Signs of life, pedestrian activity up in Loop

With pedestrian activity off by 65% compared to last year, Chicago Loop Alliance continues to coax more people to return to work — safely, of course.

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

Slightly more people were walking around in the Loop in late September, but pedestrian activity is still off by 65% compared to last year, according to the organization working to attract people and investment to the Loop.

Chicago Loop Alliance [CLA] says pedestrian activity on State St. during the week of Sept. 20 was up five percent from the week before. Office occupancy and hotel occupancy in the Loop, says the organization, is not getting any worse.

“Trying to coax more people to return to work in the Loop, CLA created a “back to work toolkit” intended as a guide for a “smooth and green return to work.” It includes advice on getting to the Loop, information about businesses that are open, and a business operations report for September.

Even more cases emerge of violent crimes committed by men freed on “affordable bail”

BY CWICHICAGO

Nearly a year after Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans declared “affordable bail” an option that occurred to them.” The following month, August, was among the worst for homicides in Chicago since the 1950s, and subsequent months have also shown substantial increases compared to previous years.

Here are a few more recent examples of people accused of committing violent crimes while free on “affordable bail” for felonies.

Murder on a 1-Bond

On July 25, 2020, Sharrieff Sharriffe, 28, was on parole when police allegedly found him carrying a loaded firearm in his hoodie as officers broke up a street party in July 2019. Sharrieff, who cops say is a Macy’s Cobra gang member, was charged with first-degree murder and attempted murder. He’s now being held without bail.

Muders on monitoring

Henry Hughes, 26, was charged with felony aggravated battery of a child causing great bodily harm and felony domestic battery causing harm with prior convictions on January 28. Prosecutors said he beat a 7-year-old girl in her face and body with a belt. Judge Harris set bail at $1,000 and released him on home confinement.

He was still on electronic monitoring three months later when he shot and killed 25-year-old Michael Upshaw in the 2100 block of S. Central Park, prosecutors said. He’s now being held without bail.

When Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans calculated the number of people who commit violent crimes while on bail for earlier violent crimes, he does not include domestic violence cases in the math.

Two shot

Jamal Sharrieff, 28, was on parole when police allegedly found him carrying a loaded firearm in his hoodie as officers broke up a street party in July 2019. Sharrieff, who cops say is a Macy’s Cobra gang member, was charged with first-degree murder and attempted murder. He’s now being held without bail.

The study shows that to a large extent the dramatic rise in property taxes in the last two decades is due to the extremely high cost of government pensions, and also that Chicago Public Schools are almost entirely dependent on property taxes for their revenue.

The study analyzes total property taxes billed in the county’s 135 cities and villages by those agencies.

To see your property tax payment history over 20 years, visit cookcountytreasurer.com.

“Has it been worth it?” Pappas said. “There’s no longer any ignoring that question in a pandemic, not from homeowners who pay the taxes and not from the local officials who raise the taxes.”

Property taxes rising thrice the rate of inflation

Treasurer’s study shows bills doubbling to $15.8 billion since 2001

BY SHEILA SWANN

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas released an unprecedented study of property taxes Monday that shows the county’s tax bills virtually doubling over 20 years, an increase that is nearly triple the rise in the cost of living index.

“The Pappas Study is a painstaking examination of tax bills on Cook County’s 1.7 million parcels of property that shows the increase of total taxes over the past 20 years, and allows taxpayers to see the increases in bills on their homes, businesses and land.”

The study is posted on cookcountytreasurer.com with a research tool allowing owners to see “how local governments taxed property and property owners paid the tax bill” over two decades, Pappas said.

“This is a sobering reminder of what [property owners] have paid every year going back 20 years,” she said. “In the midst of the pandemic and a recession, local governments should take their foot off the gas pedal and stop raising property taxes.”

While the cost of living has risen just 36% over 20 years, the study finds total taxes billed increased 99%, from $7.85 billion to $15.8 billion in 2019.

And the study shows that properties located inside city limits are being hit hardest of all. In Chicago, total taxes on residential properties skyrocketed 164%, from $1.33 billion to $3.51 billion, whereas suburban Cook County shows an 87% increase.

Total property taxes on commercial properties inside city limits rose 81%, from $1.92 billion to $3.48 billion.

“Because the study lets us see what government has done in the past, we might be able to chart a better, less costly future,” Pappas said. “Government cannot just raise taxes and hope for the best.”
By Thomas J. O’Gorman

WOW! I felt like big-shot syndi- cated columnist Walter Winchell when I was asked to be the “cele- brity” moderator of the Gold Coast Neighborhood Association’s [GCNA] annual meeting.

Total Zoom operation. I needed my columnist’s fedora. My job was to ask the questions to the alderman, state representa- tives and senators who represent the Gold Coast neighborhood. For more than 10 years I used to be a Gold Coast Resident. On As- tor St., that’s pretty swanky.

The present governor was my across-the-street neighbor. He’s still there, I think.

Oprah used to jog down the street.

I lived in what used to be the drawing room and billiard room of the Walter Osley Mansion. Walnut paneling as far as the eye could see. A stately and elegant time in my life. Many neighbors were household Chicago names. Some neighbors were the descen- dants of pioneer Chicagoans, with streets and landmarks named for them. Hot and cold running Mc- Cormicks, Blairs, Ryersons and .

The neighborhood was cre- ated by Potter Palmer, the hotel king. He built his wife, Bertha, the queen of Chicago society, a king. He built his wife, Bertha, the queen of Chicago society, a king. He built his wife, Bertha, the queen of Chicago society, a king. He built his wife, Bertha, the queen of Chicago society, a king. He built his wife, Bertha, the queen of Chicago society, a king. He built his wife, Bertha, the queen of Chicago society, a king. He built his wife, Bertha, the queen of Chicago society, a king.

Many people dressed for dinner there. They had butlers, maids galore, and ate off gold plates.

But it has always also been a neighborhood for quiet, high philantropy, and civic social re- sponsibility. Potter Palmer V is their great, great grandson. He’s a friend. Quite a chap. Can you even imagine having such a Chi- cago pedigree?

So the GCNA’s meeting is a big deal. A community organiza- tion on steroids. That’s what hap- pens when your neighbors are all CEOs, big time lawyers, hedge fund managers, trust fund ben- eficiaries and their influential personali- ties. And the Cardinal archbish- ops of Chicago. There’s really no one to impress.

But events of the past year have kind of placed all of us in the same boat. The ped phủers and the less landed gentry. We’ve all been caught between the pandemic and the hard place. Between the looting and pillaging and the local may- heym of Chicago politics. That’s why the GCNA meeting was so important this year. The group meets just once a year.) President Vern Broder does a great job.

Three separate city wards com- prise the area of the Gold Coast, the 2nd, 42nd and 43rd. And in

Springfield there are three senate districts and three state districts for the General Assembly. That’s a lot of human bureaucracy. Gath- ering the elected officials together was a small project.

I was fascinated at the questions that local residents had prepared for me to post to the elected offi- cials in two-half-hour segments of the get together. Locals witnessed in horror, not too long ago, as ri- oters, on two separate occasions, stormed the high-end shops of Michigan Ave. and Oak St. You knew, Gucci, Chanel, Saks Fifth Avenue, Tiffany, Ralph Lauren, Hermès and the rest. With many shops still boarded up, the emo- tional experience remains alive in this “hood. That was the human context for our meeting.

Most questions centered on the practical realities of restoring a sense of well-being to an impor- tant residential and commercial neighborhood. No one wanted philosophical or political an- swers. They demanded pragmatic solutions.

Could this violence return?
Could we see more looting?
Why wasn’t the city prepared for what happened?
We had the police. But no one seemed to know how to respon- sibly use them. Were their hands tied?

When the mayor and the police are at odds with each other with no one wins. Many speculated that the election night, Nov. 3, could see violence unleashed, again. And they’re right to be concerned.

Others wondered how the rise in crime across the city, and the Gold Coast in particular, was be- ing addressed.

Shootings on the uprising on Lake Shore Dr. convenience stores across the neighborhood robbed repeatedly. Citizens at- tacked and robbed on the street. Carjackings everywhere. All rais- ing alarms for residents.

A lack of protection appeared common to all. And an invasion of the public criminals work- ing their trade in broad daylight seems to be out of control.

It was queried, “Is this the new normal?” (No one wanted to admit that could be true.) Aldermen Michele Smith [43rd] and Brian Hopkins [2nd] did their best in trying to acknowledge where the city was at with these issues. They certainly shared that they were living on the same page as lo- cal residents.

Legislators from Springfield, Reps. Yoni Pizer, Lamont Robin- son and Kam Buckner, acknowl- edged that many of these issues are quality of life issues that are best resolved on the local level.

Senators Mattie Hunter and Rob- ert Peters said they are challenged by Chicagoans who want to save the city. Save it from a crumbling environment. Save it from crime. Save it from taxes.

There’s no magic fix. There’s no perfect legislation that can restore order. Only the effective enforcement of existing laws.

Sen. Sara Feigenholtz was de- monstrative in her explanation of Illinois’ proposed “Fair Tax,” a result that could assist Chicago at the current critical time of deep financial problems. But all were optimistic for the city and the Gold Coast neighborhood.

Does any of this change any- thing for the city or the neighbor- hood? If nothing else people are forewarned. No one is going to tolerate making a shambles out of the neighborhood any more. People have felt frazzled and expecting solutions.

The ruin of so many local busi- nesses is no longer acceptable. Our elected representatives have served notice that its citizens ex-pect some heavy efforts at reduc- ing the terror and also assistance in the form of more saloons, salons and hotels that employ so many.

With our meeting and conven- tion business now in shambles that’s a heavy ask.

On the eve of the presidential election many voters were casting their ballots with a view to change and restore confidence on the lo- cal level. In the neighborhood. On our streets. At the shops we pa-
East Rogers Park loses community gem

John Lamping dead at 78

Heart of the ‘Hood

by Felicia Dechter

John Lamping was a man who wore a lot of hats. Not only did he literally have a collection of all types of chapeaux, but he was also a wonderful steward of Loyola Park, a vocal activist in East Rogers Park, an amazing photographer, and someone who truly gave a hoot about the community.

He was also my neighbor for 35 years. Sadly, on Oct. 17, it was discovered that John, 78, had passed away in the lakefront townhouse he’d lived in for de cades. The cause of death is still being determined and there will be a memorial in the Spring at the lake or in Loyola Park, said his cousin, Debbie Soriano.

Johnny was an only child, adored by his parents John and Antoinette, said Soriano. He was also “the most educated man in our family,” she said.

“He was someone that his family was very, very proud of,” said Soriano. “He will be missed. It’s going to be a lonely planet without him.”

Soriano called John’s death a “huge shock,” and community members and friends felt the same way. The news sent ripples of sadness throughout the neighborhood, and beyond.

“John was brilliant — probably the only polymath I’ve ever known,” said his friend, Rogers Park Helen Carlock. “At the same time, he was witty and play ful and loved to have fun. When he dined out with friends, he usually brought everyone beads or silly hats or one time it was paste-on mustaches -- twice it was wings for the women. The wings brought quite a few stares at Broadway Cellars.

“John loved hats; he had a collection of more than 100 of all sorts,” added Carlock. “John so loved Rogers Park and his beloved Loyola Park, the dunes, and the pier.”

John was the historian of Rogers Park, a conservationist of the neighborhood parks and beaches and an activist who tried to keep the politicians and police honest and looking out for the interest of the people and businesses of Rogers Park, said Tom Heineman, a founder of the Greater Eastlake Terrace Park Advisory Council.

“John was an engineer by trade, but knew a lot about the arts, nature and politics.”

John was truly a brainy guy and usually -- 99% of the time -- we agreed on neighborhood issues. He graduated from Lane Tech and the Univ. of Chicago and held master’s and law degrees from DePaul Univ. and a Ph.D in Biological Sciences from North western Univ. He spent his entire career at Standard Oil/Amoco and retired not long after Amoco was acquired by BP.

“He was an intellect and wit extraordinaire who could bring out the sunshine on the gray- est of days,” said Mark Radford, a neighbor whose family was a dear friend of John’s for almost 40 years.

So many folks wanted to share their tales of John and I apologize for having to cut parts of people’s memories. Longtime friend Dr. David Rubin called him, “truly one of the most remarkable individuals I ever met,” and recalled John’s “wry and silly sense of hu mor,” as well as his knowledge.

“I used to refer to him as the ‘University of Lamping,’” as he had both the breadth and depth of knowledge on so many topics that astounded me,” said Dr. Rubin.

“...He would enrich my life with hours of discussions on topics that ranged from the humanities to the sciences.”

John was gay, and a devoted supporter of the LGBT community. When I first met him, he was living in his townhouse with his partner, the late Craig Spencer.

Good friend Michael Bjoradal recalled how John helped him when his partner -- also named Michael -- was spiraling downward with a fatal cancer brought on by the after effects of the HIV/AIDS drug AZT.

“John raced to my rescue when my Michael was beset by hallucinations and extreme behavior.”

Advocating for Our Loved Ones

Presented by Loretta Woodward Veney, Author and National Speaker

What’s an Advocate and how do we advocate for the rights of our loved ones? Learn when to speak up and show up as situations arise.

Participants will receive strategies for communicating effectively with medical personnel, as well as management and staff at hospitals and assisted living facilities. Information will also be provided on how ombudsmen, elder care attorneys and hospice can help families, and what to do if you suspect elder abuse.

Loretta is a motivational speaker and trainer who has delivered more than 300 speeches and presentations on dementia and caregiving since 2014. She offers a wealth of information and encouragement for her audiences.

Join us for a FREE Educational Webinar

Wednesday, October 28th
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TheArtisWay.com/InsideBooster

GEM see p. 8
CPD transit officers recognized Jordan from previous incidents on the train system, and investigators tracked him down. Police said both men were peeled off being on the train, punching the victim, and possessing his bag.

Prosecutors charged both men with felony robbery.

Jordan, who has two felony and five misdemeanor convictions, was ordered held without bail on an unrelated warrant. Judge Charles Leight set his bail in the robbery case at $100,000. If Jordan becomes eligible for release, he’ll need to post $20,000 of the $250,000 bail that Beach ordered in the robbery case. Graham will also be required to go to electronic monitoring. Beach said.

Uptown man stung by sheriff’s Grindr investigation

An Uptown man faces multiple felony charges, allegedly soliciting an undercover Cook County Sheriff’s Police officer who was posing as a 15-year-old boy on Grindr, the gay dating app.

Matthew Baldwin, 51, is charged with solicitation of a minor, traveling to meet a minor to engage in sex, and grooming a minor. According to Baldwin’s attorney, his office is “The best in the business.” Baldwin is being placed under surveillance and electronic monitoring Saturday after posting a $15,000 bond.

On Sept. 10, Baldwin struck up a conversation with an undercover officer posing as a boy named “Juan” on Grindr, prosecutors said. After taking their conversation to WhatsApp, Baldwin allegedly told Baldwin, “I’m 15, not 18.”

“You want that Juan,” Baldwin allegedly said, “but that is all I like younger guys. LOL.”

The officer then sent Baldwin a photo of a couch and two 15-year-old boys. Baldwin sent back a photo of himself in a swimsuit, Assistant State’s Attorney James Murphy said during a bond hearing Friday.

Baldwin “sent explicit messages describing sexual activity he wished to engage in with Juan,” suggested that the two meet, and agreed not to tell the boy’s mother,” according to a sheriff’s office statement.

Baldwin and the undercover officer subsequently made several arrangements to meet, but none of them took place.

On Oct. 7, the undercover officer posed as a 15-year-old boy named “Jared” who wanted a ride on Oct. 7. A day later, the two agreed to meet in the 1100 block of W. Division and 20s who stands about 6‘-2” tall and weighs about 200 lbs. The other two were described as slimmer and about 5‘-7” tall.

In Lakeview in the 2500 block of N. Clark, area in the 2000 block of W. Wellington around 5:30 a.m. on Oct. 9; in the 3400 block of N. Racine overnight Oct. 9-10; in the 1200 block of W. School and 415 a.m. on Oct. 10, and in the 1400 block of W. Waveland early on Oct. 14.

There is no description available for any of the offenders — but witnesses reported seeing between two and four men operating at each.

SUVS are often targeted because their high ground clearance makes it easier to access the undercarriage with a saw. Victims rarely know that their catalytic converter has been stolen until they start their car. That’s when they’ll be startled by a loud, roaring sound of their freshly-ummefied engine.

Lijah Graham

A good Samaritan who tried to help a homeless man who was being harassed by a group of people on the Red Line wound up being viciously beaten and robbed when the pack turned on him during a train ride later in the week. He is $25,000 of the $250,000 bail that expected to get help. Clarke dragged the gun as her friends ran out of the apartment and told her he was going to kill her.

Police said both men admitted to being in the attack. One of them kicked the train’s security call button to lower pills down her throat, according to court records.

That’s when they’ll be startled by a loud, roaring sound of their freshly-ummefied engine.

Mobs viciously beating, robs, runs passenger — who tried to help homeless man

Police Beat...

October 28 - November 3, 2020

Inside Publications

Police

Catalytic converter thieves roll through Lakeview

Chicago’s roving bands of catalytic converter thieves made their way to Lakeview. Most of the witnessed incidents were reported between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m., typical prime operating hours for the crews. Catalytic converter thieves typically use saws to remove the devices from under parked vehicles, then sell them for $100 to $200 each to scrap yards, which are especially valuable because they contain expensive metals.

This reporter received reports of catalytic converter thieves across Lakeview. At least one block of N. Clark, according to a 34-year-old CPD spokesperson. The woman was not injured.

LuPresto said, later, a similarly described man stole a woman’s phone on the 3400 block of N. Broadway. In those two cases, the suspect was described as a Black man in his 20’s who stands about 5’-9” tall and weighs about 180 lbs. Police said he’s a short man who tried to help homeless man run past a woman and snatched a purse and claimed to have a gun at a restaurant’s outdoor dining area in the 2500 block of N. Clark, according to a 34-year-old CPD spokesperson. The woman was not injured.

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Another historic record low, rates plunge to 2.8%

by Don DeBat

Borrowing money to fund the purchase or refinance of a home this autumn may never again be this affordable, experts say.

On Oct. 22, home-loan interest rates plummeted to a new historic record low of 2.8% nationwide for 30-year fixed-rate loans—the lowest ever recorded by the Freddie Mac’s Primary Mortgage Market Survey, which dates back to 1971.

“Mortgage rates today are on average more than one full percentage point lower than rates over the last five years,” noted Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s chief economist.

“This means that most low- and moderate-income borrowers who purchased during the last few years stand to benefit by refinancing to lower their monthly payment,” Khater said.

The interest-rate low also means Chicago home buyers now may have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lock in the lowest mortgage interest in 50 years, assuming they have a good job, down-payment cash and a solid credit score.

Average benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgages fell to 2.8% for the week ending Oct. 22, down from 2.81% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-rate average loan was 3.75%.

Fifteen-year fixed loans averaged 2.31% for Oct. 22, down from 2.35% a week earlier. A year ago, 15-year fixed loans averaged 3.18%.

The comprehensive Freddie Mac survey focuses on conventional, conforming, fully-amortizing home-purchase loans for borrowers who place down payments of 20% and have excellent credit.

On Oct. 23, Mutual of Omaha Mortgage was quoting a rock bottom 2.843% on 30-year fixed rate loans, and 2.625% on 15-year fixed rate loans, reported Rate-Seeker.com.

Under an aggressive loan program involving pledged money-market funds, Huntington Bank, was quoting 2.2% on a seven-year jumbo adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) with 25% down payment, according to mortgage broker Brian Bockholdt.

Before 2020’s sharp dip in interest charges, mortgage rates last reached a historical rock bottom on Nov. 21, 2012, when the 30-year fixed mortgage average hit 3.31%, according to Freddie Mac’s archives.

Then came 2020—the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. On July 16, home-loan interest rates nationwide skidded to 2.98%—what was then a historic record low. It was the first time in 50 years that home-loan rates fell below 3%, reported Freddie Mac.

Since then, rates have held below 3% for benchmark 30-year fixed home loans. On Aug. 27, the rate averaged 2.91%, down from 2.99% a week earlier.

To support the economy during the pandemic, the Federal Reserve said it plans to keep interest rates near zero even if inflation exceeds its 2% level.

What this means is borrowing rates for home mortgages, auto loans and business loans likely will remain ultra-low for years to come.

Mortgage-rate history

Archives of the now-defunct Federal Housing Finance Board show long-term mortgage rates in the 1960s were not much higher than the Great Depression, when lenders were charging 5% on five-year balloon loans.

This autumn may never again be this affordable, experts say.

Five decades ago, between 1963 and 1965 you could get a mortgage at 5.81% to 5.94%. Between 1971 and 1977, the now-defunct Illinois Usury Law held rates in the 7.6%-to-9% range.

In the early 1980s, run-away inflation caused home-loan rates to skyrocket over the moon. According to Freddie Mac, benchmark 30-year mortgage rates peaked at a jaw-dropping 18.45% in Oct. 1981 during that Great Recesssion.

Rates finally fell below 10% in April 1986, and then bounced in the 9%-to-10% range during the balance of the 1980s. Twenty-one years ago—in Aug. 1999—when many of today’s Millennial borrowers were in grammar school, lenders were quoting 8.15% on a 30-year fixed mortgage.

Back then, that seemed like a good deal.

However, interest rates began falling gradually over the last decade, sliding to 3.31% on a 30-year fixed mortgage in Nov. 2012.

Then came 2020, which likely will go down in the American housing history book as the “Year of Rock Bottom Rates.”


Rogers Park SBIF funding

Rogers Park business owners will soon be able to apply for funding to improve their facilites. Between Nov. 2 and Dec. 1, the city will accept Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) applications from business owners in Rogers Park.

The current round of funding is only available for business owners within the Rogers Park TIF. SBIF applications will be accepted starting 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 2, and must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Interested businesses and propety owners can visit somercor.com/sbif to find the application and more information. Grants up to $100,000 are available for eligible work.

The City will be hosting a webinar to provide an overview of the SBIF program and application process 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4. Additional logistical questions should be directed to Silvia Orozo at sorozcom@somercor.com.

Office of Inspector General seeks input

City Hall is seeking citizen input regarding concerns about the economy, effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity of City programs and priorities for improvement. They say that those opinions will help inform and prioritize which projects appear on their 2021 Audit Plan.

For more information on proposed projects and reports that were published in 2020, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/jp/YPYTLFF/. The survey will take approximately four minutes to complete and will be open through Nov. 15. The draft plan itself is available at https://go.chicago.org/2wp-content/uploads/2020/09/01G-2021-APR-Draft-Audit-Plan.pdf.
A disbarred River North attorney who allegedly embezzled more than $1 million from at least 20 elderly clients and their estates has reached a plea deal with prosecutors.

Jeffrey Schlapp, 59, represented senior citizens and their estates in lawsuits against nursing homes, but he sometimes reached settlements without telling his clients. Funds from settlements were deposited into Schlapp’s bank account but were not dispersed to victims. He then kept the money for himself.

The Illinois Supreme Court disbarred Schlapp in late 2017 after finding he misappropriated more than $600,000 from nine clients that he represented in cases that accrued nursing homes of malpractice, negligence, falls, and death, according to the Cook County Record. The criminal charg- eas grew from the regulators’ work.

Schlapp this week pleaded guilty to one count of theft of $500,000 to $1 million under a plea agreement with prosecutors. Judge Diana Kenworthy sentenced Schlapp to four years in prison. The 786 days of time served on electronic monitoring, he is not expected to spend any time in prison.

Kenworthy also ordered Schlapp to reimburse the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission’s client protection program for $823,525 that the group paid out to his victims.

River North attorney pleads guilty to ripping off elderly clients

The first African American. A man of faith, intellect and savvy, Chicago wisdom, he is a welcomed addition to the group of papal electors.

CLOSEING: After three decades, the great owner Chef Jean Joho is calling it quits at Everest and shuttering Chicago’s most remarkable four-star dining establishment. Breaks your heart. Final dinner? new year’s eve.

AVAST: Capt. Bill Pinkeye, first African-American to sail the world solo, brought his lessons from the sea to life as the keynote at the Chicago Maritime Museum Festival, speaking via video, at the festival. He addressed 10 things he learned at sea that are applicable to life. In June 9, 1992, he set the record when he finished a 22-month journey on “Com- mitment,” via the difficult route around the southern capes.

Cardinal-elect Gregory, Archbishop of Washington DC.

Jean Joho is calling it quits at Everest and shuttering Chicago’s most remarkable four-star dining establishment. Breaks your heart. Final dinner? new year’s eve.

Robert Magnotta, the Chicago outlet of the French wine merchant Tablas Creek, was virtual this year. Co-Chairs Sherrill Bodine and Sheree Schimmer Valakas did an amazing job. Candace Jordan and Tracy Tarantino DeBuono (ZZAZZ Productions) did a great job with the beautiful setting out- side Tafanes Vernon Park, Tap. With angels Al Menotti, Kevin Sullivan, Rhonda J. Liesenfeld, Adrienne Squires, Melissa Babcock, Connie Bottega, Heath- er Jane Johnston, Tina Weller, Sally Jo Morris Pfaff, Sherry Lea Fox at Oceans 43… real estate broker Michael Rissman encouraging pals in the pan- demic with his famous Chicago punch.


LIGHTHOUSE HIGH-Beam: Bobbi Panter, Lauren Lewis Kavanagh and the gang gathered at Marchesa to watch their fashion triumph supporting The Chicago Lighthouse with the annual Flair fashion show which was virtual this year. Co-Chairs Sherrill Bodine and Sheree Schimmer Valakas did an amazing job. Candace Jordan and Tracy Tarantino DeBuono (ZZAZZ Productions) did a great job with the beautiful setting out- side Tafanes Vernon Park, Tap. With angels Al Menotti, Kevin Sullivan, Rhonda J. Liesenfeld, Adrienne Squires, Melissa Babcock, Connie Bottega, Heather Jane Johnston, Tina Weller, Sally Jo Morris Pfaff, Sherry Lea Fox at Oceans 43… real estate broker Michael Rissman encouraging pals in the pan- demic with his famous Chicago punch.


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Man charged with hit-and-run bus shelter crash that left woman seriously injured

BAIL

Pino forced her to perform sex acts at gunpoint before he fatally shot her in the face, prosecutors said. He also allegedly shot a 39-year-old woman who lives near the hotel after she ran away when he tried to rob her. She was critically wounded at the scene. The victim was a 61-year-old woman who was seated at the scene as a 61-year-old woman lay injured on the 1100 block of S. Michigan. Prosecutors said Espino got out of the vehicle after the crash, smoked a joint, then got back into the vehicle and accelerated down Michigan Ave. Within seconds, the truck veered into a bus shelter where the victim was seated. He then backed out and fled the scene, prosecutors said.

The woman suffered significant injuries, including a shattered femur. Witnesses used a Mexican flag as an emergency tourniquet to stem her blood loss, a photographer for Captured News reported.

Sergio Espino was arrested and charged with first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder. A bond hearing was set for Oct. 22.

Remote learning assault

Perhaps the highest-profile recent example of someone committing a violent crime while on bail for felony charges is the case of Terrill Walls, the 18-year-old man who's accused of sexually assaulting his 7-year-old female cousin while she participated in remote school classes this month. On Aug. 29, Walls was charged with felony unlawful use of a weapon after police accused him of possessing a firearm in the Grand Crossing neighborhood. Judge John Luongo, along with the Leona Beach Rotary Club, hosted a John Lamping Legacy Project featuring his released and unreleased photography and videos.

“After a very tragic 2020, showcasing the beauty of Rogers Park through the eyes of John Lamping in the Legacy Project with such events as a show in the Rogers Park Art Gallery, at the Leona Beach Park fieldhouse, and then traveling to Rogers Park businesses, would help inspire others to photograph, record, and love Rogers Park as much as John Lamping did, and as much as Trudy and I love Rogers Park,” Morton said.

Those who knew John’s photography treasured it, and those who didn’t admire his work from afar.

“My heart breaks and I do not even know how I will live,” Rogers Park art director Julie Litzow said. “I only knew his beautiful vision through FB photos. I always hoped I’d meet him on the beach some day.”

If John has anything to do with it, I know that’s where his spirit will be. On the beach, camera in hand, enjoying the everlasting beauty of what his beloved Loyola Park and Lake Michigan have to offer. I’ll see ya there, my dear neighbor.