

Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.
— William Feather

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

insideonline.com



Photo courtesy Chicago Loop Bridges

Autumn bridge lifts underway

The City has begun the autumn bridge lifts, where bridges along the main and south branches of the Chicago River will be lifted sequentially on a twice weekly schedule, Saturdays and Wednesdays, to allow sailboats and other recreational boats to make their annual trip from the open waters of Lake Michigan to their winter storage facilities.

During these “boat runs,” the bridges are typically raised one at a time, with each bridge lift taking an average of 8-12 min-

utes. While the bridge is in the upright position, traffic is halted, and drivers may use alternate streets or wait until the bridge is lowered.

A total of 27 bridges will be lifted in succession from Lake Shore D. to the Ashland Ave. Bridge on the south branch of the Chicago River. In the event that no boat owners have made arrangements to move their boats on a scheduled day, the bridges

BRIDGE see p. 12

CPS took its head count Monday... expects more losses

Civic Federation's Msall says school enrollment falls as budget grows

BY GLENN MINNIS

It is happening every fall now, enrollment in Chicago Public Schools [CPS] dropping dramatically. Only now, the pandemic appears to be exacerbating a decade-long slide.

CPS schools are down about 10,000 students compared to last fall, and Civic Federation president Laurence Msall has a problem with what he sees as the CPS inverse system.

“While the size of the budget continues to grow, the number of students in Chicago Public Schools continues to shrink,” Msall recently told board members.

Chicago Board of Education officials recently approved a \$9.3 billion budget coinciding with schools across the state reopening for in-person learning. The new 2021-22 budget tops last year's spending by nearly a billion dollars and directly calls for \$7.8 billion in operating expenses, \$707 million for building repairs and technology advances and \$763 million for long-term debt pay-

ments.

The final approved spending plan came not long after members of the Chicago Teachers Union staged a rally outside the CPS headquarters demanding that the district invest more to cover the hiring a nurse and social worker for each of its 600-plus schools.

In the face of all the increased spending, the Civic Federation notes that student enrollment has tumbled by nearly 60,000 students. Since the COVID-19 crisis hit, CPS enrollment has tumbled by nearly 25,000 students and since schools reopened this fall, classroom numbers are down by 10,000 students.

CPS has struggled to hold onto students over the long run, with population losses in the city, but the simple fact is, those with school age children are leaving town. Chicago has 200,000 fewer children than 20 years ago. Since 2010, the city has lost about 76,000 children under 18, according to recently released 2020 U.S. Census data.

CPS see p. 12

Sundays on State concludes with a \$12 million economic booster

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

Turning a stretch of State St. into a pedestrian mall with attractions and activities once a week had a direct economic impact of at least \$12 million on businesses and landmarks in the Loop, according to the organizer of the eight-week event.

Chicago Loop Alliance claims an average of 67,000 people attended each Sundays on State from July 11 through Sept. 12. Seventy-four percent of them, says CLA, spent an average of \$157 before, during, or after the event.

State St. was closed to traffic from Lake to Madison streets for a “celebration of arts, culture, active recreation, food, drinks, shopping and more.” CLA says attendees came from every Chicago neighborhood and more than 20 states.

“We began the year with an understanding that we'd have to do something big in order to accelerate the Loop's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,”



Chicago Loop Alliance claims an average of 67,000 people attended each Sundays on State from July 11 through Sept. 12.

said Chicago Loop Alliance President/CEO Michael Edwards. “Hundreds of thousands of Loop workers and tens of millions of visitors stayed home for most of 2020, and we wanted to create a compelling program to safely bring them back downtown, some for the first time since the pandemic hit Chicago.”

The average amount spent came from people who had pre-registered for Sundays on State and then filled out a survey after the event.

To keep the economic impact estimate cautious, CLA counted only 20% of pedestrians at an

STATE see p. 12

Transportation Demand Management study coming to farmer's market



The study is hoping to identify solutions to improve congestion.

Is it just us, or are delivery cars and trucks now a permanent fixture double parked on busy streets and blocking traffic in all of our North Side neighborhoods?

One wonders if Uber, Door Dash, Amazon, UPS or FedEx vehicles ever gets ticketed?

The Chicago Dept. of Transportation will be at the Streeterville Farmer's Market 12-2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12 to introduce the North Grant Park Streeterville Transportation Demand Management study.

The area being studied is generally from Monroe St. north to Oak St., and from Michigan Ave. east to the lakefront.

This study is looking at patterns of curb usage and demand in the North Grant Park Streeterville areas, hoping to identify solutions that can improve congestion, safety, and ease of access at the curbside for all users.

The project team will be there to share information about the study, soliciting participation in an online survey, and answering questions.

The goal is to try and understand the complex dynamics that create gridlock in the study area, hoping to generate physi-

STUDY see p. 12

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The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 at 150, separating fact from fiction



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Just six years after the end of the American Civil War. Some 34 years after it was established officially as a city, during the early months of the second term of the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant, three-fifths of Chicago, a city surrounded by flatlands and waterways burnt to the ground.

Weather conditions in 1871 made for the driest, hottest August and September on record. By early October fires in the wooden streets of the city were a daily occurrence.

Chicago's meagre fire-fighting professionals were hard-pressed to cope. But with just one difference, on Oct. 8, as fire-fighters, battered and broken, were limping their way back from one of the 25 fires on record for those weeks, lookouts stationed in the tower of City Hall observed one fresh ingredient that tipped the city of 250,000 to catastrophe: unrelenting prairie winds.

Technological incapacities removed any real ability to keep the flames of destruction at bay.



A city in ruins after the Great Chicago Fire and the Water Tower (center) that survived, and an artist's rendering of Mrs. O'Leary's slandered cow.

The conflagration at its height had the power to jump the expanse of the Chicago River, which offered meager resistance in holding back the forces of the urban inferno.

Prairie winds were the dramatic force of nature that made this fire more lethal than any other in history.

As the force of the flames grew in strength, cyclones of flatland winds grew to become gyres of unstoppable disaster. At its worst, the fire did not simply burn one building after another. Rather the fire was in reality powerful walls of heat that moved, pushing ahead of the flames, exploding into flames everything in its path. From 12th Street (Roosevelt Rd.) on the south to what is Fullerton Ave. today.

Though the fire jumped the river moving in its northward path, it did not jump the river to the western portion of the city. The fire burned as far east as the shores of Lake Michigan, though the intense heat of the fire made shoreline relief hit or miss.

Among the more ingenious places of rescue from the flames was the fledgling environs of Lincoln Park at the north edge of the city. Once land that contained the city's cemeteries, both Catholic and non-denominational, the cemeteries had relinquished their



Journalist Michael Ahern (circled) helped spread the false fire blame on Mrs. O'Leary.

burial plots so that a memorial park to honor the assassinated President Lincoln could be fashioned along a lake parkway under construction.

At the time of the fire, many of the former graves remained open and uncovered, the dead transferred to new cemeteries further north. Many Chicagoans recounted how jumping into the empty graves was a last resort.

When all seemed hopeless, rain began to fall on the evening of Oct. 9. An act of nature extinguished the dynamic walls of heat and fire raging through the city.

Chicago had been at the mercy

of two dramatic acts of nature. First the prairie winds that fed the heat and flames across three-fifths of the metropolis. Second, the cooling force of rain that brought an end to the urban cataclysm of the inferno.

In its pathway there was little the Great Fire of 1871 did not flatten and char. Gone were all municipal buildings that housed government and municipal affairs, except the city Water Tower at Chicago Ave., still there today.

Two cathedrals lay in ruins. One belonging to the Roman Catholic diocese of Chicago. The other belonging to the Episcopal diocese of Chicago. Churches east of the river's

south branch were gone, except for Holy Family Church on 12th Street. Saved, many believed, miraculously, when parishioners received a telegram from the famed Father Arnold Damen, SJ, the pastor of the parish away preaching in New York. He advised parishioners to prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, whose image is still displayed in the cathedral-like church to this day.

Damen was confident the recently completed church would be saved by the Madonna.

That's more than significant as the blaze was thought to have begun in an area of the city very near the church. Long after the fire, one of the parishioners of Holy Family was accused by scurrilous journalists of being the cause of the blaze. Mrs. Catherine O'Leary was never accused by any branch of Chicago investigators of the fire to have been the cause.

Decades later, Michael Ahern, a reporter for the Republican, a Chicago newspaper at the time, admitted that he and two other reporters, Jim Haynie and John English, had concocted the tale that Mrs. O'Leary and her cow were the prime cause of the blaze.

As an Irish immigrant, a woman and a Roman Catholic she was ripe for the false accusations that were easily laid upon a powerless person.

Ahern would be the last of the old time reporters to die in the 1920s. His false accusations still abounded long after.

It would take until 1997 to ensure that Catherine O'Leary was absolved of any wrong doing. Then, Ald. Edward M. Burke [14th], Chairman of the powerful Finance Committee, called for

hearings at the Fire Academy, (ironically the site of the O'Leary farm) to redeem the reputation of the beleaguered Mrs. O'Leary.

Historians, fire department personnel and O'Leary family members testified to the innocence of the poor Chicago dairy farmer. The Chicago City Council later affirmed her vindication.

The Chicago Fire made victims of hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans. Remarkably, only 300 people lost their lives in the Great Fire of 1871. The biggest post-fire miracle, of course, was the recovery process which brought economic stability and a powerful spurt of growth, unequaled in any American city.

The disaster of the fire, ultimately, became an opportunity for rebirth and revitalization, unmatched anywhere on earth and the "Second City" was born.

But the wounds and scars of the inferno lingered.

At the next election the city voted in founder and publisher Joseph Medill, a McCormick cousin, as the new mayor -- on a fireproof ticket.

FIRE see p. 2

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Longtime Joffrey dancer takes center stage with choreography



Heart
of the 'Hood
by Felicia Dechter

Yoshi Arai has been a Company artist at the Joffrey Ballet since 2012, but his passion for dancing has also created what one imagines would be a natural transition into a love for choreography.

Starting next week, Arai will get to show off other people's dance moves with his choreography, as his immense talent takes center stage when the Joffrey presents Arai's recent work, "Boléro," as part of its season opening production, "Home: a Celebration." The show launches the dance company's inaugural season at its new home, the Lyric Opera House, and features the original works of other promising choreographers who are also on the rise.

Arai, a Rogers Parker known around town as Yoshi, takes audiences on a journey through time and space with "Boléro." Fifteen dancers will appear on stage, inspired by the score of the same name by composer Maurice Ravel. "Home: a Celebration," will be presented in 10 performances only, Oct. 13 to 24, at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr.

Although Arai has done a few small scale productions throughout his nearly decade with the Joffrey, he said "Bolero," is his biggest thus far.

"It is very exciting, I'm really grateful for this opportunity," said Arai. "This last

year with no performances during the pandemic gave me an opportunity to create something new as an artist."

Born in Hiroshima, Japan, Arai began his ballet training as a 10-year-old child at the city's International Ballet Academy. His father was strict and very into sports, so Arai took karate lessons, which led to his becoming a black belt. At the same time, Arai's older sister was attending ballet classes six days a week, and most times he was brought along.

"I always liked music and dance," said Arai. "I went and watched the ballet classes."

He enjoyed the dancing so much that Arai's mother and grandmother secretly signed him up for ballet classes too. "My mom and grandma were big supporters of the arts," said Arai. "Ballet boys were a big deal in Japan and becoming bigger. I fell in love the first time I was in the studio."

Arai then checked out numerous dance schools, both in America and England. He eventually told his father that he wanted to be a professional dancer and he had found a school in London, the Royal Ballet School.

"My father said, 'If you really want to be a dancer, I'll really support you,'" recalled Arai. "He became a big supporter afterward."

During his first year with the Royal Ballet School, Arai performed at the Royal Opera House before Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla Parker Bowles. "I didn't speak a word of English so I hid behind a British student," he recalled. A different time, Arai sang "Happy Birthday," to Queen Elizabeth for her 80th birthday, at



Joffrey company artist Yoshi Arai.

Courtesy of The Joffrey Ballet

the Royal Opera House's Covent Garden.

"I was a student and the Royal Family was a huge supporter," he said. "It was kind of unreal. 'Definitely one dream come true,'" added Arai, who graduated with honors and received the school's prestigious Achievement Award. "It was unreal to see the Royal Family."

Since then, Arai has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. with the Paris Opera Ballet School and was a prestigious Prix de Lausanne finalist.

He has danced in many acclaimed shows throughout the years including, among numerous others, "The Nutcracker," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Wuthering Heights," "Swan Lake," "Madame Butterfly," and "Cleopatra." He also collaborated with Dame Gillian Lynne in 2010, developing an original role for the 45th anniversary gala for the Northern Ballet in West Yorkshire, England.

In 2011, Arai joined the Tulsa Ballet as a demi-soloist and it was there, after a performance of "Romeo and Juliet," that he decided to pursue the Joffrey. Ashley Wheeler, Joffrey artistic director, had come to see the show and, "I contacted him and said I want to come work for him," said Arai, who then auditioned for Wheeler in Chicago, moved here, and has been performing with the dance company ever since in roles including "The Nutcracker," and as the prince in "Cinderella."

"He has an amazing vision to bring the company to another level," Arai said of Wheeler. "I've seen the company grow and change. It has been an amazing journey."

In addition to having "Boléro," featured as part of the Joffrey's opening production, Arai is creating original choreography complemented by Copland's "Appalachian Spring," which will have its world premiere as part of Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's season opener on Oct. 16 at Ozinga Chapel on the campus of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. The piece will be danced by Studio Company dancers of the Joffrey Academy of Dance, the official school of the Joffrey Ballet.

DANGER see p. 4



Travels with My Aunt

Presented by Susan I. Wranik, MS, MA, CCC-SLP. Susan is a national speaker, author, linguist and medical professional who is passionate about communication, quality of life, and giving a voice to others.

Dementia is a journey, not a destination, similar to traveling to a foreign country: different language, different time zone, and different cultural norms. *Travels with My Aunt* draws on vignettes and uses real-life stories to illustrate proficiency, physical coordination, and recognition/recall of familiar situations. These stories provide those caring for, living with, and loving someone with dementia practical tools for productive communication and positive interaction. An upbeat and innovative approach to an unselected travel destination, *Travels with My Aunt* focuses on how to make the most of your time together on the journey, not when you'll arrive.

5 participants will be chosen at random to win a fall gift basket.

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North Side resale-home market on a roller coaster



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Chicago's North Side resale-home market is on a roller-coaster ride headed into autumn with median sale prices falling and mortgage rates creeping higher.

That's the big picture outlined in Baird & Warner's September 2021 Market Analysis which focused on four key neighborhoods—the Near North Side, Lincoln Park, Lakeview and North Center.

"Variables such as the second outbreak of COVID, rising crime, state and city financial problems, and the outlook for 2022 real estate tax increases, are all having an effect on the residential real estate market," noted John Irwin, broker with Baird & Warner. "Unfortunately, these variables have not been brought under control, so it is impossible to predict

their continued impact on the Fall 2021 market."

Interest rates creeping up

A mortgage-rate increase above the magic 3% affordability threshold is the latest cloud over the autumn market.

Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported on Sept. 30 that benchmark 30-year fixed home loan rates rose nationwide to an average of 3.01%. Last year at this time, the 30-year fixed loans averaged 2.88%.

Fifteen-year fixed rate loans rose to an average of 2.28%, up from 2.15% a week earlier. A year ago, the average 15-year fixed mortgage averaged 2.36%.

"Mortgage rates rose across all loan types last week as the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield reached 1.54%, its highest point since June," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

"Many factors led to this increase, including the Federal Reserve communicating that it will taper its support of the capital markets, the broadening of inflation and emerging energy supply shortages which compound other labor and materials



Sales in the Near North area was hot in August, with 43.1% more transactions than the same month in 2020.

shortages," he said.

Khater gloomily predicted: "We expect mortgage rates to continue to rise modestly which will likely have an impact on home prices, causing them to moderate slightly after increasing over the last year."

Prices on roller coaster

Home prices on the North Side already appear to be impacted by higher interest rates.

While median sale prices in the

four surveyed North Side neighborhood are up 4% year to date, in August there was some slippage in three of the four neighborhoods, according to Baird & Warner:

- **Near North:** Median home prices slipped 5.4%, while units priced under \$500,000 fell 5.5%. On the sales side, the Near North area was hot in August, with 43.1% more transactions than the same month in 2020. Units priced under \$500,000 posted 20.6% more sales than a year ago.

- **Lincoln Park:** Over-all median prices in the neighborhood plummeted 14.7% in August. However, homes in the upscale price range of \$500,000 to \$1-million only slipped 5.1%. Total unit sales fell 7% in Lincoln Park.

- **Lakeview:** Median prices eased 4.7%. However, prices on luxury homes rose 2.6% in the \$1-million to \$2-million bracket. Unit sales were about the same as last August, but homes in the \$1-million to \$2-million bracket rose 13.6%.

- **North Center:** Bucking the trend, median prices in this neighborhood, which includes the hot St. Ben's area, skyrocketed 38.8%

in August.

However, the median price of homes priced at more than \$2-million in North Center slipped 3.8%. While over-all home sales slipped 4.1%, units priced at more than \$2-million zoomed 52.9% in sales volume during August.

Despite the uncertainty, the North Side residential real estate sales activity is healthy, Irwin said. "Buyers and sellers need to know how to navigate the market," he said.

"Many buyers are looking for homes in 'turn-key' condition," Irwin noted. "This not only includes a fresh coat of paint, but a more contemporary look. For sellers, updating can be less costly than a future price change."

Pricing is the most critical element for sellers, he said. "Testing an inflated price can lead to higher market times and potential costly price changes," Irwin advised.

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.

DANGER from p. 3

Meanwhile, Arai said "Bolero" has no specific story," yet, "Everyone is allowed to have their opinion," he said. "With 3,000 seats come 3,000 opinions.

"Be open minded," added Arai. "Just watch the piece."

As Arai told me they say in England, we're sending Chukkers to him -- meaning best of luck. Apparently, Merde, and Toi, Toi are also appropriate to say to an artist before a dance production, he said.

Here's sending Arai all of the above, and then some.

Congratulations!... to a totally adorable couple that recently tied the knot, Stephanie Toro and Michael Vaughn, owner of the Zebra Lounge, 1220 N. State Pkwy.

These cute lovebirds met at the now-closed Bulldog Whiskey Bar in Humboldt Park. They held their wedding on a rooftop in



Stephanie Toro and Michael Vaughn, now aka Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn.

that neighborhood and I'm told it was an intimate, memorable, and beautiful event filled with lots of love!

Please join me in congratulating the new Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn and wishing them many years of happiness and wedded bliss!



Dr. Sandy Goldberg

Think pink please... Tradition has returned at the Peninsula Chicago, 108 E. Superior St. The hotel's signature Afternoon Tea at The Lobby has restarted and will be available Fridays through Sundays in October, with seatings at 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Debuting with a theme of "Pen-

insula in Pink," a portion of the proceeds from each Afternoon Tea service will benefit the non-profit A Silver Lining Foundation (ASLF), which funds cost-free breast health testing. The donations to ASLF run through the month of October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Artist Juli Litzkow will sell her beautiful, hand-painted scarves.

"We are grateful and delighted the Afternoon tea at The Peninsula Chicago has returned!" said Dr. Sandy Goldberg, a more than two-decade breast cancer survivor who founded ASLF, 134 N. La-Salle St., with her husband, Greg Hines. "Since the inception of our relationship with The Peninsula Chicago and their continued support, over 100 women have been provided with the access to potentially lifesaving testing. Lives eased, lives saved...there is no better silver lining."

Scarf them up... Rogers Park artist Juli Litzkow will sell her fabulous, hand-painted silk scarves at the Shanastastudios Silks booth during the last Evanston Thursday Market of the season, which is tomorrow night. Buy one for yourself (I did!) or for a holiday gift. They are gorgeous.

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Three nonprofits join forces to help tenants facing eviction, help landlords stay in business

Thousands of renters may face eviction next week

BY TOM GRADEL

The Wellington United Church of Christ [WUCC], the Crossroads Fund and the Metropolitan Tenants Organization [MTO] have joined forces to help Chicago area tenants apply for and obtain government funding to pay back rent that they could not pay due to the pandemic.

As many as 20,000 Chicago renters will face the possibility of eviction after the eviction moratorium expires on Oct. 3.

Since the government-imposed stay-at-home order and eviction ban was issued in March 2020, Cook County Courts halted all eviction proceedings except for emergencies.

From 2010 to 2019, Chicago saw an average of more than 22,500 eviction filings per year, according to a report by The Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing and Loyola Univ. of Chicago Dept. of Sociology. In 2019 there were 18,200 eviction filings, or an average of about 1,500 per month.

Most of the evictions prior to and dur-

ing the pandemic were the result of tenants being unable to pay rent for numerous reasons. But the pandemic was a major added factor causing many more people to lose jobs or experience substantial cuts in their work hours and income.

Recently, the Illinois Dept. of Human Services estimates that there are approximately 414,000 vulnerable households that are experiencing housing insecurity in Illinois and an estimated 60,000 of these households are now vulnerable to eviction. It is safe to estimate that at least 12,600 of the households (21%) are located in Chicago.

The WUCC, Crossroads and MTO think the pending flood of Chicago evictions can be avoided if \$1.5 billion of federal funds can be used to pay landlords for rent owed by tenants who have lost jobs or work hours due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to WUCC member Dick Simpson, the \$1.5 billion has already been allocated to the State of Illinois, and its Dept. of Human Services and Illinois Housing Development Authority have launched programs to distribute the funds.

"But there are several steep hurdles to jump before the rent money is released to the landlords," Simpson said. "Landlords and tenants have to hear about the program, learn how it helps them, and then correctly file challenging paperwork. That's where the three nonprofits can be most effective."

"The MTO has 25 years of experience helping tenants and landlords reach mutually beneficial agreements but they don't

have enough staff to handle the expected demand for help getting access to the federal money after the moratorium ends. If MTO had the funding, they could hire and train additional staff, which then could train others to work directly with tenants and landlords," he said.

The Illinois Dept. of Human Services estimates that there are approximately 414,000 vulnerable households that are experiencing housing insecurity in Illinois and an estimated 60,000 of these households are now vulnerable to eviction.

WUCC contributed \$15,000 to help MTO hire additional staff, and parishioners will be recruited to reach out and inform tenants and landlords. Some church members have volunteered to help tenants apply for the rental assistance. WUCC is also seeking additional participants from numerous North Side social justice groups.

Crossroads has contributed \$8,000 to help MTO, and will also help recruit additional participants from the more than 200 community and social justice organizations it has help fund during the 40 years.

MTO is now conducting training sessions on a once-monthly schedule. For more information contact MTO at 847-903-8464, Philip@tenants-rights.org; or Wellington UCC, 773-484-3302, annlouise@waucc.org.

Be prepared, the Chicago Marathon steps off Sunday

The 43rd running of the Chicago Marathon is scheduled to return to the North Side's streets on Sunday, Oct. 10.

While the start time is 7:30 a.m., police will start locking down the city, and towing cars off of the race route well in advance of that.

Those who live or park on one of the streets along the route must move all of their vehicles to another location off the course by Saturday. Towing of vehicles on closed thoroughfares will begin at 1 a.m. on Sunday.

The city is expecting to welcome 35,000 to 40,000 participants to this year's Marathon.

Residents need to be aware that as the race is being run, many North Side streets will be blocked off. That includes portions of Clark St., Sheridan, Broadway, Stockton and Cannon Dr., Wells and LaSalle. Inner Lake Shore Dr., will be closed between Belmont and W. Sheridan Rd. W. Sheridan will be close between the Inner Drive and Broadway.

The Marathon steps off in Grant Park with the Marathon Wheelchair start (men): 7:20 a.m.; Marathon Wheelchair start (women): 7:21 a.m., then the Marathon Handcycle starts at 7:23 a.m.

Wave 1 starts at 7:30 a.m., wave 2 starts at 8 a.m., and wave 3 Start at 8:35 a.m.

Spectator access to Grant Park begins at 9:30 a.m. The race ends for the runners in Butler Field between 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Spectators will not have access to the race start and finish areas within Grant Park on race day. Those who wish to be nearby the finish line will have to pass through security inspections gates along Michigan Ave.

Event organizers are working closely with the City of Chicago, including the Dept. of Public Health, Streets and Sani-



The North Side race route.

tation and Chicago Police to try and pull off a safe race. Those who wish may cheer on participants in-person along the course route, or from home by following TV and radio coverage of the event.

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Art Institute of Chicago fiasco

Museum volunteers cast off for being too culturally privileged

BY THOMAS O'GORMAN

The news isn't good out of the Art Institute of Chicago [AIC].

While attempting to restructure the venerable and beloved museum to the new 'woke' world, it seems the AIC has committed a foul blunder resulting in casting out all their volunteer docents from further service to the cherished center of Chicago's art world.

Details are still sketchy, but apparently the long-serving corps of docents is seen as too culturally privileged. Their advantaged social bearing and polished educations are now perceived as an imbalanced detriment to continuing, any longer, the service of the time-honored group of hardworking volunteers.

For over 60 years these vol-

unteer docents have faithfully, skillfully and happily introduced many children, museum members, donors, local and out-of-town visitors to the AIC and its collection.

Once, the docents were considered family. They weren't just the expendable subject of some in-house jargon-filled email, which was how they discovered they were being cast off.

The pink slip was sent off by Veronica Stein, the AIC Woman's Board Executive Director of Learning and Public Engagement. She said that the 82 volunteer docents would be replaced by six part-time employees, and that in 2023, unpaid volunteer educators will start to be reintroduced.

These docents are Chicago's latest victims of the cancel culture strategy. Fired more for their perceived privilege, rather than their character, knowledge or work efforts.

In response to Stein, the AIC's 2021-2022 Docent Council sent a detailed letter outlining the work and demands on docents, and requesting an in-person meeting with AIC President James Rondeau, "to explain fully our perspective regarding the end of the current docent program, and regarding our commitment to the healthy evolution of AIC's arts education. On behalf of all past and present docents who have walked the halls of the volunteer educator program, we thank you for taking the time to reflect on our response."

The long letter goes into great detail about how the volunteer docents have enthusiastically devoted countless hours and per-

sonal resources to facilitate audience engagement in sharing their knowledge about the collection, its history and relevance.



Veronica Stein, AIC Woman's Board Executive Director of Learning and Public Engagement.

But suddenly the docents' dedication, knowledge and contributions are secondary to the growing intolerant woke culture overtaking the AIC.

Can it really be that they were canned for the worst possible reason: because most of them are white?

The AIC may allow the cast-offs to reapply to be among the six \$25-per-hour "educators" who will be chosen on the basis of "an income equity-focused lens," according to the Stein's memo.

But feelings have been crushed, and spirits have been broken. Val-

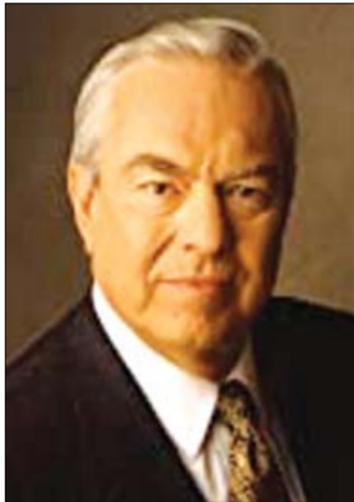
ued accomplishments are no longer needed. No more well-spoken tour guides or bright art experts, the goal now is a more equitable and diverse group of paid staff to carry out the duties once the domain of volunteer docents.

The AIC says it's all about diversity, but many feel it's just one more sad American misstep along the path of racialization.

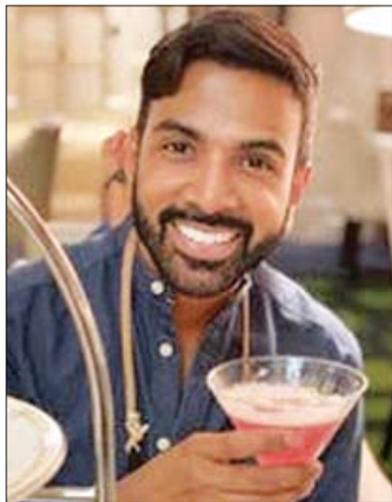
And now it's the talk of the town, and not in a good way. A moment of great shame for Chicago at a time when fiasco after fiasco is unraveling goodwill everywhere in the metropolis.

What are AIC board members thinking? Hey Ken Griffin, say it ain't so. Tom Pritzker, you've got to be kiddin'. Larry Levy, this is a low blow. Way below the belt, Janet Duchossois, Steven Crown, Jay Krehbiel. What was President James Rondeau thinking?

Just wait 'til the diversity crowd turns their sites on the board.



Bill Kurtis



Shaun Rajah



The Palmer House, 17 E. Monroe St., celebrates 150 years.



Chita Rivera

FIRE from p. 2

PALMER HOUSE: Potter Palmer's Palmer House debuted on Sept. 23, 1871, perhaps America's most refined and elegant accommodation. It was the talk the town, especially after it burnt to the ground just weeks later in the Great Fire. Potter quickly rebuilt. Modern hotel bosses celebrated the 150th anniversary of its opening September 23rd. Potter and Bertha Palmer would be proud.

CHICAGO UNDER SEIGE: Here's just some of the mayhem that has gone unchecked on Mayor Lightfinger's watch, catalogued by a column fan. Chicago's violence is the talk of the nation. The irresponsible mayor has ravaged safety and civility in the city. Her harebrained solutions are gross failures. She has turned the streets over to gangs and thugs. Here's a taste: Club bouncer brutally killed in River North, 56 shootings in one weekend. 9 dead, Dior boutique robbed at gunpoint, Bottega Veneto robbed, Intermix robbed, teen stabbed in Lincoln

Park. This is a crisis in government. Take a look at graffiti in every viaduct and overpass of the Kennedy Expressway. She's taunting us.

AN ERA ENDS: Many Chicagoans are mourning the death of the singular society grandee Michael Wilke, man about town and treasured friend to so many. He was a complex adventurer of a local fortune with which he gilded the lily of local society. No moment more memorable than his famed dance with Diana, Princess of Wales on her visit. He kept Chicago breathless. Peace.

HER HONOR: Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas is everywhere and now she's made common cause with St. Sabina pastor Father Mike Pfleger, she should be Chicago's mayor. She shows up every day, works hard, is fearless and serious, has visited every corner of the county, she studies the numbers and does not curse in public, and treats everyone equally, politely and fairly. How refreshing.

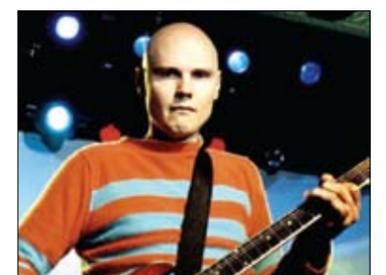
ICONS: Lakeview's Porchlight Music Theatre will be hosting



A past invitation from Michael Wilkie.

its ICONS Gala honoring Chita Rivera and the Bayless Family Foundation Wednesday, Oct. 20 at Galleria Marchett. NBC5's Matthew Rodriques will serve as host, and have an on-stage conversation with WGN's Paul Lisnek. Live performances stage-crafted by Michael Weber, Adrian Abel Azevedo and Linda Madonia. So buy a ticket, it sounds like fun.

WHO'S WHERE: Architectural historian Lee Bey, in Detroit, sees a comeback in the grandeur of architecture there... Happy Birthday to the golden voice of Chicago Bill Kurtis... Breandan Magee busy being a Godfather at the holy rites... Tom Cooney sitting in the living room of the Duke of Wellington, now the five star Merrion Hotel in Dublin, once the Duke's childhood home... delightful running into politico Brian Bernardoni in Erie Cafe, always great stories... Belated Happy Birthday to Nikki Friar the wondrous magician at Marchesa on Wells... Rock'n'Roller Billy Corgan has been enormously helpful and generous in rescuing homeless pets... so nice to see Marilyn Miglin and Irene Michaels at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill in the Irv and Essee Kupcinet booth... former mayoral candidate Gary Chico lunching on the RL patio... Annie Lawlor, Windy Lawlor Augustine and Brittany Kennedy all survived the historic Metallica concert at Metro... Christie's Steve Zick on Michigan Ave. with equestrian Officer Davis, happy to see mounted police back in action... Karen Zupko and Mr. Mike off to sunny Florence where art can refresh the soul... the Tribune's former Col. Paul Malarik III celebrated another year of grace with pal, Lynn Graham and this columnist... and bravo to everyone's beloved Shaun Rajah, only three months in his new position at the



Billy Corgan

Langham Hotel, now promoted to Director of Social Catering, Lucky Langham.

RISE UP: Support Christ the King's 11th Annual RISE UP Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m. at Midwest Coast Brewing, 2137 W. Walnut, with freshly brewed craft beers and Korean-Mexican "taKOs" and nachos from taKOREA. Call Maureen Kelly at 773-413-3513 or mkelly@ctkjcsuit.org for tickets or info.

CONDOLENCES: To Sheila and Chris Kennedy on the death of Sheila's remarkable mother, Sheila Reynolds Berner. She was also the late Tom Reynold's dear sister. (Their father was President Franklin Roosevelt's New York appointee for U.S. Attorney.) Co-founder of the family food charity, Top Box, and decades of service to the needs of the Howard Area Community Center, 7648 N. Paulina St. (now the Sheila Reynolds Berner Center).

Simply calling the Great Fire an accident did not satisfy some people, most notably the local newspapers. They demanded a culprit. — Jim Murphy tog515@gmail.com

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The Clare aims to hit \$100K in Alzheimer's Association donations

Year after year, The Clare sets and surpasses fundraising goals for the Alzheimer's Association leading up to the annual Walk to END Alzheimer's, the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer's disease.

Since 2013, residents and employees of The Clare have raised more than \$85,000 in support of the Alzheimer's Association and their vision of a world without Alzheimer's disease and related forms of

dementia. This year, The Clare's goal is to reach \$100,000 in donations to this important cause.



"We have the honor of working with residents and their families that have Alzheimer's disease or related dementias," says Joanne Malletta, Director of Resident Health Services at The

Clare and leader of the community's Alzheimer's Association fundraising efforts. "The Alzheimer's Association is invaluable to those going through this disease,

with support groups, a 24-hour help line and much more. Our team is dedicated to their vision."

Throughout September, residents and employees alike had the opportunity to participate in various events geared toward fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association. During a silent auction happy hour,

"The Alzheimer's Association is invaluable to those going through this disease, with support groups, a 24-hour help line and much more. Our team is dedicated to their vision," said Joanne Malletta.

Additional donations stemmed from a 50/50 raffle and a Penny Wars Challenge, where residents distribute their spare change to the jar of specific team members at The Clare. Whoever has the most money in their jar will have to climb all 53 flights of stairs at the community. Meanwhile, employees made donations and enjoyed an ice cream sundae bar in exchange.

"I am inspired by the generosity displayed by everyone in the community," Joanne says.

So far, The Clare has raised \$12,830, meaning about \$2,000 more in donations is needed to hit the \$100,000 milestone. With one donation event remaining – a special resident-only 5k hosted by the community – ahead of the official Walk to END Alzheimer's on Saturday, October 8 at Soldier Field, The Clare's goal is certainly within reach.

"Every dollar and every person make a difference," Joanne says. "Here is to \$100,000!"

Chicago Reader celebrates 50th anniversary

The Chicago Reader, the innovative, and nationally respected independent media voice in Chicago since 1971, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a variety of exhibitions, events, and projects.

Started on Chicago's North Side, the Chicago Reader's first issue was Oct. 1, 1971. It is believed to be the nation's first free newsweekly. From its days as the city's main "alternative" publication, to its current biweekly format with daily online postings, the Chicago Reader has stayed true to its roots, covering culture in all its forms, and uncovering corruption in government and other institutions.

The Reader was founded by four college friends: Bob McCamant, Bob Roth, Tom Yoder, and Tom Rehwaldt. They sold the paper in 2007 to Creative Loafing, and it was sold several times since, including to the Chicago Sun-Times. In 2018, the Sun-Times sold the Reader to Elizie Higginbottom and Leonard C. Goodman, who took it independent once again, before approving its conversion to a nonprofit. The four founders returned to the Reader office for the first time in years for a 50th anniversary photo shoot, where they met current co-publishers Tracy Baim and Karen Hawkins.

In 2020, the Chicago Reader received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS for its Reader Institute for Community Journalism, and the full conversion to nonprofit is expected before the end of this year.

The Reader has been marking its golden anniversary with online and print-related content, including deep archive dives. That will continue with two special anniversary issues, Oct. 14 and 28, with 60,000 copies featuring the origin story and other articles and content focused on the past 50 years of award-winning work.

Reader 50th celebrations will include:

- The Newberry Library is hosting an exhibition of archival materials from the Reader, including reporter's

notes by John Conroy for his 1990 "House of Screams" cover story on police brutality, original art created for the Reader by Lynda Barry, Slug Signorino, and other artists, plus other materials in the library's collection. "The Chicago Reader at 50: A half-century of revolutionary storytelling" opens to the public today, and be on display at the Newberry's gallery until Friday, Jan. 21, 2022.

- The Reader ran a button design contest with Busy Beaver Button Co. this summer. The winners were selected by public voting to be featured in a button collection representing the past five decades the Reader has been serving Chicago. This button pack will be on sale Oct 1.

- There will be a series of public and private "house" parties in October and November, to raise funds for the new nonprofit. One online event will be hosted 6 p.m. Oct. 20, by Haymarket Books. Moderator Kim L. Hunt and panelists Ben Joravsky, Alderman Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez, and Stacy Davis Gates will discuss "What's Next in Chicago Politics."

- Now underway is 50 Days of Reader Giving prize giveaway. All members of the Reader's Reader Revolution membership program will be automatically entered to win prizes throughout the entire 50-day giveaway. Theater tickets, a souvenir Reader newsbox, Ben Platt concert tickets, Chicago restaurant vouchers, and many more items will be given away.

Later this year, look for a book commemorating the first 25 years of Chicago Reader covers. And in 2022, there are plans for in-person events, including a gala, a January panel discussion with John Conroy, special highlights of 50 years of Reader advertising, a Spirits of '71 Cocktail Book, and more.

"We continue to be honored to helm this legendary Chicago newspaper," Baim and Hawkins said. "And we are very happy to start the 50th anniversary celebration with 50 days of giving. This has not been an easy journey to nonprofit status during a pandemic, but we are grateful to our staff, freelancers, supporters, readers and advertisers for staying the course."

for example, residents bid for experiences like an exclusive dinner with The Clare's Executive Chef Hagop Hagopian or an evening at the Magic Parlour at Chicago's historic Palmer House. This yielded significant donations to kick off fundraising, as all winning bids go directly to the Alzheimer's Association.



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Police Beat...

Burglar stole \$1,100 worth of souvenirs during post-season raid at Wrigley Field

A man is facing burglary charges after he allegedly climbed into Wrigley Field this week and tried to walk out with over \$1,000 worth of merchandise from a gift shop.

The alleged crime comes just a few weeks after another man pleaded guilty to committing a nearly-identical heist — and leaving a note behind that called the ballpark's security "laughable."

Wrigley Field was closed for the season Sept. 28 when a security officer saw Terrel Marshall, 20, pacing outside a gate on Waveland Ave. before climbing over an eight-foot fence to enter the Friendly Confines, Assistant State's Attorney John Gnillka said.

Security officers tracked Marshall to a suite and then to a retail area near right field, Gnillka said. Video allegedly shows Marshall collecting shirts, hats, earrings, and other items from a shuttered souvenir shop.



Terrel Marshall

Guards stopped Marshall near an elevator. He was carrying \$1,124 worth of Cubs gear, Gnillka said. Marshall was twice convicted of felony theft as a juvenile, according to Gnillka.

He is now charged with felony burglary. Judge David Navarro set bail at \$10,000, meaning Marshall must post \$1,000 to get out of jail to await trial.

Earlier this month, we reported that Daniel Smith, 50, received probation after he pleaded guilty to a July 2020 burglary at Wrigley Field.

"To whom it may concern, your security in this building is laughable," Smith allegedly scrawled on the wall of a Cubs gift shop. "Call me, and I will tell you where your weaknesses are."

Smith allegedly signed the message with his roommate's name and phone number, then walked out with a \$299 jersey.

Cops called the number and met with the roommate. He immediately directed them to Smith. Police said Smith admitted to scaling the fence and said, "it was a dream come true." He also again advised the Cubs to "beef up their security."

Intruder stabs resident inside River North condo building fitness center

Police are questioning a suspect after an intruder stabbed a 38-year-old man in the fitness center of a River North condo building Sept. 30, according to a source and an email sent by the building's management.

The management email said the victim was attacked by "an outside person who does not live in the building" as he worked out in the fitness center at River Plaza, 405 N. Wabash, around 5:30 a.m. Police arrested the intruder nearby and recovered a knife.

Management did not say how the attacker gained access to the third-floor workout room.

The source said EMS took the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment of an inch-wide stab wound beneath his ribs. His

condition has reportedly stabilized.

River Plaza management told residents that they and the building's board of directors are "reviewing all security conditions of the building." The residential high-rise is located directly north of Trump Tower.

A Chicago police department spokesperson said the CPD report had not been approved for release at midday.

Lakeview bar seeks man who broke its windows, scrawled racist and anti-vax graffiti

A Lakeview bar is cleaning up after a man broke some of its windows, destroyed its patio, and scrawled racist and anti-vaccination graffiti on the storefront. And no one seems to know why Trader Todd's, 3216 N. Sheffield, was targeted.

"No employees recognize this guy," said Betsy Shepherd, who was working with the bar's management to spread word of the incident. "He is not a known customer or former employee."

Surveillance video showed the man sitting outside the bar before damaging the building around 4 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 23.

At one point, the man used a pole to poke a security camera — then he took a moment to smile and wave at the lens. He used a marker to scrawl messages on other panes of glass.

"F*ck illegals" said one message. "Kill cancelled," said another.

On a sign that announces the bar's vaccination and masks requirements, he scribbled, "How will you get staff if you require a libtard vax? I hope you go broke."

"F*ck Kamala! F*ck n*ggers," another message said.

At one point, with his hoodie lowered, the man stopped to smile and wave.

Area Three detectives are investigating the case. Anyone with information about the man can contact them at 312-744-8263 about case #JE-383946.

Three armed robberies reported in Old Town and Lincoln Park

Police said that an armed robbery team pulled off two robberies and tried to carjack a third person as they swept through Old Town and Lincoln Park on Sept. 27. No arrests were made.

The robberies started around 8:45 p.m. when two armed men stepped out of a gray sedan and robbed a 30-year-old man who was walking in the 1900 block of N. Howe, police said. After getting the victim's iPhone and laptop, they returned to the car and fled.

Five minutes later, a 41-year-old man was parking in his garage on the 1400 block of N. Cleveland when a gunman stepped out of a gray Dodge Charger and tried to carjack him, police said. But the victim's dog scared the offender away, and the hijacking attempt failed.

The men turned violent during the third robbery, which unfolded on the 1700 block of N. North Park Ave. around 9:17 p.m., according to police.

A 25-year-old man was walking on the sidewalk when three offenders stepped out of a black sedan and hit him in the head with a handgun, police said. The robbers took the victim's wallet and iPhone.

Fire department personnel took the victim to AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital in fair condition, according to a police statement.

Police believe the same group is responsible for all three robberies. The victims saw up to four men in the get-away car. One of the victims said the robbers were Black males wearing dark tracksuits who wore face masks or balaclavas.

Uptown man accused of assaulting local alderman is jailed again — for allegedly battering a woman on the street

The man charged last week with assaulting Ald. James Cappleman [46th] during a dispute over a table is back in custody after he allegedly battered a 62-year-old woman less than three days after being released on his own recognizance.

Tony Landers, 58, is now being held without bail, according to sheriff's office records.

Cappleman, who said he has had many encounters with Landers over the years, accused Landers of assaulting him as he followed up on a resident's complaint about men drinking on the sidewalk in the 4700 block of N. Racine around 9:05 p.m. Sept. 18. The alderman said the confrontation stemmed from his effort to remove a small table that was on the sidewalk.

Landers stayed in police custody for 47 hours before being cut loose on his own recognizance with only a misdemeanor assault charge filed against him, CPD records show.

On Sept. 21, Landers was arrested again on the 4600 block of N. Broadway.

Prosecutors said during a bond court hearing that Landers pushed a senior citizen in her face with his open hand while saying, "I'm going to knock the sh*t out of you."

Police initially sought a felony charge of aggravated battery of a senior citizen, but prosecutors only pursued a misdemeanor battery charge.

Judge Mary Marubio said she would allow Landers to be released on electronic monitoring without requiring a bond deposit in the new case. But Marubio ordered him held on \$5,000 bail for violating the terms of bond in the Cappleman case, another \$5,000 for violating conditional discharge in an aggravated assault case, and yet another \$5,000 for violating his conditional discharge in a criminal damage case he picked up for breaking a car window on the 1100 block of West Leeland last year.

Another judge subsequently reviewed Landers' situation and ordered him held without bail.

"Oh, sh*t! A dog!" - Miniature Schnauzer foils armed carjacking in Old Town

A group of armed carjackers who tried to hijack an Old Town man Sept. 27 was scared away by the victim's dog. Was this a formidable canine. German Shepherd? Pitbull maybe?

Nope. It was an 11-pound Miniature Schnauzer named Rudy.

Rudy's 41-year-old human told his carjacking story on a message board. "If it were not for Rudy," the man wrote, "they would have been successful."

The post aligns with the carjacking attempt that unfolded after the man pulled into his garage on the 1400 block of N. Cleveland around 8:50 p.m.

"In retrospect, there are a few things I would have done differently. I'm fine, but I am distressed out about what could have happened if I let one of my kids join me or if my wife instead had run the errand," the man wrote before giving a detailed account of what happened.

"When the lead guy came around the corner with a pistol and pointed it and a flashlight at my head, I executed plan A," the man said. "He yelled at me to 'give me your car and all your shit.'"

"As I tossed the bag to the attacker, Rudy came flying from my side and jumped at the guy who promptly uttered 'oh sh*t a dog!' and looked down at Rudy while backing up ... Rudy chased the guy into the alley."

"Confident the attackers were gone, I backed up and called out to Rudy,

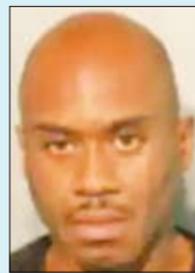
who leapt into the truck. We then met CPD at a nearby intersection and tried to track the guys down. While we were meeting, they assaulted their next victim near Twin Anchors, where they pistol whipped the guy and stole his wallet and phone."

Police believe the crew committed two street robberies in Lincoln Park and Old Town around the time of the carjacking attempt — including the one Rudy's owner mentioned. On Sept. 28, Area Three detectives issued a community alert that linked the robberies to similar crimes reported in Andersonville and Lincoln Square last week.

By the way, the man said the carjackers' getaway vehicle appeared to have Fraternal Order of Police vanity plates. According to a CPD report reviewed by this reporter, the plate was an "FP" plate, which is issued to fleet vehicles such as rental cars. Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 about robbery pattern #P21-3-108.

Old man mugged in Boystown — but witnesses and cops nix the robber's getaway

Prosecutors said an 84-year-old man was knocked to the ground and robbed as he walked home from a doctor's appointment last week in Boystown. But cops, aided by a good Samaritan and witnesses, found the much-younger offender, who was AWOL on two separate misdemeanor cases.



Cleland Washington

On Sept. 29, Cleland Washington, 34, was ordered held in lieu of \$50,000 bail by Judge David Navarro.

The victim was walking in the 600 block of Belmont around 10:30 a.m. Tuesday when Washington came up behind him and took his wallet from his back pocket, Assistant State's Attorney Darryl Auguste said.

When the victim tried to get his wallet back, Washington allegedly struggled with him and knocked him to the ground. The man suffered minor injuries to his arm and hands.

A good Samaritan chased the robber and tried to stop him, but the offender got away on a southbound Halsted bus. He didn't get far, though.

A CPD surveillance camera operator saw the robber exit the bus just a couple of blocks away and the bus driver pointed officers toward the suspect.

Police found Washington on the 3000 block of N. Sheffield. He was allegedly carrying the victim's CTA card and \$90 cash that the victim reported stolen.

Washington was arrested for misdemeanor reckless conduct and assault case in Lagrange on June 8, just a week after he was charged with misdemeanor battery in Chicago, according to court records. He was released on recognizance bonds after both of those arrests and never appeared in court for either of them, court records show. He must post a \$5,000 deposit to get out of jail on the robbery case.

Gold Coast carjacking neighborhood's fourth of month; hijacking reported outside Governor's home

Police are investigating an overnight armed carjacking near the Gold Coast. It's the fourth hijacking or attempt in the neighborhood of September. One of the earlier armed hijackings unfolded on the same block where Gov. JB Pritzker lives.

Most recently, a 32-year-old man

told police he had just entered his SUV on the first block of W. Elm when two hijackers walked up around 3:25 a.m. today, said Kellie Bartoli, a CPD spokesperson.

Bartoli said that one of the carjackers brandished a handgun as the other got into the man's car and grabbed his neck. The victim was able to get out of the vehicle, and the carjackers drove away with his gray Chevy Blazer, heading west on Elm, then south on Dearborn, according to Bartoli.

The man flagged down police to report the crime. Cops tracked the SUV via a GPS device as it traveled through the Loop before heading toward Midway Airport.

"They're almost in jail," one cop radioed as the stolen car pinged outside the Leighton Criminal Courthouse at 2650 S. California Ave. But, alas, the thieves did not stop to turn themselves in, and the vehicle was not reported recovered as of 5 a.m. Sept. 30.

The carjackers were described as two Hispanic men wearing face coverings. One of them was heavy-set and wore a gray hoodie.

Almost exactly 24 hours before that carjacking, a suspected hijacking attempt turned into a car crash one block away.

Police responded to a call of an auto accident on the first block of W. Maple around 3:10 a.m. Sept. 28 and discovered that two men approached a driver with guns drawn moments earlier. But the offenders' car crashed into the victim's vehicle, and the apparent carjackers ran from the scene, leaving the car they arrived in behind.

Officers detained one suspect nearby for questioning.

That was the second carjacking attempt at the same location this month. On Sept. 4, a gunman emerged from a white Toyota Camry that blocked the path of a driver on the first block of W. Maple around 5:30 a.m. The offender ordered the 37-year-old driver to hand over his valuables and get out of his gray Toyota RAV4. According to initial information, the hijacker was a Hispanic man who wore a black hoodie.

And on September 9, a man was carjacked at gunpoint on the 1400 block of N. Astor St., according to police records. CPD does not release the exact addresses of crime locations, so we took the incident's GPS coordinates from the city crime database and plugged them into Google Maps. The result? 1425 N. Astor St., home of JB Pritzker.

The victim told police two men armed with a handgun took his white Toyota Highlander around 8:17 that night. They were accompanied by accomplices who followed them onto southbound Lake Shore Dr. in a previously-hijacked Toyota sedan, according to CPD reports. That victim flagged down police to report the hijacking. Fortunately, he is not the governor.

Two women violently robbed in Lakeview

Two women were violently robbed in Lakeview on Sept. 28, according to police. It's the third robbery in the immediate area since Sept. 23, although the crimes do not appear to be related.

Around 9:25 p.m., the two women were sitting inside a car on the 1200 block of W. Nelson when two robbers walked up and one of them opened the driver's side door, said CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli.

The man pulled the woman from the driver's seat, threw her to the ground, and began striking her with

Fake Uber driver robs man at gunpoint in Old Town

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago's nightlife scene is slowly climbing out of its COVID deep freeze, and some of the criminals who prey on late night revelers are on the comeback trail, too. Like fake Uber and Lyft drivers that rob people who get into their cars believing that they are legitimate rideshares.

It happened Oct. 2 in Old Town.

A 23-year-old Lincoln Park man ordered a ride on the Uber app to pick him up from the 1500 block of N. Wells in Old Town around 1:30 a.m. After he got into the car that he thought was his ride, the driver put a gun to his head, ordered him to turn over his valuables, and forced him to surrender his phone PIN, the report said. The victim was not injured.

There are typically two ways of being ripped off by fake rideshare drivers — the violent way and the scamming way.

The violent way is what happened to the man in Old Town. Someone posing as a rideshare

driver robs you at gunpoint or beats you up and takes your stuff.

About one year ago, Shawn Bond was sentenced to prison for robbing a man he lured into a fake rideshare just one block from where Saturday's victim was picked up.

After the victim got into Bond's car on the 1400 block of N. Wells, Bond drove to another location where he picked up an accomplice who pulled out a handgun and helped Bond rob the 26-year-old man, prosecutors said. Bond was released from prison about a week after he arrived because his sentence was reduced by the state's 50% credit for good behavior and time spent in jail before sentencing.

Stacey Means received a nine-year prison sentence for robbing and pointing guns in the faces of people who climbed into his fake rideshare. He usually trolled River North bar strips, according to the allegations.

His last dance came after undercover cops, tipped off to Means' activities, secretly watched as he posed as a rideshare driver, ac-

ording to court records. The officers said they tailed Means' car as he drove a victim to an ATM where the victim was forced to withdraw money. Means will be in prison until 2024.

The non-violent approach to rideshare crime is a little slicker. Working separately, the Baymon brothers (Lance and Marlon) have stolen tens of thousands of dollars from people who unwittingly enter their fake rideshares, according to prosecutors.

One victim told police she got into Marlon Baymon's car near Clark and Ontario because she thought it was her Uber ride. When they arrived at her destination, Baymon allegedly told her the app was malfunctioning and insisted that she hand over a debit card for payment. He swiped the card on his phone and made her enter her PIN — information that he later used to access her money, according to prosecutors.

Lance Baymon is scheduled to be paroled next July. His brother, Marlon, is a free man.

While criminals run free, condo associations still lay down the law

While shootings, carjackings, robberies and other quality of life crimes rage on in Chicago, there may be one level of local government that is picking up the enforcement slack... your condo association board.

In one Uptown building, heavy fines are now being issued for people taking paper signs down off of common walls.

Many people today may focus too much attention on Washington DC, Springfield and City Hall, when those governing bodies which are closest to you really have the greatest ability to impact one's daily life.

Indeed, in many instances, homeowner and condominium association boards have become the harshest enforcement arm of local government, according to this newspaper's real estate reporter Don Debat. Debat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. He says association bullying has been going on for quite some time. The book is a frightening review of various levels of tyranny foisted upon residents by their own neighbors, through their homeowner associations.

Many condo buildings across the city have now authorized in-house security cameras to be used to spy on residents in their own homes. And now, with pandemic fears drilled into peoples heads, many homeowners associations are ratcheting up all sorts of enforcement fines related to the pandemic.

A resident of one Uptown high-rise shared some of the documents and first hand reports on actions surrounding the placement, and removal of paper signs demanding mask wearing.

This tenant shared news of a fellow unit owner at the 864-unit Imperial Towers, 4250 N. Marine Dr., who was fined \$250 for the removal of a single 'masks required' sign from a community message board, and a second unit that was fined \$500 for the removal of five mask required signs.

Those signs read: "FACE COVERINGS, The City of Chicago reinstated a mask mandate for indoor public spaces, citing the continued rise in COVID-19 cases effective Aug. 20. Anyone aged two and older will have to wear a face mask in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccine status."

The City of Chicago mandate

applies to places including "gyms, common areas of apartment or condo complexes, private clubs and bars and restaurants."

The source asked this newspaper, "What is reasonable about a \$500 fine for removing eight pages of laser printed black and white paper off a door?"

They point to the Illinois Condo Act and various Illinois court decisions that require fines to be "reasonable."

We reviewed copies of the building's association bylaws and rules and see nothing in them relating to COVID-19 as a public health hazard, and the level of fines that can be issued.

The fines were reported to the association membership in a Sept. 24 weekly newsletter, a copy of which this newspaper attained.

This resident, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of also being fined, said their Board told residents that the removing of paper signs is a violation of the condo rule against vandalism.

Now some building residents ask why removing a paper sign about a mask mandate would allow the Board to fine the unit

ASSOCIATIONS see p. 10

Letter to the Editor

The scourge of graffiti

Thanks very much for Thomas O'Gorman's "The uglier we get, the less inviting we become" [Sept. 22].

I share the outrage and disgust. I don't think Chicago cares about this graffiti scourge.

Graffiti also violates the intent and function (in some cases) of the architect's design and the well-being of the exterior materials.

For example, brick is supposed to "breathe." When you put paint on it, it can't breathe. When you paint over graffiti to obscure it, the brick still can't breathe. I've read that there's a special paint and way to paint brick so as to not harm its breathing function, but graffiti vandals and people who paint it over don't research this and treat the brick with respect.

We should also call out the building owners who just tolerate graffiti being there for years, and make no effort to remove or cover it. They're enabling the vandals. I'll also object to the building owners who paint over graffiti which was put on a painted wall - with a color other than that closest to the original color. It's as if they're providing a fresh canvas for more graffiti. Most places will make up a custom color for you.

Years ago I made a big stink about the graffiti which can only be seen from CTA and Metra trains. Someone asked me where this graffiti is, I answered "Everywhere!"

The people in power don't care. They don't care about mask violators on 'L' trains, and don't care about the graffiti the passengers are plagued with on every trip.

There's a CTA building along the east side of the Red Line just south of Farwell. It was built (mostly using brick) to look fairly nice, but every so often, there's big graffiti visible from the tracks. Not only does CTA not improve security to prevent it; they let days go by before addressing it, then paint over it with a color that's not the original color. It's not as if train operators don't notice track-side graffiti many times a day.

Months ago I noticed some graffiti written on some plastic banners. I couldn't even read it, but got mad and decided to try to remove it. I came back with some supplies and elbow grease. I was able to remove all the graffiti. So far, the banners are still there - and the graffiti isn't back.

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ASSOCIATIONS from p. 9

owner so much more to replace the sign than it charged for more serious and costly acts of public vandalism by residents to their building?

“Why can my building charge a \$500 fine for taking down a sign related to wearing a mask when no such fines are consistently levied everywhere else in the city under the city’s mandate? This is not even related to a violation of a mask mandate, the incident in question is about damage to a paper sign [referring to] the mask

mandate.”

Residents of the Imperial Towers Condo Assoc. are now asking their Board why they’re issuing such steep fines related to city mandates and signage if the city itself is not defining any fines or means of enforcement in their own mandates?

According to a Sept. 10 report by The Chicago Tribune’s Howard Dakoff, who wrote about a homeowner’s associations legal authority to demand mask wearing, he said that due to the surge of COVID-19 due to the Delta variant, “various government

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

bodies in Illinois have reimplemented mask mandates that had previously expired or had been rescinded.”

“Specifically, in the City of Chicago, Public Health Order 2021-1, which became effective on Aug. 20, there are mandates masks for all persons above the age of two who can medically tolerate a mask in indoor public settings, expressly including common or shared spaces.”

The Cook County Dept. of Public Health also issued a mandate for indoor public areas (effective Aug. 20) that includes multiunit

“Why can my building charge a \$500 fine for taking down a sign related to wearing a mask when no such fines are consistently levied everywhere else in the city under the city’s mandate?” asked the source.

residential buildings and condominium buildings. Gov. J.B. Pritzker then issued Executive Order 2021-20 effective Aug. 30 that implemented a mask mandate for all indoor public areas throughout the State of Illinois, which would include indoor communal areas of residential and condominium

buildings.

While there is clear policy on mask mandates, there is no mention of stiff fines or penalties for not wearing masks, or for common acts of civil disobedience such as tearing down paper signs.

POLICE BEAT from p. 8

an object, Bartoli said. Both offenders then demanded valuables from the women, who complied. Bartoli said the women, whose ages were not available, declined medical attention and no offender descriptions were available.

The robbery happened about a block from where a man and woman were robbed at gunpoint on Sept. 23.

In that case, three men displayed two handguns and yelled at the victims to hand over their property on the 1200 block of W. Wellington around 10:50 p.m., Officer Jessica Rocco said. The offenders then searched the victims and took their valuables before escaping in a car.

Rocco said the victims, a 26-year-old man and a 22-year-old woman, reported the robbery in person at the Town Hall Police District station, 850 W. Addison. Shortly after they arrived at the station, another robbery occurred on the 2300 block of N. Damen, and one of the Lakeview victims’ phones was found near the scene.

The robbers were described as three Black males in their mid-20s who wore all black clothing. One of them wore a green bandana, and his hoodie had a white and yellow logo on it.

Then, a woman was robbed at the intersection of Lincoln and Southport around 10:14 p.m. Sept. 25. A man who claimed to have a gun took the woman’s phone and fled northbound, according to a CPD report.

He is described as a White or Native American man who’s in his 30’s. He’s about 6’-2” tall with long black hair, and he wore a black headband

that said “survivor” with a dark blue sweatshirt.

Area Three detectives are investigating all three reports.

Woman filled garbage bags with cosmetics and sports apparel during store raids this month

On Sept. 30 prosecutors filed aggravated robbery and retail theft charges against a woman who was allegedly part of a shoplifting crew that stole garbage bags full of merchandise from stores in Lincoln Park and the Loop this month. Police have repeatedly warned retailers about similar raids, and video of a recent incident surfaced last week.

Bonnie Bowman, 31, is accused of helping raid Sephora, 938 W. North Ave., on Sept. 16 and the Lids store, 125 S. State St. the following day.

Bowman and two accomplices entered the Sephora, pulled trash bags from their pockets, and filled them with merchandise as witnesses and employees watched, Assistant State’s Attorney John Gniska said. The trio allegedly escaped with \$12,500 worth of products.

Detectives distributed surveillance images of the shoplifters to other officers, and one of them recognized Bowman, Gniska said. A Sephora loss prevention officer also provided investigators with images from Bowman’s Facebook account resembling one of the shoplifters.

The next day, Bowman and a male accomplice allegedly donned ski masks as they pulled off a similar raid



Bonnie Bowman

at Lids.

“You know why I’m here,” Bowman allegedly told a store employee before the couple filled trash bags with sports apparel.

Gniska said a witness saw a firearm sticking out of her accomplice’s waistband during the crime, which caused store employees and witnesses to back away.

Police determined that the license plate on the shoplifter’s getaway car is registered to Bowman.

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, a security guard called 911 after he saw people wearing ski masks while sitting inside the same car near Lids, according to Gniska. Police responded and arrested Bowman at a nearby bus stop.

She admitted to participating in the Sephora and Lids raids, Gniska said.

“These [allegations] are not someone walking out with a candy bar from Walgreens,” Judge David Navarro told Bowman after hearing about the crimes. “This is high dollar thefts, organized in a fashion where thousands of dollars in merchandise are taken.”

He then ordered her held in lieu of \$50,000 bail. She must post 10% of that to get out of jail.

Assistant Public Defender Susan Farber said Bowman has three children and owns her own business.

Law enforcement officials believe the organized shoplifting teams are part of a much larger, national operation that sells stolen merchandise online at discount prices.

Robbery crew strikes Lincoln Park, Andersonville and Lincoln Square

At least two of the armed robberies reported Sept. 27 in Old Town and Lincoln Park are part of a broader crime pattern that includes recent muggings in Andersonville and Lincoln Square, police said.

Area Three detectives said in a community alert that the robbers approach people who are alone on the street and rob them at gunpoint. The crew has pistol-whipped “several” of the victims, the alert said.

Police linked four robberies to the

crew over the past six days. At 10:50 p.m. Sept. 22, two men knocked a woman to the ground and robbed her on the 1400 block of W. Farragut, according to a CPD report. They then fled in a car.

In Lincoln Square on Sept. 24, two robbers struck a man in the head with a pistol and robbed him on the 5000 block of N. Claremont around 12:03 a.m., another report said. Once again, the offenders escaped in a car.

About 30 minutes later, a 25-year-old man was walking on the sidewalk when three offenders stepped out of a black sedan and hit him in the head with a handgun on the 1700 block of N. North Park. The robbers took the victim’s wallet and iPhone and fled in a gray sedan.

The other two robberies were at a garage on the 1400 block of N. Cleveland around 8:50 p.m. when a gunman stepped out of a gray car and tried to carjack him; and On Sept. 27, two men robbed a 30-year-old man who was walking in the 1900 block of N. Howe.

Detectives said the robbers are two Black males between 20- and 30-years-old wearing black hoodies with face masks. They are driving a gray or silver four-door car that some victims said is a Dodge Charger.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 about robbery pattern #P21-3-108.

Man shot in Near North Side drive-by; ‘need to stop waking up to gunshots’

A 23-year-old man was shot in the leg by someone who fired shots from an SUV on the Near North Side Oct. 1, police said. He is in good condition.

Police said the man was walking in the 800 block of N. Cambridge when the gunman fired shots from a passing SUV around 1:15 a.m. One round struck the victim above his left knee. He was listed in good condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, according to a CPD statement. He does not have a history of contact with the police department.

An officer said there were “a lot” of shell casings in the intersection of Chicago and Cambridge after the shooting.

Witnesses said the shots appeared to come from a white Durango. Gunfire has been shot from a similar vehicle at the same intersection at least two other times since mid-September, according to a nearby resident who has been documenting the incidents in a Twitter thread.

“Need to stop waking up to gun-

shots,” the man’s girlfriend texted him at 1:12 a.m. Friday, moments after the 23-year-old was shot.

So far this year, 45 people have been shot in the Near North Side community area. That’s up from 39 during the same period last year and 26 in 2019.

Man shot in Old Town

A man shot on Oct. 3 in Old Town is the seventh person struck by gunfire on the Near North Side since Friday morning. And, the Cook County medical examiner’s office announced, one of the three victims shot at Dearborn and Division early Sunday has died.

Around 6:28 p.m. Oct. 3, a man was shot as he stood near a sidewalk on the 1300 block of N. Hudson, police said. One bullet struck him in the arm, and another man drove him to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment. Police did not release any more information about the victim or the shooting.

Officers at the scene said witnesses indicated that the shots might have come from a red sedan with no license plate — a vehicle similar to one that fired shots during a half-mile shoot-out that left two people shot and a one-year-old boy injured by flying glass Saturday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Cook County medical examiner said one of three people shot on the 1200 block of N. Dearborn at 3:35 a.m. Oct. 3 has died. Demetrius Reed was 27.

Six of the 41 people shot in Chicago between noon Friday and 7 p.m. Sunday were shot on the Near North Side.

The Near North (18th) Police District, which patrols the area between Fullerton Ave., Lake Michigan, and the Chicago River, has logged eight shooting victims since Wednesday:

So far this year, 52 people have been shot in the Near North Side community area. That’s up from 37 during the same period last year and 25 during the same time in 2019.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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One man cannot hold another man down in the ditch without remaining down in the ditch with him. — Booker T. Washington

Ghosts on the Bloomingdale Trail

Free fright on your favorite walk

This fall, visitors to the Bloomingdale Trail are invited to Ghosts on the Bloomingdale Trail, a self-guided listening experience featuring real Chicago ghost stories, with 15 stops on the trail, concentrated between St. Louis and Humboldt Ave.

Each stop was designed by artists at Chicago Mobile Makers (an organization located in the Kimball Arts Center) and features a unique QR code that will allow visitors to listen to a story about a ghost as experienced by a Chicago resident. Ghosts on the Bloomingdale Trail will run Oct. 19-Nov. 15, and is free to anyone who happens upon it.

The stories have been collected and performed by Free Street Theater, with audio engineering by Lucy Saldana of Radio Luzifer, a bilingual Chicago podcast about the supernatural.

"These are real ghost stories," says Free Street's Artistic Director Coya Paz, "in the sense that people are sharing experiences that they believe happened to them. Some are really scary, sure, but more of-

ten these are stories about human feelings: who we miss, what we're afraid of, how we feel about death."

Free Street is no stranger to ghost stories. Their 2016 play, 100 Hauntings, was based on stories from over 400 Chicago residents, and Paz is the author of a recent TEDx talk on the ways in which ghost stories archive history.

"If the Bloomingdale Trail could talk it would have a century of stories to share; some of them rather spooky," says Ben Helphand, the president of the board of Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail. "In this season of Halloween and Dia de Los Muertos, we thought what better way to experience the trail than by listening to real Chicago ghost stories as you stroll or roll. It's a good way to reconnect with the underlying spirit(s) of the holidays and reflect on the ways the past haunts the present."

"There's no adult content per se," says Paz, "but the stories range in tone. Some are sweet, some are sad, some are spooky, and a few are genuinely scary." Stories will include a content warning.



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As tax deadline passes, automatic refunds now going out

The Second Installment of your 2020 property taxes were due into the Cook County Treasurer's office on Friday and almost 11,500 property owners overpaid their First Installment taxes.

That same day, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said that those property owners will automatically get back \$25.4 million in refunds later this month.

Almost 4,000 refunds go to homeowners who are receiving property tax exemptions. The value of those exemptions is applied to the Second Installment tax bill, reducing the total taxes due.

Pappas's office has tried to make homeowners aware of potential exemptions as she attends community events throughout Chicago and suburban Cook County.

"The outreach efforts of my office, along with the Black and Latino Houses Matter program, are helping homeowners become more aware of how they can reduce their property tax burden,"

Pappas said.

To see if you are receiving a portion of the refunds, visit cookcountytreasurer.com, select the purple box labeled "Your Property Overview" and enter your address.

The refunds include 5,137 homeowners who paid their property taxes online or by check. They will see funds electronically deposited to their bank or credit card accounts totaling \$14.9 million. An additional 5,484 homeowners who paid their taxes through a bank/mortgage escrow account will be mailed refund checks totaling \$10.1 million, and 808 homeowners who paid taxes totaling \$412,177 in cash will be mailed a refund application to ensure the proper party receives the refund.

Pappas launched the automatic refund program in July 2018. Since then, 121,000 property owners have received about \$82 million in refunds without having to fill out an application.

BRIDGE from p. 1

will not be lifted.

The streets affected by the bridge lifts are: Lake Shore Drive, Columbus Dr., Michigan Ave., Wabash Ave., State St., Dearborn St., Clark St., La Salle St., Wells St., Franklin St., Lake St., Randolph St., Washington St., Madison St., Monroe St., Adams St., Jackson Blvd., Van Buren St., Congress Pkwy., Harrison St., Roosevelt Rd., 18th St., Canal St., Cermak Ave., Halsted St., Loomis Ave., and Ashland Ave.

Due to ongoing work, the bridge lift of Lake Shore Dr. may have longer than usual delays. City Hall is urging motorists planning to drive on Lake Shore Dr. around 9 a.m. on Saturdays and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays to re-route in order to avoid delays, as the bridge closure could last longer.

The autumn bridge lift schedule:

- Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3 and 10.
- Saturdays at 9 a.m., Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 6, and 13.

CPS from p. 1

Meanwhile, Catholic schools and some independent private schools are seeing enrollment increases. The Archdiocese of Chicago says school enrollment is up by about 6.5% this year. Over the last year, Catholic schools became much more popular because they stayed with in-person instruction while CPS was remote. It appears some parents are staying and new ones have enrolled.

Archdiocese school officials told WBEZ they don't know how many of their new students come from CPS. But at the school level, a few principals told WBEZ a portion of their new students come from city schools.

For example, St. Matthias Elementary School near Lincoln Square welcomed 52 new families this year. That included 23

students from CPS. And last year, there were 68 new students, including 29 from CPS, according to Katie Carden, St. Matthias' principal. She said after seeing enrollment drop a few years back, her school now has a waitlist in multiple grades.

This year Archdiocese-run schools have scaled back their COVID-19 safety rules, as CPS has. Schools don't take student's temperature at the door any more and they don't have in-school testing like CPS will eventually have at all schools.

CPS administrators recently began a campaign to "reengage" 100,000 students viewed as at-risk of not returning to school, with officials visiting some homes and placing calls to all parents. CPS has also partnered with a number of neighborhood groups to participate in back-to-school and COVID-19 vaccination outreach in at least 10 communities viewed as vulnerable.

While total enrollment for this fall is expected to be under 330,000, CPS shows 340,658 as the total number of students enrolled at the start of school year 2020-2021, with 39,323 employees in 636 schools, including district-run, charter, contract, and SAFE schools. CPS officially counts fall enrollment on the 20th day of school, which was Oct. 4.

STATE from p. 1

event. The estimate also took into consideration, for example, people who may have been in the area anyway and would have spent money even if they had not attended a Sundays on State event, or someone spending money on behalf of a family or other group.

"We didn't want to take credit for every dollar spent by someone in that event area," explained CLA marketing director Kiana DiStasi.

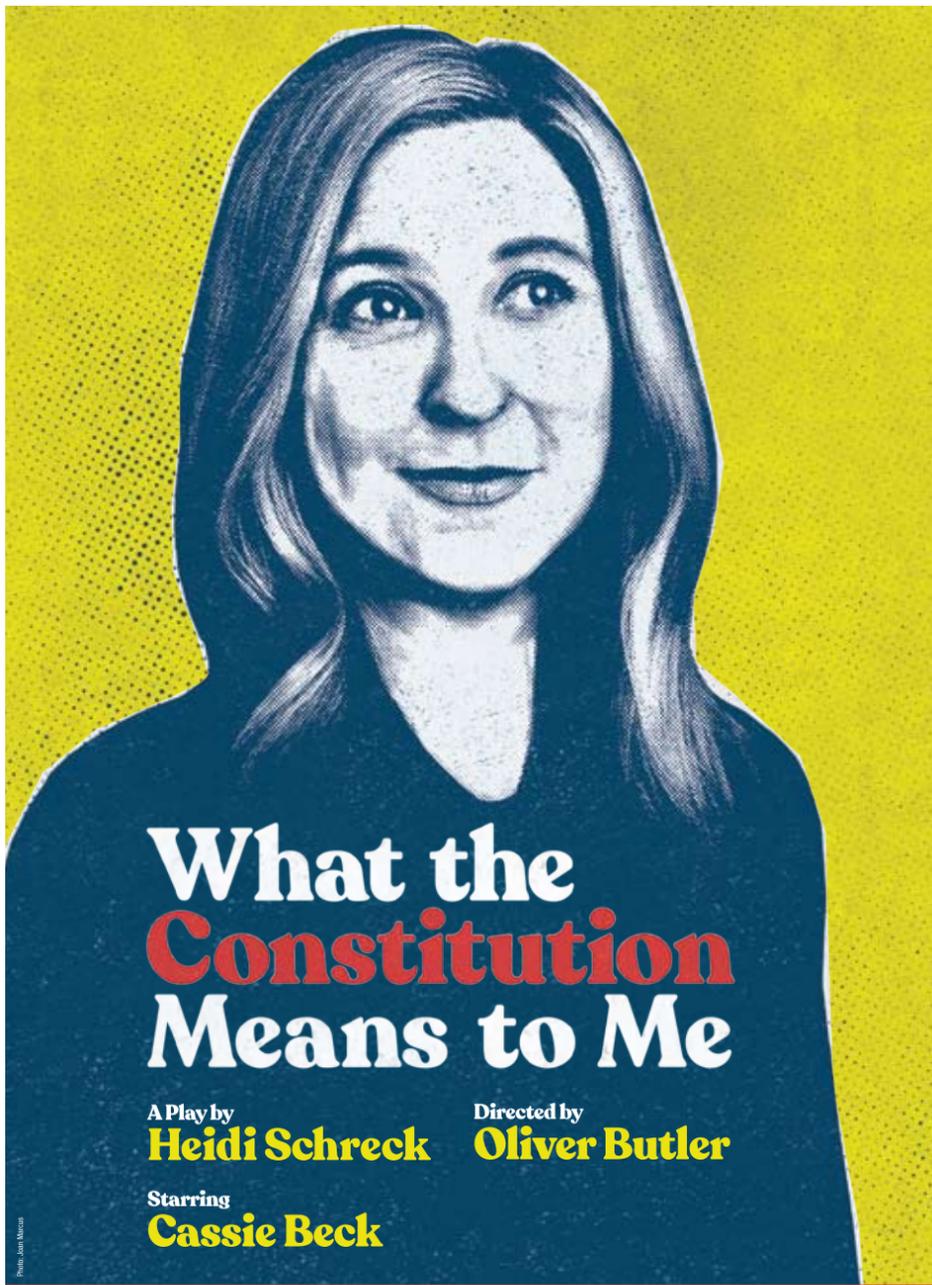
The alliance says there was a "massive increase" in hotel occupancy in the Loop in July due to major events such as Lollapalooza and the Chicago Auto Show. Pedestrian activity decreased in August and, says CLA, is now about 50% of pre-pandemic levels.

At 32% of normal, CLA says office occupancy in the Chicago area is the highest in the nation.

STUDY from p. 1

cal, operational and regulatory solutions through a transportation demand management plan, and use lessons learned to develop solutions for other Chicago neighborhoods.

The study area has a high concentration of residents, employers, institutions and attractions that draw large amounts of daily traffic. And increasingly residential connections are being filled by taxis, and delivery service, rather than CTA bus or train service.



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