

I'm thankful for every moment.

— Al Green

SKYLINE

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

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Carjackings soar over 100% on North Side

At least five more attempts Sunday, one Monday

BY CWBCHICAGO

Carjackings are up by over 100% in Chicago this year compared to 2019. That statistic didn't get any prettier Nov. 22 when cops handled at least five vehicular hijackings on the North Side and downtown.

Between 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, at least five drivers reported that carjackers tried to take their vehicles in River North, near Goose Island, West Town, Uptown, and Lincoln Square. The incidents came one day after police said a carjacking crew struck

four times in about an hour Saturday around Wicker Park, Bucktown, and Avondale.

While at 5:14 p.m. Monday, five juveniles beat and threatened to shoot a driver during a carjacking attempt outside a Loop hotel. The victim, a 32-year-old visitor from Las Vegas, was attacked as he sat in his 2020 Dodge Challenger rental car with a passenger outside Hotel Allegro, 171 W. Randolph.

Four juvenile males and a juvenile female opened his front door and one of the offenders pointed a handgun at the driver's chest, police said. They then struck him in the head and chest while demanding his car.

But the victim fought back and refused to give up the vehicle. All five offenders then got into his car and began choking, hitting, and biting the driver, according to police.

When the man's passenger intervened, the group punched him in the face repeatedly. Passersby yelled for police and the offenders ran from the scene. Cops found the group on the 100 block of W. Lake and took them all into custody. Police said the gun appears to be a BB gun or replica firearm.

Sunday's hijackings began around 2 p.m. at the intersection

CARJACKINGS see p. 8

PharmaCann may soon have pot shop in River North

If at first you don't succeed...

PharmaCann is one step closer to finally realizing their marijuana dispensary expansion plans, and moving forward on a location Downtown.

On Nov. 20 the Zoning Board of Appeals approved permits for two new weed dispensaries, one in Greektown and another for PharmaCann, at 60 W. Superior St. in River North.

PharmaCann had previously withdrawn an application to open at 444 N. LaSalle St. In August, PharmaCann was also denied an opportunity to open a facility near State and Maple streets in the Gold Coast after getting push back from nearby neighbors.

With a special-use permit in hand, PharmaCann hopes to earn a state license and join Cresco Labs, 436 N. Clark St. and MOCA Modern Cannabis, 214 W. Ohio St., Downtown to serve their

weed needs.

The dispensary would reportedly be open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on an appointment-only basis.

Ald. Brian Hopkins (2nd) did not object to the Superior St. plans, while the River North Residents Association endorsed the dispensary after PharmaCann agreed to add more exterior lighting and enlist a private neighborhood security patrol.

City institutes fee caps on home-delivered restaurant-purchased meals

Just as we've all come to depend on home delivery of restaurant-purchased meals Chicago's City Council on Monday approved a 15% fee cap for what delivery companies like Uber Eats, Grubhub and DoorDash, can charge restaurants.

The City Council vote to adopt the fee limits was unanimous, and Ald. Scott Waguespack [32nd] was the chief sponsor of the ordinance. He said the measure was the result of several weeks of negotiations with Mayor Lori Lightfoot's office. Ald. Waguespack originally proposed a more stringent 5% cap on delivery service fees in April.

Chicago's new fee limit goes into effect immediately. Previously restaurants had to surrender a 30-40% fee off the retail price of their offerings. While the new fee limits are supposed to be temporary, some restaurant owners have told City Hall that they would like to see it become permanent.

Third parties who violate the ordinance by charging more than 15% could be fined between \$1,000 to \$3,000 daily. The move is seen as vital for restaurants struggling right now to stay in business, especially as winter inches closer and more Chicagoans order delivery.

In City Hall Monday, Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] accused some of the local third party delivery services of price gouging and said that the COVID-19 lockdown exposed their unethical behavior. "It's my hope this will provide much-needed relief for restaurants that in some ways have been taken advantage of."

Consumers have come to endorse the convenience of online ordering, while the local restaurant industry feels the current market conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic have forced them to use costly third party delivery systems.

While home-delivery will nev-

er replace those profits lost due to the economic lockdown and prohibition on dining inside a restaurant, with winter approaching, delivery may now be the primary source of income for the struggling local restaurant industry.

Sam Toia, the Illinois Restaurant Association president, applauded City Hall for backing the caps on delivery service fee, stressing how difficult it is for small businesses to make a profit off of orders through companies like Grubhub and Uber Eats.

According to Chicago Eater, restaurants' frustrations mounted Nov. 21 when DoorDash experienced global technical difficulties that cancelled orders without notifying restaurants. Parachute owner Beverly Kim wondered if the outage cost her hundreds of dollars on a busy weekend night. The outage also affected Tock, the Chicago-based company co-

FEE CAPS see p. 8



With water now leaking into the Chicago History Museum's basement, work on the building's plaza could start in the spring of 2021 and be completed by Oct. 2021.

History Museum leaking New \$10M plaza project to safeguard collections

The Chicago History Museum [CHM] has announced plans to construct a new \$10 million outdoor plaza patio off of the east side of their building at Clark St. and North Ave., in part to stem water leaking into the building's basement.

The current plaza was constructed over 30 years ago but like many Midwestern properties, weather and age have weakened the plaza, allowing water to find its way inside the building.

Work could start in the spring of 2021 and if all goes well, would be completed by Oct. 2021.

The effort is also tied to trying

to keep water out of the museum's basement archival storage facility.

CHM staffers presented the plans for the beautification project during a virtual town hall meeting on Nov. 19.

Staff says that they have already begun relocating their archives and collections out of the basement ahead of construction.

If approved by the Chicago Park District, the project would weather-proof the half-moon-shaped plaza behind the museum, which sits directly above its archival collection in the basement, and

LEAKING see p. 8



Exterior of the Kungsholm, 100 E. Ontario St., July 15, 1954.

Photos courtesy Chicago History Museum; J. Johnson Jr., photographer

Home of prime rib was once home to Smörgåsbord and a show

Now that Lawry's The Prime Rib will be closing at the end of next month, one can only wonder who the next tenant of the former McCormick Mansion will be and if they will make a name there.

Lawry's The Prime Rib, 100 E. Ontario St., after 46 years will have its last day of service on Dec. 31. The coronavirus, an expiring lease and the riots and looting over the summer all contributed to their decision to close.

Which means now is perhaps a good time to revisit another establishment that has left a legacy at the corner of Rush and Ontario streets.

L. Hamilton McCormick (nephew of Cyrus McCormick, business leader and patent holder of the mechanical reaper) and his wife, Constance Plummer McCormick from Canterbury, England,

PRIME RIB see p. 8

Reimagine favorite feast



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Thanksgiving. It's the American Fairy tale. Not made up. Not untrue. Not an embellished fiction. But an experience whose images are so reshaped by the imagination of the heart they almost seem unreal. But on the shores of Cape Cod, proto-Americans demonstrated a great sense of human sacrifice and an unrelenting love. In that they reimagined life.

After a brutal first settlement year of hunger, fear and death, a surprising harvest of wild proportions dropped abundance and plenty on the fanatical colonists. Just when things were at their worst, they stood at their best. So with unusual social ease, the Puritans in the big black hats made room at their table for neighbors far and wide. Feathers and all. Their dining table became an historic artifact of human note. Like Plymouth Rock, itself. Much like the proscenium stage which holds theatrics. Around the corners of these tables, exiled Bible thumpers demonstrated what is most tender, and deeply human about us. It would have been hard to do in the Stuart England of James I back then.

That first American autumn, the colonists were the residue. The survivors. Men lucky to be alive. Surviving rigors and infection by which many of their women perished. A successful harvest sparkled like a divine apparition. Shining the light of celebration on the Autumn of 1621. Adventurers. English protestant dissenters. A

hard bunch of born-again fundamentalists. And strict observers who could suck the life out of any party. They never even celebrated Christmas. They were far from the humanist and artistic Baroque ideals of others. Roman Catholics and high German Protestants whose artistic achievement in Europe was helping to reinvent serious thought and produce the works of Bach, Handel, Telemann and Vivaldi. The 17th century human mind was challenged by new swashbuckling adventures of learning, political thought, fresh religious meaning and closer examination of human purpose. It widened the experience of the divine for many.

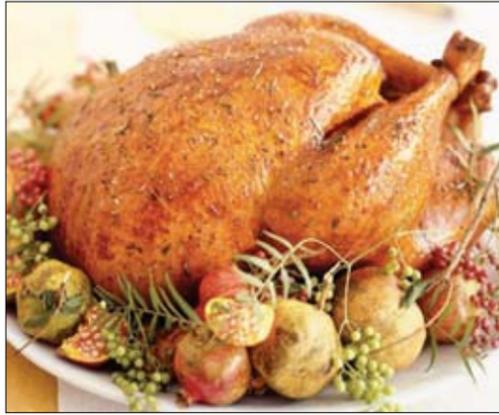
The great questions of life and faith sought to lift the veils of mystery on what it meant to be human. All

the while expanding deeper explanations of human value and unlimited goals of human achievement. By the 17th century science and learning were helping humans to reach beyond the limits of the past. The puritans had little use for science or sophisticated learning. But their rejection of the spirit of their age shown was demonstrated in their flight. Their need to reject the confines of old Europe was just such an expression. Traveling across an ocean tested the abilities of people anxious for freedom and the ability to practice their faith in the undiscovered confines of a world never seen before. Hardship and privation nestled beside limitless opportunities to redefine meaning and purpose.

It was essential that the great enterprise of the settlement of the New World have its roots in the human experience of isolated rediscovery. It was geographical in the wilderness of the American continent. Layers of settlement. Layers of enterprise. The achievement of people of faith and hard work. And experience that also gave fertile soil to the later American dream of independent nationhood at the close of the 18th century.

But all this was in its infancy in that Autumn harvest of 1621 on Cape Cod. The Thanksgiving Feast identifies the disposition of the human soul before the might and love of God. An essential pos-

ture for men and women who are searchers. And make no mistake about it, this land was a searcher's land. It took long decades to sufficiently nourish the adventurers who settled the soil of the American wilderness. A process still underway. Even now, in the midst of pandemic. Separated from family



Put leftovers to good use by making a turkey tetrazzini, or make two and put one in the freezer.

and friends. Restricted in the motion and movement of ordinary life. Thanksgiving isn't just one dinner of familiar family favorites. With Grandma's stuffing. Or maybe a recipe carried from a home far away. Or a roasted bird of promise stuffed to its drumsticks with generations of family devotion. The wonder of the feast is that perhaps there's a pumpkin pie whose origins have their first taste in a long ago America in which young immigrants came to cherish the spicy sweetness of the big orange squash.

2020 is an important year for Thanksgiving because millions of Americans will have to reimagine the nation's favorite feast. Next year might be the four hundredth anniversary of the great sharing meal. But on the 399th anniversary we are asked to reinvent the observance to protect the larger public and the members of our families with already compromised immune systems.

So this year I hope you will have the chance to be creative. In the kitchen and on your street.

If you usually are a guest, traveling to the home of a larger family celebration, I hope you have the wits to redesign a special meal for your smaller number of tablemates. Maybe you can cook up some favorite vittles. And have the chance to add something of your own to it. Fresh rosemary. Or thyme you grew yourself. Some hot spiced wine or a savory dish

of vegetables encrusted in cheese. Do some reading, find a vintage recipe. Discover a treasured food. I'm sorting out a corn soufflé to enrich my wild turkey.

Maybe your numbers are drastically reduced. Fear not. A smallish turkey will do the trick. Maybe you don't need a massive array of food. Just stuffing, mashed potatoes, roasted sweet potatoes. Some creamed spinach with nutmeg. And homemade cranberries. Use some orange zest. And good robust port. And remember a toss of brandy or cognac into any recipe will make it sing.

Make sure you have a cocktail or two, yourself. And get a good bottle of wine. Make your table festive. Pandemic can't keep you from being extravagant in your table setting. Lots of botanicals is always the perfect addition.

Most importantly. Are there any folk on your block who are hunkered down at home? Alone? Maybe sending them a dinner from your table will make this their best Thanksgiving ever. You don't have to feed the world, just a neighbor. Or two. Don't forget to send dessert.

It doesn't take much to make people feel welcomed. Your hospitality is your greatest weapon during the pandemic. It can lift hearts and souls. Just like the embrace of friendship on that first Thanksgiving of 1621 along the shores of windswept Cape Cod.

NO MUSEUMS: Due to the order of **Gov. Pritzker**, all museums are now closed, including the Art Institute. What good is having money if you can't spend it on museum tickets?



Paul Hornung

NOTRE DAME OUR MOTHER: Generations of Packers (Green Bay) and Domers (Notre Dame) wept at the passing of the "Golden Boy," football hero **Paul Hornung**, at 84.

The gentleman superstar brought honor and thrills to the gridiron of both the Univ. of Notre Dame and the snowy seasons of Green Bay. His football evolved in an era of refined behavior and high sportsmanship. His 1956 Heisman Trophy confirmed his Renaissance capacity for gilded play. He sadly died at his home in Louisville, KY, after long years of distress

and illness with dementia.

CLOSURE: Morton's Steakhouse, on State St., in Newberry Plaza, a Chicago staple 1978-2020, the original one, now permanently, pandemically closed. Sad.

HOT PANTS: Is former Chicago Police Supt. **Eddie Johnson** at it again? CPD were, allegedly, once again, called to his home in the wee hours where they discovered him in his bedroom burning his lady-friend's underwear on his bed. After extinguishing the flames, it was explained that this was a traditional way of demonstrating that a man was totally finished with the female in the relationship, as well as accusing the female of being untrustworthy in the relationship. Further details of the event are guarded by CPD top brass.

AVE ET VALDE: **Richard Mesirov** died last week at 83. A much beloved man of Chicago finance. At the family firm bearing their name, long an important part of Chicago commerce, the Northwestern alum enjoyed putting heart and human values to work in the cherished family business, and led it in the footsteps of his wise father. He incorporated reason and high intelligence in all he did, expecting his employees to do so too. He was devoted to his family and deeply trusted by his clients and employees. Rest in peace.

CBS INTERVIEW: Bravo to **Jeffery Emrich** on the splendid interview with CBS newsy **Jim Williams**, one of the very best, focusing on his service as a naval veteran and his efforts at giving

REIMAGINE see p. 6

Ronald Roenigk	Publisher & Editor
Katie Fritz	Copy Editor
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Kathleen Guy	Account Executive
Mike Slachetka	Account Executive

INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications

6221 N. Clark St., rear
Chicago, IL 60660
Tel: (773) 465-9700
Fax: (773) 465-9800

E: insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com



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Takin' it to the streets, Santa-style



Joseph Krush and his teacher, Diana Chavira Nogle, pack up some of his donated items for distribution to the local homeless.

HS senior distributes warm blankets to homeless



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

When Joseph Krush was looking for a service learning project in order to graduate from Pathways in Education, an alternative high school at 3100 W. Belmont Ave., he didn't need to look far. Near to there was a homeless encampment, and Krush decided his help was needed in his school's own back yard.

He came up with a great idea -- a blanket drive. It occurred to him one day while walking home from work. It was then that he spotted a young man handing out burgers and fries for a school assignment. But in order to get the food, the person had to take a picture with him.

"Before he approached me with that, I remember looking up what community service means -- engaging with your community and giving back," recalled Krush. "After I saw this guy, for some reason it just sparked me. If I give back to my community, I'm engaging with that."

Krush thought the other guy's idea was "wonderful." He quickly decided that for his graduation activity he distribute blankets, masks, water bottles, etc.

"This can be my project now that it's getting colder," he thought. "There's all these things that people need. It really would be nice to do."

So Krush started collecting blankets with the goal of filling up his car. He sought donations on social media. He received lots of assistance at his job at a fruit market. His teachers also brought in blankets and when he had about 80 or more, Krush decided to extend his giving. He added much-needed and valued supplies such as water, Powerade, nutrient bars and graham crackers to his list.

Last week, Krush went to the homeless tent city and like Santa, he dropped off his thoughtful gifts. (We know one person who will definitely be making the Nice List this year!)

"They said they really appreciate it and God bless me," Krush said of the distribution. "It went

smooth and well."

The service learning project was Krush's final graduation requirement, said his teacher, Diana Chavira Nogle.

"While students are being asked to volunteer virtually due to the pandemic, Joseph decided that he wanted to help out the homeless encampment right by our school," said Chavira Nogle. "Students walk by these homeless individuals every day and they're absolutely wonderful people, they just need a little help."

"Joseph recognized that and reached out to me and asked if he could use social media to gather blankets from the community," added Chavira Nogle, who lives in Rogers Park. "I told him it was an excellent idea. His project is truly amazing. We couldn't be more proud of him. He is awesome."

But wait, this inspiring story doesn't end just yet. I'm going to back up a little, because there's more you should know about Joseph. He's graduating after facing some not-so-little challenges.

He will be 21-years-old on Dec. 18 and graduation is something he was not sure he'd experience. A few years ago, Krush was in his senior year when he dropped out of high school after facing some hardships. His grandma died, he had a falling out in a relationship,

his car broke down, and, he lost his job. He also hadn't grown up in the best environment, having a mom with drug and alcohol issues.

"I remember thinking, 'What am I gonna do with my life?'" Krush recalled. "I had no future ahead of me, all my friends had graduated, and I had nothing to show for it."

So he moved to Baltimore and worked for a pest control company making good money. It was shortly thereafter that Krush decided to go back to school.

"I met people who finally accepted me for who I am," said Krush. "I'm gonna go back to school. I want something to show for myself."

"My parents had no expectations, I'm gonna do this for myself," he said. "I know I can make it happen. And that's what I did."

He came home and got into Pathways, which is an alternative school for students who work full time. While completing his senior year, Krush worked more than 40 hours per week. Yet in the midst of that, after about a year of experiencing some troubling physical symptoms -- including blood in his urine -- Krush was diagnosed with bladder cancer. In September, he had surgery at Swedish Covenant Hospital for a low grade, malignant tumor.

He said it "feels good," to be able to not only graduate, but to have a bright future for himself. (We have no doubt of that and wish him the best of luck!)

"I feel like I faced a lot of challenges needed to get through with the cancer, it made me rethink my life," said Krush. "It feels good knowing I'll be OK. It feels good knowing I'll have a future ahead of me."

"I really am lucky," he added. "I feel blessed and I have purpose in my life. I don't know what it is yet -- I'm trying to better myself and look forward to a brighter future."

Art with a message... anyone walking by the southwest cor-



Artists CJ Williams and Kristi Jacques.

ner of Greenleaf and Clark can't help but notice the colorful new mural painted on the Honeybear Café building at 7036 N. Clark St. Titled Color Through Chaos, it was created by Chicago artists CJ Williams and Kristianna Jacques.

The mural is part of the non-profit Rogers Park Business Alliance's (RPBA) Vision Clark Street Master Plan. It's a sign of the times, say its creators.

"The mural speaks to the current state we are living in, in regard to racial injustice and the world's uncertainty around COVID-19," said artists Williams and Jacques. "We wanted to do a piece that portrayed working together through this difficult time to create something beautiful and uplifting. We wanted to give the people of Rogers Park and Chicago something to gaze upon in hopes of bringing more peace, positivity and inspiration. Color Through Chaos serves as a reminder to not give up hope, and that there is an amazing amount of resiliency within community."

Lion around... those two hard-hatted women politicians of ours, Sen. Sara Feigenholtz and Ald. Michele Smith [43rd], were re-

cently spotted as they toured the Lincoln Park Zoo's iconic Lion House renovation with U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley.

"The blend of old and new, an interactive redesign that will put visitors this close to the lions," said Sen. Feigenholtz. "Nice kitty."



Senator Sara Feigenholtz and 43rd Ward Ald. Michele Smith recently checked out the Lincoln Park Zoo's Lion House renovation.

...Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving. And a special shout out to all the front line health care workers who are out there putting their own lives on the line while taking care of sick patients. They truly are angels on Earth.

Here's wishing everyone a wonderful kickoff to the holiday season, which I hope will be filled with peace and goodwill for us all.

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Police Beat...

Armed robberies near Mag Mile tied to Lincoln Park hold-up

Three recent armed robberies near the Magnificent Mile and in Lincoln Park were probably committed by the same group of offenders, according to a Chicago police bulletin. Shots were fired during one of the robberies.

The hold-ups all took place on busy streets during afternoon hours. Police said the offenders used a silver Ford Explorer to getaway after two of the crimes.

On Nov. 9, a 29-year-old man was walking in the 700 block of N. Rush when someone tried to take his shopping bag around 2:15 p.m., police said. The offender displayed a handgun and then fired three shots toward the victim, who fell to the ground. He was not seriously injured. Police said the victim declined medical attention.

The robber fled from the scene eastbound in a silver Ford Explorer with the man's property. Police believe the Explorer had been recently stolen from a car dealership.

Then on Nov. 12, a 31-year-old man was walking just east of Chicago and State streets when a small gray or silver SUV stopped in front of him around 12:20 p.m., said CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli. Two of the vehicle's occupants got out, displayed a gun, and took the man's valuables, Bartoli said. They then got back into the SUV and fled westbound on Chicago Ave. The victim was not injured.

The next day, a group of three people was robbed at gunpoint by three offenders in Lincoln Park, police said. The victims — a pair of 22-year-old men and a 23-year-old woman — were on a sidewalk in the 2200 block of N. Halsted when the robbers walked up and displayed a handgun around 10:39 p.m., according to CPD spokesperson Officer Michael Carroll.

The suspects are two to three Black males who stand 5'-8" to 6' tall, weigh 160 to 200 lbs, and are between 25- and 40-years-old, police said in a community alert.

Anyone with information about the crimes can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding case P20-3-209.

Another man charged with recent robberies in Lakeview, North Center

A Chicago man was charged Nov. 19 with committing two robberies on the North Side in October — one in Lakeview and the other in North Center.

Prosecutors said Denard Ross, 20, robbed a woman by himself on Oct. 13 and was one of three men who tried to rob a Wrigleyville resident six days later.

In the first case, a 26-year-old woman told police she slowed down to let a man pass her as she

walked in the 1900 block of W. Patterson around 1 p.m. After the man passed, he turned around, removed his COVID mask, and told her it was a robbery and not to scream or he'd shoot her, according to prosecutors.

When he held his hand in his pocket and told her to hand over her bag, the woman told the man that it only contained \$75. But the robber, identified by prosecutors as Ross, told her that someone would shoot him if he came back from the robbery empty-handed.

The woman handed over her cash, and Ross fled, prosecutors said.

Six days later, Ross was one of three men who got out of a car and pushed



Denard Ross

a 40-year-old man to the ground on the 1100 block of W. Grace, according to the allegations. Ross tried to take the man's earbuds and attempted to remove things from the victim's pockets, but the victim fought back and all three men returned to the car without any proceeds, prosecutors said.

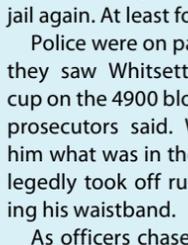
The second robbery was recorded by a CPD surveillance camera.

Earlier this month prosecutors charged 20-year-old Davon McCoy with taking part in the Wrigleyville robbery with Ross. Investigators began looking at Ross as a suspect because he happened to be riding in McCoy's car when cops arrested McCoy for the robbery case, prosecutors said. Both victims allegedly identified Ross in photo line-ups.

Ross is charged with felony counts of robbery and attempted robbery. Judge Arthur Willis ordered him held in lieu of \$100,000 bail and said Ross must go on electronic monitoring if he can post a 10% deposit bond.

Convicted carjacker, on parole for gun crime, busted with another gun in Uptown

Back in 2005, Joseph Whitsett received a 25-year sentence for carjacking. Still, he managed to be out of prison by 2018 when he was convicted of illegal gun possession. He got six years for that. Yet, he was out of prison again this week when cops say they saw him ditch a loaded and defaced handgun in Uptown. He's in jail again. At least for a little while.



Joseph Whitsett

Police were on patrol Nov. 17 when they saw Whitsett drinking from a cup on the 4900 block of W. Kenmore, prosecutors said. When they asked him what was in the cup, Whitsett allegedly took off running while holding his waistband.

As officers chased the 37-year-old, they allegedly saw him pull an object from his waistband and toss it on the ground. After cops caught up with him, they retraced their steps and found a loaded handgun with a defaced serial number where Whitsett dropped the object, prosecutors said.

He's now charged with armed

habitual criminal and two counts of unlawful use of a weapon by a felon. Judge Arthur Willis set bail at \$100,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring if he can post a \$10,000 deposit bond.

Ironically, Whitsett was charged with armed habitual criminal in the 2018 gun case, but prosecutors agreed to drop that more serious count in a plea deal, according to court records. He was released early from prison on July 13.

In addition to that case and his 25-year sentence for carjacking 15 years ago, Whitsett also went to prison for narcotics in 2003 and 1999. In 2001, he went to prison for aggravated battery.

Whitsett seemed unconcerned when Judge Willis told him the Illinois Dept. of Corrections asked to have him held without bail while they consider revoking his parole. "Alright," Whitsett said. "I got two more months left dealing with IDOC and that's over."

"Good luck," Willis replied.

Sexual assault allegations end with probation

A man who was accused of sexual assault attacks has reached a plea deal with prosecutors, according to court records.

The man was accused of robbing and trying to sexually assault a woman aboard the CTA Red Line in Rogers Park. His sentences? Probation.

Chicago police in January released CTA surveillance images of a man



Antoine Jackson

who allegedly beat a 24-year-old woman and then tried to force her to perform a sex act as they rode the Red Line train near Morse early this year.

Three weeks later, prosecutors charged Antoine Jackson with felony counts of robbery, attempted criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual abuse, and aggravated battery.

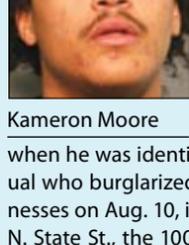
Prosecutors said in January that the victim moved to a different train car when Jackson exposed himself to her, but he followed the woman, struck her several times, touched her inappropriately, and then tried to force her to perform a sex act.

Now, Jackson has struck a generous deal with those same prosecutors. Under the agreement, Jackson, 27, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery in exchange for a sentence of 24 months of mental health probation. Prosecutors dropped 18 other felony charges in the deal. Judge Neera Walsh oversaw the case.

By comparison, in 2016, Jackson received a three-year prison sentence for pointing a fake handgun at a man's head on the Red Line near Addison.

Uptown man charged with looting, burglary

Kameron Moore, 19, of the 4800 Block of N. Kenmore, was charged on Nov. 20 with four felony counts of burglary and looting by an individual.



Kameron Moore

Moore was arrested 10:40 a.m. Nov. 19 in the 2400 Block of W. Belmont when he was identified as an individual who burglarized and looted businesses on Aug. 10, in the 100 block of N. State St., the 100 block of N. Wells and 200 block of E. Ohio. He was taken into custody without incident and charged accordingly. No further information is available at this time.

Roommates robbed while trying to sell sizzling hot gaming system

Two men who tried to sell a PlayStation 5 via social media ended up being robbed of the red hot new gaming device instead, according to a Chicago police report.

Stores can't keep the latest model in stock and online demand is causing websites to crash.

So, the robbery victims, roommates who are 22- and 23-years-old, had no trouble finding an interested party when they advertised a PS5 online over the weekend. They agreed to meet with two prospective buyers shortly before 8 p.m. Nov. 14 on the 4100 block of N. Damen in North Center.

During some last-minute in-person negotiation, one of the buyers grabbed the victims' new PS5 and ran away southbound, according to CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli and a police report. The co-offender then threatened the victims with a boxcutter and fled, Bartoli said.

Neither roommate was injured. Police did not release descriptions of the robbers.

Cops frequently handle rip-offs and robberies of people who advertise valuable items for sale online, and cases seem to surge whenever a hot new product goes on the market. Sellers are at risk of losing valuable merchandise. And buyers have been robbed of cash that they carried to make purchases.

In 2017 Town Hall Police District allowed people to conduct online transactions in the station's lobby at 850 W. Addison after a series of robberies involving Craigslist and social media listings. Although the program prohibited the sale of "firearms, illegal, or unwieldy items" such as "sofas and pianos" inside the station.

CPD has consistently advised parties who meet in-person to conduct online sales to use busy public spaces like stores, libraries, and other high-traffic areas.

Two more armed robberies as hold-ups surge in Lakeview

Police are investigating an armed robbery and an attempted armed robbery that occurred just a few minutes apart in Lincoln Park and nearby Lakeview on Nov. 19. No arrests have been made.

First, a 33-year-old man told police that he was approached by two men who displayed a handgun as he walked in the 1000 block of W. Altgeld around 9:12 p.m., said CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli. The offenders tried to grab the man when he began running away, Bartoli said. But, the victim managed to escape, and the offenders fled the scene.

Private surveillance video showed the men get out of a black four-door SUV before the hold-up. The gunman was a younger Black male who wore a black hoodie.

According to preliminary information, less than ten minutes later, two men robbed a victim at gunpoint near Sheffield and Wellington in Lakeview. Bartoli said the police report for the incident was not yet complete.

However, officers at the scene said two men fled westbound on Wellington after robbing the victim around 9:20 p.m.

Both incidents took place in the Town Hall Police District, which has experienced a sharp rise in robberies since early October.

Over the four-week period ending Nov. 15, robberies were up 147% year-over-year in the Town Hall 19th Police District, with 37 cases reported compared to 15 during the same time last year. So far in 2020, robberies are up 17% in the district. Nonetheless, full-year robbery cases are off sharply from record-high levels seen in 2012 and 2013.

Covert cops snare Old Town's one-teen crime wave following citizen tip

They got him.

Five days into his one-man crime wave, the robbery and suspected burglary offender who's been raising havoc in Old Town met his match. And, it turns out, he's a juvenile.

Undercover cops arrested the teen around 5 p.m. Nov. 21 near Willow and Orchard streets — the same intersection where he's been causing problems all week. Prosecutors have charged the juvenile with two felony counts of robbery, said Chicago police.

Officers responded to the area around 3 p.m. Saturday after someone reported that the wanted offender was standing outside Newberry Math and Science Academy. An 18th District police tactical unit staked out the area and subsequently arrested the teen.

Investigators suspect he is responsible for stealing money from Willow Cleaners, 703 W. Willow, on Monday; Robbing the same business at knife-point Tuesday afternoon; burglarizing a woman's home in the 800 block of W. Armitage; robbing a woman at knife-point near Willow and Orchard on Thursday evening, and trying to rob a woman at Willow and Orchard on Friday afternoon.

Witnesses called police before the Thursday and Friday incidents after seeing the offender in the area, but he committed crimes and fled before police arrived both times.

No one was injured during the incidents, although the robber did push a 77-year-old dry cleaner employee during Tuesday's hold-up.

Man found fatally stabbed in Loop hotel

Detectives are conducting a death investigation after a man was found fatally stabbed in a Loop hotel's office area Nov. 21, police said. The man's wounds may have been self-inflicted, according to preliminary information from CPD.

The Cook County medical examiner's office identified the man as Samuel Ketchum, 37. A ruling on the cause and manner of death is pending.

Police and fire personnel responded to the Virgin Hotel, 203 N. Wabash, around 2:23 a.m. after someone discovered the man's body in a lower level office area. Cops found the man with stab wounds to his chest, according to CPD. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators have not yet determined the man's name or age. They found his possessions and possible narcotics in a lower level stairwell.

Robberies on Near North Side

Police are warning residents of the Near North Side about a series of reported armed robberies. In each incident, the offenders approached the victim(s), displayed a handgun and demanded their property.

The offenders then took the victim's property before fleeing on foot. During two reported incidents, the offenders fled the scene in a silver Ford Explorer SUV. Incidents include one on the 700 block of N. Rush St., Monday, Nov. 9, in the afternoon, another on the 0-100 block of E. Chicago Ave., Thursday, Nov. 12, in the afternoon, and a third on the 2200 block of N. Halsted St., Saturday, Nov. 14, in the evening.

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Lakeview Township property tax appeals now underway

The Cook County Board of Review is open for property valuation appeals for Lakeview Township (bounded by Fullerton north to to Devon Ave. and from the lakefront to the Chicago River and/or Western Ave.) through Dec. 15.

When the Cook County Assessor's Office reassesses a property (typically once every three years), its duty is to produce a Fair Market Value -- what the property could fairly sell for, between a willing buyer and a willing seller. Appeals are a process by which

a property owner can contest their property valuation.

For a copy of the Lakeview Township assessment list that was released last week, contact this newspaper at 773-465-9700 or by writing to insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com.

Most commonly, property owners challenge the accuracy of the fair market valuation the office assigned their property due to uniformity or overvaluation. Property owners can also file an appeal based on incorrect information about your property.

Appeals may only be filed during certain periods. Appeals can be filed online or at the Assessor's Office in the Cook County Building offices. You do not need to hire an attorney to file an appeal and filing is free. If your appeal is filed by an authorized representative, an Attorney/Representative Authorization Form must be completed and filed along with the appeal. Note that your appeal must be filed within your township deadline. For more information call the Assessor's Office at 312-443-7550.



Despite the Covid pandemic, riots and looting, Chicago's rebounding downtown and North Side residential market mirrors the nation, reports broker-analyst John Irwin of Baird & Warner.

Holiday's real cheer: Mortgage rates fall to new low



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Pandemic-weary Americans are huddling around hearth and home for the holidays, trying desperately to muster some Christmas cheer.

Although traditional large Thanksgiving gatherings likely will be greatly diminished, America refuses to be Scrooged.

Residential holiday décor sales are up 15% to 20%, compared to last year. And, hundreds of thousands of people are listening to Christmas music in late November.

While COVID-19 virus cases and deaths are soaring to new heights, benchmark home-loan interest rates ironically have plummeted to 2.72%, the lowest level since 1971 and the 13th new record-low posted in 2020.

Meanwhile, sales of existing homes nationwide rose for the fifth month in a row in October, reaching a level not seen for 14 years. The annualized rate of home sales has reached 6.85 million units, up 26.6% from a year ago, and the median price rose 15.5% to \$313,000.

"Weaker consumer-spending data, which accounts for the majority of economic growth, drove mortgage rates to a new record low," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "While economic growth remains unstable, strong housing demand continues to have a domino effect on many other segments of the economy."

On Nov. 19, lenders nationwide were charging an average of 2.72% on benchmark 30-year fixed rate mortgages, down from 2.84% a week earlier, reported the Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-loan average was 3.66%.

In Chicago, Gateway Capital Mortgage was quoting 2.756% on a 30-year fixed loan, while Mutual of Omaha Mortgage was asking 2.923%, according to RateSeeker.com.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.28%, down

from 2.34% a week earlier. A year ago, 15-year loans averaged 3.15%. The survey is focused on conventional, conforming, fully-amortizing home purchase loans for borrowers who put 20% down and have excellent credit.

Chicago's rebounding downtown and North Side residential market mirrors the nation, reports broker-analyst John Irwin of Baird & Warner.

Chicago's rebounding downtown and North Side residential market mirrors the nation, reports John Irwin.

"After the COVID-19 shutdown in March and April of 2020, we saw the rebound take off again in May and has continued through the summer and into the fall," Irwin noted. "Oct. 2020 residential sales and homes going under contract continued to dramatically increase. In October, these increases exceeded the rise in inventory levels that we have been closely monitoring."

Even the Near North Side which continues to suffer the most from social unrest and COVID-19 posted a 7.8% increase in homes that went under contract in October, Irwin noted.

"Are some people leaving the city? Are some neighborhoods

NEW LOW see p. 6

In-person trials, court proceedings shut down in Chicago

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

Citing the "public health emergency" caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the chief judge of the federal courts in Chicago has shut down all in-person court proceedings in those courthouses.

According to an order issued Nov. 13, all federal criminal and civil jury trials have been indefinitely suspended.

Further, Northern District of Illinois Chief Judge Rebecca

Pallmeyer ordered that all hearings and bench trials for civil cases must be conducted via remote live streaming or by telephone conference, unless in-person hearings are required by law.

Pallmeyer also suspended court rulings requiring attorneys and litigants to deliver paper copies of filings to judges, and which would require motions to include notices that the motions would be presented in person in court. Under the new rules, judges would "notify parties of the need, if any, for a hearing by electronic means

or in-court proceeding."

Pallmeyer further required all filings to be made electronically or at designated drop boxes at the district court clerk's office.

The judge further banned all public gatherings at the district's courthouses, unless they have been "specifically authorized by the Chief Judge."

Pallmeyer said the new restrictions would remain in effect at the Northern District's courthouses until Jan. 25, 2021.

DoorDash gives out \$500K in winterization grants

DoorDash, the restaurant meal delivery service, unveiled their list of 100 Chicago restaurants that will each receive a \$5,000 Winterization grant to offset costs of operating during the winter. Many are located on Chicago's North Side.

These are designed to make outdoor dining feasible in our notorious winter weather. Grants can be used toward outdoor heating equipment, additional safety materials to improve outdoor dining, bulk orders of blankets for patrons, and more.

Recipients include Brindille in River North, Goddess and the Baker in River North and The Gold Coast; Hai Yen and Immm Rice and Beyond in Uptown; The

Common Cup and Badou Senegalese Cuisine in Rogers Park; Dak, Helix Cafe and Alexander's restaurant in Edgewater; Fiya and Lost Larson in Andersonville; Artango Bar & Steakhouse in Lincoln Square and The Globe Pub in North Center; Saigon Sisters, Pinched on the River and Vermilion restaurants in Streeterville; Declan's Irish Pub in Old Town, and El Jardin, Southport Grocery & Cafe, Uncommon Ground and Drew's on Halsted in Lakeview.

These grants are a part of Door-

Dash's \$500,000 Winterization promotion, which was announced last month as part of DoorDash's \$2 million nationwide grant program to help local restaurants prepare for and operate throughout the winter.

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Happy Thanksgiving Day

While our world is experiencing an historic threat to its well-being due to the pandemic, it nevertheless offers countless reasons for which we can all be thankful.

Of course there are personal losses everywhere, more often than we would like. Still we have so much for which to be thankful. We should ask ourselves what we should be thankful for. If necessary consult with others about their circumstances and what

they may offer you.

So let our losses be few and short lived. Those who seek it out are likely to see numerous things for which we can be grateful.

Let us look wherever we can - to health, family and friends, work, environment and weather for example, to let us celebrate a happy Thanksgiving.

Leon Hoffman, Lakeview East

Downtown shuttered storefronts story

I cannot look at even one plywood-covered storefront without wondering in disbelief.

These people tore your City apart, and threaten to do the same again... and you voted for them?

The election was a "perfect storm" ... three types of voters aligned: Sheep, Haters, Parasites.

Each has their own payoff, each has their own motivation.

Their numbers combined are staggering.

Out with the old pigeon rookery too

Will the new Metra bridges have screens which will prevent pigeons from roosting and nesting by and under them?

I wish Metra would rebuild the bridge over Granville at Ridge/Ravenswood. Years ago Metra put screening under the bridge, but hasn't maintained it, so the place became a pigeon rookery, with disgusting deposits of guano and

The plywood-covered storefronts don't really bother any of the three groups.

We will survive this/them, Chicago is greater than even their numbers.

The article on the storefronts is probably the only news story that actually portrays the truth, and what is actually happening.

Thanks, Skyline, hang in there.

John Loftus

other bird waste on the sidewalks below it. Many misguided bird-lovers continue to drop food on the sidewalks for the birds, even though it's posted illegal. Much of this edible litter isn't even appealing to rats. Appeals to Metra to eliminate the pigeon nuisance have not been successful.

Jean SmilingCoyote, West Ridge

NEW LOW from p. 5

struggling? The answer to both questions is yes," Irwin said. "However, the numbers show that demand for homes on both the buy and sell side on Chicago's North Side are very strong and that the market in general is quite healthy."

Irwin said the big question remains: Where is the market going? The answer is analysts don't really know. "While the market is currently healthy, it is going to be subject to changes by month and

even by week," Irwin said.

"We are currently experiencing another dramatic rise in COVID-19 which is resulting in increased restrictions and financial problems. While social protests have remained peaceful, another major incident of violence and looting would have grave consequences," he said.

Gazing to the future, Irwin predicted that state and local financial problems remain "the elephant in the room" and could be negatively affecting real estate for some time to come.

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.

POLICE BEAT from p. 4

The offenders are described as two to three male, African Americans, 5'-8" to 6'-1" tall, 160-200 lbs., and 25-40 years of age.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com



Loretta Swit and Alan Alda.



Mark Olley



Parker Ryan

REIMAGINE from p. 2

sustained care to a family member. The report really gave us a look at what veterans continue to do for our nation.

HELPER BISHOPS: Cardinal Blase Cupich ordained three new auxiliary bishops last week, for the Chicago Archdiocese to assist him closely with the operation of the archdiocese and to share the pastoral responsibilities in such a very large portion of the Catholic Church. **Bishop Kevin M. Birmingham**, (49), **Bishop Jeffrey S. Grob**, (59) and **Bishop Robert Lombardo, CFR**, (63). All three are very humble and hard-working, hands-on Chicago pastors.

NEW FRENCH BISTRO: Coffee, carryout, catering, courtyard. Chef **Dominique Tougne** and **Chad Bertelsman** introduce

their treasured collection of ornaments. This year we need all the help we can get.

IS 90 THE NEW 40: The divine **Mamie Walton** is beyond fab, at 92.

ART NEWS: Thrilled to learn that artist **Adam Scott Umbach** is to be shown in December at **Monica King's Gallery** in Tribeca. Ms. King is an influential power in NYC art circles.

W H O ' S WHERE: **Cynthia Olson** out on the town at Carmine's on Rush with **Brian White** and **Jim**

Kinney with just a little shiver and a great shawl... **Sherry Lea**

Fox, Toni DiMeola, Kristine Farra and Lisa Gammonley sampling the taste treats at Maple and Ash... A lively dinner with friends amid the palm trees generous and gracious hosts **Cheryle Coleman** and **Ron Katz** at Sails Restaurant in Naples, FL, with **John** and **Myra Reilly, Bobbi Panter** and **Matt Arnoux, Sherrill Bodine, Tracy Tarrantino DiBuono, Joey DiBuono, Geline Shafer, Mark Schlenker** and **Lisa Risher Schlenker...**



Candace and Chuck Jordan.

a new counter service concept in Chicago's Lincoln Park, blocks away from its critically acclaimed sister restaurant, **Chez Moi**. Officially open, **French Quiche** is a friendly neighborhood café serving an authentic array of sandwiches, soups, flatbreads, salads, crepes, breads, sweets, and bien sur, quiche. Located at 2210 N. Halsted, this New Orleans French Quarter clad, spacious café, is designed for effortless grab-and-go coffee, breakfast, lunch and dinner items.

IU NEWS: Indiana Univ. alums **Dan Balanoff, Adam Schlesinger** and **Jon Shaye** in Chicago chomping on smoked ribs for the IU game where brown sugar, salted butter, and Twin Anchor's Prohibition sauce were basting the ribs over cherrywood chips. IU is now ranked Number #1. More sauce please.

YULE JOY: **Chuck and Candace Jordan** just finished putting their Christmas tree up. The early birds love the walk down memory lane that comes with hanging

celebrating the light triumphant over the darkness and carrying ancient Diwali wishes around town dining on Indian cuisine... American folk songstress **Joni Mitchell**



Mamie Walton

adding one more year... the chilled crowds who fearlessly eat breakfast outside at Original Pancake House on Bellevue... Fireside chats are best when shared with friends as **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** dines with **Paul R Iacono** and **Julie Barrish** all cozy at Ralph Lauren Bar and Grill... **ChiTown** hometown girl "Hot Lips Houlihan," the

great **Loretta Swit**, adding another birthday, pictured here with co-star "Hawkeye Pierce," **Alan Alda**, two of the best M.A.S.H. medics there ever was... **Marc Olley** and **Jim Ellsworth** having sunny sides up at Janik's Cafe on Division and Damen... **Michael Dolan** absorbing the sea air and the sun in Hermosa Beach, CA... **Rev. Jesse Jackson** front and center doing the finale of the **Whitney Reynolds Show...** **Lindy Fleming McGuire**, and cutie daughters, **Brooke** and **Eleanor** taking a stroll through the Gold Coast and sipping hot chocolate... Northwestern theater major **Parker Ryan** set in to assist



Frances Renk, Sherry Lea Fox, Julie Barrish, Cyndi Van and Nikki Friar.

Shelley Howard with **Jim Coston** and special guest **Helma Wardenaars** and **Fernando Asturizaga, Larry Wright** and **Brian Frazier Wright** joining a lovely fall version of Boy's Night at Tavern on Rush... **Jeff** and **Stephanie Leese Emrich** cel-

er **Victoria Dal Santo** creating the handmade raviolis for Thanksgiving dinner, it's in his blood... **Ben Mednick** forging trails along the Chesapeake in Maryland... **Halsted St. Maestro Russ Goeltenbodt** in sunny Key West... **Sherry Lea Fox, Frances Renk, Julie Barrish, Nikki Friar** and **Cyndi Van** at annual Christmas Tree lighting for Make a Wish Foundation with **Mark Olley...** **Poochies Bebe** and **Cece** feeling healthy and cozy for their flight to Florida with **Bobbi Panter** and **Matt Arnoux**.

All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward.

-- Ellen Glasgow

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Events

GUN SHOW - December 4-5-6, Fountain Hall, 8505 Durand Ave. Sturtevant/Racine, WI Friday 3pm-8pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-3pm. Large selection of guns & Ammo More info: 563-608-4401 www.manvkraspromotions.net

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Wreath sale for charity

Linda Laake Designs and Vivant Garden Services in North Center are hosting a Winter Wreath Fundraiser, benefiting the expansion of the Montrose Metra Community Garden.

Using dried flowers from this local garden and seasonal evergreens, they create wreaths that once sold, the funds go back to supporting the garden.

Montrose Metra Community Garden has a mission is to create vibrant, green community spaces that connect neighbors and fosters a healthy, sustainable environment. What started four years ago along the Metra tracks between Montrose and Berteau has grown beyond just permanent vegetable plots. They also now have a public orchard of native fruits, a pollinator friendly planting flyway, and an Oak Savannah. Their produce supports three local food pantries: Common Pantry, Ravenswood Community Services and

Lincoln Park Zoo shutting down again after ZooLights

The Lincoln Park Zoo has announced they will shut down operations after this year's ZooLights festivities.

The Zoo will close to the public from Jan. 4 to March 4, 2021. It is the second time they've had to shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first was when the rest of the state was also shut down in March.

But it is indeed a rare event for the Lincoln Park Zoo as the only other shutdowns they've experienced prior to 2020 were for the funeral of President John Kennedy, the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and for the polar vortex of late January through early February 2019.

The Zoo plans to continue to do online programming across its social media channels, and host virtual events and educational programming.

CARJACKINGS from p. 1

of North and Ashland avenues. There, a woman told police that two masked men tried to force her from her car. But she sped away — and wound up crashing into a pole. The would-be carjackers ran to a vehicle that appeared to be waiting for them in a nearby alley.

Then, a 28-year-old man told police that he was pistol-whipped in the face during an apparent carjacking attempt in the parking garage of Whole Foods, 1550 N. Kingsbury. The man drove himself to Trinity Hospital for treatment. Two people who know the victim told this reporter that he works at the grocery store.

Chicago police recorded 1,142 carjackings in the city through Nov. 15 this year. That's up from 507 cases during the same period in 2019.

At almost the same time that the carjacking attempt took place, another man who works in the Whole Foods was shot in the leg while he took out some garbage. Police said the victim might have been shot by an errant bullet fired by an occupant of two vehicles that sped out of the grocery store's parking garage. Investigators were trying to determine if the shooting and the reported carjacking attempt are connected.

In River North, police met with a woman who said four men tried to take her car near the intersection of State and Grand around 6:20 p.m. That hijacking attempt also failed, and the offenders ran into a nearby parking garage.

An hour later, two men tried to carjack a woman as she prepared to park her car on Argyle near Broadway in Uptown. She said the men implied they had a gun as they demanded her keys around 7:15 p.m. But she took off running and left them empty-handed.

Then, at about 7:30 p.m., carjackers took a man's Ford Fusion, wallet, and phone in the 4500 block of N. Hamilton in Lincoln Square, according to a police report. The victim was not injured.

Chicago police recorded 1,142 carjackings in the city through Nov. 15 this year. That's up from 507 cases during the same period in 2019.

Incidents have been soaring on the North Side since early October, with the Town Hall 19th Police District being especially hard-hit.

FEE CAPS from p. 1

founded by the co-owner of Alinea that uses DoorDash integration for delivery. A DoorDash spokesperson apologized in a statement and offered refunds for customers.

Developer files suit on movie chain for dropping out of Wrigleyville development

Lawyers for Bucksbaum Retail Properties are now going after Cinemex, the owner of a movie theater complex that in April stopped building out its 30,000 square foot facility on Addison St. across from Wrigley Field.

Due to the economic lockdown tied to the pandemic, the venture that controls the Cinemex chain - Grupo Cinemex [CMX] - filed for bankruptcy protection in April, allegedly ending their rent payments, and bringing to a stop the buildout at the new development at 1027 W. Addison St.

Bucksbaum filed suit claiming that CMX owes more than \$18 million after allegedly breaching terms of its 10-year lease for a dine-in theater in the complex. The \$140 million development also includes a Lucky Strike Social bowling alley, a Harley Davidson Store, Shake Shack, a rooftop pool and a health club, along with 148 rental units and 493 parking spaces.

In their Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, CMX stated, "We did so as a result of the economic crisis precipitated by the coronavirus pandemic. This filing will help ensure the long-term viability of our business, including our ability to protect our employees. We are in a state of complete uncertainty as to when we can re-open our theaters and when our customers will feel



safe and secure in returning to them given that there is presently no vaccine against the virus. We cannot forecast when — if ever — customer numbers will return to pre-crisis levels."

CMX is the eighth-largest cinema chain in North America. Given the perilous state of the local economy and particularly the local entertainment sector, it should not come as a surprise that the movie chain stopped building out its space when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The COVID-19 economic lockdown has been especially bad for entertainment businesses like movie and the-

restaurant that was famed for both its food and entertainment. Danish-born Chicago restaurateur Fredrik Chramer took over the building in 1937, adding significant square footage and a commanding facade and remodeling the interior in Swedish Modern style. Patrons were greeted by Swedish and American flags and a model Viking ship above the entrance, and the motif of three crowns, the national emblem of Sweden, appeared on the menu and in decor. A large table in the center of the main dining room was laden with items from the three traditional stages of smörgåsbord dining: herring and seafood; hot entrees, such as Kalvfilé Oscar (veal tenderloin with shrimp and asparagus tips covered by béarnaise sauce); and salads and cheeses, followed by dessert and coffee or wine. Its \$1.85 Smorgasbord was considered the height of fine dining, "not merely a buffet diner, but an artistic achievement."

In 1940, inspired by the puppet shows

PRIME RIB from p. 1

commissioned the building of a four-story Italian Renaissance home on the corner of Ontario and Rush streets in 1881. It was built with bricks individually wrapped in straw and imported from Belgium. The McCormick's became one of the city's great hostesses and regularly entertained society leaders and foreign dignitary like the Duke of Kent and the Prince of Wales in the fourth floor ballroom, which could accommodate 400 guests.

Following the death of Mr. McCormick in 1934, the house was leased to Peter Nuytens, local artist and owner of Chez Pierre restaurant, who transformed the ballroom into the Continental Casino, a members-only nightclub. Upon arrival, guests were handed long tobacco pipes to enjoy as they passed through incense filled rooms.

From 1937 to 1971 it was home to the Kungsholm, a one-of-a-kind Scandinavian

aters, restaurants, nightclubs and bars that rely on gatherings of large crowds.

According to Crain's Chicago Business, work on the third-floor movie theater stopped shortly after the onset of the pandemic and triggered more than two dozen liens on the property from contractors and subcontractors—as well as three foreclosure suits from contractors—totaling more than \$5 million in unpaid fees and other costs, Bucksbaum alleged in the complaint. The foreclosure complaints are pending in Cook County Circuit Court, according to the lawsuit, but the complaints have stalled due to the current moratorium on foreclosures.

The \$18.2 million sought in the lawsuit includes missed rent payments and the value of future rent from the 10-year lease.

The lawsuit may be the clear sign of a series of pending failures for new developments, bars and restaurants in and around Wrigley Field after the economic lockdown meant that 40,000 people were not showing up in the area for baseball games. This dispute is surely one of many going on now between North Side landlords and their retail and commercial tenants who are struggling to survive the economic shutdown due to the COVID-19 crisis.

he loved as a child in Denmark, Chramer turned the mansion's fourth-floor ballroom into what would become the internationally known Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera.

Throughout the years, more than a million people were entertained by his unique 13"-tall handcrafted stringless puppets performing elaborately staged operas, operated by puppeteers on rolling stools beneath the floor.

A fire destroyed the theater in 1947, but Chramer rebuilt it five years later as a new puppet theater modeled after the Opéra Garnier in Paris.

As Chramer's health started failing, he sold Kungsholm and the show to the Fred Harvey chain in 1957. The new owners did not maintain the production quality, and business declined. The Kungsholm puppet opera closed its curtains for good in 1971, and the Chicago History Museum managed to acquire some of the puppets and scenery.

Lawry's The Prime Rib brought its first restaurant outside of California to Chicago when it found a home in the McCormick Mansion in 1974. The building's interiors were extensively remodeled, bringing back the elegance of the original McCormick era.

Much of this content comes from the Chicago History Museum.

LEAKING from p. 1

improve the surrounding parkland with an interactive history trail.

The plaza is home to summer events like movies in the park and the annual Fourth of July celebration, and also a popular location for wedding ceremonies.

Founded in 1856 as the Chicago Historical Society, the CHM and its collection grew and opened its first building at the corner of Dearborn and Ontario streets. That building and most of the collection, however, burned during the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Designed by Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, the Georgian colonial building they now utilize opened in 1932. That building, with various additions, renovations, and improvements, has served as the organization's home ever since.

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