

Gratitude is the sign of noble souls.  
— Aesop

# SKYLINE

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## Watches worth \$2 million taken in downtown smash-and-grab as retail raiders strike again and again

BY CWBCHICAGO

This story was supposed to be about how shoplifting raiders stole thousands of dollars in merchandise from the North Face store on Michigan Ave. two days in a row.

Not any more.

Chicago police are investigating after a smash-and-grab team stole an estimated \$2 million worth of wristwatches from a luxury car dealership near the Mag Mile on Dec. 11. Less than an hour earlier, at least six thieves mobbed an Oak St. retailer and escaped with over \$20,000 worth of coats.

And it all happened as the Chicago Police Dept. supposedly had a special plan and extra resources in the area to make sure the downtown retail strips “remained safe.”

Shortly after noon on Saturday, two men entered the Bentley, Lamborghini, and Rolls-Royce dealership at 834 N. Rush St. One of the men used a hammer to smash a display case containing extremely expensive watches.

How expensive? According to initial information, the timepieces are Richard Mille brand — watches advertised as “a racing machine on the wrist.” They retail for hundreds and hundreds of

thousands, sometimes millions, of dollars. Each.

The thieves, described as two Black males wearing black clothing, reportedly snagged several of them from the car dealer’s display and then escaped in a vehicle that was waiting on nearby Delaware Place.



Richard Mille watches, sometimes retailing for millions of dollars, were stolen from an auto dealership on Rush St.

Earlier on Dec. 11, a group of between six and nine men wearing ski masks stormed Moose Knuckles, 54 E. Walton, and escaped with over \$20,000 worth of high-end winter coats. One of the

offenders punched an employee on the way out. The crew escaped in a black Dodge Charger and a silver Dodge Durango, both of which are stolen.

***On Dec. 10, two men snagged more than \$1,000 worth of merchandise from Nike, 669 N. Michigan. The heist seems almost quaint compared to other thefts in the area.***

On Dec. 10, two men snagged more than \$1,000 worth of merchandise from Nike, 669 N. Michigan. The heist seems almost quaint compared to other thefts in the area.

Later, around 5:30 p.m., two offenders stole about \$3,000 worth of coats from North Face, 875 N. Michigan. The same store lost about \$10,000 in products to a two-man theft team on Dec. 9, according to a CPD statement.

The North Face thieves used the same gray 2004 Honda Accord on both days. On Thursday, the suspects were described as two Black men in their 20s, one of whom wore a Rugsrats letterman-style jacket and another who wore a cream-colored hoodie.



Strong smells of chocolate and German baked goods are in the air at downtown Chicago’s Christkindlmarket, which is lit up from vendor booths and surrounding trees.  
Photo by Bianca Kreusel

## Holiday cheer underway at Chicago’s 25th annual Christkindlmarket

BY KRISTEN GESICKI AND  
BIANCA KREUSEL  
*Columbia Chronicle*

Crowds of people gather excitedly outside at Daley Plaza daily now as festive music and bright lights fill the air. Patrons sip hot cocoa and German apple cider as they celebrate the holiday season.

The Christkindlmarket — an annual event in Chicago inspired by German and European holiday traditions — returned to Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., and Wrigleyville at Gallagher Way, 3635 N. Clark St., on now through the end of the month, marking the attraction’s 25th anniversary.

The Christkindlmarket runs through Dec. 24 at Daley Plaza and until Dec. 31 in Wrigleyville.

Inspired by the 16th century, first-of-its-kind outdoor market in Nuremberg, Germany, the Christkindlmarket is best known for its holiday charm, along with vendors’ foods, gifts and memorable mugs and novelties for families and friends to share.

“It’s a German tradition,” said Leila Schmidt, the manager of marketing and intercultural communications at German American Events. “We started off with 13 [vendors] in 1996, and now we’re up to 55 different vendors from all around the world — not just Germany. Sixty percent [of vendors] are still German, but you’ll find them from Canada, from Chicago and local areas. We’ve pretty much grown a lot since then.”

Helmut Hamberger, the vendor for the Bavarian Workshop from Munich, Germany, has been a part of the market for 23 years, selling ornaments, masks and other Bavarian wares.

“We’re very happy to be here, especially with what’s going on in Europe right now. They’re facing a lockdown. All the markets

are cancelled,” Hamberger said. “It’s been very festive. People are happy to be here.”

The Christkindlmarket was only available online last year due to COVID-19, with vendors and customers buying and selling their products virtually. This year, customers can choose to shop in-person or online.

“I feel so happy,” said Sabine Korger, vendor at the Bienes Honnighaus Germany booth. “Last year was cancelled, and now we are back, and it feels really, really good.”

***“I’ve never been here before, and I wanted to check it out,”  
Alicja Hawryl said.  
“I saw some stuff from Poland where I’m from, so [that makes me] very homesick.”***

Korger has been a vendor at the Christkindlmarket for 13 years, selling self-care items made from honey, including soaps and lotions. She said the market gets her in the holiday spirit.

“I love it,” Korger said. “I love Americans and coming here. People are very lovely and positive, and they are so patient. I love it every year.”

Schmidt said safety is the Christkindlmarket’s number one priority this year due to COVID-19. There are signs throughout the market asking individuals to wear their masks, sanitize and social distance as much as possible.

From apple cider to sauerkraut, the Christkindlmarket is filled with edible delicacies.

Alicja Hawryl, a first-time visitor to the Christkindlmarket, was intrigued to see the German-in-

## Chicago / Cleveland project gets go-ahead for 23-story residential tower

A new 23-story high-rise is now under construction on a formerly small overgrown wooded park, and sometime refuse dump, at 808 N. Cleveland Ave.

The property was at first supposed to be a 24-story hotel with 214 guest rooms, but after the decimation of the local meeting, convention and travel industries due to the pandemic, and with so many downtown hotels already in bankruptcy, it is now going to be a residential high-rise.

Named 808 Cleveland, the project has now received its building permit, and construction is already underway. Located at the northeast corner of W. Chicago and N. Cleveland avenues, the building will replace a vacant lot that served as an unofficial playground of sorts for area youth from the nearby Cabrini Green row houses.

Chicago-based DAC Developments is leading the venture with Pappageorge Haymes Partners doing the designs.

After deciding to pivot to residential rental apartments, the new building will reportedly hold 200 units, rising 284 feet. The glass and concrete structure will also hold 20,000 square feet of office space, 7,500 square feet of retail space, but only 99 car parking spaces, or under half of what is needed for a one-to-one ratio with tenants.

This project is located adjacent to The Hudson apartments, with the Chicago Lights Urban Farm and CHA Cabrini Green row houses next door.

According to a zoning application filed with the city, the latest plan comes from developer Daniel



808 N. Cleveland Ave. is no longer to become a hotel; rather it will become a high-rise apartments once completed. Image courtesy Pappageorge Haymes Partners

Rezko—son of former Chicago power broker and convicted felon Antoin “Tony” Rezko.

Construction is expected to take about 18 months, with an estimated completion in early 2023.



# Say another Rosary for Chicago, but only after you've washed the dishes



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Christmas is certainly in the air. We can feel it near, and even smell it now if your tree is up.

And we can taste it now that the weather for homemade pot pies is here.

I started with a fish pie. Simple. Some cod, turbot and halibut. Just a touch of fresh tarragon. A sauce created from a good fish stock. And carrots. Lots of sweet carrots to frame the flavors.

Made some Thousand Island dressing for a Boston lettuce salad. A real Saturday feast. Some good Chablis finished off the harmony of flavors.

WFMT is really co-operating with the broadcasting of English carols like we were in the Cotswolds. The timeless music of everyone from Thomas Tallis to Ralph Vaughan Williams helps create that grand sacred aesthetic environment suitable for high dining, prayer, monastic simplicity and reflecting back on life.

That's the pleasure of the season, to have the time for nostalgia. In the faces of family, and relatives with stories to tell. And the shared common history that emerges to unite and restore.

Was their ever a time when we needed it more?

The disarray of life at the moment can be frightening. Like Putin and his Ruskie army at the gates. Or the arrival of freshly growing Omicron statistics. (Do we say OH-mee kron or oh-MY-kron?) Oxford Univ. word crafters say both are good.

But in the face of such fear and terror there may not be much we can do. That's why I say make a fish pie or a treasured Boeuf

Bourgingnon. Pour in that sturdy French Burgundy. Get the crunchy baguette ready for dipping. There's a restoring and calming set of nourishment in such culinary projects.

Test some good wines for the approaching Christmas feast. Write out your menu, even if it never changes. Learn to make Dutch pancakes. There are some easy recipes online. Make a blueberry compote and serve as a sauce for the pancake. I promise that will restore you. Take that, Comrade Putin.

I've been polishing silver all week. No one polished during the pandemic. And now that I have a new Ukrainian helper I wanted to get the heavy tarnish off before I asked her to polish away. The labor was good for me. Providing a sense of getting things back to normal.

A four-hour deep cleaning by my new worker has banished the ghosts of dusty pandemic build-up. Moving furniture around to make her floor cleaning easier has been a freeing experience. Out of it has come a new resolution for me. That is, no dish, pan or utensil will ever sit in my kitchen sink for more than five minutes. I will clean it when I've used it.

Ironically my sister, Mary Regina, said that half a century ago, my grandmother, Nora Ryan O'Connor, was advocating that exact same kitchen advice.

Apparently my ears were close to the wisdom.

Now a million excuses later, I'm not waiting to fill the dish washer. Everything now gets washed ASAP. The kitchen is spotless, dishes always ready for reuse. I hope granny has learned of the news in heaven, she'll be thrilled and can finally take some satisfaction that her words might be delayed, at times, but they still have the power to give a lazy grandson the correct push. Especially in the kitchen.

Funny, but when my sister comes for Christmas dinner, she always bring a shipment of fresh-



Harold Washington mural at 53rd St.

ly baked yeast buns our grandmother always called scones. My sister really perfected grandma Nora's timeless recipe. Still warm, the unsalted Kerry Gold Irish butter melts luxuriously as we eat our lobster salads. The taste of the scones really bring Nora Ryan O'Connor back to us. Such nostalgia brings us all a surprising lift. Dinner guests who never knew her simply love the homebred rolls. But there is love and memories aplenty as the butter melts.

We took them for granted growing up. Now they are a revered treat, more appreciated than our prime rib and Yorkshire pudding.

How mysterious things can be. The bountiful presence of our treasured granny as near as a platter of her fresh baked scones. And following that a trail of memories of the lilting Irish voice that told us stories and prayed with us. And showed us letters from her sons' exotic travels in World War II. We hear the melody of her songs and ditties. We see her great passion for walking everywhere. And the endless visits from assorted family members visiting her faithfully through all 97 years of her living. Hoping to get a cup of tea and a fresh scone for their troubles.

We always loved taking her out

for dinner on Sundays, especially to Jack Gibbons for the finest chicken anywhere.

Nora was a poultry snob and expert chicken aficionado.

But of course we thrilled because she would always have her favorite cocktail when we were on the town. A cool, tasty Brandy Alexander. Just one. But she became a celebrity before our eyes lifting the silky concoction in the stem glass to her lips.

I can only imagine what she would make of the current disasters all around us. The disarray of our politics and the disaster of our leadership. The plague of COVID. Brexit. Megxit. The looting on Michigan Ave. Jussie Smollett's trial and the beating of an innocent bus driver. And the indictment of so many aldermen.

I suspect what she'd gab about the most is her White Sox' World Series victory. The cost of good butter. How improved the Brandy Alexanders have become. And my washing the dishes as I use them. And then she would say another Rosary for Chicago.



Yoshi Katsumura, Yoshi Cafe's namesake.

**SAD NEWS:** Yoshi's Cafe, 3257 N. Halsted, has closed after 39 years. What a delicious and savory restaurant. What lovely owners and staff. What sweet customers.

**A RARITY:** Illinois House Majority Leader politico **Greg Harris** announced he will not seek re-election to the Illinois Legislature. He is simply one of the nicest guys in local politics. A real gem, and a man's man - leaving on his own accord, such a rarity in this city and state.

**HAROLD:** Attorney **JoAnne Gazarek Bloom** sent a snap of the fabulous new Harold Washington mural at 53rd St. RR viaduct near Lake Park.



Rep. Greg Harris

**LOCK THE STALL:** Chicago Public School bathrooms are now gender neutral, non-sex specific ... Well, thankfully we solved that problem. Now, what does CPS plan to do about our 11th graders not being able to read, write or do math?

**POTTERS - VILLE:** While it may seem we are all now living in Pottersville, It's A Won-

derful Life is celebrating 75 years (1946) and will be broadcast on TCM on Dec. 18 and 21. **James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers, Beulah Bondi, Ward Bond, Frank Faylen and Gloria Grahame** at their Christmas best. Named the #1 most inspiring film of all time by the American Film Institute, this movie has touched generations of

**ROSARY** see p. 10

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# Making Christmas merry and bright

**Plus, cookie time!**



**Heart  
of the  
'Hood**

by Felicia Dechter

*It's so important  
to make someone happy  
Make just one someone happy  
And you will be happy too.*

It's the song that just kept popping into my head as I was writing this. You know it, "Make Someone Happy," sung by the late entertainer Jimmy Durante. The lyrics are so very true, aren't they? Make someone happy, and you will be happy too.

Here's a really simple way to do that.

Once again this year, the Chicago Public Library's [CPL] Edgewater branch, 6000 N. Broadway, has teamed up with Edgewater Village Chicago [EVC] for a wonderful holiday program. The community is invited to participate and I hope that you will, to easily help spread some Christmas cheer.

Hundreds of season's greeting

cards are being collected by Katy Linehan, adult services librarian at the Edgewater library branch and co-chair of EVC's Program Committee. The cards will be distributed to people in assisted living residences, nursing homes, and rehabilitation facilities in Uptown, Edgewater, Andersonville and Rogers Park.

EVC and CPL are natural partners, as their missions are to engage and serve the wider community at large, said Linehan.

"Especially during the pandemic, when older adults were isolated in their residences and not allowed to have in-person visitors, we wanted to let them know they were not forgotten," said Linehan. "Just because we couldn't be together didn't mean they had to be completely alone. We hoped the cards would put a smile on their faces, and know that we were thinking about them."

EVC has been hosting a card-giving program for four years. Originally it started as a program hosted by EVC at the Edgewater Satellite Senior Center, where people could decorate birthday, holiday, and Valentine's Day cards for those in nursing homes or rehabilitation centers in the Edgewater area. However, since the pandemic, it has been expanded to include community participation, and the cards are



Katy Linehan holds some of the season's greetings cards that will be distributed to folks in assisted living residences, nursing homes, and rehabilitation facilities in Uptown, Edgewater, Andersonville and Rogers Park this year.

distributed to more neighborhoods.

Last year, Linehan received 541 cards, and those were delivered to folks in Edgewater, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Ridge. "We're hoping to top that number this year," she said. "We would love to keep receiving cards at the Edgewater Branch library's front desk right up to the deadline," (5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19).

This is such a great project for anyone looking to do a good deed

and get creative. What a cool task for the kids! You can buy or make cards and if you choose to do the latter, you and whoever you are creating with could really have a lot of fun.

However you do it, please drop off a card or two or three or more at the library and, make someone happy.

"For those who may be interested in participating in the program, we welcome non-religious cards from everyone who wishes

to provide them," said Linehan. "Some people mentioned that they are involving children in their families as a way of teaching empathy and we also have students from Senn High School participating this year.

"We hope to keep this program going for many years," Linehan added.

I hope so too. It's a nice easy way to do a little free or low-cost giving -- my favorite kind. To be a part of this rewarding initiative, e-mail Linehan at [klinehan@chicpublib.org](mailto:klinehan@chicpublib.org).

**Cookie monsters reunite...**  
The annual holiday Cookie Party was started nearly 40 years ago in a small apartment at Wolfram and George streets in Lakeview, by a woman named Denise Schott-Malek. After a COVID hiatus last year, cookie party lovers from near and far reunited. And it feels so good.

It all began 37-years-ago, when Schott-Malek's now 43-year-old daughter, Marly Schott, was six-years-old.

"I realized that none of her friend's moms really baked," said Schott-Malek. "I guess I grew up baking a lot."

So she invited a few people over, including me, then in my mid 20s.

**MERRY** see p. 6

## MEMORIES FADE, BUT TRADITIONS REMAIN.

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Despite their combat service, many Chicago and Cook County veterans have not applied for the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption, and should take immediate action to lessen the huge impact of the 2021 reassessment in the city. Visit: [www.CookCountyAssessor.com](http://www.CookCountyAssessor.com) and click on the Exemptions list, or call 312-443-7550.

## Thousands of Cook County disabled vets pay no property taxes



by Don DeBat

### The Home Front

Few Vietnam War veterans had the steel nerves of Robert Duvall in the role of Lt. Colonel Bill Kilgore in the movie, "Apocalypse Now."

"I love the smell of napalm in the morning," said Duvall, in the 1979 movie—one of the most compelling war pictures ever made.

War is hell, and most Ameri-

cans would agree that disabled war veterans deserve more than a Purple Heart and an honorable discharge for their service.

That's why in 2015, the Illinois General Assembly passed a law that calls for disabled veterans to receive a substantial reduction on property taxes.

In many cases the vets pay zero dollars in taxes if the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs certifies the homeowner is at least 70% disabled.

Today, 6,083 homeowners in Cook County who earned the Disabled Veterans Standard Homeowner Exemption from Assessor Fritz Kaegi are exempt from paying property taxes. Collectively the exemption saves these disabled vets \$33.1 million in property taxes—or an average of \$5,450 per property.

The "Disabled Veterans Exemption" gives an annual reduction on the vet's primary residence's equalized assessed value (EAV) providing the property is occupied on Jan. 1 of the assessment year. The amount of the exemption depends on the percentage of disability certified by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

A 70% disabled vet is exempt from paying property taxes. A disabled vet with 50% to 69% service-connected disability will receive a \$5,000 reduction in EAV.

A vet with 30% to 49% disability will receive a \$2,500 reduction in EAV.

In Chicago, and all of Cook County, the exemption lasts for a disabled veteran's entire life, though it must be reapplied for every year, with certification from the VA and the applicant remains at least 30% disabled. When the vet dies, his or her surviving spouse can continue to collect the benefit unless the surviving spouse remarries.

Among the proof required to receive the tax break for disabled veterans in Illinois is a letter from the VA spelling out the percentage of a vet's service-related disability.

To receive the disability rating, vets must provide the VA with proof from private or military doctors of the following:

- A current physical or mental health problem.
- An injury, disease or exposure to something toxic that occurred while they were in the military.
- Evidence that the current health problem stems from something that occurred during their service.

Qualifying disability conditions may include chronic back pain, severe hearing loss, scar tissue or ulcers as well as post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD], depression and traumatic brain injuries. A disabled vet could even be rated 50% disabled for sleep apnea or flat feet.

Monetary rewards can be substantial. One Northwest Side vet who was severely wounded in Vietnam combat in 1966 has paid no property taxes on his modest 3-bedroom ranch home for the past 6.5 years beginning in mid-2015.

In 2006, before he qualified for the disability exemption at the 70% level, his property taxes were \$5,234, and in 2007, they peaked



Young Dean Karouzos aboard his carrier in the Tonkin Gulf.

at \$6,897. That's an average tax bill of \$6,110 for the two years.

Over the next seven years—from 2008 through 2014—via aggressive appeals and the Homeowner and Senior Exemptions, the tax bill averaged only \$3,272 per year. So, over the last 6.5 years—between 2015 and 2021—with the added disability exemption, he likely saved more than \$21,268 in property taxes.

Despite their combat service, many Chicago and Cook County vets have not applied for the Disabled Veterans Exemption, and should immediately action to lessen the huge impact of the 2021 reassessment in the city. Visit: [www.CookCountyAssessor.com](http://www.CookCountyAssessor.com) and click on the Exemptions list, or call 312-443-7550.

While serving on active duty from mid-1969 to mid-1971 as a U.S. Navy sailor on the USS Ranger and USS Midway aircraft carriers during the Vietnam War, Northwest Side homeowner Dean Karouzos suffered severe hearing loss while his squadron participated in combat missions in the Tonkin Gulf.

"On the USS Ranger, my daily post during combat missions adjoined an inner-wall barrier for the starboard front launch catapult of our ship," Karouzos recalled. "Our 12-hour shifts coincided with fight operations. As a result, the pounding catapult release during launch was extremely close to my left ear."

Karouzos says he was proud to have served, but now, as a 74-year-old retiree, he suffers from hearing loss, especially in his left ear. "The left ear canal has collapsed to about half normal size of my right ear canal," he explained.

Critics of the Disabled Veteran Exemption, and other exemptions for Senior Citizens say they undermine the integrity of the property tax system.

**Among the proof required to receive the tax break for disabled veterans in Illinois is a letter from the VA spelling out the percentage of a vet's service-related disability.**

A Chicago Sun-Times analysis published on Oct. 1, singled out U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth—one of Illinois' highest-profile combat veterans—and other affluent, Chicago-area vets, for accepting disability benefits.

Duckworth accepted \$37,842 in tax breaks on her primary residence in Hoffman Estates since 2015 as a 70% certified disabled veteran. She lost both legs when her helicopter was shot down in Iraq in 2004. She now uses a wheelchair.

"I'm surprised that someone would question veterans who have been wounded in service to their nation in a combat zone accessing benefits," Duckworth said.

This writer believes any Armed Forces member who serves, and is disabled in combat, deserves all the benefits America can offer. Gung-ho!

For more housing news, visit [www.dondebat.biz](http://www.dondebat.biz). Don DeBat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit [www.escapingcondojail.com](http://www.escapingcondojail.com).

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### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM

#### Attention Neighbors,

The Clifton Parking Garage will be closed at 11:30 pm on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 until reopening at 7:00 am on Sunday, January 2, 2022. Please remove your vehicle from the deck before December 22nd if you need it during break.

You will not have access to the Clifton garage during this closure. You may park in any designated university student flat lot during this time.

If you have purchased a 24hr Area Resident Clifton permit, please contact Parking Services and we will grant you access to the Sheffield garage during this Winter break closure.

Please call Parking Services at 773-325-7275 or email ([ParkingServices@depaul.edu](mailto:ParkingServices@depaul.edu)) before Wednesday, December 22nd with any questions.

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# License plate reading and POD cameras proliferate across Chicago and Illinois



BY GREG BISHOP

Cities across the state - including Chicago - are either evaluating or have implemented new camera technology that could supplement or replace gunshot spotting systems.

The ShotSpotter network has cost the city of Chicago \$60-70 million to install. And now critics say it's not been as effective as advertised. The city has recorded more than 1,000 homicides so far this year, few of which are ever solved or prosecuted, despite all the video evidence.

The idea to have video surveillance of Chicago streets that were experiencing high-crime rates was a concept originally developed by Chicago Police Dept. street officers.

In July of 2003, the CPD unveiled a revolutionary pilot program using specially developed and customized technology aimed at reducing crime in Chicago's most violence prone communities.

This technology used remote-controlled and viewable cameras called Police Observation Devices [PODs] positioned to view and record potential crime in high-risk areas.

The crimes and shootings they want to track, the technology has now spread to most every Chicago neighborhood, on all highways, and even onto city-owned vehicles that drive around town 24 hours a day photographing parked - and moving - cars and their license plates.

These cameras were designed to ensure that their highly visible presence would inform the public that they are now under non-stop police surveillance.

City Hall knows that Chicago's POD camera network invades the freedom to be anonymous in public places, a key aspect of the fundamental American right to be left alone. For Chicago residents, the personal habits of daily life are carried out on our streets and sidewalks - and those residents are now being photographed hundreds of times a day. While earlier camera systems tracked only how some people spend some of their time in the public way, a camera on every corner - coupled with pan-tilt-zoom, facial recognition, and automatic tracking - results in government power to track how all people spend all of their time in the public way.

Chicago's ever-growing camera network is part of an expanding culture of surveillance in America. Combined with other government surveillance technologies (such as seizure of phone, email, and credit card records, RFID chips, and GPS devices), cameras and our own smart phones have turned the average law-abiding citizen's lives into open books for unregulated government scrutiny.

POD video transmission allows live broadcast on any computer through a web based application. CPD can control POD viewing capabilities by zooming in or out, or rotating the camera, to increase and direct viewing of a targeted area.

City Hall and the police are now also soliciting private property owners to allow them access to private security camera feeds as well, to advance their surveillance capabilities.

Chicago police use the cameras every day, all day. The monitors are watched in 25 district stations, and over 200 city-owned cars and vans are outfitted with cameras and view feeds.

POD video is monitored by officers in District stations, and by selected officers patrolling POD areas by vehicle, officers at the Crime Prevention and Information Center and personnel at the City's Office of Emergency Management and Communications Center [OEMC]. The camera locations are integrated with 911's Computer Aided Dispatch system. When calls for service in the area of a POD are received, the call description and nearest POD location are displayed to the crime detection specialists enabling them to immediately dispatch units to areas where a crime has been detected. OEMC personnel also view targeted areas as requested by police. POD cameras are also monitored by gang/tactical officers, and are



Retired Chicago police officers are recruited to join sworn officers to monitor computer displays. The images are projected onto larger screens on the wall at the Chicago Emergency Communication Center so other officers can interact with any situation. Police Operation Devices can be found throughout Chicago's North Side.

Photo courtesy Lance Iverson, San Francisco Chronicle

***The crimes and shootings they want to track, the technology has now spread to most every Chicago neighborhood, on all highways, and even onto city-owned vehicles that drive around town 24 hours a day photographing parked - and moving - cars and their license plates.***

used in coordination with other violence reduction missions. Officers can watch the POD video, make arrests and can inventory the video footage for later use in prosecution of the offenders.

Chicago aldermen have the ability to purchase POD cameras through the Neighborhood Menu Program, for use in their wards for surveillance of target areas of criminal activity on the public-way. The PODS cost about \$25,000 each.

In some wealthy areas, private residents are now offering to buy the PODs, and install them on their blocks for the city's use.

And why not? In North Side neighborhoods known for their

nightlife, shopping and restaurants, police districts have experienced a 150-200% increase on robberies compared to just 6 or 7 years ago. The cameras were integral in documenting the dramatic increase in rioting and looting cases over the last few years.

Aldermen can also decide if PODs located within their wards that were purchased under this program, should be relocated to other locations within their ward boundaries in order to maximize crime reduction.

There are several conditions to be met before a POD can be installed on the public-way. Several

**CAMERAS** see p. 13

## What are you going to owe in 2022?

**Cook County Treasurer posts next years' First Installment property tax bills online**

We've all seen the property tax assessments, but what do we owe?

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas has posted the First Installment Tax Year 2021 bills on their website, [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com).

The First Installment, which is 55% of the previous year's total tax, is due March 1, 2022.

By providing an early look at the bills, North Side property owners can plan their finances or make payments before the end of the year.

"During the holiday season, it's good to think about what bills will come due in the new year," Pappas said. "My office is committed to helping taxpayers keep their homes and seeing these bills early allows people to think ahead about their budgets."

You can download your tax bill and make a payment by visiting [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) and following these steps: Select the blue box labeled "Pay Online for Free" and then enter your address or 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN).

There is no fee if you pay from your bank account. The Treasurer's Office accepts partial payments but First Installment taxes must be paid by March 1 to avoid a late charge of 1.5% per month, as mandated by Illinois law.

You can also use [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) to search \$84 million in available refunds. Check if you are missing out on \$34 million in property tax exemptions, which lower your tax bill, or to read the Pappas Studies, a series of research projects that includes a 20-year history of Cook County property taxes.

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# State offering new round of rental assistance payments

Illinois renters and their landlords can apply now for the new round of state rental assistance. This second round will provide \$250 million in assistance to tenants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic using federal taxpayer funds.

This program will provide one-time grants of up to \$25,000 to cover missed rental payments for tenants unable to pay due to a COVID-19 related loss of income. In most cases, these grants will be paid directly to the landlord. Grant amounts will vary and will be matched to the tenant's specific need.

Tenants and landlords can apply by going to [www.illinoishousinghelp.org](http://www.illinoishousinghelp.org).

While this second round rental assistance application process will be similar to the first, there

will be a few changes. There will be no separate application windows for landlords and tenants, so either can begin their application now through Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022. The assistance will now cover up to 18 months of rental payments, including up to 15 months of missed payments and three months of future payments.

In order to qualify for this state rental assistance, tenants must meet all of the following requirements: Tenant is behind on rent and/or at risk of homelessness or housing instability; Tenant lives in Illinois and rents their home as their primary residence, and the tenant's total gross income does not exceed 80% of the area median income.

Household must have experienced a financial hardship directly — or indirectly — due to

the pandemic, for example if they were unable to participate in previous employment due to the workplace's high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, or having to stay home with children due to closure of day care/school; the inability to find work due to COVID-19, loss of spousal/child support, being laid off or a reduction in hours of work, or your place of employment has closed.

Priority will be given to tenant households with low income and to those who have been unemployed for more than 90 days. Housing Choice Voucher holders will also now be eligible for assistance.

This state rental assistance is available to all eligible renters in Illinois regardless of immigration status. This assistance is not a "public charge" benefit.

The state of Illinois Housing Development Authority [IHDA] has begun reviewing applications and will approve applications on a rolling basis.

If the landlord does not complete their section of the application, they will be considered unresponsive and the tenant's application will go through a separate review process. Those tenants may receive rental assistance funds directly and will be contacted by IHDA with further

instructions.

IDHS also offers a rental assistance program with no deadline. They can also connect you with organizations offering assistance with utility bills, medical assistance and additional services. For more information call 866-454-3571 or visit [www.illinoisrentalassistance.org](http://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org). IDHS also has network of 16 non-profit organizations providing free legal aid, mediation services and other resources for those facing eviction. For assistance, visit [www.EvictionHelpIllinois.org](http://www.EvictionHelpIllinois.org), or call 855-631-0811.

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(L) Joey gets serious about decorating his cookies. (R) They came from Edgewater, Logan Square, Rogers Park, and the city's South Side for the 36th Holiday Cookie Party last weekend. Left to right in rear: Party founder and host Denise Schott-Malek; Tavarus Holloway; Bryan Malek Jr.; Tyren Thompson. In front, left to right: Sophie Gaziano; Adorria Cardona; Marly Schott.



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### MERRY from p. 3

She baked her aunt's recipe of Pecan Snow Balls and some sugar cookies from the recipe of a family she used to baby-sit for. "It just started to grow each year and I tried various recipes each year," said Schott-Malek, who received a "Joy of Cooking" cookbook at age 18 and has used it ever since. (She is now in her upper 60s).

Throughout the years there have been people changes, life changes, sex changes (just kidding on that one. Not yet anyway...) and location changes. The cookie party has been held in Lakeview, Rogers Park, Logan Square and even the 'burbs a few times. One thing that has been consistent though is that all the basic recipes have been the same. Marly, who lives in Edgewater, apparently put together a family cookbook in 2010 and all of Schott-Malek's treasured cookie recipes are inside.

"There's lot of history with this tradition," said Schott-Malek. I asked if she had an unusual story to share from throughout the years. "No particular story," she said. "Just the generations of our children -- always cookies so deep in frosting and sprinkles you couldn't really eat them. Lots of fun, love, family and friends."

After nearly four decades, I have probably missed only a handful of these always very wonderful cookie parties. With my grandchildren now taking part in the tradition, we are on our third

generation of attending... me, my kids, and now my grandkids.

From the bottom of my heart I thank Schott-Malek for carrying on this truly joyful tradition. And I hope we'll be munching on cookies together for another four decades, at least!

Probably my favorite cookies are the scrumptious cherry slices, this year baked with lots of love by Marly. Here's the recipe in case you'd like to try them:

*1 cup sugar  
1 cup butter (room temp)  
3 oz. cream cheese (room temp)  
1 tsp vanilla  
2 cups flour  
12 maraschino cherries (chopped and drained on paper towels)*

*Cream together sugar and butter. Add cream cheese and vanilla. Slowly mix in flour (you're probably going to have to get your hands in there). Fold in drained and chopped maraschino cherries. Form into two rolls about 1.5" in diameter and wrap tightly in wax paper. Refrigerate until firm, several hours or overnight. Cut into quarter inch to one-inch slices and bake at 350 for eight to 10 minutes.*

**Preserving our city...** Preservation Chicago has put out an open call for nominations for its 2022 Chicago 7 Most Endangered List. The organization needs your help in identifying threatened and/or neglected buildings. Deadline is Jan. 10.

To be eligible, the building must be: Historic, in danger, in Chicago, and/or too special to lose. The



Sarah, left, and Olivia, spread some Christmas cookie cheer.

list will be announced in March.

Some people are already mentioning the Rogers Park Water Works, 1222 W. Touhy Ave. Built in 1888, it's apparently the oldest building on the city's lakefront. My kids used to go to the nearly century-old Leone Junior Life-guard program there, but that was discontinued and the building has been in disrepair for numerous years now as far as I know. Plans for the property have been discussed but it seems that they have never materialized.

**Mission possible...** if you're still on a mission to holiday shop, hit the Sunday Holiday Shoppe from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 19, at Mission Control, 1408 W. Morse Ave. Shop small with a variety of local artists, makers and vendors.

And if you're like me and have wanted to check Mission Control out anyway, this is a good excuse to head on over.

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# Cook County staff taking heat for their bosses

**Normally docile crowds' hostile reception a harbinger of things to come?**  
BY PATRICK BUTLER

Eric Wong, special assistant to Cook County Board President Toni Prekwinkle, may have figured his recent visit to the Lake View Kiwanis Club at Ann Sather's Restaurant on Belmont was going to be a walk in the park as he started explaining his job overseeing a variety of responsibilities and tasks he performs for the county.

Wong performs a wide range of tasks from helping the 30% of Chicagoans who don't have internet access to helping hospitals stay open to the Juvenile Justice system's needs to organizing the commissioner's cabinet to organizing parties for officials attending those cabinet meetings.

None of which could possibly have been as immediately challenging as dealing with the normally docile local club members' unceasing demands that something finally be done about Chicago's growing crime and punishment scene.

It was an experience many employ-

ees of Cook County may be experiencing these days as they're forced to answer for the problems created by the failing Cook County Courts, compromised Prosecutor's Office and empty jails.

"We talk to people every day and crime is far and away the number one problem on people's minds here on the North Side," said Ron Roenigk, publisher of the Skyline, Inside-Booster and News-Star newspapers, long known for keeping a close watch on neighborhood concerns.

"Is this what we're supposed to expect from the County until the next election?" he asked.

Poor Mr. Wong, he may or may not have expected this, but all of the questioning thereafter stayed with this one subject, once his 15-minute talk was completed.

None of the 20 Kiwanians asked about anything other than crime and punishment issues.

"People can't live like this," said one usually understanding retired Chicago librarian who kept demanding assurances something would be changing soon.

Just the tone of her voice made it clear enough she didn't need to add an "or else."

"It just goes on and on," she added.

Wong, who lives on the near Southwest Side, listened intently to the questions, responded politely and professionally, likely knowing - but unable to say freely - that his own community too is being plagued by the lawlessness enveloping the city. A

**"People can't live like this," said one retired Chicago librarian who kept demanding assurances something would be changing soon.**

71-year-old man named Woom Sing Tse was shot 22 times execution-style in broad daylight in a Chinatown attack only last week, in a brazen, violent and outrageous shooting that will be eclipsed by the next brazen criminal act that follows.

"I had planned to take the CTA's Red Line down here, but when I heard a man had been attacked and beaten by a hammer-wielding thug [that morning], I decided to take the car," said another member, a retired Cook County staffer.

"I don't want to sound insensitive, but

where are the parents," another Kiwanian member asked Wong, who by then was doing his best to keep the situation as cool as possible, as some listeners seemed about ready to make Wong the focus of all that's going wrong in Chicago and Cook County with crime and punishment, since he was the only city or county official in sight.

"I can't guarantee things are going to get better," Wong admitted, "I just hope and pray we all stay safe. But believe me, there is work being done," he promised.

"I know I didn't answer your questions. I know there's a lot of finger-pointing. I'm sorry. I hope there will be visible improvement soon," Wong said.

"But there's a lot being done," he said.

"So where does it end," a clearly frustrated woman asked Wong.

"This just seems to go on and on..."

Despite all this, "the judges who turn the offenders loose keep getting elected time and time again. There seems to be no oversight here, no consequences for criminal activity," the former librarian remarked.

"Who's in charge," she wondered out loud.

## Illinois' \$16 billion health program is riddled with industry ties and potential conflicts of interest

*Milking Medicaid: The state health care agency has a revolving door for executives from the insurance industry.*

BY DAVID JACKSON  
Better Government Assoc.

Part 2 of 2

The upper echelon of the state agency charged with overseeing Medicaid is peppered with representatives of the for-profit insurance industry state officials are supposed to be policing, a Better Government Assoc. [BGA] investigation has found.

An examination of state contracts, salary data, pension statements, court records and internal correspondence identified more than a dozen top-level Medicaid officials in Illinois who have current or recent financial ties to the giant insurance companies now managing the \$16 billion per year taxpayers spend to provide medical care to people who cannot afford health coverage.

Officials such as the state deputy administrator who runs Medicaid after a 20-year career as an Aetna senior executive, or the state's "expert adviser" on Medicaid policy, who is also an Aetna lobbyist, or the consultant who advises state officials while taking fees from the insurance companies.

The BGA disclosures about potential

dual loyalties come at a time when struggling health care providers complain the state's faulty oversight of Medicaid brings record-level profits to insurance companies, even as they deny and delay claims.

The state's top health care official rejects the suggestion that taxpayer money is being mismanaged or that conflicts of interest are undermining the agency's objectivity at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is putting the state's health care system under stress.

Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services Director Theresa Eagleson said all potential conflicts are disclosed and vetted, and officials with dual financial interests are required to recuse themselves from agency decisions that affect their bottom line.

"This is a really big, complex agency, and we're proud to employ a diverse array of people who bring a lot of experience with Medicaid, with clinical care, with finance, with insurance," Eagleson said. "We are very careful to follow all the rules."

HFS officials told the BGA they talk to a wide array of stakeholders, including lawmakers, frontline medical providers and consultants from every industry that is involved in Medicaid. In some cases, they said, state statute requires HFS to talk to industry representatives and their private

consultants.

While public records reveal no overt acts where these conflicts led to personal financial gain, ethics experts said a bigger concern centers on how the insurance companies have access at the highest levels of government when Medicaid patients do not.

State ethics laws require a one-year "cooling-off period" before former state employees can procure state contracts. But in general, the walls preventing ethical conflicts or their appearance are flimsy, experts say.

"When the relationships between the government and industry are so cozy, when there are so many financial entanglements, that necessary wall starts to look like Swiss cheese," said Alisa Kaplan, executive director of the watchdog group Reform for Illinois. "How is the public supposed to look at that and trust that the government is putting their interests first?"

**Lawmaker blasts 'interbreeding'**

Revolving doors and conflicts of interest have emerged at virtually every level of American government, from municipal offices to federal agencies. State governments, including Illinois, impose an array

of financial disclosure rules and cooling-off periods to stop private interests from co-opting the public sector.

**"When the relationships between the government and industry are so cozy, when there are so many financial entanglements, that necessary wall starts to look like Swiss cheese," said Alisa Kaplan.**

The Illinois Medicaid merry-go-round has been whirling under three successive governors — Pat Quinn, Bruce Rauner and current Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

"It's like interbreeding here," said state Rep. Fred Crespo [44th]. "How can they have their hands out to the insurance companies and at the same time be making Medicaid policy?"

In the Illinois Medicaid program, officials and industry executives say they carefully vet potential conflicts through frank, top-level discussions. But the BGA found little public disclosure as program lead-

CONFLICTS see p. 10


**MARIA PAPPAS**  
COOK COUNTY TREASURER

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# Police Beat...

## Bump-n-run gunmen hijacked driver in River North

Two hijackers displayed a handgun and a rifle to take a man's SUV during a bump-n-run hijacking in River North on Dec. 7, police said. No arrests have been made.

Officer Ronald Westbrooks, a CPD spokesperson, said it happened as a 23-year-old man was driving a 23-year-old female passenger on the 500 block of N. Kingsbury around 6:14 p.m.

As the man approached a stop sign, a gray Nissan Sentra bumped the rear of his red 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT, Westbrooks said. The victim got out to look for damage to his car and came face-to-face with a couple of armed men who exited the Sentra.

The offenders demanded his keys while displaying a pistol and a rifle or Draco-style mini AK-47 pistol, according to officers at the scene.

Both gunmen drove away with the victim's SUV, and they were followed by an accomplice who drove the Sentra they arrived in, Westbrooks said.

He said the suspects are three Black men between 20- and 25-years-old. They stand 5'-10" to 6' tall, and one of them was wearing a black jacket.

According to the city of Chicago's optimistically-named "violence reduction dashboard," there were 66 carjacking "victimizations" between Nov. 30 and Dec. 6 — up 74% compared to the same week last year.

"Victimizations" refers to the number of people in carjacked vehicles, not necessarily the number of crimes committed. If two people are in a car when it gets hijacked, that counts as two "victimizations" but only one hijacking.

## Armed men mug woman, fire a gunshot during brazen midday robbery in Uptown

An armed man reportedly fired a gunshot during a brazen midday robbery on N. Broadway Dec. 7, and it was caught on video.

One of the suspects appeared to have a tattoo over his right eye — a detail that may link the man to another robbery in the same area and Lakeview on Nov. 6.

Video shows a 30-year-old woman walking on the 4000 block of N. Broadway around 11 a.m. when a black car with temporary license plates pulls over in front of the camera, and two men get out. They start walking toward the woman as the car's driver pulls a U-turn.

They force the woman against a wall and rob her at gunpoint, taking her iPhone and a tan tote bag that contained her wallet and an umbrella.

The victim told police that one of the men fired a gun in her direction, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said.

One of the men clearly displays a handgun as he heads toward the getaway car. Then, at the 40-second mark, a puff of smoke rises from his hand, and the woman crouches down to protect herself.

Bartoli said police did not find any shell casings at the scene.

Monday's robbery is the second one in a week in which offenders fired a handgun.

Earlier, three armed men confronted three women at gunpoint on the 2200 block of N. Fremont

## Mayor to retailers: 'It's your fault'



Mayor Lori Lightfoot

Mayor Lori Lightfoot called out retailers for their "disappointing" response to Chicago crime.

Lightfoot said retailers need to do a better job taking care of themselves.

"I am disappointed that they are not doing more to take safety and make it a priority. We still have retailers that won't institute plans like having a security officers in the

around 9:30 p.m. Dec. 3. That's near the DePaul Univ. athletic field in Lincoln Park.

They demanded the victims' property, and one of them fired a shot during the robbery. All three offenders fled south on Fremont in a black Honda SUV with the women's purses and phones. No injuries were reported.

## Hijackers got 2 cars in 1 stop outside Wrigley Field

Hijackers took two cars in a single incident outside Wrigley Field on Dec. 7, according to Chicago police. No injuries were reported. Both cars were taken on the 1000 block of W. Addison around 9 p.m., according to Officer Ronald Westbrooks, a CPD spokesperson.

One driver told police that two men took his 2013 Ford Edge at gunpoint and headed east on Addison St., then south on Sheffield Ave. He was taken to a local hospital to be checked out after he experienced chest pain.

The official CPD report was not finalized as of 5 a.m. Dec. 8, so Westbrooks was unable to release further details about the hijacking, but he said it appears to be related to a second incident at the same location at the same time.

In the other case, a 33-year-old man parked his 2012 Mazda3 on the 1000 block of W. Addison. As soon as the man and his female friend exited the car, a woman jumped out of a black Honda Crosstour and climbed into his vehicle, Westbrooks said. She was last seen driving the stolen car south on Sheffield, too.

Investigators are working to determine if the incidents are related to an armed crew that's using a stolen black Honda SUV to commit robbery sprees across Lakeview and Lincoln Park in recent weeks, including one near DePaul Univ. last week in which a gunshot was fired.

## Thieves confront diners at Roscoe Village restaurant, getting away with wallets and purse

A group of thieves entered a Roscoe Village restaurant on Dec. 8 and stole customers' valuables right off their tables as they enjoyed dinner.

Earlier this month, a similarly group stole property from two nail salons in Lincoln Park during business hours.

Most recently, three men walked into a restaurant on the 2300 block of W. Roscoe around 8:05 p.m. They held their hands in their pockets, which caused some staff members and customers to suspect they had guns.

store. Making sure cameras are actually operational," Lightfoot said at a press conference Dec. 7.

Shoplifting has become endemic to Chicago since State's Attorney Kim Foxx sought to only prosecute shoplifting over \$1,000 in 2016. As a result, Chicago is seeing a historic crime wave that includes organized mob actions when hoards to people rush into stores to steal merchandise, overwhelming store staff. This has happened in the Loop, Gold Coast, on the Mag Mile, and in Lincoln Park and Lakeview.

The lack of enforcement and changing mentality of criminals and thugs, has resulted in organized gangs brazenly sweeping into stores and stealing items and leaving, knowing that Cook County will not prosecute them.

While the crime issue has been progressing, Lightfoot has increasingly been sparring with police, who are now experiencing poor results recruiting new patrolmen and women, leaving the city's police department broadly under-manned.

The men approached a table where a 69-year-old woman was having dinner and took her purse. Then, they approached a 53-year-old woman who was dining nearby and took her property, too, a CPD spokesperson said.

All three men ran from the restaurant and haven't been seen since. But a good Samaritan found the older victim's wallet on a nearby sidewalk and returned it to her, the spokesperson said.

The suspects are three Black males between 17- and 23-years-old who stand 5'-8" tall and weigh about 170 lbs, according to the CPD representative.

Back on Dec. 3, two men entered a nail salon on the 2200 block of N. Lincoln around 4:40 p.m. and made their way to a downstairs room where employees keep their personal belongings, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said.

They took valuables from the room and fled south on Lincoln Ave.

Bartoli said police had a description of one suspect: a Black male in his 20's who stands about 6' tall and weighs about 180 lbs.

A similar crime was reported at a nail salon on the 2800 block of N. Halsted on Dec. 1.

In that case, two men entered the store, and one asked for charitable donations while the other made his way to a back room where he confronted a 72-year-old female employee, Bartoli said.

He reportedly took the woman's wallet and then fled in a white vehicle with his accomplice.

The suspects in the third incident are two Black males between 15- and 20-years-old who stand 5'-7" to 5'-" tall and weigh about 170 lbs, Bartoli said. One of them wore a black ski mask.

## Lots of questions, few answers after 61-year-old woman is shot inside Rogers Park home

Police are investigating after a 61-year-old woman told them she was struck by gunfire while inside a Rogers Park home. But many questions remain to be answered.

The woman told police she was struck by bullets inside a home on the 1300 block of W. Pratt around 3 p.m., according to a CPD statement. But she did not call for help until almost 7:30 p.m.

When officers arrived, they found the woman with a graze wound to her forearm and a gunshot wound to her right thigh, the police statement said. EMS took her to St. Francis Hospital.

Officers also reported finding quite

a bit of blood on a couch where the woman was sitting.

But there had been no calls of shots fired in the area and none of the home's windows were broken, so it's not clear where the gunfire came from — or if the shots were fired inside the house. Area Three detectives are handling the case.

The woman is the 25th person reported shot in Rogers Park this year.

## Cops searching for man who had rifle in Loop parking garage



Rifleman wanted.

Chicago police are hoping the public will help them track down a man who appeared to be armed with a silver rifle inside a Metra parking garage in the Loop Dec. 9.

CPD released three images of a man, one of which shows him carrying a chrome weapon.

Officers responded to the Metra garage at 414 S. LaSalle around 1:47 p.m. after several callers reported seeing the man with the gun.

According to CPD, the suspect was wearing a black winter jacket with dark jeans. He had a red bandana hanging out of his back right pocket and also carried a silver and black backpack, police said.

Witnesses last saw him walking west on Polk Street.

Anyone with information about the man can call Central (1st) District police at 312-745-4290.

## Amazon truck hijacked in Lakeview — one day after armed men confronted an Amazon driver in Boystown

Armed men hijacked an Amazon delivery truck in Lakeview on Dec. 9 — one day after another group of armed men tried to rob an Amazon driver in Boystown. Now, cops think both incidents are linked to a growing pattern of crimes targeting the company's delivery drivers downtown and on the North Side.

Around 1:45 p.m., a 27-year-old man was making package deliveries on the 3700 block of N. Marshfield when a gunman walked up and demanded his property, Officer Hector Alfaro said.

The offender then took control of the man's Amazon truck and drove away.

Police found the truck abandoned about one block away. Witnesses reported seeing three men leaving the scene in a silver car.

The crime is similar to an incident in Boystown on Dec. 8.

In that case, several men who were all armed with guns confronted a 21-year-old package delivery driver on the 700 block of W. Melrose around 9:10 p.m., Alfaro said.

But the woman didn't stick around to see what they wanted. She ran away.

The crew returned to their car and drove away.

Police have not released descriptions of the suspects. Area Three detectives are investigating the incidents and several Amazon-related cases in Lincoln Park and the downtown area.

## Teens hijack elderly couple in Lincoln Park

"Get out of the car, b\*tch!"

That's how a group of young carjackers addressed a 79-year-old woman as they shoved her and an 82-year-old man from their car on a bustling

stretch of North Ave. in Lincoln Park on Dec. 10.

The same three suspects, believed to be two males and a female, are suspected of robbing a teenager in Lincoln Park earlier in the afternoon and of trying to carjack another elderly couple in Old Town before that.

First, several witnesses reported seeing two young males and a young female attempt to carjack an older couple near Dearborn and Division around 3 p.m. According to witnesses, the group ordered the couple to turn over their car keys, but the would-be victims got away.

CPD surveillance cameras captured images of the suspects, two Black males and a Black female who appeared to be between 12- and 15-years-old. One wore a green hoodie with blue jeans; another wore a gray hoodie with black jogging pants; and the third wore a black hoodie with dark pants, according to the video. They headed north on Dearborn after the carjacking attempt.

Then, at 3:48 p.m., a similarly-described group robbed a 17-year-old girl as she walked on the 800 block of W. Webster in Lincoln Park, a CPD spokesperson said. One of the offenders hit the victim and took her phone before they all ran away.

About 45 minutes later, at 4:33 p.m., an 82-year-old man and a 79-year-old woman were exiting a parking lot on the 800 block of W. North Ave. when three offenders ordered them to get out of the car.

One of the suspects shoved the woman out of the car while ordering her to "get out of the car, b\*tch!" Another offender physically removed the man from the vehicle, then all three hijackers drove away with the couple's red Lexus, according to a CPD report. Neither victim required medical attention, according to a police spokesperson.

The report indicates that the three carjackers were all males, but police believe the offenders are the same group that committed the earlier crimes. Area Three detectives are investigating the incidents.

## Two shot during Lakeview road rage incident

A road rage altercation between the occupants of two cars near Wrigley Field ended with two men shot in Lakeview, according to information from the scene.

Two men, ages 27 and 24, were heading west when someone fired shots at them from a blue sedan on the 1400 block of W. Addison around 2:01 a.m. Dec. 10, according to a CPD. The driver of the targeted vehicle drove their car to Weiss Memorial Hospital, where both men were listed in good condition. The older man, who was driving, suffered a gunshot wound to his right leg while the younger man's right thigh was grazed by a bullet, according to a CPD report.

The victims told police that the incident started near Wrigley Field. The men reportedly told officers that they honked at the blue sedan after it cut them off near Sheffield and Addison. As the cars continued west, the sedan began tailgating the victims, and they pulled over outside a bank on the corner of Addison and Southport to let him pass, according to police.

The men heard gunfire as their vehicle moved out of the way, and they realized they had been shot.

Police found a bullet on the driver's floorboard inside the victim's car. The vehicle's rear window was shot out, and there was a bullet hole in the front passenger door.

Friday's victims are the ninth and



# Sheriff's Office announces new efforts to curb Chicago carjackings

Among the many other quality of life crimes plaguing Chicago now, carjackings continue to be a growing problem when Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx refuses to prosecute repeat violent criminals.

Now one of her Cook County colleagues is trying to do something about it.

Last week, Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart announced efforts his office is taking to stop the rise in violent carjackings by focusing on improving access to tracking information.

Carjackings have increased approximately 43% in the County so far this year compared to the same period in 2020.

## 2021 Top five carjacked vehicles:

1. Toyota Camry
2. Jeep Grand Cherokee
3. Nissan Altima
4. Chevy Malibu
5. Honda CR-V

"We've been looking at how to curb this disturbing trend from all sides," Sheriff Dart said. "One that would help is getting quicker access to a stolen vehicle's location after it's taken. This will help recover vehicles sooner, quite possibly with the offenders still at the wheel, making it easier to get criminal charges. This will also help prevent the cars from being used in other crimes."

Sheriff Dart sent letters to the major automakers in the country asking for them to collaborate on how to address this crime. Most vehicles sold after 2015 have the capability to be tracked and nearly two-thirds of the vehicles taken in carjackings in Cook County are 2015 models or newer.

Those who may own older cars can easily install GPS tracking chips in their cars.

The ability to contact a manufacturer

and the requirements to access the tracking information vary depending on the car company. Many times, the process relies on victims – some of whom may be injured – to navigate a corporate bureaucracy when time is of the essence. One of Sheriff Dart's suggestions is for automakers to create a free 24/7 hotline that customers and law enforcement can contact to request the vehicle's location when it's stolen.

"Automakers can be part of a long-term solution to the rise in this incredibly serious crime," Sheriff Dart said. "We believe they will want to be part of that solution, and we look forward to meaningful conversations and actions."

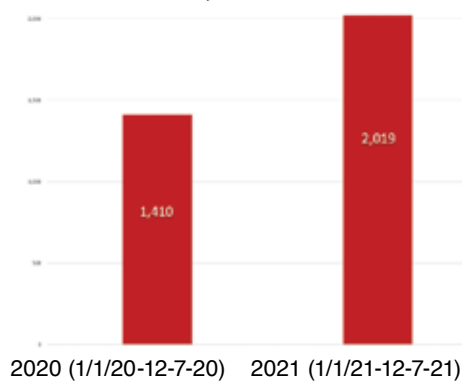
Sheriff Dart is also working to empower car owners. His office created a consent form that car owners can submit to grant permission to release the vehicle's tracking information to law enforcement in the event their vehicle is taken. With this permission in hand, police can more quickly work with auto companies to get the vehicle's location information. The form, along with safety tips, are available on the Sheriff's website.

A new public awareness sticker has also been created by the Office for owners to put on their vehicles announcing that it is trackable. The stickers will be available at courthouses and Sheriff's police stations. The Office is also in discussions with car dealerships for wider distribution.

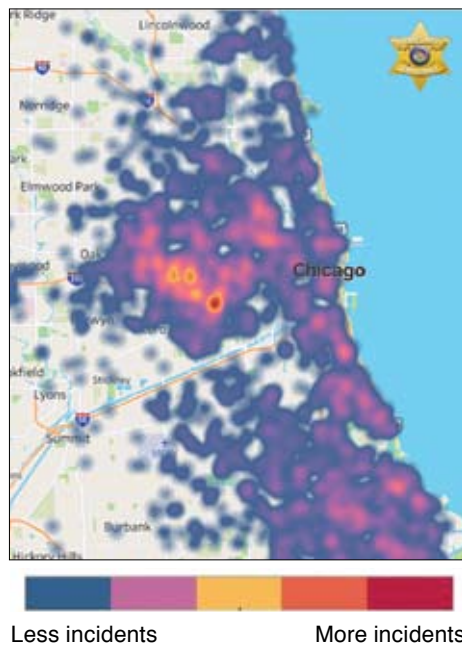
Dr. Stephanie Davis spoke at Thursday's press conference announcing the new efforts. Dr. Davis was assaulted at gunpoint during a September carjacking in broad daylight. Even though her SUV had tracking capabilities, it took weeks, and numerous phone calls to figure out whether that information could be obtained and how to get it. Meanwhile, her SUV was used in two other crimes in the Chicago area. The SUV was swiftly recovered when the location information was finally provided.

"Improving quick access to tracking in-

## Carjackings in Cook County up 40% year-to-date



## Carjacking hotspots



formation will be beneficial for countless victims who are just trying to get their lives back after a horrific trauma like carjacking," Davis said. "Speaking as a carjacking survivor, I hope the automakers will take a close look at this issue. They can be part of a real solution."

## Five people walking together robbed by two gunmen in Lincoln Park

BY CWBCHICAGO

"Don't walk alone at night" used to be one of the safety chestnuts police offered to citizens across the country. Now, it seems Chicago robbers consider groups of people walking together to be a convenient way to cut down on labor.

On Dec. 12 a group of armed men robbed five people who were walking together in Lincoln Park — a crime that is nearly identical to one in nearby Lakeview, where eight people were targeted as they walked together on Dec. 10.

Three men and two women were walking on the 600 block of W. Arlington around 3 a.m. when a group of four robbers approached them, according to a CPD spokesperson.

The spokesperson said that two robbers displayed handguns as the crew took wallets and phones from all five victims. None of the victims was injured.

Witnesses said the robbers were Black males in their teens who wore hoodies, according to a friend of the victims. That aligns with descriptions broadcast on CPD radio frequencies in the area.

The hold-up is very similar to an armed robbery on the 800 block of W. Barry in Lakeview around 11:45 p.m. Dec. 10. In that case, a group of five men and three women between the ages of 25 and 30 were walking when a dark-colored sedan pulled to a stop alongside them, according to Chicago police.

Three gunmen stepped out of the car and

demanding the victims' purses, wallets, and phones, police said. The victims complied, and the offenders fled in the vehicle, which a fourth person drove.

Police also received a call from another man who reported being robbed in the same location around the same time, but it was not immediately clear if he was with the group or if he was targeted separately.

About five minutes later, a 34-year-old woman was pistol-whipped and robbed by three armed men who exited a blue sedan on the 600 block of W. Melrose in Boyston, according to a CPD report.

The offenders took the victim's purse and wallet from her hands and fled in the sedan.

EMS took the woman to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in good condition with bruising to her head.

Then, around 12:10 a.m. Dec. 11, two armed men exited a blue sedan to rob a 28-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman who were walking on the 1700 block of W. Wrightwood in Lincoln Park, police said. The robbers demanded the victims' phones and wallets, then fled in the car with at least one accomplice.

Some victims described the offenders as Black men who stand 5'8" to 6-feet tall wearing masks. The blue sedan is a Honda Civic that was stolen on Dec. 8, a CPD report said.

On Dec. 11, CPD issued a community alert linking the earlier robberies to a series of hold-ups across Lakeview and Lincoln Park this month.

## There's a new drug dealer in town

No no, the new dealer is not the guy hiding in the shadows of your alley, it's a new large multistate cannabis company called Ayr Wellness that plans to buy two independent Chicago dispensaries for \$55 million — with plans to buy marijuana growing operations and add even more retail stores in the state.

One dispensary is Chicago's first and perhaps the one posting the most profits per square foot, Dispensary 33 in Andersonville, 5001 N. Clark St.

Dispensary 33 owners include Bryan Zises, a former COO of the Illinois Housing Development Authority. Other co-owners include his wife, Kristie Zises, and his brother Zach Zises. They own a second facility at 1152 W. Randolph, and are one of the most successful independent legal drug dealers in the state.

Ayr Wellness operates cannabis dispensaries in six other states. The company typically prefers to own licenses to grow cannabis to form a seed-to-sale operation, and plans to do so in Illinois by acquiring a cultivation license here along with the maximum allowed 10 retail stores.

In July, Ayr announced an agreement to spend \$30 million to acquire Herbal Remedies Dispensaries, which operates two posts in downstate Quincy, in the westernmost part of the state. Ayr is also a 49% partner in Land of Lincoln Dispensary, which won rights to a pending new dispensary license.

The higher price for Dispensary 33 reflects the value of its dispensaries in high density population areas in Chicago. Existing businesses with proven sales records and solid market area are more valuable than the 185 new dispensary licenses the state has promised to issue. Dispensary 33 first opened a medical dispensary and then expanded recreational reefer last year when that became legal.

Zises said their staff will to continue manage the two dispensaries for six to 10 more months, before turning it over to Ayr.

Reportedly the private transaction is expected to consist of \$55 million upfront, including \$12 million in cash, \$3 million in seller's notes and \$40 million in Ayr stock, with the potential for further compensation depending on store sales revenue.

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**ROSARY** from p. 2

viewers with its uplifting and life-affirming message of hope. Plan to watch.

**SERVICE CLUB CHRISTMAS:** They're snazzy and jazzy, accenting the environs of the University Club in an array of holiday chic. The best of helping friends at their Christmas lunch, still exhausted from the events of their November Gala. The Christmas season is the right time to acknowledge that we owe much to the hikers and givers of Service Club Chicago for their leadership and generosity. President **Sherill Bodine** kicked off the luncheon gathering. Lovely familiar faces abounded. **Myra Reilly, Al Menotti, Julia Jacobs, Nikki Friar, Denise Tomasello, Sheree Schimmer Volukas, Mark O'leary and Roberta Sanderson, April Schwartz, Sherry Lea Fox, Kathy O'Malley Piccone, and Nina Mariano, Liz Teazley, Kathy Wolter Mondelli, Shaun Rajah** in a tartan jacket, **Jolanta Ruege** and Santa Claus, looking trim, all in attendance.

**HOLIDAY BARGAINS:** ChristkindlMart continues under the nose of **Pablo Picasso's** "Tete du Femme" in Daley Plaza. Great gifts.

**CUBS LOVE:** Eleven years ago Chicago lost Cubs legend **Ron Santo**. He really is always with us.

**UNION LEAGUE:** My colleague **Candace Jordan** was a knock-out beauty on the runway in the Union League Club's Holiday Fashion Show by Zzazz Productions's **Tracey Tarantino DiBuono**. Luncheon was delish and Candace was arrayed in some splendid furs.

**YELLOW ROLLS ROYCE:** Maybe everyone in Chicago didn't know **Ellen Irwin**? But they knew her car on the Gold Coast. You'd see it everywhere. The yellow Rolls Royce. Big. Clunky. Ravenously extravagant. Don't know which husband provided it. Someone after hubby #2. But it was long and slinky too. Just the thing to get her to the track. **Dick Duchossois'** Arlington Park, where Ellen often sang the National Anthem as a treat for her equine buddies before the trumpet sounded the start of the races. She must have been an entertainer in an earlier life before she ascended the throne and was gifted the Rolls. She had little patience for the silly and nonsensical in life. She was a woman



The Service Club Christmas Lunch.



The yellow Rolls Royce.

of determinate motion and plans. Savoring the fragrance and freshness of life in the faces and hearts of all she met. She loved nothing more than sharing the cost of a pizza. Or buying one for a friend. She engaged life with strength and courage always. Blustering in the faces of its challenges. Impatient with its wearing away on the people and things she love. She died recently in Florida. Rest easy, sweet lady.

**WHO'S WHERE:** **Dick Rush**, still the mayor of North Lake View, celebrating his 90th birthday today at Ann Sathers on Belmont... Artists **Tony Fitzpatrick** and **John Ross** showed Honorary Old Town Mayor **Shelley Howard** around the "On the Beach" opening... **Maria Pappas** making a visit to **Doug Van Tress'** Golden Triangle's opening night, and leading the band at her office Christmas party... **Brian White, Jim Kinney and John Shannon** were all white ties,



Ellen Irwin

tails and military medals at the Casino event for their Warriors gathering... artist **Adam Umbach's** work is on exhibition at Cavalier Gallery in Palm Beach... Dublin visitor **Ciara McCann**, violinist **Patricia Treacy**, **Christine Coombs**, 34 years serving at the Drake Hotel's Palm Court, and Bondgirl **Diane**

**O'Connell**, share Afternoon Tea and holiday gossip... **Eamon Cummins** with **Eamonn Vaughan** and the league of extraordinary gentlemen at the Irish Fellowship Christmas Luncheon with **Rory Mone, Rory Michael, Pdraig Muirgheasa** and **Jonathan Egan**... **Judith Barahal**

and **Helen Kane** were also in attendance... **Todd Protzman Davis** at ChristkindlMart hunting out the marzipan... Congrats to judicial candidate and birthday boy **Dan Balanoff** on his big day and his endorsement by the great Maria Pappas.

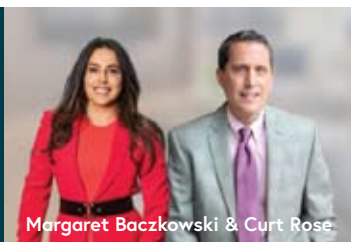
**ATTENTION:** Nearly 200 cars were towed on the first day of Chicago's Winter Parking Ban, down from 2020.

**MR. MANNERS:** Yes, that was me having lunch with my New York pal, Mr. Manners, who you have seen so often on the Today Show. AKA **Thomas Farley**, he was Editor-in-Chief at Hibernia magazine in NYC when I was Managing Editor. Tom later went on to a fine career at Town & Country magazine. He very kindly gave me many assignments there. In town to teach and preach about good manners, he also made a live appearance at WGN TV. We lunched at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill and had a great reunion.

**HERO'S HONOR:** Famed American entertainer and French World War II Resistance member, **Josephine Baker**, has been awarded France's highest honor with burial in the Pantheon, the resting place of the nation's greatest heroes. Two thousand people, including nine of her surviving children, were present when the president of France, **Emmanuel Macron**, welcomed her to the tomb of honor, among 80 other famed heroes including Madam Curie. Her coffin was filled with earth from the USA and France. Ms. Baker is the first Black woman so honored. She became a French citizen in 1937. Her body was carried through the streets of Paris. She embodied the Resistance.

"You see, George, you've really had a wonderful life. Don't you see what a mistake it would be to throw it away?"

-- Clarence  
the Guardian Angel  
tog515@gmail.com



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**CONFLICTS** from p. 7

ers toggle between government appointments and top jobs at the for-profit insurance firms.

"The revolving door and apparent conflicts of interest raise ethical concerns about corruption that damage the public's support for state government in general and the state's Medicaid program," said Kent Redfield, a professor emeritus of political science at the Univ. of Illinois at Springfield, who reviewed the BGA's findings.

"Clearly, the appearance of bias is there, and that reduces the effectiveness of the Medicaid program," Redfield said. "The overall picture assembled by the BGA is that the state's process for managing Medicaid payments is heavily influenced by people and organizations with an insurance industry perspective."

Consider:

**Howard A. Peters III**

Since 2017, Howard A. Peters III has earned \$105,000 per year through the state Office of Medicaid Innovation [OMI] as an "expert adviser" to HFS. He also sits on the HFS Medicaid Advisory Committee, as well as the Illinois Medicaid Telemedicine Task Force.

At the same time, Peters lobbied the agency and lawmakers on behalf of insurance giant Aetna, one of the four companies hired by the state to run the Medicaid program.

His lobbying firm, HAP Inc., which counts Aetna among its handful of clients, also contributed \$70,000 to state politicians since Peters joined the state payroll.

Contacted by the BGA, Peters said his dual roles were fully disclosed and discussed with former HFS Director Felicia Norwood and current director Eagleson before he accepted the state job.

"They understood that I had Aetna as a client," Peters said. "There is no secret here."

"I wouldn't say (it was) what you might call a formal process, but it certainly was a very conscious discussion and a conscious decision about how this would work and the importance of not mixing and mingling, if you will — not having conflicts," Peters said. "The department certainly doesn't want the very issue that you're raising, and I don't, either."

Peters said he sees no conflict between his dual roles. State officials are scrupulous about guarding against potential conflicts, he said.

"I don't think there's a revolving-door concern," Peters said. "I think that the state has stringent regulations about what you can do when you leave state government. From what I see in terms of how they conduct their business and what I know about the leadership and their character, I don't have a reason to be concerned as a citizen and as a person who cares about the quality of the government."

Eagleson, in a separate interview, said Peters is deliberately excluded from discussions involving the four Managed Care subcontractors [MCO], including

Aetna.

Eagleson said Peters' longtime involvement in state government, including Cabinet posts, make him "eminently qualified to be a senior adviser" at her agency.

"Everybody is transparent, following the rules," she said. "He never participates in any meeting that has anything to do with regulating the managed care companies."

"The work that I advise the department on is not involved with Aetna or the managed care organizations," Peters said, adding that he advises HFS on a long-term project called health care transformation and on the department's effort to increase staffing and improve conditions in nursing homes.

Peters said he has not been paid in his roles as current member and former chairman of the Illinois Medicaid Advisory Committee, a panel that includes insurance industry leaders and counsels HFS with respect to Medicaid policy and planning. Rauner in 2018 appointed Peters as the unpaid co-chair of the state's Medicaid telehealth task force.

Peters' state salary is paid through the Univ. of Illinois' OMI, an organizational unit within the university that is funded by HFS.

The university office operates under HFS' direct guidance and through HFS Project Orders, according to records provided to the BGA by the university.

Peters was hired at OMI when it was run by Eagleson, who served as OMI's \$198,000-per-year executive director at the time.

"Theresa was head of the OMI, Director Norwood was director of the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services at the time, so they both were aware of my work, and asked me if I was willing to serve them as part-time capacity," Peters told the BGA.

Peters declined to provide details about his lobbying for Aetna.

"I care about my reputation, and I care about the reputations of the people I'm working with," Peters told the BGA. "If there's an issue that remotely looks like I can have an interest that's not theirs, I'm not involved in that issue."

**Robert Mendonsa Jr.**

As deputy administrator at HFS, Robert Mendonsa Jr. has been in charge of managing the state's Medicaid contracts with the MCOs since 2015. That state appointment came after his 20-year career as a senior executive at the insurance company Aetna.

Mendonsa's wife, Kelli, is also a senior project coordinator at Blue Cross, and has held similar positions at two other MCOs.

"I'm responsible for managing the MCO contracts," Mendonsa said in a court deposition last year. "It's making sure they are complying with the contract, and we are monitoring their performance, and we are driving continual quality improvement."

Mendonsa was the CEO of Aetna Better Health, the company's Illinois MCO, until Nov. 2012, records show. Before that, he was president of the company's 16-state region that included Illinois.

**CONFLICTS** see p. 13

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Switching Gears where Maggie  
and Curt chat with some of our  
favorite Chicagoans

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## Commentary

### Just say “no” to Democratic Party’s Loyalty Oath

This week, the Executive Committee of the Cook County Democratic Party, asked all candidates for county office seeking the party’s endorsement to sign a “Loyalty Oath.”

The document is peppered with words like “agree” “promise” and “pledge” as it relates to candidates being prohibited from engaging in an assortment of activities that could be perceived as opposing any slated candidate, supporting an un-slated candidate, or for judicial candidates, choosing to run themselves if not slated.

It also appears that candidates are being told that unless they sign this document by Friday of this week, they shouldn’t appear at slating and therefore won’t be considered for endorsement, despite assurances given to our committeeperson that there were

no consequences associated with the pledge.

Our ward party organization has a long history of independence. Unlike at the county party level, we have never told candidates seeking our endorsement that if they run in spite of not being endorsed, they’ll forfeit potential future endorsements.

We make clear to candidates that if they choose to run anyway, we will still consider them for endorsement because we feel strongly about the importance of fielding the strongest candidates regardless of who sent them or to whom they’re related.

As an organization, and as individuals associated with it, we can not abide by the use of retrograde loyalty oaths in the endorsement process. Running for office and voting are among the most sacred

forms of free speech protected by our constitution and we categorically condemn the use of intimidation and unenforceable “oaths” to exert control over candidates.

As a result, our Ward Organization feels it important to convey to all candidates seeking our endorsement that they need not feel compelled to sign this oath or any other to seek our support and we urge the leadership of our county party to rethink this misguided and ham-handed attempt to move us back to the days of the old school machine politics we’ve worked so hard to relegate to the history books.

*Kelly Cassidy  
State Rep. 14th District  
49th Ward  
Democratic Committeeperson*

## Letters to the Editor

### Mayor Lightfoot fails Junior Year

The only person who has done a worse job in Chicago in 2021 other than Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy is Mayor Lori Lightfoot. In the third year of her mayoral term, life has gotten worse. Much worse.

Let’s look at her report card.

ATTENDANCE: C-

Last month Lightfoot spent two weeks out of town. Fundraising for herself. Frequently when looting break out on weekends, she is not heard from until Tuesdays. Maybe that could be the name of her weekly news conferences, “Tuesdays with Lori.”

BEHAVIOR: D-

“Does not get along well with others” should be written in big red letters across her report card.

After Neiman Marcus was looted AGAIN, she blamed retailers for being victims. How did that work out in Kenosha, Lori? Remember the former President, the police union leader, any alderman and Anjanette Young? It always seems to be everyone else’s fault.

CRIME: F-

Really? You gotta ask? She says crime is down; but murders are up. Shootings are up. Burglaries, armed robberies, sexual assaults and carjackings ... all up. What crimes are down, Lori? Jaywalking? Right now there are 92 persons charged with committing homicide walking around free wearing ankle monitors. How many more shooters, robbers and rapists are free, collecting government largesse, planning their next crime?

EDUCATION: D-

Educational opportunities should be expanding, not shrinking. Like concentric circles that spread out from the center when you throw a rock into water, so should opportunities in education. Why is Chicago not building more College Prep High Schools? As Catholic schools close, why doesn’t the Chicago Board of Education open up STEM academies? Let our chil-

dren spend more time on algebra, science and computer programming and less time on social media.

HOUSING: F-

Mayor Lightfoot is still using the Corrupt Chicago Playbook when it comes to public housing. Let the friends, felons and family of City Haul make money while the poor are used as pawns. Why is City Haul still giving hundreds of millions of dollars every year to connected developers? Chicago should be moving poor people out of public housing and into home ownership. It is cheaper to teach someone how to fish then to give them a fish everyday. Hire the poor to help build new two- and three- flats, teach them the skills to maintain them and let them build equity to purchase them.

TAXES: D-

Why do taxes keep going up? Why does Chicago let money slip away? According to the state law that granted Chicago a casino, the City is allowed to operate slot machines until it gets the the casino up and running. For two years, Chicago has lost millions of dollars every week because Lori has been asleep at the wheel. I’m sure there’s a couple of guys with colorful nicknames from Grand Ave., Taylor St. or Chinatown who can get those slot machines up and running overnight.

LIBRARIES: D-

Children are especially hard hit by the pandemic shut downs and suffering mental illness. Why are libraries not open longer? Let children get out, circulate and try to live normal lives.

STREETS: C-

Why haven’t the streets been resurfaced earlier? Why does just about every intersection have a traffic signal out? Weren’t these new LED traffic signal lights supposed to last LONGER than the old incandescent bulbs?

Is the City ever gonna replace the one dozen streetlight poles on Lake Shore Dr. that have been knocked down due to traffic ac-

### Profits over serving the poor

I was both saddened and upset to read the Better Government Association Insurance re: firms reap billions in profits while doctors get stiffed for serving the poor. The Federal government is also considering privatization of Medicare through Medicare Direct Contracting. It’s a shame that our healthcare system is run by private insurance. The US outspends other wealthy nations but has poorer outcomes with lower life expectancy, higher heart disease rates, higher number of hospitalizations due to preventable causes, etc. I pray for change.

*Mary Zangs  
Edgewater*

cidents? Install speeding cameras on LSD if you can’t afford to buy new poles.

SANITATION: A+

The mayor gets a good grade here. Sanitation crews do a great job keeping shopping districts clean in the City. Alleys are cleared of trash every week. The sanitation crew comes down our alleys every week like clockwork.

CHICAGO BEARS: Incomplete  
Will they stay or will they go? Let them go! They can make tons more money owning their own stadium. Don’t compound Mayor Daley’s Mistake on the Lake by throwing more money at it. Like an ‘83 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme, the Bears and Soldier Field are not worth spending any more money on. Use Soldier Field for college and high school sports, ethnic festivals, concerts and Ald. Ed Burke’s annual fundraiser.

*Michael Sullivan  
Avondale*

## Chicago Tap Theatre returns with live performances in Lake View

Chicago Tap Theatre [CTT] has announced plans for the company to return to live, in-person performances in early 2022 at the Athenaeum Theatre.

CTT will present For the Love of Tap at the theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., starting on Saturday, Feb. 19. This will be the company’s first live-audience repertoire show since March 2020.

For the Love of Tap tickets go on sale today. The show will feature a variety of audience favorites along with the premiere of several new works. Additionally, CTT will re-introduce audiences to the well-known feature, Flying Turtles.

Flying Turtles was last seen on the Chicago stage in 2013. It is considered by many as one of the most important pieces of concert tap dance choreography. Flying Turtles is a masterpiece of poly-rhythm by one of the pioneers of

concert tap dance, Brenda Bufalino. CTT is the only company with the rights to perform this piece in Illinois.

The show will also be streaming on Vimeo on Friday, March 4. Tickets can be purchased online at [chicagotaptheatre.com/events](http://chicagotaptheatre.com/events). Tickets for the livestream will be available at [chicagotaptheatre.com/events](http://chicagotaptheatre.com/events).

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Please keep the Hoppe Family in your prayers and consider making a donation to support their mission. Nathan and Gabriela Hoppe work to inspire, train and equip people in the Orthodox Church of Albania. Together they lead the Central Children’s Office working in Tirana, and they equip children and their families in being active in building their communities.



For more information visit:  
[www.ocmc.org/TheHoppeFamily](http://www.ocmc.org/TheHoppeFamily)  
or write care of: [nhoppe@ocmc.org](mailto:nhoppe@ocmc.org)  
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## Chicago Help Initiative is asking for help

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Chicago Help Initiative has been coordinating volunteers to make and deliver thousands of bagged meals every week to food pantries and meal sites throughout the city.

Those who are able may join them on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at 1301 N. LaSalle St. (enter on W. Goethe St.) or Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at 721 N. LaSalle St. to help feed community members who are struggling during a difficult time. For more information, call 312-914-2138 or write to [dfraser@chicagohelpinitiative.org](mailto:dfraser@chicagohelpinitiative.org).



**Coffee & Newspapers**

One wakes you up  
One opens your eyes

#newspapersdrive

ILLINOIS PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

## POLICE BEAT *from p. 8*

tenth persons shot in Lakeview this year. That’s up from six in all of last year and five in all of 2019.

### Armed men rob at least 13 people across North Side, including a group of eight victims walking in Lakeview

At least 13 people were robbed at gunpoint and at least one was beaten during two waves of hold-ups across the North Side on Dec. 10 and 11. No arrests have been made in any of the crimes, which are an extension of a five-week-long robbery surge that has claimed more than 50 victims across the area.

The more recent wave of crimes began at 11:45 p.m. Friday on the 800 block of W. Barry in Lakeview. A group of five men and three women between the ages of 25 and 30 were walking when a dark-colored sedan pulled to a stop alongside them, according to Chicago police.

Three gunmen stepped out of the car and demanded the victims’ purses, wallets and phones, police said. The victims complied, and the offenders fled in the vehicle, which a fourth person drove.

Police also received a call from another man who reported being robbed in the same location around the same time, but it was not immediately clear if he was with the group or if he was targeted separately.

About five minutes later, a 34-year-old woman was pistol-whipped and robbed by three armed men who exited a blue sedan on the 600 block of W. Melrose in Boystown.

The offenders took the victim’s

## Driver charged with August hit-and-run that left cancer survivor dead in Lakeview

A Chicago man has been charged with multiple felonies in connection with an August hit-and-run that left a woman dead and her friend injured in Lakeview on Aug. 14.

On Monday, Brett Dimick, 30, turned himself in at the Area Three CPD headquarters.

Dimick was driving his BMW SUV when it struck and killed 27-year-old breast cancer survivor Sophie Allen near the intersection of Fremont and Addison around 12:35 p.m. Aug. 14, according to the allegations. A 24-year-old woman who was walking with Allen survived.

Two men ran from the crashed car, and Chicago police launched a detailed investigation to determine who was behind the wheel. Prosecutors will likely reveal more information about what happened on the day of the crash and in the months since during Dimick’s bond court hearing Tuesday.

He is charged with felony charges



Brett Dimick (inset) and a photo of the crash scene.

*Courtesy CPD and Mark Weyermuller*

of reckless homicide, failure to report an accident involving death, and failure to report an accident involving injury.

Several Facebook groups quickly called for Dimick’s arrest within days of the crash as people chimed in with many allegations — some true, some

the victims’ phones and wallets, then fled in the car with at least one accomplice.

Some victims described the offenders as Black men who stand 5’-8” to 6’ tall wearing masks. The blue sedan is a Honda Civic that was stolen on Dec. 8.

Earlier Friday evening, two men were robbed in separate hold-ups in North Center and Lakeview.

At 9:10 p.m., a gunpoint pointed

not — about Dimick’s past.

Dimick was part-owner of a struggling Lincoln Park bar that was hosting a Mario Kart “Drunk Driving” promotion at the time of the crash, according to online records.

## Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale

### Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING  
Plaintiff,  
-v-  
ROGER D. HALE JR. AKA ROGER DALE HALE JR., HEATHER B. HALE AKA H B HALE, WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, GREENVIEW GARDENS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION  
Defendants  
19 CH 12426  
7633 N GREENVIEW AVE UNIT A 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 15, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 11, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 030R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
Commonly known as 7633 N GREENVIEW AVE UNIT A, CHICAGO, IL 60626  
Property Index No. 11-29-107-038-1002  
The real estate is improved with a residential condominium.  
The judgment amount was \$209,751.78.  
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/ or 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.  
For information, HEAVNER, BEYERS & MI-

### Real Estate For Sale

HLAR, LLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719. Please refer to file number 392328.  
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](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC  
111 East Main Street  
DECATUR IL, 62523  
217-422-1719  
Fax #: 217-422-1754  
E-Mail: [CookPleadings@hsbattys.com](mailto:CookPleadings@hsbattys.com)  
Attorney File No. 392328  
Attorney Code. 40387  
Case Number: 19 CH 12426  
TJSC#: 41-3076  
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 # 19 CH 12426**  
151515 -----  
080808 -----  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
NEWREZ LLC DBA SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING;  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JAMES M. LYON, JR.; FARWELL BEACH-CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS, GENERALLY AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS;  
Defendants,  
19 CH 11474  
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 5, 2022 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. 11-32-202-020-1009.  
Commonly known as 1127 West Farwell Avenue aka 1127 West Farwell Avenue, Unit 109, Chicago, IL 60626.  
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g) (4) of Section 9 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 Mr. Matthew C. Abad at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 236-0077. SMS000074-19FC1  
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
[intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com)  
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## North Township Real Estate For Sale

### Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST 2005-1;  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JACQUELINE Y. ANADOL; PLAZA 440 PRIVATE RESIDENCES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;  
Defendants,  
21 CH 1635  
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 19, 2022 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. 17-10-127-019-1090.  
Commonly known as 440 North Wabash Avenue, Unit 4110, Chicago, IL 60611.  
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g) (4) of Section 9 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. W20-0196  
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
[intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com)  
**13182885**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY FSB DOING BUSINESS AS CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR BCAT 2020-4;  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
EDMONDO AGUILAR; CAROLINE VOZA AGUILAR; 448 WRIGHTWOOD MANOR CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;  
Defendants,  
18 ch 13107  
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 19, 2022 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:  
Commonly known as 450 Wrightwood #1, Chicago, IL 60614.  
P.I.N. 14-28-309-034-1005.  
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g) (4) of Section 9 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 Mr. Bruce K. Shapiro at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Quintarios, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A., 115 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. 312-566-0040. 122308

### Real Estate For Sale

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
[intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com)  
**13182874**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
3950 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE CONDOMINIUM, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION  
Plaintiff,  
-v-  
WILLIAM P. BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRICIA M. RYCHTARCZYK, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA RYCHTARCZYK, ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS  
Defendants  
20 CH 05652  
3950 N LAKE SHORE DR. #2208  
CHICAGO, IL 60613  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 2, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 5, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 030R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
Commonly known as 3950 N LAKE SHORE DR. #2208, CHICAGO, IL 60613  
Property Index No. 14-21-101-034-1196  
The real estate is improved with a condominium.  
The judgment amount was \$89,733.76.  
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/ or 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 gov-

### Real Estate For Sale

ernment 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, Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 175 N. Archer Avenue, Mundelein, IL, 60060 (847) 537-0500.  
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](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
Thomas M. Olson  
KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT  
175 N. Archer Avenue  
Mundelein IL, 60060  
847-537-0500  
E-Mail: [tolson@ksnlaw.com](mailto:tolson@ksnlaw.com)  
Attorney Code. 38862  
**Case Number: 20 CH 05652**  
TJSC#: 41-2980  
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.  
151515 -----  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC  
Plaintiff,  
-v-  
SANDRA TOBACK, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Defendants  
20 CH 447  
1242 WEST DICKENS AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60614  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 24, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 5, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 030R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
Commonly known as 1242 WEST DICKENS AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60614  
Property Index No. 14-32-126-051-0000  
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.  
The judgment amount was \$697,612.34.  
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/ or 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 pur-

### Real Estate For Sale

chaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.  
Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.  
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, Noah Weininger, THE WEINGER LAW FIRM LLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 2 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 796-8850.  
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](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
Noah Weininger  
THE WEINGER LAW FIRM LLC  
2 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago IL, 60602  
312-796-8850  
Fax #: 312-248-2550  
E-Mail: [nweininger@weiningerlawfirm.com](mailto:nweininger@weiningerlawfirm.com)  
Attorney Code. 63307  
Case Number: 20 CH 447  
TJSC#: 41-2887  
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 # 20 CH 447 13182740**  
080808 -----  
010101 -----  
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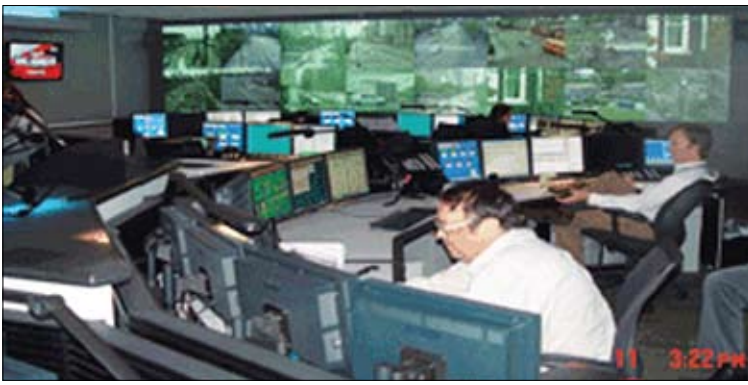


**CAMERAS** from p. 5

types of analysis must be conducted to ensure proper location of PODs. These include a Crime Analysis of the location where the POD will be situated; a Technical Analysis to ensure the PODs functionality at the designated location (i.e. a reliable power source), and a Structural Analysis must be performed to ensure the POD can be securely attached to a designated structure

In Springfield, taxpayers are now paying \$644,000 for ShotSpotter. Aldermen are now evaluating Flock Safety's license plate cameras.

Company sales representative Dan Murdoch told aldermen this week the cameras are used by agencies across the state, including Joliet, Rantoul, Danville, Decatur and elsewhere, and they can



POD video is monitored by officers in District stations, and by selected officers patrolling POD areas by vehicle, officers at the Crime Prevention and Information Center and personnel at the City's Office of Emergency Management and Communications Center.

*Photo courtesy Lance Iverson, San Francisco Chronicle*

all share information.

"Peoria is putting these in place, the Bloomington-Normal area, they're already in all over the Champaign area, we're in Decatur and if we come here [to Springfield], we'd cover those

sort of five central Illinois areas where everyone would be on the same platform," Murdoch said.

Murdoch also said they have shot detection abilities as well, but at an added cost after the first year. The company has anecdotal

evidence that installation helps reduce crimes, but does not track such data.

In Springfield, aldermen are poised to approve a two-year contract for 83 cameras at a total cost \$415,000, or \$5,000 each. There's an installation fee per camera of \$250. But, some raised concerns over privacy and potential abuse.

Ald. Ralph Hanauer wanted to ensure the city code prohibits abuse of the data that's intended for law enforcement investigations. "Obviously I don't want to have directors or councilmen or whoever to have the right to be able to go through that," he said.

But, the systems aren't just being implemented by police agencies across the state. Murdoch said more than half their business is with the private sector like big-box retailers, homeowners' associations and other places.

***In Springfield, aldermen are poised to approve a two-year contract for 83 cameras at a total cost \$415,000, or \$5,000 each. There's an installation fee per camera of \$250. But, some raised concerns over privacy and potential abuse.***

"Rivers Casinos just put in a dozen of these cameras," Murdoch said. "Des Plaines has access to those for free."

Murdoch said the systems are also integrated with FBI, Illinois State Police, stolen vehicle databases, Amber or Silver alert lists and other systems.

**CONFLICTS** from p. 10

Mendonsa declined comment, but in the deposition, he explained why he left his lucrative corporate job for state government service.

"I was just very intrigued by what I could do working for the state. And I did very well in my prior life, so I was able to not care about the money and do what I really wanted to do," he testified. "I believe in managed care. And I think that we can improve quality and improve the quality of life and save money at the same time."

Mendonsa also for several years was president of the board of the Illinois Assoc. of Health Plans, an insurance industry advocacy group.

Mendonsa first joined the state payroll at HFS in March 2013, records show. Two years later, he was appointed to manage the MCO contracts, his current job.

Redfield said Mendonsa's extensive background with Aetna prior to joining HFS creates the appearance of "a professional bias," and Mendonsa's wife working for the MCOs while Mendonsa oversaw the MCO program "would appear to create a personal conflict of interest for Mendonsa."

HFS officials told the BGA that Mendonsa's insurance industry tenure gives him unique expertise and helps HFS hold the MCOs accountable for meeting their contract requirements. He disclosed his wife's current MCO position to the HFS ethics officer, agency officials said, and she does not directly interact with HFS and did not help negotiate the state's current contracts.

Through an HFS spokesman, Mendonsa told the BGA he emptied his Aetna retirement account before joining the state agency, taking half as a lump sum and placing half in an account unaffected by Aetna's bottom line. Those funds were later divided with a family member, court records show.

Eagleson told the BGA she was the Medicaid administrator when Mendonsa was hired. "It was my understanding, when Robert was hired, that he had no retirement benefits that were contingent on the performance of Aetna," she said.

Mendonsa's 2015 HFS promotion came when Norwood led the agency. Norwood headed Aetna before Rauner appointed her as the HFS director. As the HFS director, Norwood oversaw an acceleration in the privatization of Illinois' Medicaid program.

A 2017 investigation by the state executive inspector general's office found Norwood engaged in improper communication with a lobbyist when Norwood ran HFS. Norwood and Norwood's deputy, Teresa Hursey, discussed a large Medicaid contract sought by one of the lobbyist's clients, that report states.

Months later, in 2018, Norwood returned to the MCO industry and by last year earned nearly \$8 million as executive vice president and president for insurance provider Anthem Inc.'s government business division. Hursey also joined Anthem.

**Douglas Elwell**

A former Illinois Medicaid administrator, Douglas Elwell remains an unpaid adviser to HFS Director Eagleson, even as he runs the for-profit national consulting firm Health Management Assoc. [HMA].

Elwell is one of at least 10 top Illinois Medicaid officials who have come from or gone to HMA in recent years.

Emails obtained under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act over a yearlong period reveal more than 50 conversations between Eagleson and Elwell ranging from Medicaid provider billing disputes to policy questions.

As CEO of HMA, Elwell heads one of the blurriest players in the Illinois Medicaid money game: HMA's clients include the Medicaid MCOs, but it also holds its own state contracts for services to HFS and the state prison system, the BGA found.

The correspondence suggests

familiarity and professional trust.

When Eagleson wanted to gather a team of dependable advisers in August 2020, she invited her chief of staff, a state Medicaid deputy and a top state researcher. Eagleson also included Elwell, according to emails obtained by the BGA through an open-records request.

"Doug and I were just talking. Could the five of us spend some socially distanced quality time together for a longer dinner and brainstorming in Springfield next Wednesday or Thursday evening?" Eagleson's email began.

Eagleson suggested an upscale contemporary American restaurant with a Napa Valley-style tasting room.

"I honestly haven't dined out inside yet but am willing to try to find the right place," Eagleson wrote.

Elwell has been back and forth through Illinois' revolving door. He spent 12 years as a principal, managing principal and interim CFO of HMA. Then Elwell led the Cook County Health and Hospital System from November 2014 through early 2019. He came to HFS for one year as state Medicaid administrator, then in February 2020 rejoined HMA, first as COO and now as CEO of the consulting firm.

HMA does not publicly disclose its industry clients, but the BGA found it has included some of the top MCOs operating in Illinois and nationally: Centene Corp., Blue Cross, Aetna Health and, in recent years, Molina Health.

In state contract filings, HMA reported that 45% of its corporate stock is owned by funds connected to the Chicago private equity firm Beecken Petty O'Keefe — also called BPOC — which offers health-care-focused investment funds. In Illinois contract disclosures HMA listed 2019 sales

revenue of \$94.7 million from all sources nationwide.

While serving for-profit clients and investors, HMA also wins government contracts in Illinois and numerous other states, as well as in Cook County. HMA since 2018 has held state of Illinois consulting contracts worth \$1.3 million with HFS, the Dept. of Corrections and the Dept. of Human Services.

Redfield called it a "troublesome economic conflict of interest" that HMA had contracts with state MCO regulators and also with the individual MCOs.

Elwell told the BGA that HMA had a "very elaborate firewall system" to avoid ethical conflicts. "We basically train all of our people, we test them, and we are very transparent with the managed care companies, as well as with the Medicaid agencies," Elwell said.

"We care very deeply about our reputation, and we care very deeply about the reputations of people who work with us. So I understand the appearance, but I can tell you, in fact, we spend a lot of time and a lot of money to make sure we're avoiding that conflict and are very transparent."

Elwell said HMA has a contract to help Illinois establish its health information exchange and simultaneously advises the MCOs on unrelated issues, such as how to meet quality assurance standards in Illinois or how to team up with local organizations that assist Medicaid patients.

"I don't feel I have special status, other than as part of a sounding board," he said. "These are pretty independent people. They're good at it without me."

"I care what happens to Medicaid in Illinois, and I'm always going to care, and sometimes I am sure I am giving them my advice when it's not wanted and not followed," Elwell said. "But I care enough that, when asked, I am going to give them my best idea."

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POLICE BEAT from p. 12

hoodie under a tan jacket.

Then, at 10:50 p.m., a similarly-described suspect robbed a man at gunpoint on the 3100 block of N. Ravenswood.

Lakeview has been slammed by a wave of robberies, often in the form of nightly sprees, since early November. Those crimes have sometimes spilled over into nearby neighborhoods. Among the more recent crimes:

- An Amazon delivery driver was robbed and hijacked of his van on the 3700 block of N. Marshfield on Dec. 9. A group of armed men confronted another Amazon delivery person as she made a delivery in Boystown on Wednesday.
- Armed men pistol-whipped a

woman in front of her husband and then robbed the couple, who were walking on the 1800 block of N. Dayton in Lincoln Park on Dec. 8.

- On Dec. 7, carjackers got two cars in a single incident outside Wrigley Field.
- Two men mugged a woman and fired a gunshot during a brazen daylight mugging that was caught on video in the 4000 block of N. Broadway Dec. 6.
- A 32-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint Dec. 6 on the 3600 block of N. Marshfield. About an hour later, a 45-year-old man was robbed of his Canada Goose coat and other valuables at gunpoint as he walked on the 2200 block of N. Clark.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

Carjackers beat a woman in North Center, a second woman hijacked near Belmont Red Line station

A North Center woman was beaten by two men who tried to carjack her on Dec. 11, according to police. Witnesses reportedly intervened in the attack. Earlier in the evening, another woman was carjacked near the Belmont CTA station in Lakeview.

Around 7:37 p.m., a 49-year-old woman was exiting her car on the 4300 block of N. Claremont when two men ordered her to turn over the vehicle’s keys at gunpoint, Officer Alex Aguas said.

The men pushed her to the ground and struck her with a hard object during the attack. Witnesses reported seeing a child running down the street

yelling for people to call 911 because his mother was being carjacked.

Aguas said the offenders got away with the woman’s white Mercedes-Benz, but officers at the scene indicated that the hijacking failed when neighbors intervened. The carjacking team used a red Jeep Liberty, witnesses said.

Police are also investigating a hijacking that unfolded on the 900 block of W. Belmont at 5:01 p.m. Dec. 11.

A 37-year-old Lakeview woman told police that three males in their mid- to late teens hijacked her dark gray 2021 Jaguar E-Pace and then crashed into two cars before leaving the area, according to CPD reports documenting the crime and the collisions.

The carjackers backed the Jaguar into a 2017 Cadillac that was parked on

the street, then rammed into the back of a Toyota that was traveling west on Belmont at Sheffield, according to the police reports. After the second collision, the hijackers turned south on Sheffield and escaped before police arrived.

According to the CPD reports, the driver of the carjacked Jaguar was a Black male who was about 16-years-old. He was wearing a dark-colored hoodie. Another hijacker was about the same age, stood about 5’-8” tall, and wore a black hoodie with white jeans.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Got a news tip? Call 773-465-9700

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE FOR TRUMAN 2016 SC6 TITLE TRUST  
Plaintiff,  
-v.-  
DR. ROBERT H. DERDEN JR. A/K/A ROBERT H. DERDEN, JR., PARK EDGEWATER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, BOARD OF MANAGERS OF PARK EDGEWATER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, ONEMAIN FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS, INC.  
Defendants  
2019CH09432  
6101 N SHERIDAN RD UNIT 6C CHICAGO, IL 60660  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 12, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 14, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 030R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
Commonly known as 6101 N SHERIDAN RD UNIT 6C, CHICAGO, IL, 60660  
Property Index No. 14-05-211-025-1031 (14-05-211-022-1031 UNDERLYING)  
The real estate is improved with a condo/town-house.  
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/or 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.  
For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
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.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
630-794-5300  
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com  
Attorney File No. 14-20-03292  
Attorney AFDC No. 00468002  
Attorney Code: 21762  
Case Number: 2019CH09432  
TJSC#: 41-2388  
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.  
**13183360**

Real Estate For Sale

vs.  
JACOB B. SMITH AKA JACOB SMITH; 900-10 W. WINONA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNER GENERALLY AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;  
Defendants,  
20 CH 647  
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 19, 2022 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. 14-08-403-030-1009.  
Commonly known as 902 West Winona Street Unit GN CHICAGO, IL 60640.  
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 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 Mr. Matthew C. Abad at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 236-0077. SMS00109-19FC1  
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercountyjudicialsales.com  
**13182881**  
  
151515 -----  
  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
ALLIANT CREDIT UNION, AN ILLINOIS STATE CHARTERED CREDIT UNION  
Plaintiff,  
-v.-  
LAKE POINT TOWER RENAISSANCE PLAZA, LAKE F/K/A LAKE POINT TOWER COMMERCIAL, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, LAKE POINT TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION, EVANGELINE GOULETAS, AN INDIVIDUAL, A. ROBERT ABOUD AND COMPANY, AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS  
Defendants  
2019 CH 00969  
505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNITS 203, 204, 205, 206, 212, 213, 218, 223, 226, 227 (11/4 212-A)  
CHICAGO, IL 60611  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 30, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 7, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 030R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 203, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-051-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 204, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-052-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 205, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-053-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 206, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-054-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 212, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-056-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 213, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-057-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 218, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-059-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 223, CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-062-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
Commonly known as 505 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE, UNIT 226-227 (F/K/A 212-A), CHICAGO, IL 60611  
Property Index No. 17-10-214-063-0000 and 17-10-214-064-0000  
The real estate is improved with a commercial condominium.  
The judgment amount was \$928,817.65.  
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 Judi-

Real Estate For Sale

cial 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/or 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.  
For information, LATIMER LEVAY FYOCK, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 55 W MONROE SUITE 1100, Chicago, IL, 60603 (312) 422-8000. Please refer to file number 20667-64.  
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.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
LATIMER LEVAY FYOCK, LLC  
55 W MONROE SUITE 1100  
Chicago IL, 60603  
312-422-8000  
E-Mail: JudicialSales@lfflegal.com  
Attorney File No. 20667-64  
Attorney Code: 47473  
**Case Number: 2019 CH 00969**  
**TJSC#: 41-2494**  
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.  
  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
BANK OF AMERICA, NA;  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
TERRANCE R. SPETS AKA TERRANCE SPETS; FAIRBANKS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;  
Defendants,  
18 CH 1800  
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 12, 2022 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. 14-28-117-032-1015.  
Commonly known as 2918 N. Pine Grove Avenue, Unit 1, Chicago, IL 60657.  
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 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 Ms. Kathryn Bodanza at Plaintiff's Attorney, Marinosci Law Group, PC, 134 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602. (312) 940-8580. F17110240  
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercountyjudicialsales.com  
**13182355**  
  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
LOWELL HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION  
Plaintiff,  
-v.-  
DAVID VALENTINE

Real Estate For Sale

Defendants  
20 CH 5568  
88 WEST SCHILLER AVENUE, #1609 CHICAGO, IL 60610  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 17, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 29, 2021, 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 88 WEST SCHILLER AVENUE, #1609, CHICAGO, IL 60610  
Property Index No. 17-04-209-043-1237  
The real estate is improved with a condominium.  
The judgment amount was \$86,585.09.  
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/or 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.  
For information, Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Archer Avenue, Mundelein, IL, 60060 (847) 537-0500.  
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.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
Thomas M. Olson  
KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT  
175 N. Archer Avenue  
Mundelein IL, 60060  
847-537-0500  
E-Mail: tolson@ksnlaw.com  
Attorney Code: 38862  
Case Number: 20 CH 5568  
TJSC#: 41-2957  
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 # 20 CH 5568**  
  
080808 -----  
  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR WINSTED FUNDING FINANCE TRUST SERIES 2016-5  
Plaintiff,  
-v.-  
ROBERTO MARQUEZ, EVA MARQUEZ, PARKLAND CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION  
Defendants  
17 CH 16869  
1627 W. TOUHY AVE., APT 104 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 May 23, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 29, 2021, 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:

Real Estate For Sale

Commonly known as 1627 W. TOUHY AVE., APT 104, CHICAGO, IL 60626  
Property Index No. 11-31-203-023-1004  
The real estate is improved with a condominium.  
The judgment amount was \$258,412.07.  
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/or 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.  
For information, LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, 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 17-03702.  
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.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC  
175 N. Franklin Street, Suite 201  
CHICAGO IL, 60606  
312-357-1125  
E-Mail: pleadings@nevellaw.com  
Attorney File No. 17-03702  
Attorney Code: 18837  
Case Number: 17 CH 16869  
TJSC#: 41-1854  
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 # 17 CH 16869**  
  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
REGIONS BANK DBA REGIONS MORTGAGE  
Plaintiff,  
-v.-  
DAVID J. MOYLAN, KODIAK CAPITAL GROUP, LLC, THE 2016 CLEVELAND CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION  
Defendants  
19 CH 04693  
2016 N. CLEVELAND AVENUE, UNIT 1N CHICAGO, IL 60614  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 22, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on December 30, 2021, 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 2016 N. CLEVELAND AVENUE, UNIT 1N, CHICAGO, IL 60614  
Property Index No. 14-33-130-069-1001  
The real estate is improved with a residential condominium.  
The judgment amount was \$433,411.28.  
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/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the

Real Estate For Sale

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.  
For information, HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL, 62523 (217) 422-1719.  
Please refer to file number 367867.  
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.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
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DECATUR IL, 62523  
217-422-1719  
Fax #: 217-422-1754  
E-Mail: CookPleadings@hsbattys.com  
Attorney File No. 367867  
Attorney Code: 40387  
Case Number: 19 CH 04693  
TJSC#: 41-2478  
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 # 19 CH 04693**  
  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
NEWREZ LLC, DBA SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
RALF KIND; WATERFORD CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; AND JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.;  
Defendants,  
19 CH 10708  
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 5, 2022 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. 14-16-304-039-1027.  
Commonly known as 4170 North Marine Drive, 6C, Chicago, IL 60613.  
The mortgaged real estate is improved with a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 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 Mr. Matthew C. Abad at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 236-0077. SMS000064  
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# Virtual return of 35th annual Young Playwrights Festival

Pegasus Theatre has announced the authors and plays being presented at the 35th Annual Young Playwrights Festival, streaming Jan. 6 - Feb. 6, 2022 and a virtual opening night ceremony, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9.

This year's world premieres, written by high school students and given a staged professional production, share at their core, judgement in the material, mundane and mystical worlds. Tickets are on sale now and are \$18 - \$25 for unlimited viewing over four days

The Festival, the oldest such festival in the United States, has for 35 years engaged and inspired high school students across Chicago by teaching them to craft one-act plays.

The chosen students' works are given professional produc-

tion help under the auspices of Pegasus Theatre Chicago. The winning teen playwrights' productions are work-shopped and staged by industry professionals. The cast includes John Drea, Sebastien Garbe, Willow James, MarieAnge Louis-Jean, Emma Montoya, Shariba Rivers and William Sebastian Rose, II.

The in-school programming that leads to the annual competition enhances language arts, encourages independent, high-level thinking, strong personal values and influences career development for Chicago's teens.

The competition received 300 submissions in 2021 with this year's winning selections being Dalya Lessem Elnecape of Lane Tech College Prep and their play Fifteen Minutes, Laylah Freeman



Top row (l to r) John Drea, Sebastien Garbe, MarieAnge Louis-Jean. Bottom row (l to r) Willow James, Emma Marie Montoya, William Anthony Sebastian Rose II and Shariba Rivers.

of Advanced Arts/Gallery 37 Magnet High School and her play visit PegasusTheatreChicago.org and her play The Little Things; Have Faith. or call 773-878-8864. Sarah Lerner of Whitney Young For tickets or more information

## Service Directory/Classifieds

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Deadline: 5pm Mondays

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East Bank Storage at 1200 W. 35th St., 773-247-3000, is opening lockers: 3F3633 (Robinson, Adrianna) 3F3662 (Lewandowski, Brett) 3F4177 (Berrios, Melissa) 3F3528 (Laoye, Dayo) 4C4236 (Dixon, Gloria) 3F3645 (Dixon, Stephan) 3E3404 (Sutton, Tiffany) 4C4189 (McCartney, Kathleen) 3F3512 (Wilburn, Nicolaus) for public sale of miscellaneous ties. This sale is to be held on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

#### Recycling

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Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul  
- and sings the tunes without the words -  
and never stops at all.

— Emily Dickinson



# Lawsuit accuses Old Town Massage Envy studio over alleged sexual assault reports

BY JONATHAN BILYK  
Cook County Record

A Chicago woman has sued Massage Envy and the owners and managers of a North Side franchise studio, claiming she was sexually assaulted two years ago when a now-fired massage therapist improperly touched her during a massage session.

The woman, identified only as a 31-year-old Chicago resident, is the third woman to file suit against the Chicago Massage Envy franchise, legally known as Parkside Strategic Enterprise Inc. According to the complaint, Parkside operates a Massage Envy location at 1222 N. Wells St., known as Massage Envy Old Town – Gold Coast.

The previous two lawsuits, also filed by two women, each identified only as Jane Doe, were filed about one year ago.

The lawsuit also names as defendants the massage therapist who allegedly committed the assault, the owners of Parkside, a manager at the location where the incident is alleged to have occurred, and the Massage Envy corporate entity through which Massage Envy studios are franchised.

According to the new complaint, the woman went to the Old Town-Gold Coast Massage Envy location for a “therapeutic massage” session on Nov. 27, 2019.

During the massage, the lawsuit asserts a male massage therapist allegedly caused the blanket over her back to fall off of her, exposing her. He then allegedly massaged under her underwear, and allegedly

touched her genitals without consent.

According to the complaint, the woman notified the Old Town-Gold Coast Massage Envy of the alleged incident, but management at the studio allegedly did not report the incident to police until late Dec. 2019.

The complaint asserts that massage therapist allegedly “went on to assault several women” in the meantime.

According to the complaint, front desk employees at that Massage Envy location reported numerous complaints by female customers against that massage therapist, including “inappropriately touching women and exposing various parts of their bodies including breasts and buttocks.”

According to the complaint, the Massage Envy franchise owners and management did not conduct proper background checks on that therapist before hiring him, which allegedly would have revealed he had been fired from a Massage Envy location in Elmhurst, and had been placed on a Do Not Hire list within Massage Envy’s human resources system.

According to the complaint, the massage therapist was ultimately fired. But the owners and management of that location allegedly did not report the incident to either Chicago Police or state regulators.

The lawsuit asserts the Massage Envy franchising parent corporation shares vicarious liability for the alleged misconduct at the Chicago location.

## Annual Holiday cookie walk Dec. 18

The Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 1121 N. Leavitt St., will be hosting their 2021 Cookie Walk 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 from 10 am - 3 pm, and Dec. 19 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Enjoy homemade holiday cookies and pet treats sold by the pound.

The annual Cookie Walk supports the Cathedral’s continuing restoration work. Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted for the parish’s collection benefitting local food pantries. For more information call 773-486-6064.



The brightly-lit German greeting, “Willkommen to the Christkindlmarkt Chicago,” welcomes visitors to the holiday market.  
Photo by Bianca Kreusel

### HOLIDAY from p. 1

spired market herself.

“I’ve never been here before, and I wanted to check it out,” Hawryl said. “It’s been so far so good. I saw some stuff from Poland where I’m from, so [that makes me] very homesick. We got some apple ciders which are delicious.”

With many different traditions and cultures coming together, the Christkindlmar-

ket is a beloved Chicago event.

“Take in the whole experience. When you come to the market, you want to make sure you’re not in a rush. You really want to enjoy it. You’ll want to stroll around the market, bring your loved ones and get the annual mug,” Schmidt said. “Try out different foods. Stop by the vendor booths, chat with them and see what kind of cool, special gifts you can get for the holidays.”

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The New York Times

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