

Lakeshore East Special Assessment Refinancing ordinance passed

On Sept. 14 the City Council voted to approve a Lakeshore East Special Assessment Refinancing ordinance.

In Nov. 2002 the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance authorizing the city to issue a series of three municipal bonds totaling \$58.9 million to build out the infrastructure of what became known as Lakeshore East. Those bonds funded the construction of basic public infrastructure, including a public park, water mains, streets, and landscaping in the Lakeshore East area.

The neighborhood is a master-planned development comprising approximately 26 acres, including two public parks and is bounded by E. Wacker Dr., N. Lake Shore Dr., E. Randolph St., and N. Columbus Dr.

The bond series, which had interest rates between 6.7% and 8%, was to be paid back by residents of the neighborhood over 30 years through a Special Assessment that is billed annually to each resident in the neighborhood and is based upon the assessed value of each property.

Those would be considered



In Nov. 2002 the City Council passed an ordinance authorizing the city to issue municipal bonds totaling \$58.9 million to build out the infrastructure of Lakeshore East. Those bonds funded the construction of basic public infrastructure, and they are now being refinanced at lower rates.

very high bond rates by today's standards.

This Special Assessment is the only one of its kind in the City of Chicago, and it acts as an additional tax on Lakeshore East residents.

The new ordinance, sponsored by Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] enables the City's Chief Financial Officer to refinance these Bonds and capitalize on the low interest

rates. The refinancing is projected to save each unit owner \$2,948 in assessments over the next 11 years (an average of \$268 per unit per year for 11 years).

Each September, October, and November, the alderman review the Mayor's Office budget proposal and recommending changes. The new bonding was a part of that budget review this year.

First Tee installation at Waveland completed

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Local youngsters between seven and 18 years old will now have a chance — many for the first time — to learn the rudiments of Golf and life itself, thanks to the First Tee program which just opened a mini-course just south of the Waveland clubhouse in Lincoln Park.

Leading an open-house for the general public Aug. 30 was a top golfer, Luke Donald, who earlier this summer met with local youths for ideas on what they think should be included in the 1,250-square-foot project situated right next to the prestigious lakefront Marovitz Course and landmark clocktower clubhouse.

The project will cost about \$1.5 million, according to the program.

First Tee has made a long-term agreement with the Chicago Park District, which manages the public space and according to Park Commissioner Michael Kelley, couldn't "be more thrilled" by the arrangement.

It creates "new opportunities for the city's youth," he said.

"This is an unbelievable opportunity for a program like this," said Donald, adding that his interest in the program may have been given a shot in the arm by his own memories of growing up and the people who mentored him along the way.



Access to a safe place to learn golf, the 1,250 square foot kid's clubhouse at Waveland's Marovitz Golf Course in Lincoln Park, will provide year-round access to programming, a technology lab for exploration and learning, a simulator for practice, and a lounge area for peer engagement.

Today Donald is a professional golfer who has helped make an estimated \$2 million for First Tee.

Not surprisingly, Donald had a hand in the design and made it a point to meet with a group of local kids back in July to get their ideas on what should go into the

facility.

The \$2 million project was conducted in two phases. The clubhouse opened in Spring 2021, and the outdoor space just now.

This project helps address three

FIRST TEE see p. 12

North Township reassessments are in

Initial reassessments of residential and commercial properties in North Chicago Township have been released by the office of Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi. This is the fourth of eight townships in the City of Chicago to be reassessed this year and reassessed under his administration.

North Township is located from Armitage Ave. south to the main branch of the Chicago River, and from the lakefront west to the North Branch of the Chicago River.

North Township has seen similar, surprisingly robust real estate trends that are also taking place in other areas of the city. In some areas, home values are rising significantly, though others have plateaued.

Despite the pandemic, rents have increased since 2018, driving some commercial property values higher while others still see ongoing economic effects from the pandemic.

REASSESSMENT see p. 12

Community meeting over fate of Old Town real estate

Ald. Brian Hopkins is hosting a virtual community meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, on the fate of future development around the North Ave. and N. LaSalle Dr. intersection.

The meeting is to discuss a proposed development of property at 1600 N. LaSalle Dr., and for several properties in the Old Town neighborhood owned by Fern Hill Real Estate, a Chicago-based developer, and The Moody Church.

The meeting will cover several

notable neighborhood properties in and around the intersection of North Ave. and LaSalle Dr. and also an update on the former Treasure Island Grocery Store retail space on Wells St.

The ownership group is reportedly not proposing any development plans at this time.

Those who wish to join in on the meeting will need to register in advance. For more information call 312-643-2299 or write to Ward02@cityofchicago.org

TIF tax funds to be used for Skinner North School improvements

Over \$4.7 million in school improvement projects would be completed at one North Side school by the Chicago Board of Education through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposals introduced to City Council on Sept. 15.

The Near North Side's Mark T. Skinner North Classical Elementary School, 640 W. Scott St., would be allocated \$4.7 million in TIF for roof replacement and masonry repairs. To be completed this fall, the project would be entirely financed with TIF.

Property tax incentives for two North Side projects

Cook County property tax incentives proposed to City Council Sept. 15 would enable the redevelopment of two commercial properties on the North Side for business uses.

A Class 7(a) property incentive for Double Door Development's planned Double Door nightclub in Uptown would help convert a former vaudeville house at 1024 W. Wilson Ave. into a live music venue. Planned for the former Wilson Ave. Theater building, the \$1.7 million project would rehabilitate the 112-year-old structure as a 700-person music hall that creates up to 60 permanent and temporary jobs.

Part of the Uptown Square Chicago Landmark District, the building was converted to a bank in 1919. The incentive, which is designed to foster commercial investment in designated redevelopment areas, would reduce taxes

on the property by approximately \$564,000 over the next 12 years.

Along the North Branch of the Chicago River, a Class L property tax incentive was issued for the former Morton Salt Co. warehouse, 1357 N. Elston Ave. It would help convert the historic industrial complex into a commercial and entertainment venue.

Planned by the joint venture 1357 Property Owner LLC, the \$45.7 million project would create up to 380 permanent and temporary jobs. The complex was built in 1930 and used for the storage, packaging, and distribution of rock salt until 2015. It was designated a Chicago Landmark in June 2021. The Class L incentive, which encourages the preservation and rehabilitation of designated landmark buildings, would reduce property taxes on the complex by approximately \$7 million over the next 12 years.

The uglier we get, the less inviting we become



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Have you seen “The Art of Banksy, Chicago,” a show featuring 80 pieces of original urban art from the celebrated British artist? It’s at 360 N. State St., upstairs of the Museum of Broadcast Communications.

Banksy is the clever, talented artist who has been raising a storm, artistically and politically, throughout the realm of Britain. All over such issues as pollution, urban isolation, class priggishness, privilege, entitlement and just plain old cruelty in human behavior.

Banksy uses his version of urban graffiti to tell a story of human heroics, human powerlessness and human hope.

No one is supposed to know his true identity. He’s the art world’s best kept secret. A mystery. Tricking every level of law enforcement and human nosiness.

In the meantime he tells peoples’ stories with the full poignancy and emotion of his brush. His works raise questions. Asking the viewer to respond to the hurt of human brokenness, the tragedy of urban crime or the dilemma of homelessness, unemployment or love’s betrayal.

Ironically when you paint your stories on the outer walls of pubs and palaces, some folk get riled. When you raise the issues that are sticky and tricky for human beings to resolve, you set yourself

up for becoming an enemy to some.

During his long career as a secret urban bandit artist, Banksy’s works have been accruing great value. Some of his wall-works have been appraised at great sums of money, hundreds of thousands of pounds. Raising further dilemmas about how the works can be conserved, curated or sold.

(Perhaps those Londoners now regret cleaning his early works off their walls?)

If you want the full story, go see the exhibition. You’ll learn things you can’t discover at the Art Institute of Chicago. Art for Banksy is a social teacher. Prophetic. Ironic. Seeking to topple the forces of cold cruelty. It’s so much more than street art. It’s more the sword of artistic judgment. Like Caravaggio, or Francis Bacon. Judgment that’s been around since the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was first painted.

We say this because Chicago, it appears, is quickly descending into its own version of being a victim of artistic urban art. Emphasis on the urban. Not the art. We seem to be falling off the cliff of trashy graffiti. We’re losing the battle for graffiti-free streets, sidewalks and buildings.

This is not clever social justice art, it’s just graffiti.

Commuting to City Hall, during the reign of Richie Daley, I used to walk to work. Three miles each way. From Damen and Division down Milwaukee Ave. When I got further downtown near the river, around Lake St., the terrain would change. And in the morning you could see quite visibly all the fresh markings of



Iconic image by Banksy.

the streetscape with gang signs and bad visuals.

Fast forward. On the walk home, some eight hours later, no sign of the graffiti was to be seen.

Under Daley, once graffiti was reported, a special graffiti blasters squad would be put into action, like Marvel superheroes. This was the “broken windows theory” in action. The blight of the spray paint and gang symbols gone by lunch. Daley operated a “no holds barred” operation on urban disfigurement. He hit graffiti where it lived. He, literally, erased it.

All the tell-tale pox that the barely literate carve into the face of the public right of way.

His team used their unique blend of graffiti remover to rescue bridges, “L” trains, stop signs, bus stops, windows, back alleys, sidewalks and postal boxes from the disfigurement of the urban chaos.

But at the moment, I’m not sure the current administration is interested in how the cityscape looks. Have you looked around the city lately? Have you seen what’s happened to downtown and Michigan Ave.?

Check out the neighborhoods. Hot and cold running gang propaganda as far as the eye can see. What is Mayor Lightfingers up to? Does the anti-graffiti squad even exist any more? Do

they have more than a bottle of windex and a tooth brush?

What is Kim Foxx doing to prosecute people who deface our environment? If they aren’t arresting people who gun down innocent Chicagoans, they are hardly interested in the landscape of the environment.

Chaos and bad art are consuming our once beautiful metropolis. This is serious. The uglier we get, the less inviting we become. Who in their right mind would want to visit Chicago awash in gang signs and spray painted nonsense?

There are no Banksys here. Just the Rorschach smear of poor judgment and disorganized political leadership.

Does anyone keep track of the urban destruction that is underway?

I suspect people are so dis-

traught over the looting and shootings that a little paint and graffiti is just left forgotten. Maybe when the merchants, like Gucci, are all gone from Boul Mich Mayor Lightfingers will have time to get down to the business of caring for and protecting the city and its citizens.

Maybe Gary, Ford Heights and Detroit are urban beauty spots for her team. But Chicagoans deserve better and expect more. Maybe we could

send a rescue party to search for the graffiti squad. Finding them and freeing them is now an urban necessity.

No human heroics drip from these eyesores. No stories of hope

are to be found in the sad violence of urban disfigurement. Soon we won’t need facemasks. We’ll need blindfolds.

CPS’ NEW CEO: Pedro Martinez has been named the new Chicago Public School’s CEO. A graduate of the Univ.

of Illinois, he will be coming from San Antonio, TX, where he has been the school superintendent since 2015. His appointment was announced at Benito Juarez High School of which he is an alum. He is also the first hispanic to hold the post.

SENATOR STEVENSON: The statesmanship and refined political skills of the **Stevensons**

of Illinois are legendary in American history. Their name gave Americans an abiding sense of hope in complex times as they demonstrated what the liberal Democratic American political intellect could achieve. They shared



The late senator Adlai Stevenson.

policy and philosophy with many treasured American patriots. **Adlai Stevenson I** served as vice president under **President Grover Cleveland** in the 1890s. **Adlai Stevenson II** served as Illinois governor before twice running for president as a Democrat in the 1950s. He later served as a vital intelligent source of influence on **President John Fitzgerald Kennedy**, serving as Ambassador to the United Nations. **Adlai Stevenson III**, who served with distinction in the U.S. Senate from Illinois in the 1970s, brought a distinguished sense of character to the office. His death last week, at 90, is mourned by Americans of both political parties. The multi-generational service of the Stevensons is a reminder of the quality of character that once was an inheritance among many high

minded families. Rest in peace dear friend.

WGN REPORTER: Chicago is saddened at the passing of **Allison Payne**, a longtime WGN TV news reporter and anchor. She died in her hometown, Detroit. She co-anchored WGN News for 21 years earning nine Emmy awards, but suffered a series of health issues the last few years. She was 57.

GEMÜTLICHKEIT: Maria Pappas wielding a mallet to open a keg of German beer, the first woman in the history of Lincoln Square’s Octoberfest to do so, but missing for that first sip of beer was local alderman **Matt Martin**. After 100 years, his rigged real estate deal may sink future German-American Fests in the 47th Ward. Has he now burned too many bridges in his own

neighborhood to drink a beer in public?

CHICAGO SYMPHONY: Maestro **Riccardo Muti** opens the 2021/2022 symphony season on Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., the first live concerts since February 2020.

“The feelings of every person will come together to create something magical, and the audience will feel the importance of the music as harmony and beauty,” said Muti.

GOODMAN THEATER: The 30 year veteran Artistic Di-

UGLIER see p. 8

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT FRANCES XAVIER
OF SAINT FRANCES XAVIER
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Charming little fairy house enchants passersby

Plus, painting, party and photo op



**Heart
of the 'Hood**
by Felicia Dechter

Just about every day, I walk by the most charming little fairy house that's built onto a tree on my block. It was created by my neighbors -- two young girls -- with a wee bit of help from their mom.

Each time I stroll by, I stop and marvel at its details and the TLC it continues to get. I send thanks to Jacqueline, 8, Olivia, 6, and their mom, Heather, for providing such a warm and welcoming tiny ray of sunshine on our street.

"People stop all the time," said Heather. "I see them from the kitchen."

"Most of the time it's adults stopping more than kids," she added. "They look at it for several minutes and sometimes they take selfies!"

Built either onto or into a glorious Maple tree are -- among many other treasures -- a tiny, framed picture of a bunny sniffing a flower, made by Jacqueline. Someone left a Tong, figurine, he's a fictional character from the Disney movie "Raya and the Last Dragon." Other admirers have added googlie eyes to the rocks from time to time, Heather said.

"They put it on different places," she said. "I'm not sure who it is, but it's fun."

Most of the stuff used for this delightful little tree house was found in nature around the neighborhood, like rocks from



A tiny, framed picture of a bunny sniffing a flower, made by Jacqueline, hangs on a big Maple tree.

the beach, branches fallen off of trees, and also some odds and ends from around the house, Heather said. Among other things, there's a shiny, pretty glittery rock and leaf, made by Jacqueline. There's a mini robin's egg blue lantern, a small red and yellow-spotted mushroom, and a cute yellow chair to sit in, in case the fairies should get tired of flying around.

And I love the enchanting piece of a bench and tree, made of metal and stone that the family received -- and made great use of -- from Heather's dad's mom.

"She moved into a smaller home and downsized and instead of passing it on, we used it here," said Heather.

The fairy house was inspired by another decorated fairy tree on Albion St., about a half-mile or so south of this one. Although Jacqueline and Olivia started theirs, other people in the neighborhood apparently can't help getting involved.

"Most people just leave stuff," said Jacqueline. "But we built everything... like



Olivia, left, and her sister, Jacqueline, put smiles on the faces of those who walk by their charming fairy house.

the rocks."

I have to say, the sisters got really creative with their stones. I love how they glued them together to make a winding stairway up the tree, "Because even though fairies can fly, some of their friends can't."

Olivia said she likes the fairy on the tree best, while Jacqueline favors the fairy swing because it can go back and forth. I asked the girls, what would you like to see

people do and/or say when they see your fairy house?

"Maybe smile and take pictures," said Jacqueline.

That, is something passersby definitely already do. I mean, how can you not? It's the sweetest housing development on the block.

Thanks again to Heather, Jacqueline

and Olivia for putting a smile on my face, and those of others, each and every time we walk on by.

Perfect paint party... When Seneese Paint & Sip Co. owner Gail Dunn decided to expand her business into children's Paint & Play parties, she needed some help in advertising her latest venture on her website, seneeseapassionpainting.com.

So what did Dunn do? She invited some local kids to come out for a fun paint party last Sunday. About 10 little and bigs from ages two to about nine came out and created some amazing artwork, having a blast while doing so.

Before she added the kiddies, Dunn's merrymaking would consist of Paint & Sip parties, for couple's, girls' or even men's night. No matter who the party is for or where it is, she comes to your location and brings everything for a group of five -- plenty of fun-colored, vibrant paints, easels, aprons, canvases with pictures already

drawn on them, tables, chairs, you name it, Dunn has it. All you do is relax and kick back and enjoy.

Dunn has been in business for a couple of years, "I'm not an artist," she admitted. "It's just a hobby." Yet her pre-drawn canvases hold something for everybody, whether it's a lady with a hat or one sipping wine, or perhaps a landscape or flowers. There are antique cars for the guys, as well as cartoon characters, "and things like that," said Dunn, who wants to be able to reach out to all different kinds of people.

All I know is, the group of kids out on Sunday had an awesome time painting Mickey Mouse, butterflies, baseball and bats, cars, etc. It's a perfect activity for a keeping-it- small party.

Whatever tickles your painting fancy, Dunn more than likely can provide it.

"There's a little something for everybody," she said.

A hot time in the Old Town... co-chairs Eurydice Chrones and Kathy Clark have put together an outstanding-sounding night in the Sept. 24 event, Then and Now -- Our Old Town, an evening in and out of the iconic Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.

The museum's outdoor patio will be lit with a canopy of lights and its beautiful interior is stunning. This evening includes music by the Matt Jarosch Trio; heavy appetizers and sweets from Blue Plate Catering; premium open bar selec-



From left: Talia, CJ, Naya, and Daniel were part of a larger group of kids painting outside to celebrate and advertise for Seneese Paint & Sip Co.'s expansion into children's Paint & Play parties.

tions and soft drinks; entry to the Vivian Maier - In Color exhibit (so cool you get to see that) and much more! Tix are \$100.

There's also a one-time special event, a cocktail party with live music and appetizers and drinks for 100 people in the homes/ yards of Sasha Mayoras, Tom Kehoe, and Julie and Evan Jahn. A history -- then and now -- of each home will be on display during the event. Tix to that are \$75 per person. Proceeds support the Old Town Triangle Association's mission and goals.

There'll be raffle items, a silent auction, and a live auction with, "The Dream City" a piece created by Mark Hersch that pays tribute to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. It shows how the fair would look in present day Chicago -- Then and Now. I'm told the story of how this was created is not to be missed. "The Dream City" is a limited-edition print.

It's going to be a fabulous evening. Tickets are available at oldtowntriangle.com.

Great Scott, he's a nice guy!... relayed lucky downtown Joannah Zielinski, who was strolling down Michigan Ave. on a recent beautiful day after hanging out at Millennium Park. There, she ran into "handsome" actor Scott Foley,

who starred in the TV show "Felicity," and is also the former hubby of actress Jennifer Garner. "Asked for a photo and he was so nice about it," said a thrilled Zielinski.



Joannah Zielinski and actor Scott Foley.

Celebrating Mother Cabrini in Chicago: A history of mission, legacy of service

The National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini will hold its annual benefit dinner event 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, at the Chicago Yacht Club, 400 E. Monroe St.

Their emcee and auctioneer for the evening will be Chicago journalist, Janet Davies.

Each year they come together to celebrate their community and beloved Saint, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini.

This year they will celebrate her and the impact she made in education, health-care, and on the social well-being of Italian immigrants in Chicago.

Proceeds for this year's benefit will provide support for the Shrine Ministries, Programming and Special Events. Seating is limited to 150 people. For more information visit www.cabrinationalshrine.org.

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Eviction moratorium set to expire Oct. 3

Court-based program aims to distribute \$60 million to renters facing eviction

BY JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

The state's moratorium on enforcement of residential evictions will expire on Oct. 3, according to Gov. JB Pritzker's latest executive order issued Sept. 17.

Pritzker had extended the order each month with minor to substantial revisions since March 2020. The extensions have come in 30-day windows, coinciding with his monthly reissuance of a disaster proclamation in response to the pandemic.

The governor's order will start the eviction process whereby many of the North Side tenants who are squatting in rental units with large unpaid rent bills due may be forced out by the courts.

While most of the provisions in Pritzker's latest executive order were extended through Oct. 16, the section providing for the eviction moratorium is scheduled to be rescinded just two weeks into the 30-day order which was issued Friday.

The most recent iteration of the mora-

torium, which will expire Oct. 3, allows for court proceedings but prevents law enforcement from carrying out an eviction. It also allows for evictions in health and safety circumstances, and for "uncovered persons," which include those who refuse to fill out paperwork for assistance, who can't prove loss of income from COVID-19 or who earn more than \$99,000 individually or \$198,000 as a joint-filing household.

A state Supreme Court order preventing certain judgments in covered eviction cases expired on Sept. 18 and had not been extended as of Monday.

Last week, the Supreme Court announced a court-based rental relief program received \$60 million in funding to provide a "safety net for litigants who are on the brink of eviction," according to the court. That program is available outside of Cook County, which is expected to launch its own court-based assistance program sometime in October.

Per the latest Supreme Court order, any summons in an eviction case must be ac-

companied by a form informing the tenant and landlord of the court-based program. It includes information on the program, what documentation is needed and the web ad-

The governor's order will start the eviction process whereby many of the North Side tenants who are squatting in rental units with large unpaid rent bills due may be forced out by the courts.

dress for the court-based aid, ilrpp.ihda.org. The Illinois Housing Development Authority call center can be reached at 866-454-3571.

Those who have lost income due to COVID-19 may be eligible for up to 12 months of past due rent and three months of future rent to prevent eviction, per the program. The check would be paid directly to the landlord, who would be required to

agree not to evict the tenant for nonpayment of the rent that is repaid.

The funds come from the federal government, which means applicants must be under certain income limits as defined by the U.S. Treasury. Those earning 80% of the area median income or less are eligible. That threshold differs based on the county, ranging from \$35,700 in Alexander County to \$52,200 in Cook County. It goes up about \$5,000-\$6,000 for each additional person in the household.

Assistance may also still be available in certain areas through the Illinois Dept. of Human Services and the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the two state agencies overseeing disbursement of federal funding, at <https://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org/providers>.

Free legal assistance may be accessed through Eviction Help Illinois by visiting evictionhelpillinois.org or calling 855-631-0811.



Page and Torello Tacchi, early 1970s.



Biker Don DeBat, 1974.



Son Torello, Page and daughter Elizabeth.



Page Tacchi.

Life is a precious gift we all should cherish every day

Life is one of the most precious possessions with which humans have been blessed. However, when we are young, foolish and seemingly invincible, sometimes we don't respect the gift and importance of life.

When this writer looks back on his sometimes crazy, romantic and care-free youth, I'm surprised to still be alive at age 76, remembering the joys, triumphs and the pitfalls of my 20s and 30s.

In the early 1970s, I was involved in two serious motorcycle accidents. The first was when I dumped my exotic black and sexy

850 c.c. Moto Guzzi motorcycle on a gravel spill at the Eisenhower-Kennedy spaghetti bowl near Rush Univ. Hospital. I was 29 years old. It was a hot summer night in July. I had had a few cocktails and maybe a puff or two of grass. I wasn't wearing a helmet and was totally unprotected.

At that time, I was married to my first wife with two beautiful young children. I lost a spleen and suffered a lacerated kidney that night, and received more than 60 stitches.

During surgery, doctors injected four pints of blood in my battered body, and lots of morphine. I was in intensive care at Rush Hospital for eight days.

The 1st District Police softball team and its manager, Sargent Clancy, kindly visited my hospital room to give me their blessing.

I wondered later if they possibly had come to perform last rites. If the crash wasn't a few blocks from Rush Hosp., I wouldn't be writing this column.

A couple of years later in the Irving Park Villa neighborhood an unleashed dog ran out between two parked cars. I hit the animal and the brakes, then flew over the handlebars. Even though I was wearing a helmet and leathers, I landed hard and shattered my collar bone in three places, dislocating my left shoulder. The steel collar bolts are still in my body.

Then, my wife, Heidi, wisely said: "It's the bike or me." Good advice.

My best friend, Don (Garbo) Garbarino, and I had ridden our twin Moto Guzzis rough shod to the Badlands of South Dakota and back. We had great times while road racing at more than 100 MPH through the flats of Iowa. However, after the second crash, I sold the bike.

That break with motorcycling probably upset my life-long friend and biker buddy Torello Fortunato Tacchi, who was featured in this column about a year ago when he passed away, at age 80. But he never said a word.

In the early 1970s, Tacchi originally lured this writer into the wild world of motorcycle riding when he said: "Why not put something exciting between your legs?"

Road warrior Tacchi, a master mechanic, professional motorcycle racer, movie stuntman, airplane builder and licensed pilot, lived an adventuresome life. He passed away on July 15, 2020 in Jacksonville, FL, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Torello and his family immigrated to Chicago from Tunis, Tunisia in 1949. His life's work encompassed running the family motorcycle business, building custom road-racer motorcycles, and competing and setting speed records against professional factory racing teams at tracks in the Chicago area, Indianapolis and Daytona Beach.

Page, a biker's widow

In April, Page Pitts Tacchi, Torello's widow, organized a memorial in Chicago that was attended by dozens of his friends and family members. It was a joyful event with family videos, photos and plenty of loving and happy Torello stories shared by attendees.

Blonde, blue-eyed Page, still a Southern beauty at 78, was full of life. She was always smiling and laughing like a teenage girl. Forever joyful, she always saw the best in people and situations, and never met a stranger she didn't like.

Little did this writer know Page would

LIFE see p. 8



The Home Front
By Don DeBat



MARIA PAPPAS
COOK COUNTY TREASURER

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Developer seeking City Hall favors and cash on sweetheart deal, fails to register as lobbyist

TCB runs afoul of City Ethics Ordinance

STORY BY PETER VON BUOL

A high-ranking official with the Boston-based development company that may be gifted a multi-million dollar city-owned parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave. in Lincoln Square appears to have violated the city's ethics ordinance when he directly contacted city officials in an attempt to get additional tax-payer funds and financing for his project.

Among those being lobbied include the office of Mayor Lori Lightfoot, several city department heads, and Ald. Matt Martin [47th] and his staff.

As previously reported in this newspaper, William Woodley, a regional vice president for Boston-based The Community Builders [TCB], repeatedly communicated with and lobbied Samir Mayekar, a deputy mayor, and officials in the offices of the City Comptroller and Dept. of Planning and Development. He also communicated directly with Joshua Mark, Ald. Martin's Director of Development and Infrastructure,

and Laura Reimers, who serves as Martin's chief of staff.

In emails obtained by this newspaper through a Freedom of Information Act request, Woodley directly sought information about income currently generated by the surface lot located at 4715 N. Western Ave. His goal is to develop a formula in which TCB will - for free - not only assume future ownership of the parking lot but also its parking spaces. TCB has proposed using them and their revenue to leverage funds for the construction of a mixed-use apartment building that his company will own on the site.

According to the terms of the city's contract with LAZ Parking, whenever LAZ loses existing spaces, i.e. revenue, these must be replaced elsewhere. Recently the city expanded metered spots in North Center and at Montrose Point in Lincoln Park, perhaps readying the process of swapping those out for the spots TCB wants to be gifted with.

Woodley does not appear on the city's list of registered lobbyists.

Instead, TCB's registered lobbyist is Mariah DiGrino, a partner at the law firm DLA Piper. The law firm's website describes DiGrino as someone who concentrates in real estate and real estate development, and government relations team.

In an email dated March 24, Deputy Mayor Samir Mayekar described Woodley's intent to George Marquisos, who serves as an aide to Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

"Hey, George [Marquisos]-a developer working on a proposal to develop a city parking lot in Lincoln Square and parking meter revenue comes into play. [City Comptroller] Reshma [Sona] in finance didn't have this info-could you check if AIS [Assets, Information and Services] has info on net parking revenue...for past few years?" wrote Mayekar.

The city's board of ethics recently penalized those who were found to have not registered with the city of Chicago as lobbyists but who had communicated with city officials over official busi-

ness. The board administers Chicago's Governmental Ethics and Campaign Financing Ordinances, laws adopted to help ensure that City officials and employees avoid conflicts of interests.

"The Board of Ethics' interpretation and application of the City's lobbying laws as to communications similar to those made in this matter have been consistent—and quite public—for years. Should those laws be amended to cover only those individuals specifically paid to engage in lobbying activities, the Board would enforce any such amended laws as written. Lobbying laws, in particular, Chicago's, are about transparency, and informing the public about who is trying to influence government decisions and actions—not about stifling or thwarting communication between City officials and members of the business or non-profit community. Rather than have a "chilling effect," all one needs to do is register, and then, as required in the annual registration and quarterly activity reports, tell the public about

the contact and lobbying activity. That is not chilling—it's just good government," said the board in a written statement Sept. 16.

This newspaper contacted Woodley by email about his lobbying, but he did not respond to questions by deadline. Also contacted was TCB lobbyist Mariah DiGrino, who also did not respond. Ald. Martin and his staffers were also contacted about Woodley's status as a lobbyist, but none responded in time for publication.

Martin, who worked as a civil rights lawyer at the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and now serves as the vice chair of the city's Ethics Committee, would presumably be aware of the city's lobbying regulations, as he now serves as an ethics regulator. We tried to ask him, but the alderman and his staff stopped talking to the media shortly after this newspaper started covering the rigged insider real estate deal he is involved in with TCB.

Elusive thief has stolen red light cameras from North Side intersection three times

BY CWB CHICAGO

A living legend is walking amongst ordinary Chicagoans. A shadowy commoner, they take decisive action while others merely complain. They don't seek recognition or fame — probably because they'd be arrested.

Will Chicago ever know their name? The name of the person who has stolen the city's cash-printing red light cameras at Cicero and Lawrence three times? And, if the Sauganash Sasquatch is ever arrested, would a jury in this town convict them?

If the Sauganash Sasquatch is ever arrested, would a jury in this town convict them?

A decade or so ago a man dressed as Santa Claus put Christmas boxes over similar cameras in Phoenix, AZ., and stood by the covered cameras waving to drivers with a sign that read "Merry Christmas."

Does Chicago now have such a gift giver in their ranks?

Two cameras are posted at that intersection — one facing in each direction on Cicero Ave. Devices have been reported stolen from both posts, according to CPD records.

The south-facing camera was targeted most recently, at 3:16 a.m. on Sept. 5. Someone who works for the city's red light camera system walked into the 17th (Albany Park) Police District station to file a theft report two days later, according to police.

"The complainant related a red

light camera on the northwestern corner ... had been taken," a CPD spokesperson said when we first inquired about the thefts last week.

But our tipster told us cameras had been stolen from the intersection two other times. They sent along an internal CPD report to support their claim — "3rd occurrence at location" the report says — but the dates of the earlier incidents aren't listed in the document.

We did some digging. Deep in a city data site, we discovered that one of the cameras at Cicero and Lawrence didn't generate any red light tickets from June 28 through June 30. And a CPD crime database shows a "theft of over \$500" on the street near 4800 N. Cicero at 1:30 a.m. on June 28.

Coincidence? Or was this another red light camera theft?

It was a red light camera theft, Officer Michelle Tannehill confirmed Sept. 14.

"A 23-year-old male reported that he noticed the red light camera was not 'online,'" Tannehill said in an email yesterday. "He visited the site, and the metal pole was on the ground and pulled away from the base and the camera unit was missing."

We haven't pinpointed the date of the third theft. Our team found another time this year when one of the cameras stopped generating tickets for a few days, but we could not find a corresponding police report. It's possible that no one filed a report for the elusive incident.

Now, of course, it's also possible that more than one person has taken it upon themselves to steal red light cameras from the same intersection. But is it likely?



The north-facing red light camera at Cicero and Lawrence as seen on Google Streetview. *Image courtesy of Google*

In Aug. 2018, CBS2 reported that the Lawrence and Cicero red light cameras generated 6,141 tickets over the preceding year. If the cameras are still working at that pace, the city loses an average of \$850 per day when one of the intersection's devices goes

missing.

Area Five detectives are investigating the thefts. But, hopefully, not too aggressively.

Now say the speeding cameras at 1142 W. Irving Park Rd. were to disappear, would that really be so bad?

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Police Beat...

Lakeview man robbed near Diversey Brown Line station

A Lakeview man had a rifle and a handgun placed to his head by two robbers who confronted him on a sidewalk near the Diversey Brown Line station Sept. 14, according to a CPD report. No arrests have been made.

The 24-year-old was walking on the 900 block of W. Diversey when two men got out of a dark-colored SUV with guns around 11:20 p.m., CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. One put the business end of an assault-style rifle to his head while the other aimed a handgun at him. Then, they demanded his valuables.

After getting his wallet, phone, and keys, the men took off in the SUV, which may have Texas license plates, according to a report.

Man tried to sexually assault woman inside Roscoe Village business, suspect also seen at nearby playground

Police are looking for a man who exposed himself and tried to sexually assault a woman inside a North Side business on Sept. 14.

Investigators believe the man also asked women to perform sexual acts on the playground at Audubon School, 3500 N. Hoyne, shortly after the attack.

Around 8:08 p.m., the man entered a nearby business and exposed himself to a 69-year-old female employee, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. He reportedly pushed the woman into a bathroom but ran away when she screamed.

He returned a few minutes later and tried to grab the woman again, Bartoli said. The woman again screamed for help and he ran away. People began calling 911 from the school playground a short time later.

Bartoli said the suspect is a Hispanic with a ponytail who's between 25- and 40-years-old, and about 6' tall. Witnesses at the playground said he was wearing khaki shorts and a dark shirt.

Another woman robbed and carjacked

Another woman was robbed and carjacked in Bucktown Sept. 14. The hijacking unfolded just a couple hundred yards from the 1900 block of W. Wabansia, where at least three armed robberies and carjackings have been reported since Sept. 10.

Police said a 23-year-old woman was getting out of her car on the 1600 block of N. Winchester around 9:59 p.m. when a man wearing a ski mask walked up and demanded her property. She turned over her purse, and he drove away in her dark green 2021 Jeep Wrangler, according to a CPD report.

A CPD surveillance camera operator spotted the hijacked SUV traveling south on Damen from North Ave. shortly after the crime, possibly accompanied by a Nissan Murano.

Area Five detectives issued a community alert about armed robberies and hijackings in the area on Tuesday afternoon. The crime pattern involves a group of men who exit a maroon-colored SUV to rob people sitting in cars or getting out of cars. Police said the offenders also forced their victims to reveal phone and debit card PINs.

Police linked four incidents on Monday evening to the crew: one

on the 1900 block of N. Honore at 8:03 p.m.; the 1900 block of W. Wabansia at 8:15 p.m.; the 2100 block of W. Moffat at 8:57 p.m., and on the 1700 block of W. Le Moyne at 10:40 p.m.

According to the alert, the suspects are Black males between 20- and 30-years-old who stand 5'8" to 6' tall and weigh 150 to 180 lbs. On Sept. 13, one of them wore a white tank top with a black ski mask, while another wore a black sweatshirt with black pants.

This reporter has confirmed other incidents in the area since Sept. 10:

- A witness reported seeing a woman being attacked by a man who fled in an older model red SUV on 1900 block of W. Wabansia around 8 p.m. Sept. 13, but no police report was immediately available for that incident.

- At 9:38 p.m. Sept. 10, a 27-year-old man was pistol-whipped and carjacked on the 1900 block of W. Wabansia, according to CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli. The victim said he was inside his black 2019 Nissan Altima when a gunman emerged from a gray SUV and ordered him out of the car. As the victim was stepping out, the offender hit him in the head with a handgun, causing him to fall to the ground, Bartoli said. The hijacker then drove away with the man's car, followed by the gray SUV.

- At 1:45 a.m. Sept. 11, another carjacking was reported on the 2000 block of W. Wabansia, police said. Investigators believe the hijacking was committed by the same crew that struck on Bosworth less than 90 minutes earlier, according to a CPD alert.

- Around 12:20 a.m. Sept. 11, two men took a man's Toyota RAV4 at gunpoint on the 1300 block of North Bosworth in Noble Square, according to a CPD alert. The victim was dropping off a woman after their first date when they encountered two cars that were double-parked on Wabansia. Those two cars blocked the man in and carjacked him.

- Two men using a gray Toyota RAV4 tried to carjack a driver on the 2000 block of N. Wolcott around 12:30 p.m. Sept. 12. The driver foiled the hijacking attempt by accelerating away from the scene.

- At 12:55 p.m. Sept. 12, two men stepped out of a gray Toyota RAV4 and tried to rob a man at gunpoint on the 2200 block of W. Polk. But the man was not carrying anything of value and the offenders fled empty-handed, according to CPD records.

FBI says Argyle CTA Red Line attack may be a hate crime

The FBI's Chicago field office is getting involved with the investigation of a violent attack at the CTA Argyle Red Line station that the bureau says may have been a hate crime.

It's an unusual move for the federal agency, which said it is beginning



hate crime awareness campaign in Chicago "in hopes of encouraging members of vulnerable populations to report crimes." Around 1:15 p.m. on Aug. 15, the attacker followed a 30-year-old man into the Argyle station and then struck the victim in the head from behind, causing him to fall, according to Chicago police.

When the victim asked why the man attacked him, the offender said he deserved it and used an ethnic slur against the victim and the victim's partner, the FBI said Sept. 14. The bureau also released a video of the suspect.

CPD issued a community alert about the attack on Sept. 8, but the bulletin did not mention that there

might be a hate crime motive.

The FBI said the suspect wore a diamond stud earring in his right ear, a silver watchband on his left arm, a metallic bracelet on his right arm, a gold-colored chain around his neck, and a Chicago White Sox baseball cap. He also had a thin goatee, the agency said.

Anyone with information about the man can contact the FBI's Chicago field office at 312-421-6700.

On bond for burglary, man faces new charges for running around Loop with a gun in hand

If you want to get people's attention, run around downtown Chicago with a gun in your hand. They'll notice, even if it's 4 a.m., apparently.

Just ask Tyshaun Grant. He's charged with being a felon in possession



Tyshaun Grant

of a firearm after a string of ordinary people allegedly saw him scurrying through the Loop while openly toting a 45-caliber handgun early on Sept. 8.

It all started around 4:15 a.m. when a pizza delivery guy returned to his car on the 100 block of N. LaSalle and allegedly found Grant, 21, leaning into the front passenger side of his delivery car.

The 41-year-old driver confronted Grant who allegedly threatened him with a gun and then ran away. But, Grant kept drawing attention to himself because he was openly carrying the gun in his hand as he ran around the area, according to prosecutors.

Officers who responded to the pizza delivery driver's 911 call were flagged down by people who saw a man running with a gun near State and Lake, then on a nearby CTA platform, then at a 7-Eleven.

When cops eventually spotted Grant, he was allegedly running with a gun near Clark and Wacker. They arrested him as he walked out of a nearby courtyard, prosecutors said. The gun was found hidden in a shrub.

According to prosecutors, surveillance videos showed Grant in various locations with the gun in his hand. One video allegedly shows him carrying a gun into the courtyard, but walking out empty-handed as police moved in.

He was convicted of unlawful use of a weapon in 2019 and has a burglary case pending in the suburbs. Now, he's charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Judge Arthur Willis set bail at \$100,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a 10% deposit. Willis also ordered him held without bail for violating the terms of bond in the burglary case.

Shooting leave five injured, one dead between South Loop and Lincoln Park

Police are investigating a string of shootings that left one man dead and five others injured between the South Loop and Lincoln Park since Sept. 16. No arrests have been made.

The outbreak came amidst widespread celebrations of Mexico's Independence Day across the city that jammed many city streets with vehicles full of revelers.

Police recovered three handguns at a shooting scene where three men were injured on the 1200 block of N. Clark around 2:20 a.m., according to a CPD report. The victims refused to tell investigators what happened, police said.

The victims, all listed in fair condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, are a 23-year-old man with a gunshot wound to the abdomen;

Subtlety is for losers

A three-time convicted felon is being held without bail thanks to a loud-mouth friend who was apparently trying to help him.

Larry Ransom, 48, was hanging out in a backyard with friends last week when a Chicago police squad car rolled down the alley. That's when the not-so-helpful friend got involved.

"Man! You got a gun! There's five-o!" the individual allegedly yelled to Ransom.

The warning was apparently loud enough for the cops to hear. They stopped their car, got out, and saw Ransom sitting in a folding chair with his back to them. As they looked at him, a gun fell off his lap and onto the ground, prosecutors said.

The officers seized the gun and arrested Ransom, who was already on bail for a three-week-old felony drug case. He's now charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

Judge Susana Ortiz ordered him held without bail for violating the terms of release in that case. She set bail for the gun charge at \$50,000.

Speaking of guns falling to the ground at inopportune moments, an 18-year-old faces felony charges after a gun allegedly fell through a hole in his pants while cops were standing next to him inside an Old Town store last month.

Daniel Washington and the cops

a 26-year-old man with gunshot wounds to his left arm and right leg; and a 24-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his right leg.

A 20-year-old man is in fair condition after someone shot him as he sat in a car on southbound Lake Shore Dr. just north of Fullerton around 12:27 a.m., police said.

The man was a passenger in a car stuck in heavy traffic when someone opened fire on his vehicle from a dark-colored sedan, striking him in the left tricep, a police report said. Police found several shell casings in the southbound lanes.

The driver of the victim's car ducked to avoid being shot and accidentally struck the vehicle in front of them, but no injuries were reported from the crash.

Witnesses said the gunman exited at Fullerton, crossed under the bridge, and escaped northbound on the drive.

One man was killed and another was injured in unrelated shootings on a one-block stretch of Canal Street in the South Loop Sept. 16.

Shortly before 11 p.m., a 19-year-old man was on the sidewalk when someone shot at him from a black SUV on the 1400 block of South Canal, police said. He was taken to Stroger Hospital in fair condition with a gunshot wound to his left leg.

Less than an hour later, at 11:44 p.m., a 25-year-old man was shot and killed during a fight in the Jewel-Osco parking lot, 1340 S. Canal.

Police said the victim was in a "physical altercation" with someone who pulled out a gun and shot him in the face. The victim was pronounced dead at Stroger Hospital.

A 26-year-old man was shot and critically wounded in Grant Park Sept. 16, police said. He was the fifth person shot in the Loop this month and the sixth person shot in the neighborhood since Aug. 29.

Witnesses approached officers near the 1100 block of S. Michigan around 1:45 p.m. to report shots fired near the skate park. Police investigated and found the victim, who reportedly had a gunshot wound to his leg near the groin area.

Officers applied a tourniquet and QuikClot bandages to help reduce his blood loss until fire department per-

were inside the store on the 1400 block of N. Sedgwick when the officers heard an ominous "thud" nearby. You know the rest. He posted a \$500 deposit to get out of jail.

Keeping a low profile is important if you want to be a successful criminal. Don't put a gun in your pocket if there's a hole in it. And don't go walking around the Loop with a cash register, either.

Around 3:20 a.m. on Aug. 16, an employee called police after someone stole the cash register from Dunkin', 39 W. Jackson, so officers in the local police district's surveillance room began reviewing camera feeds from the area. They quickly spotted a man walking into the Jackson Blue Line CTA station with a cash register and continued to watch as he transferred to the Red Line.

Patrol officers arrived in time to see Darius Moss, 32, sitting on the train with a cash register, prosecutors said. They arrested him.

He's charged with misdemeanor theft. Prosecutors said he's on parole for robbery, too.

"You're lucky you weren't charged with something greater than theft," Judge Arthur Willis said before releasing Moss on a recognition bond.

sonnel arrived.

Police searched the area for the shooter, who was an acquaintance of the victim. One witness provided police with a picture of the suspect, and city surveillance cameras captured additional footage of the gunman, an officer said.

The suspect is a Black male in his mid-20's with dreadlocks who wore an olive green backpack and light-colored Crocs. Officers said he was last seen heading north from the skate park on a black bike.

Uptown couple that tried to cover-up accidental shooting gets plea deals



Travis McCoy and Adriana Smith.

An Uptown couple who allegedly shot their 1-year-old son in the head as they struggled for control of a gun and then tried to cover it up by lying about what happened have reached plea deals.

In Jan. 2020, Travis McCoy flagged down police officers as he walked into Weiss Hospital with the injured child and said the boy had been shot by gunmen who opened fire on them from a vehicle behind their home in the 800 block of W. Leland, prosecutors said.

But the officers became suspicious because they were in the immediate area at the time of the purported shooting, and they didn't hear gunfire.

Investigators soon located a bloody elevator in a high-rise residential building on the 800 block of W. Eastwood. That led them to a 12th-floor apartment where officers found spent shell casings and blood spatter in the kitchen and living room.

Police eventually determined that the child was shot when the weapon fired as McCoy and Smith fought over it during an argument,

Career felon charged with burglarizing fitness center locker rooms while on parole

BY CWB CHICAGO

Robert Bowens has built a 30-year career as a professional burglar. And, at the age of 53, he appears to still be on the job.

Prosecutors just charged him with burglarizing fitness club lockers and stealing the identity of one of his victims. He's on parole for doing precisely the same thing, and a source says he is suspected of committing many similar crimes in the city and suburbs since he was paroled last year. In fact, he was just charged with a case in Niles.

His problems in Chicago began on Aug. 31, when employees at XSport, 230 W. North Ave. in Old Town, saw Bowens walk into a locker room without a membership. Assistant State's Attorney John Gniska said. They confronted him when he came out with a stolen wallet in his pocket.

Bowens ran out the back door, but a personal trainer had no trouble catching up with him and holding him for police. Gniska said Bowens dropped the stolen wallet to the ground after he was caught.

He was initially released on his own recognizance after being charged only with criminal tres-

pass to land.

But he was back in bond court Sept. 17. Prosecutors upgraded the charge to burglary, and they charged him in another case, too.

In that incident, Bowens allegedly broke into an 81-year-old



Robert Bowens

man's locker while the victim worked out at an LA Fitness in Brighton Park. He then used the victim's credit card to buy \$91 worth of gasoline — a purchase that was captured on video, according to Gniska. Prosecutors charged him with aggravated identity theft of a person over the age of 60 in that case. Judge Susana Ortiz then released Bowens on his own recognizance.

Even though Bowens has been a burglar for almost all of his adult life, state officials did not ask Cook County authorities to hold Bowens for a potential parole violation.

A source said Bowens walked into as many as five gyms a day when he was "working." Earlier this month, Chicago police

warned patrons of one downtown fitness facility about a series of burglaries in the men's locker room during August. Investigators are eyeing Bowens as a suspect in those cases.

In 2017, Bowens' parole was revoked after he was allegedly caught burglarizing three lockers at the same Xsport in Old Town, according to court records. In 2015, he received a five-year sentence for ID theft after being arrested at the East Bank Club, 500 N. Kingsbury, records show.

His criminal resume is impressive, with five years for ID theft in 2015; six concurrent years for burglary in 2015, another six concurrent years for burglary in 2015. Plus 30 months for unlawful possession of a credit card in 2013, a concurrent 30 months for the same charge in 2013, another concurrent 30 months for the same charge in 2013, and four years for theft from person in 2010, six years for burglary in 2007, five years for burglary in 1990, another 5 years for burglary in 1990, and yet another five years for robbery in 1990.

He's due back in court on Sep. 24.

Community carjacking meeting Sept. 28

Carjackings are a growing menace throughout Chicago, and incidents are at record highs. The criminal element are becoming more brazen about it as Cook County prosecutors and courts refuse to mete out any punishment to the criminal thugs who get caught.

The 14th District police department is hosting a community meeting on carjackings 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28., at Churchill Park, 1825 N. Damen Ave.

The event is co-sponsored by the police and Ald. Scott Waguespack who will discuss the overall lack of crime prevention, and will offer tips on how to prevent becoming the next carjacking victim.

For more information call 773-248-1220 or 312-744-1261.

No prison time for man convicted of seven robberies due to time spent on electronic monitoring

BY CWB CHICAGO

A man who recently pleaded guilty to committing seven robberies across Lakeview and Lincoln Park during the summer of 2017 spent virtually no time in jail and he won't spend a single day in prison because his sentence is completely offset by the time he spent on electronic home monitoring.

Bryce McGill, now 22, raised eyebrows when his defense attorney told a bond court judge in 2017 that he was a standout basketball player at Lincoln Park High School who was about to begin classes at the University of North Carolina on a full ride scholarship.

"Young man," bond court Judge Peggy Chiampas said, "that was gold in your hands."

A university spokesperson quickly slapped down the scholarship chatter, saying the school had "no record of an applicant or enrollee by the name of Bryce McGill at UNC-Chapel Hill."

McGill's family posted \$15,000 to get him out of jail on electronic monitoring after Chiampas' hearing. And he stayed on electronic monitoring until a few days ago when he pleaded guilty to five robberies and two aggravated robberies.

Judge Catherine Haberkorn sentenced him to seven concurrent 7-year prison terms. The state reduced his sentence by 50% for good behavior, and the balance of his prison term was offset by electronic monitoring.

Last Wednesday, McGill took a ride to the Stateville Correctional

Center for processing, and he went home the same day, records show. He will be on parole until next September.

When police arrested McGill outside Wrigley Field in July 2017, he was allegedly carrying two backpacks that contained a trove of property that was taken from at least seven different robbery victims.

When police arrested McGill outside Wrigley Field in July 2017, he was allegedly carrying two backpacks that contained a trove of property that was taken from at least seven different robbery victims: three sets of keys, four cell phones, a MacBook, three Ventracards, a watch, two credit cards, and more.

The property was taken by two men who robbed and sometimes beat victims in a string of attacks

NO PRISON see p. 10

Lawyer may be blinded after suffering 7-minute beating on Loop street corner

BY CWB CHICAGO

A successful lawyer, entrepreneur, and champion of Chicago's minority business owners was brutally beaten for seven minutes after he stopped to comfort a young child whose father was involved in a domestic altercation



Pasquel Nava

on a Loop street corner last week, according to prosecutors and CPD records. The victim's wife is a former high-ranking staff member in the city's government.

The victim, age 44, was unconscious for most of the beating and may lose vision in one of his eyes, prosecutors said. We are not naming the man because he is a crime victim.

He was walking near Monroe St. and Wacker Dr. — steps from the Sears Tower — when he came upon Pasquel Nava, 24, and a woman who were arguing while looking for their car around 11 p.m. Sept. 14, prosecutors said. When Nava grabbed the woman, who was carrying a baby, the victim stepped in to comfort the 11-year-old child who was with them.

Nava turned his attention to the attorney and pushed the man, causing his keys, wallet, and legally possessed handgun to fall to the ground, prosecutors said. As

the man tried to pick up his property, Nava allegedly punched him in the face, causing him to fall unconscious to the ground.

For the next seven minutes, Nava stomped on the man's head, punched him, kicked him, and dragged him around, according to prosecutors.

When police eventually arrived, they saw Nava yelling at the fallen man with blood on his hands, prosecutors said. Officers took Nava into custody at the scene.

The victim, who underwent surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and will require more surgeries, was still hospitalized this weekend, prosecutors said. He suffered a torn left retina, fractured orbital bone, fractured nose, and received more than a dozen stitches, according to court records.

Prosecutors said Nava admitted to hitting the man.

Nava was convicted of shooting a man in 2015 but pleaded guilty

to a reduced charge of aggravated battery by discharging a firearm in exchange for a four year sentence.

Prosecutors charged Nava with aggravated battery causing great bodily harm, simple assault, and failure to comply with gun offender registration requirements.

His defense attorney said he expects to launch a self defense claim because the victim "approached his minor child while armed with a gun." Judge Susana Ortiz set bail at \$30,000. Nava posted 10% of that amount and went home on electronic monitoring.

Tuesday night's attack again illustrates the long response times that have become typical of Chicago's police department, which has moved over 1,000 cops out of patrol duties to work on specialized citywide units. It took Chicago police at least six minutes to arrive at the scene.

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After pandemic hiatus, longrunning late-night show returns to Andersonville



The Neo-Futurist, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.

Those who have passed down Ashland just south of Foster late at night no doubt remember seeing people lined up for some low cost comedy entertainment.

Well it's back.

Chicago's longest running late-night show, the Neo-Futurists' "The Infinite Wrench," kicked off the company's 2021-2022 season of programming after a 19 month hiatus.

Production resumed Sept. 18 on the popular, 33-year-long run for Neo-Futurists. Shows will take place every Saturday at 10:30 p.m. and every Sunday at 7 p.m. "We are thrilled to bring our late-night, high-energy assemblage of sports, poetry and living newspaper back to the stage, where the audience determines the order of 30 plays written, directed and performed by the ensemble," said Artistic Director KR Riiber.

The show is an ongoing and ever-changing attempt to perform 30 plays in 60 minutes for a live audience. Each play offers something different, be it funny, profound, elegant, disgusting, topical, irreverent, terrifying or musical.

The actors will be un-masked, and so all audience members will be required to show proof of vaccination and will be required to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Tickets are \$10. For more information, visit www.neofuturists.org.

UGLIER from p. 2

rector of the Goodman Theater, **Robert Falls**, has announced that he is stepping down from the post. Many Chicago fans see this as a seismic moment in the history of Chicago Theater.

CHRISTO'S PARIS: The Arc de Triomphe is being wrapped in 270,000 square feet of sheet to posthumously complete the 59-year project of late artist **Christo**, one of the world's most well-known environmental artists. His nephew, **Vladimir Javach-eff**, took on the task. The wrapping will be on display through Oct. 3.

IRELAND IN-DIE FILMS: **Mike Houlihan** and his sons **Bill** and **Paddy** on 7th Annual "Irish American Movie Hooley," the only Irish American film festival in the world. Sept. 24-26 at Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

THOUGH THE ODDS BE GREAT OR SMALL: **Terry Brennan**, a Player and Coach at Univ. of Notre Dame in the 1950s, as well as an investment banker, broadcaster and broadcasting executive, has died at 93. The Glenview resident was beloved at Notre Dame. He was one of **Frank Leahy's** lads. And his successor. Well respected on and off the field. He pulled Fighting Irish football back from the brink.

WHO'S WHERE: **Bill Kurtis**, **Donna LaPietra**, **Maestro Rich Daniels**, **Dean Rolando** and **Mary Ann Rose** at the Wrigley Building's star-studded 100th anniversary celebration...

LIFE from p. 4

follow Torello to biker heaven only four months later, after a brief illness and a courageous fight. That sometimes happens to couples who were together forever.

Page met Torello while living in Chicago and they fell madly in love and were married in 1968. They remained married for 52 years, until his death.

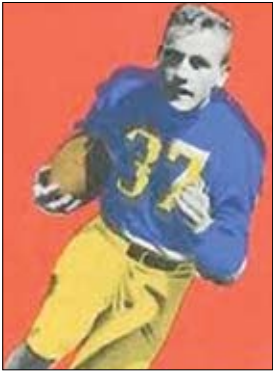
INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Mamie Walton, **Linda Heister**, at **Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill** celebrating **Myra Reilly's** birthday... **Nina Mariano** with **Julie Barrish** and **Sherry Lea Fox** at **Nina's** new grocery sipping a cooler... **Francia Harrington** and **Vern Broders** enjoying a **Lake Michigan** evening sail... **Kathy O'Malley Piccone** with comedian **Tom Dreesen** at the **Peninsula's**



Robert Falls

Women of Vision... **Cynthia Olson** sipping choice vino and enjoying a **Venetian** birthday on the **Grand Canal...** **Brendan O'Connor** getting a few minutes with golf's greatest trophy in **Belfast...** Chicago actor **John T. O'Brien** smoking a **Cuban** in his new blue suit... artist **Rosemary Fanti** dining outdoors with **Jolanta Ruege** at **Gibson's Steakhouse...** **Ken Dooley** making his bike run



Terry Brennan



Rosemary Fanti and Jolanta Ruege.

from **Paris** to **Nice** for charity... my old **Town** and **Country** boss **Pam Fiori** and **Stellene Volandes** at **Michael Clinton's** book launch of "Roar" in **New York...** **Sarah Q. Crane** with best pals **Lau-**

During those early years of marriage, Page was passionate about adoption. However, Torello, a traditional Old-World husband, initially did not want to adopt children.

This probably was the first and only serious marital disagreement they ever had in five decades. So, Page, a strong, determined woman, left Torello and returned to her family in Florida.

One evening a few weeks later, while sharing a few beers with his close college friends—this writer, and fellow biker Garbarino, Torello discussed his marital problem man-to-man.

We were shocked. How could he stubbornly refuse to grant the only wish his beautiful wife ever wanted—children? We strongly advised him that he was a "total iron head," and probably was making the biggest mistake of his life. Torello took a deep breath, followed our advice, and boarded the next plane to Florida.

Within a few months, the Tachi family adopted daughter Elizabeth, and later, son Torello Orazio.

Happiness is a choice

"Page believed that happiness is a choice, that you cannot always control what life brings, but you can always control how you react," said Elizabeth Bailey, her daughter.

rant Richard and **C. Marion Willemetz** in **Paris...** **Flavia** and **Chris Magdalin** celebrating their anniversary at **Gibson's Steakhouse...** judicial candidate **Dan Balanoff** at the 2nd Congressional Democrats grassroots picnic with host, **Hazel Crest Mayor Vernard**



Richard Hunt



Kathy O'Malley Piccone and Tom Dreesen.

Cummins at the **Chicago Bears** game in **Los Angeles** with brother **Laurence Cummins**, his wife **Kim**, his children **Devyn** and **Brendan**, and **The Man Himself**, the dad, **Larry Cummins...** **Erykah Badu** performed at the **Green Stage** at **Pitchfork** music festival... Happy birthday to Chicago's greatest sculptor, **Richard H. Hunt**.

O MON DIEU: **Alain Delon**, one of France's most admired actors, has not died, but rather has been the victim of a death hoax. He is remarkably fit for 85.

It is the sheer ugliness and banality of everyday life which turns my blood to ice and makes me cringe in terror.

— **Jean Lorrain**
tog515@gmail.com

rado."

Page also was a devout Christian and a fierce patriot. "She loved her country, and passed on her religious values, love of America, and devotion to family to her children and grandchildren," Elizabeth said.

Page is survived by her two children, Elizabeth Bailey (James) and Torello Orazio Tachi; two grandchildren, James and Ari Bailey; her brother, David Pitts (Stephanie Gigante); two sisters-in-law, Mirella Minnech and Rita Payne, numerous nieces and nephews, several cousins, too many friends to begin to count, and her beloved Bull Terriers, Max and Caruso.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Ribault Garden Club in Jacksonville Beach, FL.

To honor Page's passion and commitment to children and adoption, in lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in her name to the Children's Home Society of Florida or the charity of your choice. To donate visit: chsfl.org/Donate/.

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



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Letters to the Editor

Life Rings really do save lives, especially when water safety is not common sense

It's 2021 and water safety is not common sense. That's right, it's 2021 and the United States still does not have a National Water Safety Action Plan in place. It is, however, expected to finally be released Summer 2022.

So, let's consider other safety programs that most all Americans are familiar with like Fire Drills, Tornado Drills, Active Shooter Drills, and even Earthquake Drills (Yes, some schools in Illinois, Indiana, and many other states do Earthquake Drills). Yet there is little to no water safety education.

We really do need to understand that water safety is not common sense. It is not common sense for the average swimmer, beach goer, or even politician / policy makers to know and understand the basics of water safety and drowning survival.

Two of my children were on competitive swim teams. They spent two hours per day, six days per week swimming endless laps of freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly.

They are excellent swimmers. But one thing was certain, with all of that training, there was never any education on water safety, drowning survival, or floating.

And even I didn't know water safety basics until I was 40 years old, and only after I survived a Lake Michigan drowning incident.

It is not common sense to know:

- Drowning continues to be a neglected public health issue. (*World Health Organization*)
- 80% of all drowning victims are male. Males have a tendency to take risks, susceptible to peer pressure, overestimate their abilities, and overestimate their swimming abilities an additional 50%. (*Center for Disease Control*)
- 66% of all drowning victims were good, strong competent swimmers. (*US Coast Guard*)
- 54% of Americans that "know" how to swim, do not have the physical endurance to complete five basic swimming skills (Fall into water and resurface. Tread water for 1 minute. Spin around to spot an exit. Swim 25 yards to an exit. Climb out of the water without any assistance. (*American Red Cross*))
- 50% of all drownings of 15- to 19-year-olds happen in open water. (*Safe Kids Worldwide*)
- What drowning looks like – *The Signs of Drowning*.
- A drowning survival strategy like "Flip, Float, and Follow" or "Float to Live."
- Flotation is the key to surviv-

ing a water emergency.

So now that we know that water safety is not common sense. Let's listen to the experts about Public Rescue Equipment.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution wrote the book – "A Guide to Coastal Public Rescue Equipment."

It recommends that public rescue equipment should be installed in coastal areas to allow members of the public to perform a rescue when all other options are exhausted.

At the September 8 Chicago Park District [CPD] Board of Commissioners monthly meeting, Gerry Dworkin, a Water Safety Expert, stated, "If ring buoys are going to be used... The best and most effective use of a ring buoy is when it is dropped from an elevation down to a victim where distance is not an issue."

"Typically, if you have someone who falls off a pier – trips off a pier – they are in close proximity to the pier, and that's where ring buoys are most effective," he added.

Last May, CPD's Tim King said: "From a legal standpoint, the best thing to do right now is nothing..."

The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project, Inc., [GLSRP] in partnership with the Chicago Alliance for Waterfront Safety, have been advocating for Chicago Lakefront improvements since July 2018 after Darihanne Torres drowned.

'Doing nothing' contributed to the death of Miguel Cisneros, 19, on Aug. 22.

- Miguel was seen swimming in the water near the pier by several people on the pier.
- Miguel was seen struggling and heard calling for help.
- Miguel was six feet from the wall where people were standing, and he was struggling in a structural current.
- If the people on the pier had a life ring, Miguel would be alive today. Instead, they watched him drown.

Now, the CPD is planning on installing a life ring pilot program at "Swim Sanctioned Beaches"

aka lifeguarded beaches.

While this is great news, it does not address the "hotspots" where the majority of Chicago lakefront drownings are taking place; i.e. piers, breakwalls, and the lakefront trail.

Unfortunately, the CPD is ignoring the advice of its own water safety expert, Dworkin, by piloting life rings only at life guarded beaches.

"But to have it from a beach, it's very difficult to deploy," Dworkin said at the September CPD Monthly Meeting. "Very difficult to manage."

While the GLSRP is not opposed to life rings at open water beaches, they highly recommend that the CPD change its course and focus its pilot program on the piers, breakwalls, and lakefront trail.

When you give a person something that floats, you are giving them something to hold on to, until professional rescue arrives.

The Chicago River has life rings. Navy Pier has life rings. Chicago Boat harbors have life rings. Piers across Lake Michigan have life rings in Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan.

And please note, when first responders arrived on the pier the day of Miguel's drowning, they brought life rings onto the pier with them, but it was too late. He had already submerged.

With drownings, flotation is the key. Flotation is the difference between life and death. If you want to save a drowning person's life, give them something that floats.

Because when you give them something that floats, you are giving them something to hold on to. You are giving them hope of survival. You are giving them their only chance to live – staying at the surface and breathing until professional rescue arrives.

Dave Benjamin
Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project

Violence and selfishness now citywide

Sad to say the world is full of violence and selfishness.

And no one deserves it.

What so many people on the West and South sides have endured for years because of

lack of real attention and actions have now hit Downtown.

Let's see what actually can be done?

Diane Bosth

Are you Ald. Hadden's BFF?

Concerning Felicia Dechter's Woodward & Bernstein-esque columns on the life rings at Pratt Pier: nice to know, Felicia, that the Chicago Park District has finally installed something on the pier.

However, please stop referring to Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] as a "new" alderman. She took office in 2019. Her aldermanic honeymoon has long since expired.

Your repeated harping on this false description makes one wonder whether your true purpose is to provide her with what might euphemistically be called "plausible deniability." (Hey, it ain't her fault; we can't blame her; she's new!)

The recent drowning at the pier is at least the second to take place under Hadden's watch. If you can accept that being on the job for over two years renders any claims of "newness" absurd, then the following questions are appropriate: Why didn't Ald. Hadden and her staff work harder after the first drowning to get a life ring installed? If pushing and badgering the park district was successful this time, why couldn't they have succeeded last time? Why didn't someone camp out on the park district's doorstep? Perhaps it's actually Ald. Hadden who dropped the ball, here?

What, specifically, has she done to "fight hard" for life rings, warning signs, etc.? A few phone calls? Letter writing? What? The citizens of the 49th Ward deserve to know. Because what you've described just seems like after-the-

fact scrambling.

I realize, Felicia, that the alderman may be a friend of yours. However, I would hope you'd not allow personal feelings to cloud your journalistic perspective (you know, being the hard-hitting, investigative muckraker that you are).

Would Bob and Carl have gone easy on Nixon just because they thought he had a nice smile?

David Kemper

From Felicia Dechter:

Being compared to Woodward and Bernstein may be the greatest compliment I've received in my 25-plus years of reporting, thanks!

And as far as calling Ald. Hadden "new," I agree with you. Perhaps "freshman" would be better. But my editor, not I, added the word "new" in and he signs my checks so we used that!

But from now on, she will just be Ald. Hadden.

And no, I am not friends with her. In fact, in the more than two years she has been in office, this is the first time I've written about her. But I have to give credit where credit is due.

Thanks for taking the time to write. We always appreciate feedback from the community. We hope you will support our efforts calling for the installation of life rings and warning signage on all the beaches, piers and breakwater structures in Chicago.

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COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
NORTH CENTER LOAN ACQUISITIONS, LLC
Plaintiff,

-v.-

1952 LAWRENCE AVENUE, LLC, KENNETH SCHIFFMAN,
JONATHAN SPLITT ARCHITECTS, INC., UNKNOWN TEN-
ANTS UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIM-
ANTS

Defendants

19 CH 5904

1952 W. LAWRENCE AVE.

CHICAGO, IL 60640

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Property Index No. 14-07-419-028-0000

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shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The
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No Iyin', lions returning Oct. 14



The Lincoln Park Zoo has announced the opening of the Pepper Wildlife Center, and joining the zoo is a pride of lions, including one male, three females, two red pan-das, two Canada lynx, and two snow leopards.

The new lion habitat includes updates to the interior and exterior of the historic building plus an expansive new habitat for the lions. The Center opens to the public on October 14.

NO PRISON *from p. 7*

across southeast Lakeview and nearby Lincoln Park.

In one case, a man was kicked in the head, punched, and robbed by two offenders on the 2400 block of N. Orchard late on July 5, 2017. The offenders took the man's iPhone and a backpack that contained a Macbook before they ran southbound on Orchard, po-lice said at the time. McGill was

carrying the Macbook when cops arrested him.

About two hours later, two of-fenders beat up and robbed a victim of a backpack, wallet, and phone outside the Briar Street Theater on the 700 block of W. Briar. Cops would later find his Ventra card in one of the back-packs McGill was carrying.

On July 9, 2017, the robbers struck again when they beat up a woman and robbed her on the 500

block of W. Briar.

One of the iPhones in McGill's backpacks belonged to a woman who was punched in the face and robbed on the 600 block of W. Oakdale on July 13, 2017.

The accomplice

Not long after McGill was ar-ested, cops caught up with his accomplice, 22-year-old Christo-pher Taylor.

Taylor eventually pleaded guilty to eleven robberies. Haberkorn

sentenced him to 11 concurrent 7-year prison sentences, which works out to about 8 months for each mugging. (Four months each with the state's good behavior dis-count.)

According to Illinois Depart-ment of Corrections records, he was paroled in September 2020 after spending one year and six days in the Western Illinois Cor-rectional Center.

POLICE BEAT *from p. 6*

police said.

Officials said the bullet ricocheted before it struck the boy, and it did not penetrate the child's skull.

McCoy has now pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a fire-arm. Prosecutors dropped charges of filing a false police report.

His girlfriend, Adriana Smith, 29, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor at-tempted obstruction of justice, which was reduced from a felony charge.

Judge Daniel Gillespie sentenced Smith to two days time served. He sentenced McCoy to three years and gave him credit for 568 days spent in custody while the case was pending. McCoy, who also received the state's standard 50% sentence reduction for anticipated good behavior, did not spend any time in prison for the in-cident. He will be on parole until July 30, 2022.

Man arrested in Uptown carjacking after cash transfer

Prosecutors say an 18-year-old man carjacked and kidnapped a driver in Uptown earlier this year, but cops tracked him down because he transferred funds from the victim's CashApp account to his own — which has his real name, address, and birth-date on it.

Travis Williams was already in cus-tody for a similar hijacking and kid-napping in the suburbs when police arrested him for the Uptown crime on Sept. 14.

Around 7:15 p.m. April 21, a 33-year-old man was in his car on the 1200 block of W. Winnemac when Williams allegedly slid into his passenger seat and implied he had a gun under his jacket.

Williams went through the car's glove box and center console, took \$10 from the victim, and then ordered him to drive. As they rode down the Kennedy Expy., Williams demanded the man's phone PIN and passwords to his Citibank and CashApp accounts, said Assistant State's Attorney John Gnilka.

At one point, Williams transferred

\$2,500 from the victim's CashApp to an account with the user name "Travis Williams," which detectives later de-termined was established by a person with Williams's full legal name, home address, and birthday, Gnilka said.

Williams eventually ordered the victim to drive into a parking lot off of the expressway where they changed seats, and Williams started driving be-fore he took more property from the man and ordered him out of the car, according to Gnilka. The entire epi-sode lasted 45 minutes.

The victim reported the crime to police and then did some detective work of his own. Knowing that some of his money went to an account named "Travis Williams," he searched Facebook for people with that name in Chicago. He found the man who kidnapped and carjacked him — Tra-vis Jerome Williams — and gave the information to police who were sub-poenaing records from CashApp to support the case, Gnilka said.

Williams was charged Sept. 15 with vehicular hijacking, kidnapping by force or threat, and unlawful vehicular invasion.

He has been in Cook County jail since May 2 on similar charges from the suburbs.

In that case, Williams allegedly slid into the passenger seat of a woman's car with a jacket wrapped around his hand, implying he had a gun. He made the woman drive around to various ATMs in the suburbs and Chicago, but she could not make withdrawals due to insufficient funds, Gnilka said.

Williams eventually let the woman go after she repeatedly begged to be taken home, Gnilka said. But Williams kept her car, which he crashed into another vehicle while driving against traffic in North Riverside, according to Gnilka.

Occupants of the other car were hospitalized for their injuries but re-covered. Williams was arrested after he ran from the scene.

One in custody after daytime carjacking in Old Town

Police said charges are pending against one person after a man was carjacked at gunpoint near a busy Lin-coln Park intersection on Sept. 15.

Two carjackers displayed a gun and ordered a 46-year-old man out of his SUV on the 1600 block of N. Clark around 4:20 p.m., CPD spokesperson

Kellie Bartoli said. He followed their commands, and they drove away northbound with his gray Audi Q8.

The police department's hijacking task force determined that a previous-ly carjacked Volvo was involved in the incident. Task force officers tracked both vehicles, and one suspect was taken into custody, but details about the arrest were not immediately avail-able.

Chicago police logged 1,099 car-jackings citywide this year through Sept. 7, but yesterday's hijacking is only the eighth of the year for Lincoln Park.

By comparison, the neighborhood saw seven carjackings at this point last year, and eight during the same period in 2019. Hijackings citywide are up 36% this year compared to 2020's record-setting total and up 200% compared to 2019.

On a positive note, the city actu-ally saw five fewer carjackings during August compared to the same month last year — 158 vs. 163. But that's still 250% higher than Aug. 2019, accord-ing to the city's data.

Strange Rogers Park case ends with 2-day sentence

A man who allegedly threatened a neighbor with a handgun minutes before his friend was found dead of a gunshot wound in his apartment has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor weapons charge in exchange for a two-day sentence.

Early on March 24, 2020, Garrett Young, 23, called police to report that his friend, Samuel Wiener, had shot himself in Young's apart-ment on the 1300 block of W. Greenleaf.

Offi-cers found Wiener, 24, unrespon-sive with a gun-shot wound to his head and

Garrett Young

recovered a handgun nearby, accord-ing to a police report. Wiener was pro-nounced dead a short time later at St. Francis Hospital.

A 26-year-old woman who lived below the apartment told police she went upstairs around the time of Wi-ener's death because she heard Young "arguing with another individual."

Young displayed a handgun and

threatened to shoot the woman, according to Officer Ronald West-brooks.

The woman told police about the incident when they arrived to investi-gate Wiener's death.

The Cook County medical exami-ner's office determined Wiener died of a gunshot wound to his head, but the office has been unable to determine if his death was suicide, homicide, or an accident, according to public records.

Wiener was an avid tennis player and coach who was working toward a business degree at Loyola Univ., ac-cording to an obituary.

Man found with gun near River North nightclub shooting is excluded as the shooter

A Michigan man who was arrested with a gun minutes after a River North nightclub employee was shot Sept. 17, has been "excluded as the shooter at this time," a prosecutor said while an-nouncing weapons charges against him.

Qudre Mitchell, 30, is instead charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. A judge said he could return to Michigan after he posts a \$2,000 deposit toward his bail.

Police said a 46-year-old man was shot by a bar-goer who opened fire on nightclub security guards after being denied entry to a club on the 300 block of W. Erie around 11:35 p.m. Sept. 17.

Some witnesses told officers that Mitchell, who was standing on a near-by side street, might be the shooter, prosecutors said. Video provided to this reporter shows a large group of police officers closing in on Mitchell.

Cops who approached Mitchell al-legedly saw a large bulge in his right hip and lifted his shirt to discover a loaded 9-mm handgun with a laser sight and an extended magazine in his waistband.

After the shooting, CPD said in a media statement that officers took the shooter into custody. But pros-ecutors on Sunday said Mitchell is not believed to be responsible for the shooting.

Mitchell was once charged with car-rying a concealed weapon in Michi-gan, but prosecutors said they did not know the outcome of the case.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Volunteers needed in Andersonville this weekend

The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce is seeking volunteers for their Andersonville Homecoming event this weekend.

Held in partnership with Rattleback Records and Quiet Pterodactyle, Andersonville Homecoming, a three-night, two-day outdoor festival that will feature live entertainment, local artisans and merchants, food and drink vendors and free kids activities. The end-of-summer celebration will be held on Clark St. between Catalpa and Summerdale.

The chamber is seeking gate staff on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Volunteers that staff the entry gate are an integral part of this festival to collect donations. They say that these cash collections are essential to help sustain programming all year long.

All volunteers will receive a free ticket to join the Andersonville Wine Walk on Sunday, Oct. 3. For more information email laustin@andersonville.org.

Red Line work to close Ainslie St. next week

Ainslie St. between the CTA Red Line tracks and N. Winthrop Ave. will be closed continuously Monday, Sept. 27, through Friday, Oct. 1, due to the Red Line viaduct being demolished.

Residents and their vehicles will not be allowed to enter/exit garages on the north side of W. Ainslie St. (1100-1112 W. Ainslie St).

The exit to the parking garage on the south side of W. Ainslie Street will be maintained. Sidewalks within the work zone on both sides of the street will be closed, and the contractor, Walsh-Fluor, says they will maintain access to residences. For more information call 708-253-9772.

Alley access via W. Lawrence Ave. to

Free document shredding Oct. 3

A free document shredding and electronics recycling event will be held 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 1254 N. State Pkwy. There is a limit of three bags of paper shredding per household. For more information call 312-643-2299, or email ward02@cityofchicago.org.

REASSESSMENT from p. 1

A complete report on the residential and commercial assessments in North Chicago Township can be found at cookcountyassessor.com/chicago-2021. “My commitment to you is full transparency on how we arrive at the assessment of your property,” said Assessor Kaegi.

“The first step to ensuring property owners pay only their fair share of property taxes—without needing to file appeals to correct inaccurate assessments—is to make sure assessments of all property types accurately reflect the real estate market.”

An increase in a property’s as-

essment does not automatically lead to the same increase in an individual property’s tax bill. A property’s share of taxes depends on reassessments throughout all of Chicago, which are ongoing for Chicago’s remaining five townships.

If the growth in assessed values throughout Chicago outpaces the growth of the assessed value of an individual property then its share of property taxes could shrink despite its increase in property value.

Property assessments in Chicago are used to apportion taxing district levies which pay for services such as schools, parks, libraries, and pensions. The As-

essor’s Office does not set levies or tax rates. Also, increases in assessments do not necessarily increase the revenue received by taxing districts.

If the property characteristics listed on an assessment notice are incorrect, or if the estimated market value of a property is significantly more than what it could sell for in the current real estate market, property owners should file an appeal.

“Property owners are encouraged to use our office’s new, award-winning online system to file their appeals,” said Kaegi. Appeals for North Chicago Township can be filed until Oct. 18. More information on filing

appeals can be found at cookcountyassessor.com/appeals.

The 2021 assessments and appeals will affect the second installment property tax bill issued in late 2022.

“The mission of the Cook County Assessor’s Office is to deliver accurate and transparent assessments of all residential and commercial properties,” said Kaegi. “We serve every community in the County through ethical stewardship within the property tax system. I hope you experience our efforts to operate with ethics, fairness, and transparency in every interaction you have with our office.”

FIRST TEE from p. 1

key problems that inner-city children face today:

- Access to a safe place to learn: The 1,250 square foot kid’s clubhouse will provide year-round access to programming, a technology lab for exploration and learning, a simulator for practice, and a lounge area for peer engagement.

- Access to a safe place to play: The outdoor short-game area will provide a state-of-the-art practice facility for skills development and access to safe outdoor green space, both of which help to promote healthy cognitive development in children.

- Access to reliable transportation: Kids from all areas, especially those coming from underserved communities, will have access to transportation to and from the facilities for full-day camps and programs where they can practice and apply the



Kids from all areas, especially those coming from underserved communities, will be able to experience mentoring and tutoring.



program’s core values both on and off the course.

The fundraising done to build this youth development facility at Waveland along the lakefront was lead by Lea Jesse, CEO of First Tee – Chicago. She believes this effort may be a game changer for the organization.

“This facility will allow us to run full-

day programs, add valuable services like tutoring and monitoring, and have a technology lab in the clubhouse,” Lea said. “We’re very excited about the opportunity to have a deeper, long-term impact on the lives of the kids we serve.”

Donald called this an opportunity for him to “do something amazing.”

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