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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
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The Sounds of Spring

Birds chirping, children playing, tennis balls pinging, . . .and loud motorcycles and cars with nosy mufflers. Here is a "Letter to the Editor" to the **Chicago Suntimes**.

April 12, 2022

April 22 is Earth Day, a time to celebrate nature and to protect the earth against pollution. Excessive noise is an often-neglected form of environmental pollution. Most Americans are constantly bombarded by excessive noise — from gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers, motorcycles, loud car stereos, barking dogs, helicopters, airplanes, noisy neighbors, car traffic, helicopters, raucous restaurants, back-up beepers, honking horns tied to keyless entry systems, train horns, car alarms, and numerous other sources.

All this acoustic chaos is very harmful. High noise levels are associated with heart disease, elevated blood pressure, hearing loss, sleep deprivation, ringing of the ears, headaches, and chronic fatigue. Excessive noise is also a cause of reduced property values and decreased job and academic performance.

Noise is also a climate change issue. Lawn and garden equipment is responsible for around 5% of the nation's air pollution. An EPA study indicates that a gas-powered leaf blower creates as much nitrogen oxide emissions and volatile organic compounds in one hour as 11 cars being driven for one hour.

Further, noise is an ecosystem issue. High-intensity sound can induce fear, causing species to abandon their habitat. Birds are having to chirp louder because of the constant din. Since the 1960s, there has been a 16-fold increase in ocean noise, posing a threat to fish, dolphins, and other marine life.

What can be done? Municipalities should ban gas-powered leaf blowers. The police should vigorously enforce noise ordinances. Congress should fully fund the federal noise pollution control office. Individuals should join [Noise Free America: A Coalition to Promote Quiet](#).

Dariusz Gulanczyk, Elgin

April 20, 2022

Vol. 10, No.5

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See Roger Marsh's Analysis of
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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thu-Sun, Apr 21-24, 8 pm (Sun 4 & 8)...Tom Harrell Quartet
 Mon, Apr 25, 8 & 11pm.....Bob Lark and his Alumni Big Band
 Tue, Apr 26, 8 & 11pm.....WDCB 90.9FM Yosef Ben Israel Quartet
 "Celebrating the Mingus Centennial"
 Wed, Apr 27, 8 & 11pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring
 Dee Alexander
 Thu-Sun, Apr 28-May 1, 8 pm (Sun 4 & 8).Lucy Yeghiazaryan Quintet featuring
 Emmet Cohen and Houston Person
 Wed, May 4, 8 & 11pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring
 Meagan McNeal
 Thu-Sun, May 5-8, 8 pm (4 & 8).....Christian McBride and Inside Straight
 Mon, May 9, 8 & 11 pm.....Bob Lark and his Alumni Big Band
 Tue, May 10, 8 & 11pm.....Drummer Greg Artry Quartet



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Jazzshowcase.com

Lucy Yeghiazaryan
4/28-5/1



Tom
Harrell
4/21-24



Welcome to Jazz Showcase where Jazz lives in Chicago since 1947. Our exclusive 170 seat venue features the best Jazz acts you'll find anywhere in the Chicago area. Tickets are now available online. Don't forget to sign up for our e-mail newsletter so you don't miss out on our upcoming shows!

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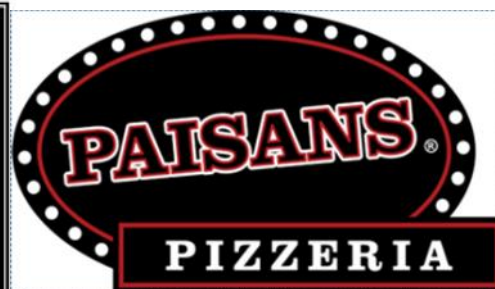
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South Loop Neighbors

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

South Loop Neighbors

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Director – Roger Marsh

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Development update Presentation

A roundup of what's proposed and underway for the South Loop was the program at our annual meeting in January. You can [watch it on YouTube](#).



The latest information on planning and development in our area can always be found at our website SouthLoopUpdate.org



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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.

It's been 35 years since Harold Washington ruled the City--and I'll never forget the day he died.

It was Wednesday morning, November 25, 1987, the day before Thanksgiving and I was busy preparing all the things that could be made a day ahead. I loved Thanksgiving back then. Everyone came over and filled up our big apartment on Michigan Avenue.

And we'd be like all other American families, eating everything I was making the day before, and the day of, using my good china, and we'd be sitting around the dining room table talking and laughing and gossiping and joking and drinking and reminiscing. An argument at some point of some kind would likely start. But that was all part of the fun.

I turned on the little TV on the kitchen table that Wednesday morning, next to the big window that overlooked Grant Park and went about my business.

And suddenly there was a news flash. Mayor Harold Washington, age 65, had a heart attack in City Hall. And paramedics took him to the hospital. And he died.

All day long, rather than discussing the political fallout, the political knifings that could take place in choosing a new mayor to finish his term, and another election that would have to take place in less than two years to fulfill his full term, the pundits talked of nothing but the mayor's heart, his unwise eating habits and unhealthy weight that probably caused him to die--and how it could have been prevented.

The City got a medical school course in clogged arteries, cholesterol buildup, blood circulation problems and what all can go wrong if you don't eat less and exercise more. Arterial health--and how to tell if everything is OK--ruled the day, as did heart valves and how they work. And healthy eating for the cardiovascular system; and skipped beats and what they mean, not to mention pain in the left arm. It all ruled the day.

I learned more about the finer points of one's ticker that day than I ever learned before. And I had two degrees in public health; a BS from the University of Illinois and an MS from the University of Missouri.

A woman who'd recently become the prime news columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times (albeit short-lived)--and whose writing I didn't like at all--actually wrote a fabulous column right after Thanksgiving about her father's heart troubles. And all the wrong things she made for Thanksgiving dinner for him.

I remember she used many sticks of butter, and she was pretty shocked she did. Now that she was counting. I'd never really thought of it before. I used a lot, too. She woke me up, and to this day, I still count the number of butter sticks stuck into a homemade holiday dinner.

In any case, it was clear she was listening to the same news stories I was. Everybody was. Mayor dies; and everyone in Chicago vows to change their eating habits. After Thanksgiving. His lasting legacy to the citizens.

At least for the moment.

Harold would have turned 100 this past Friday, April 15th--an ironic date, since he spent about a month in jail for not filing his income tax returns for several years. He didn't owe much money, if any, but it showed he had a careless side.

He also got his law license taken away for awhile, according to the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, because he didn't service clients who'd paid him. He [also had a best friend](#) who'd reportedly been a pimp and who had an odd style of dress.

But most of us accepted it all--and developed affection for Harold. We felt sorry for him having to suffer through the "[Council Wars](#)," instigated by adversary aldermen Ed Vrdolyak (10) and Ed Burke (14), who are currently a jailbird and an indicttee, respectively.

But the tides turned. As did the makeup of the City Council, and the wars ended. Harold's second term had begun without the aggravation. Vrdolyak had even run against him in the general election and lost by a considerable margin. As did Jane Byrne in the 1987 primary, who he'd beaten four years before when she was the incumbent.

I'd written [a story for the Chicago Reader](#) about a group of women who called themselves "Women for Vrdolyak." I went to one of their meetings to see why they were for Vrdolyak. He was serious about beating Washington and becoming mayor himself, these women thought.

When the story came out, I ended up being interviewed in-studio at WLS-Radio by a young guy named [Roe Conn](#). He was just starting out--and he wasn't THE Roe Conn yet. But he knew what to ask.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend of Harold's death, my dad Lew, my husband Paul and my daughter Molly and I walked over to City Hall where Harold was Lying in State. We paid our respects and said a silent goodbye. There was something about it that was fulfilling, to have a last look at this guy who was going to go down in history.

It's weird that when I walk past Harold Washington College or Harold Washington Library, I never feel much of anything--other than how I loved a creative writing course I once took at the former and how much I hate the inside layout and floor plan of the latter.

*** MORE on PAGE 16

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog: www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/



OPINION

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Backstory Essays

Regan Burke

April 11, 2022

Help Ukrainian Children



If you're anything like me, you are both riveted and repulsed by the images coming from war-torn Ukraine. At your family tables over the spring holidays, conversations about who saw what and who heard this or that may cause a stillness to the festivities.

Isn't this as it should be?

We're human after all. It takes a certain amount of fortitude, willfulness to look away, to turn the radio from the news to music. And yet, music soothes the sadness we feel for our fellows. We need it. And they need it.

Davide Martello, an Italian living in Germany, loaded his baby grand piano onto a trailer and drove fifteen hours to the Medyka, Poland border crossing. Everyday he plays tunes like "Let It Be" by the Beatles and "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen for people who cross over from Ukraine to the massive Polish aid station. Most of us cannot mount such dramatic kindness, but we can contribute in other ways. (See below).

Janice, a Michigan resident and Polish American, writes again about the Warsaw children's hospital:

Donate Here to Warsaw Children's Hospital <https://fundacjaprzyjaciol.org/en/become-a-friend/#donate-button-hook>

Warsaw is now over 25% Ukrainian. Around 25,000 Ukrainians are still coming into Poland every day. The children's hospital where I am very involved is overwhelmed by Ukrainian refugee children—almost 1/3 of the hospital patients are now Ukrainian.

This is clearly disruptive to us here in Warsaw. The atmosphere is intense, heavy, fearful. Yet also compassionate. Our house is full, and not our own, as you can imagine. But after



5 weeks of several Ukrainian families, we hope we have found some other temporary housing for our latest family, so we can feel relaxed in our home. Though we still have Ukrainian friends visiting us with needs.

My friend has remained in her hometown near Doline, Ukraine, helping the orphanage/emergency housing center. This western part of the country has received 6 million displaced Ukrainians from the East. The East is poorer and many have died, thus these refugees are really desperate. Plus, and I must add the most heart-wrenching, is that there are thousands of orphaned children. God help us.

There are many kinds of evils and wars in this world. We can only try to gather and spread love.

When will this war end?

Please consider making a contribution to the Warsaw Children's Hospital. It will go directly to help the refugee children of Ukraine.

NPR: Davide Martello plays the piano at the Poland-Ukraine border:

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.



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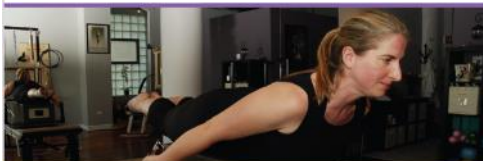
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JANELLE MONÁE

April 22 | 7:00 pm CDT



HARRIS THEATER
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Dance (205 E Randolph St, Chicago). Monáe will be joined in conversation by collaborating writer **Sheree Renée Thomas**, moderated by **Theaster Gates**. [Tickets are now available for purchase here](#). Each ticket purchase includes a copy of *The Memory Librarian*. A limited number of signed copies will be available to purchase with your ticket, so login early to HarrisTheaterChicago.org or call the Box Office at **312.334.7777**.



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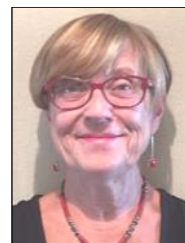
Sarah Polley, *Run Towards the Danger: confrontations with a body of memory* (Penguin Press 2022).

I first met Canadian actress, director, and activist Sarah Polley in her autobiographical movie *Stories We Tell*. In this award-winning documentary, 27-year-old Polley interviews her hilarious and unconventional family and friends—unscripted and live on camera—only to discover she was the accidental result of her late mother's affair with a quite-famous Quebecois actor and director who never acknowledged her. Sarah was the last to know. Some of us loved Sarah years earlier during her six-year contract with Disney as *Anne of Green Gables*/*Anne of Avonlea*, the pert, perfect, dreamy, optimistic girl who bravely learns her lessons when life diverges from fantasy. We might recall 8-year-old Sarah as Beverly Cleary's television *Ramona*, about whom an adult woman recently blogged; "she was my literary spirit animal. Creative, imaginative, precocious, and harboring the ability to create both sunshine and minor disaster." The incongruity of what her fans believe and what Polley lived is stark: child actors are most often "gutted by the experience." Like the secret of her conception, it was a "mystery for me" ... "why any parent would put a child, for any substantial time" in an environment that exists for profit and "their children's well-being" is impossible. Sarah Polley not only survived childhood but continues to act and direct to high praise and with beautiful and unsettling effect; to wit, in an upcoming film, she directs Frances McDormand and Rooney Mara in *Women Talking*, about an isolated religious colony

struggling to reconcile their faith in light of serial sexual assaults within. In her debut book, ***Run Towards the Danger***, Polley edges away from sunshine and optimism. "It's difficult, when you've resisted telling a story for so long, to know where to start. Especially when it has haunted you not to tell it." Dark and difficult though it is, Polley's book will earn her new fans who will feel and hear and see what she has. Her (step?) - father's empathy with Lewis Carroll's pedophilia as Sarah portrays Alice in the Stratford Festival's *Through the Looking Glass* makes us squirm. Terry Gilliam's direction to 8-year-old Sarah to run through fiery explosions on the set of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* sings our hair. Emotional reflections on difficult births and child-raising puts tears in our eyes: "I'm nostalgic for the present, mourning its passing even as it happens." Her silence when she should have spoken in the "Me, too" movement flushes us with shame. We vigorously nod our heads at her observation: "almost everyone's family manages to make them feel like a failure" and to imagine "them being proven wrong and acknowledging it... is... a pipe dream." When she suffers a vestibular concussion we, too, feel dizzy, confused and depressed. ***Run Towards the Danger*** is the recovery advice she got from a noted sports physician, and we ultimately "PIN OUR EARS BACK" and go after life, just as he told her to do. Check it out.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park
April, 2022

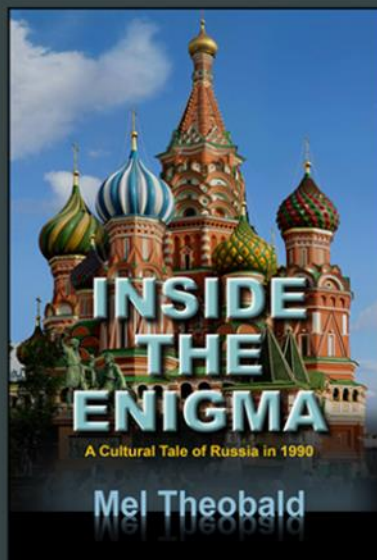


Susan Bass Marcus writes and illustrates fiction, essays, and reviews. Her Dragonwolder fantasy novels, *Malevir: Dragons Return* and *Where Dragons Follow*, offer a world of dragon clans, an enigmatic menace the Malevir, sprites, goblins, questing humans, and magical giants. Her musings appear weekly on her blog, "About Susan Marcus," <https://susanbassmarcus.net>. Both paperbacks are available at Sandmeyer's Bookstore.

Inside the Enigma

A Cultural Tale of Russia in 1990

by Mel Theobald



"*Inside the Enigma* sweeps you along like the very best fiction, all the more captivating because it really happened. An ordinary guy becomes caught up in high-level wheeling and dealing during a critical moment in international relations. Along the way he discovers hidden art treasures, gets to know the passionate men and women who create them – and recaptures meaning and purpose in his own life. With those four great themes and an inexhaustible wealth of twists and turns, this book will enthrall you from the moment you enter its unique world."

For complete details, please go to:
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OPINION

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Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) April 4, 2022

Tell me something good



There's a lot to fret about, isn't there? And I was about to fret in this post, but nobody needs that. We need some good news. So, from my working life, I can tell you this: When it comes to climate change and energy, a whole lot architects, builders, engineers, policy makers, and planners who are doing a whole lot of good work.

My employer, Phius, trains architects and builders to construct buildings that use 40-60 percent less energy than normal code buildings. That's not all: The buildings are extremely comfortable—no drafts, and they have phenomenal indoor air quality. What's more, they're resilient—residents can ride out long power outages because the structures remain comfortable even without power. During the Texas power disaster, an owner stayed put when others had to evacuate. During wildfires in the Northwest, residents of Phius buildings enjoyed superb indoor air quality because of the innovative HVAC systems. This isn't an ad for Phius. It's a tip of the hat to the absolutely marvelous, talented people out there who are pushing the envelope to get these things built.

Some examples:

In my own backyard (well, Northbrook, Illinois): The [Techny Prairie Activity Center](#) operated by the Northbrook Park District. It's a Net Zero building—meaning it generates all the renewable energy it needs (and then some). That's largely because Phius certified buildings put conservation first, making it easier to hit the target.



The Techny Prairie Activity Center in Northbrook, Illinois.

FYI: To electrify buildings (and phase out all combustion) in a timely fashion, we won't be able to generate enough renewable energy unless we also reduce the energy buildings need. (Electrifying buildings is key to reducing carbon.)

In about 10 years we've gone from around 10 certified projects to 600 and the rate of increase is increasing. It's exponential. And it includes houses, schools, market-rate apartment buildings, low-income affordable housing, health care facilities...and public buildings like the rec center.

Right now the finishing touches are being put on 425 Grand Concourse, as 26-story mixed-use project in the Bronx, New York will include affordable and market rate housing. Bronx, New York. It includes both affordable and market-rate housing and more: a supermarket, a community health clinic, an educational facility and a cultural Center. On-site resident amenities will include a fitness center, tenant lounge, community room, a package delivery room, and an accessible roof deck.

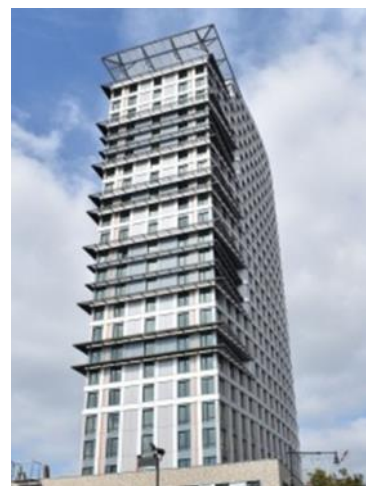
The other thing you should know: There are people working very hard and doing incredible things to reduce carbon from the building sector. They include state and local policy makers, who have gotten out ahead of the Federal government and are pushing the envelope on energy efficiency and carbon reduction. All kinds of new technologies and clever solutions are on the way. One is microgrids: Basically, imagine a block of houses, all equipped with solar, on a single grid. If there's a power outage, they're fine.

A research consortium (that includes Phius) is working on cost effective ways to build panel systems that can be built in a factory and then shipped out to retrofit existing buildings. (We're going to have to make existing buildings perform better to get where we need.)

Then there's direct current—when Thomas Edison and his alternating current won out over Nikola Tesla and his direct current, we went down the road of central power generation, which today means large swaths of power outages in severe weather and other natural disasters. Lots of power is lost over long paths of transmission—power lines, and such. Beyond that, you know all those converters you have for computers and electronics? That's wasteful, too, because those little marvels need a measly few volts. Renewables generate D.C. that wouldn't have to be converted. It's now possible to power an entire house with efficient D.C. power—there are appliances, mechanical systems that run on D.C. It's inherently substantially more efficient than A.C. ([Here's a good article on the subject in Electrical Industry News Week.](#))

That stuff is expensive right now, and retrofitting will probably be too expensive even when the price comes down. But D.C. and microgrids mean that where housing and development are desperately needed in places like Africa, it can be done without adding to the carbon problem.

That's the tip of the goodness iceberg. In the midst of disorienting, dark times people are still doing fantastic, hopeful stuff.



425 Grand Concourse in the Bronx, New York will include affordable and market rate housing.

MOST RECENT EPISODES

APRIL 15, 2022

Click here

ON THE MEDIA

How Cassettes Changed the World

Cassette tapes mostly gather dust these days. But back in their heyday, they fundamentally changed how we communicate, in ways we're still making sense of today. On this week's On the Media, hear how the cassette tape fueled the Iranian revolution, helped pierce the Iron Curtain, and put human connection in the palm of our hands.

1. Simon Goodwin on his innovation to broadcast computer software over the radio back in 1983. [Listen.](#)
2. Computer programmer Fuxoft explains his role in 'Sneakernet,' which saw pirated material of all types smuggled into 1980s Czechoslovakia via cassette tape. [Listen.](#)

Frida Kahlo Photo Exhibition Comes To Pilsen's National Museum Of Mexican Art

[Madison Savedra](#) Apr 1, 2022


PILSEN — Hundreds of unpublished photos from Frida Kahlo's personal collection are on display in Chicago for the first time at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen.

The "Frida Kahlo, Her Photos" exhibition debuted in 2009 at the La Casa Azul Frida Kahlo Museum in Mexico City. It has since traveled to more than 20 cities, drawing more than 1 million visitors. It was curated by Mexican photographer Pablo Ortiz Monasterio.

The exhibition at the museum, 1852 W. 19th St., opened to the public Friday and will run until Aug. 7. The museum is free and is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursday-Sunday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesdays.

The gallery features portraits of Kahlo and the important people in her life, photos she took and photos given to her by others.

Credit: Madison Savedra/Block Club Chicago

Hundreds of photos of Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and other influential figures in her life. Viewing until August. [CLICK](#) 



The multi-room gallery features nearly 250 photos that were stashed away for more than 50 years in Mexico City.



https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/04/01/frida-kahlo-photo-exhibition-comes-to-pilsen-national-museum-of-mexican-art/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=fa4ffdd053-



Sat, May 21
Chicago

Candidate's Forum: 7th Illinois Congressional

Join SLN and GSLA in this 7th Illinois Congressional Forum. We will be joined by Kira Collins (Democrat, challenger), Danny K Davis (Democrat, incumbent), and Navarius Mendenhall (Democrat, challenger).

[RSVP](#)

Time & Location

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Chicago, 1936 S Michigan Ave,
The Third Presbyterian Church.



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Editor's Letter: April, 2022

April 4, 2022 by [Brian Hiegelke](#)

Our annual Breakout Artists edition has come full circle.



Cover Art: Nereida Patricia |
Cover Design: Dan Streeting

We launched it in 2004, timed to align with the city's then-predominant art fair, Art Chicago, which took place every spring. We thought it made perfect sense to amplify the city's emerging artists when the art fair brought collectors, curators and aficionados together in pursuit of discovery.

In 2012, that fair ended its run and EXPO Chicago launched, but its September dates meant that the largest art event of the year no longer aligned with Breakout Artists. Until now. After pandemic postponements over the last couple of years, EXPO Chicago is now a springtime affair.

We could not be more thrilled to see the return of EXPO Chicago this April, with its jolt of cultural energy and the chance to connect with new ideas and images. And we're teaming up with Chicago Artists Coalition, 2130 West Fulton, for a Breakout Artists Exhibition that will launch during the art fair and then run through May 26.

I've been working on the story about the Usina de Arte in this issue since last September; I am pleased to hear that Brazilian artist Denise Milan, a central figure in that narrative, will be in town for EXPO Chicago. We're hoping to work with James Choi on the Chicago premiere of his documentary film about her, "Engage Earth," that weekend, but arrangements are still tentative. Please keep an eye on Newcity Today, our daily email newsletter, for the details.

And, because April is not busy enough, our new film, Michael Glover Smith's "Relative," will have its Chicago premiere at the Midwest Film Festival at the Gene Siskel Film Center on April 5.

The convergence of three passions—art, film and Brazil—that first week in April is giving us spring fever.

But it's a fever tempered by the cloud of despair that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought onto the world. Artist Nick Merlock Jackson has collaborated with a friend in the war zone for a unique and sobering perspective in this issue, "DMs from Kyiv."

BRIAN HIEGELKE

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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.

Chicago Cooks



45 PERFECT Recipes for the PASSIONATE Palate

Jonathan Horwich & Carol Montag

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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Safe & Sound Blog by Beth Finke

Enough with the Slap: Let's Celebrate CODA



I am pleased to introduce our friend and longtime neighbor Crom Saunders as a guest blogger today. A theatre interpreter and American Sign Language (ASL) master, Crom has a M.A. in Creative Writing and began teaching ASL and Deaf Culture at several universities before getting tenure at Columbia College Chicago, where he is currently Director of Deaf Studies.

by Crom Saunders

When I saw Troy Kotsur perform as Stanley in Deaf West Theatre's *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2020, I knew, or at least hoped, he was destined for a distinguished career as an actor.

In the years since, Kotsur has held some acclaimed roles on Deaf West's stage, and several film appearances, but nothing that garnered nationwide attention until the 2021 film *CODA*.

CODA was a contender for Best Picture at the 94th Academy Awards, and Troy Kotsur also was nominated for the Best Supporting Actor category. That honor was well deserved in the eyes of many film aficionados and critics. After all, Kotsur has already won several other prestigious awards (such as the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance, plus the Independent Spirit Award and the Critic's Choice Award for Best Supporting Actor) for his portrayal of Frank Rossi in *CODA*, a feather in the collective cap of the American Deaf community.

The Oscar nomination was also the first Actor/Actress nomination for a Deaf actor since Marlee Matlin's win for Best Actress at the 59th Academy Awards in 1987.

Troy's portrayal of the patriarch of an all-Deaf family, except for the single CODA (Child of Deaf Adults), who makes a living as a fisherman in a small town is excellent in every aspect. His characterization, his expressiveness, and language articulation and delivery all create a very memorable role.

If only the film itself was of the same caliber.

Its win as best Picture notwithstanding, *CODA* is rife with negative stereotypes of Deaf people and also feel-good pabulum that does no service to the Deaf community or culture.

To begin with, *CODA*, a remake of the French film *La Famille Bélier*, relies on the well-worn premise that Deaf people do not appreciate, understand, or access music. This is used as a plot device here to create drama between the CODA character, Ruby, and her Deaf parents.

Ruby is also used as an interpreter in several situations where a professional interpreter would be more appropriate and, indeed, in the case of the doctor's office, legally required. Again, a plot device to create friction in the family dynamics.

Several of the story scenes in *CODA* feel dated, more representative of Deaf experiences prior to the 21st century. The Deaf characters are at times portrayed as ignorant and bumpkins, even in contrast to the other small-town residents. The American Deaf community that has viewed the film with a culturally critical eye, if one takes a look at discussion threads in social media, predominantly are of one mind on this:

CODA is more progressive than many films with Deaf characters in the casting of Deaf actors and actresses for all Deaf roles, and giving American Sign Language the importance it deserves. On the other hand, the story feels quite retro in its representation of Deaf people's views of the world and where they fit into it.

I don't always watch the Academy Awards, but I did watch this year — in full support of Kotsur and the cast and director of *CODA*. I was hopeful (and much more confident) that Kotsur would win Best Supporting Actor for his stellar work.

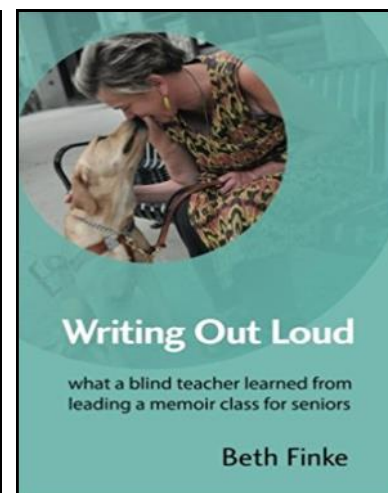
And he did! His career can only grow from this point, a good thing for Kotsur himself, but also for audiences everywhere who can appreciate his skill. And by now you know that *CODA* won best picture, too. My hope is that win will lead to more modern, Deaf-centered films that have mainstream appeal but also give Deaf people the representation they crave and deserve.

A shorter version of this post was published on the Easter-seals National Blog this past Monday.



Crom Saunders

Beth Finke's books: "Safe and Sound", "Long Time No See" and "Writing Out Loud" can be purchased at Sandmeyer's Book Store.



New perks, attractions highlight the Adler Planetarium's reopening

By [Kristen Gesicki](#), Staff Reporter

April 5, 2022

After dealing with repairs and being closed for nearly two years, the Adler Planetarium welcomed back visitors with new perks for 2022.

Planets of various sizes hang from the ceiling of the Adler Planetarium as scientists explain in interactive videos what the universe is like beyond our blue and green planet. Stars light up the ceiling as the indoor dome engulfs visitors deep into space, without even leaving their seats.

The Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive, reopened its doors last month, nearly two years after being shut down due to COVID-19.

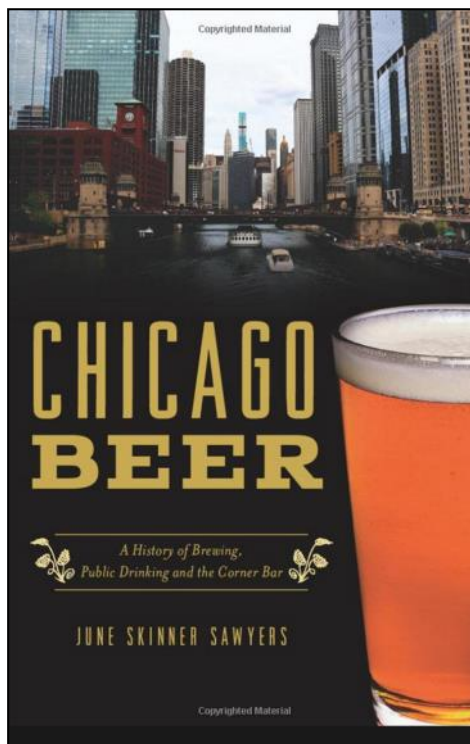
The Adler Planetarium has been around since 1930, educating visitors of all ages about our world and its connection to space. It is the oldest planetarium in the Western Hemisphere.

While the Adler Planetarium has been open more than 91 years, its roof was over 80 years old, according to Jennifer Howell, senior manager of public relations. Now, the planetarium has a new roof to welcome its guests back.

To welcome back its guests after the March 4 reopening, the planetarium is offering free museum entry every Wednesday of 2022 for Illinois residents.

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

<https://columbiachronicle.com/new-perks-attractions-highlight-the-adler-planetariums-reopening>



Sunday,
April 24-

Please Join us as we welcome our neighbor June Sawyers as she introduces her new book "Chicago Beer: A history of Brewing, public drinking and the corner bar". She will be reading a brief excerpt

from the book and singer-songwriter John Ballantyne will be singing a selection of drinking songs. No reservations needed!

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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

Chicago history in small doses

By **Marianne Goss**, April 18, 2022

Being a Chicago Greeter and curious about where I live, I regularly try to learn more about the city. A recently published book, **Greg Borzo's *A History Lover's Guide to Chicago***, is a treasure trove of information.

If you're not into reading history, don't be turned off by that word in the title. *A History Lover's Guide to Chicago* is not a continuous narrative but a collection of topical briefs arranged in 13 thematic chapters. It's a book readers might keep on a coffee table or in the bathroom to read one snippet at a time.

Thanks to an index, *A History Lover's Guide to Chicago* can also be a reference book — which is reason to buy it instead of having to return a library copy. Not that Borzo claims to be comprehensive. He told reporters that he had to prune material while choosing to include overlooked subjects.

The History Press asked Borzo to write the book as part of a series of such guides to US cities. Borzo wrote previous books about the city's fountains, bike trails, the "L," and lost restaurants. A member of the Chicago Tour-Guide Professional Association, the Chicago native leads walking, bike, and bus tours of the city for various organizations.

There are details in *A History Lover's Guide to Chicago* that Chicago buffs already know but also much that was new to me. Here are some examples that particularly interested me.

- Grain elevators were "perfected" in Chicago and were as vital to the nation's food supply as the stockyards. As tall as 15 stories, they stored 12 million bushels of grain by 1871 and 32 million by 1892.
- Sixty-five thousand Native Americans from 140 tribes live in Chicagoland.
- During the Cold War four Nike missile sites defended the region against potential attacks from Soviet long-range bombers.
- The building at Fullerton Avenue that houses the Theater on the Lake was originally a sanitarium for sick and needy children.
- Chicago's first flag, designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, featured a Y (for the Chicago River and its branches) against a burnt red background that celebrated the importance of terra cotta in the city's buildings.
- Chicago's first outdoor art fair was the 57th Street Art Fair in Hyde Park, started in 1948 and still happening on a much bigger scale.

- Original plans were to bury Civil War general John Logan in the mound beneath his statue in Grant Park. Instead, he was buried in Washington, DC.

ADVERTISING

- Many people who lost their homes during the Great Depression lived in houseboats on the river.
- Objections to quotas for Jewish, African American, immigrant, and women students led the Central YMCA College president and many faculty, staff, and students to found Thomas Jefferson College in 1945. It became Roosevelt University.
- Chicago's distinctive brand of softball is celebrated in the Chicago Sixteen-Inch Softball Hall of Fame in Forest Park.
- Of the commercial buildings of no more than five stories that were put up immediately after the 1871 Chicago Fire, only about 20 remain.
- The only park named for Montgomery Ward, who bank-rolled a fight to keep buildings off the downtown lakefront, is not on the lakefront. It's a small park at 630 North Kingsbury Street.
- People opposed to locating a water filtration plant on the lakefront were mollified by promises of amenities at adjacent Olive Park that never materialized. They were told that the park at Ohio Street would have softball diamonds, tennis courts, and illuminated fountains.
- The Three Arts Club was founded in 1912 by prominent women, including Jane Addams, as "an alternative to the naughty temptations" of bohemian Towertown on the Near North Side. Its building at 1600 North Dearborn Street provided a shelter where women pursued the arts. It housed an estimated 13,000 women over 90 years.
- Legendary lawyer Clarence Darrow successfully defended the steamship company and the ship's captain and engineer when they were indicted following the 1915 *SS Eastland* disaster. The ship rolled over in the Chicago River, killing 844 people.
- The Loop "L" tracks have been threatened with demolition several times. (Especially good to know because it corrects what I've been telling Chicago Greeter visitors. I've said that the elevated tracks are too much a symbol of Chicago to be torn down.)

Borzo told the *Northwest Indiana Times* that, thinking himself already well-informed about Chicago, he hadn't expected to learn as much as he did in researching the book. Whether or not one considers oneself well-informed about Chicago, *A History Lover's Guide to Chicago* is likely to offer discoveries.

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

Danny Fenster talks imprisonment, press freedom and his formative time at Columbia

By [Anna Busalacchi](#), Managing Editor April 4, 2022 [Vivian Jones](#) Graphic

Award-winning journalist and Columbia alum Danny Fenster captured international attention and concern from people in the campus community when he was imprisoned in Myanmar while working as the managing editor of the Yangon, Myanmar-based publication, Frontier Myanmar.

As reported by the [Chronicle](#), Fenster was detained at the Yangon International Airport in May 2021 and taken to Insein Prison, where he stayed for 176 days, during which he endured inconclusive court hearings and limited contact with his family.

The Fenster family garnered worldwide support through [BringDannyHome.com](#), boosting a petition for his release with more than 43,000 signatures and cumulating media attention around Fenster's story until he was freed on Nov. 15, 2021.

The Chronicle interviewed Fenster about what he has been up to since his release from Insein Prison in Myanmar, his time as a student at Columbia, the journey that led to him becoming a journalist and the importance of international press freedom.

After his release, Fenster said he spent some months in Detroit with family and friends, along with his wife, Juliana, who met his family for the first time. Fenster said it took about 10 days for his wife to leave Myanmar due to a law imposed by Myanmar's military government, requiring advanced notice from foreigners before they leave the country.

After his return home, Fenster also visited a friend in Logan Square near where he used to live in Humboldt Park. At the end of January, he and his wife flew to Brazil, where they are currently staying in the capital city, Brasília, where Juliana works as a consular official for the Brazilian government. Fenster is getting to know her family and has resumed working at Frontier Myanmar remotely as an editor.

"I'm helping the reporters [in Myanmar] tell the story of their country right now, which is in an incredibly fragile inflection point," Fenster said. "So, we're doing stories on what the coup has done to the healthcare system, what it's done to the education system. There's still a lot of ethnic conflicts that are happening in the borderlands of the country."

When Fenster first moved to Myanmar, he said its politics were an interesting story to follow, as Myanmar was transitioning to democracy until the military coup took over the country in February last year.

Fenster said he did not expect to be captured and imprisoned, especially for as long as he was, because he knew many high-profile Western journalists who had gotten on flights home.

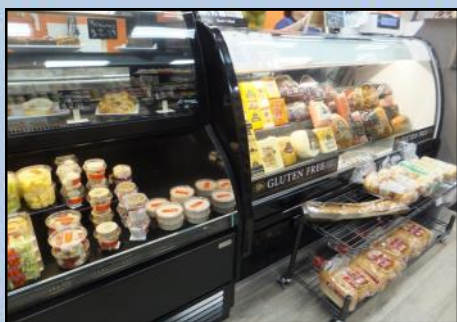
Click the link below for the rest of the story.



THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

<https://columbiachronicle.com/danny-fenster-talks-imprisonment-press-freedom-and-his-formative-time-at-columbia>

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MORE from Bonnie McGrath

Respected and now retired Channel 5 newsman Peter Nolan's 2011 book, *Campaign!* has been republished in honor of Harold's 100th. And I've spent the last few days reading it—and reliving that brief but very eventful time in Chicago history. And in my own personal history.

At the end of the book, Nolan talks about driving into the City from Glenview over that same Thanksgiving weekend in 1987, to drop his son at the old bus station on Randolph Street, so he could ride the bus back to college. His son was impressed with how many people were waiting across the street at City Hall to get a glimpse the dead mayor, and he wanted to see what was going on. But his dad was worried if they got into the line he'd miss his bus. Luckily, a cop recognized Nolan and let them go right in.

One thing I never knew about Harold that I learned from Nolan's book was that he was divorced. I always thought he was a confirmed bachelor. He was married for a time (no kids) to a woman named Ella (who remarried and had six). I only knew Harold to have [a loyal girlfriend](#) named Mary *Ella* Smith, coincidentally, who died in 2016.

I also learned how deeply intertwined Harold was with his black peers, who also became leaders in Chicago. Not unlike the Irish, the Poles, the Italians and the Jews of the city who grew up together and made it.

The story of Harold Washington is also the story of the people who he beat in the 1983 primary, and Nolan tells their stories very well: Jane Byrne, a Richard J. Daley protege who beat Michael Bilandic in 1979; and Richie Daley, Richard J. Daley's son, who also tried and failed in his first run for mayor.

Nolan also tells the very interesting story of Republican Bernie Epton, also in the race that year who almost won the general election, which would have been earth-shattering. Epton died of a heart attack a few weeks after Washington did, at the age of 66.

One story I know a lot about—because Jane's first campaign was the brainchild of [the late Paul McGrath](#), an exquisite journalist who I was married to for 20 years. He wrote the iconic stories of the cab scandals in Chicago when Jane was head of Mayor Richard J. Daley's consumer unit. Paul, working closely with Jane Byrne and digging deeply as an investigative reporter, exposed the taxi cab scoundrels for who they were. He found Chicago medallions in New York. And Byrne looked like a reformer.

Bilandic fired her. (Ironically Bilandic's cousin moved into our Michigan Avenue building in 1982—and had a baby boy a day before I had Molly. And we became very good friends....)

As Nolan points out, Jane liked journalists, especially Irish ones who knew what they were doing. And Paul did.

Paul is talked about in the book because he was appointed Chief of Staff (his official title was Deputy Mayor) after Jane won in 1979. And Nolan nails Paul's experience in trying to figure out City Hall politics. from the other side. In cleaning house and trying to reform City Hall, and clear out the patronage, Paul became overwhelmed, and Jane sent him to Harvard School of Government to take a course.

When he came back, he decided to join Chicago Magazine as their political columnist. And that was that. (Actually there was a little more about year later but I've told that story [in other posts](#).) Another Irish journalist replaced him, a guy who hit the news time and time again [for being part of one scandal or another](#), which Nolan also chronicles very well.

Another guy that Nolan talks a lot about in *Campaign!* was one of the greatest cameramen of his time—Jimmy Stricklin—who worked with Nolan on many big stories.

I used to see Jimmy around during my years as a wannabe journalist and later when I became the real thing. He was one of the warmest and friendliest and helpful people I have ever known. Reading his name so many times in Nolan's book brought back so many memories of his good will and good spirit and good advice. He always had time to make others feel good.

So I googled him to see what he was doing these days. I found his obituary. He died last year at the age of 88. He died of Covid. Fully vaccinated.

Jimmy's death didn't garner the attention that the Washington death did, of course. He was African American like Harold, though. And he made it pretty big in the news business, awarded many times.

But he didn't die the day before Thanksgiving. And no one was counting butter sticks as they cooked for the big day.

***Bonnie McGrath

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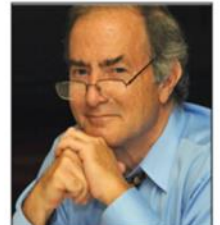
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Midland Authors was founded in 1915 to create "a closer association among the writers of the Middle West." A century later, the nonprofit group includes about 300 authors from 12 Midwestern states. It holds literary events — which are free and open to the public. The group also connects its members via *Literary License*, its newsletter; the midlandauthors.org website; [Facebook](#); and the Twitter accounts [@midlandauthors](#) and [@BiblioFile_SMA](#).

• • • • •

For more information, contact: Greg Borzo: (312) 636-8968; gregborzo54@gmail.com



Bye Bye Birdie.

Construction of 1000M High Rise blocks one of the more spectacular Murals in the Wabash Arts Corridor.



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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.

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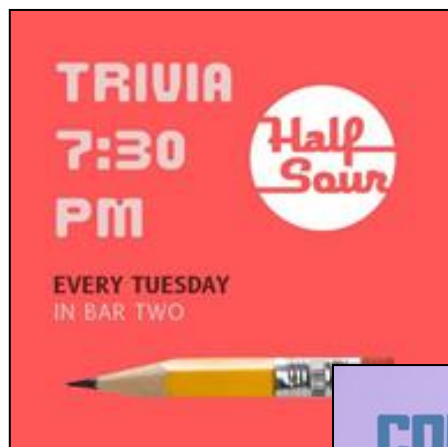
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For accessible seating, please contact the house manager upon arrival.

In response to the rising cases of COVID-19, all GUESTS, including alumni, will be required to show proof of vaccination to access Roosevelt facilities. (Note that recent alumni with access to their Net ID can find instructions on how to upload their proof of immunization here.)

Guests visiting the Auditorium Building, Wabash Building or the Schaumburg Campus must show their proof of vaccination, a valid state ID and fill out the daily self-assessment survey at the campus safety kiosks to access Roosevelt facilities. This requirement also applies to guests attending performances in the O'Malley Theatre, the Miller studio theatre, Ganz Hall, or other CCPA facilities.

Guests can also fill out the self-assessment form on your mobile device by visiting roosevelt.edu/guest. Masks are required at all times while on campus.

While it is not recommended for children under 12 to visit campus or attend events at this time, it will be permitted, as long as they provide documentation

Roosevelt University

Miller Studio, 425 S Wabash, Chicago



Tall Enough

by Gloria Bond Clunie
directed by Chris Anthony
Every spring, the J.E. Wilkins Science Pack at Hawkins Middle School celebrates the year with a trip to Wild Winds Amusement Park on their annual Physics Day. One problem - their normally fearless leader, Asia, is secretly terrified of roller coasters! For her team to win this year's Wild Ride Physics Challenge, she must ride at least one. A powerful group of friends unite and resort to extraordinary measures in hopes of helping Asia overcome her fears and discover if they all have what it takes to win.

Ages 7 & Up

April 23, 2022 - May 21, 2022

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre

Chicago Playworks | 60 E. Balbo Dr.

Ticket Type	Ticket Price
Regular Ticket	\$12
3-Play Playworks Subscription	\$24

are reserved seating. Weekday performances are general admission. Call the Box Office for more information about discounts for subscribers, students, seniors, and DePaul faculty/staff/alumni.

DePaul University

Merle Reskin Theater
60 E Balbo Dr.

If you're not already a member, consider becoming a paid member of South Loop Neighbors. Memberships run for one year beginning either April 1 or October 1 of each year. Memberships are just \$20 for seniors and students, \$35 for individuals, and \$55 for a household for the whole year of membership. You can join online on our website: <https://www.southloopneighbors.org/join->.

Benefits of paid membership include:

- Your membership supports your neighborhood organization so we can address issues that matter most to you as a South Loop resident.
- Your membership enables South Loop Neighbors to put on events free of charge including speaker's series, meet ups, grills night out, ice cream social, and more.

For paid events, you receive a discount. Participating vendors offer discounts when you show your card. See our website for a list of participating businesses: <https://www.southloopneighbors.org/partners-and-builders>. (Contact us if you're interested in being a community builder or community partner).

- Monthly newsletter sent directly to your inbox.
- Because we are a 501(c)(3) organization, you might be able to deduct your membership dues on your tax return-check with your tax preparer.



Could Drivers In Bike Lanes Be Ticketed If They're Caught On Video? 2 Aldermen Are Considering It

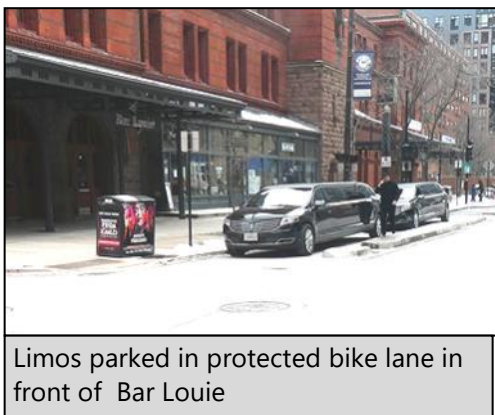
Parking, driving or idling in bike lanes is punishable by a \$150 ticket, but drivers still do it. Alds. Brendan Reilly and Andre Vasquez tweeted they are interested in using video evidence to crack down on drivers illegally in bike lanes.

[Melody Mercado](#) Apr 12, 2022

Cars park in the bike lane along Clark Street in Rogers Park on Sept. 13, 2021. Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago
LOOP — Two aldermen may be working to make it easier for the city to ticket people driving in bike lanes after the idea gained traction on social media last week.

A video shared on Twitter by Beverly resident James Popp shows snippets of his 15-mile commute to his job in the Loop. In the 40-second clip, Popp gets clipped by one driver and cut off by another driver using the bike lane to pass several cars before merging back into traffic.

The video sparked reaction from several locals calling on a handful of aldermen to take action. One poster asked who would be willing to sponsor an ordinance to ticket drivers impeding on bike lanes based on video evidence.



Limos parked in protected bike lane in front of Bar Louie



VOA Illinois (in the Dearborn Station) is pleased to announce this year's [Leadership Celebration](#)! Join us as we raise funds for the individuals, families, and communities that we serve and honor the exceptional leadership of individuals who are standing up for Veterans and families struggling with homelessness, children and families in foster care, the elderly, and adults with disabilities.

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, visit voaillinois.org/leadership-celebration.

If you have any questions about the event or would like more details, please reach out to Bridget at bhickey@voail.org or Katie at kwade@voail.org.

Ald. Brendan Reilly (42nd) said, "I'm down for that. Stay tuned." Ald. Andre Vasquez (40th) responded to Reilly saying, "Let's talk." Vasquez told Block Club he hasn't had a chance to speak with Reilly about the idea. Reilly did not respond to requests for comment Monday. Parking, driving or idling in bike lanes is punishable by a \$150 ticket, but drivers still do it, as evidenced by the thousands of bike lane obstructions submitted in real time into a database maintained by advocacy group [Bike Lane Uprising](#). Bicyclist deaths in Chicago are on the rise, according to state data. Nine were killed in 2020 and 10 in 2021, almost double the annual average of five to six deaths from 2012-2019. Cyclists that have been killed in recent months include: Adé Hogue, 32, who was riding his bike west on Grand Avenue toward lower DuSable Lake Shore Drive [when a driver hit him](#); Jose Velásquez, 16, who [was struck by a truck driver](#) in Back of the Yards in December; Gerardo Marcial, 41, who [was struck by a driver and killed](#) while riding his bike in a crosswalk across DuSable Lake Shore Drive from the Lakefront Trail in February. For the rest of the story, click below.



<https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/04/12/could-drivers-in-bike-lanes-be-ticketed-if-theyre-caught-on-video-2-aldermen-are-considering-it/>



ALDERMAN * 4TH WARD
SOPHIA KING

Ward04@cityofchicago.org

Web Site

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.

Get Vaxxed at Home and Get \$50 Per Dose

CITY OF CHICAGO

The Chicago Department of Public Health's in-home vaccination program, Protect Chicago At Home, is now open to all Chicago residents age 5 and up. To encourage Chicago residents to take advantage of the program, they are offering a \$50 gift card for each dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Call **312-746-4835** to schedule or sign-up [here](#).

Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

COVID-19 TESTS

All American households are eligible to order up to 4 free COVID-19 tests online at COVIDTests.gov. These tests will ship within 7-12 days of ordering.

Your health insurance company will pay you back for 8 at-home tests per month for each person on the plan. Find out more [here](#).

[Click here](#) to read the White House statement. [Click here](#) for more information on the program.

COVID-19 Boosters

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 boosters are now available for everyone 16+ at CDPH-sponsored clinics and programs. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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** 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](#).

Increasing Violent Crime on the CTA

It seems like reports of violent crime incidents on the CTA are now coming daily. South Loop residents are questioning the safety of trains and busses with crime reports up dramatically in the first quarter of 2022. A team from the South Loop Neighbors organization has been tracking Chicago Police Department crime reports for the pre-covid years of 2017, 2018, and 2019, as well as the more recent covid years of 2020, 2021, and 2022. Annual crime totals decreased significantly at the beginning of the pandemic but are now increasing again. The drop in violent types of crime was not as much of a drop as other types of crime and are now increasing more rapidly.

This analysis of violent crime was presented at “Crime and the CTA in the South Loop”, co-sponsored by South Loop Neighbors, Neighborhood Watch Beat 123, and the 4th Ward’s South Loop Community Advisory Council. Primary speakers at that event were Commander Joseph Bird of the Chicago Police Department’s Mass Transit Unit and Kevin Ryan, Vice President of CTA Security. These presentations were followed by a Q&A session with an audience of South Loop residents.

The statistical analysis emphasized the differing trends for total crime reports and those categorized as Violent Index Crimes, a system devised by the FBI to compare crime reporting across the country. The Violent Index Crime categories, Assault, Battery, Criminal Sexual Assault, Homicide, and Robbery were selected as the types of crimes that were most likely to cause bodily injury to the victim.

The report began with city-wide data showing fairly consistent numbers of total crime reports for the pre-covid years of 2017, 2018, and 2019 of over 260,000 each. In 2020, total crime reports dropped to 211,546 and to 205,534 in 2021. Just released reports for the first quarter of 2022 totaled 47,558.

On the other hand, the percentage of violent crimes increased in comparison to total crimes in the later years of 2020, 2021, and 2022. In the years from 2017 to 2019, the percentage of violent crimes remained between 30.6% and 30.8%. But starting in 2020 the percentage increased to 33.0% in 2020 and 34.5% in 2021. So far in 2022, the percentage was 32.7%.

The rest of the analysis concentrated on crime reporting in the city center and the CTA. South Loop residents who use the CTA tend to start or end their trip in the South Loop or the Loop itself. As that territory matches the patrol area of the 1st Police District, 1st District statistics were utilized for the remainder of the report.



1st District total crime reports for 2017, 2018, and 2019 all totaled in the 15,000s, but then fell to 8,354 in 2020 – a much larger percentage drop than city-wide data. This was likely influenced by the Covid restrictions that reduced commuters, shoppers, and tourists in the downtown area. In 2021, total District reports increased to 9,058 with another increase to 2,658 for the first quarter of 2022.

Similar to city-wide data, the percentage of violent crime increased in the downtown area from the earlier years, which ranged from 19.3% to 20.2%. In 2020, downtown violent crimes grew to 25.1% and then 29.2% in 2021. Violent percentage in the first quarter of 2022 was 26.2%.

The final section of the analysis focused on violent crime on the CTA stations, platforms, and trains, buses and bus stops, and other CTA property. Total crime reports on the CTA within the 1st District area was almost identical in 2017, 2018, and 2019, averaging 2738. But violent crime increased in those years from 263 to 285 to 346; or 8.8% to 9.4% to 11.2%. Similar to the previous numbers, total crime on the CTA dropped to 1861 in 2020 with a violent count of 234 (11.2%). 2021 reported an increase to 2360 total crimes with a violent count of 288 (10.9%).

In the first quarter of 2022, there were 603 total crimes on the downtown CTA with 94 of those being violent crimes (15.6%). The analysis team stated that multiplying the first quarter figures by four to generate year-long estimates of 2412 total crimes and 376 violent crimes might underestimate actual year-end results as first quarter results are usually the lowest of the year.

Where on the CTA do these crimes usually occur? Consistently across this six-year study, 91% of violent crimes happened on “El” stations, platforms, and trains; 7% on buses and bus stops; and less than 2% on other CTA property.

The analysis report was followed by the presentations of **Police Commander Bird and CTA Vice President Ryan**. Look for increased uniformed staff throughout the CTA system and increased CTA rules and law enforcement.

Roger Marsh

CTA Crime Presentation

South Loop Neighbors
Neighborhood Watch Beat 123
4th Ward South Loop Advisory Council

Statistical Analysis

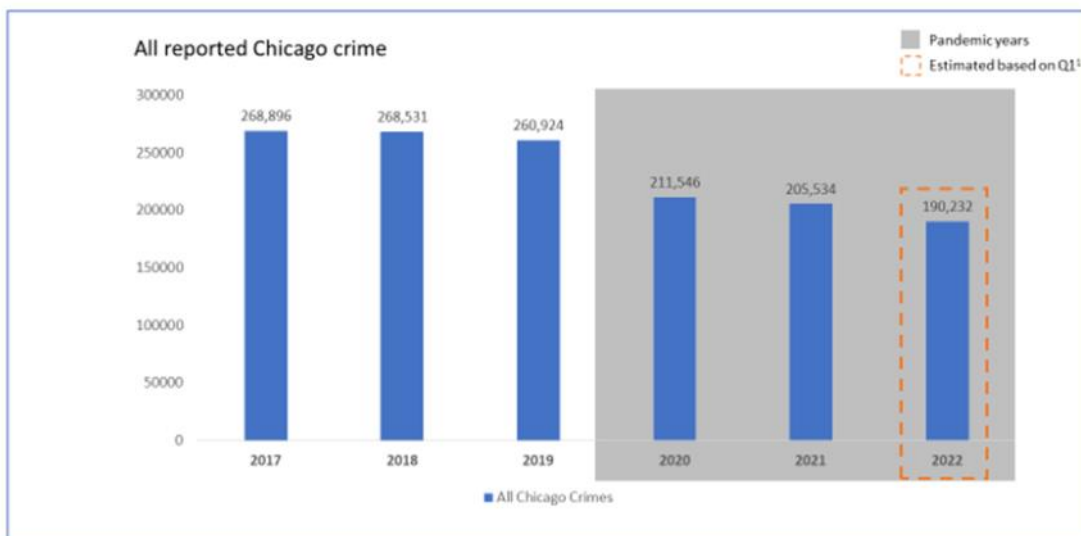
- Data Source: City of Chicago Data Portal ([Data.CityOfChicago.org](https://data.cityofchicago.org))
- Statistical Analysis: Roger Marsh (Roger@SouthLoopNeighbors.org)
- Power Point Design: Kristin Van Ausdal

Agenda for data presentation

- **Chicago:** Overall crime and violent crime as % of overall crime
- **1st District (Downtown):** Overall crime and violent crime as % of overall crime
- **CTA Locations in 1st District:** Violent crime that occurs at CTA locations and overall distribution of where CTA violent crime happens

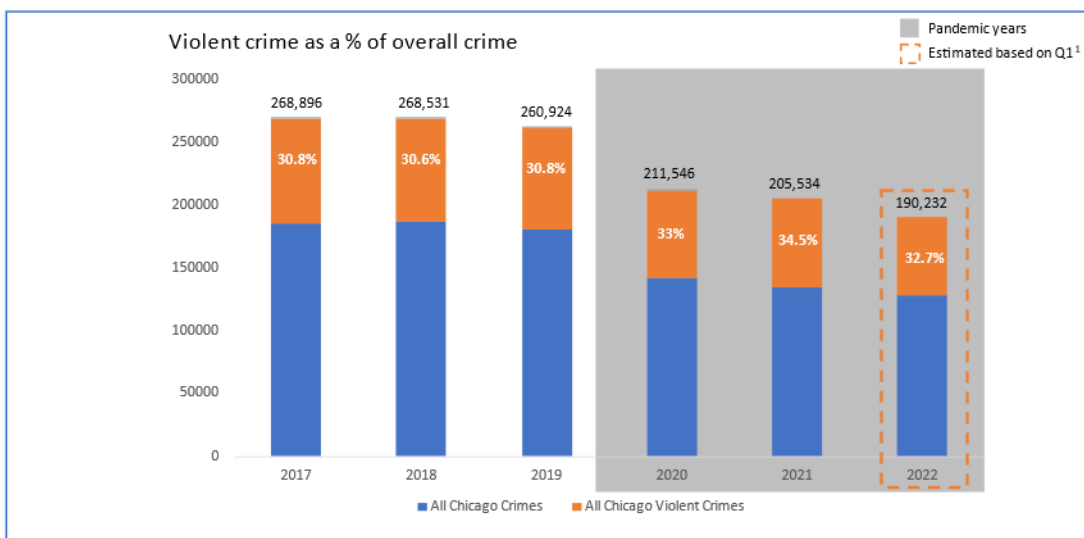
Please note: 2022 statistics have been calculated as Q1*4. However, Q1 has had the lowest quarterly crime rate in each of the previous years (e.g., 2017 -2021) so numbers exhibited likely underestimate overall 2022 numbers

Chicago: Overall crime in Chicago has dropped since 2017



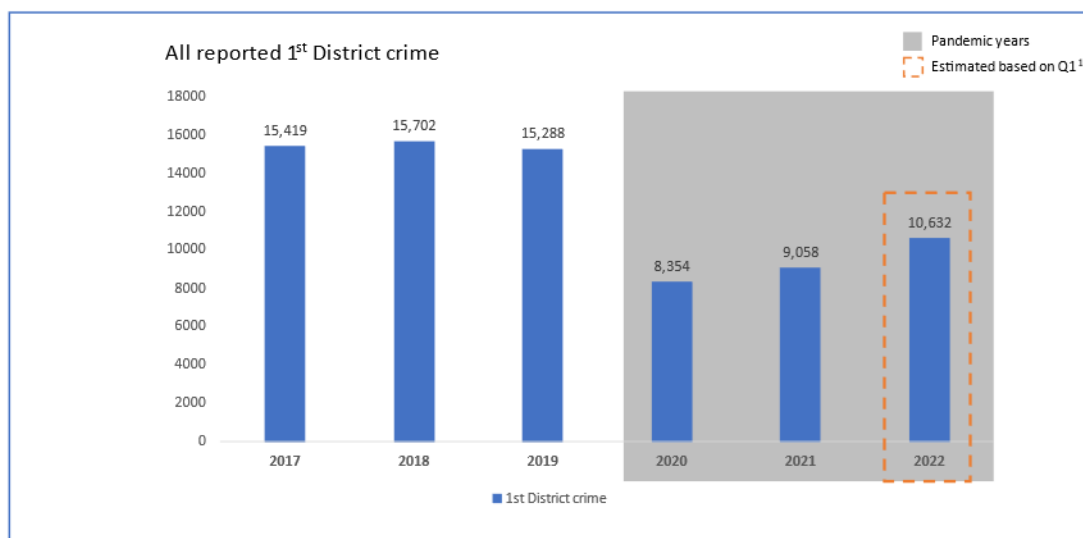
1. Please note: 2022 statistics have been calculated as Q1*4. However, Q1 has had the lowest quarterly crime rate in each of the previous years (e.g., 2017-2021) so numbers exhibited likely underestimate overall 2022 numbers

Chicago: However, violent crime as a percentage of overall crime has risen since 2018

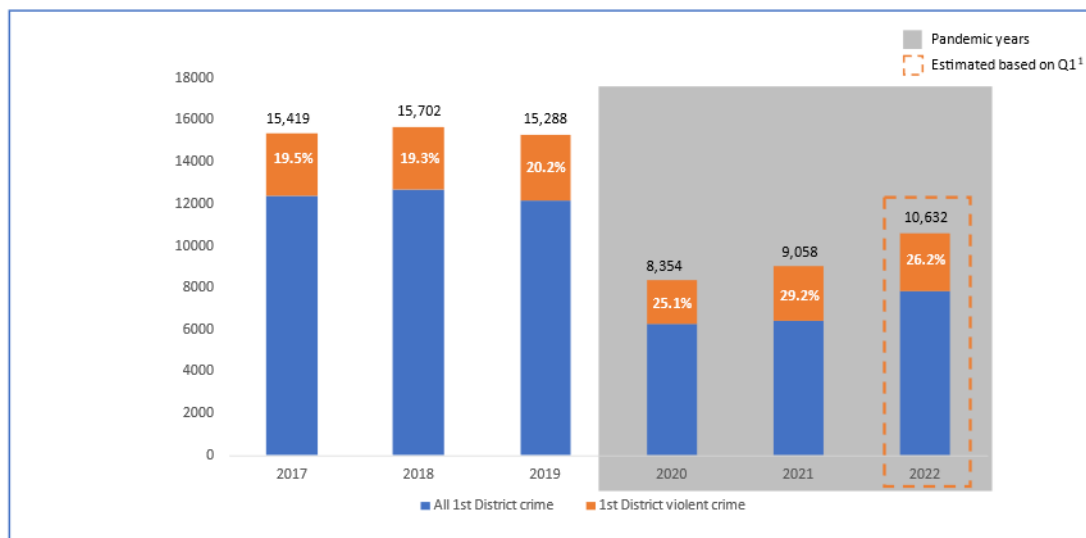


1. Please note: 2022 statistics have been calculated as Q1*4. However, Q1 has had the lowest quarterly crime rate in each of the previous years (e.g., 2017-2021) so numbers exhibited likely underestimate overall 2022 numbers

1st District: Overall crime in the 1st District dropped during the pandemic but is rising again

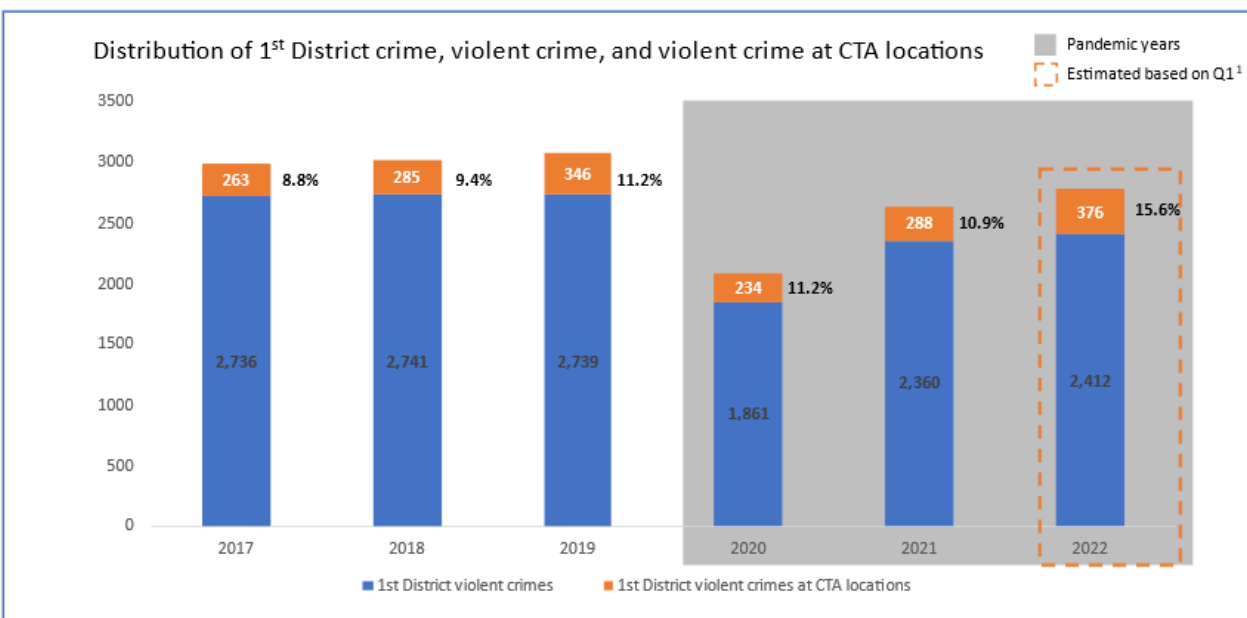


1st District: However, violent crime as a percentage of overall crime has risen since 2018



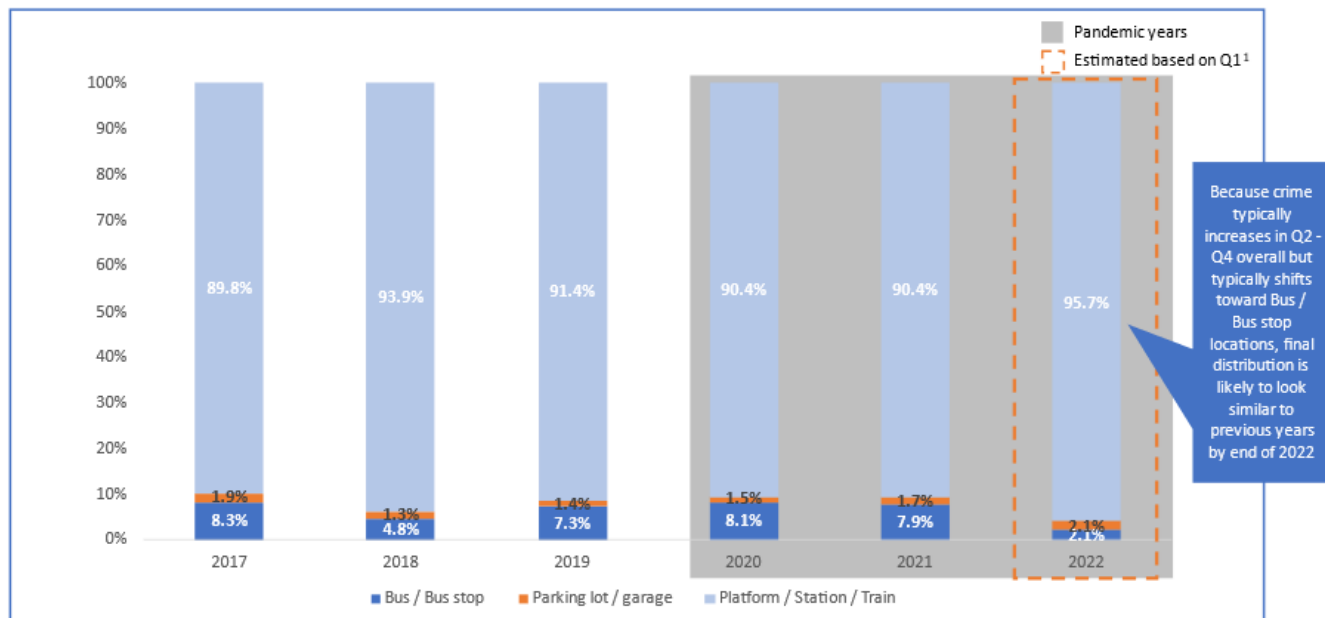
1. Please note: 2022 statistics have been calculated as Q1*4. However, Q1 has had the lowest quarterly crime rate in each of the previous years (e.g., 2017-2021) so numbers exhibited likely underestimate overall 2022 numbers

1st District CTA Locations: Violent crime at CTA locations has risen dramatically in Q1 2022; based on the 5 previous years, this model underestimates the likely % of CTA -related violent crime in 2022



1. Please note: 2022 statistics have been calculated as Q1*4. However, Q1 has had the lowest quarterly crime rate in each of the previous years (e.g., 2017-2021) so numbers exhibited likely underestimate overall 2022 numbers

1st District CTA Locations: The majority of reported violent crimes occur at train locations; This distribution remains steady over time



1. Please note: 2022 statistics have been calculated as Q1*4. However, Q1 has had the lowest quarterly crime rate in each of the previous years (e.g., 2017 -2021) so numbers exhibited likely underestimate overall 2022 numbers

70-year-old man carjacked in South Loop

He was standing near his car in the 600 block of South Michigan Avenue Tuesday morning when two people walked up and told him to run or they would kill him, police said.

By [Sun-Times Wire](#)

Mar 29, 2022, 12:06pm CDT

A 70-year-old man was carjacked Tuesday morning in the South Loop, according to Chicago police.

He was standing near his car in the 600 block of South Michigan Avenue at 5:30 a.m. when two people walked up and told him to run or they would kill him, police said.

The pair, both male, took his car and drove away, police said.

Police reported no arrests.

There have been 13 carjackings so far this year through March 21 in the 1st police district, which covers the Loop and South Loop, according to public police crime data. That's up from five carjackings during the same period last year in the district.

Citywide, there have been 390 carjackings this year through March 21, slightly less than the 399 carjackings reported during the same period last year, according to the data.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2022/3/29/23001674/south-loop-carjacking>

Hijacked car strikes cop in the South Loop while fleeing police, CPD says

[April 17, 2022](#) [CWBCChicago Loop](#), [South Loop](#)

The driver of a hijacked car slammed into a Chicago police officer in the South Loop on Saturday evening, leaving the cop in fair condition with a leg injury, police said.

Chicago Contrarian tweeted video that shows the carjacked vehicle striking the officer moments after he exited his squad car on the **100 block of East Roosevelt** around 9 p.m.

The gray 2008 Saturn Vue was hijacked on the 1100 block of West 113th Place earlier Saturday, according to police records.

Cops spotted it downtown yesterday evening and tried to pull it over, police said. Its driver sped away and crossed into the Loop around 9 p.m.

In a media statement, CPD said officers stepped out of their cars to approach the stolen vehicle after it became stuck in traffic **Michigan and Roosevelt**. But the driver drove onto the curb and struck the officer, then fled the scene, the statement said. No arrests have been announced.

The fire department said it transported a 23-year-old man from the scene to Stroger Hospital.

He was the second Chicago cop in a week to be struck by a vehicle downtown.



Did you know the South Loop Neighborhood Watch - Police Beat 123 has a facebook page?

We do!...and we encourage you to use it!

The South Loop Neighborhood Watch – Police Beat 123 Facebook Page is a crime communication tool intended to enable the rapid sharing of crime alerts and crime prevention news specifically for Police Beat 123. This area is the section of the South Loop that is bordered by Ida B. Wells on the north, Roosevelt Road on the South, the Chicago River on the west and Michigan Avenue on the east.

Link to Facebook

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

Please stay engaged! The safety and security of our neighborhood is everyone's business!

See past issues . . .

Archives at

<http://dearbornexpress.net/>



Next CAPS Meeting May 11, 2022

6PM on Zoom

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

4/8/2022 6:12pm 20 E Roosevelt Rd
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Knife CTA Station
Beat 123

4/7/2022 7:15pm 0 E Roosevelt Rd
ROBBERY No weapon CTA Train Beat 123

4/6/2022 10pm 10 E Cermak Rd
ARMED ROBBERY knife CTA Platform, Beat 131

4/5/2022 5:30am 600 S State
STRONG ARM ROBBERY no weapon Subway
train Beat 123

4/5/2022 10:30am 600 S State St
STRONG ARM ROBBERY Subway train
Beat 123

3/31/2022 4:36pm 1100 S Clark St
ARMED ROBBERY Target Beat 123

3/29/2022 10:39pm 1800 S Michigan Av
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Handgun Street
Beat 123

3/24/2022 10am 800 S Financial Pl
ATTEMPT. STRONG ARM ROBBERY Sidewalk
Beat 123

3/23/2022 11am 1800 S Michigan
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 132

3/20/2022 11:45am 1300 S Michigan av
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 132

4/1/2022 12am 1200 S Michigan
AUTO THEFT Parking garage (non-res) Beat 132

3/21/2022 10:30am 1000 S State St
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

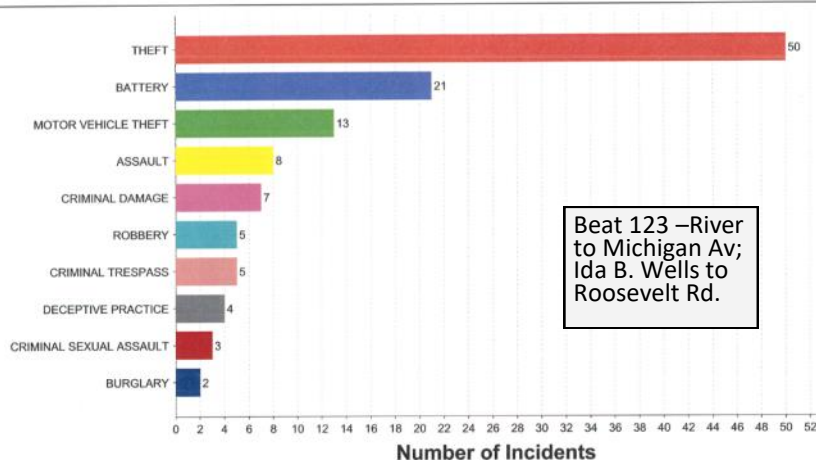
4/1/2022 10am 0E 8th St
AUTO THEFT Parking Garage non res Beat 123

3/29/2022 12:30am 600 S Michigan
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

Report Date: 08-Mar-2022
Report Time: 17:55:43
Produced By: Information Services
Run By: Division
PC08L60

Top Ten Crimes From 08-Feb-2022 To 08-Mar-2022 On Beat 0123

Page 1 of 1



Man stabbed in Loop after fight in CTA train station, attackers in custody

The man was taken to Mercy Hospital in fair condition, police said.

By Sun-Times Wire

Apr 8, 2022, 8:52pm CDT

A man was stabbed Friday night, after getting into a fight inside a CTA train station in the Loop.

Just after 6 p.m., the 30-year-old was involved in a fight with about five males in the mezzanine of a train station in the 1100 block of South State Street, Chicago police said.

Police initially reported that one person stabbed the man in the chest, then the fight moved outside as the group continued to punch and kick the man on the ground, but a review of surveillance footage found the fight started inside the mezzanine, but the man was not stabbed inside the station or on CTA property, police said.

He was taken to Mercy Hospital in fair condition, police said.

The attackers fled and were taken into custody near the 100 block of East 35th Street, police said. Charges are pending.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/4/8/23017483/man-stabbed-in-loop-after-fight-in-cta-train-station-attackers-in-custody>

<http://chicago.suntimes.com>

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

Real Estate Transactions

\$385,000
1111 S WABASH AVE 1111
1/28/22

\$234,000
780 S FEDERAL ST 707
1/28/22

\$261,000
1255 S STATE ST 613
1/27/22

\$196,500
523 S PLYMOUTH CT 403
1/21/22

\$875,000
1341 S INDIANA AVE G
1/13/22

\$280,000
170 W POLK ST 1707
1/12/22

\$452,500
61 W 15TH PL 701
1/12/22

\$331,500
1430 S MICHIGAN AVE 404
1/12/22

\$795,000
1211 S PRAIRIE AVE 704
1/12/22

\$230,000
900 S WABASH AVE 501
1/12/22

\$235,000
41 E 8TH ST 4C
1/11/22

\$225,000
732 FINANCIAL PL 514
1/10/22

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Dearborn Street Realty

Tom Feddor,
312.203.3841

tomfeddor@gmail.com





1322 S Wabash Avenue #510
Chicago, IL 60605
1 Bed 1 Bath 1,044 sq ft
\$295,000

Serena Phillips
Option Realty Group, LTD.,
[\(312\) 468-0328](tel:3124680328)

780 S Federal St #1107
1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft
\$225,000

Leigh Marcus
@properties | Christie's
International Real Estate
[\(773\) 830-2158](tel:7738302158)



910 S Michigan Ave #401
1 bed, 1 bath, 950 sq ft
\$270,000

Wendy Cobrin
Berkshire Hathaway
[\(312\) 446-4406](tel:3124464406)



234 W Polk Street #2902
2 Beds 4 Baths Condo/Townhouse
MLS# 11325336
\$930,000

[877-WOLF-DEV](tel:877-WOLF-DEV)
info@wolfdev.com

100 E 14th St #2301
3 bed, 2 bath, 1695 sq ft
\$729,000

Brittany Strale
Redfin Corporation
773.780.2732



1516 S Wabash St #1107
2 bed, 2.5 bath, 1064 sq ft
\$374,900

Layching Quek
Redfin Corporation
[\(773\) 657-2472](tel:7736572472)

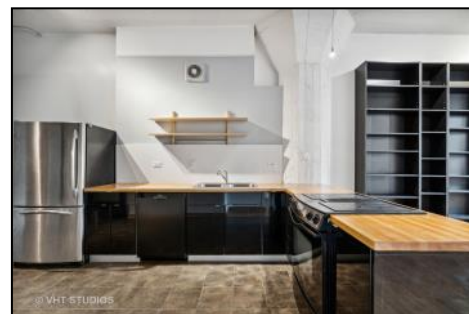


1440 S Michigan Ave #220
1Bed 1 1 Bath 721
\$259,500

Joseph Guli
Compass
[847-642-1015](tel:8476421015)

621 S Plymouth Ct #304
1 bed, 1 bath, 907 sq ft
\$228,900

Anne Wasko
@properties
[\(312\) 468-0328](tel:3124680328)



1115 S Plymouth Ct
#125,
2 Beds 2.5 baths 1,356
\$362,000
Duplex condo with pvt
outdoor space

Matthew Engle
Fulton Grace Realty
[717-658-0899](tel:7176580899)

