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Wisdom is organized life.

— Immanuel Kant

Senior Living, page 8

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

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Community meeting Dec. 9 on proposal for 344 N. Canal St.

An informational presentation regarding the development proposal for 344 N. Canal St. will be held Dec. 9 at the East Bank Club, 500 N. Kingsbury St.

The proposed project would include a 33-story residential building containing 343 apartments and ground floor commercial space, along with 124 enclosed parking spaces.

Representatives of The Habitat Company and their architects, Solomon Cordwell and Buenz (SCB), will present their plans for the development from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9.

Hosted by Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] he and the developers will be there to answer any questions residents may have about this development proposal.

Parking lot deal a sign of things to come?

Mayor's power grab may mean alderman's approval no longer needed

While Lincoln Square-area retailers, residents and property owners struggle over the fate of the city-owned public parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave., the big picture question for North Siders may be if the path this proposal is on is a sign of things to come under the Lightfoot administration?

Those now pressing freshman Ald. Matt Martin [47th] to either protect the lot or allow it to be developed, and hoping to sway this decision by using the traditional path of working through the alderman's office may soon discover that their local alderman may no longer have the ability to green light - or kill off - the project. Mayor Lori Lightfoot has

made her intentions clear that she plans to wield the power to make such decision.

The decision to move ahead or not, and many other ward-level decisions on a wide variety of city-wide actions going forward, may now be made by the Mayor's Office and her City Hall staffers.

During a Nov. 5 speech to the Better Government Assoc., Mayor Lightfoot reportedly earned her biggest applause when she denounced the practice of aldermanic prerogative, calling it "a tool that for generations had been used by the powerful to build a system that excludes, disinvests and isolates working people." Stopping this practice was one of her campaign pledges, so it should be no surprise that she now wants

DEAL see p. 7

State will work closely with Chicago as marijuana becomes legal, assure lawmakers



(Left) State Rep. Kam Buckner, (center) State Sen. Robert Peters. (Right) Audience members at the "town hall" meeting at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Feinberg Pavilion in Streeterville.

Photos courtesy of SOAR and Sean Kennedy

Online sports betting now booming next-door in Indiana

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

When marijuana becomes legal in Illinois on Jan. 1, 2020, state legislators will look to Chicago to make sure the law set in motion does not have unintended consequences.

State Rep. Kam Buckner [26th],

whose district includes the Gold Coast and River North neighborhoods of downtown Chicago, says the Illinois General Assembly will work closely with Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the city council to review the law, perhaps every six months.

"The way... I look at it may be different than the way aldermen Reilly and Hopkins see it on a daily basis," says Buckner. "This is a new industry that's going to affect our lives in a different way,

so my hope and my prayer and my commitment is that we keep our finger on the pulse of this and make sure that we are watching this like a hawk."

Buckner spoke to members of Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] on Nov. 18, along with State Sen. Robert Peters [13th]. Both are cautiously optimistic about the tax revenue that legalized

STATE see p. 16

Quiet Zone ordinance passes in City Council

A recently introduced ordinance by Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] to establish a Noise Sensitive Zone [NSZ] in Streeterville around Lurie Children's and Northwestern hospitals has passed through City Council.

The ordinance was heard before the Committee on Public Safety on Nov. 14, and held until Monday, Nov. 18 to work out concerns raised by other aldermen.

Ald. Hopkins says he then worked with the city's Law Dept. to find a solution to concerns

raised by other aldermen about deferring final say in establishing such zones to the Police and Dept. of Public Health, revising the law's wording to instead "consult" with the two departments on the establishment of the boundaries of such zones.

On Monday, the Committee on Public Safety discussed the revisions and voted to approve the ordinance, which was then sent to City Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation.

The amended ordinance out-

lines the process to establish a NSZ wherein an alderman and residents propose a boundary for an area to be designated for a NSZ. Such a zone could include hospitals, schools, libraries, churches, nursing homes, and similar types of operations where constant disruption harms everyday activity. The Dept. of Public Health and the Chicago Police will provide feedback on the proposed boundaries of the zone.

QUIET see p. 16

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Memories of Winter - a romance with snow



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Do you go psychotic as the snows of Winter gather around the holidays?

Do candy canes and mistletoe lull you into dreams of beaches and surf crashing against your brown body? Far from the Bean and the predatory Picasso? And the mayhem gang from DuBuffet?

Do snow plows on garbage trucks send you spinning into Chicago's version of a white out?

Is "lake effect" pure science fiction to you?

I actually decry the satanizing of snow and sleet. Instead I rely on my poet's eye to lift me to a rational and reasoned understanding of living in a land that gets all the climate changes. Things you'll never learn at Beverly Hills High.

All my childhood memories are rinsed by romantic memory cast in the four seasons. Happy snowmen, sweet hot chocolates, fresh baked scones by Irish grand-

mothers, the butter melting from their warmth. Mugs of strong tea with extra sugar and the abiding warmth of a fragrant kitchen, like Berghoff's at lunch.

No room in my memories for slush puddles, snowsuits like straightjackets, black ice or putting on buckle-up galoshes to and from school. Or how much I hated being forced to shovel the sidewalk.

I do recall a few hardships in snowy scenes. Like when our favorite grand Aunt Nell was being buried, we discovered that during the previous night's snowstorm, someone stole the battery from our car and we were delayed getting to her funeral Mass all the way in Beverly. Or the time my cousin Jimmy poured gasoline on the snow covered sidewalk and ignited it, as if it was a fresh way to get rid of the snow quickly. Or the tragic time a CTA trolley crashed and burned at 63rd and Halsted streets as if in a Hitchcock horror film kind of reality. And I'll never forget drinking too much Mogen David wine given me by my grandmother, after shoveling a heavy snowfall when I was 11 years old.

She just wanted to warm me up, but caused me to pass out sitting on a radiator even though the wine was kosher.

We were ennobled by the freshness and beauty of snow and the way it re-painted the Chicago



The Elgin Family's donated Christmas Tree in Millennium Park.

Photo courtesy of Chicago.gov

landscape around us. Everything looked better in the snow. Houses. Buildings. The winter lawns. The boulevards, even the alleys. It was just so artistic. The best was the Gothic steeple of our parish church.

The snows pushed my mother to an alpine menu, like she cooked for Heidi. Stews and hearty soups, luscious roast chicken, smoked Butt and cabbage. Large one-pot cauldrons of tasty vitals that said we were conscious of our responsibility to add muscle to our table. Ignorant as we were of gluten and lactose toleration. Goulash was my favorite winter addition. Lots of sour cream and paprikash with wide noodles. And lots of homemade chicken soup in which the Irish always took winter refuge.

Snow also meant an abrupt turn in outdoor activities. No more roller skates or bikes; it was time for ice skates and sleds. My mother never stopped talking about how weak her ankles were and how difficult it was for her to ice skate. It had a deep impact on my psyche. I tried every winter but could never get good. Hockey skates or figure skates, it made no difference... condemned to the clumsy ranks of beginner. A shame I still carry with me.

But I excelled at the use of the sled. Down the steepest hill or the front stairs of our porch. The toboggan run at Ryan's Woods, of course, being the greatest run on the South Side. It seemed an endless run. Fast. Smooth. Well-lit and sonic. You could see the buildings lit up downtown in the Loop. The run remains the highest point in the City of Chicago.

Winter snows are much more conducive to memory flashback than Summers. The snows catapult me back with ease to a time of playfulness and beauty. Broad snowscapes. I was thinking of this when one night at 2 a.m. while I was watching a segment of Gilmore Girls. So much of what happens to Lorelai and Rory in a Winter episode is surrounded by snow.

Their local Star's Hollow street musician is signing a tune by Grant-Lee Phillips which says:
*Nothing looks pretty as
The winter stars a glittering
Shining on
the freshly fallen snow
When the blue light of the moon
Is giving off a loving winter glow.*

Winter glow. That's the American romance with snow that we love. And, of course, it reminds me of all those weeks I spent on

the island of Islesboro, in Maine. Snow upon snow. Tall walls of bright, fresh powder. Me inside the 18th century farmhouse, looking out at the white-capped winter ocean surrounding us and cooking up a storm of great meals. Inviting guests four nights a week. Great conversations about art, the nation, cities and food. Lovely wines flowing and fires in the fireplaces creating a comfortable fragrant environment filled with seafood and imagination. Soft candle glow creating a warm coziness. Frequent trips to our island Market and the French Market in Camden kept the larders full. And a feral cat introduced me to an animal kingdom that was new to me.

I comb through the memories of those days and nights like they were part of my youth.

The fragrance of the kitchen was strictly shallots and unsalted butter. The very fragrance of France itself. Baskets of dried herbs hanging from the ceiling. And the continuous recalibrating of my location from the center of the Prairie to the furthest reaches of native New England.

There was always a freshness for me in snow-bound Maine. So high up the map. So far out into the sea. It always bestowed a newness to each day. For me that's Advent weather. A purple-hued path post-turkey day. The newness of an ancient promise and of poetry, yet to be rhymed. Or paint, yet to be layered on the canvas.

We need the familiar fragrances of life as we move toward Christmas, as the tableau refocuses and begins to come into view. We

WINTER see p. 12

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Ramblings, rants, and recommendations

“People in wheelchairs are invisible.”
 “No one talks to people in wheelchairs.”

Those are the words of my best friend, Pearl, who has been in a wheelchair almost six months now since being diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. Since losing the use of her left arm and leg, unfortunately, she has found out what life is all about from a wheelchair-bound person’s point of view.



Heart of the ‘Hood

By Felicia Dechter

It’s true, I thought, after Pearl said that to me. We usually tend to talk more to the person manning the wheelchair than to the person in it. I started to wonder why.

Is it because we have to physically crouch down to speak to them at eye level, so that we can look into their eyes when conversing? Is it because we’re afraid they’ll think we’re just being nice to them or we feel sorry for them because they’re in a wheelchair if we smile and say hello, like we might do to an able-bodied person? Or is it because maybe we think that being in a wheelchair is somehow unpleasant, and we just want to look the other way and it will all go away?

Whatever the case is, I realized that it’s something to think about and be aware of.

Last weekend, I was watching a Netflix series called, “Raising Dion,” which features a kid with superpowers named Dion. Dion’s smart and sassy BFF, a little girl named Esperanza, just happens to use a wheelchair. Esperanza is played by Sammi Haney, a nine-year-old actress with the disability Osteogenesis Imperfecta, aka brittle bone disease. In the episode I saw, the wheelchair bound Esperanza offers to do something dangerous to deal with the bad guys, and she does so, she says, because, “No one sees me anyway.”

Which is Pearl’s sentiment, exactly. Maybe this Christmas -- and beyond -- we can all make the effort to acknowledge, and wish someone in a wheelchair, a happy holiday season.

It might even get us on Santa’s Nice List. Although it’s a small gesture on our part, to someone in a wheelchair it could mean the world and make a difference in their day, and their life.



Actress Sammi Haney helps spread awareness to the fact that folks in wheelchairs are still people, and they want to be seen and heard.

Go ahead, make my day... by putting your cell phone down.

I was on the North Shore recently, at a park district facility where my granddaughters take gymnastics (because all the city programs my daughter wanted were full). Anyway, while there, I noticed every single parent was on their cell phone rather than watching what their child was doing.

The class is a full hour, so I realize how hard it is to observe all that time, and yes, I did look at my phone -- but very briefly. The majority of my time was spent checking out my granddaughters.

But the parents reminded me of robots. Sorry if I sound Grinchy, but I can’t help it. They did.

However, worse than that was when I was at the health club in the Jacuzzi the other morning. I kid you not, there was a guy sitting in there, in the bubbling hot water, with ear buds on, scrolling on his phone. Granted, maybe he was busy and going to work and this was his only time to read emails or whatever. But I’m sure he could have put his phone down for five minutes.

It was very disturbing.

And you may have heard about the woman last Friday at the CTA Blue Line station at Dearborn St. and Jackson Ave., who was talking on her phone when she walked backwards onto the track as a train was approaching. She was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in critical condition.



12th District State Rep Sara Feigenholtz and friends at a past Joy of Toys.



Santa’s reindeer are all that and more in Cirque du Soleil’s ‘Twas the Night Before.

I’ve been in restaurants where people talk on speaker phone so the whole darn place can hear them. It’s so rude.

Try and put your phones down, folks. Pay some attention to the people, places, and things around you. Enjoy the beauty of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or whatever you happen to celebrate.

Give a little bit... at The North Dearborn Association’s 26th Annual Joy of Toys Holiday Toy Drive, from 1 to 3 p.m., Dec. 7 at Mario’s Table, 21 W. Goethe St.

The yearly event brings the community together -- neighbors, friends, volunteers, and businesses -- to celebrate the season and collect presents for kids attending George Manierre School and Catherine Ferguson Child Parent Center. Each year, Mario Stefanini, owner of Mario’s Table, generously provides the space, food, and holiday cheer for the festivities.

Admission is free but you have to bring a new, unwrapped gift -- which will be distributed later by Santa and his elves

-- valued at \$20 for a child age three to 11-years-old. Suggestions include: dolls, sports equipment, action figures, games and remote-controlled toys with batteries included. Please do not bring anything requiring a computer or other hardware, toy guns, oversized toys, and strictly educational or religious-themed items.

Some enchanted evening... is the magic of Cirque du Soleil’s ‘Twas The Night Before, which runs through Sunday at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. This Yuletide extravaganza is a feast for the eyes, filled with fun and festiveness. Kids and adults will love it. It’s sugar and spice and everything nice, not to mention the crazy-great acrobatics, insanely-incredible talent and loads of family fun.

Deck the halls... The Thorne Miniature Rooms at the Art Institute, 111 S. Michigan Ave., are now beautifully-decorated for their holiday tradition through Jan. 7.

RAMBLINGS see p. 4

Jeff Landsman in association with Artistic New Directions presents

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A cozy fireplace can help ward off chill of next Polar Vortex

After suffering through the epic “Polar-Vortex” Winter in early 2019, many Chicago homeowners are looking forward to pouring a goblet of hot spiced wine and hunkering down around a cozy fireplace over the holidays.

Meteorologist Tom Skilling’s early December outlook is predicting a “cold upper air pattern” that calls for frigid Arctic air to hold over Chicago and the Great Lakes and reach as far as the Gulf Coast as the Jet Stream moves South.

Remember last January? The icy knife of “The Hawk,” Chicago’s brutal lakefront blast, pushed the wind-chill to 30 degrees below zero.

That’s why wise homeowners are winterizing their digs, tuning furnaces, weather stripping doors and windows, adding more roof insulation, ordering fresh firewood, and making sure fireplaces are cleaned and ready to provide supplemental heat.

“A working fireplace—either wood burning or a gas-log unit—is a coveted feature that adds thousands of dollars in value to a home,” noted Realtor Sara E. Benson, president of Chicago-based Benson Stanley Realty.

“Homeowners who are plan-

ning to list their abode for sale next Spring and want to lock-in a top-dollar price, should make sure the fireplace is in good working order for the holidays,” she advised.

“If you own a high-end residence, buyers expect a fireplace,” Benson said. “In Chicago each working fireplace may add \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the value of an average home, depending on the sale price,” she estimated.

According to a recent survey, buyers rank fireplaces as one of the top three amenities they’d most like in their house. And, 60% of new homes come with a fireplace, compared with only 36% in the 1970s.

A National Assoc. of Realtors survey reported that 46% of home buyers would pay more for a home with at least one fireplace.

Hearth purists say a wood-burner—with its ambiance, crackle and scent—is the most romantic option. However, wood-burning fireplaces also can be a costly headache for the untrained, or busy homeowner.

After years of lugging logs up two flights of stairs to a master bedroom equipped with a wood-burning fireplace in a vintage home in the Sauganash neighborhood, this writer opted for gas logs for my current house.

“A wood-burning fireplace is expensive, an energy waster and just plain too much work for the average homeowner,” agreed Steve Alleyne of Firefixer, a Chicago-based firm that specializes in both vent-free and vented fireplace service and repair.

“First, you’ve got to buy the logs, which can cost \$175 to \$300 per cord (a firewood stack that

measures 4’ high by 4’ wide by 8’ long) for mixed hardwood or pure hardwood,” Alleyne said. Plus, there likely will be delivery and stacking charges.

When you finally get those fireplace logs burning, 90% of the heat goes up the chimney, said Alleyne, a Chicago firefighter who has worked as a fireplace fixer and installer for two decades.

“If the fireplace doesn’t have an ash dump, you are left with a mess to clean up, and, you’ll need a professional chimney cleaning every other year to keep combustible creosote at bay,” he warned.

Most of the chores involved with fireplace maintenance can be removed by converting a wood-burning fireplace to a natural gas burner and installing gas logs. A deluxe set of ceramic gas logs costs from \$750 to \$1,500, depending on size.

For push-button lighting, you also can add a variable-thermostatic remote for about \$200. Firefixer does the wood-to-gas conversion for \$195, which does not include the cost of running a gas line and any necessary electrical work.

Another choice is installing a direct-vent fireplace insert, or relining an existing old flue and installing a new damper for chimney venting.

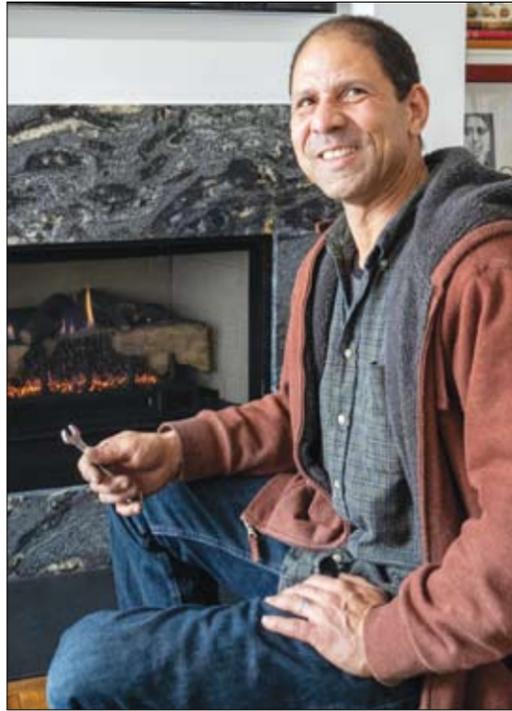
What’s the most energy-efficient option? “The ventless gas fireplace is the best choice if you want to keep the most heat in the room,” Alleyne advised. “A ventless fireplace is 98% efficient, and can save up to 40% on your gas bill.”

Ventless fireplaces are an affordable heat source because the burner is small and it is less expensive than running the furnace full blast during chilly months, Firefixer noted.

“Vent-free fireplaces are very popular in high-rise condominiums and rental apartments because no flue or chimney is necessary,” said Alleyne. Servicing ventless units accounts for more than half of Firefixer’s business.

“However, annual cleaning and service is needed to remove dust from the logs and prevent the burner pilot from getting clogged. A clogged pilot is a result of debris settlement in the fireplace, and will cause the unit to shut off,” Alleyne said.

Firefixer also recommends opening a window for the first



Firefixer Steve Alleyne.

tilation for vented units.

Firefixer does the job for a \$160 service call, which includes replacing batteries for remote starters, installing fresh embers and lava rock, plus a seasonal warranty.

Ventless fireplaces need an annual cleaning and maintenance check to reduce carbon monoxide emissions, and a professional safety inspection each autumn before the harsh winter months, Alleyne noted.

Many homeowners have a ventless fireplace but do not regularly use it because of lack of knowledge. If there is an issue with vent-free gas-log combustion odor, Firefixer recommends burning the

couple of hours after the log set has been cleaned and inspected.

“Running the log set without cleaning it first could produce char on the logs,” he said. “I’ve gone to houses where the whole wall up to the ceiling is blackened from the fireplace they were using without ever having it cleaned.”

Vent-free log sets are clean burning so long as logs are in proper position and they stay clean. Firefixer’s inspection will check for gas leaks, shorted wire connections, and ensure everything meets building code requirements. He also checks clearance for combustible materials surrounding the fireplace, inspects gas supply tubing and ven-

tilation for one hour with a window open at the beginning of the season.

“If any problem occurs with your ventless fireplace throughout the October through May heating season—from bad log-starter batteries to an accidental shut off of the pilot light—we will make a return service call for free,” Alleyne said.

For more information on Firefixer, call 773-951-7439.

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.



The Home Front

By Don DeBat

Chicago and the Great Lakes and reach as far as the Gulf Coast as the Jet Stream moves South.

Remember last January? The icy knife of “The Hawk,” Chicago’s brutal lakefront blast, pushed the wind-chill to 30 degrees below zero.

That’s why wise homeowners are winterizing their digs, tuning furnaces, weather stripping doors and windows, adding more roof insulation, ordering fresh firewood, and making sure fireplaces are cleaned and ready to provide supplemental heat.

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An English Drawing Room of the Victorian Period, 1840 to 1870, is one of many Thorne rooms decked out for the holiday season.

RAMBLINGS from p. 3

Gold Coaster Sally Kalmbach will hold a tour there at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 5.

You’ll hear the story of Mrs. Thorne and how she started designing rooms as a hobby and Kalmbach will also discuss her book

about Mrs. Thorne’s amazing life, “Mrs. Thorne’s World of Miniatures,” (a great gift available at the Art Institute shop).

See the Christmas tree, a menorah, and shadow puppets for the Chinese New Year among other decorations in some of the 68 Thorne Miniature Rooms, which provide a glimpse of European interiors from the late 13th century to the 1930s and American furnishings from the 17th century to the 1930s.

The tour ends with a short visit and history of a very rare artwork that is on display only 40 days a year, the 18th century Neapolitan Creche acquired by The Art Institute from collector Vincenzo Porcini. The cost is \$35 per person. RSVP to Kalmbach at 773-868-9096 or sskalmbach@yahoo.com.

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New city task force seeks improvements in affordable housing policies

Osterman named aldermanic co-chair

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB KITSOS

In the 1967 cult classic “The Graduate,” Dustin Hoffman was told “plastics” was the key to his future. When it comes to the housing market in Chicago, “affordability” seems to be the key word that homeowners and renters are seeking as the calendar heads into 2020. Affordable housing is defined as a home that costs no more than 30% of a household’s income, according to a federal policy.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Dept. of Housing Cmsr. Marisa Novara recently announced the formation of the Inclusionary Housing Task Force that will be charged with recommending improvements in



Ald. Harry Osterman [48th].

the Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO) and broader inclusionary housing policies. The hope is that the ARO will be one of the city’s key tools in the creation and equitable distribution of affordable housing across the city.

Ald. Harry Osterman [48th] is one of three aldermanic co-chairs for the Task Force. Other aldermanic co-chairs are Walter Burnett [27th] and Byron Sigcho-Lopez [25th]. “The Inclusionary Task Force has members that represent the diversity of our city

and viewpoints on ways to create needed affordable housing in every community,” said Osterman.

The group includes experts on homelessness, public health, affordable housing finance, disability rights, labor and affordable and market rate development. The Task Force will develop new policies guiding how and where affordable housing is created to address a city-wide shortage and Chicago’s racial and economic segregation — two of Mayor Lightfoot’s top priorities.

Ward residents provide input

Ward residents learned more about this Task Force and the city’s housing policies at an Affordability Subcommittee meeting on Nov. 25 at the Third Space chaired by Osterman and the Director of Policy for the Dept. of Housing [DOH], Daniel Hertz.

Ald. Osterman said a fun part of the job is going into new neighborhoods to learn about their concerns and issues. “Communities want improvements, but don’t want to be replaced,” he said.



Daniel Hertz, director of policy for the Dept. of Housing.

Ald. Osterman noted that a lot of the affordable housing in the ward is studio and one-bedroom apartments as many units being built today are smaller units. He said that some of these smaller

TASK FORCE see p. 6

North Side aldermen split on voting in favor of city budget

BY JIM VAIL

While Mayor Lori Lightfoot won her first budget battle after the City Council passed her 2020 budget, several North Side aldermen voted against it.

“I cannot in good conscience vote for a budget that increases the taxes our working families pay and fails to substantially improve our city services, when the wealthiest residents and corporations in Chicago are not being asked to pay their fair share,” Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th] wrote on social media.

The City Council approved her \$11.65 billion budget 39-11, but the mayor only needed 26 votes to pass it.

Former Mayor Rahm Emanuel had claimed the budget deficit would be just \$252 million. That estimate was off by about \$600 million. Lightfoot’s budget closed an \$838 million budget shortfall with a variety of new taxes, a small property tax increase, fee increases, government restructuring and eliminating job vacancies, and one-time accounting tricks. More than a third of the increased deficit came from higher required contributions to the city’s pension funds.

Freshman North Side aldermen who voted against it included newly elected Matt Martin [47th] in Lincoln Square, Maria Hadden [49th] in Rogers Park, and Vasquez. The new aldermen said

that there was not enough money for mental health clinics and affordable housing, and it did not target wealthy corporations with a head tax that former Mayor Rahm Emanuel had eliminated.

Re-elected Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] in Lincoln Park voted against the budget’s property tax increase, as did aldermen Brian Hopkins [2nd] and Brendan Reilly [42nd].

“My ward’s residents asked for a budget that reined in spending on an unaccountable police department and offered serious new progressive revenue options to fund robust, reliable city services, from mental health to transportation,” Vasquez wrote. “My colleagues and I introduced corpo-

rate head tax and payment in lieu of tax bills this year that were not even discussed or debated, much less seriously considered for inclusion.”

The budget includes revenue from increased taxes on ride share

BUDGET see p. 6

Marrillac St. Vincent Family Services photo with Santa Dec. 7

Bring the whole family for a catered breakfast, photos with Santa and lots of holiday fun during Marrillac St. Vincent Family Services photo with Santa event, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 7, at the St. Vincent de Paul Center, 2145 N. Halsted St.

The event will feature performances by Wiggleworms from 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

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Letter to the Editor

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Jeff Koontz, Lakeview

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BUDGET from p. 5

companies and restaurants. It also includes consolidations and other cutbacks and savings.

The uncertain parts of the budget include an estimated \$200 million in savings by refinancing existing debt to achieve lower interest rates. Lightfoot's budget proposes front-loading all of these savings to the first year, rather than taking them over the course of the bonds' lifetime, making this a one-time action that cannot be counted on in future years.

Another \$163 million comes from demanding higher reimbursement rates for emergency services, including \$30 million from increased ambulance fees that require federal approval the city has yet to obtain. An additional \$148.7 million in savings come from implementing zero-

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS based budgeting for the first time, a budgetary practice through which every line item of spending is assumed to start at \$.00 and has to be justified anew each year. While another \$141 million comes from lower costs from

responsible, I think of real," said Ald. Harry Osterman [48th].

The mayor was able to balance the budget without any significant property tax increase, except for \$18 million to keep libraries open on Sundays.

"My ward's residents asked for a budget that reined in spending on an unaccountable police department and offered serious new progressive revenue options to fund robust, reliable city services, from mental health to transportation," said Ald. Andre Vasquez.

unspecified "improved fiscal management."

The city also declared a \$31.4 million surplus of funds in Tax Increment Financing [TIF] districts. If the city has not spent all its available TIF funds, the mayor can bring the money into the operating budget to be used for other purposes as was done for 2020.

Ald. Smith voted against the "proposed property tax increase because I do not believe further property tax increases are the right way to raise the funds we need to continue to increase pension payments without cuts to city services we rely on every day. While this budget will achieve actuarial funding of police and fire pensions, we still must make progress to meet requirements for full funding of our other pension funds. We must find a way to moderate the increase in pension growth, particularly Cost of Living increases" she said.

One North Side alderman who supported the budget said it was realistic.

"When I think about this budget I think about a couple of words, I think of reasonable, I think of

In West Ridge, Ald. Debra Silverstein [50th] voted for the budget, saying it includes many measures that "will benefit our neighborhood and city. It invests in affordable housing and homelessness prevention, as well as public safety and mental health spending. This budget is not perfect and more work needs to be done; however, it is a step in the right direction."

Vasquez said the budget does not deliver structural change. Even though the city is not laying off workers, it is cutting vacancies and implementing a hiring freeze which will fall heaviest on "boots-on-the-ground" service providers, while continuing to add management positions with the creation of new city departments.

"We cannot deliver the kinds of services our residents deserve by freezing the labor pool and growing the city bureaucracy," he wrote.

Ald. Smith said it is important to cut city pensions, particularly cost of living increases.

She said her constituents in Lincoln Park voted 52% - 48% against a tax increase to fund

Sunday hours at the library.

Smith said she wants to reduce city workers absenteeism (73% of those failing to show up to work in the Office of Emergency Management and Communication are crossing guards) and overtime (the city paid \$249 million in overtime this year).

Since at least 2003, the city has annually spent more than the revenues it has received. At the end of 2003, Chicago's net position was a positive \$3.5 billion (the amount by which its assets exceeded its liabilities). By 2018, after 16 years of spending more than it received and seeing pension liabilities continue to rise, the city's net position dropped by nearly \$32 billion. As of the most recent audited financial report, the city's total debt exceeded every asset it owns by more than \$29 billion.

The Lightfoot administration has already projected budget gaps in excess of \$1 billion in fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

TASK FORCE from p. 5

units have more amenities than some of the older buildings and people are happy residing in these units. "There's people that want to invest in our ward and we have to understand the best way to harness that interest."

"We're glad that the new city budget includes \$5 million in additional funding for the Low Income-Housing Trust Fund and \$5 million in additional funding for homelessness services, which will allow DOH to expand its services to hundreds of additional households in 2020," said Daniel Hertz.

Hertz said, "We're glad that the new city budget includes \$5 million in additional funding for the Low Income-Housing Trust Fund and \$5 million in additional funding for homelessness services, which will allow DOH to expand its services to hundreds of additional households in 2020."

Task Force schedule

The 20-member Task Force will meet for the first time in mid-December and thereafter once a month for four to six months with the goal of producing a revised housing ordinance by mid-2020.

"This group of industry stakeholders will be instrumental in ensuring that this vital tool is updated to better address the city's affordable housing shortage," Mayor Lightfoot said. "As we work toward a more equitable city, the Inclusionary Housing Task Force will serve as our conscience as we strive as a united city that affordable housing options are located throughout Chicago's 77 communities."

In addition to the Task Force, DOH will start convening community-based focus groups to receive further feedback on inclusionary housing policy in January.

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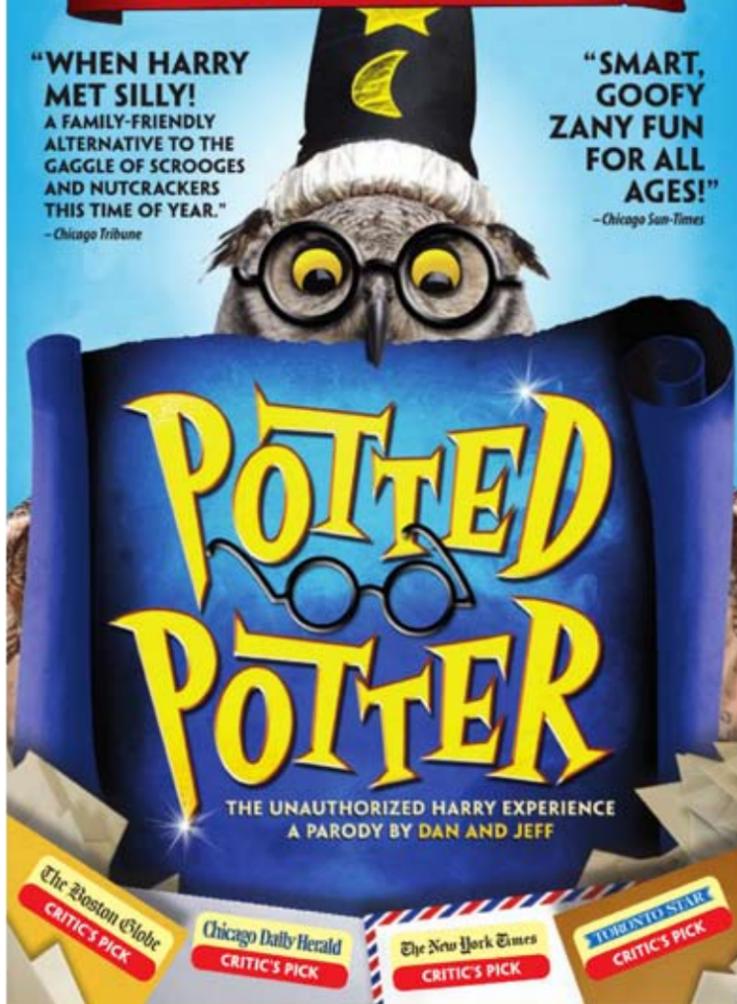
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Holiday art contest for local high school students

Get your artwork on the cover

Inside Publications is once again holding our annual holiday art contest for high school students.

The winning artwork will be published in the Dec. 25 issue.

Students should draw an 8 1/2-x-11-inch vertical ink black and white drawing of a North Side landmark with a holiday twist. The student's name, age, telephone number, high school name, and year in school should be on the back, not front, of each drawing.

Past winning examples include a tomb at Graceland Cemetery wrapped in holiday lights; Lincoln Square's Abe Lincoln statue in a Santa outfit with a bag of toys; Cloud Gate [the Bean] festooned in a giant bow reflecting a holiday scene, the Picasso sculpture at the Daley Plaza wearing a Santa hat; Santa's elves feverishly

working on the Marshall Field's clock, and Santa's sleigh flying over the Sulzer Library. Originality counts!

We want hand-drawn illustrations, sorry but computer generated artwork is not eligible.

The first place drawing will grace the cover of Inside's holiday issues for the News-Star, Skyline and Inside-Booster community newspapers and the winning artist will receive \$100 cash.

Drawings by runners up will be published on inside pages of the newspaper, too and receive cash prizes.

Mail or bring the students' drawings to: Inside Publications, Holiday Art Contest, 6221 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60660 so they are received by noon Wednesday, Dec. 18. If you have any questions, call 773-465-9700. Thanks for participating.

DEAL from p. 1

to take that tool away from the aldermen.

Back on June 27, the Lightfoot administration said it would no longer require letters of support from aldermen on a host of community issues ranging from the location of Divvy stations to the construction of off-site units to fulfill the city's affordable housing rules. Those letters of support used to be all it took to approve - or stop - a variety of proposals that used to begin and end at the local alderman's office. The mayor now wants those decisions to be based on plans crafted by city departments and vetted by her office.

Among others, decisions now being taken away from local aldermen include landmark designations, landmark permit fee waivers, Class L property tax breaks, Tax-Increment Financing district designations and redevelopment agreements, demolition applications, the placement of new Divvy bike stations, Plan Commission action, land sales and the lease of city property, outdoor special event permitting, redevelopment agreements and intergovernmental agreements, Small Business Improvement Fund and Opportunity Fund grants, the disposition of Tax-Increment Financing [TIF] districts, Special Service Area appointments and budgets, and in Lincoln Square's case, permission to build off-site units to fulfill the Affordable Housing Requirements Ordinance.

Traditionally an aldermen's clout came in large part from the recognition that they alone had the power to approve or veto ward-specific proposals. That unwritten code also meant that the other aldermen and the Mayor's Office tried not to meddle in their decision, and vote along with the alderman whose ward includes the project.

Mayor Lightfoot is now trying to take those powers away.

Under the mayor's new policy, aldermen "will be notified of items affecting their wards," said Ald. Nicholas Sposato [38th] at the time of the June 27 announcement. He said aldermen rather will be "encouraged to continue to provide meaningful feedback based on their knowledge of the needs facing their communities."

While many Chicagoans are historically trained to respect the traditional power an alderman had, Mayor Lightfoot has made it clear that she intends to stand firm on her campaign promise to strip the alderman of the final say on ward-level decisions. Indeed, while many scoffed at the idea, the mayor's first executive order declared an end to aldermanic prerogative, the largely unwritten, decades-old practice giving aldermen a veto over ward issues.

So today it's likely the Mayor's Office is now the main force in deciding whether or not to build the new six-story, 43-unit affordable housing project on the city-owned parking lot adjacent to the CTA's Western Ave. Brown Line station.

"This is all very preliminary," Josh Mark, Director of Development and Infrastructure for the 47th Ward said in mid-November. "The first step is for the developers to apply for city funding, and we have no idea if they'll get it. We are now in the process of meeting with and having a conversation with community groups," to let them know what's being proposed.

The project is being proposed by Boston-based The Community Builders [TCB]. TCB owns or manages over 13,000 apartments in 14 states plus the District of Columbia. TCB has not returned multiple messages left with their office to comment on the project, even though some project

plans have already been made public.

According to the 47th Ward Office, while plans are preliminary, the developer may include public parking spaces in any new project to replace those metered spaces that now exist. But those who prefer a surface lot at this location have good reason to worry after seeing what happened to a similar city-owned parking lot at 2525 N. Kedzie adjacent to a CTA Blue Line station in Logan Square.

While many Chicagoans are historically trained to respect the traditional power an alderman had, Mayor Lightfoot has made it clear that she intends to stand firm on her campaign promise to strip the alderman of the final say on ward-level decisions.

That plan drew opposition from within the community but was approved by the Chicago Plan Commission on Oct. 17. It calls for an affordable-rate project with 100 units, 20 parking spaces, a small public plaza, and 4,500 square feet of commercial space. In addition to paying only \$1 for the city-owned land, the developers are seeking other government subsidies for the \$31 million project including a combination of funding from the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), housing tax credits and \$8 million in property tax funds from the Fullerton/Milwaukee TIF district.

Like many of his colleagues, Ald. Martin has a Zoning Advisory Council [ZAC] made up of ward residents appointed by the alderman that vets proposals ahead of the alderman's review. They hear applicants' presentations and privately identify issues in each particular case. The alderman is

DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 10, 2019 • 7 then briefed by the ZAC before making a decision. But under the mayor's new policy, how much influence those ZAC's may now have is questionable if the final decision no longer rests with the alderman.

According to Ald. Martin's web site, this parking lot development proposal needs to be allocated Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the city in order to proceed. TCB is currently applying for these tax credits. "If the tax credits are allocated, TCB will still have to go through the office's regular development process with more thorough community outreach and consultation."

The 47th Ward Office says they do not expect City Hall to make a decision on the project proposal any sooner than the first quarter of 2020. They also say that no other local or national real estate developers have been approached about buying the site.

In mid November some Lincoln Square-area retailers, property owners and neighbors approached this newspaper saying that they are concerned about the project, and they have undertaken an effort to oppose the loss of the open space the parking lot provides. They fear that putting a building at this site could jeopardize several large cultural events that are held on this lot, or nearby, and depend on this lot for event space, logistics and/or event parking. Those events include the annual German American Festival, The Mayfest, The Applefest and weekly farmers markets.

Lincoln Square area businesses are also very dependent on the public parking lot to help support the area's popular retailers and institutions such as the Old Town School of Folk Music, Davis Theater, and DANKHaus German American Cultural Center.

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Catholic Charities to manage Senior Satellite Center

The Chicago Dept. of Family and Support Services has contracted with Catholic Charities to provide management of the Edgewater Senior Satellite Center which is inside the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway.

The Center provides numerous opportunities for older

adults, including a hot lunch, exercise and fitness programs, visits with a pharmacist, dietician, nurse and social worker, computer lab, and educational programs.

Catholic Charities is seeking applications for two positions there: Manager and Assistant. For more information and to apply, see www.catholiccharities.net.

Belmont Village Lincoln Park Holiday Market benefits Alzheimer's Assoc.

Belmont Village Senior Living Lincoln Park, 700 W. Fullerton Ave., is inviting the community to be 'merry and bright' at their indoor Holiday Market benefiting the Alzheimer's Assoc., noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

Guests will enjoy an afternoon filled with glogg wine,

refreshments, tastings from local restaurants, and shopping from local vendors and small businesses.

Attendees can also purchase a signature Belmont Village holiday mug – proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association – and participate in festive activities like crafting homemade ornaments.

Not too late to get a flu shot, but City is all out of 'high-dose'

If you have not gotten your flu shot, it is not too late. Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike urges everyone six months and older who has not been vaccinated, to get their flu shot this week as part of National Influenza Vaccination Week. Just last week Dr. Ezike gave Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton her flu shot in preparation for the winter season.

"The holiday season is in full swing, which can mean holiday parties with friends, family gatherings, or crowds of shoppers all looking for that perfect gift," said Dr. Ezike. "Being in close quarters with many different people makes it easier for flu to spread. Protect yourself, as well as those around you who may be more vulnerable to serious flu illness, by getting your flu shot."

While it is difficult to predict how severe or how long the flu season will be, Chicago is seeing an increase in flu activity similar to previous flu seasons. Flu activity most commonly peaks between December and February and can last as late as May.

(The high-dose flu vaccine is for people over age 65. The regu-

lar-dose vaccine is still available. But note that the city says they are currently out of high-dose flu vaccine. High dose flu vaccine will be made available at sites as soon as it is shipped by the manufacturers to the Chicago Dept. of Public Health.)

In addition to getting your flu vaccine, IDPH recommends following the 3 C's: clean, cover, and contain.

- Clean – clean your hands frequently by washing your hands with soap and warm water.
- Cover – cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain – contain your germs by staying home if you are sick.

The flu is one of medicine's most unpredictable foes.

For example, last fall started off fairly mild. But in February, a strain notorious for more severe illness, called H3N2, suddenly popped up. Worse, even though each year's vaccine contains protection against H3N2, the circulating bug had mutated so it wasn't a good match. A vaccine that had worked well for the first few months of flu season suddenly wasn't much use.

But if that harsh bug returns,

this year's vaccine has been updated to better match it.

Flu viruses spread when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of the following symptoms: fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, runny or stuffy nose, muscle and/or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), vomiting and diarrhea.

Several studies have found that flu vaccination can reduce the severity of illness in people who get vaccinated, but still get sick.

Influenza antiviral drugs can be a second line of defense for people who get sick with the flu. Many studies have found that in addition to lessening the duration and severity of symptoms, antiviral drugs can prevent flu complications.

Free flue shots are being offered this week at Uptown WIC, 845 W. Wilson Ave., 2nd Level, call 312-742-3227.

More information visit www.dph.illinois.gov.

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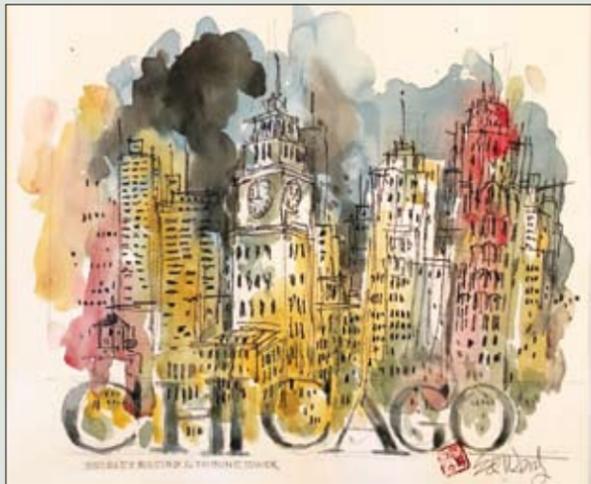
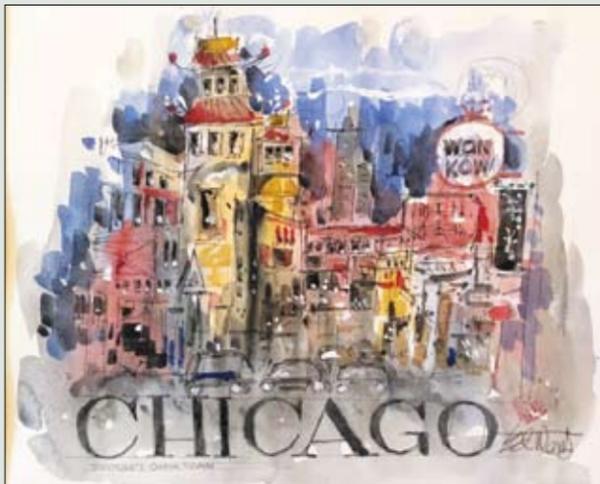
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Senior LIVING



“What an artist’s objective is now is taking the usual and making it unusual,” says Ed Wentz.

Clare resident Ed Wentz: Breaking the rules in art

Clare resident Ed Wentz doesn’t abide by the rules when it comes to art.

Upon retiring, Ed took up watercolor, honing his unique style, his individual technique. He woke up one day, he says, and he decided to break the rules.

That’s where the fun and creativity came in.

“Everything has been painted today,” he says. “What an artist’s objective is now is taking the usual and making it unusual.”



Ed Wentz

Ed will use a photo, for example, and create a vignette. He takes what he wants from it, removes what he doesn’t and adds his own flare. He plays around with colors and enjoys the freedom of his own interpretations. Sketches from

his travels with his wife, Jane Ellen Murray, also serve as inspiration for his paintings.

“You’re creating something,” Ed says. “You’re not copying something. There’s a certain period of the painting where it becomes your own.”

His watercolors typically take three sittings to complete, he says. Each time he returns to paint, he has a fresh perspective.

To date, Ed has finished hundreds of paintings. And it all began with a career in advertising.

Over the years, Ed climbed the ranks at various agencies, working toward his goal of art direction and winning awards for his campaigns. With each ad he laid out, he used a marker that was similar to a chisel-edge watercolor brush, which led to his comfortability with watercolors.

“It was like going to your sandbox every day,” Ed says of his career.

His creativity then brought him back to the American Academy of Art on Michigan Avenue, where he took classes on scholarship in high school. He spent years teaching, helping artists tease out

their strengths.

“What I would do is seek out the best part of what they do,” he says. “I develop their style, not mine.”

Eventually, Ed was named President of the Academy, and they put his very own artwork on display, too. That’s the point when he truly began to consider himself an artist.

With this recognition came further representation at different galleries. Ed served as Vice President of the Palette & Chisel Academy of Fine Art, where he and Jane Ellen both had many exhibitions. Perhaps most noteworthy is that he was represented by the prestigious Kamp Galleries in the Drake Hotel. That, and the fact that people wanted his artwork for their own collections.

“To an artist, having somebody hang

your work, and pay for it, to boot, is an honor,” he says.

When it came time for Ed and Jane Ellen to consider continuing care and senior living, then, studio space was a must. Without their own studios, it’s easy to imagine that they would have given up painting, Ed says.

Instead, Ed and Jane Ellen have individual studios in their apartment at The Clare. Every morning, Ed goes into his studio to prepare his paints, just in case inspiration strikes. Ed also submits watercolors for display in seasonal exhibitions in The Clare’s community studio space.

“In a way, The Clare played a significant role in helping us continue our art,” he says. “It’s very much a part of me.”

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All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up. — Pablo Picasso

Police Beat...

Fake news! Kind of...

Chicago police said the reported armed carjacking of an exotic sports car in the Loop on Nov. 24 is unfounded.

This newspaper reported on this 'crime' that now seems to be fake news.

Investigators located the purportedly stolen McLaren in a parking garage on the 200 block of N. Stetson on the New East Side around 12:30 p.m. Nov. 26.

After further investigation, "the case is now categorized as unfounded," CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said in an email on Tuesday morning. No charges have been filed against the woman who made the complaint, according to Bartoli.

Minutes before the woman reported her \$200,000+ vehicle stolen, police officers in the Loop saw it collide with another car on Michigan Ave. after they tried to stop it for drag racing.

The woman, 36, told police that she pulled over somewhere near LaSalle St. and Wacker Dr. to get directions when two men threatened her with a gun and drove away with the car, which bore a "BAD CHK" personalized plate.

Now, police say, she made it all up.

We reported on the initial claims, despite our own sense of disbelief that a 36-year old woman would ask for directions despite having an onboard navigation system in her car and on any mobile device... and then she got out of the car and left the keys in the ignition to ask directions.

Teen passengers rob cabbie in Streeterville

A cab driver crashed her taxi after four juvenile passengers robbed her in Streeterville on Nov. 27, police said. No one is in custody.

The victim, 33, said she picked up the group near Water Tower Place around 4:45 p.m. and then headed toward Lake Shore Dr. on Chestnut St.

As the vehicle neared the lakefront, the group ordered the cabbie to pull over and surrender her valuables, police said. They then exited the vehicle and split up, with two running eastbound on Chestnut and two others running westbound. The victim ran into a fence and a pole as she tried to get away from the group, a witness said.

She was not injured.

The victim said the offenders are three males and one female in their early- to mid-teens. All are black, stand 5'-2" to 5'-5" tall, and wore black clothing. Area Central detectives are investigating.

Man slashed with knife during argument at Belmont Red Line CTA station

A 55-year-old man was cut in the face with a knife during a fight at a Lakeview CTA station on Nov. 26, police said. No one is in custody.

The victim said he got into an argument with at least two strangers as he exited a train at the Belmont stop, 945 W. Belmont, around 3:30 p.m. When the altercation turned physical, the man reported, one of the other men pulled out a "large knife" and sliced his face.

An ambulance crew transported the man to Thorek Hospital for treatment of a laceration to his nose, according to a CPD spokesperson.

The victim said the man who cut him is black, in his 20's, about 5'-8" tall and wore a white t-shirt with blue jeans.

On Nov. 20, a 15-year-old boy was stabbed during an unrelated incident at the same CTA station.

In that case, an argument between two groups of males escalated and turned physical around 5:45 p.m. At some point, an unknown offender pulled out a switchblade and stabbed the victim in his right thigh near the station's north entrance turnstiles.

No arrests have been made in either case.

While chief judge claims no "horrible incidents," we found more murders that seem... pretty horrible

Remember Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans' proclamation Nov. 4 that "We haven't seen any horrible incidents occur using" his two-year-old affordable bail program?

Last week, we reported on some murder cases that many members of the public may feel are, in fact, horrible. All of the homicides were allegedly carried out by offenders who were free on affordable bail.

Now, a couple of additional not "horrible" cases have emerged.

Prosecutors charged 24-year-old Ed Rush Nov. 26 with first-degree murder for allegedly shooting Rayveon Hutchins, 20, to death as he walked on the 1200 block of S. Throop.

At the time of the murder, Rush was free on a recognizance bond even though he previously skipped bail on a pending aggravated battery of a police officer case. The Chicago Tribune reports that Rush is also on probation for a misdemeanor gun violation.

After cops arrested Rush for allegedly battering police on Sept. 22, Judge David Navarro let him go home by posting a \$500 deposit bond, according to court records. Rush failed to appear at his next court date. Authorities rounded him up, but Judge Edward Maloney released him on his own recognizance Nov. 6.

Suburban case

Another "not horrible" murder case involves Isreal Villegas, 31. Villegas was charged in Oct. 2018 with murdering a 22-year-old man in Cicero while Villegas was on "affordable bail" for his fifth illegal gun case.

Villegas shot Diomar Rangel six times in the chest during an argument, Cicero police said. Police tracked him down and witnesses identified him as the shooter, according to prosecutors.

According to court records, Villegas was free on a \$250 deposit bond that a judge set after prosecutors charged him with his fifth felony firearms violation and obstruction of justice. He was supposed to be on electronic monitoring at the time of the murder, too.

More charges filed against man accused of falsely reporting gunman at North Side college

Remember the guy who allegedly called 911 with a false report of his neighbor having a gun on the Chamberlain University and DeVry campus this month? Well, he's now charged with filing four more false reports against the same man since authori-

ties released him from jail.

Police arrested Michael Gallo, 51, on Nov. 8 after investigators determined that he falsely reported a man with a gun on the schools' shared campus at 3300 N. Campbell in Roscoe Village, according to a CPD statement.

Detectives also connected Gallo to a similarly false report at the schools on Oct. 30, according to prosecutors. In both cases, Gallo allegedly identified the non-existent gunman as a neighbor who lives near him on the 1800 block of N. Halsted in Lincoln Park.

The schools went on lockdown as a precaution following the reports.

After prosecutors charged Gallo with two felony counts of disorderly conduct-false report, he quickly got back to work filing false police reports against the same man, according to new allegations laid out in CPD and court records.

On Nov. 13, Gallo allegedly told police that the man threatened him with a handgun on the 800 block of W. Willow. He then filed false reports of criminal damage to property against the neighbor on Nov. 18 and Nov. 19, according to prosecutors.

Incredibly, as 19th District cops drove to arrest Gallo for those three cases on Nov. 21, they learned that he was standing inside the 18th district station filing yet another false report against the neighbor, officers said in arrest paperwork.

Police took him into custody minutes later at the Near North station, 1160 N. Larrabee.

Prosecutors filed four new misdemeanor counts of filing a false report to a public safety agency as well as a violation of his previous bail bond.

Judge David Navarro released him on his own recognizance.

Charges filed in Old Town armed robbery

A 19-year-old man from the Douglas neighborhood robbed a woman at gunpoint inside an Old Town parking garage on Nov. 25, police said.

Deshawn Jackson put a gun to the 52-year-old victim's head as she placed items in her vehicle on the 1200 block of N. Wells around 2 p.m., according to police. He and an accomplice then took valuables from the woman and from her vehicle before running from the scene.

Police located Jackson a few minutes later at the Clark-Division Red Line CTA station. Officers said he was carrying a firearm.

Prosecutors charged him with felony armed robbery with a firearm and felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. The second offender remains at large, a police spokesperson said.

18-year sentence for luring men into robbery ambushes via Grindr

A man who allegedly used the Grindr gay hookup app to lure men into robbery ambushes with an accomplice has been sentenced to 18 years in prison for his role in five separate attacks.

Trenell Kirkman, 30, pleaded guilty to four counts of armed robbery and one count of attempted armed robbery in a plea deal with prosecutors. Judge Earl Hoffenberg sentenced Kirkman to 18 years for each of the completed robberies and 15 years for

the attempt. The terms will be served concurrently, giving Kirkman a projected parole date of Oct. 28, 2026.

Prosecutors said Kirkman and Stephen Jackson, 28, used the Grindr app to draw at least nine victims into armed robbery traps in the Rogers Park neighborhood during Oct. 2017. Chicago police eventually caught Kirkman and Jackson in a sting operation, according to court records.

Jackson and Kirkman used Grindr to draw men into a gangway on the 7600 block of N. Bosworth where they then held each victim at gunpoint and robbed them, police said.

Prosecutors dropped multiple felony counts of aggravated kidnapping and aggravated unlawful restraint as part of their agreement with Kirkman. Jackson is due back in court on Dec. 23.

Prison time for Lincoln Park 7-Eleven heists

Two men have pleaded guilty to robbing a pair of convenience stores in the Lincoln Park neighborhood last November. One of the men was on parole at the time of the hold-ups.

Tyler Oates, 25, and Vontez Turner, 21, each pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery in connection with the hold-ups of 7-Eleven stores on the 1300 block of W. Fullerton and the 2000 block of N. Halsted. Judge Earl Hoffenberg sentenced Oates to two concurrent six-year terms and Turner to a pair of concurrent five-year terms.

Police arrested Oates and Turner as the duo returned to their getaway car after the Fullerton robbery which unfolded about 20 minutes after the Halsted crime. A third man who participated in the robberies was never found.

Robberies in Near North, Mag Mile

At least three people were robbed in about 30 minutes in the Near North neighborhood on Sunday evening — including one victim who was attacked and tazed just off the Mag Mile. And four offenders beat and robbed a Streeterville resident as he stepped out of his condo building for a smoke break. The incidents are part of at least six muggings reported in the Near North area since Nov. 29. No arrests have been made.

Around 1 a.m. Friday, four men beat and robbed a 38-year-old Streeterville resident as he smoked a cigarette outside his home on the 800 block of N. Dewitt, police said.

The victim said four men walked up to him and started punching him in the head and face while demanding his valuables, according to a CPD spokesperson. When the man fell to the ground, the offenders took his property and fled southbound on Dewitt. He was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

The victim said the robbers are four black men in their early 20's who are tall and slender.

Meanwhile, three separate victims reported being robbed within a block of the Clark-Division Red Line CTA sta-

tion on Dec. 1.

Around 8 p.m., Chicago Fire Dept. personnel responded to a 31-year-old man who suffered injuries when a robbery offender punched him and knocked him to the ground near LaSalle and Division streets. No further details were immediately available.

At 8:25p.m., another victim flagged down police after a group of up to 15 teenagers robbed them of their phone near the corner of Division and Clark streets. The primary offender is a heavysset black male who stands about 5'-6" tall and wore a blue and brown coat with fur on the hood, jeans, and black shoes. He and other members of the group headed southbound on Dearborn.

Finally, at 8:30 p.m., a 28-year-old man told police that three offenders beat, tazed, and robbed him after he agreed to let them use his phone near the Chicago Red Line CTA station.

The victim said the offenders approached him as he walked past a McDonald's restaurant and asked to use his phone. When he agreed, the trio attacked him and then fled with his phone and wallet, according to CPD spokesperson Ronald Westbrooks.

Police said the robbers ran into the nearby train station with the man's property. According to the victim, the primary offender is a black male wearing a blue coat who stands about 5'-7" tall.

Woman gets 10 years for pushing person onto Red Line tracks

A judge sentenced a Chicago woman to 10 years in prison for pushing a stranger onto the CTA's Red Line tracks last year because she was having a bad day and "wanted to kill someone."

Wilma Maxey, 59, pleaded guilty to one count of Class X attempted murder in exchange for the sentence. State officials set her parole date for Aug. 21, 2026.

On the morning of Mar. 2, 2018, Maxey told police she was angry because she could not access funds from a recent bank deposit. The situation angered her to the point that she "wanted to kill someone" as she rode the Red Line toward the Loop, Maxey allegedly told officers.

Around 6:45 a.m., Maxey stepped off a train at the Morse station in Rogers Park and decided to take her frustrations out on a 66-year-old woman who was walking along the platform, prosecutors said.

She allegedly pushed the victim onto the tracks, then sat down on a bench on the platform.

The fall rendered the victim unconscious when she struck her head. She suffered a fractured skull, jaw injuries, and brain contusions, according to police.

Responding officers found Maxey sitting peacefully on the CTA platform bench and took her into custody. Maxey told police she received Social Security payments for a mental illness.

In Aug. 2019, Maxey filed a self-written federal lawsuit accusing her attorney and Cook County Associate Judge James Obbish of holding her continuously for 15 months "without giving me a [recognizance] bond or probation."

A federal magistrate judge dismissed the case without prejudice



Michael Gallo



Trenell Kirkman



Ed Rush

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Deshawn Jackson



Tyler Oates



Vontez Turner



Wilma Maxey

Area workers sue McDonald's over allegedly unsafe, 'violent' Chicago restaurants

BY SCOTT HOLLAND
Cook County Record

A group of restaurant workers have sued McDonald's and several Chicago franchisees for allegedly allowing their restaurants to be too violent and dangerous.

In a complaint filed Nov. 21 in Cook County Circuit Court, 17 named plaintiffs alleged they "suffered physical and psychological harm from the violence they experienced while working at McDonald's restaurants." The workers cited examples such as a customer jumping over a counter and threatening employees with a gun; customers disrobing; assault such as throwing kitchen equipment at workers, or striking a worker with a wet floor sign; pushing an employee against the wall and spitting in their face; and "a dead body and large amounts of blood ... found in the bathroom."

While most of the facilities are located on the West and South Sides, some are located downtown and on the North Side, including:

- Defendant Karavites Restaurant 5895, Inc., that owns and operates a store at 1004 W. Wilson Ave.
- Defendant HQ 39148, LLC, that owns and operates a store at 1035 W. Randolph St., inside the McDonald's global headquarters.
- Defendant RMC Adams-Wells, LLC, that owns and operates a store at 180 W. Adams.

The plaintiffs said such incidents are neither random nor unforeseeable. According to the complaint, Chicago area emergency service providers take an average of more than 20 calls per day from McDonald's restaurants, while nationally "American local news outlets deliver a new report on violence at restaurants roughly every 36 hours."

Although the company is aware of the security risks employees face, the complaint said, it has ignored best practices for safely operating businesses open late, such as fast food restaurants, noting a major push to expand late-night hours starting in 2003. Among the alleged flaws are tearing down or lowering counters dividing customers from workers and covering windows with advertising that makes it harder for people to see what's happening inside.

The complaint also alleged the company and franchise operators "failed to provide even the most basic security training to most of their workers and managers" and said some managers discouraged employees from calling law enforcement "seemingly out of a misguided belief that a police presence would repel customers."

Although the corporation doesn't own all the restaurants, the plaintiffs asserted McDonald's selects locations, owns or leases restaurant property, and trains all managers, including those who work at franchise stores. The workers also said the

physical design of restaurants, which they say is also a top-down corporate decision, is "a critical factor leading to the high risk of violence."

The complaint said the Chicago area has about 100 franchised McDonald's and 30 corporately-owned restaurants.

Some of the plaintiffs say they worked for McDonald's up to 10 years. One woman works at the McDonald's at 1035 W. Randolph St., inside the company's global headquarters, which is the only location involved in the complaint open only 16 hours per day. Of the others, all are open at least 20 hours a day and most never close.

Regarding the 1004 W. Wilson Ave. franchise, plaintiffs note that between March and Sept. 2019, police were called to respond to violent or potentially violent inci-

dents 29 times at the restaurant, operated by Defendant Karavites Restaurant 5895. And that between March and Aug. 2019 there were 532 criminal incidents within a 1/3 mile radius of the restaurant.

Formal complaints include direct and vicarious liability negligence claims against McDonald's Corporation and McDonald's USA, for which the workers seek an injunction forcing physical changes to restaurants to enhance worker safety as well as adequate safety training, security and cash handling policies. They also want damages of at least \$50,000 for each plaintiff. The plaintiffs also accused franchisee defendants of breaching a duty to workers by implementing the alleged corporately-mandated physical designs and policies in question.

Longer hours at state services facilities start Jan. 2 for REAL ID applicants

Illinois Secretary of State's office will start keeping longer hours beginning in January and add exclusive days just for REAL ID applicants to accommodate the increased volume of customers applying for driver's licenses and ID cards.

The federal government will require Americans to use a valid U.S. passport or obtain a REAL

ID to fly domestically beginning Oct. 1, 2020.

The new hours effective Jan. 2, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2020 at Chicago North, 5401 N. Elston Ave., will be Monday 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and will serve only REAL ID customers.

Tuesday hours will be 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday hours will be 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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| TUES | <p>\$3 MILLER/COORS DRAFTS \$4 WELL DRINKS \$4 SELECT DRAFTS</p> |
| WED | <p>\$1 DOMESTIC BOTTLES \$4 TEQUILA SHOTS & WELL DRINKS \$4 FIREBALL SHOTS \$5 PINNACLE BOMBS</p> |
| THRS | <p>\$12 MILLER/COORS PITCHERS \$4 SELECT CRAFT DRAFTS \$5 CROWN ROYAL & CAPTAIN MORGAN DRINKS</p> |
| FRI | <p>\$2 DOMESTIC BOTTLES \$3 JAMO SHOTS \$4 ALL DRAFTS \$5 CALL MIXED DRINKS</p> |
| SAT | <p>\$4 DOMESTIC BOTTLES & WHITE CLAW \$6 TITO'S DRINKS, BLOODIES, SCREWDRIVERS, SALTY DAWGS & MIMOSAS</p> |
| SUN | <p>\$12 BOOMERS \$5 BENGAL BOMBS \$4 DOMESTIC BOTTLES \$6 TITO'S DRINKS, BLOODIES, SCREWDRIVERS, SALTY DAWGS & MIMOSAS</p> |

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WINTER from p. 2

need the adhesive those fragrances carry ensuring that the mystery of the planets still stops their spin in the footfall to Bethlehem.

Or the cardiac unit at Northwestern. Or the triage at Lurie Children's Hospital. Iambic straw and Hail Mary mangers reshaping the drama of the stable for King David's kin. The dactylic hexameter of divine love.

No need to fear the onset of the Winter's wrath (unless you are living on the street). Driven beyond the pages of the Torah and verses of the Gospel by hungers no one warm can understand. But we wait, 'cuz Winter has a magic of its own.

CHRISTMAS SEASON: Chicago's official Christmas Tree was lit Nov. 22, in Millennium Park where thousands gathered to watch the tree come to life. A 55' spruce tree given to the city by the **Elgin Family**. They flipped on the power to light up the tree.

CHRISTKINDL MARKET: Grab a mug of Glühwein, peruse handmade gifts and enjoy your time at Christkindl market—a Chicago holiday tradition. The annual holiday market draws inspiration from Winter festivals in Germany and fills Daley Plaza, Washington and Clark Sts.

GOIN' TO THE CHAPEL: Congrats to **Hector Gustavo Cardenas** with **Marius Morkvenas** who have just tied the knot. Lot of happiness to these lovebirds and great gents.

FAIR WARNING: Happy Birthday, **Leslie Hindman**, celebrating with bro **Donald DeForest Hindman** and **Robert Early**. You're not getting older. Just more exotic.

RECOVERING: **David Cook**, the American painter, is back in good recovery health after some serious by-pass surgery at a hospital in Minnesota. He is now out of the hospital and at his family's home.

SERVICE CLUB: Service Club of Chicago was so honored to assist an Irving Park Neighborhood Community Center to create handicap accessible washrooms. Now all can be welcomed. Thanks, SC ladies - LOVE what you've have been doing for 130 years and counting.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: What better way to celebrate the season than with great friends, fabulous shopping from local vendors, holiday entertainment



Hector Gustavo Cardenas with Marius Morkvenas.



Sally Berger and Linda Robin.



Eleanor McGuire and George.



Diane von Furstenberg and Lauren Lein.



Maestro Rich Daniels and former Irish PM Enda Kenny.



David Yarrow, Lucien and Melinda Jakovich Lagrange.



Frida Kahlo

and great camaraderie. All while supporting The Service Club of Chicago. Cathedral Hall and their great tree provide the perfect setting for a seasonal celebration. Join us and bring friends. Co-chairs: **Sherrill Bodine, Lezley Hodes** and **Karen Peters**. Today at 10 a.m. Sipping and shopping, Noon – luncheon \$185.

WHO'S WHERE: **Paul Malarik III** was drinking adult beverages at Ralph Lauren Bar and Grill with **Mamie Walton** and **Lynn Graham**, there to give thanks for the all-clear results Col. Malarik received after his angiogram... **Melinda Jakovich-Lagrange** and architect **Lucien Lagrange** at photographer **David Yarrow's** book signing... former **Judge Rhoda** in Abu Dhabi... **Nora Gainer Doherty** emceeding the "Wreathing of the Lions" at the Art Institute of Chicago... **Janet Owen** lunching with **Shauna Gardner, Caitlin McCarthy** and **Kelly Kalmbach**... **Annette, Eric** and **David Findling** at Whisky a Go Go in Hollywood, CA, where Erik and his band High Street rocked ... Chicago's own couture, **Lauren Lein**, still can't recover from meeting her star, **Diane von Furstenberg**, the inventor of the

wrap dress... **Maestro Rich Daniels** and former Irish Prime Minister **Enda Kenny** meet up at an Irish Consulate soiree... **Eleanor McGuire** did a wonderful job supervising **George's** first haircut.

TIDBIT: Chef **Bruce Sherman** leaving North Pond restaurant after 20 years.

ARTE CALIENTE: Next Summer, the Cleve Carney Museum of Art and the McAninch Arts Center in partnership with College of DuPage will host the newest exhibition on acclaimed Mexican artist **Frida Kahlo**. This exhibit includes 26 original works by Kahlo on loan from the Museo Dolores Olmedo in Mexico City—making it the largest collection of Kahlo's work to be displayed in Chicago in 40 years.

BRAVO! Much applause to **Julia Jacobs** for hosting such a lovely group at the Simon Weisenthal Center Midwest Region's 2019 Women of Valor luncheon at The Standard Club honoring **Mayor Lori Lightfoot**. An honor to be among such passionate and accomplished women with **Benjamin Cottrell, Mark Olley, Lori Allen, Laurel Rundle, Arabel Alva Rosales, Kristine Schanbacher, Liz Teasley, Laura C. Dantuma, Candice Kuhnen, Jennifer Sutton Brieve, Paula Borg** and **Rosemary Fanti**.

DESERT HOSPITAL: Former Chicagoan **Sally Berger** received a high honor on Nov. 18 at Eisenhower Hospital in Rancho Mirage, CA. Fellow philanthropists and many friends and admirers were in attendance for the wonderful ceremony re-creating the "Sally Berger Way," named after her for raising millions of dollars for the hospital. Fellow philanthropists and many friends and admirers were in attendance for the wonderful ceremony. An amazing party hosted by **Helene Galen** and **Jame Gabler** followed with the marching band from a high school surprising Sally and all the invitees at the

entrance entrance of the party. **Linda** and **Richard Robin** were there to cheer their good friend.

SYMPHONY CENTER: The Sounds of Christmas filled the air at Symphony Center as the famed Vienna Boys Choir sang the sacred and historic texts of the season Nov. 23. One of the world's finest choirs, I once heard them sing Christmas Mass at the Royal Palace in Vienna. They narrow the distance to heaven.

TIDBIT: Univ. of Illinois Chancellor **Robert J. Jones** visiting Chicago last week, time to paint the town orange.

EPIPHANYCENTER: Public performances at the newly named Epiphany Center for the Arts, formerly an Episcopal Church on Ashland Ave., took a little side tour one recent afternoon, and the public portion of scheduling now is being reorganized, and set up for as soon as early next year. All part of the growing pains of a new establishment.

WYETH RETROSPECT: **Stephanie Leese Emrich** is at Greenville County Museum of Arts in South Carolina, viewing the work of **Phyllis Wyeth**. A lovely, determined, and witty woman who was **Jamie Wyeth's** spouse. This section of the exhibition is dedicated to Phyllis' life. "Spring, The Hanging of the TreeRocks," painted by Jamie before Phyllis passed away last January, reminds me of her energy and ability to always move forward. This piece, to me, is storybook-like, in both oil and acrylic, reaching past the canvas onto the frame. Stephanie says she was once asked to consider working for the Wyeths in Maine. "I can only imagine to where that would have lead," she notes. A remarkable exhibition, "**Andrew Wyeth**. Eight Decades," recently opened there.

8TH SUB-CIRCUIT: **Dan Balanoff**, after months of hard work, filed his nominating petitions, grateful to his campaign

team and all the volunteers who have worked so hard to get him to this point, humbled to have their support. Now he awaits his opponents. Dan made Bulgarian holiday bread with his father for Thanksgiving.

TIDBIT: WGN Radio's **Bill Leff** and **Wendy Snyder**, Chicago radio partners on and off for 25 years, were dropped late Wednesday as midday co-hosts.

OUT OF ORDER: Has there been some hanky-panky and disorder in the court between a well-meaning unmarried attorney and a very married, aging judicial ingenue?

VITUM THEATER DISASTER: Recent sprinkler malfunction and flooding occurred at the Vittum Theater on Nov. 15. Adventure Stage Chicago and Northwestern Settlement suffered severe water damage affecting staff offices, dressing rooms, and theater. Northwestern Settlement has estimated at least \$200,000 worth of damages occurred as a result. A fundraising campaign to help programs recover has been set up on their Facebook page.

ART SALE: Pre-Christmas Studio sale of paintings by this writer, **Adam Scott Umbach** and **Cynthia Prokop**. Artists will be present with their work. Wednesday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1059 N. Winchester St. Call 312-735-8101. Enter through Garden Gate on Thomas.

DAVENPORT'S: Dec. 5, 8 to 9 p.m. singer **Barb Bailey's** annual Birthday Bash with **Jack Wood** and **Matt Barber** from LA. 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.

- *Lewis Carroll*

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Target coming to Lincoln/Webster

Community meeting Dec. 10 for proposed restaurant on Clark St.; Packaged Goods License for Target

Target has announced plans to occupy the site of the former Mrs. Greens grocery store at 555 W. Webster, and as a part of the deal they'd like to see liquor at that location.

The Mid-North Neighborhood Assoc. and Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] are hosting a community meeting 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 10, in a discussion on two matters. The meeting will be held at St. Paul's Church, 651 W. Fullerton Ave.

A Packaged Goods license application for 555 W. Webster has been requested by Target, who has signed a lease for the former Mrs. Green's space adjacent to Oz Park. They are seeking a Packaged Goods License to sell alcoholic beverages.

Representatives from Target will be pres-

ent at this meeting to provide an overview of their operations and answer questions from the audience regarding this licensing request.

Secondly, an applicant seeks to re-zone 2200 N. Clark St. to B3 (Community Shopping District) to allow for the establishment of a fine-dining restaurant with liquor service in the currently-vacant commercial space located on the corner of the building.

The other matter concerns an applicant who seeks to re-zone 2200 N. Clark St. to B3 (Community Shopping District) to allow for the establishment of a fine-dining restaurant with liquor service in the currently-vacant commercial space located on the corner of the building.

Anybody can be unhappy. We can all be hurt. You don't have to be poor to need something or somebody. Rednecks, hippies, misfits - we're all the same. Gay or straight? So what? It doesn't matter to me. We have to be concerned about other people, regardless.

- Willie Nelson

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POLICE BEAT *from p. 10*

in October so Maxey could pursue her claims in other venues.

Panic attack on Clark St.

A 25-year-old man suffered injuries when he collapsed in a possible panic attack after being robbed in the 1100 block of N. Clark Nov. 29, police said.

The man told police that two offenders followed him from the Clark-Division Red Line CTA station around 3:45 p.m. One of the men approached him from behind, reached into his pocket, and took "property" before running away southbound on Clark St., according to CPD spokesperson.

Police said the victim chased the offender into a nearby alley, but he collapsed at some point and suffered facial injuries. An ambulance transported him to Northwestern Memorial Hospital where his condition stabilized. Alvarez said.

The victim described the primary offender as a black man who's about 20-years-old and was last seen wearing a black hoodie that bears a Nike "swoosh" and the words "Just Do It" in neon green.

Woman says club security stood by while she was assaulted outside El Hefe

According to a lawsuit, a 23-year-old woman referred to as Jane Doe is suing a River North restaurant and nightclub, claiming that their staff and security guards tossed her out into an alley and stood nearby while someone sexually assaulted her.

The case was filed Nov. 25 against El Hefe, 15 W. Hubbard St. The woman visited the restaurant and nightclub on Oct. 18, was served alcohol by a bartender there, including drinks allegedly bought by someone else.

The lawsuit states that at some point an unknown individual made sexual advances toward the woman. An El Hefe bartender reportedly noticed the woman's condition and thought the woman may have been drugged, according to the lawsuit.

The woman claims that she vomited at the bar while being sexually harassed by another man.

The complaint states that the El Hefe staff required the woman to leave the bar because of her condition, and then had their security escort the woman out the back door and into a dark alley accompanied by the unknown man. The man sexually assaulted the woman in the alley, according to the suit, while the bar's security guards allegedly stayed in the alley while she was sexually assaulted.

The lawsuit accuses El Hefe, and its employees and guards, of doing nothing to stop the man from assaulting her and placing her in a dangerous alley with a man they suspected of drugging her.

Chicago police are investigating the alleged assault after the woman was found lying in the alley behind the establishment at 12:20 a.m. Oct. 19. She was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital where she told police that she had no recollection of the night.

Woman robbed outside River North apartment

A woman was knocked to the ground and robbed outside a River North apartment high-rise Nov. 30. The woman told police that a man pushed her down and took her phone outside the building on the 100 block of W. Superior around 1:45 p.m.

She said the offender is a black male in his 20's who stands about 5'-9" tall. He wore a black hoodie that has writing on its back and was last seen heading northbound in an alley next to the building.

Woman escapes drive-by shooting in Old Town

A violence-plagued corner of Old Town that has claimed four shooting victims since Oct. 23 nearly claimed its fifth victim Nov. 29.

Police who responded to calls of shots fired on the 400 block of W. Evergreen around 7:15 a.m. found a stunned woman from Aurora who had a harrowing tale to tell.

The woman told officers that she was warming up her car when someone opened fire on her from a passing vehicle. She was not hit, but at least one bullet struck her car.

Investigators found nine shell casings on the

street. No description of the shooter or the vehicle they used is available.

Friday morning's incident unfolded just steps from the 1300 block of North Hudson where a 42-year-old man was injured in a drive-by shooting Nov. 3. And on Oct. 24, a 25-year-old woman was shot as she walked on the 400 block of W. Evergreen, just a few yards west of Friday's scene.

Two other shootings have been reported recently within a block of Friday's drive-by.

Prosecutors have not charged anyone with any of the shootings.

Woman beaten in Boystown robbery

Police are looking for the man who attacked and tried to rob a woman who refused to give him money as she walked in Boystown Nov. 29.

The victim, 36, told police that she was walking just west of Halsted St. on Waveland Ave. when the man asked her for cash and tried to grab a bag from her hands around 8:15 a.m., according to a CPD spokesperson.

Police said the man then threw the woman to the ground and began beating her in the head and body with his fists. He fled westbound on Waveland after passersby intervened.

Surveillance camera footage showed the man smoking outside the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, and then moving a few feet west of the center's entrance moments before the attack.

An ambulance crew transported the victim to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center for treatment of facial injuries.

Police said the attacker is male, black, 25-35 years old, 5'-6" to 5'-10" tall, and 160 to 170 lbs. He wore a black ski jacket with a hoodie, a winter knit cap, and gray stonewash jeans.

— *Compiled by CWBChicago.com*

Life of the freelancer, talk on the business of freelance writing Dec. 7

Contemplating making the leap into freelance writing? On Saturday, Dec. 7, speakers from Independent Writers of Chicago (IWOC) will provide tips on how to survive as a writer in Chicago.

IWOC President Laura Stigler, Program Director Jeff Steele and past president David Steinkraus will be giving a free presentation at Capital One Cafe, 3435 N. Southport Ave., from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The speakers hope to help writers navigate the business of freelance writing -- the opportunities, the challenges -- and divulge the business basics upon which they've built their own thriving freelance careers.

Topics will include how to define your niche and creating a To-Do list on how to set up a business, including creating your own office space, must-have promotional materials and what to do about taxes. How and where to find clients and opportunities, how to set fees and prioritize the benefits of networking with other writers, as well as clients, editors and anyone who might need writing services.

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

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You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
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Case Number: 13 CH 26825
TJSC#: 39-6846
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 13 CH 26825
13138556

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CTT Plaintiff,
-v-
MARIETTE K. LINDT, RAYMOND LINDT, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CWABS MASTER TRUST, REVOLVING HOME EQUITY LOAN ASSET BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2004-M, COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
19 CH 6671
1934 WEST BARRY AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60657
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 2, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 3, 2020, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1934 WEST BARRY AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60657

Property Index No. 14-30-205-030-0000
The real estate is improved with a multi-family residence.
The judgment amount was \$382,178.05.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the

Real Estate For Sale

purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVELL, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201, CHICAGO, IL, 60606 (312) 357-1125 Please refer calls to the sales department. Please refer to file number 19-02495.
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You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
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Case # 19 CH 6671
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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC; Plaintiff,
vs.
MANUEL CUBA; ELSA CUBA; ELSA RIVERA; RICHARD RIVERA; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF MANUEL CUBA, IF ANY; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ELSA CUBA, IF ANY; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ELSA RIVERA, IF ANY; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RICHARD RIVERA, IF ANY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,
16 CH 11893
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 11-31-100-026-0000.
Commonly known as 2334 West Estes Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645.
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455. W16-0605 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
Selling Officer, (312) 444-1122
13138746

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff,
-v-
FATIMA MITIC, DAVOR MITIC, RIDGE ESTATES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants
18 CH 5822
7351 N. RIDGE BOULEVARD, UNIT 2B
CHICAGO, IL 60645
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 10, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 14, 2020, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 7351 N. RIDGE BOULEVARD, UNIT 2B, CHICAGO, IL 60645
Property Index No. 11-30-314-013-1011
The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$99,168.43.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale

Real Estate For Sale

without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 18-5778.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC
230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125
Chicago IL, 60606
312-541-9710
E-Mail: ljpladings@johnsonblumberg.com
Attorney File No. 18-5778
Attorney Code. 40342
Case Number: 18 CH 5822
TJSC#: 39-6809
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 18 CH 5822
13138602

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
CIT BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,
-v-
LEDWYNA EVANS AK/A LEDWYNA L. EVANS, BELLA CASA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants
2019 CH 04086
1528 WEST FARGO AVENUE, UNIT 1N
CHICAGO, IL 60626
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 11, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 2, 2020, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1528 WEST FARGO AVENUE, UNIT 1N, CHICAGO, IL 60626
Property Index No. 11-29-306-033-1018
The real estate is improved with a brown brick, three story condominium with no garage.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be ac-

Real Estate For Sale

The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200
Chicago IL, 60602
312-346-9088
E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com
Attorney File No. 268826
Attorney ARDC No. 61256
Attorney Code. 61256
Case Number: 2019 CH 04086
TJSC#: 39-6113
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2019 CH 04086
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STATE from p. 1

marijuana will generate.

“My understanding is the market is larger than the amount of licenses,” said Peters. “We’re going to see it have varied impacts over stages as these licenses fill the market.”

Buckner says it will take some time to see if revenue lives up to expectation. “I don’t want anybody to think this is a silver bullet or a panacea. We’ve got to keep a close eye on it to make sure, as my granddad will say, that the juice is worth the squeeze.”

He expects the law to undergo many changes. Peters is especially hopeful about a “social equity” part of the law, which would help people obtain licenses to sell marijuana who have minor drug-related convictions or live in an area “disproportionally impacted” by drugs.

“My life has been so tied to the war on drugs since my birth,” said Peters. “And I think that this is a unique opportunity to show and

model not only for the rest of the country on a state-by-state level, but as hopefully on a national level when we get this done. And I hope that happens, that we become a model for how this can be done for the entire country and that we’ve gotten this right.”

In October, the mayor’s office and the Chicago City Council approved rules that created seven zones citywide in which retail pot sales would be allowed. Initially, no more than seven dispensaries will be allowed in each zone. Dispensaries will not be permitted along the Magnificent Mile, Loop, or much of River North along the lakefront.

North Side may benefit from legalized sports gambling

Moving more slowly is the bill legalizing sports betting that was signed into law on June 28 but has faced delays such as waiting for the Illinois Gaming Board to work out official rules. The new law allows for sports betting kiosks at licensed locations, such

as bars and restaurants, some of which could be on the North Side.

The law allows for more casinos in Illinois but, according to the independent public policy or-

time.”

Buckner says the legislation needs to be flexible to attract investment in casinos.

“We have the highest effective tax rate for a casino anywhere

Kam Buckner says it will take some time to see if revenue lives up to expectation. “I don’t want anybody to think this is a silver bullet or a panacea. We’ve got to keep a close eye on it to make sure, as my granddad will say, that the juice is worth the squeeze.”

ganization Illinois Policy, sports betting alone will generate \$240 million in one-time revenue from licensing fees and \$60-100 million in annual revenues.

“I’m not the biggest fan of casino gambling,” said Peters, “but it’s important to so much of the vertical capital [such as hospitals, parks, and schools] tied to that casino. So I know how important it is for us to be able to develop our vertical capital with this. And hopefully we get that done next session when we have more

in the country, so the question is whether... this 72% tax rate, where it is, is feasible for anybody who’s going to come in, try to finance this, and put a casino in our city.”

By comparison, Indiana has a 9.5% rate, making it much more attractive to operators. Now, Indiana’s legal sports betting market is projected to become one of the largest in the country, generating billions of dollars in bets annually and millions in tax revenue for the state for years to come, according to gambling analysts

from PlayIndiana.com.

In October, Indiana became the seventh state to launch of legal online sports betting. Already with 13 retail sportsbooks, the addition of online sports betting to Indiana could mean that the state’s best-case scenario is to generate nearly \$400 million in annual revenue from a handle of close to \$6 billion as neighboring states such as Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky do not yet offer legal online sports betting.

Mobile online sports wagering is not only the future, it’s the now in Jew Jersey, where mobile online betting via smartphones accounts for roughly 80% of that state’s wagers.

“We’ve become aware that states that don’t have a mobile piece don’t fare very well,” said State Rep. Michael Zalewski [23rd]. That is bad news for the state’s proposed plans, which would have sports betting overseen by the Illinois Lottery without any online component.

Indiana has made plain their desire to grab up as much of Chicago’s betting money as they can. “Indiana’s close proximity to Chicago should help the state punch above its weight class,” said Dustin Gouker, lead analyst for PlayIndiana.com. “As long as Indiana’s neighbors continue to prohibit sports betting, the state should expect huge flows of drive-in traffic.”

“Indiana has set itself up as one of the most operator-friendly legal sports betting markets in the country,” said Kim Yuhl, analyst for PlayIndiana.com. “That balance should help both sportsbook operators and the state realize their revenue potential.”

QUIET from p. 1

Once the ordinance is voted on and passed, the city’s Dept. of Transportation will post appropriate signage throughout the zone, and the Police will be able to enforce noise complaints.

For years, Lurie Children’s and Northwestern Memorial hospitals have been protected by a so-called quiet zone to avoid disturbing pa-

Ald. Hopkins wanted the council’s Committee on Public Safety to create sign requirements and expand the definition of excessive noise.

tients. But Ald. Hopkins wanted the council’s Committee on Public Safety to create sign requirements and expand the definition of excessive noise to include “use of a bullhorn or loud and raucous electronic amplification” or use of “an object ... struck manually or with a stick or similar item to produce a sharp percussive noise.” This was in response to members of Unite Here Local 1 who went on strike on Sept. 7, 2018 and made a constant racket while picketing outside the Cambria Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel, located next to the Children’s Hospital on E. Superior St. The strikers had used drums, megaphones, whistles, and even pots and pans to communicate their demands to hotel managers, hotel guests, neighbors of the hotels, and neighboring businesses.



Popular Lincoln Square area retailers and institutions like the Old Town School of Folk Music, DANKHaus and Davis Theatre



Cultural institutions such as the Mayfest, German-American Festival, Applefest and Farmer’s Market

City Hall may turn over the Public Parking Lot at 4715 N. Western [pictured above during the German American Festival] for a 5-story residential development.

Adding insult, City Hall is being asked to toss in \$1 million in tax credits toward a project that benefits an out of state developer.

The loss of public parking caused by this development will adversely affect property values and hurt local businesses in the neighborhood. It puts at risk beloved cultural institutions and festivals by removing open space and placing undue burden on already strained infrastructure, while adding more congestion and traffic to Lincoln Square’s most troubling intersection, forcing locals and visitors alike to seek parking on nearby residential streets.

Voice your concerns regarding this proposal to:

Ald. Matt Martin
 4243 N. Lincoln Ave.
 773-868-4747
 info@aldermanmartin.com