

Not so funny

Two of North Side's top comedy spots now up for sale

It is a bad time for comedy on the North Side as two of the most venerable names in comedy have announced plans to put their ubiquitous properties and brands up for sale.

Second City, 1616 N. Wells St., was put up for sale on Oct. 6, reportedly for \$50 million.

As a privately held company it has not disclosed its revenues throughout its 61-year history. It is co-owned by Andrew Alexander and D'Arcy Stuart. Its president, Steve Johnston, also reportedly has a small equity share.

The famous stand-up comedy theater was launched in 1959.

Problems came to light in June at their home stage in Old Town and caused Alexander to announce his plans to remove himself from the famed comedy theater and sell his interests.

Chicago's most famous place for the live comedy theater scene was then devastated by a forced closure after the group of alumni and former staffers came forward with charges relating to issues

NOT FUNNY see p. 8



Photo courtesy of Cntraveler

Chicago property owners bracing for hefty tax hikes



Mayor Lori Lightfoot's dark vision of the city's 2021 budget deficit skyrocketing to \$1.2 billion is frightening to the average homeowner who will likely see their property taxes used to cover that deficit.

BY DON DEBAT
The Home Front

Chicago property owners are financially battered from years of being slapped with higher real estate taxes and municipal fees, so it's not surprising that they are shuddering about what tax increases are on the horizon for 2021.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot's dark vision of the city's 2021 budget

deficit skyrocketing to \$1.2 billion is frightening to the average homeowner who likely will have to dig deeper in 2021 to pay ever-increasing real estate tax bills.

Earlier in 2020 the COVID-19 virus spiked the budget shortfall to nearly \$800 million, and the mayor said the deficit would be filled using relief funds, federal dollars, debt refinancing and borrowing.

This bad news comes after ho-

meowners scratched to pay the final installment of the largest property tax hike in Chicago's history—\$589 million phased in over the past four years to pay for pensions for the city's police officers and firefighters.

Analysts say Mayor Lightfoot now is considering a plan to save \$200 million in 2021 by reducing the city's work force of 31,000 full-time and 1,800 part-time employees through furloughs and layoffs.

Since many city workers are members of municipal unions, the mayor is asking Chicago labor unions to suggest alternatives and measures to help protect workers. Other cost-cutting could come from tapping surplus Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds.

Chicago property owners will receive the first installment of the 2020 real estate tax bill due on March 1, 2021. Typically, the amount of the first installment is 55% of the last year's total bill.

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The project will extend Dominick St. between North Ave. and Webster Ave. via North Throop St.
Image courtesy Rosales & Partners

Dominick St. Bridge plans released

The first major public infrastructure project within the Lincoln Yards development, the Dominick Street Bridge and Dominick Street Extension, is anticipated to begin construction next Summer.

The bridge is an effort to bring significant improvement in traffic circulation, cyclist safety, and pedestrian access to the east side of the river, and will be a rare north/south bridge over the North

Branch of the Chicago River.

The project will extend Dominick between North Ave. and Webster Ave. via North Throop St. This new bridge will feature two 12' wide driving lanes for northbound and southbound traffic, a 10' wide dual direction bike path, and two 10' pedestrian sidewalks on either side of the bridge.

The truss-style arch bridge, de-

BRIDGE see p. 8

Bogus FedEx driver stole \$107,738 worth of phones from Loop Verizon

BY CWBCHICAGO

Things just got real for Romell Funches, the man who prosecutors in January accused of posing as a FedEx driver to steal cellular phone shipments from a Verizon store in the Loop.

Funches was back in bond court Oct. 11 to hear prosecutors accuse him of committing 17 more thefts from Verizon using the same ruse — a ruse that allegedly netted him \$107,738 worth of stolen phones and accessories.

On Jan. 10, cops arrested Funches after he allegedly dressed as a FedEx employee to steal a phone shipment from Verizon's store at 205 N. Michigan. According to court documents, the pick-up was a trap set by corporate security officials from Verizon and FedEx.

Prosecutors say Funches used to work for FedEx, and he kept uniform parts after he left the

company. He was wearing a FedEx uniform jacket, FedEx uniform pants, and a FedEx baseball hat when they arrested him in January.

The state charged him with felony burglary and felony theft last winter. He went home by posting a \$500 deposit bond.

But investigators continued to look into a series of similar thefts from three Verizon stores between Oct. 23, 2019, and the day he was arrested in January. Their efforts culminated with the filing of 17 additional felonies Sunday.

The crimes were captured on surveillance video, and Verizon employees identified Funches as the thief, according to prosecutors.

After hearing the state's allegations, Judge John Lyke told Funches, "you are barred from every Verizon store in the state of Illinois."

The judge then set bail at \$107,738 — the value of the merchandise he's accused of stealing. Funches must post a 10% deposit bond to get out of jail before trial.



Romell Funches



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What has the quarantine done to you?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

When someone is abducted and over time winds up bonding with their abductor, they are said to be experiencing Stockholm Syndrome. So called because of the four employees taken hostage during a bank robbery in the Swedish capitol some years ago. After six days they could only express loyalty to their captors. It was a psychological response to the drama of their being held hostage, like what Patty Hearst experienced.

Now I think I have caught the Stockholm Syndrome.

Pass the Lingonberries, please.

After almost nine months of very cautious quarantine, I have gone over to the other side. It sneaks up on you, like a mug of hot Glögg, then bam! You're hooked.

Frantic at the weakened condition of my cardiac immune sys-

tem, I have only left my house four times since early March, and two of those were to the doctor's office. I am desperate to stay healthy and largely interact with no one.

Taking my dinner with my upstairs neighbor. No visitors. No fellow painters, old friends or even family. A lot of social media, though. An abundance of non-stop phoning, messaging and emailing. But very little direct or in-person appearances.

Slowly over time everyone starts to look like a Corona spreader. And then, there's my craving for smorgasbord. And King Karl Gustav.

My symptoms have their origins in that isolation and in the more solitary activities of painting, writing and cooking.

Don't get me wrong. These are all healthy activities, the kind people build careers out of, but when put up against a deadly international killer, like a pandemic, they have all the ingredients of witness protection or solitary confinement.

How about you? I know I'm not alone in this. What has the quarantine done to you? What's changed for you?

It's vital to be able to catalogue what's altered for you in your ev-

eryday life. The big things, sure. Maybe way less eating in restaurants, or infrequent attendance at church. Less frequent presence at Wrigley Field. The Saddle and Cycle. Fewer thirst quenches at Butch McGuire's, pizzas at Pequod's or juicy BBQ ribs at Twin Anchors.

Perhaps this sounds like the recipe for monastery life to you. But maybe it reveals the hidden, more isolated you. The more spiritual you. A different person from the one you're comfortable with. Maybe the person you're becoming in lockdown needs some more time to get used to things. Perhaps there's a side to life for you that actually has gotten used to the slower pace and more quiet isolation.

Perhaps more settled meals at home is starting to become appealing, despite the dirty dishes.

Just maybe breaking up your routine is starting to be healthy. More interesting and calming than you would have thought, despite the worry of catching the virus before a cure can be found.

I've become very good at ordering groceries with Instacart. My pantry is well-stocked. The fridge is full. I even remember to order tin foil, toothpaste and contact lens solution. I look forward to my short chat with the delivery people who are so pleasant and accommodating.

It feels good to be organized and disciplined. When was the last time before the pandemic that we took such methodical control over our lives?

Perhaps this is the real hope to be found in the quarantine. Maybe all is not lost. Maybe some of the change is for the better. If you had told me in March that I would not be eating out in restaurants until September, I would not have believed you. If you told me that I would be at home thinking up exciting home cooked meals for dinner every day, I would have thought you crazed. And I never would believe that I would paint more than 35 new works since

Easter. Nor would I believe that I'm way ahead in the research and writing for this weekly column. With a major portion of my cookery book already written and tested. I'd say all that output of energy and accomplishment is really positive. And artistically affirming and very Chicago.

Stay connected. I am taking much more care to keep in touch friends and family. My sister, who's keeping well-quarantined. My pals across the city. My buddies on Facebook. Readers who keep me up to date on what they're doing or what is causing them distress. Mayor Lightfoot, who keeps me on my toes with Chicago's urban mismanagement, and who has, so far, decided to not haul me in for questioning in my severe critique of her executive decisions.

My only regret is the level of quality and civility in the current political discourse. I am grieved at the impoverished thought it presently contains. At the low level of intellect and reason so many display. So much of it is sophomoric. Self-serving adolescent annoyance with little grasp of the true realities of contemporary politics. Just re-warmed cheesy sentiment directed personally at individuals. It's the shame of our nation.

Where is the reasoned thinking that permits disagreement? Why are Americans so paralyzed by emotional disparity that offers no real alternatives to present dilemmas? Do you really think these cultural conundrums are the worst to confront our nation? We go to the voting booths very soon after having experienced great change and unprecedented isolation in our current pandemic.

I wish we could rally our fellow citizens to greater patriotic expressions of civility and reason, which is the legacy of our American Revolution and the legacy of our international interventions and triumphs over the centuries rescuing others from the tyranny of despots.

Maybe our common Stock-

holm Syndrome has led us to the threshold of a more balanced political realism. Perhaps the pandemic has made us more human, more humane. Maybe we can vote in a newer American vision. One that all across the world people less challenged and less free would delight in having available to them.

We have it better than we might think. America is still the noble dream of statesmen and shopkeepers. Fashioned of everyday patriotism and everyday hope. From sea to shining sea.

More Swedish pancakes, please!

WINDY CITY BLUES: After 35 years Chicago's Windy City Times will cease publication of its print edition. A terrible day for the city and the nation. One less newspaper. I know it will still be electronic, but newspapers were meant to be held and read. Clutter our lives with newsprint as well keen observation. Over the decades the popular gay newspaper was a lifeline for many and a pathway for other Chicagoans to better understand gay culture. More refined human rights and giving everyone a glimpse of our multi-cultural self-awareness. It was the glue for many of Lakefront living.

CHICAGO CRIME STATS: Is their aim getting worse? With 95 shot in the last week through Oct. 10, only a mere 15 homicides were reported.

CHICAGO ART: Have you seen the new sculpture on Wells St. in Old Town? It's by the artist known as Sunhee. Over 19 years ago former 43rd Ward alderman

QUARANTINE see p. 4



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Thinking outside the box for Halloween 2020?



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

Halloween is around the corner, and for those of you looking to think outside the box for a costume -- or inside the box in this case -- how about keeping it simple and inexpensive this year?

We all know 2020 has been frightful enough, so why empty your already-vacant wallet even more for ghoulish garb for yourself or the kids? Instead, how about an enchanting little DIY "box-tume," that you can make at home using packing/moving boxes and other low-cost household items?

You can keep up with these strange times and be a quarantined couch potato or a Zoom call. Or, be a T-Rex or a flower

pot or make a mermaid boxtume for your dog. You can get really inventive said Lauren Trost, who turned her 14-month-old son, Henry, into a lobster and his wagon into the ocean, using boxes.

"We try to come up with new and creative costumes every year," said Trost, marketing manager for Two Men And A Truck, 1000 N. Branch St. "Whether they're just looking for a last minute costume -- or it's too expensive -- things around the house can be incorporated. Let the kids have their fun, and families can have fun and make the costumes together.

"They're really easy," Trost added. "It's just a matter of a couple of moving boxes."

You can use stuff you already may have in the house, including paint or spray paint or markers, said Trost.

"Whatever you might have on hand," she said. "Get creative with things outside."

This year, more people than ever are home and making costumes at home, said Trost.

"It's going to be a really big

thing," she said. "I do this every year and really look forward to it. It's an opportunity to get creative."

If you need a box or two to help you get started, stop in to Two Men and A Truck and mention this column. Let owner Joel Trost (Lauren's brother-in-law) know what you're making and he'll provide a free box or two.

"Come get 'em," said Joel Trost. "We'll give them away to you."

Two Men And A Truck are a family-owned, nine-year-old moving/junk removal company that employs about 60 people and also does a Spring event called Movers for Moms, where they collect essential care items for women in shelters. I'll let you know next time that occurs.

Meanwhile, in case you've got a little one as adorable as Henry the lobster, here are step-by-step directions for the wagon decorated as an ocean with Henry in it.

Materials: One large box; one can of blue spray paint; duct tape; construction paper; a box cutter; scissors; a glue stick; a black Sharpie; a wagon.

1. Using the box cutter, cut two pieces of the box to be the length of each side of the wagon. Cut the



Henry the lobster rides the waves of his ocean-decorated wagon.

top of each of those pieces to be shaped like waves.

2. Next, spray paint the waves using the blue can of spray paint. Once the paint dries, adhere the waves to each side of the wagon using duct tape.

3. Once the waves are placed on the side of the wagon, you can cut out fish or other sea creatures using the construction paper and draw faces on them using the Sharpie.

4. If you have children who are old enough to do crafts, it's fun to let them decorate the sea creatures and get imaginative!

BET this will be great!...
The amazing Black Ensemble

Theater, led by its tireless founder/CEO Jackie Taylor, is celebrating 44 years of musical theater excellence in the city with an incredible online gala.

The Legacy Continues: Together We Are the Change, A Musical Celebration Eradicating Racism, will be telecast virtually on Facebook Live, VON-TV on Apple TV and ROKU at 7 p.m. Friday. You can BET this will be a musical feast. Visit www.blackensembletheater.org to register for free for the event.

Extravaganza time...

The Old Town School of Folk Music is offering the first-ever Behind the Screens Online Community Appreciation Night, a free interactive virtual happening streaming live via Zoom, from 4 to 10 p.m. Friday. Musicians, dancers, and artists of all ages and skill levels can enjoy online workshops, sing-and-play-alongs and Q & As led by Old Town School's expert roster of teaching artists.

A welcoming Public Town Hall meeting led by Old Town School CEO Jim Newcomb and staff will kick off the program and provide an update on the happenings at

BOX see p. 4

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Grants for restaurant winterization opens Oct. 16

The City has partnered with DoorDash and the Illinois Restaurant Assoc. to provide \$5,000 grants to help local restaurants defray winterization expenses, such as the cost of heating equipment, additional safety materials to improve indoor dining, upgrades for air filtration systems, bulk orders of blankets for patrons, and more.

To qualify, restaurants must be located in Chicago with three or

fewer locations operating currently, 50 employees or fewer in 2019, and \$3 million or less in 2019 annual revenue per store.

The application will be made available beginning Oct. 16 at doordash.helloalice.com. Restaurants can sign up online to receive a reminder email when the application goes live. Recipients will be notified by the end of December.

Spooktacular returns to Clark St.

Spooktacular returns to Lincoln Park for the spookiest of seasons to celebrate Halloween on Clark St., between Armitage and Diversey, and Diversey Pkwy. between Orchard and Lakeview.

Events will run from now through Saturday, Oct. 31 with spooky specials, an online cos-

tume contest and voting on your favorite festive window displays.

Trick-or-treating will not take place this year for safety reasons, instead the schedule of events includes an online Spooktacular costume contest where locals can show off costumes for a chance to win prizes. Submissions are due by Sunday, Oct. 25 and winners will be announced on Saturday, Oct. 31.

For more information call 773-880-5200 or visit lincolnparkchamber.com.

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INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

QUARANTINE from p. 2

Vi Daley started the annual art exhibition that is still placing art on the neighborhood streets. Maestro **Stanley Paul** made an appearance applauding the work. Stanley's an Old Town lad at heart.

SECOND CITY: More Old Town news - Second City, the historic Chicago improv home of comedy now has a For Sale sign on it. It was the launch pad for countless comic careers. Makes me think of **Joyce Sloan** and **Bernie Sahlins**. But can they really get \$50 million in our a world without live, in-person theater?

PROMOTED: **Gwendolyn Perry Davis** has been promoted to new Senior Director of Operations at the MCA. In 2018 she was named "Top Black Women of Impact" by the Make it Better Organization.

AMERICAN ARTIST: New York artist **Adam Handler** in Barce-

lona at the Swab Barcelona Art Fair through Oct.15. His work is ripe and available at present for reasonable sales. He is an artist to invest in. Now.

DIPLOMACY: Yes. That was **Rose Marie O'Neill** lunching with Chicago's new Irish Consul General **Kevin Byrne**, and **Aristotle** his erudite spouse, both fresh from Dublin, and yours truly, at **Ralph Lauren Bar and Grill** sharing some of the inside scoops on Chicago and Chicagoans.

INFLUENCER: In these trying times we need to be creative. With that said, **Shaun Rajah** officially announces that he has become an influencer for Amazon. Follow his page for lifestyle, home and other great selections that will give you a glimpse into how he lives life. Then purchase directly from his store front.

FLAIR FASHION SHOW: Co-chaired by **Sheree**

Schimmer Valukas and Sherrill Bodine on Oct. 16, raising funds for children's programs for the blind and the visually impaired and disabled. A fun event for a wonderful cause. **Candace Jordan** is emcee. Produced by **Tracey Tarantino DiBuono** and **Jazz Productions**. See some of Chicago's finest designer clothes.

Visit chicagolighthouse.org/event/flair for tickets and to donate. Among the lovely models are **Mary Lasky**, **Sherrill Bodine**, and **Sally Jo Morris Pfaff**.

CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE

F A S H I O N

SHOW: Things are hopping for the October 29 show filming at Trattoria Tufanos (Vernon Park Tap). The celebs are out, being fitted in the most elegant of fashions. **Candace Jordan** is emcee for the virtual event and **Tracey Tarantino DiBuono** (Mrs. Tufano) is producing it with her **Jazz Productions**. It's the hottest ticket in



Gwendolyn Perry Davis

town and honors the outstanding Chicago writer **Sherrill Bodine**. Featuring many wonderful retailers and designers who set Chicago's fashion scene, a virtual fashion show will support AIBI, the Chicago design community and the work of the apparel industry Foundation.

BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON: **Kathy O'Malley Piccone** of Gibson's had a swell dinner at Gibson's Italia on the river with **Sherry Lea Fox**, **Mary Laskey**, **Nadine Epstein**, and **Joanie Gionis Korbos**.

TOASTS AND CHEERS: Ballroom dancer extraordinaire **Rhonda J Liesenfelt** with writer **Sherrill Bodine** and modern dance royalty **Maria Giordano** at Gibson's for a little artsy preview of the Bodine birthday. And the Giordano birthday. And a pinch to grow an inch to **Bond Girl Diane O'Connell** - who's not

counting the years and feeling happy with buddies **Michelle Love** and **Cheryl Larsen**. And it's official, the Gibson Group was just awarded "Best Burger in Chicago." They always had my vote.

THE SAGE: Honorary Old Town Mayor **Shelley Howard** with Chicago steak princess **Amy Morton** and keeping track of the birthday count. "You're not getting better, you're getting older," he says. "Or is it the other way around? I kinda get confused at my age."

RISING STAR: Congratulations to **Bishop Ronald Hicks**, former Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago and an Auxiliary Bishop, now the new Bishop of Joliet that includes many of Chicago's far west and east suburbs, Hinsdale included.

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED: Has a beloved Chicago steakhouse lost its allure now that a younger generation of family is running things? Do old timers who once crowded the bar and dining room, daily, now find the place has left them in the old tablecloth pile? Maybe that's why those customers are now noshing at a nearby riverfront eatery with great lunch steaks and martinis. And no Millennial attitude.

PALM TREE BOUND: **Simona Garcia**, **Rose Kallas**, **Pam Santoro**, **Cristina Montgomery** and **Violetta Gutowska** all celebrating their beautiful friend **Alexandra Sino** before her move to Florida with a flamingo lunch.

KABOOM: What dapper bachelor experienced an auto mishap when he dented his Rolls Royce with his Cadillac while backing it out of the garage? Now, that's white privilege.

GRAND CANYON: **John Dombrowski** and **Victoria Dal Santo** did some big adventurous climbing at the Grand Canyon with brother, **Jerry** and **Pam Dombrowski**. Closest they could get to the Dolomites in beloved Italia.

People don't actually read newspapers. They step into them every morning like a hot bath. — Marshall McLuhan

tog515@gmail.com

BOX from p. 3

the school this fall and allow for questions. Following that will be a five-hour extravaganza of interactive classes and consultations for all ages.

Don't forget... The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) will have nearly 50 online programs and trails for self-guided biking, driving and walking during the its 10th annual Open House Chicago (OHC) festival, which starts Friday. Twenty Chicago neighborhoods (including Rogers Park) will be featured this year.

The festival is reconfigured for outdoor and remote attendance. Explore and select routes on a variety of themes, learn about buildings and sites of interest in each neighborhood, browse and register for related OHC online programs and more at openhousedchicago.org, as well as through the free OHC 2020 app.

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2800 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 308
 Immaculate modern one bedroom with view of the park! Large open concept, hardwood floors throughout, walk-in closet, master bedroom, and fantastic storage space. Building features 24-hour door staff, fitness center, outdoor pool, rooftop deck and party room. **SOLD**

3550 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 2211
 This condo features beautiful gray wood floors throughout, a cook's kitchen with white shaker soft-close cabinets, white & gray tile backsplash, LED under-cabinet lighting, undermount sink & a full range of stainless steel appliances, along with a breakfast bar. Gorgeous bathroom with new floor & wall tile & vanity. **SOLD**

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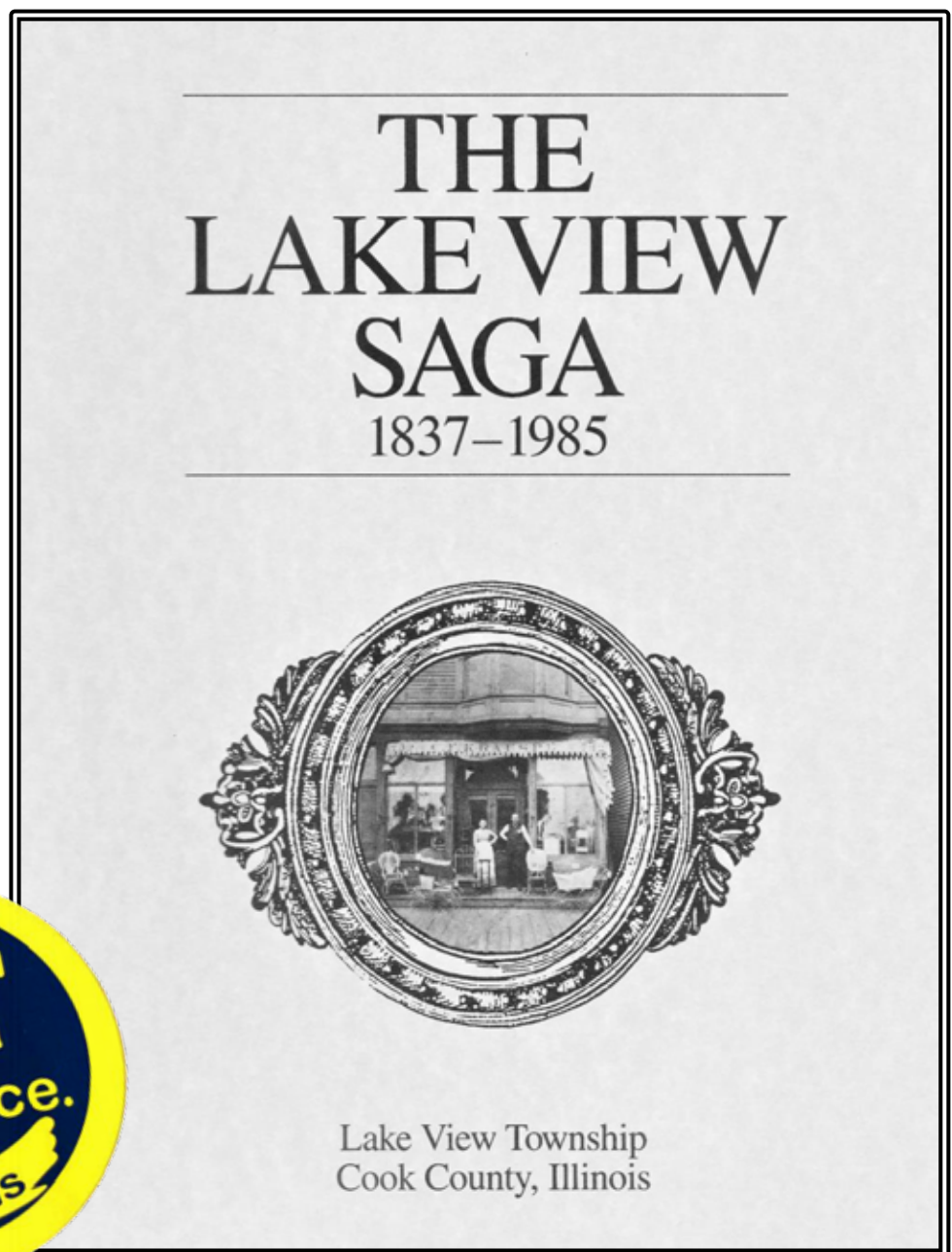
We are giving away free copies of *The Lake View Saga*, an assemblage of the neighborhood's history by Stephen Bedell Clark (updated by Patrick Butler). Pick up your copy at Armitage Hardware 1965 N. Bissell Street—donations to the Kiwanis Club of Lake View are appreciated! Contact Ron Roenigk (773) 465-9700.

Since the spread of COVID-19 to the United States, the Kiwanis Club of Lake View has donated over \$20,000 to those in need of food, clothing, and emergency funds.

Your local Kiwanis Club has been serving our community since 1921. However, this is an unprecedented time, and the need is great to replenish funds and continue our support.

Please consider donating to the Kiwanis Club of Lake View. 100% of your contribution will be used directly for charitable works.

Donations can be made at Armitage Hardware, 1965 North Bissell Street.



Exclusive look inside Pat Butler's *The Lake View Saga* :



"The site of the original Lake View High School Building has known three construction periods. The original building was erected in 1874 by the Township of Lake View. A great tragedy struck Lake View on March 13, 1885, when the township high school was gutted by fire. However, classes were held as usual on the following Monday at the little Evanston Avenue Chapel."

Did you know?



"George Street was named after Samuel George, reputedly the man who killed the last bear on what is now the corner of LaSalle and Adams Streets."



The original occupants of Wrigley Field were not the Chicago Cubs but the Chicago Whales, a Federal League team disbanded with the rest of the league in 1915.

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It's expected to be a bad flue season this year, so free flu shots are being offered by Cook County noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15, at Harry S. Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.

A second batch of shots will be given 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 17, at St. Josaphat Church, 2245 N. Southport Ave.

But reservations are required for the Oct. 17 event, for more information call 312-643-2299.

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Police Beat...

Cops seek driver who plowed through Buckingham Fountain fence

Police are looking for a motorist who crashed through a fence surrounding Buckingham Fountain on Sept. 26.

The fountain itself was not damaged during the 4:48 a.m. incident, but repairs to the southern portion of the fence will cost about \$100,000, police said.

The offender then fled the scene in their black or dark gray General Motors SUV that may be a Chevy Traverse, police said. It sustained damage to its front and sides, including the bumper and lights, according to a bulletin from CPD's Major Accident Investigation Unit.

Investigators did not release any images of the actual vehicle.

Anyone with information about the vehicle or its driver can contact Major Accidents at 312-745-4521 about CPD case number JD-379749.

Two arrested in post-protest incident outside Wrigley Field

It started with Silly String. It ended with two arrests and a felony charge of aggravated battery of police. And the incident was captured start-to-finish on a trusty Wrigley webcam.

A group of about 25 protesters gathered outside the stadium's main entrance Oct. 7 to march around the neighborhood. It was billed as a Black Lives Matter and "abolish the police" rally, but the protest was widely promoted by social media accounts with antifa and anarchist leanings.

After about an hour of marching with a CPD bike team following their every move, the group disbanded on a Wrigleyville side street. And that's where the webcam picks up the story.

Around 8:35 p.m., a small group of people is seen walking south on Sheffield Ave. toward Addison. One of them, a man wearing a white sweatshirt, walks over to an SUV that's waiting for a red light to change and appears to spray something into the vehicle.

A witness who spoke with this newspaper thought it was pepper spray. But it was actually "streamer string spray" — Silly String — CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said. And it allegedly struck the driver in his face. According to Bartoli, the man and the driver, age 40, had been engaged in an argument.

The driver gets out of his car and is heard yelling, "yeah, go run you little f*ggot" as the alleged Silly String attacker runs across the stadium plaza. He doesn't get far. A bike cop has him in cuffs before can get out of the camera's frame.

Then, it gets uglier. As a second officer pedals across the plaza, a man with the protest group drags his own bicycle into the cop's path, causing the cop to crash.

But the cop isn't down for long. He springs to his feet and charges forward, sending the bicyclist and his bike sailing into the side of a nearby planter. Back-up officers place the second man into custody. The officer received an abrasion to his elbow when he fell, Bartoli said.

Prosecutors charged Matthew Sugai, 26, of Avondale with one felony count of aggravated battery of police.

Michael Parks, 25, of McKinley

Park, is charged with misdemeanor battery for allegedly spraying the driver with Silly String. Police said the driver declined to pursue felony charges.

Parks' mugshot was not immediately available because he is only charged with a misdemeanor.

Suspect sought in violent CTA robbery

Chicago police are asking for the public's help as they try to track down a violent robbery offender who attacked a passenger on a Loop subway platform last week.



Detectives released CTA surveillance images of the attacker and the robbery with the hopes that someone will recognize him.

The victim was standing on the Jackson Blue Line platform when the offender kicked and beat him and then took his black backpack at 2:17 a.m. Oct. 6. An ambulance transported the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The robber escaped by boarding a train toward O'Hare, according to a witness.

Anyone with information about the suspect can contact Area Three detectives at 312-745-4443 regarding case JD-390142.

Disabled man hospitalized by hit-and-run driver in Lincoln Park

A disabled man is hospitalized with serious injuries after a hit-and-run driver struck him in Lincoln Park Oct. 6, police said.

The victim, a 25-year-old man who uses a motorized wheelchair, and his dog were in a crosswalk at Stockton Dr. and Fullerton Ave. when the vehicle struck him around 8:30 p.m., according to a bulletin from CPD's Major Accident Investigation Unit.

Police said the man's wheelchair was struck by a red four-door Toyota sedan that was traveling southbound. According to the bulletin, the driver did not stop after striking the man, and the Toyota continued speeding down Stockton.

CPD did not indicate if the dog was injured in the crash.

Anyone with information about the vehicle or its driver can contact investigators at 312-745-4521 regarding case JD-391077.

Two shot when gunman opens fire on partiers in Lincoln Park

Two men were injured in a drive-by shooting that unfolded in the middle of Lincoln Park steps from Diversey Harbor Oct. 7, police said. No arrests have been made.

The victims, who both have records of contact with Chicago police, were hanging out and drinking with a large group in the 2600 block of N. Cannon Dr. when someone opened fire on them from a passing car at 10:38 p.m., according to CPD and witnesses.

Both men were driven to nearby St. Joseph Hospital in private cars. Police said a 29-year-old man was shot twice in his upper left leg, and a 21-year-old man was shot once in his right calf. Both were listed in good condition.

At the shooting scene, partly-consumed bottles of Modelo were lined up under ribbons of crime scene tape as detectives searched the nearby parkland for evidence. Several shell casings were lying on the ground, and a bullet hole could be seen in a parked car.

Witnesses said the shooter is a Hispanic man who opened fire from a black Nissan Maxima that fled north-

bound on Cannon Dr.

In July 2019, Chicago police temporarily banned overnight parking along Cannon Dr. after seven people were shot on the nearby lakefront. Town Hall police district leaders and Lincoln Park alderman Michele Smith linked that shooting and other violent crime to car parties along the leafy stretch of road that runs parallel to Diversey Harbor.

Three weeks later, Smith declared the parking ban an overwhelming success — even though this reporter found there was no measurable change in crime along Cannon Dr. during the parking ban.

Nonetheless, the city subsequently banned overnight parking on the roadway — but only on Fridays and Saturdays between May and November.

Man pulled out a gun when Wrigleyville bar cut off service

A Wrigleyville bar manager disarmed an Indiana man who pulled out a handgun when the tavern refused to serve him, prosecutors said. It's the second time in four days that someone from Indiana has been smacked with felony gun charges following disputes at North Side establishments.

Around 11:30 p.m. Oct. 6, staff members at Output bar, 3720 N. Clark, told Dragan Tzanetakos that they were going to stop serving him, according to prosecutors.

Tzanetakos, of Dyer, Indiana, allegedly responded by pulling out a handgun.

Upon seeing the gun, the bar's manager "created a distraction" by yelling loudly, battered Tzanetakos, and wrestled away the firearm, according to CPD records. Tzanetakos ran out of the bar with the manager hot on his heels, prosecutors said.

The manager flagged down a passing police unit, told them what happened, and pointed them in Tzanetakos' direction. The cops arrested Tzanetakos nearby.

He allegedly told police that he is "allowed" to carry a gun back in Indiana, but authorities could not confirm that claim. Tzanetakos, 33, is not licensed to carry a weapon in Illinois, prosecutors said.

An ambulance transported Tzanetakos to Thorek Hospital for injuries he suffered during the altercation with Output's manager.

Prosecutors charged him with felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and misdemeanor aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. His defense attorney said Tzanetakos, who earned a master's degree from Purdue University, has no criminal background.

Judge Arthur Willis said the state's allegations were "very concerning" as he ordered Tzanetakos held on \$5,000 bail. Tzanetakos will need to post a \$500 deposit bond to get out of jail before trial. Judge Willis on Saturday set bail at \$5,000.

Four armed robberies, carjacking in Lincoln Park, Lakeview

At least four armed robberies and a carjacking were reported in about three hours Sept. 6 across Lincoln Park and Lakeview. Two offenders armed with at least one handgun were involved in all of the incidents. No arrests have been made.

Most recently, two men with handguns approached a man in a parking area on the 3200 block of N. Seminary around 11:10 p.m., CPD spokesperson

Karie James said. The offenders demanded the 36-year-old's keys and drove away with his silver Acura SUV.

Three earlier incidents unfolded similarly: The first at 10:24 p.m., two men displayed a handgun and demanded keys from a 55-year-old man as he walked on the 600 block of W. Schubert in Lincoln Park. When the victim told them that he didn't have anything with him, they punched him repeatedly until he fell to the ground, James said. The victim declined medical attention. Around 9:45 p.m., a woman reported that two men pointed a gun at her and demanded the keys to her Jeep Compass near the intersection of Lincoln and Sheffield. The woman did not cooperate with the robbers, and they fled in a dark-colored SUV. The victim declined to file a formal report with CPD. And at 8:45 p.m., two men displayed a handgun and took a man's keys on the 2400 block of N. Racine. But the offenders apparently dropped the keys before getting into the victim's car. They ran to an SUV that was waiting nearby and fled the area, according to initial information.

The victims generally described the offenders as two slender Black males in their late teens to mid-20's who stand 5'-8" to 5'-10" tall. One of them reportedly wore a black hoodie with the word "GAP" on the front.

Shots fired in the heart of the Loop

Shots were fired during an argument between two men in the Loop Oct. 6, but no one was injured, police said. There have been no arrests.

The men were arguing on the corner of State and Madison around 2:05 p.m. when one of them pulled out a handgun and shot at the other, according to CPD. Police said the bullet flew through the front window of a nearby business. A passerby said the business is the Body Shop at 3 N. State.

The shooter hopped into a dark-colored vehicle that fled westbound on Madison after firing his gun, police said. CPD did not offer any descriptions of the gunman or provide any more details about his car.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Concealed carry holder shoots German Shepherd at Loop dog park

No arrests were made after a concealed carry holder shot another man's German Shepherd at a dog park in the Loop Oct. 9. Fortunately, the pooch survived.

The two men were at D'Angelo Dog Park, 438 S. Franklin, when they began arguing shortly before 3 a.m. Friday. One of them released his German Shepherd, which prompted the other — a concealed carry holder — to shoot the animal, according to Officer Hector Alfaro, a CPD spokesperson.

An officer who pulled up a police camera feed of the dog park moments after the incident said the animal appeared to be moving around without any noticeable problems. The CPD camera was pointed in a different direction at the time of the shooting, however.

Police transported the dog and its owner to a 24-hour veterinary hos-

pital for treatment. The concealed carry holder, who lives near the dog park, was released. A simple assault report is being completed this morning.

Man charged with pepper-spraying third CTA bus driver of the year

A Chicago man is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail after he allegedly pepper-sprayed his third CTA bus driver of the year. Cook County Judge John Lyke also ordered Erick Robie, 46, to stay away from CTA property if he can post a 10% deposit bond.

"You gotta walk, or get a car, or Uber or something," Lyke said.

The first attack was reported back on March 31. In that case, a CTA bus driver reported being pepper-sprayed by a passenger as she drove a #22 Clark bus near Devon Ave. in Edgewater. Robie was arrested near-



Erick Robie

by after the driver identified him as the assailant, according to CPD records. Prosecutors charged him with simple battery, and he was released from the police station on a recognizance bond, police records show.

Then, early on Sept. 2, a CTA bus driver was pepper-sprayed by a passenger at the Jefferson Blue Line station. Robie was arrested when he returned to the station a few hours later and an employee recognized him as the assailant, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors charged him with simple battery again, and he was released from the police station on another recognizance bond.

Twelve days later, around 1:45 a.m. Sept. 14, a CTA bus driver was pepper-sprayed as they drove a #22 Clark bus near Lawrence Ave. in Uptown. The driver later identified Robie as the attacker in a photo lineup, prosecutors said.

The state charged him with another count of felony aggravated battery of a transit employee, and police caught up with him Saturday to face the allegations.

Unlike the previous two cases that saw him being released from police stations, Robie was taken to face a judge for a bond hearing this time. Unfortunately for him, his date was with Lyke, who has a reputation for being the least-lenient of the county's six bond court judges.

In addition to the six-figure bail amount Lyke handed down for the latest allegations, Robie will need to settle a \$5,000 bail for a separate arrest warrant before he walks free.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Waiting to be discovered?

Streeterville's Got Talent virtual fun raiser show

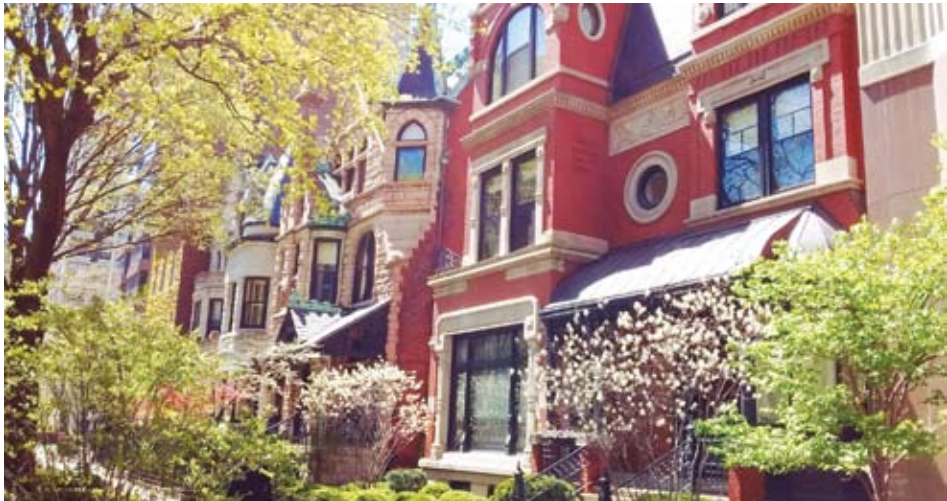
Do you have talents for the stage in need of an opportunity? Well SOAR (Streeterville Organization of Active Residents) has announced their first annual virtual fun raiser Streeterville's Got Talent Competition.

SOAR is hunting down local talent to participate in the competition with a chance to win a grand prize of \$1,000 along with a chance to perform at the SOAR Farmers Market on the Plaza of the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Contestants must either live, work or have performed in Streeterville and have an entertaining talent; singing, dancing,

comedy, instrumental, etc. The performer can be an individual or part of a group performance.

A panel of judges will review qualified entries and 20 semi-finalists will be announced. The public can view and vote for the 20 semi-finalists on the SOAR website at soarchicago.org/sgt beginning Oct. 29. On Nov. 14, four finalists with the most votes will appear and proceed to the main event where viewers will be entertained and discover who the winner of the grand prize is. The MC for the evening will be LeeAnn Trotter Entertainment Reporter for NBC Chicago with a special message and performance by Streeterville Resident noted jazz artist Ramsey Lewis.



Chicago property owners are financially battered from years of being slapped with higher real estate taxes and municipal fees

Motor vehicle thefts

This alert gives notice to downtown, Old Town and Lincoln Park-area residents of recent motor vehicle thefts. In each of the incidents, the victims' vehicle is parked, unoccupied, and or running with the keys in the ignition. While the victim is away from their vehicle, an offender will approach and drive off with the vehicle.

Incidents include one on the 0-100 block of W. Elm St., Monday, Sept. 28; the 1200 block of N. Wells St., Tuesday, Sept. 29; 200 block of E. Delaware Pl., Wednesday, Sep. 30; 300 block of W. Hubbard St., Monday, Oct. 5; 100 block of W. Campbell Pl., Tuesday, Oct. 6, and the 1900 block of N. Kenmore Ave., Wednesday, Oct. 7.

TAX HIKES from p. 1

Hefty 2020 property tax bill increases could come due in Aug. 2021, when the second installment of the bill arrives.

Along with paying for the skyrocketing city budget, much of the predicted property tax increase also could depend on the work of Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, who said he has dramatically revamped the assessment process, especially how commercial properties are valued.

Kaegi said he started from the ground up, reworking the assessment formula and drawing on Multiple Listing Service infor-

mation about sales prices. For 2020, the assessor is re-assessing the south and western suburbs.

Crystal-ball gazing into the outlook for the expected 2020 property tax hike, payable in 2021 is cloudy, tax experts say.

"The property tax bill is determined by four factors: the assessment, the equalization factor, or 'multiplier,' the tax rate and the exemptions," said Michael Griffin, a Chicago real estate tax appeal attorney.

Homeowners also should review their exemptions because they can reduce their tax bill if they have the proper exemptions applied to their tax bill, Griffin noted. The three main exemptions are the Homeowner's, Senior Citizen, and Senior Freeze.

The Homeowner's exemption recently was increased to \$10,000 from \$7,000, and the Senior Exemption was hiked to \$8,000 from \$5,000. Those amounts are deducted from equalized assessed value of a home to which tax rates are applied to determine individual tax bills.

Also, more seniors can qualify for the Senior Freeze because the Illinois Legislature increased the maximum annual income to receive the freeze to less than \$65,000 from less than \$55,000.

"Every homeowner should review their last tax bill to see if they received the proper exemptions and contact the assessor if the exemptions are wrong," Griffin advised.

Predicting a hefty property tax increase next year really centers on two wild cards—the tax rate and the state equalization factor, which can't be challenged by taxpayers.

The equalization factor, or "multiplier," is established each year for Cook County to bring property tax assessments in line with other parts of Illinois. The value is determined by the Illinois Dept. of Revenue.

However, the main engine that drives up property tax bills is the amount of money spent by local government.

Property owners who think they are over-assessed should file an appeal. The assessor and Board of Review have expanded the online filing process so a homeowner can file their appeal without having to visit either office.

Visit the assessor's website: www.cook-countyassessor.com, or call 312-443-7550 to find comparable properties or start the appeal process.

If the deadline for filing an appeal for your township has already passed at the assessor's office, you still can file an appeal with the Cook County Board of Review (312-603-5542) or www.cookcountyboard-ofreview.com and the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board (217-785-6076), or www.ptab.illinois.gov. Or, call Michael Griffin, an expert tax-assessment lawyer, at 312-943-1789.

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

BRIDGE from p. 1



A new Riverwalk section will also be built under the bridge as well.

Image courtesy Rosales & Partners

signed by Rosales & Partners, is the first of many improvements which are part of the Lincoln Yards development approved last year. The bridge is expected to cost \$35 million, and will take two years to complete.

The bridge is just south of Cortland St., where the river turns east-west. A new Riverwalk section will also be built under the bridge as well.

This bridge will also provide a connection to The 606 trail, allowing for the expansion of safer east-west bike travel. The future 606 will eventually cross Ashland Ave., go under the expressway and railroad tracks, and cross Elston Ave. at the viaduct. Then the pathway will continue east to connect with the new Riverwalk and circle up to Dominick St. via a ramp that will exist in the park on Lincoln Yards South.

Developer Sterling Bay is responsible for extending The 606 to meet Dominick St. and then later to connect it to the lakefront. But the entire project was controversial because the decision was made just prior to a mayoral election and included as much as \$1.3 billion in Tax Increment Financing tax funds for the developer, which will pay for many projects and be reimbursed later from property taxes generated by Lincoln Yards. The deal, negotiated by former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, means that Lincoln Yards will receive nearly all the property tax the site generates for 23 years.

Next year the developer also hopes to break ground on an eight-story, 320,000-square-foot building with office and lab space. Sterling Bay hopes to build as much as 14.5 million square feet of residential and commercial space on the 55 acres along the river.

NOT FUNNY from p. 1

surrounding Second City's relationship with racial equity, diversity and inclusion. Alumni had criticized Second City's prior reluctance to fundraise for the Black Lives Matter movement without also financially supporting police-related causes.

Alexander's exit was part of the theater's response in trying to salvage the business in a pandemic era.

Their property, acting school, stage, brand and a corporate training business are now up for sale.

Next on the chopping block was the iO (once ImprovOlympic), located along the Clybourn Corridor at 1501 N. Kingsbury St. That theater only dates to 1981, but both iO and Second City theaters are for-profit private operations that share a parallel history for stand-up comedy. Each venue had been closed since the economic lockdown enforced in March. Both groups were starved of box-office and drink revenue due to city and state regulations limiting indoor gatherings as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each venue had been closed since the economic lockdown enforced in March.

And iO too had faced internal accusations of racial inequity and demands for change from some former students in comedy classes and also from past performers. Founder Charna Halpern said that she was shutting down the theater permanently in June, stating an inability maintain payment on the overhead, mortgages and property taxes.

Unlike Second City, which rents space in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood, iO owns its building. Compass Commercial describes the property as dating from 1929 and offering two main theaters with 140 seating capacity each, two cabarets with 65-80 seating capacity each, six classrooms, two event spaces with 200 seating capacity each, a beer garden with 120 seating capacity and a full bar with over 100 seating capacity in addition to an accessory office and a full basement for dry storage.

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