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CPS ADVANCES NEAR SOUTH SCHOOL PLAN DESPITE GROWING OPPOSITION

BY NADER ISSA, SARAH KARP AND LAUREN FITZPATRICK

Chicago's Board of Education on Wednesday narrowly approved key steps toward the construction of a Near South Side high school despite significant opposition from even the strongest advocates for a new neighborhood school.

The school board in a 4-3 vote opted to move forward with leasing former public housing land from the Chicago Housing Authority to build a high school and to acquire another nearby parcel for the CHA in exchange. The district will also ask the city's Public Building Commission to begin designing the school.

The rare split vote came after heavy debate about the need, viability and fiscal responsibility of the project. Several board members questioned the speed with which the city is attempting to push forward the proposal, with one calling the decision to proceed a "misuse of public money."

CPS CEO Pedro Martinez said criticism of the plan was "noise" he was trying to move past.

"There's always going to be challenges; people prefer different locations," Martinez said at Wednesday's monthly board of education meeting. But the district has identified 24th and State streets, the former site of the Harold Ickes Homes, as the ideal location to address the community's needs, he said. He said two other sites considered in the South Loop both had significant drawbacks.

"People have talked about this as an 'or,' so either you build a new school or invest in old schools," Martinez said. "I've never seen this as an 'or.' For me, it's always been an 'and.' What I see is an opportunity as we're seeing growth and we're seeing more investment in our city for all of our schools to get stronger and take part in that."

<http://chicago.suntimes.com/>

September 30, 2022

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thu-Sun, Sept 29-Oct 2, 8pm/10pm.....Geof Bradfield Quartet
Sun. 4pm/ 8pm

Tue, Oct 4 13, 8pm/ 10pm.....WDCB Night at the Jazz Showcase-
Remembering Ira Sullivan Jim Cooper Quintet

Wed, Oct 5, 8pm/10pm.....Dee Alexander Trio with Paul Zauner

Thu-Sun, Oct 6-9, 8pm/10pm.....Devon Sandridge – “Storyteller”
Sun. 4pm/8pm CD Release Event

Mon, Oct 10, 8pm/10pm.....Jeff Hedberg & C11

Wed, Oct 12, 5pm.....Jazz Links Jam Session

Thu-Sun, Oct 13-16, 8pm/10pm.....Jalen Baker Quartet
Sun. 4pm/10pm

Mon, Oct 17, 8pm/10pm.....Andrea Centazzo

Tue, Oct 18, 8pm/10pm.....Bakerzmillion – CD Release



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Jazzshowcase.com



Geof Bradfield

Devon Sandridge

Storyteller

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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

Elected board

President – Jim Wales

V.P. of Planning & Development – Dennis McClendon

Vice President/Secretary – Benjamin Cottrell

Treasurer – Dorothy Miaso

Director – Christine Hunt

Director – Roger Marsh

Director – Greg Borzo

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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Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

Me and Brad and Roy

Sept 29, 2022



Hello from Beth. Mike and I got some tough news yesterday — we learned our friend Stephen Bradley Gillaugh had died from lung cancer yesterday morning. We always referred to the Notorious SBG as Brad,” and I hope this posting of a blog Mike wrote about him ten years ago will give you a glimpse of why we loved —and will miss — Brad so much.

by Michael Knezovich

Our favorite neighborhood watering hole and restaurant — Hackney’s Printers Row — draws us frequently (probably too frequently) because it also draws an eclectic, articulate, smart, accomplished and just-plain-nice group of folks from the neighborhood. Attorneys, artists, architects, research scientists, computer programmers, linguists, stock market mavens ... you can learn a lot sipping a beer at Hack’s. One of the Hackney’s denizens Beth and I have learned a great deal from is Stephen Bradley Gillaugh, who goes simply by “Brad.” Brad moved to Printers Row — from Los Angeles — to retire after a long, illustrious career in the art world. He worked for decades in NYC — at the Museum of Modern Art and at the famed [Leo Castelli Gallery](#). Later, in LA, he managed a big corporate art collection (when corporations used to have such things). Brad doesn’t brag, but over time (and libations) Beth and I have gotten lots of inside chatter of his first-person encounters with the likes of Rauschenberg and Warhol and...even Truman Capote. (I’m not telling, so don’t even ask.)

We also learned that Brad has a fantastic art collection displayed right there in his own apartment. And get this: he has so much art that some of it has been left in boxes and shipping tubes. Why, you ask? Because there is no room in his apartment to display it. And so Brad, one day, decided to go through his forgotten works. He found prints and drawings by Roy Lichtenstein, Roger Brown, and other notables. But instead of framing them, he’s gone on a generous donation campaign, giving them outright to friends in the neighborhood. Including us.



Thanks to Brad’s generosity, this hangs in our living room.

He had us over one evening to select from his overage. I took a fancy to the one he’d guessed I’d like — a print of a poster Lichtenstein did for the 1967 Aspen Winter Jazz Festival. It now hangs in our living room.

And I love it.

So much so that in 2012 it inspired me to visit the Art Institute of Chicago to take in the Lichtenstein Retrospective that runs through September 3. It turned out to be a terrific show—but it was all the better because I walked the gallery with Brad.

Along the way, I learned that Lichtenstein was a kind, even-tempered man, not the stereotypical high-maintenance hell-raising artist. He did drawings — studies — that became the basis of his paintings. He didn’t sell the drawings (many of which are in the retrospective), but “around the holidays,” Brad says, “he’d come into the gallery (Castelli) and give them to staff as gifts.” One of them — a study of entablatures — Lichtenstein gave directly to Brad, signed with a personal note.

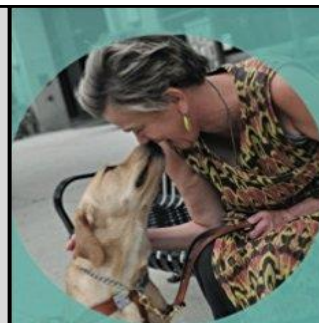
I learned that Lichtenstein was easy to work with — as opposed to another prominent artist, who, Brad says “traveled with an entourage and would go through two bottles of Jack Daniels every time we set up a show.”



Two of my favorite people: Brad and, well, I think you recognize her.

I learned that Brad had actually handled one of the sculptures in the Lichtenstein exhibit (it’s a big, metal art-deco-ish piece called “Modern Sculpture with Glass Wave” if you take in the show). Brad pointed at it and groaned, saying only that it was “god-awful heavy” to move around. And for those of you who know Lichtenstein and may be thinking Brad...Brad...no our Brad is not THAT Brad. But I’m glad he’s our Brad, and I marvel at the people Beth and I are lucky enough to call our friends

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



Writing Out Loud

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

Beth Finke



Retired in Chicago

Is it normal to forget the day?

By **Marianne Goss**,

I was sitting comfortably in my reading chair one morning, my cat Fanny on my lap, my phone off. At around 10:35, I suddenly jumped up, toppling Fanny. It had occurred to me that it was Friday and that a Zoom call with my mother had been scheduled for 9:30 and online Scrabble with my friend Sandie for 10.

"I forgot what day it is!" I apologetically texted my siblings and Sandie. It was too late for the Zoom call, but Sandie graciously offered to play Scrabble then. During her turns, I googled, "Is forgetting what day it is a sign of impending dementia?"

It's no small matter when your mother is suffering with dementia and you wonder whether you're destined for the same fate.

Fortunately, I found reassurance. "Once in a while, we all forget what day of the week it is, but we usually remember or figure it out quickly," says Johns Hopkins Medicine. "It's common for a person to briefly forget which day it is," echoes the Caregiver Connection.

Whew! Of course it's not guaranteed that I'll be spared from dementia, but at least I might not have to worry yet.

I suspect that most "young olds," as some researchers have classified those of us between 65 and 74, worry about memory changes even if they don't have a parent with dementia.

Maybe you too want to tamp down the fears. Here are some questions I looked into after that recent memory lapse. The answers came from web pages of the national institutes of health, the Alzheimer's assn., Mayo Clinic, Harvard medical school.

Is dementia hereditary?

An umbrella term for various types of cognitive impairment including Alzheimer's disease, dementia has multiple risk factors, one of which is genetics. Not all causes of dementia are known. Possessing certain gene variants can increase your risk but does not guarantee that you will develop dementia. The genes' interaction with certain environmental and social factors is also involved.

How do you tell normal memory glitches from impending dementia?

It's normal for aging people to occasionally forget appointments and names and to misplace items. Memory problems that impede everyday functioning are more problematic. Examples of everyday functioning include conversing, using the phone, finding your way home, following recipes and directions, recognizing close friends and relatives, and taking care of your health and hygiene.

Is there anything you can do about prevention anyhow?

You cannot do anything about age, the greatest known risk factor, or your genes. Researchers have not yet identified lifestyle factors that will definitely prevent dementia, but findings about exercise, blood pressure control, and mental activity are promising. Treatment for mild cognitive decline is limited. Drugs that slow the progression of memory loss are intended for moderate to severe cognitive impairment.

Should I be tested if a parent or a sibling has dementia?

Tests can show whether you have inherited the related gene variants but not your likelihood of developing dementia. You may want to participate in a research study that involves testing, but genetic counselors currently do not recommend routine genetic testing. In a statement <link to <https://www.alz.org/media/documents/genetic-testing-statement.pdf>>, the Alzheimer's Association "cautions against routine genetic testing ... until an individual has received proper counseling and understands the information necessary to make an informed decision, including the social and economic factors that could be impacted by having this genetic information."

Would I want to know that I carry a "dementia gene"? Since possessing the gene doesn't necessarily forecast dementia, what would be the point of knowing? Better to focus on the present, which is all any of us has for certain.

Marianne Goss is a retired editor and journalist who lives in the South Loop. She used to blog on ChicagoNow, where this post first appeared.

SLES at the National Beta Convention

A few SLES qualifiers for the National Beta Convention headed to Nashville in June to compete in academics, apparel design, engineering, marketing, performance art, and visual art! Our SLES Betas faced off against all other state qualifiers across the country, pulling from the top 100 Beta Clubs in the United States. Throughout the convention, our students lived the Beta mission statement of academic achievement, character, service and leadership – even during the fast-paced, competitive scavenger hunt.

Our students put forth a great effort, surpassing several personal goals — and even took home an award!

Eleanor R. placed 8th overall in Academics for Math!

It was a great experience for everyone (even parents!)

and was inspirational to see all of these young leaders from all over the country — especially those from South Loop Elementary.

Great job, Betas!

<https://southloopschool.org/>





Imagine a Day Without Water

October 20, 2022

Youth Art Contest

ENTRY DEADLINE:
October 7, 2022

Contest Details:

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One entry per student
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- Brunch
- Daily Specials
- Catering


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Edgar Allan Poe Tours

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The POE American Writers Museum Tour is offered at 3:00pm in October when the AWM is open. We are open Thursdays to Mondays, from 10 am to 5 pm. We are closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The tour is included with museum admission and no advanced registration is required. Tours begin at the Museum front desk.

[PLAN YOUR VISIT](https://americanwritersmuseum.org/)

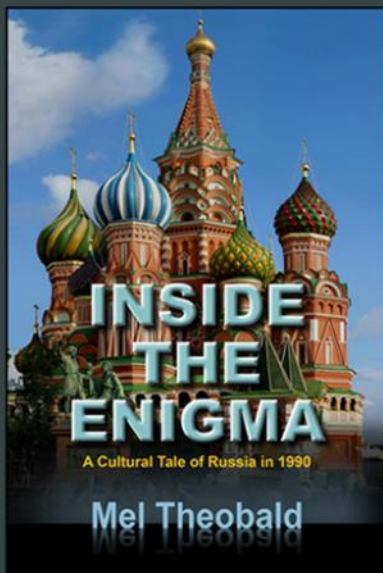
American Writers Museum
180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>



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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Gerald de Jaager
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and three other books



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.

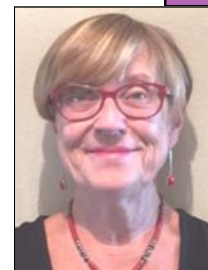

The Trees, Percival Everett (Graywolf 2021)

I elected to read **The Trees**, by Percival Everett, because it was nominated for a Booker Prize and currently available at the Chicago Public Library. I was surprised at the content: a laugh-out-loud novel about lynching in America. Like First Century satirist Juvenal, whose tongue-in-cheek essays joked about Roman's killing Christians; like Jonathan Swift's 18th century Modest Proposal that poor Irish sell their children as food for rich Brits; like Mel Brooks' The Producers, the disappointingly successful 1967 Broadway show, "Springtime for Hitler"; like the 2020 academy-award-winning "Parasite," that confuses us about a bloody class war in contemporary Korea; what **The Trees**, mixing comedy, tragedy, reverse racism and historical rage, delivers is a secretly satisfying but undeniably guilt-producing dream of retributive justice. After a brief quote from Ulysses S. Grant about the art of war, Percival begins by describing the setting: "Money, Mississippi, looks exactly like it sounds, named in that persistent southern tradition of irony and with the attendant tradition of nescience." Nescience? Ah, ignorance, but disguised in a word at which none of us, especially the victims of the satire, would take offense. Some readers recognize Money, but others have to do some research. Money is a Mississippi Delta community of 100 residents, down from 400 in the early 1950s, when a cotton mill operated there. There is a large men's private maximum security prison nearby. Money sits on a railroad line along the Tallahatchie River, a bridge over which was immortalized by Bobbie Gentry's 1960's Grammy-winning *Ode to Billy Joe*. It's close to the home of Delta Blues great Robert Johnson, who wrote *Sweet Home Chicago* and whose musical descendants play weekly at Buddy Guy's. There's another grisly, painful Windy City connection to Money, which readers discover as they go. It is a detective

procedural, a mystery, a history, and a ghost story. Everett says "Humour is a fantastic tool because you can use it to get people to relax and then do anything you want to them." I admit I laughed on the bus at some of the passages, even while I knew it was wrong to do so, sort of like being a feminist and laughing at the old joke: "What three streets in Chicago rhyme with vagina?" The Guardian opined that Everett "rendered white folks in grotesque caricature...like a reverse minstrel show." But northern honkies aren't immune from blame. Early on, two white men are found dead, castrated, with barbed wire around their necks, lying next to dead black man in a suit, disfigured and unidentifiable, clutching the severed privates like a trophy. The same modus operandi is repeated throughout the country— including Chicago; sometimes the contiguous corpse is Asian or Native American. The "good" guys are three black cops. Jim and Ed work for the *Mississippi* Bureau of Investigation—often to their embarrassment: "That's some crazy shit to yell out. MBI! Fucking ridiculous," and a humorless misanthrope who joined the F.B.I. to spite her radical parents. There's a naive University of Chicago black scholar, accused of writing a hefty volume on racial violence without "an ounce of outrage." The spectral killings assume "the dimensions of an Old Testament plague: Some called it a throng. A reporter on the scene used the word horde. A minister of an AME church in Jefferson County, Mississippi, called it a *congregation* . . ." And maybe, while har-har-ing, all our ends are in sight.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park
September, 2022

Writing Out Loud

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

Beth Finke

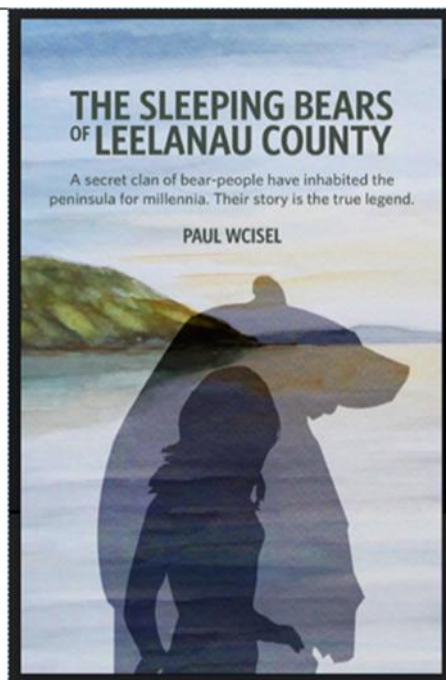
A new novel by
local author,
Paul Wcisel

(paulwcisel.com)

In a remote corner of northern Michigan, the residents of Leelanau County have a secret society that has been living on the peninsula for thousands of years. They are the bear-transforming descendants of tribes who crossed Lake Michigan millennia ago to escape the destruction of their clan.

One evening, a traveler has a chance encounter with a spirit bear and discovers he has a hidden history of his own. In the months that follow, he becomes deeply involved with the Sleeping Bear Clan and—depending on your point of view—a murder.

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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.

Backstory Essays

Regan Burke

Mystery of The Matching Shoes

Septmebrer 24, 2022



Chicago's annual Printers Row Lit Fest is a red-meat feast of books. For two days bibliomaniacs don their Walgreen's readers and shuffle from table to table in the two-block long chow-down of book delights. Lone readers never look up, never reply to vendors, never talk to authors. They're intent on finding the books they need to satisfy an obsession that never ends—to be alone with their books.

Then there are the book lovers who hold vendors hostage yakking about their favorite books and authors. And others with their dogs and friends, happy to be outside talking to neighbors, catching glimpses of book titles they may wander back to.

In 2021, my publisher asked me to stand behind the Tortoise Books display to promote my book, *In That Number*.

"Oh, you're the author? What's it about?" strangers asked.

"It's a memoir about politics." I answered.

The publisher interjected, "She was a hippie who worked for Bill Clinton. She met Putin."

I had no idea how to initiate conversations about my book, never mind promote myself. I signed a few copies, but not many words passed between me and the buyers.

At the 2022 Lit Fest, memoir writing teacher, Beth Finke, organized a program, "Unlocking Memories and Uncovering Stories" with two of her students who had published children's books. Beth moderated the discussion.

I sat in the front row, soaking up the ethereal juice of a room of twenty-five or so people attracted to children's literature.

The two presenters, Sharon Rosenblatt Kramer, and Bindy Bitterman, sat on either side of Beth Finke at a table covered by a floor-length black cloth. Beth, a published author herself, introduced her student-authors in her usual lighthearted manner, exuding pride in their accomplishments. She asked questions about how they got started and their publishing processes.



Sharon Rosenblatt Kramer, Beth Finke, Bindy Bitterman and the Matching Shoes

Sharon Kramer's book, *A Time for Bubbe*, published by Golden Alley Press, blossomed from one of Beth's memoir writing prompts, "all the time in the world". It's the story of her six-year-old grandson visiting his great-grandmother in her high-rise. He punches all the elevator buttons and she responds, "Don't worry boychik, we have all the time in the world."

Bindy Bitterman's *Skiddly Diddly Skat* is a self-published cat and mouse story written in limericks, accompanied by a QR audio code.

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 places.



Northwestern's \$130 Million Bronzeville Clinic, 43 Green And Black-Owned Dispensary Get Key City Backing

Four projects on the Near South Side are one step closer to reality, potentially bringing a health care center, plus businesses and homes to the area. The City Council will vote on the proposals Wednesday.

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) Sep 16, 2022

Family Roots Dispensary

Black-owned Family Roots LLC is seeking to convert an old South Loop Potbelly sandwich shop into a cannabis dispensary. The \$650,000 project would create 30-50 construction jobs and 30-45 permanent positions.

CEO Matt Brewer, a native South Sider and Harvard Business grad who started the company with his mother and brother, has been met with some resistance from neighbors who worry the dispensary will increase loitering and crime. But Ald. Sophia King (4th) told the zoning committee she doesn't believe the dispensary will bring "additional negative impacts" to the South Loop.

In addition to City Council approval, the project must also get endorsement from the Zoning Board of Appeals, which requires the team to have one more public meeting.



Credit: Provided. Black-owned Family Roots Dispensary is looking to take over a South Wabash storefront in the South Loop.



https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/09/16/near-south-side-developments-including-south-loops-1st-black-owned-dispensary-get-key-approvals/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=f2d46a0ff4-



SLN 5th Annual Pub Crawl

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As members of the Frank family come together for a college graduation party in Chicago, they find their bonds being tested – and strengthened – in surprising ways. Starring Wendy Robie, Francis Guinan, Clare Cooney, Cameron Scott Roberts, Keith D. Gallagher, Emily Lape, Melissa DuPrey, Heather Chrisler, Elizabeth Stam, H.B. Ward, Cheryl Hamada, Penelope Walker and Gregory J. Fields

THEATERS

Click link for showtimes and tickets.

[The New 400 \(Chicago\): October 2, 2022](#)

[Buffalo International Film Festival: October 6-20](#)

[American Cinematheque/Los Feliz Theatre](#)

[\(Los Angeles\): October 14](#)

Other Newcity films streaming

Signature Move on Showtime

Knives and Skin on Hulu

Dreaming Grand Avenue on Amazon Prime

Plus all three can be rented on Apple etc.

PRESS & AWARDS

"Featuring a brilliant and eclectic cast of talented veterans and relative newcomers, this is a wickedly funny, occasionally poignant and authentic-to-its-core drama/comedy about three eventful days in the life of a totally relatable extended family." (***1/2 stars out of four)

—**Richard Roeper**, [Chicago Sun-Times](#)

"His intimate, actor-driven dramas are set not merely in the real world, but in specific locales, with dialogue testifying to the fact that both the characters and the place have histories that still weigh on them in the present. The movies are ragged and imperfect, alternate awkward and sublime, but when they hit, they strike deep and tear you up." (*** stars out of four)

—**Matt Zoller Seitz**, [RogerEbert.com](#)

"Crucial Viewing: Smith gracefully interweaves the lives of all four siblings, their liberal Baby Boomer parents, and a handful of other characters as they come together amiably and unhurriedly, employing the time-honored scenario of the big family gathering to consider how many of us live at the dawn of the 2020s." (*** stars out of four)

—**Ben Sachs**, [Cine-File](#)

NEWCITY newcity.com

"One of the first great films I've seen in 2022...an impeccably cast, superbly directed and utterly captivating ode to the spontaneity and resilience of human connection"

—**Matt Fagerholm**, [Indie Outlook](#)

**** 1/2 stars out of five

—**Patrick McDonald**, [HollywoodChicago.com](#)

"The screenwriting is excellent with many lines you have to quote." (**** stars out of four)

—**Nancy Bishop**, [Third Coast Review](#)

"A heartwarming and spectacularly acted visit with a loving but dysfunctional Chicago family, with some of the best ensemble performances you'll see. This is an indie gem not to be missed." (5 stars out of 5)

—**Christopher Lloyd**, [The Film Yip](#)

Grand Jury Award - Best Performance -

Cameron Scott Roberts

—**Gasparilla Film Festival**

Jury Award - Best Ensemble

—**Festival of Cinema NYC**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Brian Hieggelke (Press, Booking and Sales Contact)

brian@newcity.com

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

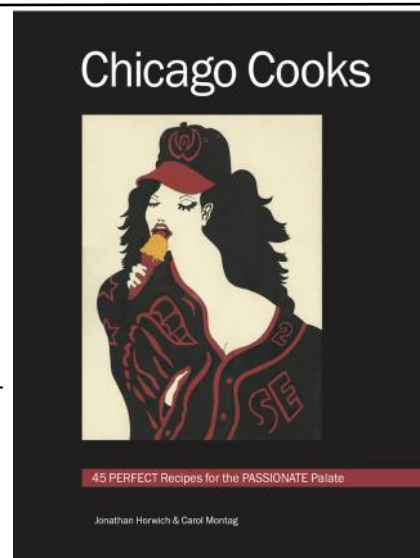
Not every food category is included here, but the ones we have chosen represent a foundation any cook will need to provide for a family or to entertain brilliantly.

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.

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. <https://www.chicagocooks.net/>

Available at Sandmeyer's and Amazon.



Columbia takes action to improve student retention

By [Amina Sergazina](#),

Staff Reporter

September 20, 2022

In each year of the last

decade, more than a

quarter of first-year students have left Columbia prior to their second year. Now, with the help of administrators charged with focusing specifically on the issue, the college is creating revised retention goals, developing new strategies and amplifying collaboration among faculty.

The new leadership roles for this goal were announced last month in an email from the Office of the President that named Michael Joseph as senior vice president for enrollment management and retention and Associate Professor Greg Foster-Rice as the associate provost for student retention initiatives.

Joseph said the college aims to increase the first-year retention rate to the 74% range by the next academic year and to 80% in the long term. The highest retention rate in the past decade was 71.5% in Fall 2018, according to [retention data from the college](#).

COVID-19 has contributed to lower retention, but first-year retention was low prior to 2019.

"[Columbia doesn't] really do well anywhere, quite frankly," Joseph said referring to retention.

"I think we need to look across the whole institution in every program, including every department as well," Joseph said. "We really don't have any particular academic departments where retention is strong."



Kayla Macedo

Joseph said there are two groups of students who especially struggle with poor retention: students who have high financial need and students of color. He said these students are found across the student population.

Jewel Baker, the vice president of Soul Sisters — a student organization designed to foster sisterhood among Black women — shared that one of the reasons why some of her Black classmates dropped out is that some find the experience "a bit overwhelming."

Baker, a junior cinema and television major with a minor in photography who has experienced being the only Black woman in a lot of her classes, said she has adapted to this, but other students may find it more challenging.

She said that in Black and Brown communities — like the South Side where she was raised — art is not viewed as a realistic career path like medicine or law, and many schools simply don't have the resources to have art programs to encourage the kids.

Not only the culture within the communities, but the lack of representation of successful Black artists in the mainstream media also makes students doubt themselves as artists and could add to lower retention rates of Columbia as an art college, Baker said.

"But even though we may not have [Black artists] that we look up to ... just know that you can become that person for somebody else," said Baker, who hopes that the presence of groups like Soul Sisters and the Black Student Union will help improve retention rates. [Click for the rest of the story.](#)

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

<https://columbiachronicle.com/columbia-takes-action-to-improve-student-retention>

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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.

My Starbucks is gone.... Kaput, dead, here no more ...

When [Starbucks opened](#) more than 20 years ago, a half a block from my house, all the neighbors agreed that we'd arrived. That's what Starbucks signified back then. That the neighborhood around Roosevelt and Wabash was desirable, stable and one that anyone would want to live in. Our Starbucks closed a few weeks ago after a nice life at Wabash and Roosevelt. And no one knew what was going on. Was it over and done? Even though we still have a [Sweet Bean](#), a [Stan's](#) and a [Dunkin'](#) within a stone's throw.

It was always the place to meet your friends for coffee. Like after we power-walked in the morning. It didn't even matter that our Starbucks never had a public restroom because if we had to go, we just walked home to use our own facilities. And then came right back.

My house was the closest one to our Starbucks. But no one was very far. And we were probably as close as the restroom in a much bigger Starbucks that had a restroom way across the store. It was probably closer and faster to go home from ours—instead of across a much bigger Starbucks.

Actually, it was after one of those power walks with a couple of friends that I realized that our Starbucks was destined to die. I'd been going there for years in the morning after our walk/talk/sightsee/spying time with my two girlfriends and I always paid with the same credit card that I kept in my pocket. The card and my keys were the only things I had.

One morning, an older male barista refused to take my card unless I showed him my ID. My card wasn't signed. Nope, I said. "This is how I travel in the morning while walking with my friends. And I've been a customer here for many years. Everyone recognizes me. And if you make a big deal out of this I am going to Dunkin'."

Which I did. For a while. When I saw through the window he wasn't there anymore. I started back up.

Starbucks was perfect for so many things. From a quick wedding shower gift of two cute cups and an array of freshly ground coffee to accompany that. To popping in before a birthday party and filling up a nic gift card for the celebrant.

It was perfect to meet up for a heart to heart, or to meet a colleague to discuss a project—or to get together with someone who was coming downtown that you hadn't seen for a while, but you didn't want them to see the inside of your house before maid-day. It was a perfect meet-up place. Everyone liked it.

And in nice weather, it was a perfect meet-up place outside. Until one day, I realized that the tables and chairs that always came out in the Spring—and placed under a concrete canopy and several big trees—weren't there.

"How come the tables and chairs aren't out yet?" I asked.

"We aren't putting them out anymore," I was told.

"Because homeless people take them over."

I never saw that happen during the day. At night, it may have been different

And yet, any homeless person who wanted to come in with an empty cup was poured free coffee. Which seemed unsanitary to me. Free coffee was OK, and free cream and sugar, but not free cups?

Why are they punishing *us* by taking away the outdoor seating area? I wondered. I never remembered anyone hogging the outdoor seats like some did the cream. And sugar. For their brought-in cups.

The outdoor seating never came back.

And then there was the [big brouhaha in Philadelphia](#). When men came to Starbucks for a meeting, but didn't buy any coffee—and the police got involved. Starbucks was being used as a community center quite often around the country, the story revealed. But wasn't that the point of a Starbucks in every neighborhood? And so what if some didn't buy coffee? They were giving a lot away free. The bad publicity was really bad for Starbucks.. And our Starbucks was one that paid the price. The inside tables were removed. And even the wide counters in front of the windows—that could be leaned on, or sat at, over coffee and conversation—were taken out. They were replaced with ledges just wide enough to set down a paper cup for a second to put in some cream and sugar. There was nowhere to balance a purse or a brief case. No one was welcome to sit a spell.

Of course that made plenty of room to accommodate the long lines of customers that the baristas used to have to organize to slither around the tables and chairs. Often puzzling and irritating customers not familiar with our Starbucks' customs and layout. The line did give us customers a chance to peruse the bags of coffee and the cute cups as we went by, though, in case anyone was in the market for a shower gift.

Anyway, that's when I started buying Starbucks Keurig cups on sale at the neighborhood Walgreen's and Jewel-Osco, on either side of the Starbucks. That was it for me. Other than a big bag of interesting ground coffee beans that I did o in and buy for my never-used but long owned French press—for a little variety during the pandemic..

My South Loop Starbucks wasn't the first Starbucks I lived a half a block away from. One of the first Starbucks in Downtown Chicago was one that opened in an enclosed mall a half block from our then apartment about 35 years ago.

My husband used to go there every morning and bring it home for us. I sure looked forward to his service and the coffee. And from then until now—with the Starbucks Keurig cups every morning—I have loved Starbucks coffee.

And even though I didn't like the setup of the Starbucks near my house when it changed to strictly carryout, I always liked that it was there. Just in case.

When its recent demise became undeniable, the rumors flew as to why. Some (hopefully) conjectured that it was turning remote—where customers could text in their order and pick it up at a window. Continued on page 21

Bonnie McGrath

Thanks for reading Mom, I think I'm Poignant ! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.

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Solar Lofts

Solar Lofts, 2556 S.

Federal St., is a redevelopment of an old warehouse near the Stevenson Expressway.

Developer 548 Capital is looking to convert the building once owned by the Nation of Islam into a mixed-income building with 47 residential units, retail shops, 25 parking spaces and a solar-powered rooftop. Sixty-eight percent of the development is affordable and — through 548 Capital's nonprofit, the 540 Foundation — participants from their workforce program will install the solar panels.

Black-led 548 Capital [redeveloped two apartment buildings in Auburn Gresham](#), turning them into affordable housing. The Federal Street project has the support of Ald. Pat Dowell (3rd), who commended Managing Partner A.J. Patton and his team for their "phenomenal work" in returning the dilapidated warehouse to use.

[Subscribe to Block Club Chicago](#), an independent, 501 (c)(3), journalist-run newsroom. Every dime we make funds reporting from Chicago's neighborhoods.



Credit: Provided. A rendering of Solar Lofts a residential development coming to the Near South Side.



https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/09/16/near-south-side-developments-including-south-loops-1st-black-owned-dispensary-get-key-approvals/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=f2d46a0ff4-

Open House Chicago Returns In October With 150+ Sites To Explore

The popular event features in-person and self-guided tours of architecturally, culturally and historically significant Chicago sites.

[Maia McDonald](#) Sep 26, 2022

CHICAGO — Open House Chicago will give people a chance to get a close-up look at some of the city's most architecturally interesting buildings and locations when it returns next month. Open House Chicago will run Oct. 15-16 with more than 150 architecturally, culturally and historically significant sites around the city for participants to explore, according to the Chicago Architecture Center, which organizes the popular event. There will also be self-guided tours of some locations starting Oct. 1 and lasting throughout the month.

The tours will highlight buildings in more than 20 community areas, including Chatham and Hermosa, which have sites participating for the first time.

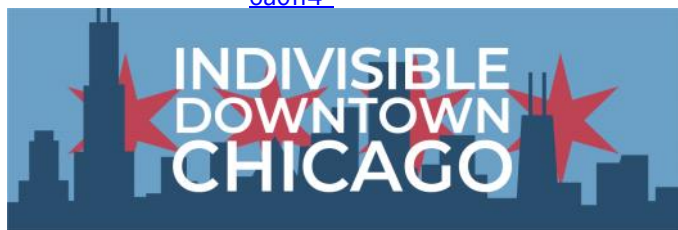
Longtime favorites — such as Dank Haus German American Cultural Center, Boxville and Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica National Shrine — will return. Other sites will be new, including the Austin public library branch, Architectural Artifacts and Kenwood United Church of Christ.

A full list of participating sites with hours and addresses is on the Open House Chicago [website](#).

People can use the new Chicago Architecture Center app for exclusive experiences and self-guided tours of some sites, according to the center. There's also in-app recommendations for restaurants, coffee shops, unique sites and stores in participating Open House Chicago neighborhoods.



https://openhousechicago.org/sites/https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/09/26/open-house-chicago-returns-in-october-with-150-sites-to-explore/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=a855e02a2d-



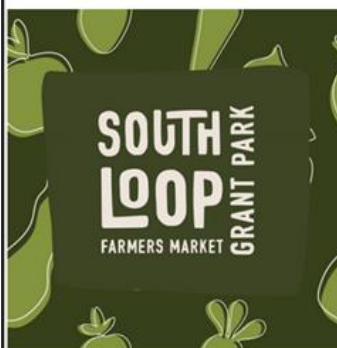
Indivisible Downtown Chicago meets the 3rd Monday of each month at Bar Louie in Printers Row. Join Chicagoans using "Indivisible" principles to protect democracy.

The next meeting is Monday, October 17 at 6:30pm.

All are welcome

<https://act.indivisible.org/event/local-actions/167149/signup/>

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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.

Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) September 26, 2022

Viva Mexico



Two weeks ago I was exploring Mexico City, acting the tourist after three days of work meetings. My phone tells me that on Monday, Sept. 12, I took more than 25,000 steps, covering 10+ miles. Every bit of it was worth it.

I work for a non-profit—and like other non-profits, our board of directors meets regularly to do things that boards do. But to shake things loose — to do some blue-sky thinking — the board invites some staff members to join them for the annual board retreat. The agenda is all about everything that isn't business-as-usual – more of a “what if?” exercise.

This year, we held the retreat in Mexico City largely because one of our esteemed board members, [Lourdes Melgar](#), lives there and served as a sort of unofficial host. It was an inspired choice of locations, because being in a grand, richly historic setting that was unfamiliar to most of us seemed to energize and set free our discussions.

About Lourdes — she's got some energy chops. [From her bio](#):

Lourdes Melgar, Ph.D., is a nonresident fellow at the Baker Institute Center for Energy. She is also a research affiliate at the Center for Collective Intelligence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was the 2016-17 Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow.

From February 2014 to July 2016, Melgar served as Mexico's deputy secretary of energy for hydrocarbons and was a member of Pemex's board of directors. She was Mexico's under-secretary for electricity from December 2012 to February 2014, during which she also served on the board of the Federal Electricity Commission.

Anyway, I'll spare you more work details and say that Mexico City is as grand a city as any I've visited in the United States or Europe. I knew little about it save for childhood recollections from the [1968 summer Olympic](#) games that included what was then an unbelievable long jump record set by [Bob Beamon](#) and two African American medalists—[John Carlos](#) and [Tommie Smith](#)—flashing the Black Power symbol from the awards podium. It caused quite the stir.

Beyond that, I had the usual kind of chauvinistic American view of it and all things Mexico. I think to many Americans Mexico means either all-inclusive stays at beach resorts or drug cartels and crime and corruption. Or the place people flee to come to the United States.

Welp, not exactly.

I saw just a sliver of this giant metropolis, but it was enough to be awed by what a sophisticated city it is, and by the incredible history of Mexico that I learned about during my visit.



That was the view from my hotel

Mind you, it's a big city, and like lots of big cities—including here in the United States—neighborhoods run from the opulent to the ragged and poverty-ridden.

But oh my. Here are a few touristy highlights:

- You'll hear this from anyone who's been to Mexico City but you must visit the [national museum of anthropology and archaeology](#). It's about the grandest of grand museums I've ever visited. The richness and complexity of the history of Mexico is mind-boggling. And the way cultures/societies supplanted and subsumed others, again and again, provides a nice sense of how on one hand, what we do is important, and on the other, it's but a tiny data point.

The museum is one of several set in [Chapultepec Park](#), a lushly green and sprawling expanse that is twice the size of New York's Central Park.

- Another park near our hotel was Lincoln Park. As in Abraham. There's a statue of him — and he faces directly across from a statue of Martin Luther King.

Speaking of lush, we stayed in the [Polanco neighborhood](#), which is affluent and not necessarily typical. Flying in and then walking around on the ground, Mexico City is strikingly green. As in oodles of mature trees and vegetation and parks.

- Food. If you go, have lots of it. My highlights were street tacos al pastor, shaved off the spit in front of my eyes. Also barbacoa to die for. And...we had dinner at a great French restaurant.

- Drink lots of water. Mexico City sits at over 7,000 feet above sea level. The air is dry and thin, so take it easy for a couple days.

- The elevation makes for an extremely mild and pleasant climate. I experienced low 70s every single day for a week.

Adios!

Laura Washington: Why I loved, and now fear, the CTA

By Laura Washington
Chicago Tribune

Sep 12, 2022 at 5:00 am

I am a CTA devotee. I have spent a lifetime riding the buses and trains of Chicago, with sentimental memories of the all-day “Super Transfer” and those old green CTA buses of the 1960s and ’70s. They were dubbed “the green limousines.”

The CTA shepherded my family downtown to peruse the iconic Christmas windows of Marshall Field’s. The CTA escorted us on visits with aunts and uncles all over the South Side.

To get to high school, I took two buses and a train across town, from my South Shore apartment to Washington Heights. In college, it was the Evanston Express to Northwestern University in Evanston.

Later, it was de rigueur to jump on the old “A” and “B” trains, late into the night, to and from parties and the clubs. I was careful but fearless. (Don’t tell my mother.) Taking public transportation keeps me close to the ground. As a reporter, I rely on the CTA to find stories in the nooks and crannies of Chicago neighborhoods.

Now, for the first time in my life, I fear the CTA.

Violent crime on our trains and buses has risen to a level not seen in more than a decade, a recent Sun-Times analysis of data shows.

“Through July 19, 488 attacks had been reported on the transit system — the most since 533 during the same period in 2011,” the Sun-Times reported. “The number of passengers has remained relatively low since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. That means riders are more likely to fall victim to a violent crime today than they were a few years ago.”

As of mid-July, the paper reported, violent crimes accounted for more than 26% of the 1,863 crimes reported on the CTA this year. “In 2018 and 2019, when there were far more riders, violent crimes amounted to 13% of the crimes.”

Just after midnight on Aug. 27, a 30-year-old woman was shot at the Red Line stop at State and Lake streets. Two days later, a woman and two companions were attacked and robbed by a mob on a Monday afternoon, near another Red Line stop, WLS-Ch. 7 reported.

As Lura Irvine’s group left the 95th Street stop, “they were beaten and robbed by as many as 10 people,” according to the report.

That all leaves me spooked by the rule-breaking offenders taking over our trains and buses.

After spending a recent Sunday afternoon at the Chicago Jazz Festival, my husband and I boarded an “L” train at State and Lake. Two hulking young people, straddling Divvy bicycles and talking smack, were blocking the door. They glared and refused to move. The heavy smell of marijuana wafted through the air.

I held my breath until our train blessedly came.

Another time, I steered clear of another man in the train, sporting a nasty disposition and openly smoking a cigarette.

Once, I was proud to claim the CTA as one of the best public transportation systems in the nation.

The COVID-19 pandemic decimated the agency and its ridership. When commuters disappeared to work from home, others took command of our buses and trains, including those struggling with homelessness and mental illness and gang members.

CTA usage is up from its lows, and riders — workers, tourists and leisure travelers — are returning. But the key to revival of a post-pandemic system is safety.

For many, the CTA is not just a convenience. Public transportation is a singular transportation lifeline for low-income and working-class families, those with no other options to get to the job, school and the grocery store.

For months, agency officials have repeatedly assured riders they are on it. The agency recently signed a new \$30.9 million contract that will deploy up to 100 unarmed guards and 50 canine dogs per day on CTA rail lines for the next 18 months. They will supplement a cadre of 300 unarmed security guards the CTA has rolled out.

“Both the unarmed guards and the K-9 teams will be strategically deployed across the CTA’s rail system, including conducting missions at stations along the heavily traveled Red and Blue lines, which operate 24/7 and have seen a recent uptick in crimes and unruly behavior,” the CTA announced Sept. 2 in a news release.

In early August, CTA President Dorval Carter Jr. told WTTW-Ch. 11 that his agency is working closely with the Chicago Police Department to boost security.

“Crime on CTA is relatively low,” he said, adding that “one crime is one too many, but as a statistical matter, you’re relatively safe on CTA.”

That is unconvincing and cold comfort.

Most of the violent crime is occurring in the late night and early morning hours. Those are times when I can — and do — avoid the CTA.

Others cannot avoid the CTA, such as my nephew who must take the Red Line downtown to his overnight shift at UPS.

Just one more thing to fear.

About that mob attack at 95th Street: “Lura Irvine said she will never ride the CTA again after the incident,” Ch. 7 reported.

I hear her. Does the CTA?

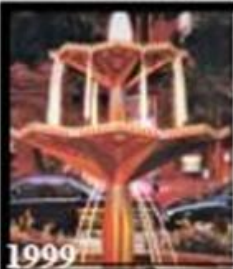
Laura Washington is a political commentator and longtime Chicago journalist. Her columns appear in the Tribune each Monday. Write to her at LauraLauraWashington@gmail.com.

Submit a letter, of no more than 400 words, to the editor [here](mailto:letters@chicagotribune.com) or email letters@chicagotribune.com.

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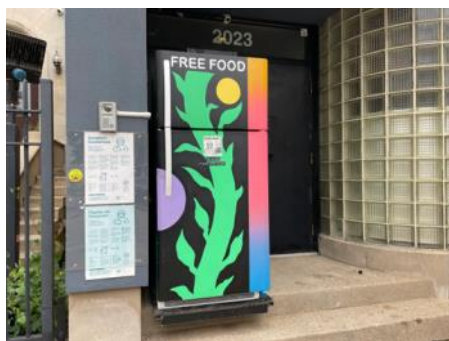
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South Loop Love Fridge Needs Volunteers, Food Donations As Demand Stays High



Credit: Jamie Nesbitt Golden/Block Club Chicago

As food costs rise, more residents are turning to The Love Fridge network for help — and the South Loop location is struggling to keep up with demand, a volunteer said.

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) Sep 14, 2022

SOUTH LOOP — The South Loop Love Fridge that allows people in need to get free food is looking for donations and volunteers.

The 24-hour community fridge, 2023 S. Prairie Ave., is one of 23 across Chicago. More people have been stopping by to pick up food in recent months as food prices rise and people struggle from the financial impact of the pandemic, said Dan Goldberg, who helps manage the fridge.

Food prices are up 8.8 percent from a year ago, [according to the August Consumer Price Index](#) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Many food pantries have struggled to keep products in stock.](#)

Neighbors have tried to do their part to keep the South Loop fridge stocked by dropping off food, but the last six months have been particularly challenging, Goldberg said. It's not unusual for the Love Fridge to be fully stocked in the morning and completely empty by noon, Goldberg said.

"I think because of the high food prices, the fridge is getting a lot more use. Some people believe that the fridge is for homeless people — it's for everyone who is food insecure, and that's a lot of people," said Goldberg, a food photographer who lives nearby. "You've got people who come to save \$20 on dinner and others who come here nightly to get dinner for their families. It's a wide range." People can help by bringing groceries to Love Fridges at any time and leaving them for people in need. To volunteer or host a Love Fridge, visit the organization's [website](#).

https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/09/14/south-loop-love-fridge-needs-volunteers-food-donations-as-demand-stays-high/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=76e21d9260-



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MausHouseofGrooming@gmail.com

MoCP First Look Print Party



2022 FINE PRINTS

Carmen Winant
Alejandro Cartagena
Jessica Labatte
Ciurej & Lochman

FIRST LOOK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

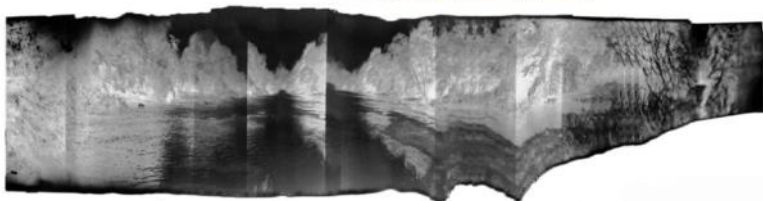
6:00–8:30 p.m.

Museum of Contemporary Photography

600 S. Michigan Ave.

\$35 early bird tickets; \$45 at door

RSVP: giving.colum.edu/firstlook



MoCP Museum of Contemporary Photography

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

mocup.org

Join us for First Look on October 6 at 6:00 p.m. Featured fine prints by Carmen Winant, Alejandro Cartagena, Jessica Labatte, Ciurej & Lochman.

Date:

Thursday, October 6, 2022
 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM CST

Location:

MoCP | 600 S. Michigan Ave

Contact Information

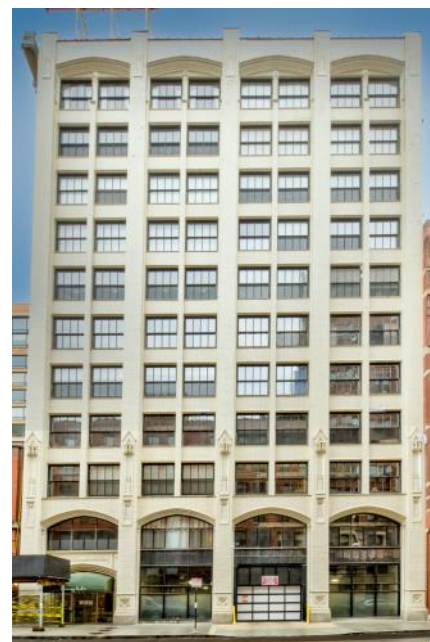
Karen Irvine



Peterson Lofts at 523 S Plymouth was built in 1915. It's a gorgeous example of a terra cotta clad building.

Photo above shows scaffolding for what I assume is a façade project.

Photo above 9/29/2022.



Chicago's Jewish Community Networking Night Returns!

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Doors open at 5:00 pm 610 S Michigan Ave.

Event 5:30-7:30 pm

Back from its COVID-related hiatus, [Spertus Institute](https://www.spertus.edu) again presents Chicago's Jewish Community Networking Night, a free annual event for Jewish community professionals, lay leaders, consultants, and volunteers.

A favorite evening on Chicago's community calendar, **Networking Night** brings participants together to mingle, build contacts across organizations, enjoy each other's company, and learn something new to add to their professional toolkits.

The evening has become known for seeding new partnerships, spurring program ideas, matching qualified candidates to key positions, and fostering lasting connections.

This year's special guest is Becca Barish, Second City and iO alum, who will add an improv twist to this year's event.

Reserve your spot below

<https://www.spertus.edu/programs-events/networking-night>

Thank you to [Zelda's Catering](#) for their generous sponsorship

Be
In the Room
 Where It
 Happens!



Roosevelt Park Progress Report. The blacktop paths are in. Exercise stations are being installed. The tennis courts are being restored. Photo 9/28/2022

Gym Rental



Those interested in renting our Gym can visit our website at 2ndpresbyterian.org, navigate to building rentals and complete our rental form.

Thank you!

Ashley McLean | Office Administrator

Second Presbyterian Church

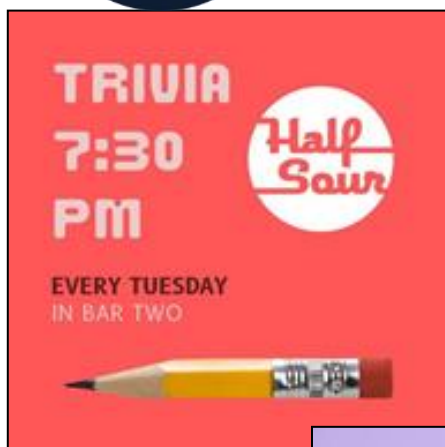
1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616

Phone: (312) 225-4951



Clark and Polk Streets

312.224.1772



Bingo with Betty

Last Wednesday of the month



**Piano concert:
Recital by
Ana Fau**

**October 14 @
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

American-Argentine pianist Ana Fau is a graduate of the Rimsky Korsakov state Conservatory of Saint Petersburg, Russia. Her music career started at age 18, performing at the San Martín Cultural Center of Buenos Aires, and the National Radio of Argentina.

Her international tours include the Chopin Festival of Corpus Christy, Texas, USA, the Ateneo Theater of Madrid, the Grieg International Festival of Norway, the Velia Festival of Italy, and numerous palaces in East Germany among others.

[Purchase Tickets \\$30](#)

<https://pianofortechicago.com/events/>

pianoforte chicago

PianoForte Studios, 1335 South Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60605 United States

**CHICAGOLAND ROTARY VETERANS COAT DRIVE
STAND DOWN DAY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022**

Stand Down Day at Humboldt Park Armory in Chicago

The goal is to collect and distribute 700 winter coats to Homeless Veterans in the Chicago area. Stand Down Day is a special day for homeless veterans in which they receive support from many health, social service, and community support organizations. The Chicago event is organized and staffed by volunteers from veteran organizations, community and social service organizations, and Hines VA and Jesse Brown VA.

This will be Rotary's eleventh year participating in the event that has been held and organized for the past 25 years by the veterans. We expect to serve over 700 homeless veterans on October 28 as they gear up for the harsh winter months ahead. The veterans get winter clothing, medical and optical services, employment assistance, social service support for housing and food, haircuts, and a warm meal.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

How Can YOU Help serve our veterans as they have served us?

- ✓ **New or Clean and Gently Used Men's Winter Coats in sizes L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL**

The coats are needed in the larger sizes as the veterans layer their clothing for the winter.
We cannot accept anything but Men's Winter Coats.

The **Rotary Club of Chicago Citywide Service** is one of the Clubs participating in this event.

Our Drop Off locations are:

(Accepting coats until October 14)

Bar Louie

Dearborn Train Station

47 W. Polk St., Chicago, IL 60605

Drop-Off Monday – Friday 11 am to 10 pm, Saturday & Sunday 10 am to 10 pm

Contact: Jim Wales, Rotary Club of Chicago Citywide Service at jim.wales1120@gmail.com

Keller Williams ONEChicago

2211 N. Elston, Ave., Ste 104, Chicago, IL 60614

Drop-Off Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Contact: Nate Thompson, Rotary Club of Chicago Citywide Service at natethompson@kw.com

Thank you for remembering our veterans who have selflessly served all of us!

Starbucks Gone continued from page 13

But it wasn't.

Some suggested it was hit by a car in the rear and was waiting for reconstruction on the back wall. But there was no sign of any damage in the back whatsoever.

Some said it was being remodeled—maybe with a bathroom this time, and the re-introduction of tables and chairs for both inside and outside again. There was no sign of that either.

I finally talked to a cop who was investigating a gun murder on the street across from the house of one of my neighbors, and I asked him if he knew what the story of our neighborhood Starbucks was.

Crime, he said. "They would go in with guns and demand money. There was a shot in the window. And no one wanted to work there anymore. They couldn't get anyone to work there. The people who worked there just had it. They didn't feel safe."

So no remodeling or remaking on the horizon for our Starbucks on a corner of the neighborhood that had plenty of customers in the middle of a thriving neighborhood and a transportation hub. Our Starbucks died a slow death. It went through stage after stage that signified the end could come someday. It probably began dying the day it opened.

And that was that. And the way we all felt when Starbucks came—that our neighborhood had arrived—slid backwards—and we came undone

Bonnie McGrath

South Loop Author's book series is currently being pitched to a Hollywood Producer for Mini-series or Film.



**AWARDED 5 Star Review – READERS' FAVORITE – Books 1, 2 & 3
AND "FINALIST" - 2022 AMERICAN FICTION AWARD**

African American Category, The Road from Money, The Journey Continues, Part 2

<https://www.boydbooks.net/>

Final book in the series – Part 4 to be released early 2023



ALDERMAN * 4TH WARD
SOPHIA KING

Ward04@cityofchicago.org

Web Site

KING4THWARD.COM

Homeless Population on Harrison and Financial

SOUTH LOOP



Our office continues working closely with community stakeholders to remove the homeless population on Harrison Street. We are happy to report that there are only 2-3 tents currently at the location, which is a significant decrease from last week. The Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) and Streets and Sanitation (DSS) were at the location this morning working to get residents into housing and cleaning the area as well. We will continue to push to meet our goal of completely clearing the corridor. The follow-up meeting for this issue will take place sometime in October. Please stay tuned for details.

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.

Join The South Loop Advisory Council

SOUTH LOOP

Are you interested in getting involved, learning more about your Alderman and ward, or do you desire to make a difference in your community? If so, please consider joining the South Loop Advisory Council's leadership team.

Responsibilities include: attending monthly leadership meetings, coordinating subcommittee meetings with committee members, and organizing public-facing events for the community.

For any inquiries about the South Loop Advisory Council, please contact slcac.contact@gmail.com.

Virtual Alderman 'On the Block'

MEET WITH ALDERMAN KING ON ZOOM

The next Alderman on the Block date is June 27. 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.

For more City info, click [here](#)

CPD District Meetings

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

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

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.

First Police District Commander Harris Event

Commander David Harris of the 1st Police District meet with residents of the South Loop on Thursday, Sept. 22, to discuss recent community issues. Major incidents discussed included the Harrison Street encampment, Mexican Independence caravans, homicide on 9/17/2022 in front of South Loop Elementary School, and congestion caused by events at Soldier Field.

This month's event occurred at the outdoor patio of Spoke and Bird Café, 205 E. 18th Street. Approximately a dozen South Loop residents, many of them representing condo associations, gathered at the start time and a group discussion ensued with Cmdr. Harris soliciting issues from each individual. (Last month's event (8/30) with Cmdr. Harris occurred at Peet's Tea on Wabash Ave. involved the Commander having a series of one-on-one conversations with community residents each bringing their own issues.)

Cmdr. Harris reported that the long-term efforts to remove the encampment under the Harrison St. Metra viaduct have begun to approach conclusion as the 3-4 remaining tents are to be removed by Friday, 9/24, and not be allowed to return. This effort has involved the 1st District Police Homeless Team, Dept. of Family and Support Services, Dept. of Streets and Sanitation, and the 4th Ward. (Note – as of Saturday 9/24 three tents were still there.)

This year's actions to contain the illegal activities associated with the Mexican Independence celebrations added several new resources. Recent City Council decisions have provided the Police with the authority to impound vehicles involved with drag racing and drifting. Fines up to \$10,000 can be imposed. Over a dozen vehicles were impounded. In addition, the police used license plate readers to record hundreds of vehicles that will be mailed citations with fines up to \$300. The caravans were closed down on the third night this year, as opposed to five nights the last two years.

The homicide at South Loop Elementary involved a group of young men with neither the shooter nor the victim being local residents. Cmdr. Harris reported that this group has previously been hanging out near the Roosevelt CTA Station. Numerous incidents of neighborhood traffic congestions, both pedestrian and vehicular, have been the result of events at Soldier Field and the Museum Campus. This discussion did not bring forth promising new proposals. Cmdr. Harris summed up the situation well, 50 police officers trying to control 50,000 intoxicated fans.

My personal critique – We have heard all of this type of response from city officials before. They all sound hopeful, but the issues never seem to be resolved.

On the other hand, I was impressed by Cmdr. Harris's candor and his reference to specific new initiatives. The encampment has been shrinking. The caravans only lasted three nights. The total number of crime reports in the 1st District is going down (violent crimes not so much). The Police have been aggressively recruiting and training new officers.

As many of you know, I have been active with public safety issues in the South Loop for many years, producing many studies of South Loop crime statistics. I remain convinced that we must, and can, rebuild the trust and communication necessary to sustaining a democratic society, both in the South Loop and across the nation.

Roger Marsh
South Loop Neighbors



You're invited to participate in the
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



TO CREATE THE **2023** STRATEGIC PLAN
for the **1st District**

| In-Person Meeting | Virtual Meeting |
|--|---|
| Wed, Oct 5th, 2022 at 6pm | Wed, Oct 19th, 2022 6pm-8pm |
| Willow Creek Community Church 1347 S State St | Zoom Meeting ID: 898 4806 7593 Passcode: 756421 Join via App or dial 312-626-6799 |

TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR OR VISIT chicagopolice.org/convo

For more information or if you require special accommodation, contact the **001st** district Community Policing office at
312-745-4381 / email: CAPS.001District@chicagopolice.org

Let's make a difference in our neighborhood together!





Man charged with attacking three women in the Loop — a day after he was released from custody on charges of failing to register as sex offender

Quavon Ewing, 32, tried to kidnap a woman in the West Loop and attacked two other women in the South Loop on Sunday, officials said.

By [Tom Schuba](#)

Updated Sept 28, 2022, 5:16pm CDT

In just over 30 minutes, a man allegedly tried to kidnap a woman in the West Loop and attacked two other women in the South Loop on Sunday — a day after he was released from custody on charges of failing to register as a sex offender.

Quavon Ewing, 32, approached the women as they went about their day, prosecutors said Wednesday. One was headed to the gym, another had just grabbed coffee, and the third was catching a train.

Around 8:30 a.m., a 35-year-old woman saw Ewing standing by a maroon van in the 100 block of West Roosevelt Road, prosecutors said during his initial court hearing Wednesday. He was urinating and possibly exposing himself, prosecutors said.

He tried to strike up a conversation, but the woman couldn't hear because she was listening to an audio book on her way to work out, prosecutors said. He grabbed her by the shoulders and "pulled her into a bear hug," making moaning sounds and "calling her baby," prosecutors said. The woman hit him with her cellphone and bit his neck, sending him running to the van, prosecutors said. After he fled, she said she went to a store and called for help.

About 15 minutes later, Ewing targeted a 45-year-old woman who was walking home from Starbucks in the 200 block of South Sangamon Street, prosecutors said.

After jumping in front of her and grabbing her shoulders, Ewing tried to pull her into the van, prosecutors said. When she started screaming, he punched her in her head, they said.

Prosecutors said someone heard the woman's cries and confronted Ewing, who grabbed an object from the van and threatened the witness before taking off. The van was captured fleeing the scene in a now-viral video. Then just after 9 a.m., Ewing was seen on surveillance video urinating in a cup at the Harrison Red Line stop, prosecutors said. He later poured the cup on a 25-year-old woman entering the station, covering her hair, face and purse, they said.

Before leaving, Ewing told the woman "she deserved it," prosecutors said. The woman at the Red Line stop and the victim in the first attack identified Ewing in photo lineups, according to prosecutors. He was arrested Monday after CTA personnel recognized him from a police alert and notified the police department's mass transit unit, according to an arrest report.

Ewing has been arrested dozens of times and has multiple felony convictions, including for aggravated criminal sexual abuse, aggravated battery to a peace officer and aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

Last Friday, two days before the attacks, Ewing walked into the Englewood District police station and surrendered on an outstanding warrant, the arrest report states. Officers discovered he hadn't registered as a sex offender, and he was charged with a felony. He was released from custody the next day on a recognizance bond.

He now faces felony counts of attempted kidnapping and aggravated battery. On Wednesday, Judge Kelly McCarthy ordered him held on \$500,000 bail.

His next court date was set for Oct. 19.

<http://chicago.suntimes.com/>



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!

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
Dearbornexpress.net/

Next CAPS Meeting Nov 9, 2022

3PM on Zoom Beat 123

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

9/18/2022 12:45am 1200 S Plymouth Ct
FIRST DEGREE MURDER on sidewalk Beat 131

9/17/2022 9pm 1100 S State St
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon Subway train Beat 123

9/17/2022 2pm 1200 S Michigan Av
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Knife Sidewalk Beat 131

9/16/2022 2am 1200 S Michigan Av
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT on Sidewalk Beat 131

9/15/2022 11:28pm 600 S Wabash
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT on street Handgun Beat 123

9/6/2022 5:54PM 400 S LaSalle
FIRST DEGREE MURDER on Sidewalk Beat 122

9/9/2022 900 S State St
STRONG ARM ROBBERY no weapon on street Beat 123

9/6/2022 9:40am 500 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 123

9/6/2022 12:02pm 800 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

9/10/2022 10am 800 S Wabash Av
AUTO THEFT parking lot Beat 123

9/17/2022 12:30pm 1100 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 123

9/5/2022 11am 1200 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 131

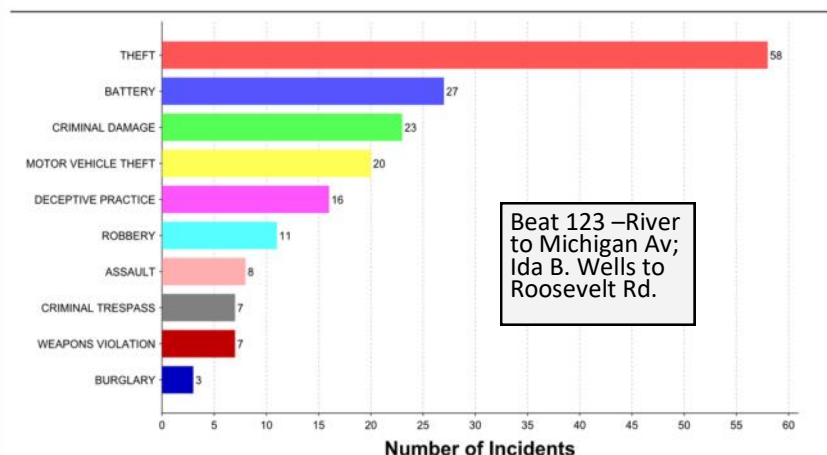
9/14/2022 7pm 1200 S Michigan
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 131

7 car cluster of Auto thefts around Cermak and Wabash/Michigan Av at various dates and times in past 20 days.

Report Date: 06-Sep-2022
Report Time: 15:22:48
Produced By: Information Services
Division: PC0811
Run By:

Top Ten Crimes From 01-Aug-2022 To 31-Aug-2022 On Beat 0123

Page 1 of 1



Beat 123 –River to Michigan Av;
Ida B. Wells to Roosevelt Rd.

Man shot and killed while standing with a large group outside South Loop Elementary School

September 18, 2022 [CWBChicago](https://www.cwbchicago.com) [South Loop](https://www.cwbchicago.com/south-loop)

Chicago police said a man was fatally shot while standing with a large group of people outside South Loop Elementary School overnight. The people he was with all ran away after the shooting, and police still don't know who he is.

It happened around 12:46 a.m. Sunday in the 1200 block of South Plymouth. Chicago police said the man, who appeared to be in his mid-20s or early 30s, suffered gunshot wounds to his face and chest and was pronounced dead at the scene.

A nearby resident reported seeing a woman and child run past the victim to flee the scene with the rest of the group. Police detained a few members of the group on the Roosevelt Orange Line platform, but CPD said no arrests had been made.

Neighbors report that the same group began congregating on school property a few nights ago, but authorities did not respond to 911 calls about them.

"This group had begun gathering in this spot several nights ago," a nearby resident said. "Police were contacted each night, including earlier this evening, but no one came over."

He said the group was hanging out on the school's property.

"The victim was shot and killed on Plymouth between the entrance to the playground and the school drop-off. Kids hang out with their parents in the exact spot where the body is."

Dearborn Express editor. According to District 1 Police Commander, they have ID'd the perpetrators and arrest warrants have been issued. The group hanging out at the playground of South Loop School were not local residents and have been seen in and around the Roosevelt L station. A new 9pm curfew has been put in place for our local parks. That doesn't mean you can't use the park to walk your dog. It means people can't hang out.

<https://cwbchicago.com/>

Real Estate Transactions

\$285,000
1400 S MICHIGAN AVE 1105
8/30/22

\$195,000
1101 S STATE ST 605
8/30/22

\$225,000
1550 S INDIANA AVE 607
8/24/22

\$193,000
732 FINANCIAL PL 413
8/23/22

\$185,000
40 E 9TH ST 2605
8/23/22

\$510,000
1335 S PRAIRIE AVE 608
8/22/22

\$260,000
5 E 14TH PL 807
8/17/22

\$875,000
1201 S PRAIRIE AVE 603
8/15/22

\$270,000
1512 S WABASH AVE
8/11/22

\$185,000
431 S DEARBORN ST 601
8/10/22

\$327,000
801 S PLYMOUTH CT 601
8/9/22

\$137,000
740 S FEDERAL ST 1209
8/8/22

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Anne Rosen

Keller Williams

312.545.7148

Buyarosenhome.kw.com



Dearborn Street Realty

Tom Feddor,

312.203.3841

tomfeddor@gmail.com



1338 S Federal, Dearborn Park II
2 Bed/ 2 Bath
Open House Sat, 10:30am to Noon
\$515,000

Terri Buseman
RE/MAX Premier
312.475.1717

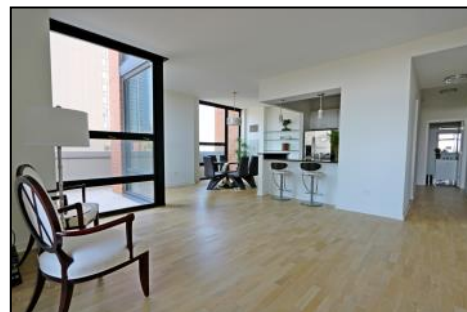
[740 S Federal St #301](#)
2 bed, 2 bath, 1250 sq ft
\$338,900

Louie Diaz
Coldwell Banker Realty
8477696823



1160 S Michigan Ave
#901
2 bed, 2.5 bath, 1600 sq ft
\$599,900

Sean Kenny
Longwood Real Estate
708.423.2900



**OPEN HOUSE SAT.
10:30AM TO NOON**
1111 S Wabash Av #2301
2 Bed/ 2 Bath 1357 SF
\$399,900

Haley Westhoff
Compass
773.729.0594



125 E 13th St #604
2 Bed/ 2 Bath 1300 Sq Ft
\$440,000

Kellye Jackson • Redfin Corporation
773.754.4896

[633 S Plymouth Ct #901](#)
1 bed, 1 bath
\$209,900

Kate Seltz
Century 21 S.G.R., Inc.
312.448.1213



1201 S Prairie Ave #5204
2 bed, 2 bath, 1238 sq ft
\$660,000

Su Yang
Realty ONE Group Leaders
312.753.9588

1528 S Wabash Av #201
1 bed, 1 bath, 1100 sq ft
\$285,000

Donna Manella
Century 21 Affiliated
312.816.0817



41 E 8th St #2906
2 bed, 2 bath
\$350,000

Kevin Hinton
Keller Williams
ONEChicago
516.353.0798

