

It is foolish and wrong to mourn
the men who died. Rather we should
thank God that such men lived.

— George S. Patton



Loop hotel shootout leaves man injured; cheap room rates bring gang parties downtown

BY CWBCHICAGO

A shoot-out in a Loop hotel elevator lobby ended with one gunman hospitalized and the other on the loose, police said. The same hotel was the scene of two separate stabbing incidents over the summer.

Two men began arguing as they rode an elevator at Swissotel, 323 E. Wacker, 1:43 a.m. Nov. 7, police said. The argument turned physical, and the men began shooting at each other as they exited the elevator at the lobby level.

One of the shooters, a 33-year-

old, received a gunshot wound to his right arm. Police recovered a weapon from him, and charges are under consideration, according to CPD. An ambulance transported the man to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he is in good condition.

The victim is a licensed concealed-carry holder. CPD arrests show he was charged with drinking in public and violating concealed-carry laws during an incident in 2018.

The other gunman, described as a Black male with an Afro hairstyle and neck tattoos, was

wearing a colorful pullover with a white shirt. He got away and cops don't know if he was shot.

Area Three detectives found three shell casings lying near the lobby elevators. Their investigation continues.

This was the Loop's second shooting victim of the week, the fourth to be shot in a month, and the 17th shooting victim of the year. By comparison, only three people were shot in the Loop during all of 2019.

Rock-bottom rates for hotel

SHOOTOUT see p. 8

Loop parking garage burglars getting away with lots of valuables, and guns

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are warning drivers who use downtown garages about a series of auto break-ins by teenagers aged 14-18 that have been reported in Loop parking structures. The alert came days after we reported that burglars smashed their way into 21 vehicles parked in two downtown garages Nov. 4.

Area Three detectives say in a newly-issued community alert that burglars have gotten away with firearms and other property

by breaking into cars or accessing unlocked vehicles.

The alert mentions break-ins at 21 different parking structures: one in the 200 block of W. Adams on the night of Sept. 20-21; in the 700 block of S. Wabash on Sept. 25; in the 300 block of E. Wacker on Oct. 6; in the 100 block of N. Wells on the night of Oct. 7-8; in the 100 block of E. 11th on Oct. 11; in the 100 block of E. Randolph on the night of Oct. 15-16; in the 200 block of S. Wells on the night of Oct. 15-16, and in the 100 block of W. Monroe between Oct.

31 and No. 3

But the bulletin also includes recent break-ins 200 block of N. Wells St. from Nov. 1-5, 3 p.m. - 8 a.m.; 100 block of N. Wells St. from Nov. 1-5, 8 p.m. - 8 a.m.; 100 block of N. Wells St. from Nov. 3-4, 3 p.m. - 7 a.m.; 200 block of W. Washington St. from Nov. 3-4, 5:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.; 100 block of W. Lake St. from Nov. 3-4, 6:30 p.m. - 7:10 a.m.; 200 block of N. Wells St. from Nov. 3-4, 7 p.m. - 7 a.m.; 100 block of W. Lake St. on

BURGLARS see p. 8

Stop the swamp, save a pond



Three community virtual meetings will be held over the fate of North Pond in Lincoln Park.

North Pond virtual meetings

Those who care about the long term future of North Pond may want to join the Lincoln Park Conservancy [LPC] who will be conducting three public meetings to discuss the restoration of North Pond.

The North Pond's beauty is truly 'skim deep' as few visitors realize it is a dying ecosystem that is slowly becoming a shallow wetland swamp.

Three meetings will be held virtually, 5:30-7:30 p.m. today, Saturday, Nov. 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1-3 p.m. Meetings will be hosted over Zoom and those inclined must register to attend one of the sessions, or submit a question in advance.

The Pond's health is negatively

impacted by shallow depth. Many people are surprised to know the Pond's maximum water depth is only two-to-three-feet, limiting aquatic habitat and inhibiting temperature regulation. The LPC says it should be more like eight-foot deep.

The Pond's water is too warm in the Summer, creating algae blooms that prevent healthy aquatic habitat, while its unstable shoreline is slowly falling into the Pond, leading to sediment and pollution accumulation and shallow depths. So the Pond is filling up with organic and mineral material like fertilizers, grass, leaves, bird and goose feces, tree limbs, and more.

This barren, eroding shoreline attracts geese, who contribute to

SWAMP see p. 8

Building-size mural honors Loop workers



Mural on the side of a building on Ida B. Wells Dr. Photos by Torque Digital

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

A mural honoring the 370,000 people who work in the Loop has been installed on a building along Ida B. Wells Dr., formerly known as Congress Pkwy.

The mural was commissioned by Chicago Loop Alliance [CLA] as part of its "Loop Employee of the Month" program that has been ongoing since March 2019.

Chicago artist Dwight White completed the mural on Oct. 26. He says the mural contains symbols that represent past winners of the Loop Employee of the Month award.

"I loved the design process as I was challenged to creatively weave a tribute to each winner into the artwork," said White.

"You will see that each element of the mural has a significant meaning. After the global pandemic and months of quarantine, I believe this mural will have an even greater impact and meaning to all who work in the Loop," he said.

CLA has removed the light and sound installation that had lined State St. since 2011.

Lightscape was a year-round art installation in planter boxes

MURAL see p. 8

City hearing Nov. 20 on proposed pot dispensary at 60 W. Superior

Pharmacann [PC AU1, LLC] has applied for a Special Use to establish an Adult Use Cannabis at 60 W. Superior St., and the application will be reviewed by the Zoning Board of Appeals [ZBA] at a virtual public hearing on Nov. 20.

The ZBA is a quasi-judicial body made up of Mayoral appointees. They are solely responsible for approval or denial of Special Use licenses and are not obligated to give special consideration to

comments from an aldermen or Police.

The hearing may be local residents only chance for public comment. In order to have your opinion considered by ZBA, those so inclined can submit written statements which will be accepted at ZBA@cityofchicago.org until 5 p.m. Monday Nov. 16.

Members of the public wishing to speak must submit a speaking request form also by 5 p.m. Nov. 16 to ZBA@cityofchicago.org.



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"Keep your wits about you" - not just good advice, it's a family expectation



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

"Keep your wits about you." That's a piece of lasting wisdom, often advanced by my mother, Eileen.

They're words I still often speak softly to myself when entering a new environment, a group of strangers or an eerie place.

I catch myself doing it when posting on Facebook.

Bumping into an old friend or sweeping into a venue that might be filled with noise, mayhem or commotion. In our family, we were always trying to free ourselves from "commotion." You know, the empty-headed noise and useless pot-lid-banging of life. It's still good advice. Something that's always with me. With a practical application, easily accomplished. The wise analysis of any situation where you can't foresee what might happen. So be ready for anything, you might say.

"Keep your wits about you" is a pretty positive instruction, one that posits the belief that you actually have wits to use at your disposal to get you out of an awkward jam with a tiresome relative, dead-ended relationship, or a shameless acquaintance.

It's an instruction that begins with a pat on the back and finishes with a confident expectation that good sense and wise application of the same will get out of any sticky situation or dangerous terrain, from family gatherings, job interview, neighbor's wake or a cousin's wedding. All those places where the self-appointed big shots of the world think that they are safely in charge. The boosters and braggers. The BMOCs, infal-

libe pious zealots, oily politicians and thick-skinned ward healers. The team players, smooth operators, sober teetotalers and rule enforcers. All of whom appear to have everything under control.

None of that cut any ice with my mother, a straight shooter and truth teller. A true urbane Chicago sophisticate who knew well the tricky terrain of work place expectations, as well the easy comfort of family chicanery. She had little time for slackers and goof-offs. She worked for years in the Loop and knew well the pavements and streetscape of the city. She occupied positions of real responsibility, facile with numbers and technology, as it was. The pride of the National Cash Register Company. She knew who kept their records in order. And who fudged on the truth of their account books and ledgers.

She knew from the practicality of everyday life how important it was to "keep her wits about her." She knew all the great spots for lunches from Toffinetti's to the Palmer House. From the Wrigley Building restaurant to Fritzel's and O'Connell's.

She showed us the practical reality of everyday life by keeping her wits sharp. She had a kindly built-in sense of authority that permitted her a sense of independence. A freedom she treasured. It made her a well-organized troubleshooter and beloved problem solver.

And it gave her a nose that easily could smell a rat, charlatan, or a lazy layabout.

She expected others to strive to be articulate, knowledgeable and kind to others. So her patience wore thin with people with little interest in cultivating such abilities. The attempt was what mattered. She knew without these, what wits there were got spread too thin.

"Keep your wits about you," was not just good advice, it was a family expectation. As demanding as a gym workout or a lake-front run.

If only she was still with us, and her sense of optimism were more prevalent today. I wish there were more people, like her, who placed such expectations on themselves and others. Heck, today you're lucky if people know how to use a pen and have the capacity to write in cursive.

She'd be bitterly disappointed at so many witless performances all around us. If only she and her cronies were here, now, egging us on, pushing us to stretch and reach beyond what's comfortable and easy. For they knew in such challenges true human growth was made. And our wits actually increase.

Was there ever a time in our history when our wits were more needed? America has now gone to the polls. Please God increase our wits. We need more goodness to deepen our awareness of what having real wits can do in our lives.

We need to see where our wits can carry us. We desperately need to understand what kindness and patience can bring to our lives. We need to discover again what truthfulness can fashion in our everyday living. We need to see the bounty brought by grace and humor, reason and intelligence. Selflessness and quick generosity to others. It's a grocery list outlining all the elements comprising our wits.

Using our wits, we could reshape the landscape of America with a softer tone and more gentle speech. We would have no reason to use bitter speech if our words carried more thoughtfulness and harmony. Our spirit could transform the mountains and the prairie with their intelligence alone if we could trust the words that echo in our neighbor's talk.

Why can't our present begin to heal with truth and wits larger than ourselves? Can we not listen to the anguish of pandemic for

some clues to establish a broader sense of national identity and hope? The long haul of COVID-19 still stands before us, separating families and friends, a soul-draining prospect with no end yet in sight. But we still have our sense of the future before us, when all else might seem empty. We still have a sense of belonging, when all else seems lost. We still have a bright sense of what's

coming, trusting in our willingness to sacrifice. And trusting in the resiliency of our wits.

Or as Shakespeare put it in "The Taming of the Shrew," "I would challenge you to a battle of wits, but I see you are unarmed."

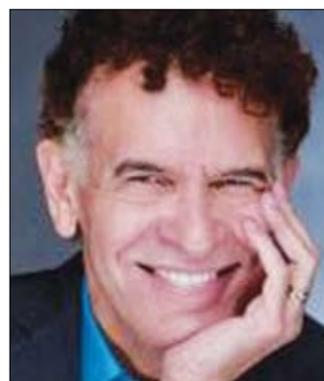
PANDEMIC: Word is Northwestern Hospital is receiving record numbers of COVID patients, canceling non-critical surgeries as they run out of beds.

WHITE SOX: Sports bulletin, the just discovered two DUI cases makes the hiring of **Tony La Russa** the secondary story of the day. La Russa is heading back to the South Side seeking a pennant. Though he's been

officially out of the dugout for 10 years, he has kept his hand deep in Major League Baseball. Now he just needs to keep his hands off the cocktails when driving. With 2,728 wins under his belt, he has old-fashioned magic up his sleeve that only a ripe veteran sees. Despite the DUI charges, Tony may still be good for Chicago. Was there ever a better time for his return amid the pandemic and the crazy cultural clash of American politics? He could be a welcomed relief, adding to the sparkle that only the Sox can produce. Or he could screw it up by getting a third DUI.

BEERMAN: Best wishes to **Vince O'Malley**, beloved retired beer truck driver to Rush St. from 'back in the day.' He is recovering from brain surgery. The things he saw and did not repeat would fill a book, like talking to your parish priest, fully confidential.

SARAH SIDDONS: Denise McGowan Tracy will MC the



Brian Stokes Mitchell

Sarah Siddons event this year honoring Broadway star **Brian Stokes Mitchell** as Sarah Siddons Society actor of the year.

AVE ET VALDE: **Julia McGuire Dowdle**, a beloved longtime resident of Wil-

mette, and the last surviving sibling of a generation of notable Irish American grandees, died recently at 97. The widow of **John A. Dowdle**,

she was a pivotal member of an enormous family of generous, well-educated North Shore Catholics whose sheer size of varying generations eclipsed all others around. Six siblings, 11 children, 38 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren. Her father was the famed **Dr. Walter A. McGuire** who, with his brothers, **Mon-**



Tony La Russa

signor P.J. and **Monsignor Henry McGuire**, immigrated to Chicago from County Sligo. The family also gave Chicago its first Catholic mayor, **John P. Hopkins**, back in 1893. Julia was a Sacred Heart girl. A woman of humor and wit. Wry intellect, reason and refined social

grace. But first a deep woman of faith, a pillar of Saints Faith, Hope and Charity, Winnetka. She will be deeply missed.

ILLUSIONS: The Chicago Museum of Illusions, 25 E. Washington, is set to open on Nov. 14, claiming to house 80 astounding and mind-bending exhibits. All COVID-19 precautions are set in place. Holograms and every sort of optical illusion will present itself.

BOOK OF LISMORE: After four centuries, a rare Medieval manuscript has been returned to Ireland following its historic removal long ago by British hands. The 15th-century "Book of Lismore" features the only surviving Irish translation of **Marco Polo's**

WITS see p. 6

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'Little by little, things were falling apart for me'

Help badly needed for adored Streeterville couple



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

When singer/songwriter Laury Shelley met advertising/commercial singing icon Lee Montgomery in 1984 at Universal Recording Studio here in Chicago, she was singing a Kellogg's commercial and Lee, who's not from here, was flown in from Vermont to audition for a Long John Silver's singing commercial.

The 6'-2", "rugged and good looking" Lee was already the singing voice for Miller Beer -- Welcome to Miller Time, and he was becoming the most well-known singer for commercials in the industry, performing some of the most popular jingles on television and radio. He not only appeared on the "Andy Williams Show," and on Broadway (Hair) and in the movie "Nashville," he sang for Chevy Trucks, Budweiser, McDonald's, United Airlines, and more. Lee also co-founded the rock group, Joyous Noise, and co-wrote much of the material on the two albums they recorded for Capitol Records.

Laury was discovered in Chicago at 19 by the Grammy and Oscar winning film composer and songwriter Michel Legrand, who she toured with for five years. Laury has also had her own successful career as a premier vocal soloist both onstage and in clubs and recording studios in Chicago and Los Angeles.

"I peeked my head into the synth room where Lee was hanging out and as they say, the rest is history," recalled Laury, who shortly thereafter married Lee.

Fast forward to 2013, when Lee suffered a major stroke that left him with left frontal lobe damage. Although he recovered and could function fairly normally, he was still somewhat impaired. The worst part is that it ended his successful singing career -- a bitter blow.

Throughout the next several years, Laury cared for Lee while continuing to appear in

major jazz clubs and recording several solo CDs. Lee accompanied her and she would often invite him onstage for a duet, an emotional experience not only for them, but for the audience.

By 2015, Lee's condition had deteriorated. The brain damage was winning and he could no longer get around well. Eventually, he lost his ability to drive and started using a cane and then a walker. He started falling and fell through glass. The situation took its toll on Laury, who was his caregiver.

Laury started getting terrible headaches and developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She was told by a thera-



Laury Shelley and Lee Montgomery singing at the 720 Lounge at the Hilton Chicago in Jan. 2015.



President-elect Joe Biden and Edgewater resident Ron Buzil.

pist that she should no longer do the caregiving alone and to get help. So in Oct. 2019 using her life savings, Laury hired an agency to provide Lee's care seven days a week, eight hours a day, to the tune of \$8,500 a month.

"Things were like little by little falling apart for me and I didn't heed the warning," said Laury. "I was in denial. He wasn't capable any more and it got to the point where I wasn't anymore either."

But then things got worse. Last December, Laury had emergency, life-saving surgery and she also needed someone to take care of her. The expenses of another caregiver and hospital and doctor bills began to pile up, as did the stress. In May, Laury had a second surgery. She has been healing nicely, but will soon face a third surgery needed as a result of the second one.

"It's like I'm sitting here not believing any of this," said Laury. "I can't believe it's both of us at the same time."

The thing is, Laury and Lee's savings are completely depleted. They need financial help to continue Lee's caregiving, as Laury wants to keep her husband in their Streeterville home, rather than put him in a nursing home. So if

you're looking to do any Christmas giving, a Gofundme page called "A Medical Crisis: Lee & Laury Need Your Help," with their full names has been set up. As of Sunday, it had raised more than \$13,200 out of a \$35,000 goal.

"I'm blown away by the donations," said Laury. "But I'm scared of what's to come."

I could feel Laury's heartbreak as we talked. She was sobbing on the phone.

"To help us would be so much appreciated, because I've used all our funds," she cried. "So I'm asking people to help. I now have no choice. I'm on my knees. I need money for now. I never thought in my life I'd be where I am," Laury continued. "I've never, ever asked for help and to be on this side..."

Another way to give is to buy Laury's CD, "Time Is A Healer," which showcases her great talent and features five original songs along with a re-imagined version of Michel Legrand's Oscar winning song, "The Windmills Of Your Mind." It can be bought on Sound Cloud, CD Baby and Apple iTunes. Laury is also working on getting her original songs out there to music supervisors, TV and filmmakers, etc.

Sadly, Laury found out something that I too have experienced. Many people, both friends and family, run when someone gets sick. I had friends who ran away from my husband and I due to our cancers, but I also had some run to me and those are the ones I will truly always cherish. But I was shocked and hurt when some close friends ran and she feels the same way.

"I think people run when somebody has problems," Laury said. "They all love me when I'm out there talking about my CD..."

"It's been a hard road," added Laury. "I'm not coping well through this. So I'm asking people to help if they've ever been in a situation like this with their life turned upside down.

"I'd like to keep standing and survive this," she said.

Over the blue moon... One person thrilled to see President-elect Joe Biden win the election was Edgewater resident Ron Buzil.

Back in 2014, Buzil was at a fundraiser for then Gov. Pat Quinn when he had dinner with the VP Biden, who he was very impressed by. Buzil's daughters, Arielle and Asa, had written short letters calling for gun control and

Buzil handed the letters to Biden, which he gladly accepted with interest and then insisted on calling the kids on his phone, which he did right then and there.

"Except I was so flustered talking to the VP, that I couldn't remember the kids' phone number," Buzil recalled. "I gave him the wrong number two or three times. He handed his phone to me and said, 'Here, you try it.'

"I tried a few more times but without success," Buzil continued. "When I looked up he was gone. I walked around the large space looking for him, all the time wondering at the incongruity of me walking around with the personal cell phone of the vice president of the United States. Finally I spied him and ran over to him, just as he was exclaiming, 'Where's my phone?!'"

Buzil handed the Veep's phone back to him as Biden asked, "Did you get through?"

"No sir," he replied.

"Well, try using your phone if you have speed dial on that," Biden said. "A lot of people don't remember numbers these days."

So Buzil did, and he finally got through to the kids. Biden spoke to them about gun control for two minutes. A couple of weeks later, Asa and Arielle received a handwritten letter on vice-presidential stationery, signed by Joe Biden and thanking them for their gun control concern.

"Biden is a genuine person, warm and caring," said Buzil. "He goes out of his way for people. My take away was the short talk he gave to the dinner guests. He was very pro-America. I felt better about the future of our country after listening to him."

Rough year... In these trying times, those who are looking to go to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, they are now being held virtually. They do not keep attendance, so the anonymity remains in place. People can access it by whatever device they may be us-

APART see p. 6

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Police Beat...

83-year-old woman mugged in Boystown, robbery reports continue to climb

An elderly woman was mugged near Boystown Nov. 4, just a few hours after another senior citizen was robbed at gunpoint inside his Lincoln Park garage. The hold-ups, which are not connected, are part of an on-going robbery surge in the Town Hall 19th Police District.

Around 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, an 83-year-old woman was mugged for her purse as she walked near her home in the 500 block of W. Addison, according to a CPD report. After gaining control of the woman's bag, the offender ran southbound into an alley that runs between Lake Shore Dr. and Pine Grove, witnesses said.

The offender is a White man who's about 6'-tall and 170 to 200 lbs., witnesses reported. He has dark hair, a beard, and wore blue jeans with a light-colored flannel shirt.

A 67-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint inside his own garage on the 1500 block of W. Montana around 8:57 a.m., according to Officer Anthony Spicuzza, a CPD spokesperson.

The offender walked inside the man's garage, pointed a gun at him, and demanded his valuables, Spicuzza said. After getting the victim's keys, cash, and phone, the robber ran from the scene.

The Lincoln Park suspect is reportedly a Black man in his 20's who stands about 5'-6" tall and weighs about 140 lbs. He wore cut-up blue jeans.

Robbery reports in the local Town Hall Police District have been rising sharply in recent weeks.

In the four weeks ending Nov. 1, robbery reports were up 138% compared to the same period last year. Robberies are up 12% year-to-date compared to 2019.

21 cars burglarized in Loop parking garages

A group of thieves burglarized 21 cars in two separate Loop parking garages Nov. 4, Chicago police said. No one is in custody.

Police were called to the garages on the 200 block of W. Washington and the 200 block of N. Wells by a witness who saw the break-ins in progress via video feed.

Three men wearing dark hoodies broke into 14 cars at the Washington location and seven more at the Wells facility, said CPD spokesperson Karie James. The men broke windows on all of the vehicles to gain access to the interiors, she said.

Three teens detained after series of downtown CTA attacks

Police detained three juveniles near the Mag Mile after a series of robberies and batteries were reported on the CTA train system downtown 5:15 a.m. Nov. 3.

Cops in the Central 1st Police District intelligence room gathered images of the suspects from CTA surveillance cameras and distributed photos to patrol officers in the area. Cops assigned to CPD's transit detail detained three juveniles who matched the suspect descriptions at the Chicago-State Red Line CTA station around 9 a.m.

The incidents began when four young men reportedly battered and robbed a man on a south-

bound Blue Line train at the Clinton station, 426 S. Clinton. The offenders managed to slip away before police arrived.

They resurfaced just over an hour later at the Roosevelt station, 1167 S. State. There, witnesses reported seeing four young men attacking a man on the mezzanine level around 6:20 a.m. Once again, the offenders escaped before cops arrived.

Then, around 7:40 a.m., three young men reportedly robbed a CTA customer at the Van Buren Orange Line, 26 W. Van Buren.

Edgewater bank robbed

The FBI is trying to locate the man who robbed an Edgewater bank branch 10 a.m. Nov. 3.

Police responded to a silent teller alarm at Byline Bank, 5342 N. Broadway. Bank workers told investigators that they were robbed by a man who wore a trenchcoat and carried a Dollar Tree shopping bag. He reportedly fled north on Broadway after the heist.

The FBI said the robber is between 40- and 50-years-old and he wore dark sunglasses. Wednesday morning, the federal agency tweeted that information leading to the man's arrest and conviction "could be worth a reward."

Anyone with information about the suspect can contact the FBI's Chicago Field Office at 312-421-6700.

Burglar hits office of Ald. Tunney

A surge in burglary cases in the Town Hall 19th Police District claimed a high-profile victim Nov. 2: local Ald. Tom Tunney [44th].

One of Tunney's staff members notified the Town Hall station of a break-in to the alderman's office at 3223 N. Sheffield around 11 a.m. Beat cops, supervisors, and an evidence technician responded to the scene. A burglar pried open the back door to Tunney's office suite and stole material from inside, including a laptop, according to a CPD report.

Tunney's office did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Burglaries in the Town Hall District were up 200% last week compared to the same week in 2019, according to CPD data. Most of those cases involved residential break-ins, not commercial locations. There were 15 cases last week, compared to five the year before. However, year-to-date burglaries are down seven percent in the district as more people stay home during the COVID pandemic.

In 2019, newly-elected Mayor Lori Lightfoot appointed Tunney to serve as Vice Mayor and tapped Tunney to chair the City Council's Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards.

Last week, protesters armed with "wanted" posters bearing Tunney's picture disrupted brunch service at his flagship Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont, to oppose a plan to declare the Pilsen neighborhood a landmark district. Tunney's Zoning Committee is scheduled to vote on the proposal next month.

Cop pinned by stolen car during traffic stop; 2 arrested, gun recovered

A Chicago police officer is in fair condition after the driver of a stolen car backed into him during a traffic stop in the Viagra Triangle on Nov. 3, according to CPD.

Police tried to stop the vehicle on the corner of State and Maple streets after it came back stolen during a check of its license plate at 4:04 p.m. As officers approached, the driver, Anthony Sheko, 23, of Country Club Hills, put the car into reverse and pinned an officer between the allegedly stolen car and another vehicle, according to Officer Steve Rusanov, a CPD spokesperson.



Dante Givens (inset) and a video grab of the looting at Enrich Market.

Tip to looters, don't wear your GPS-equipped electronic monitoring bracelet

A Chicago man was charged Nov. 4 with plundering three stores during widespread looting on Aug. 10 after police tracked him down by the GPS-enabled electronic monitoring bracelet he was wearing, prosecutors said.

Dante Givens, 32, was required to wear the location-recording device as he awaited trial for a pending forgery case. He continued to wear the ankle monitor as he joined thousands of other Chicagoans who looted stores throughout downtown and Lincoln Park, prosecutors said.

The Cook County Sheriff's Office provided Chicago police with a GPS monitoring report that showed Givens was in the area of looting incidents at Enrich Market, 805 N. LaSalle, as well as a Binny's Beverage Depot and a

7-Eleven convenience store starting around 2:20 a.m. Aug. 10, prosecutors said. CPD released video of the Enrich Market looting two weeks later. In addition to the GPS records, police allegedly found surveillance camera footage that shows Givens breaking into Enrich Market with a garbage can, taking alcohol, and cash. Other video records show him inside the 7-Eleven and stealing from Binny's, prosecutors said.

Givens was charged this week with three counts of burglary and two counts of looting. Judge David Navarro set his bail at \$25,000. But Navarro also ordered Givens held without bail for violating his bail bond in the forgery case.

Sheko is charged with felony aggravated battery of a peace officer and felony unlawful use of an automatic weapon. Officers who searched the car found a loaded handgun with an extended magazine and a switch to convert the weapon to fully-automatic fire.

"I saw a policeman get smashed between two cars," a witness told this reporter. Other cops "ripped someone from the car," he said.

According to police, an ambulance transported the injured officer to Northwestern Memorial Hospital with an injury to his lower leg.

A female passenger was also taken into custody, charged with possession of a controlled substance. Prosecutors said Asia Spann, 29, was carrying 19 Oxycodone pills when police patted her down after the incident.

Judge David Navarro ordered Sheko held in lieu of \$100,000 bail. He'll need to post a \$10,000 deposit bond to get out of jail. Records indicate the allegedly stolen car was also wanted for fleeing and eluding police in southwest suburban Midlothian.

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Anthony Sheko

man to comply, and she surrendered her keys, phone, and other items. The men climbed into her black 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee and sped down the alley, Alfaro said.

About 15 minutes later, a 41-year-old woman was backing out of her garage in the 2600 block of N. Bosworth when a man jumped out of a black Jeep Grand Cherokee and approached her while displaying a handgun.

The woman and her nine-year-old son got out of their car, and the gunman drove away with their black 2017 Audi A7. The Jeep followed the Audi northbound.

An Old Town man was carjacked at gunpoint Nov. 3, police said.

The victim, age 48, was unloading his car in the 1800 block of N. Sedgwick when three men approached him from behind around 11:15 p.m., said Karie James, a CPD spokesperson.

One carjacker demanded the man's keys at gunpoint while another reached into the victim's pocket to take his wallet, James said. The gunman then jumped into the passenger seat of the victim's gray 2011 Audi while the second offender got into the driver's seat. They sped away southbound on Sedgwick, according to James. The third offender followed the stolen car in the crew's white four-door Honda or Toyota, she said.

The victim, who was not injured, gave descriptions of two offenders to police, a Black male wearing a black ski mask with gray track pants had the gun, and a Black male wearing a black ski mask with a gray jacket took his wallet.

Area Three detectives warned residents of Lincoln Park that a carjacking and robbery crew had struck in the neighborhood five times since Oct. 11.

Around 11:15 p.m. on Nov. 1, a 38-year-old woman and a 27-year-old man were sitting in a car on the 400 block of W. Wrightwood when two men emerged from a passing black SUV. One of the offenders tried to rob the man of his bag, police said. The woman sped away before the robbery succeeded, and the offenders fled, said Alfaro.

About 20 minutes later, two men got out of a black SUV and forced a woman from her car in the 600 block of W. Kemper, Alfaro said. The woman gave the men her valuables, and one of the men drove away in her car. She was not injured.

The robbers also struck twice last month, detectives said.

Carjacking reports are up 120% in Chicago this year as of Oct. 24, according to CPD records, with 1,018 cases reported. There were 463 carjackings in the same period last year.

Carjackings in Lincoln Park were up by only two cases as of Oct. 24, from eight cases to ten. That total does not include this week's incidents.

In Lakeview, carjacking reports have increased from four to twelve so far this year. The Near North Side is up from six to 21, and the Loop has risen from five to 12.

Man shot near Chicago Board of Trade

A 25-year-old man was shot on a Loop street corner Nov. 5, police said. No one is in custody. He is the third person to be shot in the Loop since Oct. 11.

According to police, the victim was on the corner of Clark and Van Buren, across the street from the Chicago Board of Trade, when a gunman approached and fired shots around 5:14 p.m.

An ambulance transported the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital with a gunshot wound to his abdomen. He is in good condition, police said. CPD did not release a description of the gunman.

So far this year, sixteen people have been shot in the Loop. That compares to only three shootings in all of 2019.

Carjacking alert, man caught driving hijacked car with gun in waistband

A Chicago man is facing gun and stolen motor vehicle felony charges — but not a carjacking count — after police allegedly found him driving a newly-carjacked vehicle with a gun in his waistband.

Four men hijacked the car at gunpoint in the 3400 block of W. Cullom around 2:50 a.m. Nov. 5, according to Chicago police.

A short time later, cops found the carjacked vehicle traveling in traffic on the 7600 block of S. Damen in Auburn Gresham. Officers pulled the car over and arrested its driver, Treyvon Green, after a short foot chase, CPD said in a statement.

Prosecutors said police found a loaded 9-millimeter handgun in Green's waistband during a pat-down search. He allegedly admitted to possessing the gun.

Prosecutors charged Green, age 18, with felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle. He has no previous arrests, the state said.

Judge David Navarro set bail at \$5,000. Green went home a short time later after posting a \$500 deposit bond.

Chicago police detectives included the Cullom Ave. carjacking on a long list of similar crimes as it warned residents of five CPD districts about a series of vehicular

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Local home sales roared back in 3rd quarter 2020



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Despite the novel virus plague, racial protests, downtown looting and general political unrest, Chicago's North Side housing market not only survived—but thrived—during the pandemic this summer.

“Home sales activity across Chicago's North Side roared back to life during the summer months, easily eclipsing the results posted during the same period in 2019,” said Mary Jo Nathan of the Charese Team at the Compass office in Roscoe Village.

“It was surprisingly clear that COVID-19 was good for residential real estate, even if was bad for the economy and thousands of people who contracted the virus as a whole,” Nathan observed.

Record low mortgage interest rates also played a major role in the market rebound. 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 Nov. 5, benchmark 30-year fixed loans averaged 2.78% nationwide, reported Freddie Mac. A year ago, the 30-year fixed mortgage average was 3.69%. The 2.78% rate is a new record low, the 12th time this year that interest charges hit new lows.

RateSeeker.com reported on November 5th that GateWay Capital Mortgage was quoting 2.756% on a 30-year fixed loan. Mutual of Omaha Mortgage was quoting 2.843% on a similar loan.

According to the Compass quarterly Chicago North Side Market Report, combined sales of detached and attached homes on the North Side rose 10.8% to 2,925 units during the July through September quarter, and the median sales price for a North Side home gained a hefty 12.4% to \$399,000.

For the seven-county Chicago metro area, the comparable results for the quarter were a 23.6% increase in sales activity and a 10.9% rise in the median sales price, the Compass report noted.

The North Side Market Report tracks home sales in nine community areas: Edgewater, Lake View, Lincoln Park, Lincoln

Square, Near North Side, North Center, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Ridge.

“Demand for single-family homes was especially strong during the third quarter, which helps explain why sales were up so sharply in the outlying portions of the metro area where single-family homes dominate the market,” said Nathan.

“Single-family sales on the North Side increased 19% for the quarter, which compares with a 22.4% increase in all of Cook County.

“The attached townhome and condominium market, which ac-

counted for 2,600 sales—nearly 90% of North-Side transactions—delivered solid but more restrained growth, with sales up 9.8% for the quarter.

11.6%, in part because there was strong demand for larger units that come at higher price points, but also because a lack of inventory in some areas has put upward pressure on prices,” Nathan said.

Sales of detached homes registered their sharpest gains in three community areas: Near North, up 300%; Lincoln Square, up 80%, and Uptown, up 77.8%.

Overall, detached sales rose in eight of the nine communities covered by the North Side Market Report, with only North Center seeing a slight decrease though it also had more detached sales than any of the other North Side areas during the quarter.

Sales of attached homes increased in seven of the nine neighborhoods, led by North Center, where sales rose 63%. However, sales in the city's largest attached market, the Near North Side, continued to lag, sliding 16.1% for the quarter.

“High-rise properties are not drawing as many buyers during the pandemic because the units often lack the private outdoor space in demand today, and right now buyers can be hesitant to rely heavily on elevators,” Nathan explained.

Nevertheless, the median sales price of an attached home rose in eight of the nine neighborhoods, topped by increases along the lakefront, with the median rising 23.4% in Edgewater, 14.1% in Lake View and 16.4% in Lincoln Park.

Gazing into the future, Nathan stressed how much the North Side market would benefit from additional inventory. Only Lake View, Lincoln Park and Near North are posting more than a three-month supply of listings.

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.

North Side Median Prices—3Q 2020		
	Median Price	% Change
Edgewater		
Detached	\$760,000	+1.7%
Attached	\$256,000	+23.4%
Lake View		
Detached	\$1,335,000	+8.3%
Attached	\$408,750	+14.1%
Lincoln Park		
Detached	\$1,500,000	-6.2%
Attached	\$532,500	+16.4%
Lincoln Square		
Detached	\$750,000	+3.4%
Attached	\$327,750	+4.9%
Near North		
Detached	\$1,925,000	+79.1%
Attached	\$420,000	+6.3%
North Center		
Detached	\$1,190,000	+9.9%
Attached	\$448,450	+3.4%
Rogers Park		
Detached	\$482,500	-11.6%
Attached	\$171,250	-2.1%
Uptown		
Detached	\$945,000	-0.6%
Attached	\$316,500	+7.3%
West Ridge		
Detached	\$415,000	+20.3%
Attached	\$146,250	+2.6%

Rental Assistance Program deadline approaches

Funding is now available to help North Side residents stay in their homes, as the City has launched a second application period for the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), but the final application deadline is this Sunday.

Those who are struggling or at risk of homelessness may visit chicago.gov/fss/RAP to apply. Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15.

Rental assistance is available to help pay past due or future rent and security deposits in certain

circumstances. The program can pay for up to six months of rent, depending on your specific case. Funding is available for households with income below 50% of the Chicago Area Median Income.

Help filling out the application is available in multiple languages by contacting a Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services Center for assistance. The closest center is at 845 W. Wilson, call 312-744-2580.

Sheriff's Office launches co-responder virtual substance abuse assistance

With the COVID-19 pandemic presenting new challenges, Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart has introduced a virtual substance abuse program through the use of electronic tablets. They hope that having these tablets available for virtual support and follow-up services will aid those battling substance abuse.

Using the tablets, the Sheriff's Treatment Response Team [TRT] hopes to connect clients with TRT clinicians during critical times.

TRT clients will receive assessments, referrals and resources in a “face-to-face” type of setting through the use of the tablet. This program establishes immediate co-responder services while the Sheriff's Office is on the scene of an incident by enabling clinical staff to easily provide support and follow-up service at the time of need.

Tablets will also be used by Sheriff's Police Officers when encountering individuals in need of immediate assistance from a TRT clinician.

This program was made available by the partnership of the Sheriff's Office with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Assoc. of County and City Health Officials. It creates immediate services and implements local-level strategies aligned with promoting treatment and education to people impacted by the addiction and overdose crisis.

Through Dec. 31, funding and technical assistance from these organizations will allow their of-

fice to explore new activities and collaborative approaches to support efforts to combat the opioid crisis in Chicagoland, “Making it now possible for our officers to quickly contact clinicians is a major step in our commitment to helping those dealing with substance abuse,” said Sheriff Dart. “Virtual experiences with telehealth and other benefits provide fast relief to those who need it and support more effective follow-up.”

Cook County has had a notable gap in services for those seeking treatment for overdoses. To address this and a lack of healthcare in certain areas, Sheriff Dart, in early 2019, developed and implemented the TRT. By combining law enforcement resources with assistance from Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Dart's office effectively directs people to harm-reduction and treatment services for those suffering from substance abuse issues.

TRT receives reports on recent overdoses from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Dispatch to identify individuals who may need service. In addition, it identifies others by monitoring drug trafficking areas designated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and their overdose tracking tools. TRT conducts outreach to areas reporting high numbers of overdoses.

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APART from p. 3

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For more information call 312 626 6799 or 346-248-7799 and follow the prompts to enter meeting ID.

POLICE BEAT from p. 4

hijackings that have been reported since Oct. 11.

Police typically release community alerts when they believe an individual or group is responsible for a crime pattern.

In the carjacking alert, detectives said between one and four men have been demanding victims' property and vehicles at gunpoint in the Albany Park, Near North, Town Hall, and Lincoln Police Districts on the North Side. The Bridgeport-based Deering District was also included in the warning.

Detectives linked eleven other carjackings and robberies to the crime spree. Incidents include one in the 600 block of W. Dickens at 7:22 p.m. Oct. 11; in the 2000 block of N. Burling at 7:24 p.m. Oct. 11; in the 2500 block of N. Sheffield at 10 p.m. Oct. 26; in the 400 block of W. Wrightwood at 11:15 p.m. Nov. 1; in the 600 block of We. Kemper at 11:45 p.m. Nov. 1; in the 1800 block of N. Sedgwick at 11:15 p.m. Nov. 3; in the 5400 block of S. Morgan at 1:30 a.m. Nov. 4; in the 4500 block of N. Central Park at 7:04 a.m. Nov. 4; in the 2500 block of N. Southport at 6:05 p.m. Nov. 4; in the 2600 block of N. Bosworth at 6:18 p.m. Nov. 4, and one in the 5000 block of N. Mozart at 5:25 p.m. Nov. 5

Police said the robberies and carjackings are being committed by a small group of Black males who stand 5'-7" to 6' tall and are between 16- and 30-years-old.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding pattern 20-CWP-018.

Teen girl carjacked at gunpoint in Uptown

A 16-year-old girl was carjacked in her family's garage in Uptown Nov. 6, police said. It's the latest in a series of vehicular hijackings that have recently swept across the North Side. Many of the crimes have occurred in alleys and residential garages.

The teen was getting into her car when a man entered the garage and robbed her at gunpoint around 5:15 p.m., according to police. The offender then drove away with her car. Police officers found the vehicle abandoned in an alley behind the 700 block of W. Junior Terrace less than 30 minutes later.

According to the victim, the carjacker was a Black male in his mid- to late teens who stands 5'-10" to 6' tall. He was wearing a tan hoodie.

Friday's carjacking is the latest carjacking robbery to unfold this week around the Town Hall 19th Police District.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com



Mark Kreger at Manny's Deli.



Catherine Johns



Serena Belinda "Lindy" Guinness

WITS from p. 2

travels, among other historical texts. One of the Irish nation's most valuable manuscripts, the Book of Lismore, is now returned and restored after its seizure from Kilbrittain Castle in County Cork in 1640. The Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement and the Duke of Devonshire returned the historic volume in a gesture of civility and historic resolution.

WHO'S WHERE?: Shelley Howard continues to dine al fresco for "Boys night out," in company with **Jim Coston, Fernando Asturrizaga, Larry Wright, Dennis Donn, Ron March** and **Jay Barksdale...** Sad day and not a soul out, Hugo's deserted and empty, "never thought I'd see Hugo's like this," says **Sean Eshaghy** and **Dennis John Healey...** **Julia Jacobs** and **Jennifer Sutton Brievea** lunch at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill seated under **Bette Davis** eyes... **Frances Renk** and **Julia Barrish** so elegant at a Hallowe'en feat...

Karin Schmid making it four masked Karins at Miramar Bistro in Highwood... Chicago radio veteran **Catherine Johns** adding another year with assistance of a glorious concoction of ice cream, chocolate sauce, cake squares and a candle...**Mary Lasky, Sherry Lea Fox** and **Alexandra Sino** lunching at etta River North before **Alexandra** goes to Florida... **Goggins** from near and far assembled in red to toast himself, Chicago attorney **Jack Goggin**, on his birthday... shutterbug **Tom McDonald** and **Meg Steele** checking out the sprawling Victorian "cottages" in Macatawa, MI... **Whitney Reynolds** and **David Heiner** at the Ritz Carlton celebrating anniversary number seven... **Tom Farley** AKA Mr. Manners talking pandemic etiquette on the **Rachel Ray Show...** birthday girl **Lorelei Knutson Beaucaire** with **Leann Knutson Harmon** extinguishing candles on a very elegant cake...**Hector Gustavo Cardenas** and **Marius**

Morkvenas sunning it up in Los Angeles... **Bobbi Panter, Sheree Schimmer Valukas, Sherrill Bodine** and **Sherry Lea Fox** stirring up the cauldron for a cozy Halloween... **John Dombrowski** and **Victoria Dal Santo** celebrating 29 years of married life.

DAT GUY: What North Side block captain, seeing Illinois well under control, took his 40-years of election talents 'over by dare' to get out the vote in Milwaukee? Finally somebody from Illinois who was heartily welcomed to Wisconsin by the locals.

CLOSURE: Sad news. After 32 years Santorini Restaurant at Halsted and Adams streets has closed permanently. Some fabulous fish feasts there over the years. Greektown is now Googletown, this staple will be missed.

DANCE DREAMS: Nostalgic for the modern refinements of painter **Marc Chagall's** costumes designed for the **Igor Stravinsky** ballet "The Firebird," dance togs that electrified the stage and audiences before Bolsheviks and Red Guards strangled the spirit of the great Russian dance age. Chagall's efforts have little competition still today and revive life when the now century old ballet is performed.

SERVICE CLUB: **Tina Weller, Mary Laskey, Mary Claire Scorsone Moll** and **Christine Zielbauer Kinder.** Huge congrats to these beautiful co-chairs who slam-dunked this year's virtual Phantom Ball for the Service Club of Chicago. It was a fabulous pivot for a great cause. And don't miss their next event, a virtual wine tasting tour "through Lombardy and Tuscany" on Nov. 19.

BOOK BEAT: **Stephanie Leese Emrich** reunited with Chef **Gale Gand**, reminiscing of their meeting in 2000 at the James Beard Awards. Her new superlative biography is warm, hilarious and inviting. A big recommend. Maybe even delicious.

EXQUISITE DESIGN: **David Easton**, the classicist Ameri-

can architect and interior designer has died. His passion for Georgian Neoclassical design set him apart from the rabble of the contemporary world during his lifetime. And his leaving this life is nobly fashioned by his love for symmetry, balance and immaculate proportion. But we remember him here as the cherished friend of the late Chicago gadabout, my friend, **Bunky Cushing.** It's no surprise that Bunky was great friends with Easton since they were both fed by the osmosis of Georgian elegance and 18th century design. What a world they envisioned. But I am less comfortable living here on earth now that neither Bunky or David are sharing the planet with us. Long a member of the Parish-Hadley set of American designers, Easton transformed his stretch of America, retiring to a modernist designed home in Tulsa, OK, in his final years. He is survived by his partner **James Steinmeyer.**

HEAL UP: Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Boul Mich's Bondgirl **Diane O'Connell** prepping for some surgery at Northwestern whenever patient load eases up. Prayers and best wishes, dear. Thanks to **Mark Kreger** for supplying the patient with the fabulous beef stew from Manny's Deli. Yum.

CLOCHA SNEACHTA AGUS SLAN: I've always been fixated on the paintings of **Serena Belinda "Lindy" Guinness.** Her subject matter, often images of rural Ireland, done in a loose, Impressioned style, reminds me of my own work. Lindy was a child of wild privilege and studied painting throughout her life. Ten years under the esteemed **Duncan Grant**, a family friend, as well as under the famed **Oscar Kokoschka** and **Sir William Coldstream.** She also attended the prestigious Slade School in London. In 1964 she married one of her Guinness cousins, **Sheridan Blackwood**, from which she received the title Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. Becoming

the Chatelaine of Clandeboye, a great country estate 12 miles from Belfast. She died last week at 79. With no children, Clandeboye, which she helped to restore, becomes an art education center. Her sister-in-law, the late **Lady Caroline Blackwood**, the writer, was a great friend of mine in New York, which gave me extended friendships with a most curious cast of artsy characters. Most importantly, Lindy's work is luxurious and important. Ireland has lost a great painter.

PAX: Tartans around the world lowered to half staff for the great laird, **Sir Sean Connery**, dead at 90. He was hand-picked by **Ian Fleming** to play James Bond. But for many Chicagoans he will always be the tough veteran Irish cop, Jimmy Malone, chasing **Al Capone** across the streets of Chicago in "The Untouchables." Savoring Connery's memorable speech about "the Chicago way," shot inside Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, a showstopper. For Auld Lang Syne.

You can always spot a well-informed man, his views are the same as yours. — **Ilka Chase**

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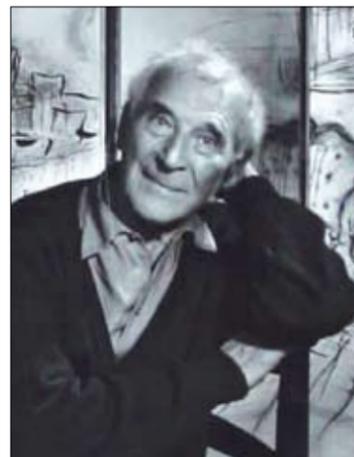
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Chicago artist Dwight White.

Photo by Torque Digital

MURAL from p. 1

on State St. from Lake St. south to Van Buren St. Colors and patterns, choreographed to music, changed with the seasons and special occasions.

“When we installed Lightscape in 2011, we did so with the understanding that its lifespan would be about five years,” said CLA President/CEO Michael Edwards. “We’re glad it was a part of State

St. for nearly twice that length of time, but in our ongoing efforts to promote the Loop as a world-class destination, it is time for a re-imagining.”

The installation’s design team was led by Site Design Group, a Chicago landscape architecture firm.

CLA says it will keep Lightscape’s electrical sources as they consider a replacement.

SWAMP from p. 1

the Pond’s nutrient overload.

Without quick intervention, these factors will kill the Pond, turning it into a tepid swamp and taking away a beloved human greenspace and urban habitat for many native animal species.

The LPC has a nearly \$7.1 mil-

lion plan to dredge and clean up the North Pond. With this budget in place, the restoration project is estimated to begin late Fall 2021 and end Spring 2023.

To learn more about the plan, or register for the meeting, visit lincolnparkconservancy.org/north-pond-restoration/.

BURGLARS from p. 1

Nov. 4, from 3 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; 200 block of W. Washington St. on Nov. 4, at 3:05 a.m.; 200 block of N. Wells St. on Nov., 4, at 3:05 a.m.; 100 block of N. Dearborn St. on Nov. 4, at 12:01 a.m.; 100 block of N. Wells St on Nov. 4, from 1 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.; 200 block of N. Wells St. on Nov. 4, at 8:30 a.m., and the 100 block of W. Lake St.

from Nov. 4-6, 5:40 p.m. - 5 a.m.

Four or five teens wearing dark hoodies broke into 14 cars at the Washington location and seven more at the Wells facility, said CPD spokesperson Karie James. The men broke windows on all of the vehicles to gain access to the interiors, she said.

Police did not release descriptions of the burglars.

Detectives say drivers should

park in well-lit areas and away from larger vehicles that might provide privacy for thieves to break into your car. Weapons should be kept in a gun safe in the trunk, not in plain sight, they said.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 about crime pattern P20-3-201A.

SHOOTOUT from p. 1

rooms, driven by a lack of demand with the loss of tourism, and the convention and meeting business during the COVID-19 outbreak, were blamed for a surge in violence near downtown hotels this summer. Some formerly 5-star hotels are now offering room rates as low as \$60-80 a night.

Two violent cases were reported at Swissotel during June and July:

On June 22, a 30-year-old woman was stabbed repeatedly by another woman during a fight inside the hotel, according to police and CPD dispatch records. The offender left the scene on foot. Witnesses reported seeing a group of about 20 people outside the hotel and more inside the lobby around the time of the incident.

A few weeks later, a 19-year-old man was stabbed in the stomach when an argument turned violent

outside Swissotel early on July 29. Witnesses reported seeing a group of five people walk into the Swissotel after the stabbing. Other participants in the fight went into a nearby parking garage. No arrests have been made.

Swissotel was advertising rooms for as little as \$83 Friday night. Similar rooms drew rates above \$250 one year ago.

This summer’s downtown violence wave started making headlines on July 19 when a man was killed and a woman injured in a double shooting on the Wabash Bridge.

On Sunday, July 26, another man was shot as he sat in a car near Wacker and Columbus drives, less than a block from the Swissotel. Shortly after the shooting, police arrested a man who was allegedly carrying a gun with an extended magazine near the LondonHouse hotel, about three blocks away.

In addition to the violence along

the river, another man was critically wounded in a shooting near the W Chicago Lakeshore hotel in Streeterville Nov. 8.

New parking restrictions targeted to prevent Downtown crime

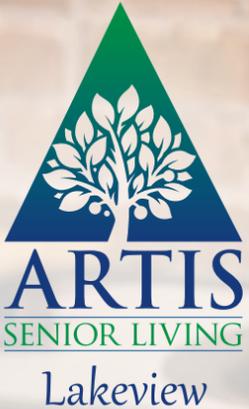
Additional No Parking, No Standing from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. signs have been installed on E. Delaware and E. Chestnut streets between Mies van der Rohe Way and Inner Lake Shore Dr., and along E. Walton between Michigan Ave. and Inner Lake Shore Dr.

It is hoped that this may stem the dramatic increase in quality of life crimes now plaguing the Gold Coast, River North, Streeterville and Near North Side.

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