St. Patrick's Day.

I am for doing good to the poor, but I differ in opinion of the means. I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. In my youth I travelled much, and I observed in different countries, that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer. -- Ben Franklin  
tog515@gmail.com



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## Death in the Disabled Stall!

The richest guy in Chicago has been in the disabled stall at his lawyer's office a mite too long. Shall we look?

See *The Dead One Stinks* at:  
[donniesyellowballbooks.com](http://donniesyellowballbooks.com)







The backbone of PAWS Chicago, its volunteers.

## PAWS founder: 'Animal Care and Control is inundated every day'

BY CANDICE JORDAN  
candicandace.com

PAWS Chicago hosted its 20th annual Beach Party at Offshore at Navy Pier recently. Over 400 animal-loving humans with 100 four-legged companions converged on this gorgeous venue, reported to be the world's largest rooftop bar, to raise funds for this beloved nonprofit.

Co-chaired by Vasoula Rehkson and Anna Simon, the event netted over \$400,000. It was a gorgeous night that offered spectacular views of the skyline and Lake Michigan.

Outstanding silent auction prizes included tickets for four to see soccer legend Lionel Messi in his first game at Soldier Field; a package of rare bourbons curated by Binny's Beverage Depot; and tickets to performances by John Legend and Carrie Underwood.

Returning emcees, Lisa Dent (WGN radio) and Jake Hamilton (Fox-32) helped PAWS co-founder Paula Fasseas present an adoptable dogs showcase. Two of the cuties found their forever homes that night. "We're all here because we love animals," said Fasseas. "Most of these dogs come from Animal Care and Control. For years we kept getting better and better with our spay/neuter program and the euthanasia rate has just plummeted over the years."

"However, over this year and last year, the rate is starting to go up, which is very sad and alarming," said Fasseas. "This is happening because, since COVID, there has been just so much disarray in people's lives. Many people are having to give up their pets and our Animal Care and Control is inundated every day."

"We are working very hard to grow our foster programs and to ramp up our adoption programs," said Fasseas. "We really need to continue doing more and more spay/neuter. Most clinics closed, it's hard to get vet appointments, a lot of the small rescues have closed too. It's very, very sad. So, we're focusing our energy on Animal Care



(Top) Co-emcee Jake Hamilton with his rescue dog Daenerys. (Bottom) Howard Tullman and Chuck Jordan.

and Control. We're doing less transport from Oklahoma and all those wonderful places that have relied on us, but we must focus on Chicago. It's number one. The economy and inflation have really had an impact on the lives of these sweet, voiceless animals."

During the event, guests enjoyed illustrations by artist Kristine Steiner, a dinner buffet and dancing. Canine counterparts enjoyed their own dinner buffets from Merrick Pet Care and a doggie spa. Brook Jay won an exciting package to a private benefit with actor Will Ferrell and his celebrity friends.

Congrats to PAWS, that to date, has facilitated over 90,000 adoptions.

## Meet the 2023 CSE sculptures Sept. 22

Celebrate Chicago Sculpture Exhibit [CSE] 2023 with an open house featuring this year's artists and an opportunity to learn more about CSE's mission to bring art to Chicago's neighborhoods.

The open house will be 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22 at Sedgwick Studios, 1544 N. Sedgwick. Admission is free.

CSE is an Illinois not-for-profit founded in 2001 by then-Ald. Vi Daley [43rd]. The Lincoln Park Community Art Initiative was created to beautify the Lincoln Park neighborhood in a new way.

The first show was mounted in 2002 with eight sculptures that were on display from May through October. The show continued to grow every year and has earned many accolades.

In 2008, the show nearly doubled when former Ald. Tom Tunney [44th] brought the Lakeview neighborhoods into the show. Following the 10 year anniversary of the show, additional neighborhoods joined and the name was changed to reflect a growing interest in sculpture throughout the city.

## Walk to End Alzheimer's world's largest event dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support, research



Cboe Global Markets will join the Alzheimer's Assoc. Illinois at the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's held on Oct. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Soldier's Field. On Walk day, participants kickoff the event by honoring those affected by Alzheimer's with the poignant Promise Garden Ceremony — an experience that signifies their solidarity in the fight against the disease.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In Illinois alone, there are more than 233,000 people living with the disease and 314,000 caregivers.

After the ceremony participants will walk through the Soldier Field concourse, then through the Museum Campus and along the lake before returning to the southeast lawn outside of Soldier Field for a festival filled with live music by the School of

Rock house band, massages for our Champions (top fundraisers), face painting, pet photo contest, and food trucks.

"In recognizing the profound impact — both emotionally and physically — that Alzheimer's has on countless families, we are honored to support the important mission and work done by Alzheimer's Assoc. Illinois to provide care, support and research for all those afflicted," said Sharon Stanciel, Senior Director, Political & Civic Affairs at Cboe Global Markets.

"We're closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer's," said Mary DeMars, Walk Director, Alzheimer's Assoc. "We hope that everyone in our community can join us by starting a team to help raise awareness and funds for families facing the disease today, take more steps toward treatments and finally ending this disease."

To register, visit [act.alz.org/chicagowalk](http://act.alz.org/chicagowalk).



## ROSEHILL CEMETERY TOUR

WITH CHUCK BETZOLD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 1 P.M.



Chicago has some of the most fascinating burial grounds in the world. Join lifelong Chicagoan Chuck Betzold for a leisure walk through one of them — historic Rosehill Cemetery. Rosehill is the largest cemetery in the city and is home to many of Chicago's most influential citizens.

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

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.

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## Mosaic School forum Sept. 21 over search for new principal

Mosaic School of Fine Arts (formerly Boone Elementary), 6710 N. Washtenaw Ave. is searching for a new principal. The Local School Council will be holding a community forum where the public is invited to meet the top candidates and ask questions.

Residents who reside within the school's attendance boundaries

are invited to the forum starting 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21.

The Illinois Report Card shows that the Mosaic School now has a 24% proficiency in literacy, 12% proficiency in math, and a 30% proficiency in science.

For more information call 773-534-2160.

### ORDINANCE from p. 3

classified as Class C, larger operations that can harvest 2,000 to 10,000 plants.

"The saturation has caused an influx and new cannabis-infused products to be developed which translates into new creative choices at retail shops," said Dutcher. "From the consumer's (standpoint), it's a great thing. On our end, there are a lot of small farms that are closing their doors, and there's a lot of consolidation happening with the larger companies as well. Real estate is being abandoned. It's not pretty, to say the least."

"Since we came online, the [supply] saturation has impacted

the frequency of our restocks with so many more brands coming online in the last year," he said.

Between Jan. 2022 and Jan. 2023, the cost of one ounce of cannabis flower dropped 53.6% in Michigan. Michigan is only a 90-mile drive from downtown Chicago.

Boaters can bring supply to town relatively easily too, to help underwrite the high cost of marine fuel.

While prices fluctuate, a Chicago buyer can get 'legal weed' for around \$350 an ounce. In Michigan that same one-ounce bag is going for \$100 to \$250. In Colorado, retail ounces are priced from \$80 to \$190, depending on the strain.

### REVELERS from p. 7

ing down Armando Rodriguez's sweater pocket, so they patted him down. Levin said they found a loaded 40-caliber handgun.

Rodriguez, 23, has been on "first-time gun offender probation" since July 2022, said Levin.

His attorney, Assistant Public Defender Catherine Stockslager, told Ahmad she expected Fourth Amendment issues to be raised as the case progressed. The judge ordered him to pay a \$1,000 bail deposit to go home on electronic monitoring.

A little further away, officers on Mexican Independence Day patrol in the 2800 block of S. Kedzie decided to investigate a large crowd in a gas station parking lot.

Upon seeing an "L-shaped object" in Richard Mendoza's satchel, the officers investigated and found a loaded handgun, Levin alleged.

Stockslager again countered

that there "may be some Fourth Amendment issues" with the officers' actions.

Ahmad set bail at \$10,000, meaning Mendoza must post \$1,000 to go home to Lake County.

Chicago police arrested 33-year-old Roberto Valencia in the 5100 block of S. Pulaski around 10:22 p.m. Saturday. They said he threw glass bottles and fireworks toward officers working the Mexican Independence Day patrol. But he's also charged with felony possession of a controlled substance. Levin

said officers found about \$500 worth of suspected cocaine in a fanny pack inside a car he jumped into as cops approached him.

Levin also presented allegations against two men who allegedly drove cars toward Chicago cops during the Mexican Independence Day party.

### INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

For underground dealers, farmers selling into the black markets are reportedly getting \$600 a pound for some of the very same strains Illinois retailers would be selling for \$5000 or more. In a real open market, it is always about supply and demand, and right now supply is outpacing demand.

"Unfortunately, we are witnessing unlicensed retailers opening and calling themselves dispensaries, and marketing and selling products with unregulated, untested THC – this is a concerning trend and gives consumers a false sense of security in what they are buying and consuming," said Ryan P. McLaughlin of CBAI. "Licensed cannabis operators across the state are required to meet strict compliance standards in order to grow, manufacture, and sell cannabis products, with quality and public safety as a top priority."

Industry experts predict legal sellers will continue to provide a high share of the state's pot sales going forward, though illicit sales will likely continue to make up a billion-dollar underground market. Chicago has long been a gangland city, and the dope-selling industry was run by organized crime long before govern-

**"Unfortunately, we are witnessing unlicensed retailers opening and calling themselves dispensaries, and marketing and selling products with unregulated, untested THC – this is a concerning trend and gives consumers a false sense of security in what they are buying and consuming," said Ryan P. McLaughlin of CBAI. "Licensed cannabis operators across the state are required to meet strict compliance standards in order to grow, manufacture, and sell cannabis products, with quality and public safety as a top priority."**

ment insiders got into the game in the last few years.

Making the situation even easier for illegal sellers, felony cannabis arrests in Chicago dipped after legalization, and now Chicago Police are being instructed by the Chicago and Cook County political leaders to not pursue criminals, making it easier for dope dealers to operate in the shadows of the legal retailers. Easy money, gangs and light penalties for pot-related crimes continue to support illegal sales.

"It really comes down to debt and the cost to produce," said Dutcher. "How can you get your cost to produce down? Answers to those questions are really going to define the fate of our companies."



Mugshot of Arturo Rodriguez (inset) and a frame from social media video of the assault.

Jamal Turner's troubles began near the Taylor St. exit ramp from I-94 around 10 p.m. Sept. 16.

Levin said officers were blocking traffic and directing drivers away from downtown when Turner drove on the shoulder to pass vehicles. She said that an officer directing traffic had to "move quickly" to avoid being struck by his car. According to Stockslager, officers instructed him to go around other vehicles to clear traffic. He denies that he tried to hit the officer.

That officer jumped into another officer's squad car, and the cops pursued Turner until he ran red lights and started driving into oncoming traffic on Halsted St. The officers ended their pursuit but eventually caught Turner after he became stuck in heavy traffic, Levin said.

The cops said they found a

handgun wedged between his driver's seat and center console, but Turner is a concealed carry license holder.

He's charged with aggravated assault of a peace officer, aggravated fleeing, and misdemeanor counts of reckless driving, violating the concealed carry act, and possession of cannabis by a driver.

Ahmad ordered him to pay a \$500 bail deposit, surrender his FOID and CCL, and stay in the house from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Erik Flores-Andrade

was stuck in heavy traffic near 52nd and Pulaski on Saturday night when a Chicago police lieutenant noticed that he had a fake license plate on his car that said, "QUIET," Levin alleged. When the lieutenant ordered him to stop, Flores-Andrade continued driving forward, and two cops had to move out of the way to avoid being hit.

The hood of his car allegedly hit one officer's arm.

Four squad cars filled with backup officers arrived, and Flores-Andrade is accused of hitting all four of them in a failed attempt to get away. The vehicles suffered more than \$9,000 in combined damages.

Judge Ahmad, noting that Flores-Andrade just completed probation for aggravated speeding and criminal damage on Sept. 11, ordered him to pay a \$3,000 bail deposit.

"A lot of people came into this game and developed a business plan during the green rush when prices of cannabis were going for around \$4,000 a pound," he said. "They build out these high-tech facilities and take on all this debt. It's all run by computers with outrageous overhead and maintenance costs. The markets dropped 80 to 90%. Since that, they're finding themselves trying to stay above water in this time."

The regulated cannabis program in Illinois was created to protect government interests and the public by controlling the manufacturing and sale of all dope. Not surprisingly, the illegal underground market doesn't really care.

But his private defense attorney said Flores-Andrade would "highly dispute the facts."

"He couldn't have even gone 5, 10 miles per hour," given the heavy traffic, the lawyer continued, saying the state's version of events "makes no sense."

"The vehicles didn't damage themselves," Ahmad countered.

In another incident, a man convicted of attempted murder in 1994 is charged with battering a fallen Chicago police officer with a wooden flagpole during Mexican Independence Day festivities on Sept. 16.

Levin said officers were patrolling the area when someone fired a pellet gun at them. A crowd of people closed in on the cops and began throwing debris at the officers as they tried to arrest the person who shot at them. During the melee, one of the officers fell to the ground.

While the officer was still down, Arturo Rodriguez, 46, walked up and hit him in the back of the head and right side of the neck with a "skinny flagpole stick," Levin alleged. The incident was captured on video.

Levin said the officer suffered "pain and bruising" from the attack. Rodriguez is charged with aggravated battery of a peace officer. Ahmad ordered him to pay a \$6,500 bail deposit to go home on electronic monitoring.

A Chicago police spokesperson said a 16-year-old boy was also arrested at the scene. He is charged with two counts of aggravated battery of a peace officer and two counts of misdemeanor resisting. No other information is available about the teen because he is a juvenile.

During the same confrontation, another officer was struck in the ear with a wooden flagpole, leaving him with a serious injury. A photo of the officer's injury, which required 30 stitches to repair, has been shared online. No charges have been announced in connection with that attack.

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Rogers Park shred Sept. 23

The 49th Ward office is hosting a free a Shred-A-Thon 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at 6934 N. Clark St.

There is a limit of two bankers boxes of sensitive documents per person and all documents should have paper and binder clips removed.

Everything that is made beautiful and fair and lovely is made for the eye of one who sees. - Rumi

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

202020 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff, vs. BYRON J. CRUZ-CEDENO, 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.

Real Estate For Sale

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. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's 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

Real Estate For Sale

a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2023 CH 02229 13228999 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, vs. JOHN LYDON, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RANULFO R CISNEROS, DECEASED, KENMORE CLUB CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RANULFO CISNEROS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, MARIO CISNEROS Defendants 22 CH 04691 5119 NORTH KENMORE AVENUE TERRACE UNIT CHICAGO, IL 60640 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 12, 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 5119 NORTH KENMORE AVENUE TERRACE UNIT, CHICAGO, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-08-402-016-1031 The real estate is improved with a three story condominium. 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 confirma-

Real Estate For Sale

tion 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 Plaintiff's 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

Real Estate For Sale

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 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 CWHEQ 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

Real Estate For Sale

131313 060606 Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700 North Township Real Estate For Sale Real Estate For Sale 2022 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 131313 060606 Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700



# Minnesota man gets twelve years for random knife attack in downtown River North condo building

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Minnesota man pleaded guilty on Wednesday to attempted murder in connection with an apparently random knife attack on a River North resident who was working out in their condo building's fitness center.

Judge Michael Hood sentenced Alex Blickem to 12 years in exchange for his guilty plea. Prosecutors dropped burglary and aggravated battery charges in the deal.

Blickem, 31, was not supposed to be outside Minnesota at the time of the attack, as he was awaiting trial for allegedly committing a similar attack there months earlier.

Surveillance video showed Blickem en-

tering the condo building at 405 N. Wabash and opening packages in the mailroom before he moved across the hall to the fitness center around 5:27 a.m. on Sept. 30, 2021, officials said.

Once inside the gym, he allegedly walked up to a 38-year-old man he did not know, stabbed him in the side, and said, "You are dead."

The victim ran to the lobby to get help from the building's desk attendant. Building management told residents in an email that the attacker was "an outside person who does not live in the building." The email did not say how he got into the high-rise.

Chicago police found Blickem hiding in a storage closet with a backpack contain-

ing several knives. Officers also found a bloody knife at the fitness room entrance.



Alex Blickem

Surgeons operated on the victim at Northwestern Memorial Hospital to repair his kidney and intestine, which were lacerated in the attack.

Blickem allegedly told police he was homeless and came to Chicago for a girl. He also claimed to have blacked out after taking allergy medicine from Walgreens. Prosecutors said he has an "extensive history" of psychiatric episodes and violent and abusive behavior in Minnesota.

In fact, officials said he was on pre-trial release in that state after he allegedly entered a stranger's home in April 2021, attacked the man who lives there, and told the victim he was dead. Cops reportedly found Blickem passed out on the victim's bedroom floor with methamphetamine lying nearby. He was charged with burglary, first-degree assault, threatening bodily harm, and narcotics charges by Minnesota authorities.

Less than three months later, The McLeod (Minnesota) County Sheriff's Office said it arrested Blickem for driving while intoxicated, fleeing police, and illegal firearm possession. There was a warrant outstanding in the case at the time of the River North attack.

## MORATORIUM from p. 1

ban on issuing any new late-night licenses to establishments in the 2nd Ward.

During a community meeting in August, Old Town neighbors made clear their opposition to another late night club when they broadly opposed Caché, a proposed

**Old Town neighbors made clear their opposition to another late night club when they broadly opposed Caché, a proposed new nightclub on the 1400 block of Wells St. Neighbors feared the bar would exacerbate the street's already ongoing problem with bad behavior.**

new nightclub on the 1400 block of Wells St. Neighbors feared the bar would exacerbate the street's already ongoing problem with bad behavior.

Presently there are 13 late-hour license holders in his ward. Those licenses allow the clubs to stay open until 4 a.m. Monday-Saturday, and until 5 a.m. Sunday mornings.

In July, Hopkins called on the city to also eliminate late-night tavern licenses in River North, suggesting these locations were also contributing to violence in the area.

In his newsletter, the alderman has been blaming late-night violence on his ward's restaurant and bar strips, calling it a strain on police resources.

## SUIT from p. 1

able to stall an EOD application for any reason they may choose.

The Irish Nobleman derives a significant amount of its revenue from service on the patio, and its employees rely on the busier months when the patio is open in order to compensate for the relatively slower and less profitable colder months.

On July 13, the Morgans, four of their restaurant staff, two neighbors - and this reporter - went to visit La Spata. At the meeting the alderman assured the Morgans that they were not going to get his approval on the EOD for perhaps as long as another 60 days. He said that the bar was "out of compliance" because it had two extra tables and two benches on their patio.

Those two benches and tables are why the alderman said he will not approve the license. In none of the city's 27 inspections over the last year were two tables or benches ever cited, or tickets written over. But that was the lone reason La Spata cited for blocking their EOD application.

In his June 1 agreement with City Council, Mayor Johnson gave aldermen the right to approve all EOD applications. And that was all the power La Spata needed for his political retribution. Sources at CDOT have told this newspaper that the EOD license application for The Irish Nobleman is the only one that they're aware of city-wide that has had any trouble getting approved.

During the July 13 meeting, La Spata accused CDOT of giving the Morgans "false information."

"That is not true, it did not happen, and

thank you for letting us know, I will call the Commissioner about this," La Spata said in front of 10 witnesses.

The Morgans say La Spata and the alderman's office are bullying them by blocking their EOD approval for political reasons. And now they're fighting back, for their and their staff's livelihoods.

The Morgans say they are, and always have been, in compliance and nobody from any city department "has reached out to us prior to the July 13 meeting, to notify us of any alleged infraction with our [Café]."

The lawsuit claims that La Spata violated their right to free speech and political association by supporting aldermanic candidates who opposed La Spata, as well as by making statements in the media and at community meetings critical of La Spata and the City.

The case states that La Spata's irrational denial of the application, calls for 27 inspections, and physical interference "violated the rights guaranteed under the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983."

They say that La Spata's denial of the application was retaliatory in that there was no rational basis for its denial, other than the fact the Plaintiffs' principal hosted fundraisers and openly supported opposing candidates. The filing claims that La Spata's actions were "intentional, willful, and malicious and/or in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' rights as secured by 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991."

The Bar Shop, also owned by the Morgans, joined the suit, claiming La Spata

intentionally interfered with their expectation of future business. That La Spata's actions have caused businesses to not contract with the Bar Shop out of fear that they too would be retaliated against by La Spata or his allies.

***The lawsuit claims that La Spata violated their right to free speech and political association by supporting aldermanic candidates who opposed La Spata, as well as by making statements in the media and at community meetings critical of La Spata and the City.***

The Bar Shop has designed and built over 500 bars and/or restaurants throughout the country, including many in Chicago.

The lawsuit says that Bar Shop's business reputation has been damaged as there is now a perception that the Bar Shop does not know what it is doing, and since the feud between the businesses and La Spata has been publicized in the media and at community meetings, "clients are deterred from using the Bar Shop out of fear of retribution" from La Spata and City Hall.

So now the victims of an alderman's political retribution are taking their protest to court.

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