



# THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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## Looking Back, Looking Forward

Last year, the headline on the January issue read "Better New Year." I talked about the light at the end of the tunnel. We had a new vaccine. We thought this would do it. Still, there's reason for optimism. It looks like we might be turning the corner on this one.

### South Loop Neighbor's Annual Meeting

The meeting was hosted by President Jim Wales. He reviewed the events of the past year and despite Covid, it was a full and active year. See page 14.

Looking forward, a new slate of candidates was presented and voted on.

Greg Borzo

Benjamin Cottrell

Christine Hunt

Roger Marsh

Dorothy Miaso

Dennis McClendon

Jim Wales

The Aye's were unanimous.

Dennis McClendon wrapped up the meeting with his usual detailed description with slides of new developments starting on the south around Motor Row and McCormick Place. Dennis moved us across the map towards the north mentioning large and small developments that are planned, stalled or have already started. You can see the latest on the South Loop Development Roundup at <https://youtu.be/GKAaKzfMK4s>

See Roger Marsh's summary of crime in Beat 123 for 2021. South Loop Neighborhood Watch Beat 123. pages 23, 24.

Link to Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/>

January 15, 2022

Vol. 10, No.1

## In this Issue



Beth Finke.  
Guest writer Regan Burke  
Without Being Contagious  
to Others  
Page 13



Bonnie McGrath  
The Chicago Reader recently celebrated its 50th anniversary--and some of those years were the best years of my life. Page 9 and 20



Mondays with Mike:  
On the shoulders of two years of research  
Page 5



Marianne Goss:  
The Working Class and Higher Education  
Page 4

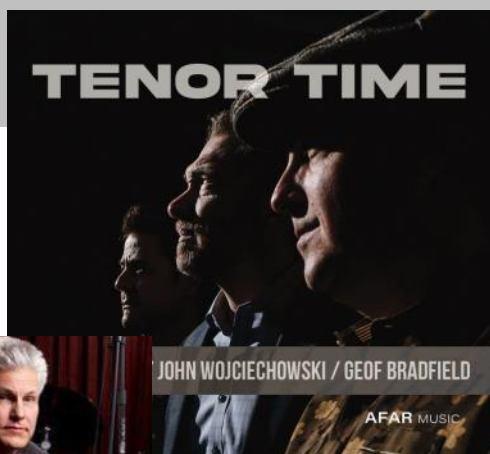
## INDEX

Jazz Showcase.....	p 2
South Loop Neighbors .....	p 3
Marianne Goss .....	p 4
Mondays with Mike .....	p 5
Lorraine Schmall's Book Review.....	p 7
Newcity. ....	p 11
Roger Marsh Crime Stats .....	p 23,24
Police Blotter .....	p 22
Real Estate .....	p 25-26

# JAZZ SHOWCASE



Chicago Soul Jazz Collective  
w/ Dee Alexander



Scott Burns/  
John Wojciechowski  
Geof Bradfield



Bob Lark



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**Thu- Sun, 8pm.....Tenor Time – CD Release on Afarmusic**

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# South Loop Neighbors

South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area's landmark districts.

South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about:

- ☐ Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
- ☐ Preserving and protecting the area's Landmark Districts, including Printing House Row and Historic Michigan Boulevard
- ☐ Promoting quality education, recreation, services, retail, community activities, and events
- ☐ Maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood
- ☐ Developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community. South Loop Neighbors serves members and residents within the area bounded by Congress Parkway to approximately 25th Street and from the

Chicago River to Lake Michigan. [www.southloopneighbors.org](http://www.southloopneighbors.org)

## South Loop Neighbors

Newly elected board

Greg Borzo

Benjamin Cottrell

Christine Hunt

Roger Marsh

Dorothy Miaso

Dennis McClendon

Jim Wales

## South Loop Development Roundup

A reminder: Our January 10th online meeting covered the development and planning issues active in the neighborhood. See the development presentation here on You Tube.

<https://youtu.be/GKAaKzfMK4s>

*The latest on all South Loop projects can always be found at [southloopupdate.com](http://southloopupdate.com)*

Dennis McClendon

Director of Planning and Development



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# OPINION

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.



## Retired in Chicago

### The working class and higher education.

By **Marianne Goss**, December 6, 2021

This is a tale about class differences and higher education.

My sister's daughters are both business majors. The older one, 23, a finance major, just began her career at a major corporation. The younger, 22, will graduate next spring with a combined BS/MS in data analytics and go to work for a major consulting company.

The offspring of parents with advanced degrees, the young women were brought up in an affluent suburb of Indianapolis and attended one of the top five high schools in Indiana. They were A students in both high school and college. I doubt that they ever questioned whether they'd go to college and have professional careers.

I know of a young man whose first semester at a Big Ten university was his last. He has few college-educated role models and attended local schools where more than four in ten students are eligible for subsidized lunches. Unhappy almost from arriving on campus, he gave up a scholarship and is looking into trade union apprenticeships where the median pay with experience is considerably less than my nieces' starting salaries.

Now, I don't believe that money is everything; my own career demonstrates that my values are elsewhere. And I agree that college is not for everyone. If this young man finds a trade he enjoys, good for him.

I also realize that in my own generation, my siblings and I prove that it is possible to rise out of the working class. Yet I can't help looking at the young man's experience through the lens of class, seeing it as testimony to how much expectations, role models, and environment influence young people's direction.

As a group, the working class — usually defined as not having a college degree — sends fewer of its children to college than the middle and upper classes. Sixty percent of upper- and middle-class students earn bachelor's degrees within eight years of college enrollment, compared with 14 percent of students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Some of the reasons that social scientists have identified for the disparity are what you would expect: Inadequate preparation in middling grade and high schools. Cost. These factors affect not only whether and where working-class students enroll in college but also whether they continue.

Even when universities address the barriers of cost and inadequate preparation, however, an achievement gap persists. A less obvious reason is that working-class students who enroll in college often don't think that they belong. They feel out of place not only with other students but also with erudite professors, college traditions, and plush campus facilities. They lack the confidence, sense of entitlement, and independence of their more sophisticated peers.

"[S]tudents from working-class families — those who are low-income or the first in their families to attend college — struggle to achieve in college," Politico reported. "Even the most highly qualified working-class students receive lower GPAs and drop out more often than their middle- and upper-class peers."

Researchers have found that the working-class value of interdependence is undermined in the independent culture of higher education. This erodes confidence. When facing setbacks, working-class students tend to think that they don't have what it takes to succeed in college. They may fear looking stupid if they ask questions or seek tutoring and other help.

"It appears that a cultural mismatch is what's causing [working-class] students to drop out," Study International concluded. "Many of these students reportedly feel . . . that the campus is not set up for students like them."

Colleges and universities must be aware of the research and presumably are trying to address the problem. College isn't for everyone, but as long as it doesn't serve all classes equally, there is a problem.

<https://www.chicagonow.com/retired-in-chicago/about/>

## MOST RECENT EPISODES

DECEMBER 17, 2021

Click here



### What Fox News Hosts Were Really Thinking on January 6

Before January 6th had come to a close, the hosts of Fox News had already said that the rioters were not Trump supporters and even alluded that Antifa may have instigated riots. But this week, thanks to Mark Meadow's text messages shared with the U.S. House select committee investigating the January 6th Capitol riots, we learned that three of the network's hosts were saying something very different in private. This week, we speak with [Angelo Carusone](#), President and CEO of [Media Matters](#), a progressive non-profit that monitors misinformation in the right-wing media, to put this latest Fox controversy in context.

# OPINION

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## Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) January 3, 2022

## On the shoulders of two years of research



I'm as fatigued as everyone else when it comes to dealing with the pandemic. The omicron variant news made a lot of people feel like we're starting over again. But, for a glass-half-empty kinda guy, I'm optimistic that we have the spiky little pest on the run.

I know that runs counter to news about case counts. But I'll quote CDC Director Rochelle Walensky during [a recent NPR interview](#):

...we are standing on the shoulders of now  
two years of science and a lot of information...

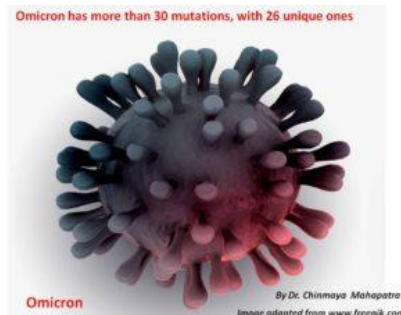
In point of fact, we're standing on the shoulders of decades of research when it comes to the vaccines, and hundreds of years of life science research. But her point was this: It's amazing how fast and how much we've learned in the last two. Two years ago today, covid felt like a rumor. Two years ago, come this March, it took me five days to be approved to get a covid test, and once I did my drive-up swabs, it took another four days to get the result. I learned the result after growing so ill that I went to the emergency room. The positive test came in while I was there.

Before my hospital stay, I quarantined for days, staying in our bedroom and only coming out for food and drink. I carried a bottle of Clorox and spread a layer of bleach on anything I touched. People were wiping down grocery bags and groceries themselves. (Note: It was and STILL is important to wash your hands thoroughly and often, and to avoid touching your face.)

Now, even with the omicron rush, I can get a test and have results the next day (at the worst). I know that the surface cleaning didn't matter a whole lot. I know that masks help and that [some masks help more than others](#). I have had three vaccines counting the booster.

Omicron appears to be much less dangerous than previous flavors, and if South Africa is any indicator, it'll burn itself out pretty fast. And for those unlucky enough to have caught omicron, there is evidence that in a delicious irony, [having had omicron appears to build resistance to the more dangerous delta variant](#).

Now, if we can get the laggards to get vaccinated, we can also shrink the number of petri dishes that covid can mutate in. At this point, if someone hasn't gotten their jabs, probably no amount of information or persuasion is going to work. [But these economists may be onto something: simple incentives and disincentives.](#)



It's been two years of a weary slog, but it's also brought light to how remarkable we humans can be. And also: that the government matters, as explained [in this Scientific American article](#). The government funded much of the research that led to the mRNA vaccines—though big Pharma will reap enormous profits from them.

That's for another post.

In any case, I'm hopeful. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

## 5 Year's Ago in the Dearborn Express

### Wednesday, December 28, 2016 South Loop Stalwart Chicago Firehouse Reopening in January



Wednesday, December 28, 2016  
South Loop Stalwart Chicago Firehouse Reopening in January While we've been monitoring the progress at the Chicago Firehouse rebuild, this is the most concrete info about their impending opening (via Chicago Magazine): Two years after a fire devastated its landmarked building, the longstanding steakhouse has risen from the ashes and will reopen—"enhanced," according to principal Matt O'Malley—in January. O'Malley says the DNA of the place remains intact, and certain design elements, such as parts of the original tin ceiling, were reconstructed. Enhancements include a landscape mural in the dining room, mimicking the type of décor that was en vogue in 1905 when the building was erected. "We are making an effort to put history back in," he says. For those who forgot, the Chicago Firehouse suffered a massive fire approximately two years ago Lo. While not a "trendy" steakhouse, it is a solid one and one that we're excited to see reopen.

<http://www.sloopin.com/>



Half sour Cheeseburger pictured above

Monday, January 3, 2022

## [Are Half Sour and Burger Point Best Burger Spots in the Sloop?](#)

We're not burger experts, but apparently this instagram user does. They have Acadia as the highest ranked burger spot in the Sloop (obviously they're not aware they've closed). Beyond that, [Half Sour](#) (755 S. Clark) and [Burger Point](#) (1900 S. State) are the only other South Loop locations ranked:

[https://www.instagram.com/windycityburgerreviews/?utm\\_source=ig\\_embed&ig\\_id=0dcf7623-0ec8-4062-bcc6-7ac3506c2f1a](https://www.instagram.com/windycityburgerreviews/?utm_source=ig_embed&ig_id=0dcf7623-0ec8-4062-bcc6-7ac3506c2f1a)

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## Block Club Chicago Awarded \$1.6 Million Grant From American Journalism Project To Expand

In conjunction with the American Journalism Project grant, the Chicago Community Trust pledged an additional \$450,000 in matching funds to Block Club over three years.

[Block Club Chicago Staff](#) Jan 11, 2022

[The American Journalism Project](#), an initiative aimed at boosting nonprofit journalism around the country, announced Tuesday it's awarded Block Club Chicago a three-year, \$1.6 million grant to grow the business side of its operation.

In conjunction with the American Journalism Project grant, the [Chicago Community Trust](#) pledged an additional \$450,000 in matching funds to Block Club over three years.

The funding is part of the American Journalism Project's 2022 investment in newsrooms. Three other nonprofit newsrooms were selected to receive grants: [Sahan Journal](#) in Minnesota, [San José Spotlight](#) and [Spotlight PA](#). The American Journalism Project has now awarded more than \$30 million in grants to 31 newsrooms.

Block Club, which was founded by three editors of the former DNAinfo Chicago news site, will use the funding to add business- and operational-side positions and projects. A key part of the grant will be used to create five business positions in the first half of 2022.

See the rest of the story by clicking on the link below

[https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/01/11/block-club-chicago-awarded-1-6-million-grant-from-american-journalism-project-to-expand/?utm\\_source=Pico&utm\\_campaign=4c1c869d24-](https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/01/11/block-club-chicago-awarded-1-6-million-grant-from-american-journalism-project-to-expand/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=4c1c869d24-)

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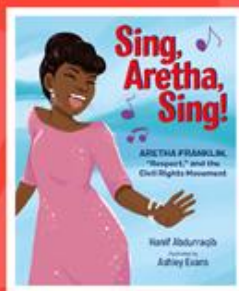


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## SING, ARETHA, SING!



written by  
**HANIF ABURRAQIB**

illustrated by  
**ASHLEY EVANS**

February 2  
6:30 pm CST



Hanif Abdurraqib & Ashley Evans: "Sing, Aretha, Sing!"

A young Aretha Franklin captivates her community with the song "Respect" during the height of the Civil Rights Movement in *Sing, Aretha, Sing!*, a striking picture book biography that will embolden today's young readers to sing their own truth. Join us to hear

both author **Hanif Abdurraqib** and illustrator **Ashley Evans** discuss their crafts, how this book came together, and the lasting legacy of Aretha Franklin. This program will be hosted online via Zoom, [register for the program here](https://americanwritersmuseum.org/).



American Writers Museum  
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Chicago, IL 60601

<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

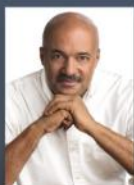
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## A HISTORY LOVER'S GUIDE TO CHICAGO

GREG BORZO



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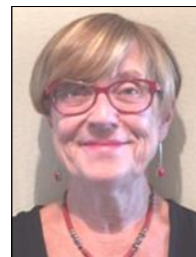
**Naomi Hirahara, *Clark and Division***  
(SOHO Books 2021).

Google "**Clark and Division**" and you're as wont to find a current chronology of shootings, strong-arms, and sex crimes as you are critical praise for the latest book by Naomi Hirahara, a mystery writer celebrated by the Trib and the Times and honored with myriad international prizes. Hirahara sets her story on the still-seedy side of this Northside neighborhood, where thousands of select young Japanese — "the best Nisei specimens, the ones with broad white smiles and spotless suits and dresses" — were recruited to relocate to cities far from the west coast, where, supposedly, they could not threaten Americans' safety. Rose Ito, beautiful, charming, brave, and confident enough to wear *red lipstick and yellow dresses*, was among those granted leave from the concentration camps in remote spots — from Idaho to Arkansas — to which they and their families were forced by FDR after Pearl Harbor. Chicago was already home to about 400 Japanese people, but the nearly 20,000 who ended up here after the camps (among the largest relocations in the United States) included criminals and born-again Christians; seasoned flower-growers and scions of pearl-dealers; gamblers and gunners for the U.S. Army; and many young men and women who, like Rose, worked in the Curtiss Candy Company making Baby Ruths or in the 6-million-square-foot Dodge-Chicago plant, making B-29s.

Rose was the trailblazer for the Ito family, who planned to follow her to Chicago. But tragically, one day before their arrival, Rose was found dead on the subway tracks at Clark and Division, her arm severed and her body ravaged from a botched abortion. Was it murder? Suicide? An accident? A hate crime? Who got her pregnant? Who knew what? Aki Ito, the shy yet unflappable, hard-working, and devoted younger sister would get to the bottom of her sister's demise. And Rose, it turns out, was not the only victim. Part family saga, part historical commentary, and part thriller, **Clark and Division** — the book and the neighborhood — harbors serial rapists, extortionist cops, misguided patriots, crude racists and dangerous misogynists. There are Black librarians and Polish beauty operators, transsexuals and Buddhist monks; Greek restaurateurs and German Turners; prostitutes and preachers; enemies and friends — and newly-arrived young citizens who share the fear and excitement of trying to make it in what seems like a foreign land. Like Rose and Aki, who weathered and tried to redress discrimination, Hirahara doesn't "make any speeches about racial equality or anything like that." **Clark and Division** is a mystery with a fascinating context, not a polemic. Ride the Red Line and check it out.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park  
January, 2022

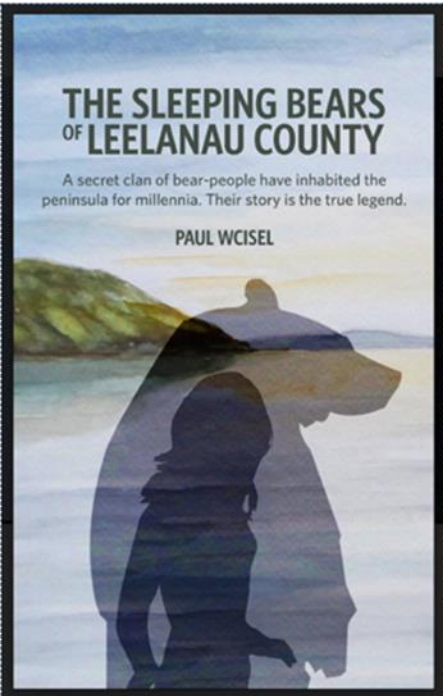



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**Writing Out Loud**

what a blind teacher learned from  
leading a memoir class for seniors

**Beth Finke**

# OPINION

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.

## The Chicago Reader recently celebrated its 50th anniversary--and some of those years were the best years of my life

The last piece I wrote for the Chicago Reader was in July, 2008. I'd run into Reverend Al Sharpton getting a shoe shine on Chicago Avenue. I think I complimented him regarding a wisecrack he'd recently made on MSNBC, when he was asked why dejected Blacks didn't just become Republicans; and he said, "If you have a fight with your wife, you don't go into the street and just pick up another woman."

I've never been able to find that story online--nor the hard copy in my house or the draft in an old computer or in my mother's closet where she now has everything I ever wrote stacked up. But a [letter to the editor about it](#) is on the Reader website, written by a guy who had his own experience running into Reverend Al.

Speaking of my mother saving my writing, when I ventured out to write a [story for the Reader about Anna Quindlen](#) 30 years ago, who was at a bookstore signing books, I spotted my mother in line waiting to get one signed--and I overheard my mom tell Quindlen gushingly that she was her favorite writer.

I hid until my mother left and then I told Quindlen that it was my mother who said that. I said I was sort of jealous; I thought I was my mother's favorite writer--"she keeps all my stories under her bed," I said. (Which she did before stacking them in the closet.)

And Quindlen said, "My father stashes all my stories under his bed."

When I turned in the Quindlen story, I included that anecdote at the end. Later that night the phone rang with a question from then-editor Mike Lenehan.

(Back then, there was no email and hard copy had to arrive at the Reader office in River North on Monday--I lived nearby and walked over there on Monday morning--and the editing was done on Monday night. And sometimes into the wee hours of the morning--before the typesetting and printing happened that brought the paper to the street on Thursday.)

Lenehan asked if that anecdote had been scratched out by me or the lower-rung editor who'd passed it to him for the final edit. I didn't do that, I told him.

"Well, I'm putting it back in," he said.

The same thing happened on another Monday night when he called to ask me who scratched out parts of the ending of [a piece I wrote about George Solti](#), about his last night conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra--before he retired. She did, I told him. "Well, I'm putting it back in," he said.

And that story went on to win a Peter Lisagor Award--my first one--the only award that the late Mike Royko said he ever cared that he won. "The Pulitzer is fixed," he said. He'd won that, too.

I beat the Reader movie critic that year (as well as an art critic for Chicago Magazine, who were also finalists in the category). And he glared at me at the after-party at the bar we all went to to celebrate the winners. I didn't blame him.

When the Reader turned 25, there was a big party at some unusual place. And I had a great time, and mentioned that to Alison True at the party, who had by then become the editor. She mentioned how odd it was that all of us loner writers were able to come together in one place and enjoy themselves. I knew exactly what she meant.

The story I had in the Reader the week of that party was about a controversial [federal judge who was a friend of mine](#), and who suddenly decided to retire. It was a very big story and I had a real scoop. I knew him very well and I had a birds-eye view of what went on in real time as it was happening. And that story won an award, too--the Herman Kogan Meritorious Achievement Award from the Chicago Bar Association. (And was a finalist in the Lisagors that year, too--but didn't win.)

On the the night of the Reader 25th anniversary party, my fiend [Vicki Quade](#), a renowned writer and playwright gave me a compliment I'll never forget: "Your piece about the judge was just like [the movie] 'Pulp Fiction.'"

I'm still walking on air.

In honor of the week of the 25th anniversary itself, all the writers were asked to write stories about something to do with the number 25. My friend Rose Spinelli and I had a fun idea--we'd board the #25 bus on Cermak; and she'd sit on one side and I'd sit on the other during the whole route and we'd write twin stories, to be published side by side. Alison True didn't like the result. And sent us back to the drawing board.

I was a City of Chicago prosecutor, as well as a journalist at the time and I had access to all the police star numbers and the names and whereabouts of all the cops. So I called Miguel Flores, Officer 2525 and asked if I could do a ride-a-long. The commander at the Wood Street Station said sure--after all, I was a prosecutor! And [I got the story of my life](#). Everything happened that night, including a murder--and Flores became a lifelong friend.

I had gone to law school in 1991, to embark on a new career. I thought I would never write again. But during the first week, I said one night over dinner to my husband Paul, "You wouldn't believe what goes on in these classrooms, what idiotic things these teachers do and say and the way they say it. I blabbed on and on about the dressing down the students were getting, including me." (Continued on page 20)

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog: [www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/](http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/)



# One South Loop

South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area's landmark districts. South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood. A key to this is developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community.

We understand the South Loop to be one community from Jackson Blvd to the Stevenson Expressway and the Lakeshore to the River. We have worked for a quarter century to broaden and deepen the sense of community across our geography.

The City of Chicago is in the midst of re-districting its 50 wards. Several proposals or "maps" have emerged during this process – with dramatically different treatments of the South Loop. The Rules Committee map splits the South Loop among six proposed wards. The map presented by the City Council's Latino Caucus splits the South Loop among four proposed wards. The map developed by the Advisory Redistricting Commission would include all of the South Loop in one proposed ward.

South Loop Neighbors strongly supports including all of the South Loop in one ward, no matter which overall map finally addresses other ward boundary concerns across Chicago. We believe that this would be central to "developing strong relationships that respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community."

Roger Marsh, South Loop Neighbors Board

[Info@SouthLoopNeighbors.org](mailto:Info@SouthLoopNeighbors.org)






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## Editor's Letter: January, 2022

January 7, 2022 by [Brian Hiegelke](#)

**Opening night at “[The Misanthrope](#)” at Court Theatre in May 2013** and I was in the lobby with Newcity’s then-

theater editor, [Johnny Oleksinski](#), when he introduced me to the photographer Joe Mazza. Joe pounces with energy and it did not take me long to crack a big smile. That was all Joe needed. “Oh my God,” he exclaimed.

“Your wrinkles! You have the greatest smile wrinkles! I want to photograph your wrinkles!” Not especially thrilled at any recognition of my aging, it was, needless to say, a strange but amusing encounter. I chalked the conversation up to lobby chatter, the kind of thing that gets said in the moment and forgotten the next moment. A few weeks later, I got a Facebook message from Joe. One of his “wrinkle shots” would become my headshot, and soon we were collaborating on the first-ever photo shoot for the Players 50. Fifteen actors, dancers, directors and comedians showed up at the Music Box Theatre for that first shoot, and when we saw the results, we knew we were on to something special.

Eight years later, we’re bundled up in Mazza’s North Side studio on a December afternoon. He’s keeping fans on and the double doors wide open in order to provide maximum ventilation due to the pandemic and it’s chilly both inside and out. But Joe’s far from cold. He roars approval when anyone arrives; he genuinely sees beauty in every human he encounters and lets them know it. He loves days like this. And he loves the word “fuck” as an exclamation of joy and wonder, shouted, ideally in machine-gun repetition. Also an actor and puppeteer, he’s all of this during a photo shoot, coaxing smiles and performance out of even the most reserved person. None of his first-time subjects have ever been at anything quite like a Joe Mazza photo shoot.

This is Joe’s thirty-second “Leaders of Chicago Culture” photoshoot for Newcity since that night we met. For the first few years, he shot all seven of our lists each year, from the Art 50 to the Music 45, but these days, he sticks to his first love, the world of theater, dance, opera and comedy. And the Players love him, too, often saying that a highlight of making this list is getting a Joe Mazza photo. This year, forty-nine out of fifty made their way to his studio.



Cover Image: Joe Mazza | brave lux / Cover Design: Dan Streeting

We did not publish a Players list in 2021 due to the start of the ongoing pandemic. We’re freshening it up with this return with a new approach to the cover. Joe Mazza’s magic is still front-and-center, but art director Dan Streeting has added a bit of his alchemy as well. And it’s a bit different inside as well; we’ve arranged our Players by category rather than number, though their overall rank is still listed. Let us know what you think.

BRIAN HIEGELKE

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### [Work In Progress](#)

How Woman Made Gallery is overhauling after unraveling

#### [Players of the Moment](#)

Jon Carr and Parisa Jalili of The Second City

#### **The Players 50**

These folks never stop performing for Chicago

*And so much more...*

Look for Newcity’s January 2022 print edition at over 300 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at [Newcityshop.com](#).

# NEWCITY

[newcity.com](#)

*In Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate*, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

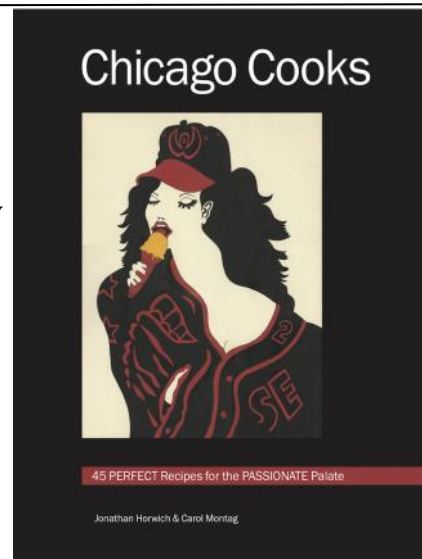
Not every food category is included here, but the ones we have chosen represent a foundation any cook will need to provide for a family or to entertain brilliantly. We hope you will trust us and try these recipes

so that you can experience food made with care and passion, food that stimulates your palate, and inspires you to share each recipe with those you love.

The two authors are long-time residents of Chicago. Returning to Chicago after 40 years in California as a jazz producer and recording engineer, **Jonathan Horwich** has continued pursuing his passion for music and high quality sound. **Carol Montag** grew up in St. Louis, MO and came to Chicago to attend The University of Chicago and never left. She has been an educator for 52 years as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and educational coach.

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# NEWCITY

[newcity.com](#)

Wed, Feb 02 | Chicago

# Speaker's Series: Author Night



Social hour 6-7 pm (Purchase your own dinner and drinks.) Panel discussion: 7-8 pm In person- Half Sour. Also by Zoom. Beth Finke, Writing Out Loud Amy Bizzarri, 111 Places in Chicago that You Must Not Miss Sylvester Boyd, The Road from Money Greg Borzo, Chicago's Fabulous Fountains

## Time & Location

Feb 02, 2022, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM CST

Chicago, 755 S Clark St, Chicago, IL 60605, USA

## About the event

Join us and hear from four local authors:

**Beth Finke**, *Writing Out Loud*

**Amy Bizzarri**, *111 Places in Chicago that You Must Not Miss*

**Sylvester Boyd**, *The Road from Money*

**Greg Borzo**, *Chicago's Fabulous Fountains*

**Amy Bizzarri** has written four books focused on Chicago history, but her experiences don't stop there. She's a teacher, tour guide and certified wine expert. She lived in Rome for five years and has hosted radio and TV segments. Oh, yes, her great, great grandparents met in Chicago the night of the Great Fire!

**Beth Finke** is an accomplished author, teacher and columnist, familiar to many South Loop residents because she's a regular contributor to the *Dearborn Express*, our local online newspaper. She teaches memoir writing, is an NPR commentator and moderates a blog for Easter-seals' National Headquarters.

**Sylvester Boyd Jr.** was born in Chicago and in 1981 founded one of the largest minority owned advertising specialty companies in southwest Michigan, selling products to major corporations, businesses, colleges and universities. He has worked as a movie extra, motivational speaker and substitute teacher for CPS.

**Greg Borzo** has written several books about Chicago history, including Chicago's Fabulous Fountain, which features the Printers Row Park Fountain -- a water tosser that currently being renovated. He's also a tour guide, pickleball player, avid cyclist and member of the South Loop Neighbors' board.



## The Shedd Aquarium Has Free Days This Week. Here's The Complete Schedule

Free days for Illinoisans start Thursday and run through Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Reservations are required.

[Block Club Chicago Staff](#)

Jan 10, 2022

The Shedd Aquarium is free for Illinois residents during several days in January and February. Provided

**DOWNTOWN** — Illinoisans can visit the penguins, dolphins, otters and other sea creatures at the Shedd Aquarium for free starting Thursday.

The museum, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, is closed for maintenance Tuesday and Wednesday, but it will have free days Thursday to Jan. 17.

The Shedd is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Friday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the museum will be open 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

The Shedd also will have free admission days Feb. 7-11 and Feb. 14-18. It will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. those days.

[Advance reservations](#) are required. You can book them online or over the phone by calling 312-939-2438. There is a \$3 processing fee for online reservations. Capacity is limited, and no walk-up tickets will be available.

Visitors must provide proof of residency at the museum via a valid Illinois state ID or driver's license to get free admission. [Find out more here.](#)

Proof of vaccination is required for everyone 5 and older, and visitors 16 and older must also show a photo ID that matches their vaccine cards. Masks are required for everyone older than 2. For more information, [click here.](#)

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[https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/01/10/the-shedd-aquarium-has-free-days-this-week-heres-the-complete-schedule/?utm\\_source=Pico&utm\\_campaign=86d9c3306d-](https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/01/10/the-shedd-aquarium-has-free-days-this-week-heres-the-complete-schedule/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=86d9c3306d-)



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

# OPINION

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.

## Backstory Essays

Regan Burke

### Without Being Contagious to Others

January 2, 2022



*Regan Burke's new book, "In That Number" is a 2021 finalist for Chicago Writers Association non-fiction Book of the Year. Regan's brief memoirs and personal essays appear in the Christian Science Monitor, Sun Magazine, Chicago History Museum "In This Together" Project, City Creatures, Safe 'n Sound, Easter Seals Blog. Chaleur, Rise Up Review, Bird Garden's Murder of Writers and Writing Out Loud. She lives on Potawatomi land in downtown Chicago. Her main activity is reducing the weight of the here and now. Regan is a member of Beth Finke's Memoir Writing Class.*

Uh-oh. When I home-tested positive for Covid after a few casual lunches with different friends over the holidays, I knew I had to tell them about my infection.

I had accumulated four Covid home tests to use between Christmas and New Years and self-tested before each gathering of five to seven people—not exactly a crowd, but I worried. After a rousing lunch of laughs and stories at the History Museum atrium Cafe, I went home and used my last home test. Gulp. Positive.

Immobilization glued me to my bed. What do I do? The slight cough and runny nose I'd had for a few days was seasonal allergies, according to the doctor. One friend told me the self-tests are not accurate. Really? Is she right? Is the CDC wrong? How do I report it? Do I tell people? Will they panic? Am I responsible if they get it? Will they blame me?

Fortunately I wasn't with the friends who panic, blame, and generally indulge in open disapproval and silent scorn. That crowd is busy interrogating their other friends with positive Covid tests: Where did you get it? Who were you with? Were they wearing masks? Were you? Were they boosted?

There are so many cases of Covid now that it's impossible to trace the source of who, what, where, how, when. Last week people talked about their friends and relatives having Covid. This week they're talking about themselves having it.

My course of action was 1) text Mark with the news and ask if he'd walk the dog for two days. Two days. That's what I gave myself to be symptom-free. I was right. And really, how much dog-walking can you ask of your friends



Henry, Social Distancing

in the first snowstorm of the winter? 2) Turn on the kitchen exhaust fan to move the Covid air out. 3) Wipe all the surfaces with bleach, and 4) close myself off in the bedroom with Tylenol, electrolytes and Kleenex. Mark ran in and out with Henry. No lingering. No chit-chat.

The Northwestern Medicine patient portal has no apparent section for reporting Covid. I wrote my doctor through the online messaging system (who reads those?). "I tested positive for Covid. What should I do?" Twenty-four hours later my symptoms had subsided. I'd read the CDC stuff and thought I knew all I had to know. But no. Northwestern has a lengthy standard reply, some of which surprised me:

**Retesting is not recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) because you may continue to test positive for three months or more without being contagious to others.**

What? For the first time in almost two years, the weight I didn't know was so heavy, lifted from my mind, body and soul! No more frantically scouring shelves for Covid tests? No more fear of infection, the ER, hospital, death? No more worry that I might give it to you!

It's like June 2021!

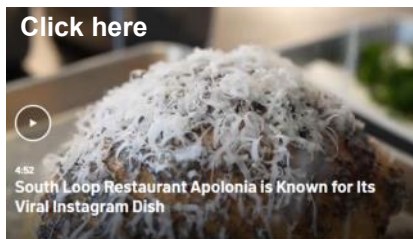


by Regan Burke [In That Number: One Woman's March From the Streets of Protest to the Halls of Power \(And Beyond\)](#)

Available at Sandmeyer's Book Store and other sources.

Monday, January 10, 2022

## [NBC5 Highlights Apolonia's Viral Bread Dish](#)



Apolonia (2201 S. Michigan) - probably the most exciting restaurant to open in the Sloop in the last couple of years - got some viral love for one of their bread dishes (via [NBC5](#)):

Gillanders said the restaurant's pastry chef was trying to make a focaccia to capitalize on the trend, but they wanted to make it different.

"The deep fry became this thing. We threw a dough ball into it, it just ballooned up," he said.

The restaurant likened the dish to a "savory black truffle doughnut" and said it has since taken off in a way they never expected.

"A lot of people started to cut them open and fill them like a pita and you'd be shocked what people put into those things," he said.

NBC5 has a good overarching video about what they're doing at the restaurant. It's early in the morning and I'm hungry for dinner:

<http://www.sloopin.com/2022/01/nbc5-highlights-apolonias-viral-bread.html>

<http://www.sloopin.com/>

## South Loop Neighbors

Activities and events from 2021

As presented at the Annual Meeting on January 10,

February : "Get Injected, Not Infected" presentation

March: Trivia Night at Half Sour

April: Speaker Series, Alderman in April

June: Yard Sale in Dearborn Park

July: Ice Cream Social in partnership with Printers Row PAC, best ever

July: Grills Night Out at Dearborn Park

August: SLN at the Printers Row Art Fair

August: Grills Night Out at Cottontail Park

September: Yard Sale No. 2

September: SLN in Partnership with SL Neighborhood Watch Crime Prevention Seminar

October: Pickle Ball and Ice Cream Social

October: Dennis McClendon's talk on Historic Train Stations of the South Loop

November: Pub Crawl

November: Clean up Project: SLN in partnership with GPAC, RC of Chicago Citywide Service & Chicago Explorers.



## SOUTH LOOP

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## NEW YEAR'S EVE

## FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

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## The Field Museum Is Offering Free Days In January And February. Here's The Schedule

The free-day tickets cannot be reserved in advance and will only be available on-site to Illinois residents.

[Kelly Bauer](#)

Jan 10, 2022

Credit: Kelly Bauer, Block Club

Lights highlight parts of SUE's skeleton while a video plays talking about individual parts of the dinosaur's body.

**DOWNTOWN** — The Field Museum is offering free days for Illinois residents Wednesdays in January and February.

The free-day tickets cannot be reserved in advance and will only be available on-site to Illinois residents, according to a Field news release. People will need to show proof of residency, like a state ID, for the deal.

### The free days schedule:

- Jan. 12
- Jan. 19
- Jan. 26
- Feb. 2
- Feb. 9
- Feb. 16

Feb. 23

The museum also offers \$3-per-person admission on all days for families who qualify for state food assistance, according to the Field. That offer is available for up to six people per qualifying family.

Everyone 5 and older who visits the Field Museum must provide proof of vaccination. People 16 and older must also provide a valid photo ID.

More information about the free days is available [online](#).



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

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## THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

We welcome letters to the editor.

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations. This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us:

[thedearbornexpress@gmail.com](mailto:thedearbornexpress@gmail.com)  
[Dearbornexpress.net/](http://Dearbornexpress.net/)



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Wednesday, January 12, 2022

## [Shedd Aquarium Embarks on \\$500 Million Renovation Called the "Centennial Commitment"](#)



The Shedd Aquarium is awesome and it looks like it's going to be getting even better (via [Chicago Tribune](#)):

The Shedd Aquarium houses a remarkable creature called an archerfish that spits water 3 feet into the air to knock insects off trees into the water for dinner.

Right now, the archerfish swims in an aquarium with a label displaying its name. That's it.

But soon, visitors will be able to see the fish actually do its thing — spitting at a tree to dislodge crickets for a meal.

Interactive experiences like this inspire the public to care more about the fish and its habitat, according to Bridget Coughlin, president and CEO of the Shedd Aquarium.

This connection between humans experiencing wild animals and being inspired to conserve is the driving force behind the aquarium's new \$500 million project, an eight-year vision called [the Centennial Commitment](#).

Connecting people to nature will involve creating new aquarium galleries along with immersive experiences and programs.

Read the rest of the story by clicking below.

<http://www.sloopin.com/2022/01/shedd-aquarium-embarks-on-500-million.html>

<http://www.sloopin.com/>



### INDIVISIBLE DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

*Do you live or work downtown or in a neighborhood nearby?  
Join us in promoting progressive values!*

## January Meeting

Monday, 1/17 on Zoom

*Mark your 2022 calendars: we meet the 3rd Monday of the month*

### Register now!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlqd-yvrDwrGt2k8en8jlpZl8NFUfYOaMHA>

### 7:00pm Business

*Reports and Ways to Take Action*

*Defend Democracy! The Midterms are coming!*

### 8:00pm Socializing

*Grab a cocktail and schmooze with your fellow progressives*



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Colleen Hogan

## Too Good To Go app transforms Chicago's food waste into cheap takeout

By [Amina Sergazina](#), Staff Reporter  
December 15, 2021

Saving money on takeout while helping reduce food waste sounds too good to be true, but the app Too Good To Go does exactly that.

The Too Good To Go app launched in Chicago this summer and has already saved more than 26,000 meals destined for the trash at more than 320 restaurants in the city.

That is approximately the same carbon footprint as 227 flights from Chicago to New York, according to Allie Sale, public relations specialist for Too Good To Go.

The app originally was founded in Denmark in 2016 and now is operating in 17 countries.

According to Claire Oliverson, the U.S. head of marketing for Too Good to Go, app users can buy a surprise bag that is filled with fresh food or drinks that the restaurant was not able to sell that day. Usually, prices range from \$3.99 to \$5.99 per bag filled with food worth three to four times more than the price. Too Good To Go is a B Corporation, meaning it balances profit and purpose, and receives a flat fee of \$1.79 per surprise bag bought.

Because the surprise bags are made up of whatever is left at the end of the day, there are currently no options to address dietary restrictions.

Pokiology, a poke restaurant at 1220 W. Taylor St., was able to cut 90% of their food waste using Too Good To Go, according to Tyler Shields, the restaurant manager. A [poke \(pronounced poh-kay\)](#)

restaurant serves meals in a bowl with a variety of options including rice, proteins and colorful sauces.

Shields said the restaurant used to throw away a half to a whole liter of rice per day. Another problem was the raw fish that is cut in the morning and has to be used by the end of the day for health purposes.

"We didn't really have much of a plan to deal with food waste before 'Too To Good To Go' approached us," Shields said. "All of that [food] we were throwing out, and now we're able to make nice healthy bowls for people and they can come in and take it home."

According to the FoodPrint website, in one year U.S. restaurants generate between 22 to 33 billion pounds of food waste.

Upton's Naturals, a natural food company that focuses on meat alternatives and vegan values, owns Liberation Donuts shop, 2054 W. Grand Ave., which opened a year ago and sells handmade vegan donuts. Natalie Slater, marketing director at Upton's Naturals, said the shop tried to fight food waste by tracking what

product they waste the most and encouraging employees to take leftovers home.

"Every time we have anything left over we post it on Too Good To Go and it always gets picked by somebody," Slater said. "I don't think we've ever posted that we had something available and not found somebody who wanted it."

Slater said Liberation Donuts used to waste from half a dozen to three dozen donuts daily but now their waste is almost zero.

"[Food waste] is such a global problem and it's a really modern problem; we want ease, and choice, and convenience, and we want abundance," Oliverson said. "I think that we need to rethink our relationship with food and its value."

<https://columbiachronicle.com/too-good-to-go-app-transforms-chicagos-food-waste-into-cheap-takeout>

THE COLUMBIA  
CHRONICLE

<https://columbiachronicle.com/>

## "Save the Fountain" at Printers Row Park

Fountains beautify cities and make them more livable, peaceful, and inviting. They soften the edges of the steel and concrete, and they help the passersby slow down the hustle and bustle of their busy lives.

The Printers Row Park Advisory Council (PAC) needs your help! Almost a quarter of a century old, the Fountain at Printers Row Park is in serious need of restoration, above and below ground. Help us replace its colored enamel reliefs and polish its bronze highlights, upgrade its lighting, repair its pump and pipes so that this unique civic treasure can, once again, gush forth with its original energy and spirit,

In total, we need to raise \$110,000 to complete the restoration by the spring of 2022. We requested and are awaiting approval from the Chicago Park District for \$35,000 towards the project. Our 4th Ward Alderperson, Sophia King, has not only agreed to provide \$35,000 towards the restoration but has also agreed to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 in donations that we receive!

That leaves Printers Row PAC to fundraise \$40,000! Please contribute whatever you can to support the South Loop community in bringing the Fountain at Printers Row Park back to its original glory! Visit the fountain before and after the restoration so that you can appreciate the significance of this project.

Contact us: [printersrowpac@gmail.com](mailto:printersrowpac@gmail.com)

[DONATE](#)

## 2022 Brings New Laws To Illinois: Here's What You Need To Know

From a ban on hair discrimination to new rules about getting takeout, 2022 laws will change how Chicagoans eat at restaurants, how they're educated and more.

[Pascal Sabino](#), [Mina Bloom](#), and [Block Club Chicago Staff](#)

7:45 AM CST on Dec 30, 2021

Gus "Jett" Hawkins in 2021. After Jett's West Side school banned him from wearing braids, his mom led a successful campaign to ban hair discrimination in Illinois schools. Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

CHICAGO — A slate of new city, county and state laws in 2022 will affect education, criminal justice, deportation and eating out for Chicagoans.

Schools no longer can crack down on nonwhite hairstyles, and they must do more to protect children from sexual misconduct. Chicago restaurants must stop offering pop as a default drink for kids meals and limit how much single-use plastics they give to customers ordering takeout.

**Here's a closer look at 2022's new laws:**

**Credit:** Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago Jett Hawkins poses for a portrait, donning his hair in braids, in his family's Douglas home on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.



### Ban On Hair Discrimination

[When 4-year-old Jett Hawkins came to his West Side school in March sporting braids](#), administrators told his mother the hairstyle violated a policy that banned several Black hairstyles, including locs, braids and cornrows on boys.

Jett's mother, Ida Nelson, pushed back, saying the experience of "policing Black children's hair" can impact a child's mental health, self-esteem and confidence. Such policies also encourage Black people "to assimilate to fit in with white culture and discard their history and their Black culture," Nelson said.

The story caught the attention of state Sen. Mike Simmons — who keeps his hair in long, freeform locs — [who drafted the bill](#) with the Illinois State Board of Education.

The law requires the state board to complete a review of school handbooks and policies to ensure they don't single out and ban Black hairstyles like cornrows, locs and braids. The law also directs the state board to produce educational resources for schools about hair discrimination, and the histories behind protective hairstyles Black people often use.

Jett and his mom were on hand when Gov. JB Pritzker [signed the Jett Hawkins' Law in August](#). It goes into effect Jan. 1.

### Mental Health Days For Public School Students

With education upended for kids during the pandemic, public school students will be allowed mental health days for the first time.

Starting in January, students 7-17 years old can take up to five mental health or behavioral days off per school year, with no doctor's note required.

The law, sponsored by state Sen. Robert Martwick, was signed by the governor in October.

"Mental health challenges have risen dramatically," Martwick said in a statement. "We need to ensure that our teachers and administrators have every tool they need to identify students who are suffering and ensure those students get the resources they need."

### Ban On Plasticware At Restaurants

Starting in mid-January, Chicago restaurants can only give customers plasticware, napkins and similar items by request.

The city ordinance, passed in September, [bans restaurants from providing single-use utensils, stirrers, toothpicks, napkins, cup sleeves and disposable plates](#) in most cases.

Drive-thrus, airports and charity food giveaways would be exempt. The ordinance does not include straws, cup lids or takeout containers, and it does not apply to "self-service stations," where customers can grab their own napkins or condiments.

The ordinance is part of an effort to reduce waste of single-use plastics. Alderpeople who supported the final version of the law acknowledged it doesn't go far enough, but said "small, incremental change" is needed now without overburdening restaurant owners.

**Credit:** Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago The Cook County Department of Corrections in the Little Village neighborhood on April 11, 2020.

### Phase Out Of Cash Bail

Portions of the Pretrial Fairness Act go into effect Jan. 1. While cash bail itself won't go away until 2023, other parts of the law will expand the rights of people incarcerated in their homes on electronic monitoring.

Those assigned house arrest as a condition of release will be allowed to leave their homes to perform essential tasks and receive regular reviews, allowing the court to evaluate whether they need to remain on electronic monitoring.

Advocates long have argued that the cash bail system penalizes low-income defendants who have been approved to be released on bond but stay in jail because they cannot afford to pay. When the full law goes into effect in 2023, it will make it easier for defendants to help with their defense and support their families and communities, while still giving judges latitude to jail someone they think poses a threat to the public.

"Being poor is not a crime, end of story," said state Sen. Robert Peters, who sponsored the legislation. "Folks who have the means to cover their bail don't spend a minute in jail, while others could be locked up for weeks or even months before their trial begins. This is not a just or equitable system." Continued on next page

(Continued from previous page, \*New Illinois Laws.\*)

As cash bail is removed, some neighborhood groups have mobilized [to provide social services to people released from jail and awaiting trial](#).

**Credit:** Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago Students walk on to the football field at CPS Marine Leadership Academy, 1920 N. Hamlin Ave., in Logan Square on Nov. 19, 2021.

### Faith's Law To Prevent Grooming, Sex Abuse In Schools

Faith's Law was in the works for two years before it was signed as a massive sexual abuse scandal unfolded in Chicago Public Schools.

Named for sexual abuse survivor Faith Colson, two parts of the law go into effect in July. First, it bans all forms of grooming in which adults lure children into sexual relationships. Previous state law defined grooming as luring a child into unlawful sex using the internet. Now, that definition has been expanded to include in-person interaction and written communication.

The law also requires the state offer educator training "on the physical and mental health needs of students, student safety, educator ethics, professional conduct, and other topics that address the well-being of students and improve the academic and social-emotional outcomes of students" this year.

[The law was finalized in December](#) amid the scandal at Marine Leadership Academy, 1920 N. Hamlin Ave. Investigators uncovered multiple instances of grooming, but CPS leaders said state law didn't allow criminal charges because no sexual contact occurred with students until they were legal adults.

Also under Faith's Law, the Illinois State Board of Education is required to create a statewide resource guide for parents, "a centralized source of assistance and provide resources available to the parent or guardian of a student who is or may be the victim of sexual abuse," according to the governor's office. That must be complete by mid-2023.

**Credit:** Darryl Holliday/DNAinfo An immigration rally in Chicago.

### Legal Representation For Non-Citizens In Deportation Cases

Starting in January, the [Cook County Public Defenders Office can represent non-citizens in deportation cases](#) under the Defenders For All Act.

The Defenders for All coalition — a group of more than 40 organizations and community groups — pushed for the law and an immigration unit within the Public Defender's Office dedicated to these cases.

Cook County is the third jurisdiction, after San Francisco and Alameda County, California, to offer representation to immigrants facing deportation. The law moves Cook County closer to creating a more "welcoming place for everyone to call home," county board President Toni Preckwinkle said.

"We know individuals who go to immigration court without a lawyer are far more likely to get a worse outcome. Not because of some fact in their case, but solely because they don't have a lawyer. ... We want to change that," Public Defender Sharrone Mitchell said.



A car dons decorations for Juneteenth during the Juneteenth Celebration ReBuild Black Wall Street in Washington Park on Friday, June 19, 2020. | Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

### Juneteenth

The celebration of the effective end of slavery is now a paid state holiday.

Juneteenth is celebrated June 19 to commemorate the day in 1865 when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to free all enslaved people two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Slavery was abolished through the 13th Amendment in December 1865.

The holiday will be a paid day off for state workers and public education professionals, but only when June 19 falls on a weekday. That means the first paid holiday for Juneteenth will be in 2023.

President Joe Biden also made Juneteenth a federal holiday. After initially ruling it out as too expensive, Mayor Lori Lightfoot reversed course and declared this year Juneteenth would be an official city holiday, as well.

### Restaurants Must Offer Water, Juice Or Milk Instead Of Pop For Kids' Meals

[The Serve Kids Better Act](#), which goes into effect Jan 1., is part of a broader effort to cut down on sugary drinks.

The law requires restaurants to offer water, juice or milk with no added sweeteners as the default option for a kids

Click here for the rest of the story [https://blockclubchicago.org/2021/12/30/2022-brings-new-laws-to-illinois-heres-what-you-need-to-know/?utm\\_source=Pico&utm\\_campaign=af40811cc2-](https://blockclubchicago.org/2021/12/30/2022-brings-new-laws-to-illinois-heres-what-you-need-to-know/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=af40811cc2-)



<https://blockclubchicago.org>



He said I better write about it. [So I did](#). For the Reader. And I almost got expelled. But I stuck with my Reader writing after that. And I was also asked to write for the law school paper, The Decisive Utterance. And a few months later, I also became a Sunday columnist for the Chicago Tribune, a position I'd begged for for many years.

Since the Reader began in October, 1971, I dreamed of my writing being in it. The first story I wrote—sometime in the early 80s was about a one-legged local boxer. There was no internet in those days and research took time. I remember reading a book by [New Yorker boxing writer AJ Liebling](#)—to get my head in the right place.

I was very excited when it came out. And Paul ran into Reader editor Pat Clinton who had done the editing and he told Paul I had “it.” I just needed some seasoning. And I'd be really good. (A few years later, Pulitzer Prize winner, Tom Fitzpatrick, a friend of Paul's, said the same thing about a story I'd written. Sans the seasoning part.

The pay wasn't bad at the Reader so taking time to do interviews, read up on any subject necessary and doing all the other time-consuming things we had to do before the Internet Age were properly compensated. The stories were constructed carefully and could involve just about anything your imagination and curiosity led to. The lesson of the Reader was that everything could be a story if written right. And the biggest story could be a big dud if not written right. And that was my greatest lesson from those years. And that technique is hard to teach anyone. (I know, I taught journalism for 10 years.)

So these are some of the stories that come to mind when I reminisce about my days writing for the Reader: [A grammar school friend's mother](#) who always said she was best friends with Bugsy Siegel's girlfriend, Virginia Hill; two very famous and renowned, but penniless Russian musicians who were invited by the City of Chicago to visit the Jazz Fest, and I was invited to write about them and they ended up becoming a part of my family for the entire Labor Day Weekend; Susan Anton visiting the Board of Trade; and a mother who filed a lawsuit after her little boy was sucked into a swimming pool drain and died.

The Virginia Hill story and the swimming pool story, incidentally, were poured over by lawyers and the Hill story—after a little editing because I talked about the parents of other nameless grammar school classmates, too—passed muster. But the swimming pool story didn't. (I wasn't there—all I had was the mother's side of the story and her side was all I was interested in writing about. To its credit, the Reader paid me anyway.)

I also wormed my way into late PI attorney Phil Corboy Sr.'s Water Tower condo when Paul was hired to take pictures of [a party he was giving for Simpson lawyer Johnnie Cochran](#). Paul's pictures were so terrific and fit so well with my wry story-telling and Corboy wrote us a note after the party welcoming us as part of his “inner circle” going forward, but Dale Cochran, Johnnie's wife called me to complain. My job was done.

Another story I enjoyed very much was about a one-woman play, written by [Dario Fo](#) and performed by a friend of my childhood friend Scott, who called from Los Angeles, where he'd moved and asked me to go see the play on Belmont Avenue and spend time with his friend, the star, who was having a lonely time in Chicago. So I did. And we went out for dinner after and had a great time. And I took the Red Line home at 3 AM and the train got stuck at Grand Avenue for a long time. And all I could think about was what if I get killed by a

terrorist? What will my parents, Paul, my daughter and all my friends and relatives think of me being on the Red Line alone at 3 AM?

I also loved writing about [six Iraqi lawyers who came to Chicago](#) to study our legal system through DePaul Law School when they went on a tour of City Hall and took turns sitting in Mayor Daley's seat in the City Council; a beautiful and talented lawyer who taught women how to get a husband; a stripper who gave classes at the Discovery Center; a pyramid schemes I pretended like I was interested in to see how it worked; and a woman named Lottie Da.

At one time, I wrote a ton of stories about art. One that stands out was about a father and daughter who were both doctors but also artists at an Old Town studio where they showed their work. I wrote so many articles about artists—from my friend Marya Veeck to my friend Sandy Holobow—that crazily the art PR people thought I was the Reader art critic and I collected a huge moving box full of correspondence from them.

Another time, I became known as a sex writer—my friend, the late PR maven Judy O'Brien had cultivated a number of clients in the sex business—from a real life dominatrix to a sex toy store that had parties. I wrote about it all and that year for the Reader's end-of-the-year issue I wrote about my life prosecuting johns—by listing all the excuses men had for ending up in their cars on city streets with prostitutes. Instead of using bullet points for the list, the Reader used little penises.

One of my friends, [Deanna Isaacs](#), who worked with me when we were police reporters at the famous City News Bureau of Chicago, and who made a career as an arts columnist at the Reader, said when she read my Sunday column in the Tribune and my Reader stories about such subjects, she kept imagining a mixup and the stories ending up crossed and taking up each other's space and we laughed a lot about that.

Even though I wrote for the Reader for about a quarter century, there were about three years when it was like a full time job. I was always planning or working on something for about three years in the early 90s. That was my heyday. After which I dribbled down, culminating with Reverend Al in 2008.

And I became part of a scenario that I saw happen to other Reader writers. As I wound down, another writer with his own ideas was on my heels. Adam Langer. Who became a novelist, and we read his first one in my book club.

And that was how it went. For us independent writers, we gave it our all and then we kind of fizzled out and...and moved on. Perhaps for something better, perhaps not.

When I got paid for the Reverend Al story, the check was so small and the envelope and address was so unfamiliar looking, I almost threw it away—I thought it was a come-on for a magazine subscription (you cash it and they start sending it).

But the Reader had been sold (and sold several times since) and I hadn't written for it much since my heyday—and it was another sign that it was over for us.

And so, that was that. The Reader became a part of my past. But I will always remember that while I was writing a Reader story one day in the early 90s that I had my first experience with [Flow](#).

And I also learned the greatest lesson. I had learned what the Reader was there to teach. And they taught it well. That wherever you looked in life, there was a story that the vast majority of people would never see. Unless people like me wrote it. They were there. And I always saw them. And I still do.

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog: [www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/](http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/)





ALDERMAN \* 4TH WARD  
**SOPHIA KING**

Ward04@cityofchicago.org

Web Site

[KING4THWARD.COM](http://KING4THWARD.COM)

## Citizen App

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

The popular app Citizen is not always reliable for police information, and we ask that you call the CAPS office at 312-747-5109 for clarification on anything that you may be concerned about.

## CPD District Meetings

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

Use the CPD's online [tool](#) to find your district and beat.

## If You See Something, Say Something

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

"If You See Something, Say Something®" is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism, terrorism-related crime, and domestic violent extremism, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. Informed, alert communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Chicago Police Department Is Hiring

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Do you have a passion for this city and want to give back to your community through service? Apply to join the Chicago Police Department. To apply in advance online [click here](#) or just show up and register at any exam ses-

## Carjacking Prevention Tips

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

There have been several instances of carjackings in our community this year, and while we are working with the Chicago Police Department to keep our neighborhoods safe, we hope that you will take heed of these [carjacking prevention tips](#) to keep yourself from being a victim.

## 2022 4th Ward Menu Planning

4th Ward Capital Improvements

Each year, every ward in the City of Chicago is awarded \$1.5 million in "menu" funds to apply to wards infrastructure needs in the community. Menu funds are used for resurfacing streets, replacing damaged sidewalks, repairing or the installation of street lighting, park improvements, and a myriad of other infrastructure concerns that contribute to the overall quality of life in the ward. If you have any menu requests, please submit the requests to the infrastructure chair of your community advisory council or to [ward04@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward04@cityofchicago.org).

Once submitted, your request will be reviewed by one of the six different (Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood, Hyde Park, North Kenwood Oakland, and the South Loop) community advisory councils in the 4th Ward. The projects will be reviewed by infrastructure committees of each council to determine the need and priority of the request. Once each council has submitted their lists, the Aldermanic Service Office will make the final selection to submit to the City in time for the 1st quarter deadline for the 2022 menu program. To learn about the leadership of each advisory council, please [click here](#). If you would like to understand the geographic location of each community area/advisory council in the 4th Ward, please [click here](#).

## Virtual Alderman 'On the Block'

MEET WITH ALDERMAN KING ON ZOOM

More dates will be available soon for Alderman On the Block. To request a meeting with Alderman King, please email [ward04@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward04@cityofchicago.org) with the subject line "AOB Meeting Request" describing your issue to secure an appointment. Call **773-536-8103** for comments, questions or concerns.

## 311 vs 911—Make the Right Call.

We wanted to share with you a document provided by the City on when to call 911 and when to call 311. 911 is for emergencies that require immediate attention, while 311 is for slightly less urgent matters that still require the authorities. View the complete list for your reference [here](#).

Next CAPS Meeting Mar 9, 2022

3PM on Zoom



## Police Blotter



<http://home.chicagopolice.org/>

12/21/2021 9:57am 1100 S Michigan Av  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Knife Sidewalk  
Parkside Beat 114

12/21/2021 5:51pm 1100 S State St  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY Knife CTA Train  
Beat 123

12/22/2021 9:14am 1200 S Wabash  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Handgun, Gas Station,  
Beat 131

12/23/2021 6:08am 1100 S State St  
ARMED ROBBERY, Knife, CTA Train

12/24/2021 1:01pm 1400 S Michigan Ave  
HIJACKING on Street Beat 131

12/25/2021 2:04am 2300 S Wabash  
ARMED ROBBERY Handgun on Sidewalk  
Beat 131

12/27/2021 12:04am 2200 S Michigan Av  
AGGRAVATED BATTERY, Handgun Non Res  
Parking lot Beat 132

12/29/2021 3:00pm 1200 S Wabash Av  
ARMED ROBBERY, Handgun Grocery Store  
Beat 131

12/29/2021 11:25pm 1100 S Clark st  
HIJACKING Target Parking Lot Beat 123

12/30/2021 9:40pm 1600 S Michigan Av  
ARMED ROBBERY Alley Beat 131

12/31/2021 8:00pm 500 S Michigan Av  
AGGRAVATED BATTERY, Handgun, Hotel  
parking lot Beat 123

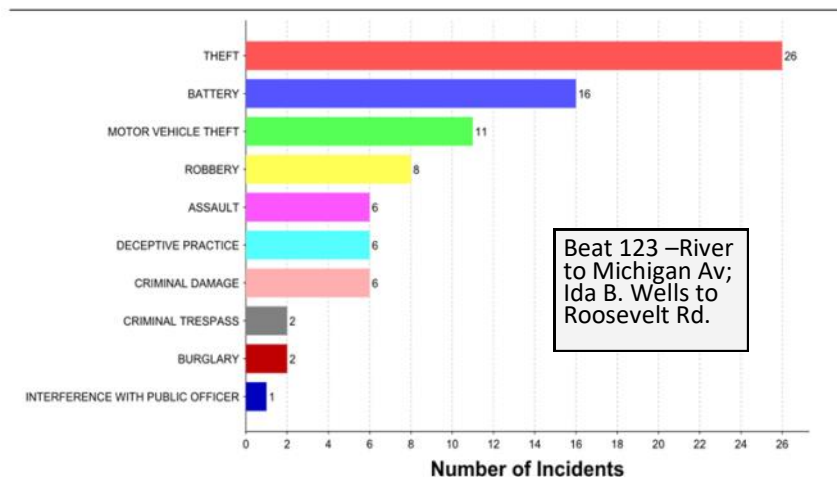
1/1/2022 4:00am 1400 S State St  
ARMED ROBBERY Handgun Street Beat 131

1/2/2022 12:00am 1100 S State St  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon CTA  
Platform Beat 123

Report Date: 12-Jan-2022  
Report Time: 11:22:16  
Produced By: Information Services  
Division  
Run By: PCOL468

### Top Ten Crimes From 15-Dec-2021 To 12-Jan-2022 On Beat 0123

Page 1 of 1



## On New Year's Eve, 17-year-old becomes the Loop's 28th shooting victim of 2021

[January 1, 2022 CWBChicago Loop](#)

On New Year's Eve, a 17-year-old girl became the Loop's 28th and final shooting victim of 2021, wrapping up the bloodiest year for the famed downtown neighborhood in a generation or more.

Police said a man who is "approximately 18 years of age" shot the girl three times in her leg while they were in a hotel room on the 500 block of South Michigan around 10:29 p.m. Witnesses saw police and EMS responding to the Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 South Michigan.

The girl was listed in good condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Police arrested the man at the scene and reportedly recovered a firearm from his person. Charges are pending. CPD said the incident appears the man and the girl have a relationship.

Shootings have risen sharply in the downtown area since the start of 2020. Police and local politicians have consistently said that low hotel room rates during the COVID pandemic are drawing people to parties in hotel rooms and on nearby streets. Those gatherings are fueling the rise in violence, according to the officials.

In 2019, three people were shot in three separate incidents in the Loop: One survived a shooting that authorities determined to be self-defense by the shooter; another died in a separate self-defense case; and the third shooting, also fatal, remains unsolved.

Last year, there were 18 shooting victims in the Loop and a total of four murders. City records show that two of the murder victims were shot, another was stabbed, and the fourth was pushed into the path of a CTA train.

In 2021, there were 28 shooting victims in the Loop. One died. The neighborhood also had two fatal stabbings last year.

<https://cwbchicago.com/2022/01/on-new-years-eve-17-year-old-becomes-the-loops-28th-shooting-victim-of-2021.html>

<http://www.cwbchicago.com/>

Crime Reports in Beat 0123	"Pre-Covid Years"			"Covid Years"		2021 Year-end Changes	
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change	Half Year
Year							
Jan	117	132	128	131	73	-42	-32
Feb	111	100	137	127	65	-44	
Mar	125	155	123	75	101	-25	
Apr	126	116	140	72	107	-16	
May	137	151	158	147	103	-31	
Jun	163	144	151	63	99	-35	-16
Jul	173	143	160	100	141	-11	
Aug	173	162	161	111	146	-12	
Sep	159	155	145	110	103	-33	
Oct	150	146	148	96	145	-2	
Nov	144	110	120	67	102	-18	
Dec	140	135	164	80	120	-18	
Total	1718	1649	1735	1179	1305	-23	

Arson	0	0	1	1	0	
<b>Assault</b>	96	94	87	67	87	-6
<b>Battery</b>	202	233	224	163	214	-3
Burglary	26	23	18	52	16	-28
Concealed Carry Violation	0	0	0	0	1	
Criminal Damage	100	93	93	101	97	2
<b>Criminal Sexual Assault</b>	11	12	9	7	11	3
Criminal Trespass	45	45	71	57	34	-37
Deceptive Practice	231	266	284	116	124	-52
<b>Homicide</b>	0	3	0	1	1	
Human Trafficking	1	0	0	0	0	
Interference Public Officer	3	5	7	6	1	-80
Intimidation	0	0	1	3	1	+200
Kidnapping	1	1	0	0	0	
Liquor Law Violation	2	4	1	0	0	
Motor Vehicle Theft	47	43	34	48	90	+118
Narcotics	19	19	27	23	14	-35
Non-Criminal	1	0	0	0	0	
Obscenity	0	0	1	0	1	+200
Offence Involving Children	1	2	2	2	0	

Other Narcotics	1	0	0	0	0	
Other Offense	50	54	65	47	53	-6
Prostitution	1	0	0	0	0	
Public Indecency	0	1	0	0	0	
Public Peace Violation	7	11	15	11	7	-36
<b>Robbery</b>	100	61	66	59	64	-15
Sex Offense	5	5	3	6	13	+200
Stalking	2	0	0	1	0	
Theft	762	667	719	376	442	-38
<b>Weapons Violation</b>	4	7	7	32	34	+467
<b>Total</b>	<b>1718</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>1735</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>1305</b>	<b>-23</b>

Vehicle Hijacking	9	0	1	10	13	+394
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(Subset of Robbery)

### Police Beat 0123: Ida B Wells to Roosevelt, Michigan Ave to the River.

We used the three "Pre-Covid Years" of 2017, 2018 and 2019 to determine the historic average amount of crime reports for Police Beat 0123.

Then we compared that average with the "Covid Years" of 2020 and 2021.

#### Total Crime Reports

The average total crime reports for the Pre-Covid years (2017-2019) was 1701

Total 2020 crimes was 1179, a drop of 31%

Total 2021 crimes was 1305, a drop of 23%

We are assuming that these drops in reported crimes were caused by

Covid restrictions (beginning in March 2020) making crime victims less available

Note - the drop in reported crimes was less in 2021 than in 2020

The drop in 2021 crimes was less in the second half of the year than the first half

It appears that we are losing the crime reduction "benefit" of Covid restrictions

#### Specific Crime Types

Even though overall crime was down 23% in 2021, violent crime was not down.

Specific types of crime trended in many different directions

- some crimes types had too few incidents to be statistically significant.

(Concealed Carry, Interference, Intimidation, Obscenity)

- some property crime types dropped even more than 23%

(Criminal Trespass, Deceptive Practice, Narcotics)

- many crimes against persons dropped significantly less than 23%

(Assault, Battery, Damage, Sexual Assault, Robbery)

- some crimes against persons increased dramatically

(Weapons Violations, Vehicle Hijacking, Sex Offense)

The types of crimes reported in Beat 0123 during 2021 tended to be more "violent" (potential to cause bodily harm)

Statistical Source: Chicago Data Portal      Data.CityOfChicago.org

Roger Marsh

Beat 0123 Neighborhood Watch

## Real Estate Transactions

\$365,000  
124 W POLK ST 202  
11/24/21

\$1,100,000  
1211 S PRAIRIE AVE 2504  
11/30/21

\$294,000  
40 E 9TH ST 1606  
11/22/21

\$344,000  
1322 S WABASH AVE 310  
12/6/21

\$212,500  
621 S PLYMOUTH CT 808  
11/16/21

\$250,000  
732 S FINANCIAL PL 315  
11/9/21

\$570,000  
1345 S INDIANA PKWY  
10/19/21

\$480,000  
100 E 14<sup>TH</sup> ST 2609  
12/1/21

\$460,000  
910 S MICHIGAN AVE 1819  
11/5/21

\$280,000  
680 S FEDERAL ST 903  
11/16/21

\$260,000  
600 S DEARBORN ST 1503  
10/5/21

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**312.622.2850**



**Dearborn Street Realty**

**Tom Feddor,**

**312.203.3841**

**tomfeddor@gmail.com**





901 S. Plymouth Court, Unit 406

3 bed/ 2 baths 1550 Sq Ft

\$429,000

Thomas Palmen

@properties

312.543.9380

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Your Real Estate Pro



Your Local Real Estate Expert

(312) 543-9380

@properties Adwerx Chicago, IL

1307 S Wabash  
#704

3 bed, 2 bath  
1300 Sq Ft

\$374,000

Susan Dickman  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices  
773-627-8176



701 S Wells St  
#2506

3 bed, 2.5 bath  
1652 Sq Ft

\$584,900

Susan Wooten  
@properties

773.862.0200



1422 S State St  
3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1800 sq ft  
\$624,900

Ioannis Floros  
Fulton Grace Realty  
708.257.5664



711 S Dearborn St #805  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1750 sq ft  
\$625,000

Tommy Choi  
Keller Williams  
ONEChicago  
(512) 263-5600



910 S Michigan Ave  
#1606  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1800 sq ft  
\$450,000

Leigh Marcus  
@properties  
773.830.2158



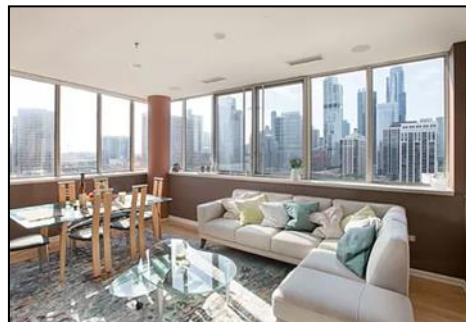
1111 S Wabash Ave Ct #2407  
2 bed, 1.5 bath, 1177 sq ft  
\$295,000

Bruce Glazer  
@properties  
765.914.8199



1515 S Prairie Ave #1414  
2 bed, 2.5 bath, 1500 sq ft  
\$549,800

Kevin Thornton  
Thornton Properties of  
Chicago INC  
312.880.0000



520 S State St #908  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1290 sq ft  
\$395,000

Joshua Novy  
Telequest Corp  
773.454.5595

